



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

Review the techniques on the first few pages of your dollhouse instructions (a copy of which can be found at www.realgoodtoys.com - scroll down to "assembly instructions"). Pay particular attention to these sections:

- Dye shingles
- Glue selection
- Taking things apart
- Getting the best from your masking tape
- Painting

Supplies you will need:

- Paint: Interior semi-gloss latex paint... Everything gets at least one coat before assembly - get the paint now.
- Paintbrushes 1" or 2" foam brushes for painting
- Sandpaper: 320 grit, several sheets
- Glue: Aleene's Tacky Glue for the porch
- Solvent-Based panel cement for shingles
- Masking tape: 3/4" or 1"

See www.realgoodtoys.help for more info

Shell Parts: Measurements listed are for parts identification only

- (1) J0751 Porch Roof: (1/4) 5³/₄ x 31, Bev 11
- (1) J0752 Porch Floor: (1/4) 30 x 5
- (2) J0753 Porch Facia: (1/8) 10⁵/₁₆ x 1
- (1) J0754 Porch Facia: (1/8) 7¹/₈ x 1
- (2) J0755 Porch Facia: (1/8) 4³/₈ x 1
- (2) J0756 Front/Back Foundation: (1/2) 29¹/₂ x 1¹/₄
- (3) J0757 Middle Foundation: (1/2) 4 x 1¹/₄
- (4) J0758 Porch Triangle: (1/2) 4⁷/₈ x 1 Angled
- (2) J0759 Triangle Spacer: (3/8) 10⁵/₁₆ x 7/8
- (4) J0760 Rail: 10⁵/₁₆
- (4) J0761 Rail: 4³/₈
- (63)E3622 Baluster: (1/8 Dowel) 1³/₄
- (4) E3619 Porch Post: (1/2Flutepost) 9
- (2) J0762 Assembly Spacer: (3/32 x 1/2) 9
- (1) T1004 Shingles (300)

Overview of the Build:

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

Identify and label all of the parts

Pre-assemble the Foundation and Porch Roof Support sets

Dye the Shingles and draw guidelines on the Porch Roof
Paint everything one coat

Option: Faux-wood floor finish on the floor

Sand everything until the paint is smooth, transparent,
and some of the wood is showing through

Decide on the order of painting/assembly*

*Second-coat as decided

*Assemble the Railings

*Assemble the Railings/Posts/Facia

Attach the Foundation

Attach the Porch Floor

Attach Rails, Posts, and Facia

Attach the Roof Supports

Wiring? Run wire for ceiling lights now see www.realgoodtoys.help

Attach Porch Roof

Shingle

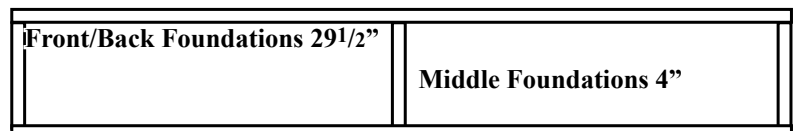
Not suitable for children under 13 years of age
California 93120 compliant for formaldehyde phase 2

1. Pre-Assembly

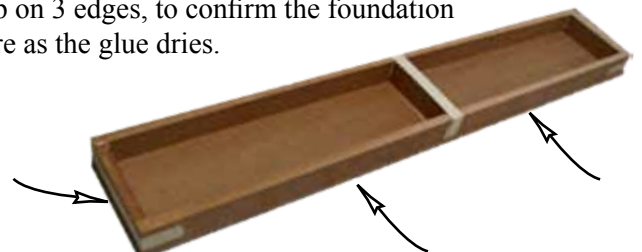
- a. Mark the centers (14³/₄) of the Front/Back Foundations,



Glue and tape together the Foundation set.



Without glue, put the Foundation set on the Porch Floor, lined up on 3 edges, to confirm the foundation is square as the glue dries.



b. Glue and tape together two '*Porch Roof Support*' sets from Porch Triangles and Triangle Spacers, as shown below.

