Instructions for the Lilliput Dollhouse

Peaches 'n Cream

Lilliput[®] Series Kit #450 ©03/14

Congratulations on your choice of a Real Good Toys product. Your kit has been precision made with meticulous care by our craftspeople using carefully selected materials. This Dollhouse will last for years, even generations, if heirloom care and attention is given during assembly. Take your time and read the instructions completely. If you have questions, ask the experts at your local Dollhouse store or at info@realgoodtoys.com

Before you begin - You have already opened the box and see all the parts organized in boxes and bundles. For the moment, keep them that way. There are important things to do before you open your glue bottle.

Choose your color scheme. Look at houses in your community, models in your local Dollhouse shop or at our website: realgoodtoys.com; look at plan books from a paint store or architectural books at your library (a favorite is: Painted Ladies by Michael Larsen and Elizabeth Pomada). You will be painting some of the parts right away so get the paint now. Choose high-quality interior semi-gloss latex enamel paints for ease of use and durability.

Prepare your space: This dollhouse will spread out over a large area while it is being built. You will need a large flat tabletop for the house, several boxes to keep parts organized until they are needed, and several trays lined with waxed paper for holding small parts like windows and railings. A snap-lid box will keep your tools and supplies handy between building sessions.



Measure and identify the parts: The kit is packed in groupings that protect the parts, and that is how the Parts List is organized. As you measure and identify the parts, label them with sticky notes using the names from the parts list, and check them off the parts list so you know you have everything. Taking the time now to identify and organize the parts also makes them familiar so you will understand what the instructions intend as you read ahead.

- Plan ahead so you know where you are going
- Read ahead so you know how to get there
- Paint ahead so the parts will be ready when you need them



Tools and Supplies:

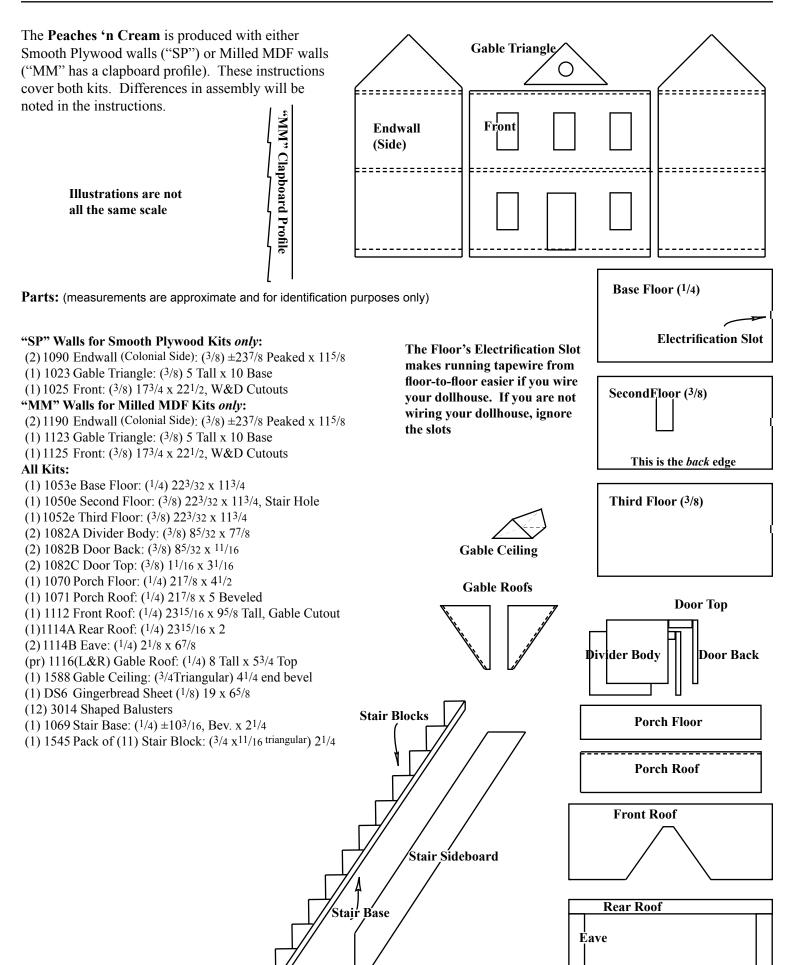
Tape measure or ruler, Pencil, Sticky notes (like PostIts®) White glue (like Aleene's Tacky Glue®) for all construction Solvent-based Panel Cement (like Liquid Nails®) for shingles Masking tape, Utility knife or coarse file, yardstick Fine tooth saw (razor saw (like X-Acto®) or a hacksaw) Painting Supplies, Sandpaper (especially 320gr) Waxed paper PostIts®, Aleene's®, Liquid Nails®, and X-Acto® are registered trademarks of their manufacturers and have no affiliation with Real Good Toys

