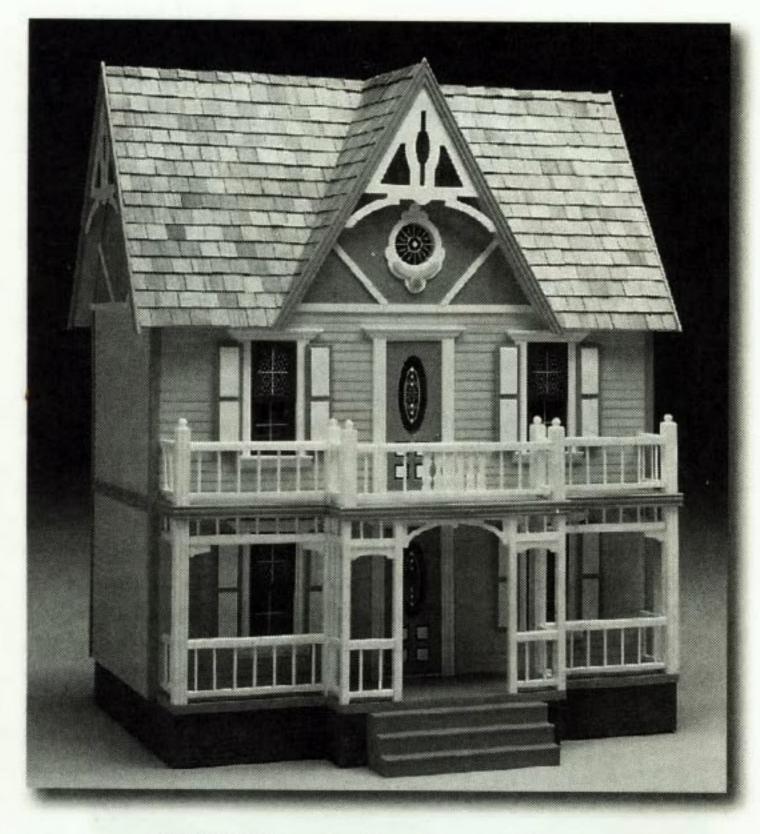


MA242 MANCHESTER



MA242 Manchester Country House Assembly Instructions

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Building a dollhouse is fun! How long it takes you to build the Manchester Country House will depend on who you are and what a "finished" dollhouse means to you. If you are simply looking for an unpainted structure that your little girl can enjoy, this kit will go together fast. However, if you want a show piece with paint, wallpaper, electric lights, etc., that will lengthen the assembly process. Some of you will blast through this project in short order, but the rest of us will enjoy dawdling along and admiring our work as we go.

Save the box. The picture will be a good reference for what your kit should look like.

Don't get ahead. The order of events is important.

Release the parts gently. Parts in the 1/8 inch plywood boards must be removed by exerting gentle pressure. A few will require that you cut them loose with your knife. Cut from the front side of the board (the side with the most visible cut marks) and please be careful.

Glue. Everyone has a favorite kind of glue. Most glues work fine if they are recommended for woodworking or porous materials. We recommend a yellow woodworking glue on the main structure of the house and a "tacky" craft glue on the trim pieces.

Dry fit each piece before gluing. This will ensure that

you have the right piece for the right place and that you will make sensible judgments about where to put the glue.

Replacement parts. Dura-Craft, Inc. has gone to great lengths to grade and sort pieces for quality and workmanship. We think you will be pleased. However, if you discover a faulty, missing, or damaged part, Dura-Craft, Inc. will quickly replace it, even if the damage is caused by improper assembly. We have included a "Missing and Broken Parts Replacement Form" to assist you.

Drawings. The progressive construction pictures in this instruction booklet are *not* photographs. They are 3D drawings constructed piece by piece on a computer. As a matter of convenience, some of the detail has been deliberately left out of the drawings. This won't be a problem if you keep in mind that the drawings are designed to give you the "big picture" and should not be subjected to undo analysis. We are of the opinion that you can keep track of little things like making sure that the siding is on the *out-side* of the house.

Painting. You should keep in mind that these instructions are designed to help you construct the basic house kit. If it is your intention to paint, wall paper, etc., you will need to make your own reasonable judgments about when these procedures will best be performed. Remember that we don't know whether you are going to use electrical wiring under your wallpaper (for example), or what kind of wiring procedure you intend to use.

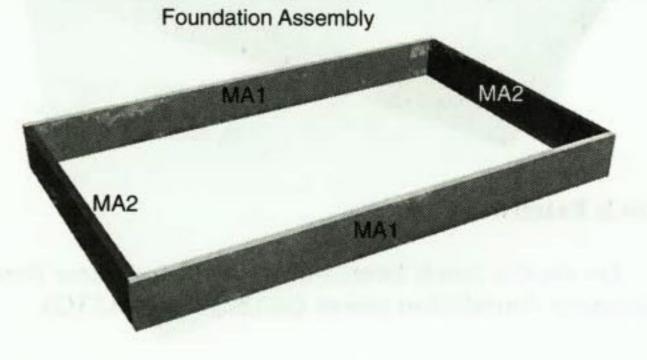
However, as a general rule, if you are not electrifying your dollhouse, it is much easier to paint and/or wallpaper as you go along. Because glue holds best when paint is not involved, we have found it best to build the basic shell of the house before starting to paint.

Best results can be obtained by using a good sealer before applying paint. Latex paint is preferred.

IMPORTANT! First, familiarize yourself with the 3 pages of parts at the end of these instructions. If you know how to identify parts before you begin, you will save a lot of time and this will be a much more pleasant building experience.

Foundation

1. Locate the four Foundation pieces – MA1(2) and MA2(2). Glue the foundation together as shown. The Left and Right Foundation pieces fit *between* the front and back pieces. Overall width should be 24" inches.



TIP: A good carpenter rarely relies on gravity or friction to produce a suitable bond between pieces. To force a tight fit while glue dries, use clamps, tape, or brads. Because it is quick and easy, we prefer masking tape. Wipe away excess glue while it is still wet.

2. Use a carpenter's square (preferred) or a sheet of typing paper (hokey, but cheap and effective) to make sure that the foundation is square. Perfection is not required because the next step will remove any slight error.

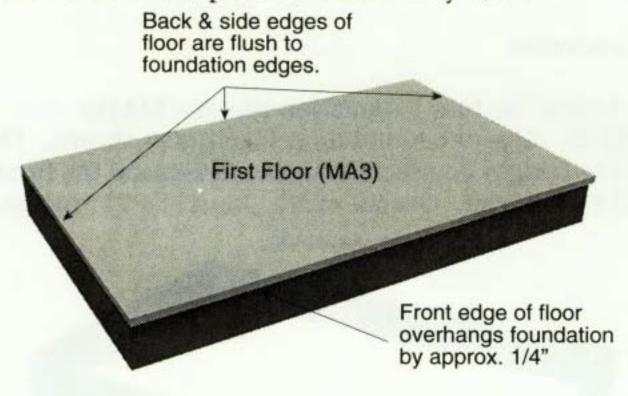
TIP: This entire building can be put together in a hurry if you use glue and tape strategically, allowing the tape to do the work until the glue dries. However, if you are in less of a hurry, there are some advantages to allowing the glue to dry before proceeding to the next step (except where indicated otherwise.) We recommend the "let it dry method" unless you have a deadline that cannot be extended.

First Floor

1. Locate the First Floor (MA3). This piece is made of MDF (medium density fiberboard) which is the same on both sides. Consequently, you don't have to worry about which side is up if the piece is rectangular or symmetrical. Later, we will have some pieces that are asymmetrical and we will be sure to let you know which side is which.

TIP: Some pieces may look a lot like other pieces. It is a good idea to measure each piece and compare it to the parts list in order that you not glue the wrong piece in the right spot.

