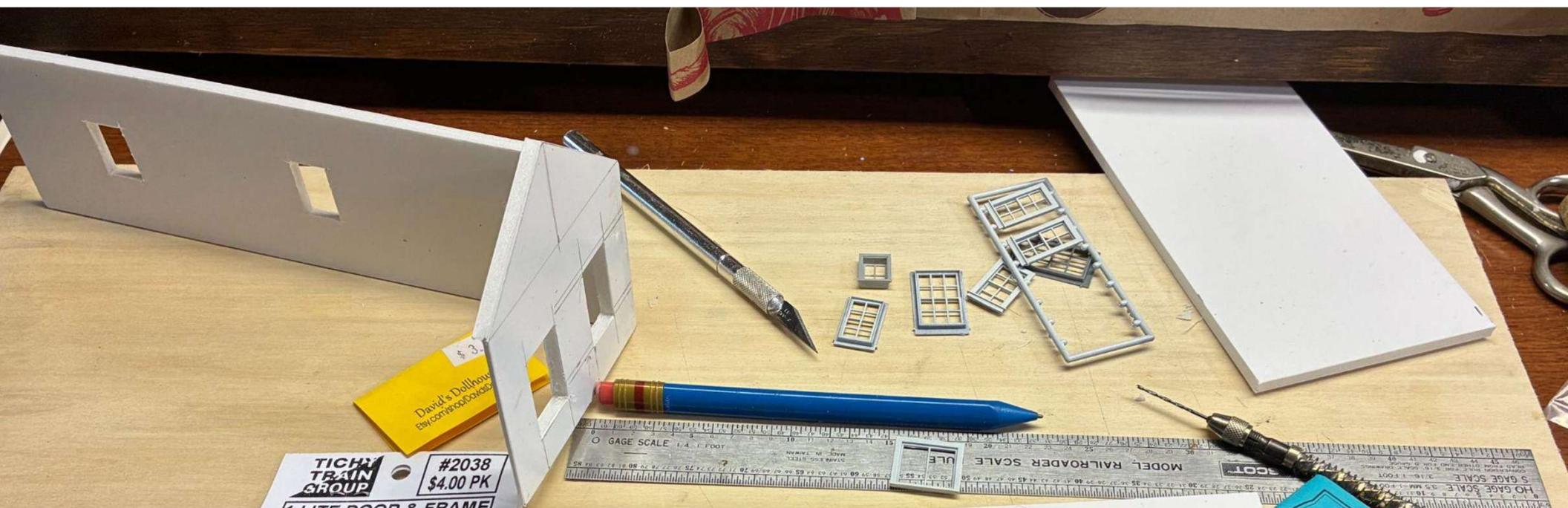


# How to Build Easy Housing

For your Railroad  
By Brian Staten QCHR



# Choose your Subject

- I drive through older neighborhoods and take notice of the houses I encounter.
- The “shotgun” house is one of my favorites. Simple design and lots of them.
- Can use pictures, plans or memories of a building you would like to model.



## Example of a shotgun house

Legend has it that cities used to base taxes on the width of a lot. Therefore long and narrow saved on the tax bill.



## Measure Twice, Cut Once !

Once you have chosen your subject, decide the materials & method of construction.

There are many materials and methods I have tried over the years including Masonite, basswood (both milled siding and dimensional sizes), and foam core

Gather your supplies. I have used commercially available window and door plastic castings from many manufactures over my modeling career. My current favorites are from Grandt Line and Tichy Train Group. The many sizes, scales and varieties are amazing and relatively inexpensive.

A more modern technique is the 3D printed approach

# Hybrid Foamcore Basswood Construction

I have used this method for a relatively quick and easy way of adding homes to my scale neighborhood.