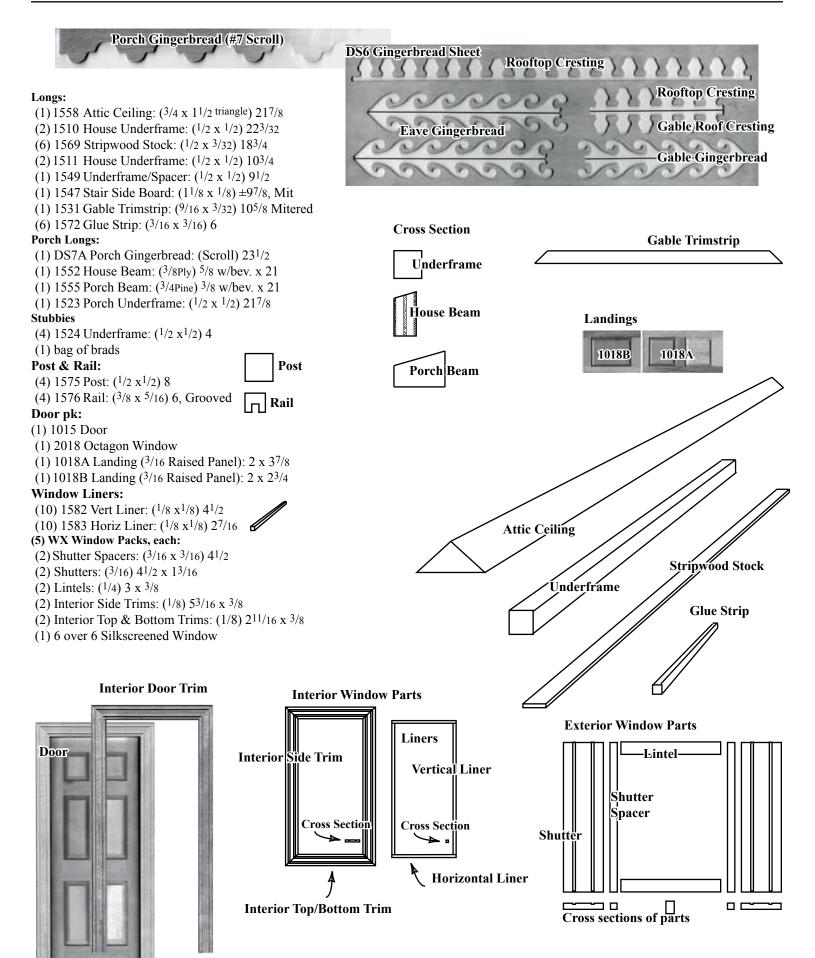
Options: see page 4 for more upgrade ideas

EL-66 Hole starter and electrification tool

- Stucco Grit: Paint additive for a textured surface
- Dye-1: Brown shingle dye
- Dye-3: Grey shingle dye
- SC: Copper flashing
- #1015: 6-panel interior doors fit the Dividers
- T-250: Turntable or ET250 Electrified Turntable

This kit accommodates 1" Scale furniture





Overview of the Build:

Details of each step will be expanded along the way, but lots of folks like to see how it all fits together before they start

Identify and label all of the parts Paint everything one coat Option: Stain and score the floors Sand everything until the paint is smooth, transparent, and some of the wood is showing through Build the housebody up to the Roof Second-coat the Walls Optional: Start the wiring Mark, paint, and attach the Roofs: wait to glue on the Rear Roof assembly until interior wiring/finishing is done Install the Dividers Optional: Finish the wiring Assemble and finish painting everything else Finish the Attic Finish the outside Build the Porch Finish the inside

Assembly Tips:

A large, clutter-free, well-lighted work area is helpful during assembly, but a flat work surface is essential.

Read the instructions carefully; look at each of the illustrations. **!With the parts in your hands!**, think the assembly through before you proceed.

Test fit each time you are ready to glue a piece in place... then you'll know you have it right.

If more tape or a helper is needed, it's good to know that before the parts have glue on them.

Don't be stingy with glue or tape; use generous amounts. Always wipe off excess glue immediately.

Keep one damp rag and one dry rag handy all the time. Have weights available for holding things tight as glue joints dry (stacks of books, gallons of pure Vermont Maple Syrup - anything heavy)

Glue the body of your dollhouse together with white, water clean-up glue that dries clear. Do not use instant-bond (super glue), fast-tack, rubber cement, silicone, or hot melt glues. They are all used in some wood applications, but they all have some characteristic that makes them un-desirable for the body of your dollhouse. Carpenter Glue works well, but glue-smear dries yellow or tan; many of the things you glue onto the house are prepainted – extra glue will show.