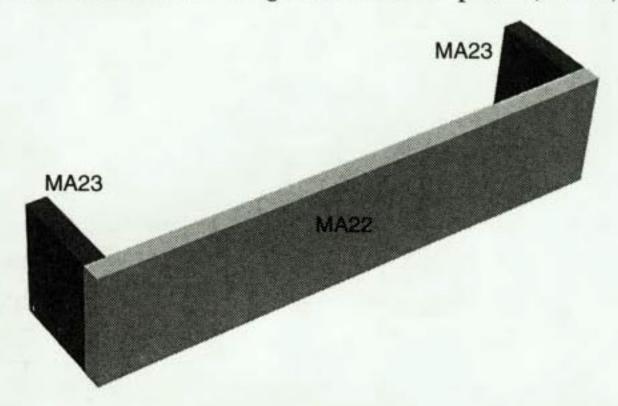
2. Glue the First Floor (MA3) to the top edge of the foundation. Outside edges of the floor will be flush to the outside edges of the foundation except in the front where it will overlap the foundation by 1/4".



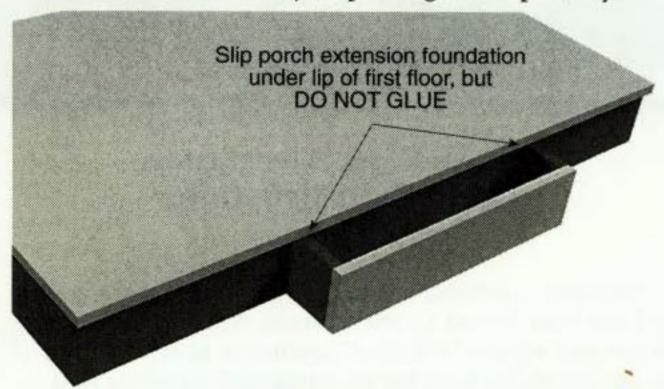
Porch Extension

1. Locate the Porch Extension (MA21) and three Porch Extension Foundation pieces (MA22) and MA23(2).

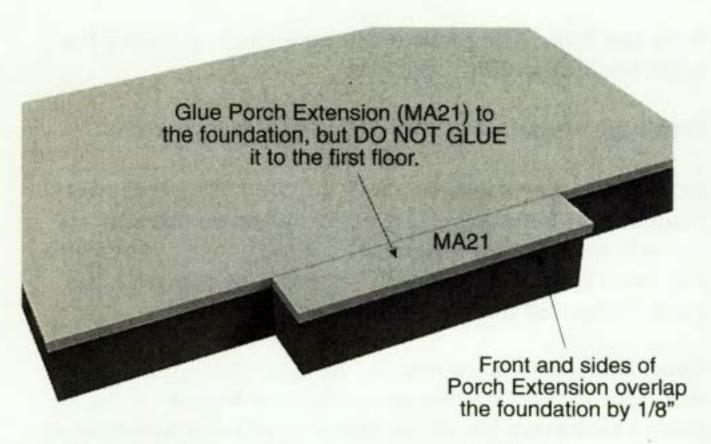
2. Glue the three foundation pieces as shown. Notice that the two small side foundation pieces (MA23) glue to the back of the larger foundation piece (MA22).



3. Place this assembly against the front of the first floor assembly (do not glue) so that the short pieces (MA23) slip under the front edge of the first floor (MA21). Don't worry about left to right positioning at this time, since we are just placing it temporarily.



4. Glue the Porch Extension (MA21) on top of the foundation pieces, but do not glue it to the first floor. The porch extension should butt up against the first floor at the back, and it should overhang the sides and front of the foundation by 1/8".

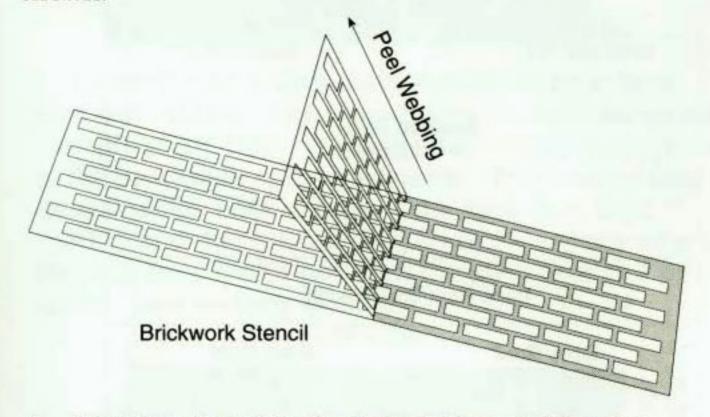


5. Remove the porch extension assembly from the first floor assembly. Set it aside until later.

Foundation Brick

Notice: Foundation brick is optional, but it adds wonderful detail to your dollhouse. If you are impatient to get the dollhouse completed, you may proceed to the next section and add the brick after the dollhouse is otherwise finished. However, we feel it is wisest to do it now while the foundation is easily maneuvered.

- 1. Measure the front foundation under the lip of the first floor from the left corner. Put a mark on the foundation wall at 6-7/8" from the corner and another mark at 17-1/8" from the corner. These will mark the position of the porch extension where it will be best if you do not have any foundation brick. Mask right and left edges of this area with masking tape. This will leave a 10-1/4" area in the center of the front foundation that will receive no brick material.
- 2. Before applying the brick pattern, take a moment to consider what color your mortar lines will be. Some intermediate shade of gray is most natural. Paint the foundation walls, but first mask off the edges of the first floor so you do not get any paint or brick powder there. The reason we had you put the first floor on before bricking the foundation is because it adds a great deal of stability.
- 3. Peel the webbing from the Brick Tape (7-1) as shown.



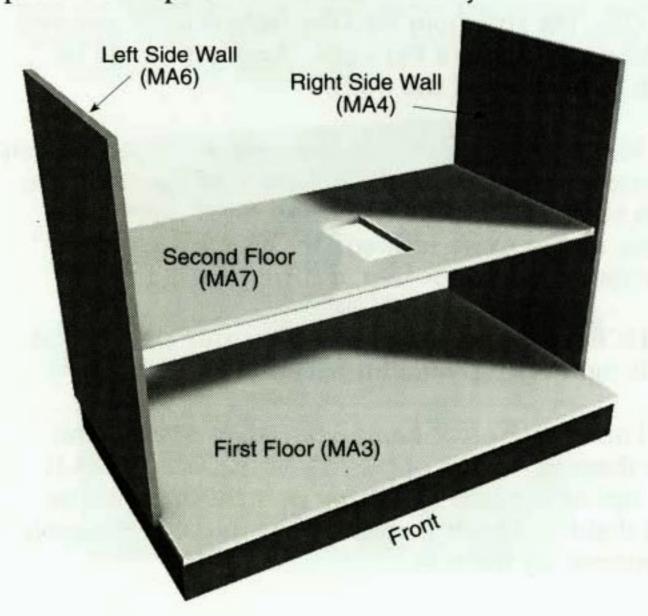
- 4. Stick the stencil to the foundation wall leaving enough overhang at the corner to hold onto for removal. Press firmly for full contact otherwise, you may have brick material seeping under the template into the mortar area. We suggest doing only one side at a time.
- 5. To cover one foot of brick template tape it takes one ounce or 1-1/4 tablespoons of brick powder. Put about 3 tablespoons of tacky glue (or other white glue) into a cup, add an equal amount of water to the glue. Mix well. Put the appropriate amount of brick powder for the length of surface you are going to brick into a different cup. Slowly add small amounts of glue mixture to the brick powder (It is easy to add too much

glue mixture, so proceed with caution). Mix after each addition. Continue until mixture starts to hold its own shape like cake frosting.