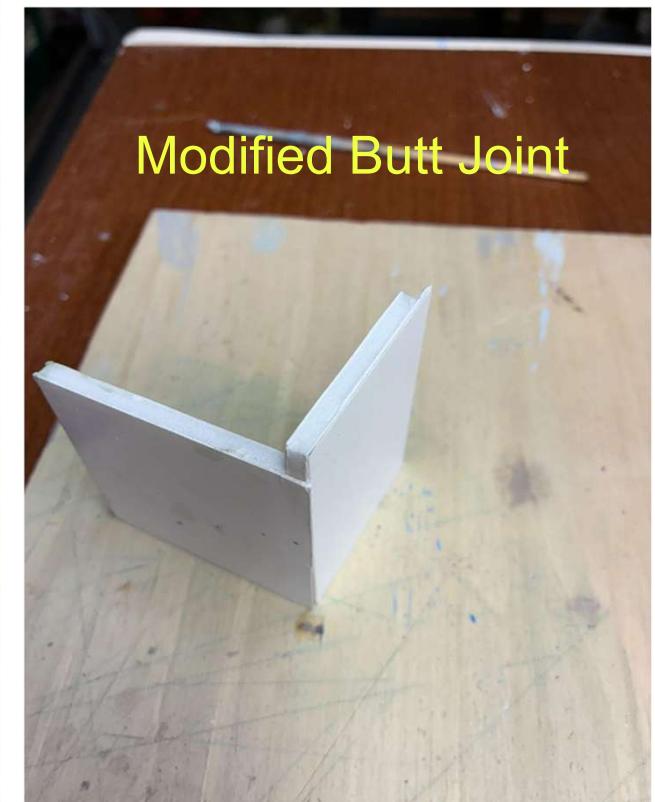
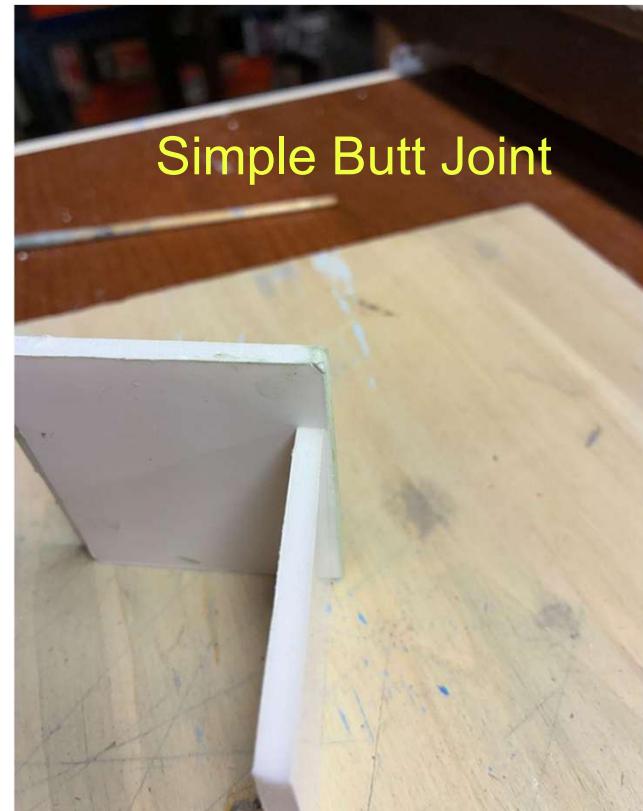
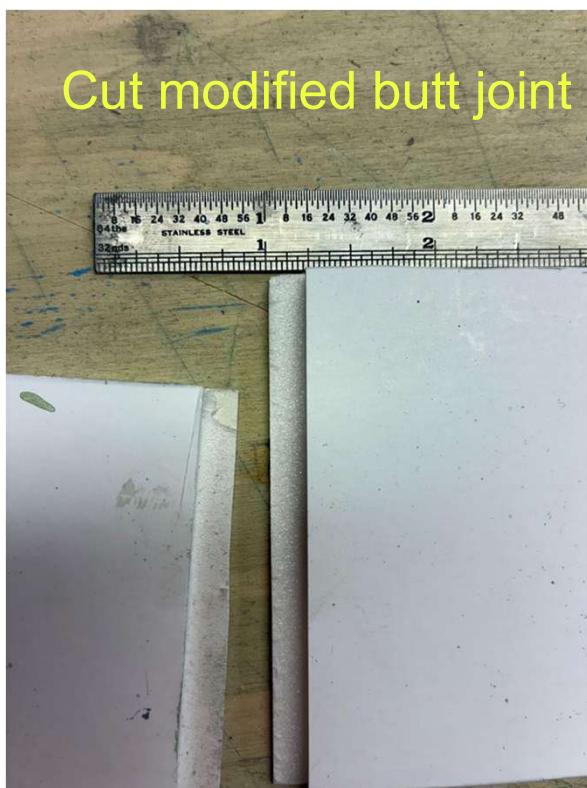
Foamcore is widely available at any hobby/craft store.  $\frac{1}{4}$ " is easy to work with and has plenty of strength for this purpose.

With the demise of the mom & pop hobby shops milled basswood siding is a little harder to find but can be ordered.