I use Aleene's Tacky Glue® for housebody assembly. Make sure everything is straight and flat as glue dries... That's the shape that will be permanent.

If you shingle, glue the shingles on with glue that doesn't have any water in it! If the glue says "water clean-up", it

Slideshows, demos, useful links, details, and photos are all at: www.realgoodtoys.help

will curl the wooden shingles. Look carefully at the glue you intend to use to be sure it is solvent-based, or use hot-melt glue (use the high temp version and watch out for the burns). I use a "Sub-Floor Adhesive" glue which comes in a caulking-gun tube at the hardware or building supply store. It says "Caution: Flammable" on the front, and that's how I am sure it is *solvent based*. Check ingredients and warnings!

If you Wallpaper, use Grandma Stover's www.realgoodtoys.com or pre-mixed Roman's "Border" paste.

Brush paste on the wallpaper, then the wall, and finally smooth the wallpaper into position.

Taking things apart: Heat softens glue. If you have to take things apart, warm the part in the oven at 170° for up to a half hour to let the heat get into the joint where the glue is. Don't let it get hotter than you can touch or the paint may scorch. Don't heat window panes. www.realgoodtoys.help has more info.

When glue is drying, skip ahead to up-coming assembly steps and prepare the parts that will be used

Before you begin, read the "Finish the Inside" section at the end of these instructions.

Q: Can I wallpaper before I assemble the doll house?

A: Yes you can (it's your house!) Many experienced builders are advocates of papering before construction - I am not.

My biggest objection to papering first is that you are always too skimpy with glue so none will squeeze out and get on the paper. I try to use the amount of glue that fills the joint, so some will squeeze out in every joint and be wiped up. But wiping glue off of wallpaper leaves a streak, so the temptation is to go skimpy, and the joints aren't as strong.

Second, I can always tell a house that was pre-papered because the corners show a void instead of being continuous (see the slideshows about how to crowd the papers together in the corner... you can't do that with pre-papered walls).

Third, I have had to replace paper too often that has gotten damaged by glue or tape during construction... that wastes time and paper (\$) and can make it so you are left deciding whether to replace a damaged paper or letting it slide because you don't have any more of that pattern and you'll have to order it and that takes too much time (running out but then needing another piece is a distressing moment).

Finally, I don't find pre-papering to be faster. By the time I have done all of the extra planning that getting the papers in the right place requires, I have used up any potential advantage. I have great big blacksmith's hands, and papering in a finished house is easy for me.

All that having been said, I do pre-cut the papers used in the attic before attaching the Roofs.

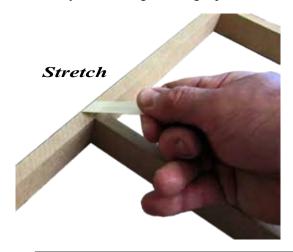
Masking tape is a great universal puller for dollhouse assembly, here's how to get the best out of it:

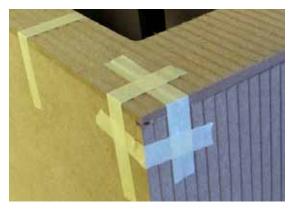
a. Use a sticky yellow tape, not the easy-to-remove painter's tape.

b. Use enough tape so you can start a distance from the joint and rub down several inches on the end, then...

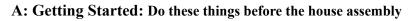
c. *Stretch* the tape as you pull it across the joint. *Rub* the tape down so it will remain tight while the glue dries. d. *For more pull*, put on two thicknesses at the same time, or even three.

Wood always reacts to uneven moisture from paint or from having one surface exposed to the open air and the other facing a table top. It is part of the dollhouse builder's art to straighten reactive wood as you are building, and masking tape is your first and best tool. Many layers of tape will tighten or flatten even the most misbehaving panel, and it's normal to stretch bands of tape all the way around the house to hold the joints tight as the glue dries. Don't be shy when using masking tape!



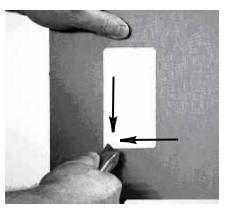


3-way tape on the corners



Square the corners of the window, door, and stair holes with a utility knife - each cutout has a rounded corner left over from the tool that made it. Make two cuts in each corner from the outside (one from each direction), then cut from each direction on the inside to cut away the rounding in the corner so the window, door, or stairs will fit.





A Double-Cut Coarse file is easier for many people to use when squaring the corners. Make several strokes from each direction in each corner and test the Window or Door to see how it fits.