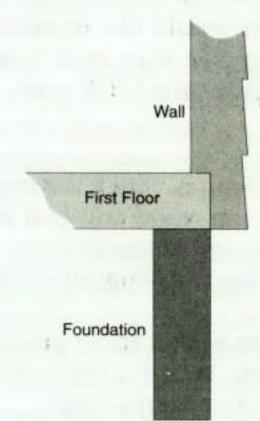
- 6. Spread brick mix over the webbing with a putty knife to about 1/16" thick. If you would like to paint the brick to change its color or to give it an aged look with watered down paint, then paint the brick now before the webbing is removed.
- 7. Remove webbing within 5 minutes. Stick the overhanging webbing to a piece of scrap wood and pull as you did when taking the webbing off of the backing. The wood handle will help pull the webbing off evenly.
- 8. If needed, touch up the bricks with a small piece of wood while the bricks are still soft. Wait for bricks to dry on one surface before proceeding to the next.
- 9. When you have completed the main foundation, brick the porch extention foundation that you set aside earlier. It will require a 7" area of unbricked space centered on the front foundation for the front steps. The easiest way to make sure this works is to find a front step molding (6-28) and center it against the foundation. Place a pencil mark on each side of the molding. Do not brick between the pencil marks. When you are finished, set this assembly aside again it will not be glued on until later.

Walls & Floors

1. Find the Left Side Wall (MA6) and Right Side Wall (MA4). Glue the Second Floor (MA7) into the dados (grooves) that run through the middle of the two walls. The back edge of the second floor should be flush with the back edge of the two walls (The front edge will not be flush.) See the illustration for proper orientation of parts. Use tape to secure the assembly.



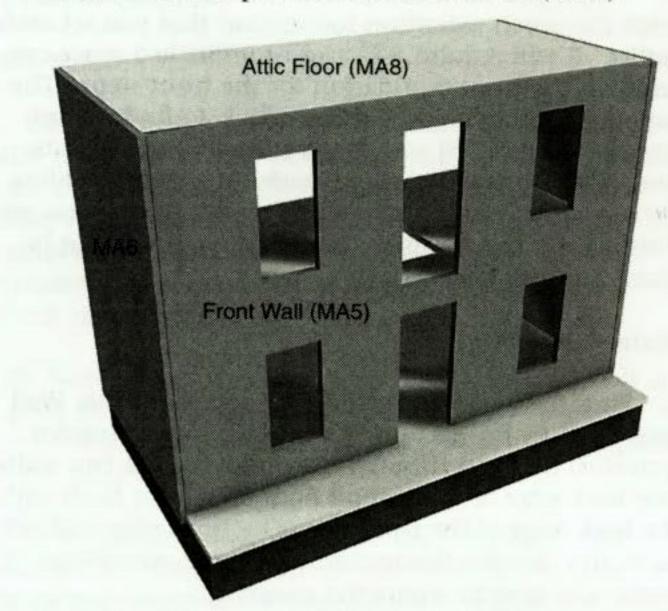
Important Notice: Please take a minute to study the direction of the siding on the outside of the walls. Upside-down siding looks pretty silly.



2. While the glue is still wet, glue the assembly to the first floor (flush at the back) and secure it in position.

The notches at the bottom of the walls fit onto the floor in such a manner that the bottom of the wall covers the edge of the floor.

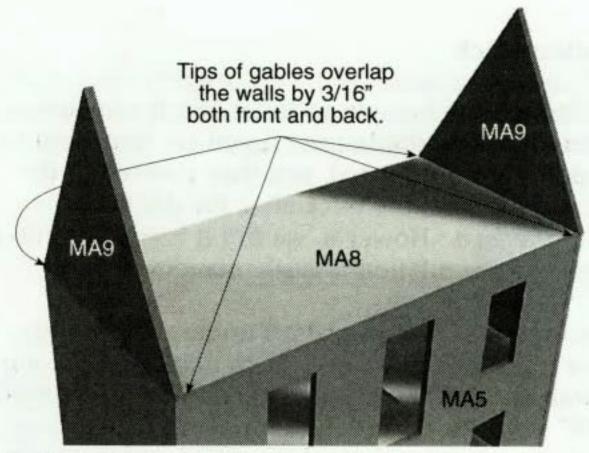
3. While the glue is still wet, locate and position the Front Wall (MA5).



- 4. Glue the attic floor into the rabbets (edge grooves) at the upper edges of the walls. Again, it should be flush to the back of the walls.
- 5. Now is the time to make sure everything is properly oriented, that the walls are vertical, that the floors are flush to the back of the walls, and that everything is square and properly secured. If the glue dries while anything is out of position, difficulties will follow.

NOTICE: Take one last look to make sure that the siding is right side up on all three walls.

7. Locate the Left & Right End Gables MA9(2) and glue them to the top of the side walls (MA6 & MA4). The tips of the gable will hang over the edges of the wall slightly. This is correct. Make sure that the gable is centered on the wall.

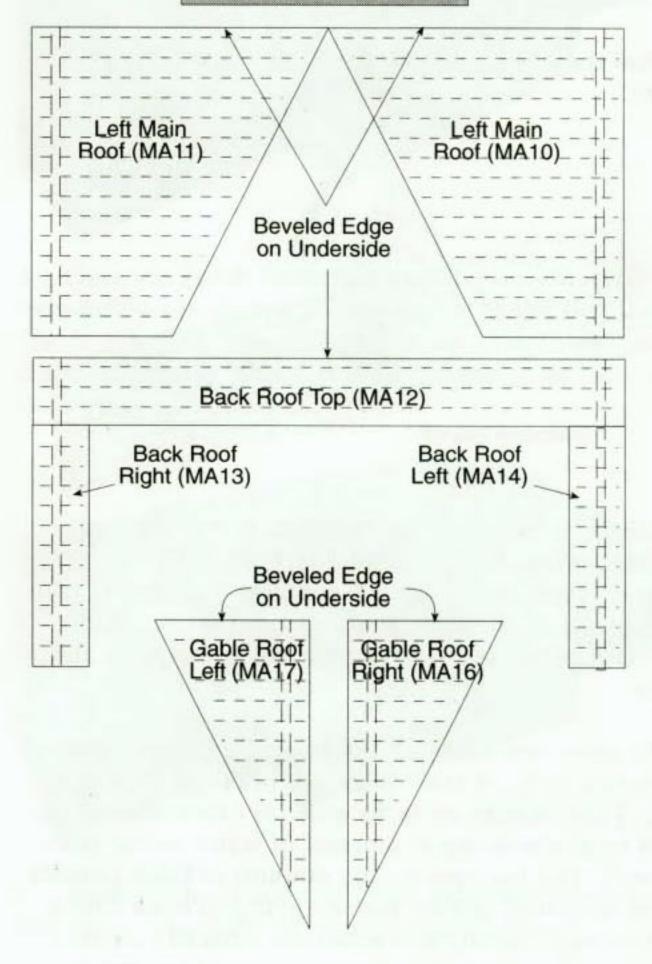


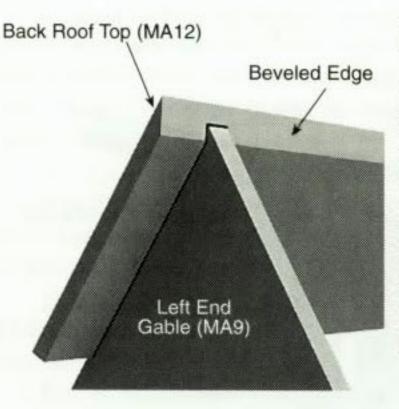
D. Roof Pieces

1. You will need to mark all roof pieces with pencil lines so you will be able to properly position the shingles when you have your house completed. Start at the bottom edge of each roof piece and measure up 7/8 inch at both the right and left edges. Using a straight edge, mark a horizontal pencil line all the way across the piece. Then repeat the process every 7/8 inch until you reach the top of the piece.