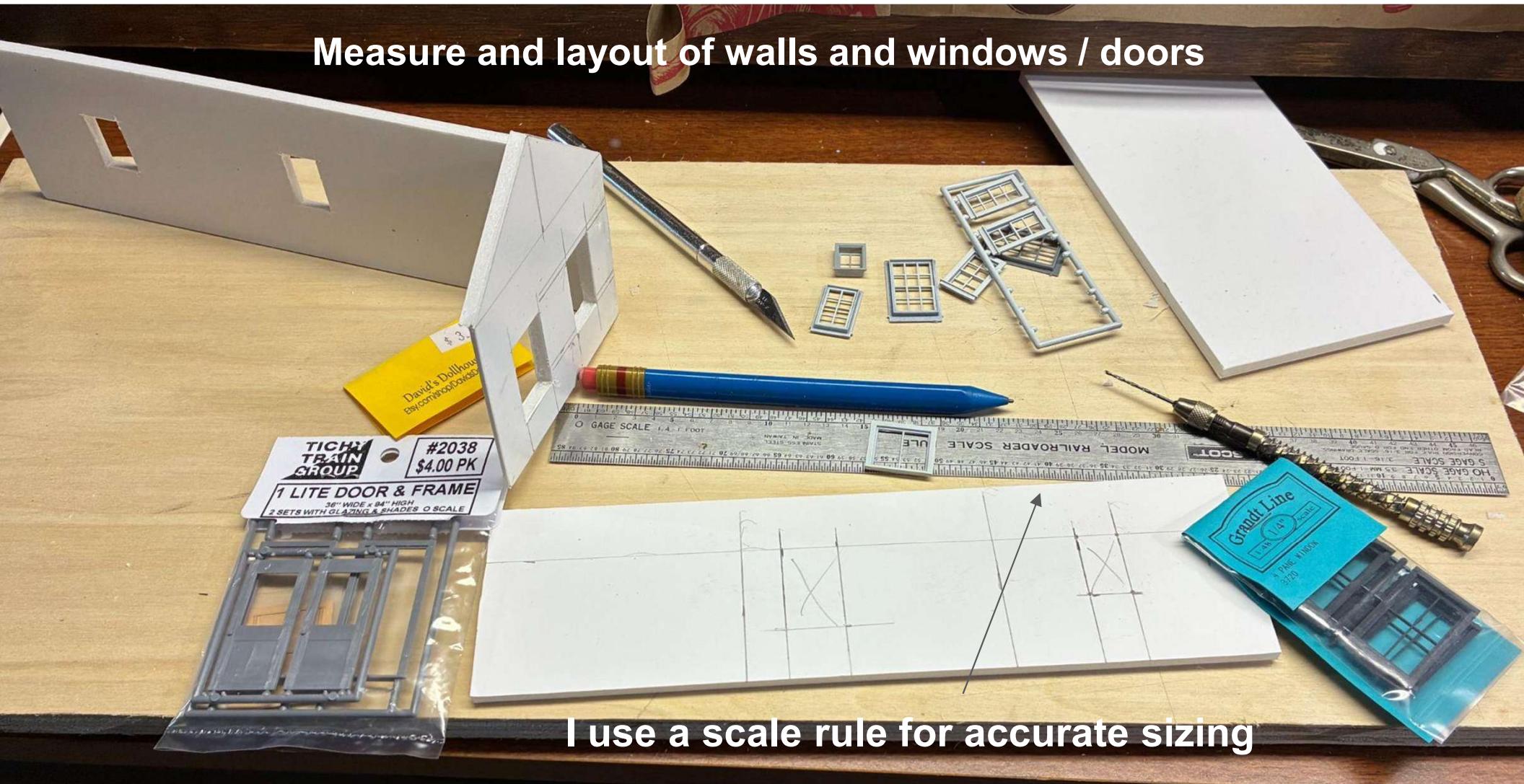


# Joining Corners

Corners can be joined many ways. Some examples are the 45 degree angle joint simple butt joint and what I call a modified butt joint. This gives a greater surface area for bonding.