Stain the Shingles: Our pro uses Real Good Toys' Shingle Dye when dying shingles (optional) for this house. Batch dye or stain shingles several days ahead of time so they will be dry when the time comes to use them. (see www.realgoodtoys.com for shingles and dye)

Demos and slideshows are at: www.realgoodtoys.help

Can I do it differently? Yes you can - but:

The information on these pages is offered as "best practices" advice, and it is what we do when we build this house. But if you are customizing or have something else in mind, go ahead!... just test-ahead to make sure your planning includes *everything*!



Painting: www.RealGoodToys.help has painting and sanding videos

1: Painting: The order of assembly and painting is a back-and-forth process of test-assembly, marking, painting, and final assembly. There are three things to keep in mind as you do this:

Glue doesn't stick to paint. It does, however, stick to a part that has been first-coated and sanded. For this reason, parts that will be the same color can be glued together after one coat and sanding, but before the second coat of paint is applied.

The quality of your paint job depends on sanding after the first coat, and sanding is easiest and best while the parts are unassembled;

Where two colors of paint will be next to each other, the neatest result will be achieved if the parts are marked and painted to just cover the mark, leaving the rest of the joint un-painted. That way, when they are glued together, the glue joint will have wood for strength, and the joint between colors will be perfect (impossible to achieve with masking for painting)

A word about primer: Primer is designed to help paint stick to an impervious surface or to join layers of dissimilar paints. In *this* application, the first coat of paint soaks right into the wood and fills the grain - you *could* do that with primer, but its job of being an interface between different materials doesn't apply here. In *this* application, primer just adds steps and expense. I don't use it under exterior colors, but I *do* one-coat and sand the interior walls and ceilings before assembly, and primer is a good choice for that.

Paint the parts the first coat. The first coat mostly soaks into the wood, filling and reinforcing the grain so the sanding step clips off the fibers and leaves the surface smooth. Resist sanding before painting - it will leave the surface fuzzy and make a smooth finish harder to achieve. The quality of your final finish is dependent on the quality of the sanding after the first coat. Do not go back to re-paint just because the paint has soaked in. Just a bit of paint left on the surface tells you you have put on enough to saturate the grain, which is the right amount. More paint than that will only make sanding harder.

Glue doesn't stick to paint. Avoid painting edges, grooves, and areas that will be glued.

Paint the walls on both faces. Paint the Upper Floors on the bottom face (the ceiling).

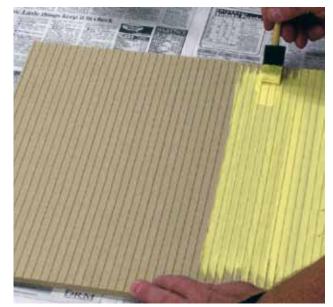
Paint the Trim on one face and both edges.

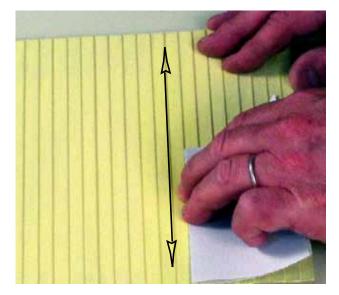
Sand everything. Sand until the paint is smooth and "soft" feeling, transparent, and some of the wood is showing through. Sand the Clapboard one-clapboard-surface-at-a-time. Fold the sandpaper and sand back and forth until the surface of that board is smooth and transparent; then move on to the next board. Fold the sandpaper as needed to keep it fresh.

Paint the second coat. The Second coat for the outside of the Walls should be done after assembly of the housebody and before attaching the Roof. The second coat goes on smooth and creamy with enough paint on the brush so it is quiet while you are brushing the paint out, but not enough to leave puddles or drips.



Do not stack painted parts - even when they feel dry they will stick and damage each other. Keep them spread out or separate them with waxed paper.





2. **Clean the edges and grooves** before assembly. A little paint always builds-out the corner of an edge or groove and will make assembly harder and the glue joint less strong. Test the Floors in their grooves to see that they fit well.





Cleaning a groove with a knife



Cleaning an edge with the back of a utility knife blade

Assemble the Stairs:

3. Test the Stair Blocks on the Stair Base to see how they fit; the narrow surface is the top.

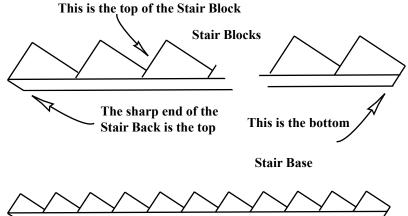
4. Glue the Stair Blocks to the Stair Base. The more pointed end of the Stair Base is the top. The bottom and top steps line up with the ends of the Stair Base.

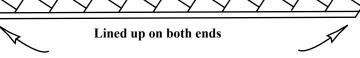
Before the glue dries, make sure all of the stair blocks are aimed the same way, are lined up on the ends, and are spaced evenly. Let the glue dry.