The illustration shows which pieces to find and the proper orientation for each roof piece.

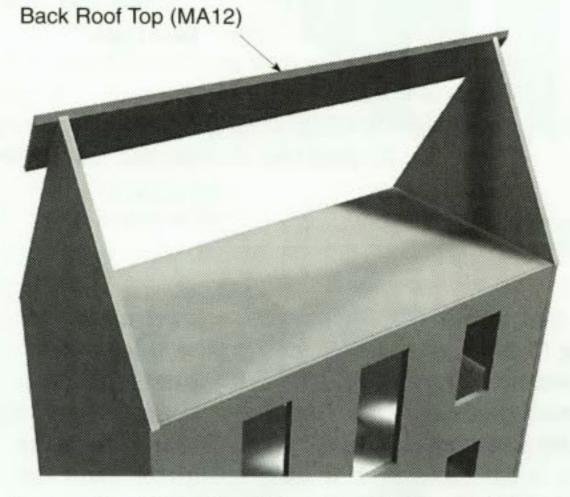
All dados are on underside





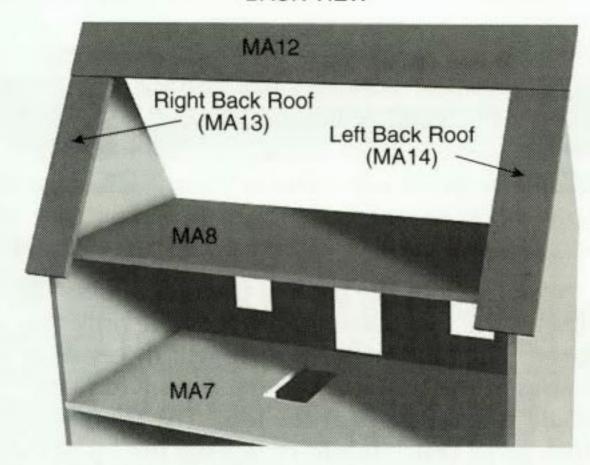
2. Find the Back Roof Top (MA12) and glue it to the end gables using the dados (grooves) as a guide for positioning. The beveled edge faces forward, and the peaks of the gables line up with the beveled surface of the roof piece.

IMPORTANT: The beveled edge of the back roof *must* be exactly even with the peak of the gable. Otherwise, the front roof pieces will not fit against it properly when they are applied later.



3. Locate the Back Roof Right (MA13) and the Back Roof Left (MA14). These two pieces are interchangeable – simply rotate 180°. Using the dados, glue these pieces to the back edges of the gable ends. They should butt up against the bottom edge of the Back Roof Top (MA12), and they should be flush to the outside edge of the Back Roof Top (if not, turn the piece over and try again). Tape securely until dry.

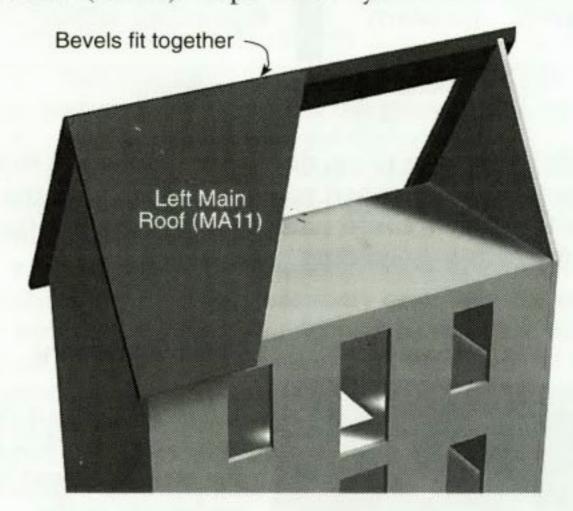
BACK VIEW



Tip: "Right" and "Left" are always as viewed from the

front of the house. It is easy to get confused while looking at the back of the house. Sometimes it helps to put "right" and "left" sticky notes on the back of the house to keep yourself properly oriented.

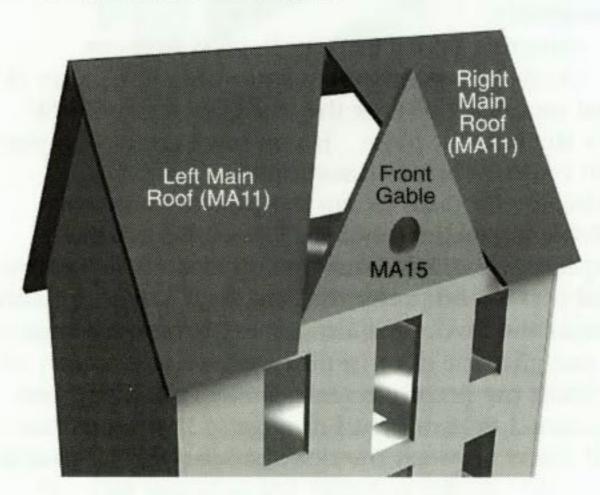
4. Glue the Left Main Roof (MA11) to the front edge of the left gable. The top edge of the roof (with the bevel) should fit against the beveled edge of the top back roof (MA12). Tape until dry.



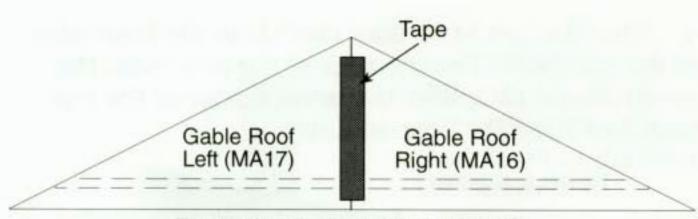
- 5. Repeat the above procedure with the Right Main Roof (MA10).
- Now make sure that all parts and pieces are properly aligned, seated correctly, square, and snugly taped or clamped into position. Wait for glue to dry before proceeding.

Reminder: The box photos or the photos at the beginning and end of these instructions can be very helpful. Don't forget to refer to them whenever you are uncertain.

7. Find the Front Gable (MA15) and glue it into position on top of the front wall above the second story doorway. This gable should be centered exactly in the "V" notch in the main roof.



8. Locate the Gable Roofs Right and Left (MA16 & MA17). Lay them head to head with the dados and bevels down. Tape them together as shown.



Bevels and dados are on underside.

9. With the tape in place, dry fit the gable roofs to the front gable (MA15). When you are satisfied with the fit, glue the gable roofs in position and wait until the glue is dry before proceeding.