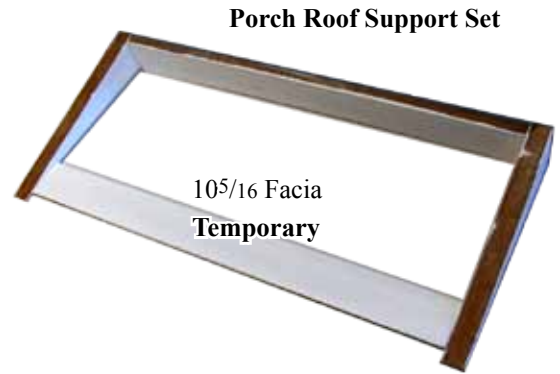
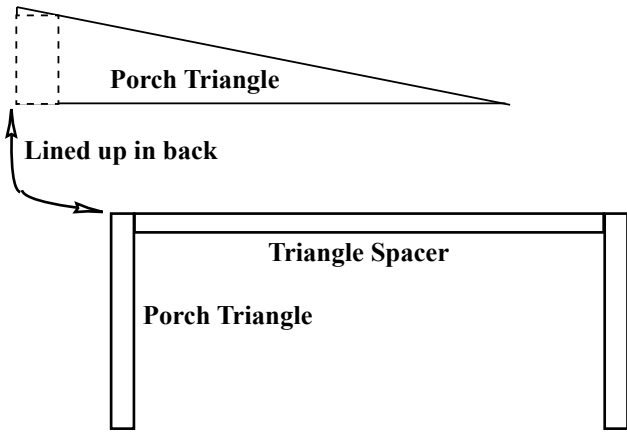
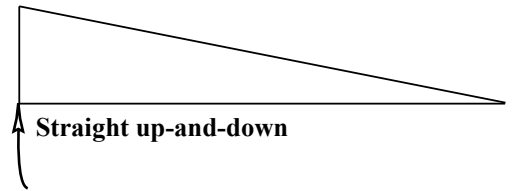
The Porch Triangle is straight up-and-down in back;

The parts are lined up in back;

Without glue, set the parts on the Porch Floor to test that they are square;

Without glue, set the 10⁵/16 Facia between the Triangles.

Let the glue dry. Take off the tape. Make two sets.



Painting/Assembly

Assemble the Railing Sets: two 10⁵/16 sets and two 4³/8 sets.

2. Paint (the first coat) and sand the Rails before assembly. Wipe any paint out of the grooves, and do not paint the Rail ends at all.

Paint and sand the Dowels:

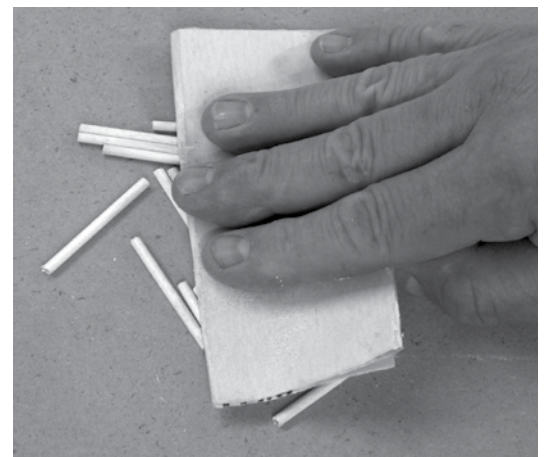
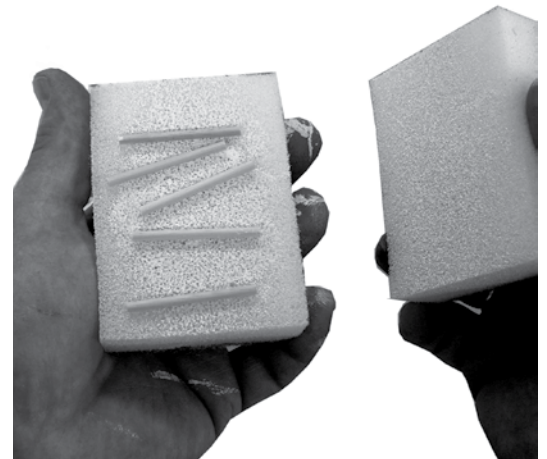
a. Dab paint onto a small-celled sponge, less paint is better (a small-celled sponge looks like sponge rubber. Our local dollar store sells small-celled sponges with a scrubby back - cut in half, they are just right).

Put several Dowels on the sponge; rub a second sponge across the top, rolling the Dowels across the paint-sponge.

b. Spread the painted Dowels on waxed paper. Move them around every minute or so as the paint dries.

c. Paint all of the Dowels; let the paint dry.

d. Lightly rub the dowels around with sandpaper (a small handful at a time) to sand off the raised grain.

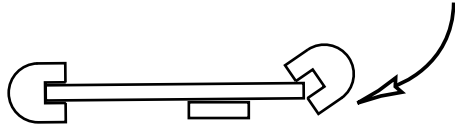


Second-coat the Railings after they are assembled (next)

Now is a great time for all the first-coat painting.