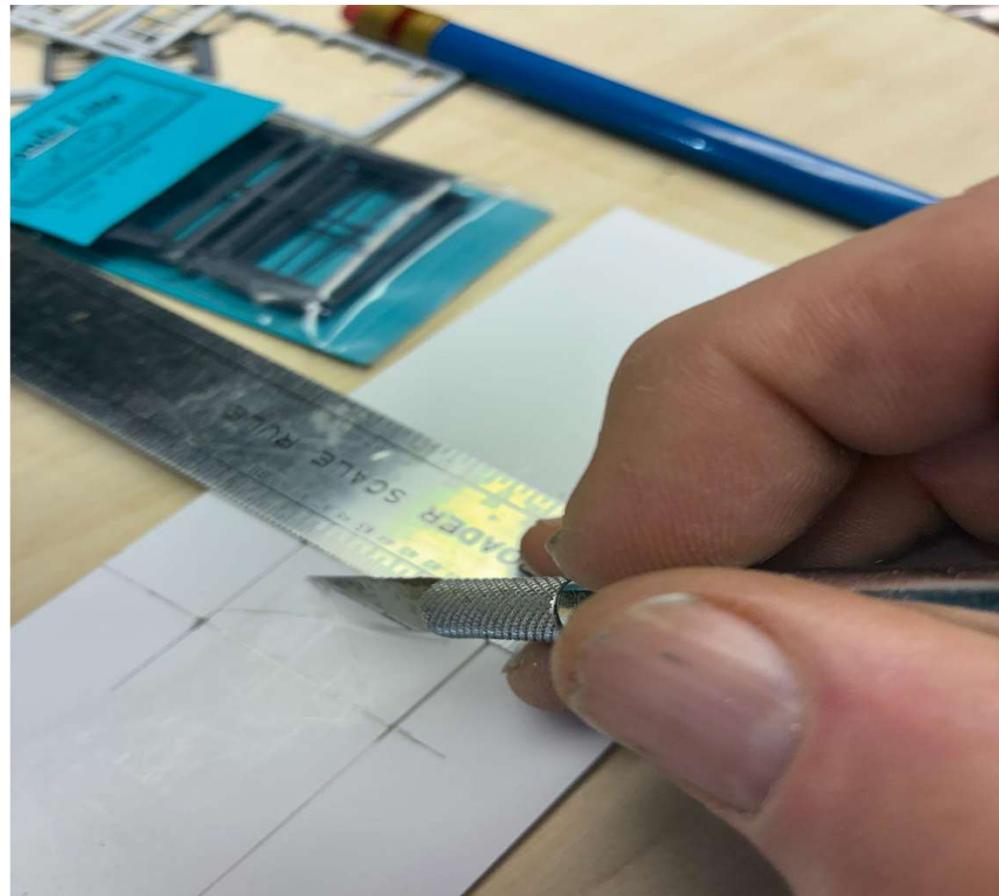


Measure and layout of walls and windows / doors



I use a scale rule for accurate sizing

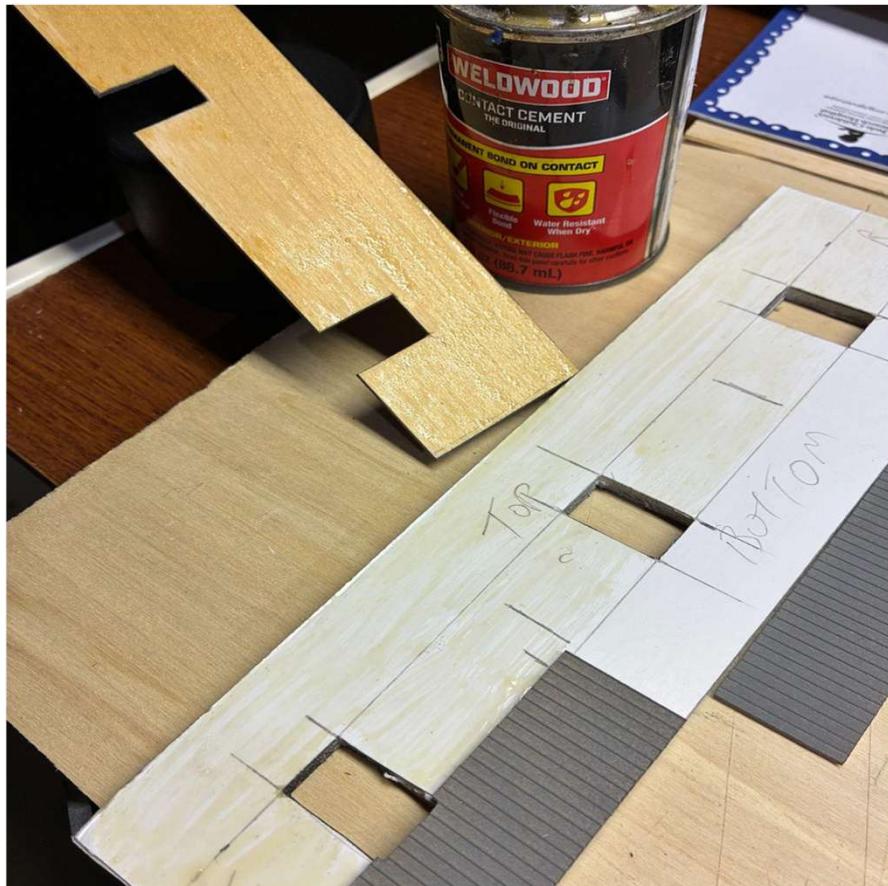
# Cutting Openings



Measure and mark in all window and door openings. Keep in mind how far your windows are from the floor and ceiling to keep them from being too high or too low. When all openings are where you want them, use a steel rule or straight edge and carefully cut out the opening with a new #11 Xacto blade. Keep a good supply on hand as sharp blades equal clean cuts!

# Cut Openings Apply Siding

Coat both pieces with contact cement, let almost dry, place carefully, you only get one shot!



# Glue up and Keep it Square

Use plenty of rubber bands, Keep several sizes on hand for all size objects.



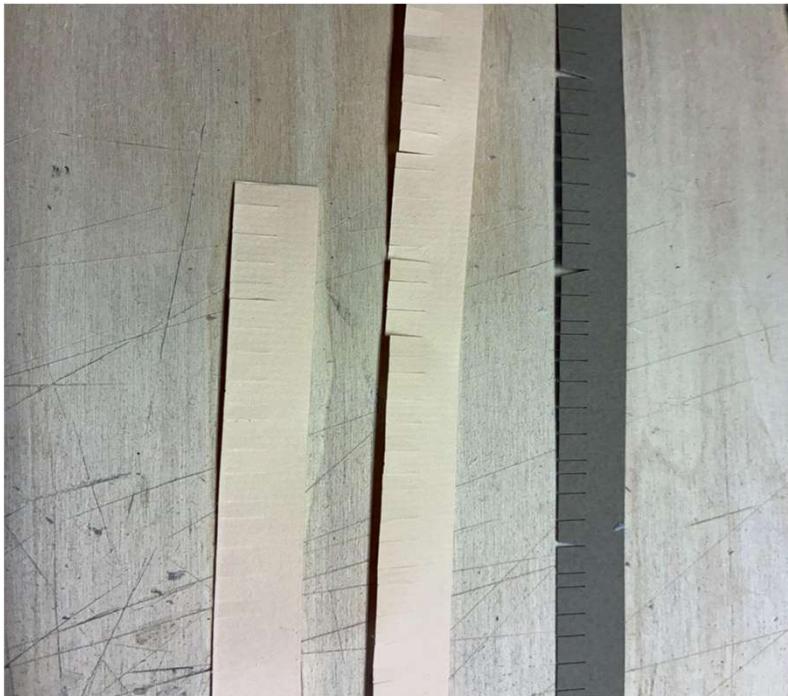
## Roof Types and Materials

There are many types of roofs and sheathing materials. I use simulated asphalt shingle roofing in many of my buildings