Room Partitions

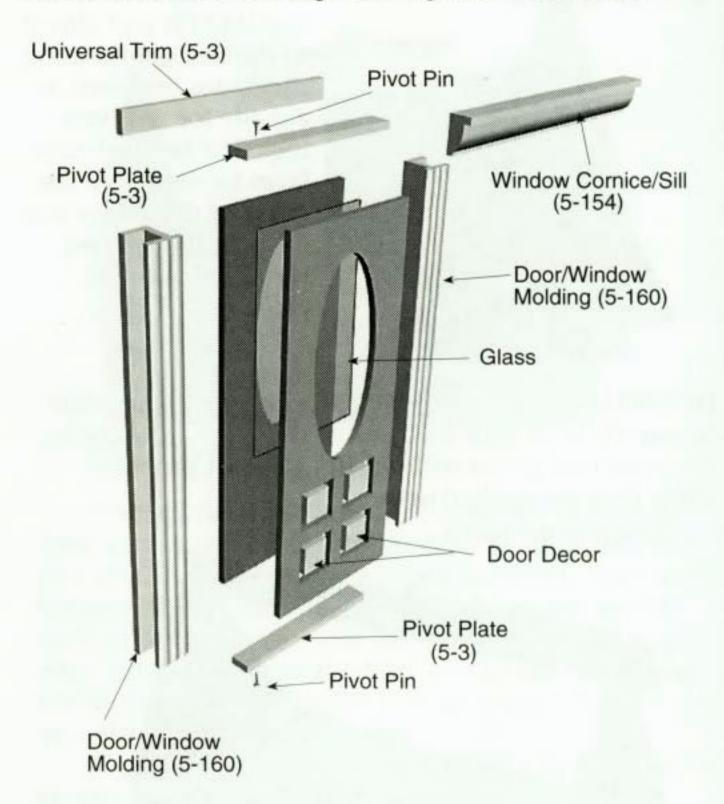
- 1. Glue the Attic Partitions MA19(2) to the attic floor and the under side of the roofs. Partitions fit on either side of the front gable. Make sure that the partitions are vertical.
- 2. Glue the First and Second Floor Partitions MA18(2) in position flush to the

edge of the second floor stairwell. The front edge of the partitions are flush to the front of the stairwell.

Front Door

- 1. Follow the diagram to construct the front door assembly. Painting will be easiest if accomplished before assembly.
 - a. Assemble door front, back, glass & decor.
- b. Create two pivot plates by cutting a 3" piece of universal molding (5-3) for the top plate and a 2-3/4" piece for the bottom plate. If you have access to a very tiny drill bit, drill before inserting the Pivot Pins. Otherwise, gently push or tap the pins through the Pivot Plates approximately 5/16" from the left end of the top plate and 3/16" from the left end of the bottom plate. (If you would prefer that the door always remain shut, forget the Pivot Pins altogether. When the time comes, just glue the door in position.)
- c. Push the pivot pins into the door top and bottom at about 1/8" from the left edge of the door. The pins will insert between the door back and front panels.

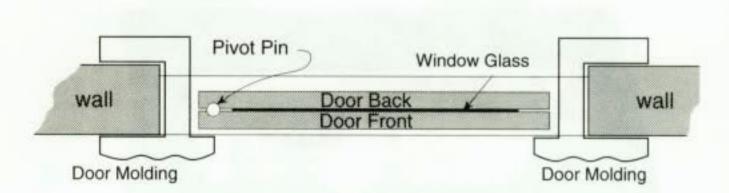
Make sure to insert the pins straight into the door.



d. Cut two 6-7/8" pieces of Door/Window Molding (5-160). Dry fit these into the sides of the door opening. They should be 1/8" short at the top. Cut a small piece of scrap Universal Trim (5-3) and slip it into the space at the top of each molding to make sure that it fits loosely. If it fits too tightly, sand the top end of the moldings slightly until the universal trim slips into position easily. Throw away the scrap universal trim – it was just for measurement and will not be used again. Glue the two door molding pieces into position. Make sure that they are fully seated against the sides of the door opening and that the decorative side of the molding is on the outside.

TOP VIEW

Interior



Exterior

e. Working from the back of the house, glue the door between the two door moldings. Glue only the pivot plates. The bottom pivot plate will fit between the moldings at the bottom, and the top pivot plate will fit *above* the moldings at the top. The front edge of the bottom pivot plate should fit against the lip of the door moldings. The front and back edges of the top

pivot plate should be flush with the front and back sides of the wall. While the glue is still wet, view the door from the front of the house to ensure that it is straight.

f. Cut and glue a piece of Universal Trim (5-3) at the top of the door on the inside to form the inside top door molding. This piece will rest against the top ends of the side door moldings.

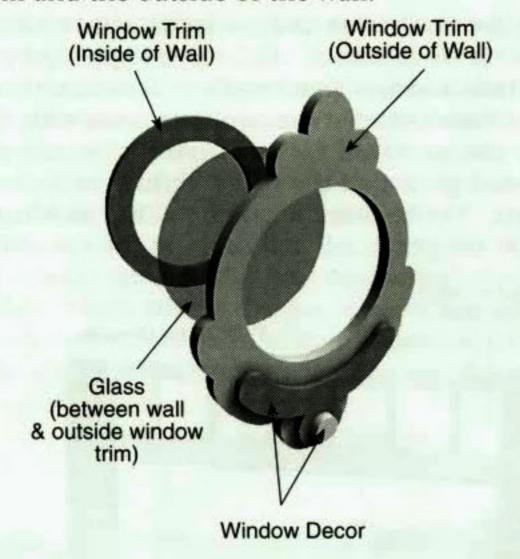
g. Cut and glue a piece of Cornice/Sill molding (5-154) to form the exterior top door molding. This piece can be mitered at the ends if desired (see box photo).

h. Position the door knob (6-17).

Using the same technique, you may install the second story door now, too.

Oxeye Window

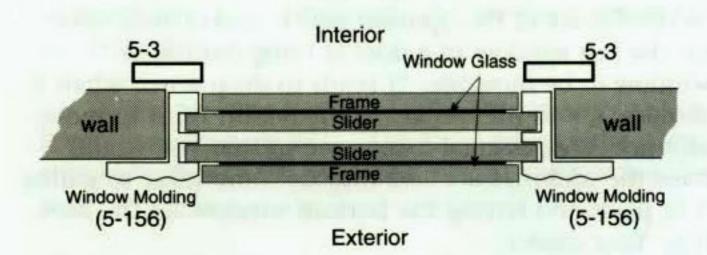
1. Use the illustration as a guide to construct the oxeye window. Painting will be easiest if accomplished before assembly. Window glass goes between the exterior trim and the outside of the wall.



Double Hung Windows

- Follow the diagrams to construct the double hung windows. Painting will be easiest if done before assembly.
- a. Start with a piece of universal trim 5-3 (not shown in illustrations) inside the window hole to cover the rough edges at the *top* and *bottom* of the window. Side edges will be covered by the Moving Window Molding (5-156).
- b. Punch the centers out of a rectangular Slider and Frame (1/8" plywood). Lay the Slider best side down. Run a thin bead of glue around the opening in the Slider (on the flat surface outside the hole, not on the inside edge of the hole). Place a piece of glass on the slider (see box photo to determine which window glass goes where).

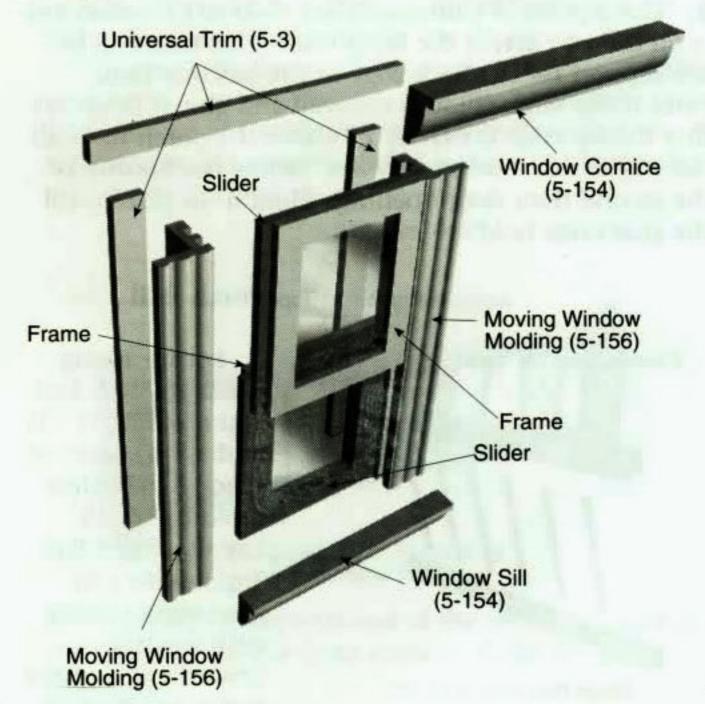
TOP VIEW



c. Run a bead of glue around the worst side of the frame and center it on top of the glass and slider.

d. Repeat this process for the other Slide/Frame/Glass group. Notice that the glass in the bottom group is not the same as in the top (see box photo).

e. Cut two 4-3/4" pieces of Moving Window Molding (5-156). Glue one (only one) into the side of the window hole with the decorative molding side facing out. Run a bead of glue on the other side of the window hole in preparation for gluing the other molding in place, but don't position it yet! First put the sliders of the two windows into the grooves of both moldings (see illustrations), and then swing the entire assembly into position. Hold or tape until the glue takes hold.



f. Cut and glue pieces of universal trim (5-3) to surround the window on the inside. Start with the two side pieces and then place the top and bottom pieces. Note: to avoid clutter, the bottom piece is not shown in the exploded view illustration.

g. Cut and glue the Window Cornice (5-154) on the outside. This piece can be mitered at the ends if desired (see box photo).

h. Cut and glue the Window Sill (5-154).

