



Kit basics

Our kit consists of laser-cut wood and plastic components. Many of the parts are backed with a peel and stick coating to ease assembly.

You will need a few basic tools and supplies to build the kit. A sharp hobby knife and white glue are all that is required for most of the assembly. Some modelers might find a single-edged razor and a small square helpful.

Components are held on the larger sheets with small tabs. Use a sharp knife or razor to remove the parts by cutting through the tabs. Because of the number of components we recommend that you remove the parts as you use them since it's easier to keep track of them this way. Be careful when cutting the tabs, many of the parts are delicate.

We use white glue (Elmer's or similar) for the wood-to-wood joints. Yellow carpenter's wood glue or ACC (super glue) can also be used. It can be helpful to use bits of masking tape to hold corners together while the glue dries.

The peel and stick adhesive allows the part locations to be adjusted slightly when first applied, but will set up to a permanent bond in a few hours.

Painting and weathering tips

We find it easier to paint many of the parts before assembly. If you choose to use water-based paints please be sure to paint both sides of the wood siding to minimize warping. Don't panic if the wood warps while the paint is still wet, in most cases it will straighten out after the paint dries.

Depending on the look you want from the finished kit you may also want to add some extra texture into the walls such as nail holes and warped boards. Both are easy to do and can add a lot to the finished structure, but should be done before the building is assembled.

To add nail holes to the siding lay the siding on your work surface with the clapboards facing up. Using a pencil mark off a series of parallel vertical lines approximately 16-24 scale inches apart. These will represent the locations of the studs. You can add the nail holes one of two ways. The first method is to use a pin or small nail mounted in a pin vice, pressing the point into the wood to create nail holes along the lines. The second, faster method is to use a pounce wheel (a serrated metal wheel with a handle) available from either craft or sewing stores or Micro-Mark (<http://www.micromark.com/>) to emboss the holes. For added texture you can also scribe occasional vertical joints in the clapboard with an X-acto knife.

For warped and peeling boards simply cut a vertical joint along the edge of the board, then take your knife at a shallow angle and run it along that edge undercutting the adjacent board. Using the end of your knife you can then peel up the edge of the board to give it a distressed look.

For a more weathered appearance the walls can be stained with a light gray stain (driftwood or similar) and then dry-brushed (painting with very little paint on the brush) along the grain. This will create a peeling paint effect.