5. Glue together the Landings (from the Door box) to make a right angle.

Step 5: Landings

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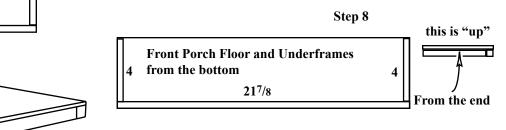
Assemble the Underframes:

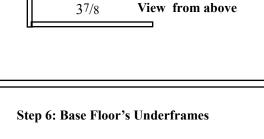
Pro Tip: When attaching a Floor to its Underframe, check to be sure the best side of the Base Floor is facing in the direction that *will be* "up" (this is the surface that will be visible when your dollhouse is completed).

6. Glue and tape together the Base Floor's Underframe; the long underframes overlap the short underframes (Illustration #3).

7. Glue, weight, and tape the Underframe assembly to the Base Floor, lined up at the edges. Set aside to dry.

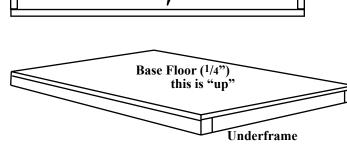
8. Assemble the Porch Floor and Underframe.





 $2^{3/4}$

 $10^{3/4}$



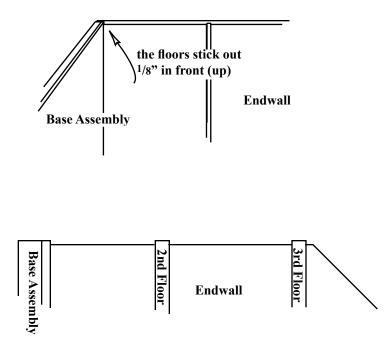
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Attach the Sides:

Now is a great time for an extra pair of hands. Finish steps 9 - 14 without stopping

9. Without glue, test the Base Floor assembly along with one Endwall to check the fit, lined up at the back (touching the table in this orientation) and bottom. The floor assembly sticks out 1/8" in front. If you intend to wire the house, put the Electrification Slots on the left (looking from the front).

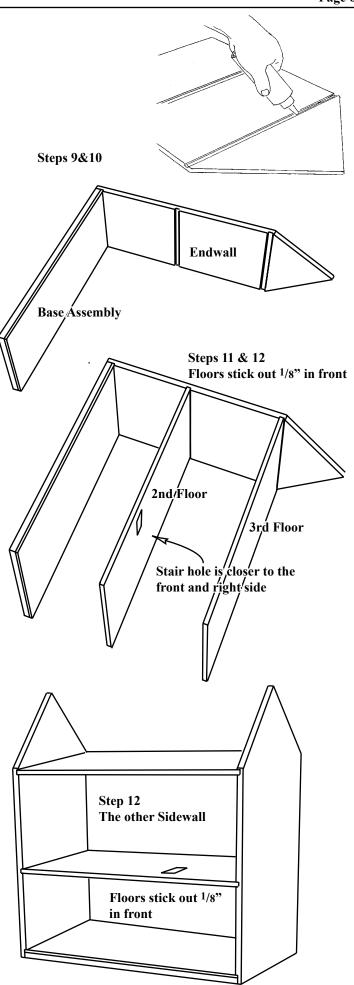
10. Spread glue in the grooves of the Endwall. Put the Base Assembly in the base groove of the Endwall, lined up in back, and tight to the top of the groove.



11. Locate and nail in the other floors (the 2nd floor's stair hole is in front (up) and closer to the right side.

12. Spread glue in the other Endwall's grooves. Set the Endwall over the ends of the floors, with the floors tight in the grooves. Nail the Endwall to the Base and upper floors.

Check that all the Endwalls and floors are lined up in back (the floors stick out 1/8" in front), and that the Base is tight to the top of the groove



13. Set Dividers between the Floors to help locate them as the Front is being attached. Spread glue on the edge of the Sides and in the grooves of the Front

14. Set the Front on the housebody with the floors in the Front's grooves. line the Front up carefully in the left bottom corner. Nail into the base 1" from the corner (A).

Push the Base Assembly up to the top of the groove; nail the Front to the Base (B)

Adjust the Endwall side-to-side to make it exactly line up with the edge of the Front. Nail into the floors and nail (SP builders) or tape (MM builders) the Front to the Endwalls (C).

14. Glue and nail the House Beam to the Front, centered side-to-side and spaced $9^{1/2}$ " from the bottom edge (use the $9^{1/2}$ " Underframe/spacer to locate the House Beam).

15. Glue, nail, and weight the 9¹/2" Underframe and two 4" Underframes to the Front, lined up at the bottom edge. The outer two Underframes must fit in between the end Underframes (4") on the Porch Floor.