2. There are four of these windows. Do them all now.

Note: We are of the opinion that it makes little sense for the top window in a double hung dollhouse window to be movable. It tends to drop down when it shouldn't, and there is very little reason for it to move anyway. We designed it to move so that you would have the option, but there may be some value to gluing it in place and letting the bottom window do the moving. Your choice.

Tidbits

- 1. Locate some corner trim molding (5-8). Cut four pieces to cover each of two front corners and the entire back edges of the two side walls. Measure carefully, and bevel the top end to fit the underside of the roof if desired. You may need to notch the front corner trim pieces to fit around the porch floor.
- Glue the porch extension assembly (the one you set aside earlier) to the porch floor and front foundation.
 This assembly must be centered exactly on the front of the porch floor. Measure from both sides and double check before gluing.
- 3. Cut a piece of Universal Trim (5-3) to fit horizontally all the way across the front wall. This trim will be the support for the back edge of the balcony floor. Paint it the same color as the wall and glue it (level) so that the *top* edge is exactly 8" above the porch floor all the way across, and exactly 3/8" below the bottom of the second floor door opening. Hold it in place until the glue takes hold.

Porch Rail Top Porch Rail (5-71)1. Locate a long Pencil marks 7/8" apart piece of Porch Rail Top molding (5-71) and a long piece of Porch Rail Bottom molding (5-70). Balusters Lay the Porch Rail Top molding on your work surface with the slot toward you and the Porch Rail Bottom (5-70) Porch Rail Bottom

molding with the slot away from you. Beginning from the left edge, put a small pencil mark every 7/8" across both pieces.

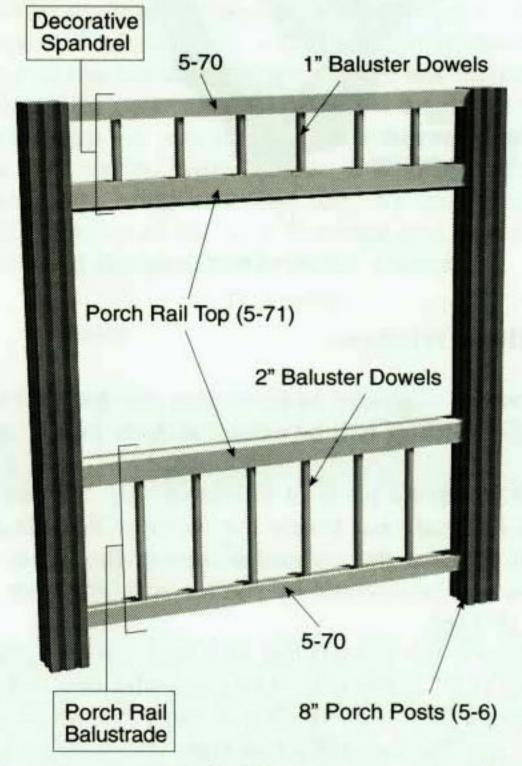
Locate the 1/8" x 2" Baluster dowels (6-2) and glue them into the slots at the pencil marks. See illustration. Be sure that the dowels are parallel, the top & bottom rails are parallel, and everything is square. This will provide adequate balustrade to make the porch rail.

2. Repeat this procedure, but this time cut the Baluster dowels in half to make 1" pieces. This will be used for the decorative spandrel above the porch.

Balustrade: A balustrade is a course of parallel balusters (banisters) connected by a rail or rails. In this doll house we use 1/8" dowels as balusters to create balustrades for porch rail and decorative spandrel.

Spandrel: Historically a spandrel is the triangular area between the curves of two adjoining arches, but the word is gaining usage as any overhead decorative device that spans the gap between any two objects (such as the window space between overhead kitchen cabinets or, as is the case here, the space between the tops of porch posts).

- 3. Cut four 8" posts from the Porch Post Molding (5-6). Cut six 3-1/4" posts, too. Chamfer (bevel) the upper edges of the short posts by sanding. Set the short posts aside to be used with the balcony rail later.
- 4. Using the illustration as a guide, lay out two long posts on your work surface. Cut a 6-1/4" piece of porch rail balustrade and an equal length of decorative spandrel. Glue these between the two long posts with the bottom of the porch rail 1/4" up from the bottom of the posts and the top of the spandrel flush with the top of the posts. Notice that the porch rail top molding (5-71) is *up* on the porch rail and *down* on the spandrel.

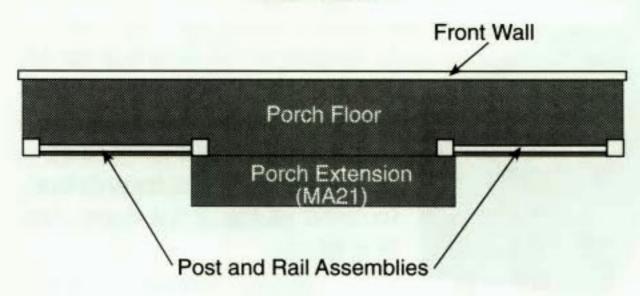


5. Repeat paragraph 4. These two porch rail/post assemblies will support the front edge of the balcony floor.

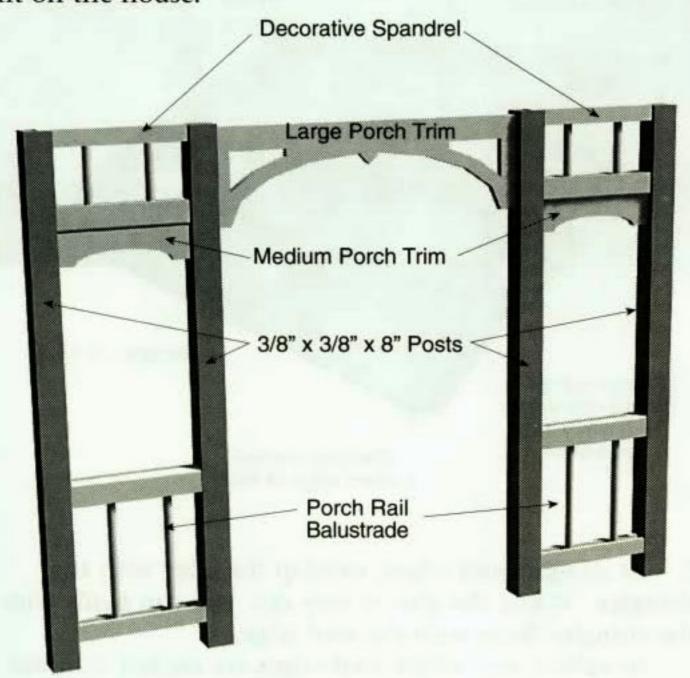
Tip: We are about to install these porch rail assemblies on the house. Painting will be easier if you do it before installation.