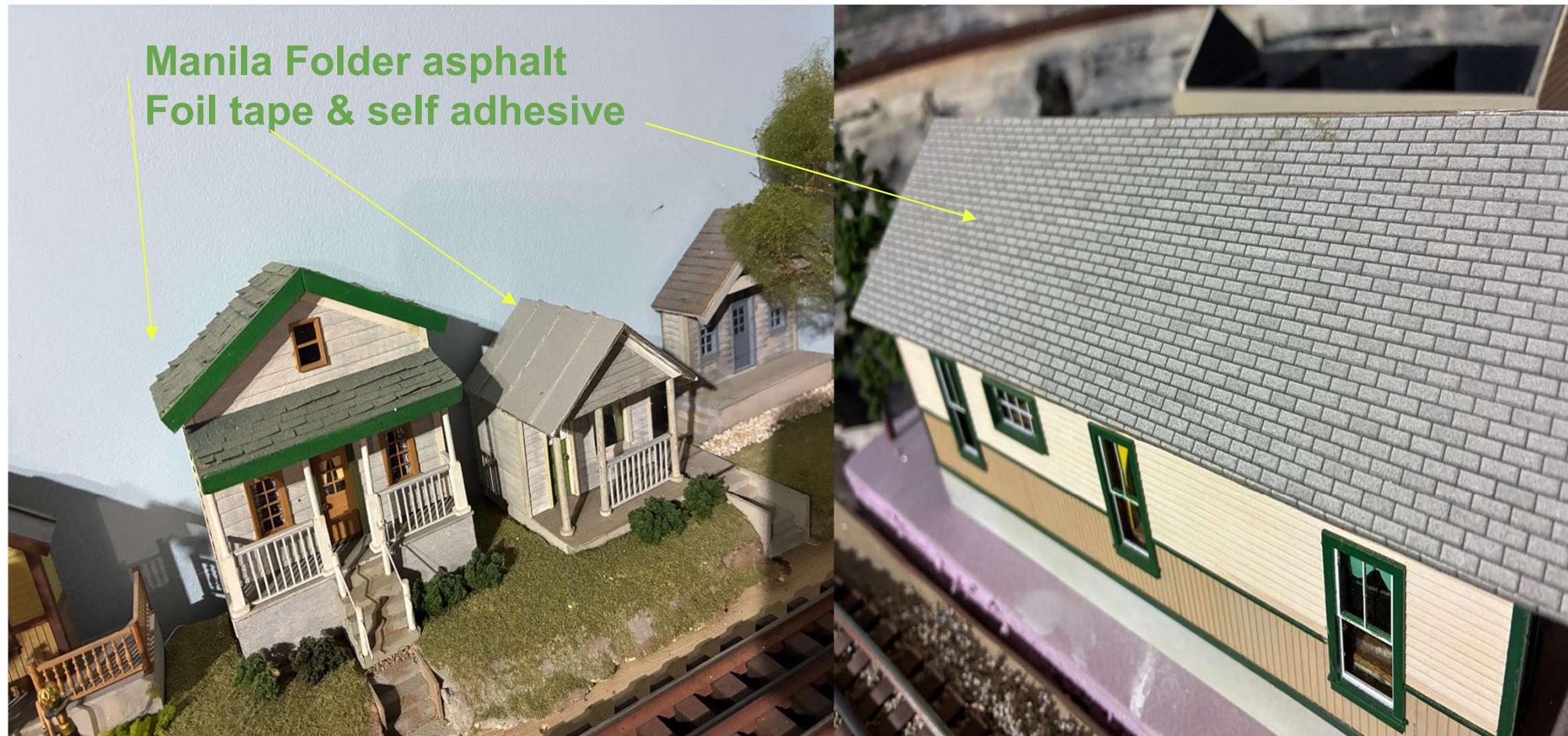
## Manila Folder Shingles

Can be purchased but a little expensive considering what they are.



To make your own cut a manila folder into  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide strips and cut notches half way up. Tedious yes, expensive no! Spray with textured paint of any color to give it that rough finish. Finish spray to desired color. Fine sandpaper can also be used instead of