MM builders: Test underneath the Underframes that they are flat with the bottom of the house so they will sit flat on the floor when the glue is dry

Step 15 Underframes

Temporary use of the 91/2" Underframe/Spacer to locate the House Beam

Step 14:

House Bear

Step 14C

Step 14Å

Step 15: The Underframes sit flat on the floor

Step 14:

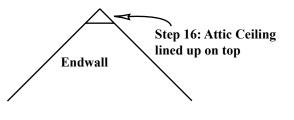
the House Beam

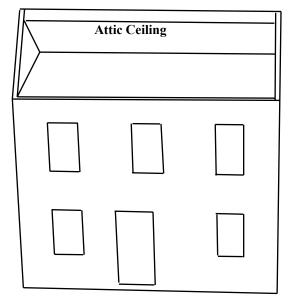
Front

Step 14B

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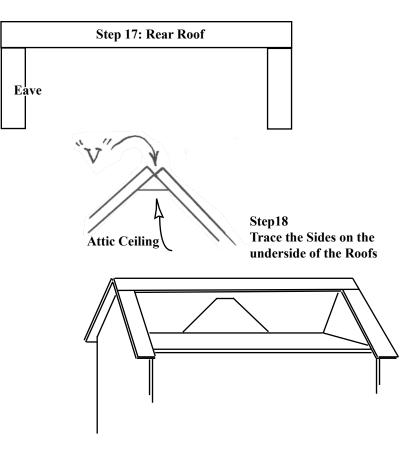
16. Glue and nail the Attic Ceiling between the Endwalls, lined up on top.





 \Rightarrow 17. Glue and tape together the Rear Roof assembly

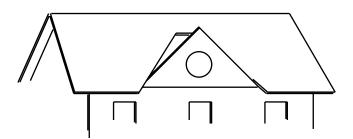
18. Without glue, test the fit of the Front and Rear Roofs on the house. Adjust the fit if necessary so they are centered side-to-side, and lined up at the top with the Attic Ceiling. Trace the underside of the Roofs inside and out for painting, (you will paint up to and just slightly covering the line).

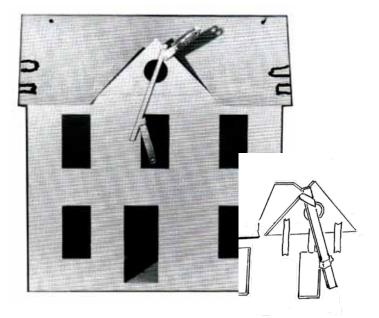


19. Glue and tape the Gable Triangle on the top edge of the Front Panel, lined up with the front surface of the Front, and centered carefully side-to-side. Make sure the Gable Triangle remains straight as the glue dries.

20. Paint the underside of the Roofs. Paint (second-coat) the walls

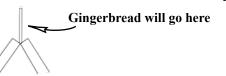




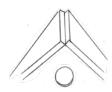


21. Glue and nail or tape the Front and Rear Roofs to the Attic Ceiling and the Endwalls. The Roofs do not overlap each other... the "V" between the roofs will hold the cresting gingerbread.

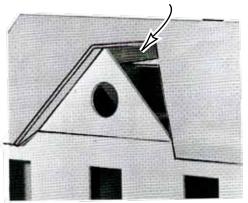




22. Install the Gable Ceiling. Check from the inside to be sure the Front Roof touches the Fronts evenly from side-toside. Check the position of the Gable Ceiling on the Front Roof by testing the Gable Roofs... they meet at the peak and fit snugly on the Front Roof (see step 23). Trace and paint the underside of the Gable Roofs while the glue is drying.

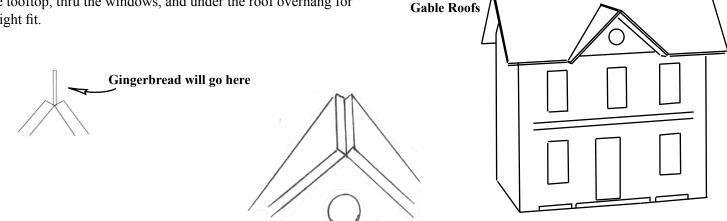


Step 22: Gable Ceiling test with the Gable Roofs





23. Glue and tape the Gable Roofs to the Front Roof, Gable Ceiling, and Gable Triangle. Tape inside the attic, over the tooftop, thru the windows, and under the roof overhang for a tight fit.



Step 23:

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24. Glue and nail or weight the Porch Beam to the underside of the Porch Roof, spaced 1/2" from the edge. Look carefully at the bevels on these parts and make sure they are in the orientation shown. Let the glue dry, then paint the Porch Roof set.

Rails, Balusters, and Posts: It is easiest to paint (one-coat) and sand the parts before assembly. If the parts are the same color, assemble them and second-coat after assembly. If they are different colors, second coat the parts now and scrape a "glue spot" on the post where the rail touches it for gluing.