6. Glue one of the rail/post assemblies to the front left cormer of the porch floor, and glue the other to the right corner as shown. View from the top, front, and sides to make sure they are standing vertical.

TOP VIEW



- 7. Cut porch rail and spandrel to fit between the two outermost posts and the front wall. Glue.
- 8. Locate the Balcony Floor (MA20) and glue it on top of the porch posts and the Universal Trim that you positioned earlier. Make sure that the floor lines up with the bottom of the second floor doorway and that everything is level. You may need to notch the corner trim on both front corners in order to get the balcony floor to fit back against the front wall.
- 9. Locate some 3/8" x 3/8" molding (5-5). Cut four 8" pieces. These will be the porch posts that set on the porch extension and hold up the balcony extension. Take a look at the box photo to get an idea of how they fit on the house.

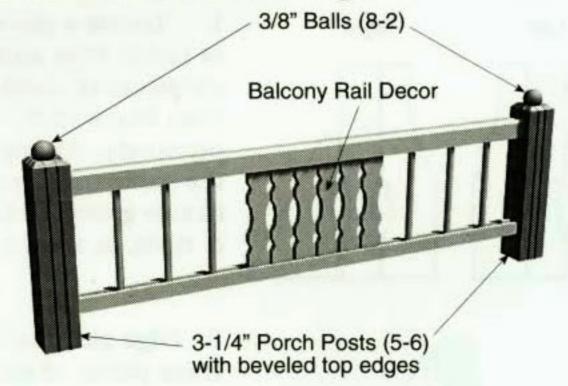


10. Cut two 2" lengths of porch rail balustrade and two

- 2" lengths of decorative spandrel. Locate the large arched piece of porch trim and the two medium pieces of porch trim (1/8" plywood). Follow the diagram to assemble these items.
- 11. When the glue has dried, glue this assembly to the Porch Extension (MA21). The front edge of the posts should be flush with the front edge of the porch extension.
- 12. Cut porch rail balustrade and decorative spandrel to fit between the outermost posts of the assembly that you just glued in place and the innermost porch posts that you positioned earlier. Glue.
- 13. Locate the Balcony Extension (MA21) and glue it on top of the posts and against the front edge of the balcony floor (MA20).
- 14. Locate the small Porch Trim pieces (8) in the 1/8" plywood. Using the box photo as a guide, glue them in place.

Balcony Rail

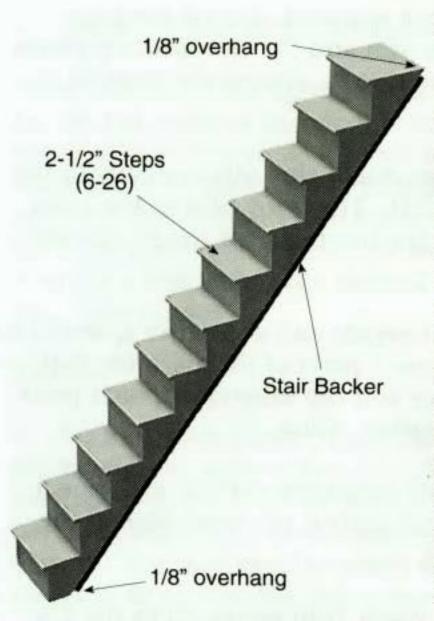
1. Using the technique in paragraph 1 of the previous section, create a piece of porch rail balustrade 9-3/8 inches long, but this time use the six pieces of Porch Rail Decor (1/8" plywood) in place of the center baluster dowels. See illustration. Glue the balustrade between two of the short porch posts (5-6) that you set aside earlier. As always, glue this piece of balustrade 1/4" above the bottom of the posts.



Use glue on the bottoms of the two posts, and glue this assembly to the front corners of the Balcony Extension.

Tip: The 3/8" balls on top of the posts will be more stable if you sand a flat spot for the glue on the bottom of each ball.

3. Using the other 4 short posts and some Porch Rail Balustrade (make more if you need to), enclose the entire balcony with porch rail. See box photo.



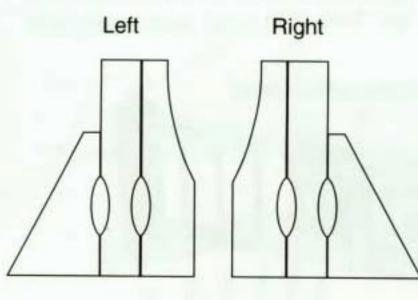
Inside Stairs

Locate the Stairs (6-26) and the Stair Backer (1/8" plywood). Using the illustration as a guide, begin at the bottom end of the Stair Backer and glue each stair in position until you reach the top. Notice that the first step and last step are approximately 1/8" off the ends of the backer. This makes it possible for these

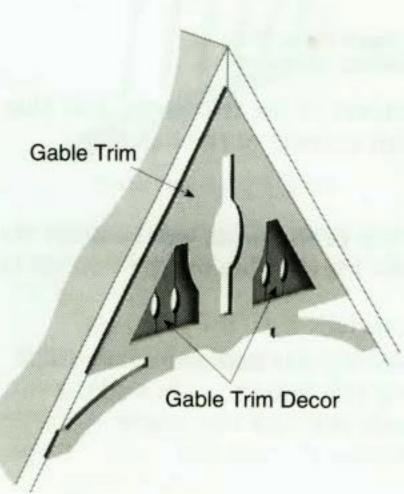
two steps to fit flush against the first floor and second floor without the backer interfering.

- 2. When the glue from step one is dry, glue the stairway in place with the top step inside the stairwell hole and flush with the top of the second floor. See box photo for positioning. Paint before gluing.
- 3. Cover the interior edges of the stairwell hole with universal trim (5-3).

Gable Trim



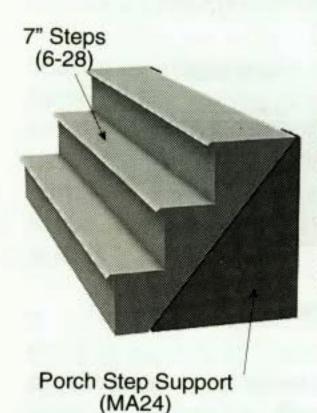
1. Locate a piece of Gable Trim and six pieces of Gable Trim Decor (1/8" plywood). Arrange the gable trim decor in two groups, left & right, as shown.



- 2. Edge glue the three pieces of each group to form two decor assemblies. Paint. Glue these assemblies to the back of the Gable Trim so they show through the triangular holes in the Gable Trim.
- 3. Glue this assembly into the gable peak of the front gable. It should be

glued to the underside of the roof pieces, and the front surface of the Gable trim piece should be flush with the front edge of the roof pieces.

 Repeat the above procedure twice more for the two end gables.

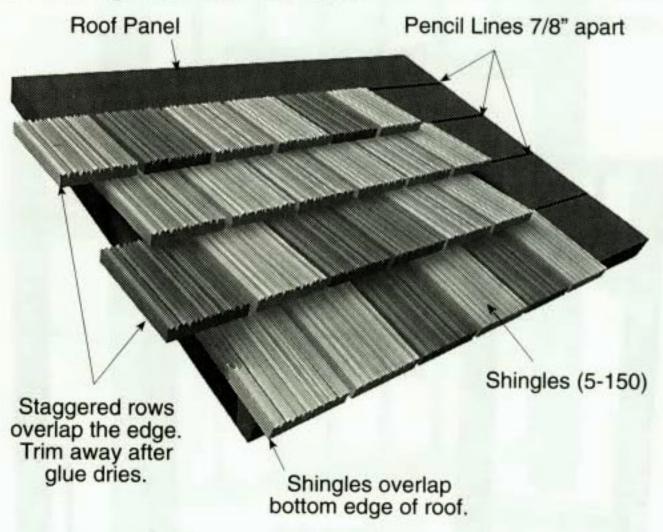


Porch Steps

1. Locate the 3 Porch Steps (6-28) and the Porch Step Supports MA24 (MDF). Glue this assembly as shown, and then glue it to the foundation in front of the front door. See box photo.