# Roof Materials



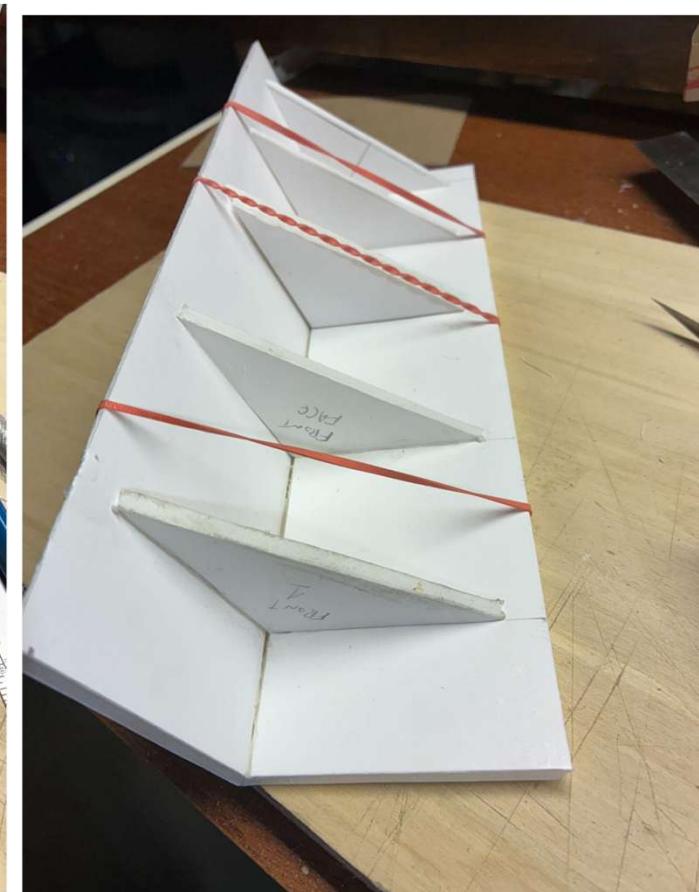
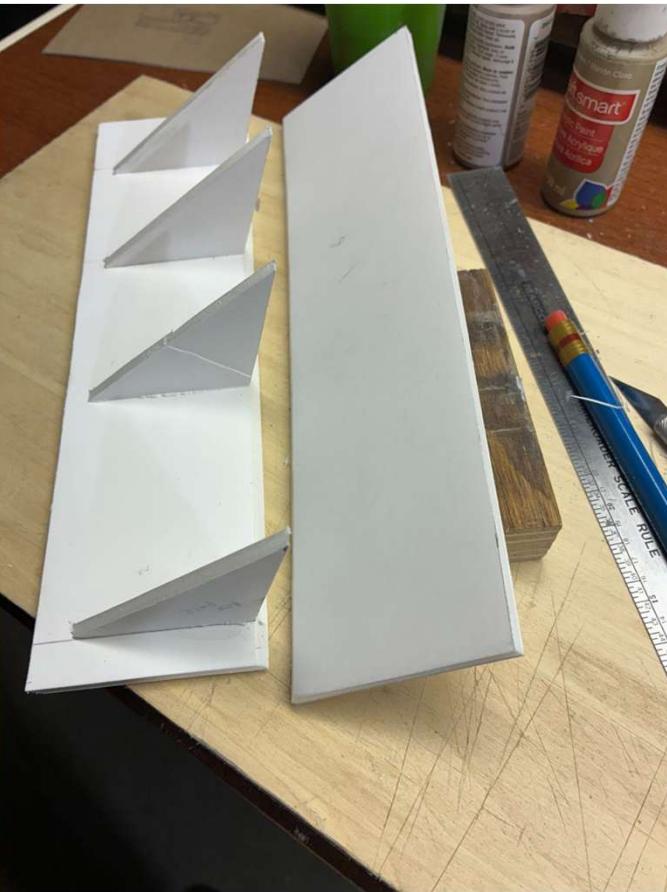
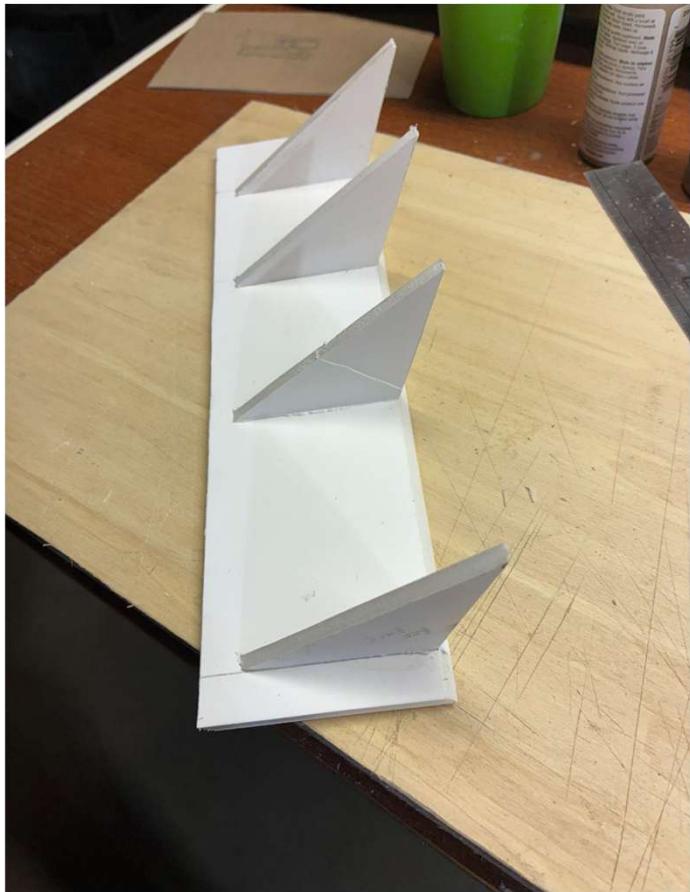
# Roof Construction