25. Assemble the Rails and Balusters. Use a Framing Square to line up the Rails' ends. (Two dividers taped together to make an inside corner makes a great "Framing Square")

Note: The Balusters have an outside and an inside surface.

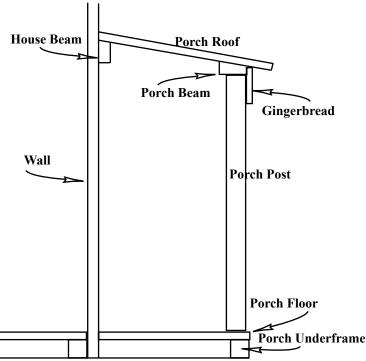
26. Glue the Rails and Posts together lined up on the bottom and square.

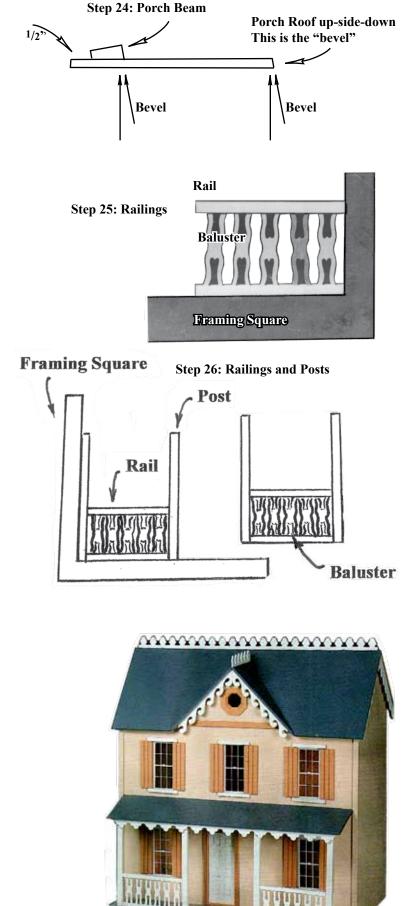
27. Glue, tape, and nail or weight the Porch Floor to the Front and Underframes with the house siting on a flat surface that is protected by waxed paper.

28. Test the Post/Railing sets on the Porch Floor with the Porch Roof in place to find the perfect spot for the base of the Posts. Scrape glue-spots in the paint on the Porch Floor.

Glue the Posts/Railings to the Porch Floor.

Glue and tape the Porch Roof to the Front, House Beam, and Posts.





29. Glue a Shutter Spacer (3/16" x 3/16" x 41/2"), flush along the back edge of each Shutter and lined up at the top and bottom. The Shutter Spacer is to hold the Window Pane in place against the Window Liners



SP builders Note: If you intend to install clapboard siding on your house you must use the Oversized Shutter Spacers supplied in the clapboard kit.

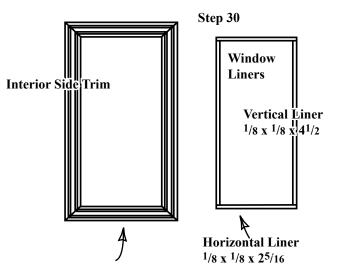
➡ 30. Glue together the Interior Trim sets. Turn the sets over and glue the Liners to the smooth face of the Interior Trim, lined up on the inside.

Window Panes and Interior Trim are installed as part of the interior finishing plan.

31. Glue a Shutter set to a window cutout, centered up-anddown, with the Shutter Spacer inside the cutout. Glue another Shutter set to the other side of the window, carefully lined up up-and-down with the first. Glue lintels above and below the Shutters, centered side-to-side.

Following this process, install the rest of the Exterior Window sets

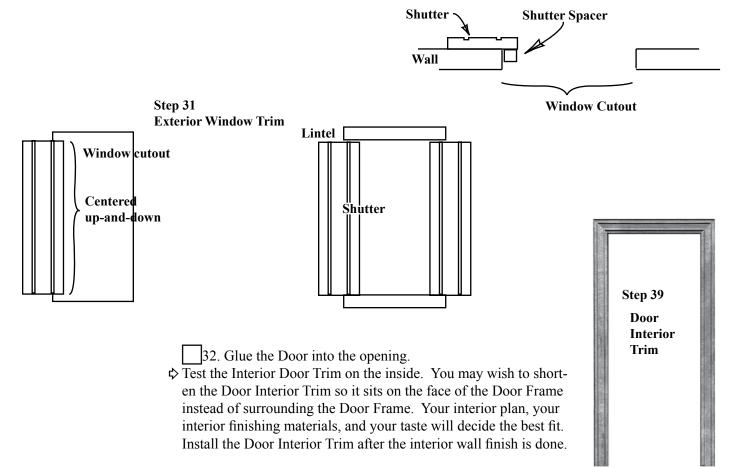
Install an Octagonal Window Frame on the outside of the Gable Triangle