Roof Shingles

1. Remember those lines you drew on the roof parts? Well, now is the time to put them to use. Beginning at the bottom edge of each piece, glue a full row of shingles (5-150) with the top edge of the shingles on the line. The bottom of the shingle will hang over the bottom edge of the roof. When the bottom row is complete, begin the next row and work your way to the top. Shift each row 1/2 the width of a shingle from the row below so that the cracks between the shingles do not line up over one another.



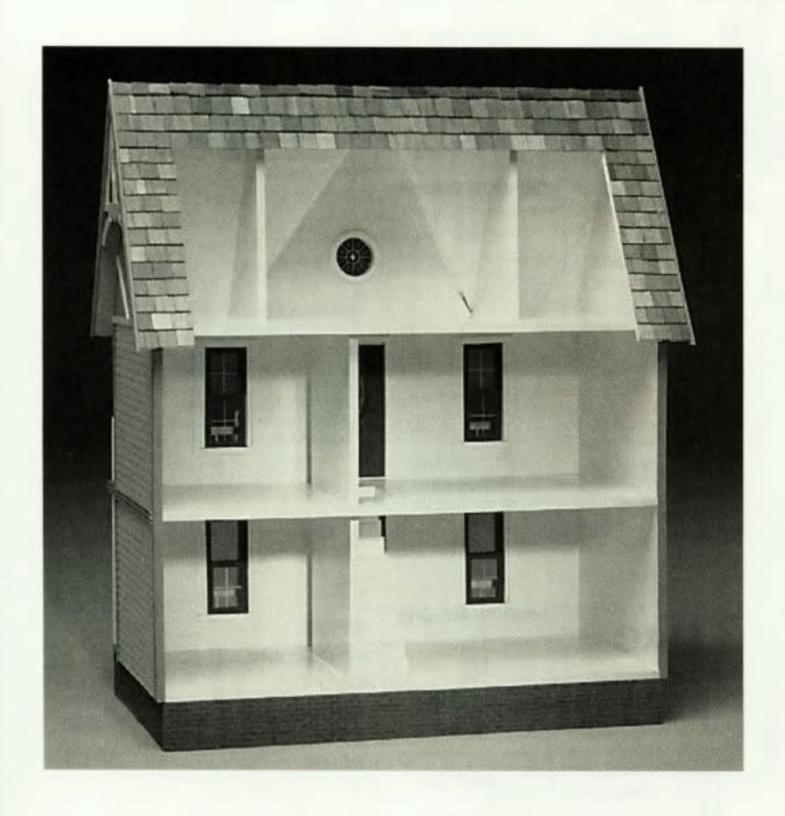
2. At straight roof edges, overlap the edge with the shingles. When the glue is very dry, you can easily trim the shingles flush with the roof edge.

In valleys and where roof edges are angled, you will need to cut shingles to fit the angle before gluing.

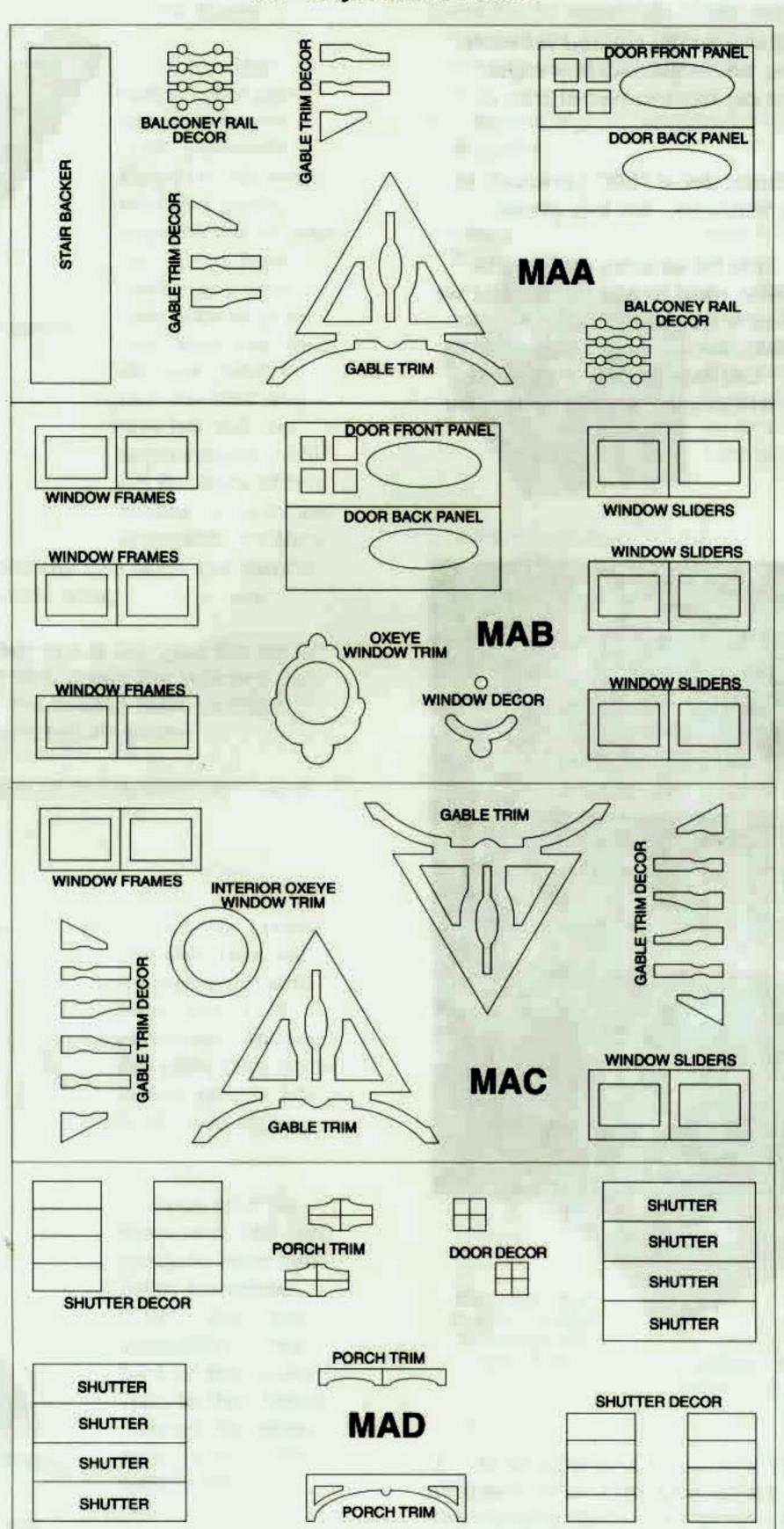
Final Trim

- 1. Using the box photo as a guide, cut and position trim pieces on roof edges, side walls, balcony edges, and gables. Pieces can be cut from universal trim (5-3) and fascia trim (5-158).
- 2. Glue shutters and shutter decor (1/8" plywood) to the front wall beside the windows. See box photo.
- 3. We have included a little bit of extra molding in the kit for those of you who want to add things that we didn't think of. Some people like to fill in the gaps at the top of the interior walls, between wall tops and the underside of roof pieces. You may wish to customize your house and add features you specifically want. We encourage innovation.

Congratulations! Enjoy.



1/8" Plywood Pieces



Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) Pieces