Measure roof, Don't forget overhangs, and cut from foamcore



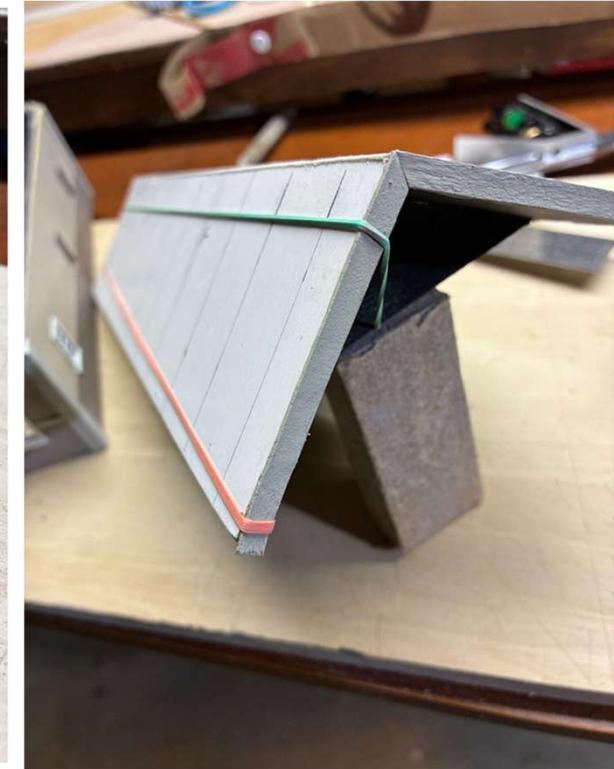
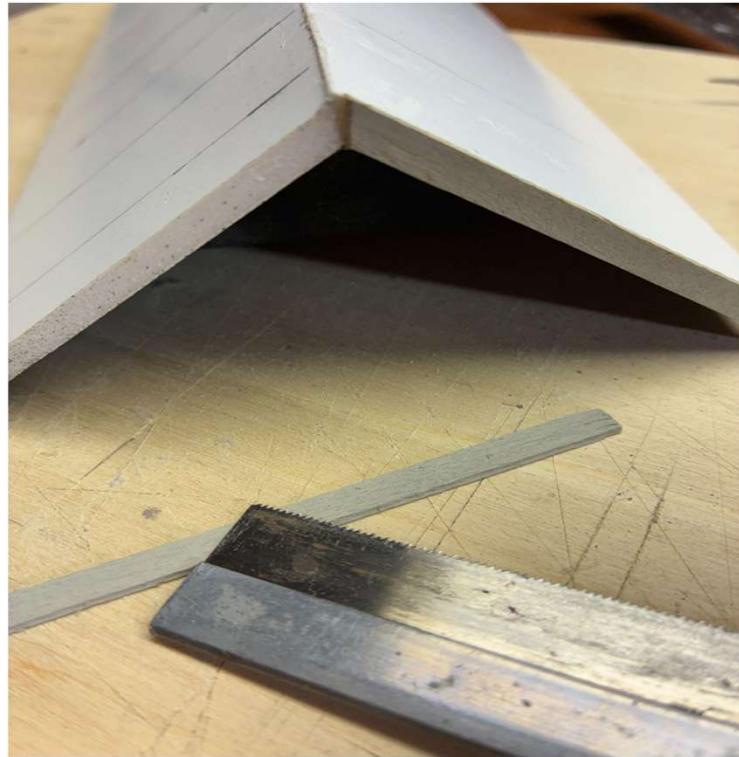
Cut trusses, glue and secure to roof panels

Use rubber bands or small clamps to hold while adhesive sets



## Add Trim to Roof and Structure

Use Midwest scale 1x4 trim or equivalent. Coffee stirring sticks work also!



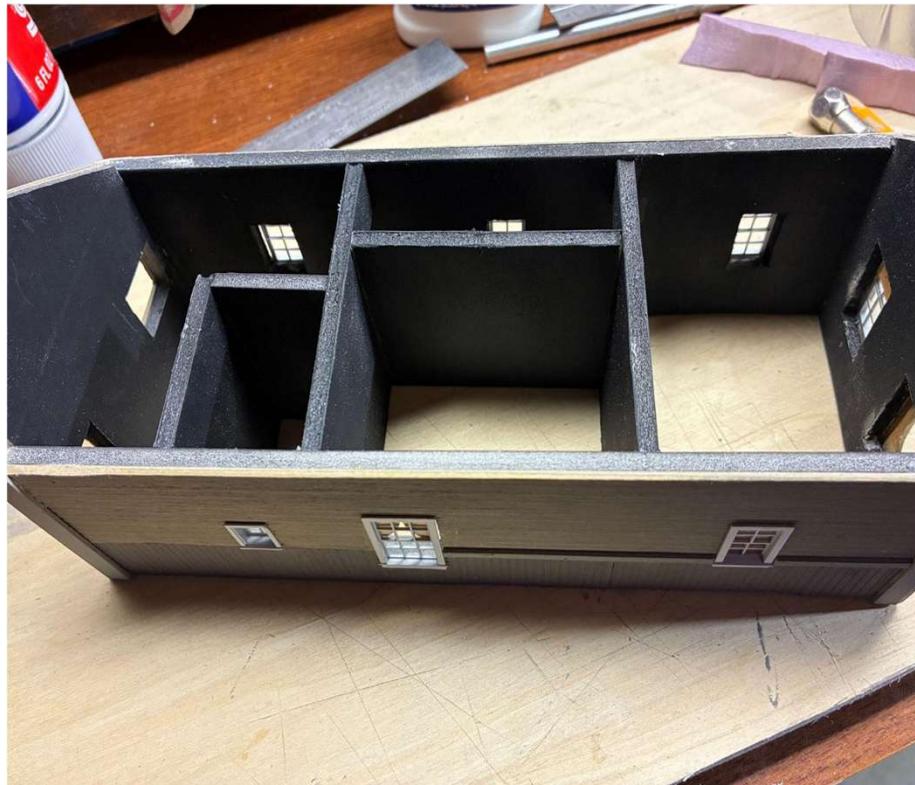
**Seal the structure with Dullcote or flat clear spray**