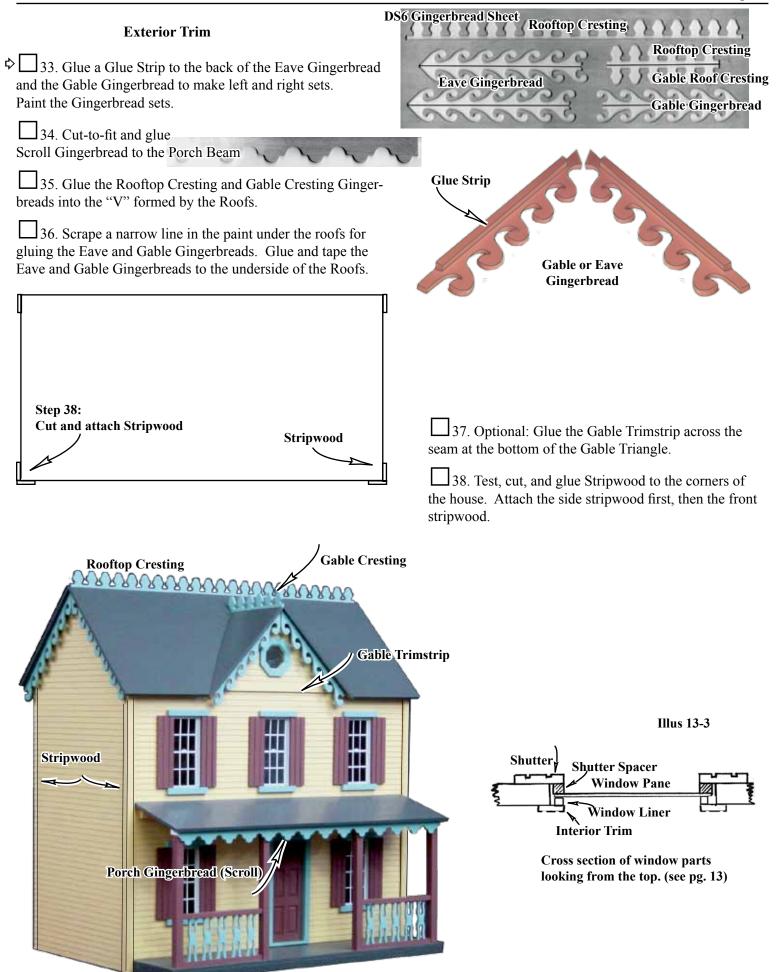
Interior Top/Bottom Trim



The Window Pane and Interior Window Trim will be installed as part of the Interior Finishing



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Finish the Inside...Plan Ahead!

Interior finishing involves so many choices! Will this house be a play-house or a display for miniatures? What accessories will be used and where will they go? Wiring? Wallpaper? Tile or carpeting? Every choice makes a difference in the order of finishing. Real Good Toys has provided materials for some basic interior work, but you may choose to do it differently.

Make your choices

Get your materials

Test your layout

With the pieces in your hands, imagine the steps to get to where you want to be.

Now you're ready for **your** order of interior finishing. Here's the order that our assembly pro follows for tackling most custom interior finishing:

- Dividers
- Electrical wiring (using "tape" style wiring)
- Wallpaper
- Interior Window Trim
- Flooring
- Stairs and Landing
- Baseboard and crown moldings

1. Assemble the Dividers: The Dividers are in 3 pieces and they may be used in the house as a partition using only the 7⁷/8 Divider Body, they may be assembled into a full-depth divider with a doorway that will accept many styles of interior doors, or they may be re-configured for a custom interior.

Glue and tape together the Divider parts against a straight-edge at the top; make them straight and square!.

2. Test the Divider layout without glue... straight frontto-back and up-and-down. Use one divider to "square up" the other, mark the location for the first, and then test and mark for the second.

To glue Dividers in, apply glue, tip the Divider and put it almost all the way in, set the base, lift the floor above for some clearance, tip the Divider upright, and slide it the rest of the way in place; clean-up the excess glue.

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Stairs Door Top Stair Side Board **Divider Body** 3. Install the Window Panes, Liner sets and Interior Trim sets. (Illus. 13-3, pg 12) Door Back Install the Door Interior Trim $8^{5}/32$ 4. Test, the Stairs in the stairhole. Set the Stair Side Board against the Stairs, lined up in back. $7^{7}/8$ They may be assembled and installed all at once, or assembled out of the house for painting. Install the Landing set The Dollhouse Construction part of your project is complete! Enjoy the rest

Floor