**Do this before installing windows or doors with glazing**



# Interiors

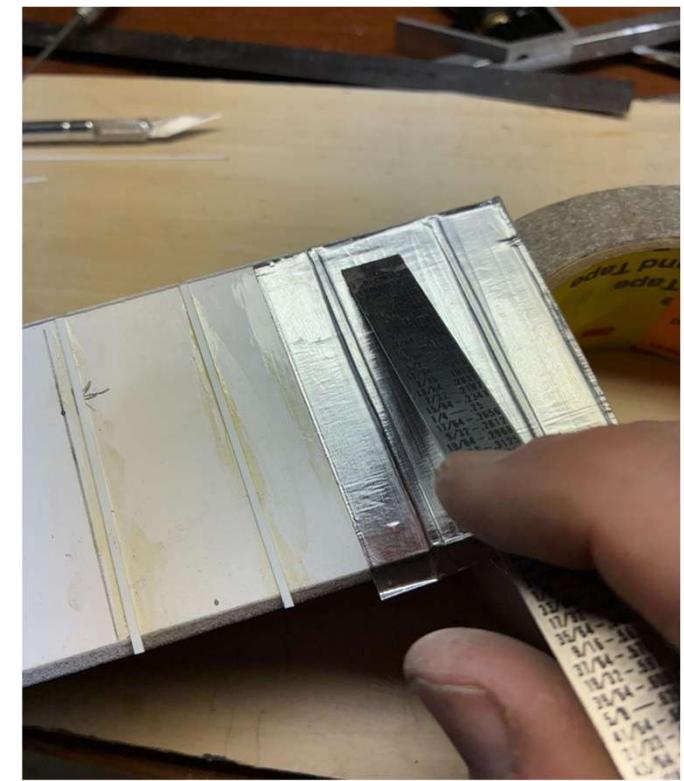
This is a good time to add the interior. Plain black view block walls to eliminate the see through look or highly detailed interior. Check out the hardwood floor!



# Metal Roof Application

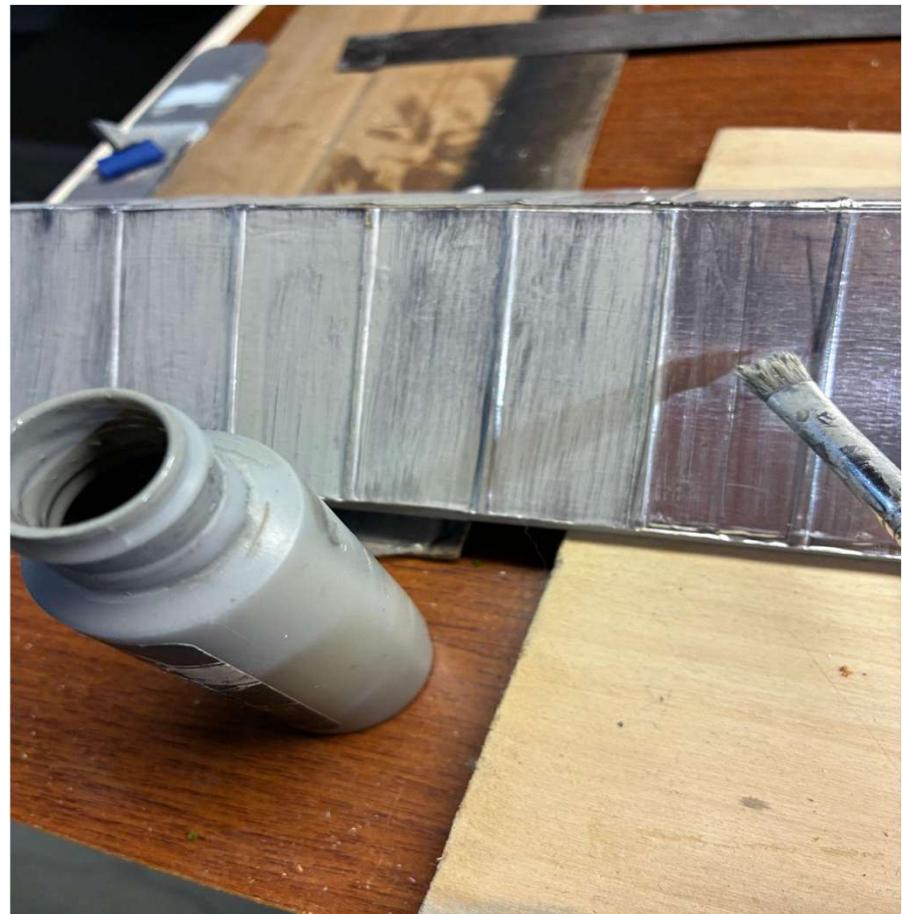
Mark and measure desired location for metal roof seams. Apply contact cement, apply seams.

Carefully apply foil while smoothing out wrinkles.



## Weathering the roof

Lightly brush on your choice of grays and or light browns to kill the foil shine. Add some rust streaks. Seal with dullcote when dry.



## Add a Foundation

The foundation can be made many different ways.

Wood strips, cast your own in plaster or as shown below with extruded foam.

Leave the foam plain or carve in cinder blocks or stone.



Poured Concrete



Cinder Block

## Entry Steps

Steps can either be carved into the foundation or glued up from scrap foam or wood.



## Mount the building to the foundation

Be sure and use plenty of rubber bands until adhesive sets



## Final Details

Add final details to the structure. Here I have added a chimney, front porch railing, overhang roof at the rear entrance, (previous slide) and door knobs. Add as many items as you like until your personal standards are satisfied.