3. Assemble the Railings:

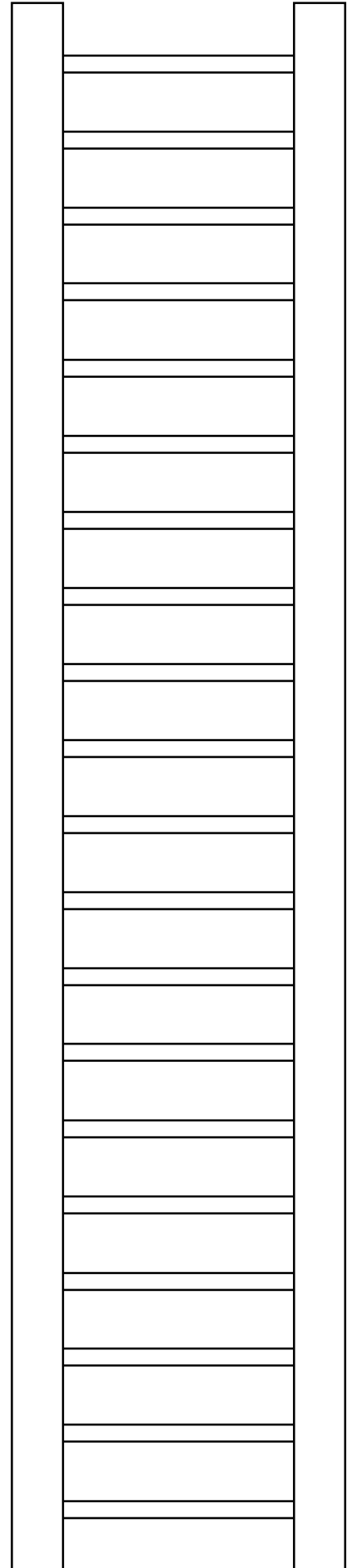
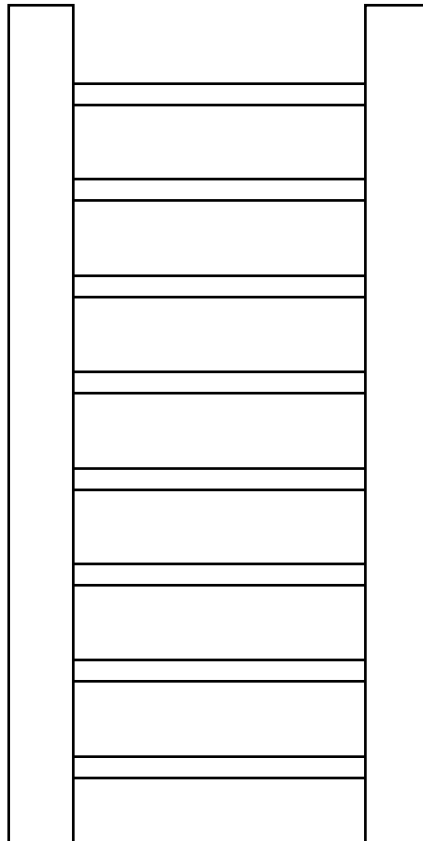
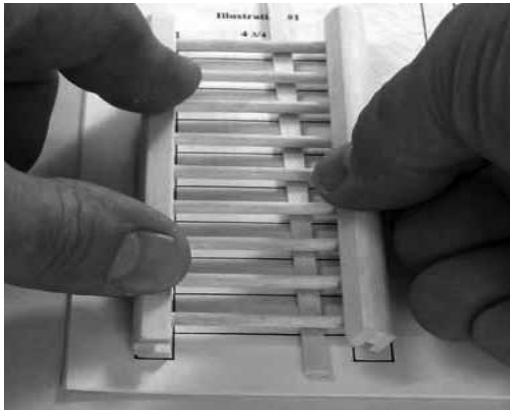
- a. Match Rails into assembly pairs (the same length).
- b. Set the first Rail of each assembly pair on the drawing, lined up on each end. Put a dab of glue and a Dowel in the Rail's groove for each Dowel in the drawing. Adjust the Dowels to match the drawing; be sure all the Dowels are even, straight, and square. Let the glue dry for a few minutes.
- c. Lift the Dowels with a piece of stripwood; dab a little glue onto each Dowel's end. Hold the second Rail of the assembly pair over the Dowel's ends at an angle. Push down and scoop the Dowels' ends into the groove.



Squeeze the Rails together so the Dowels are fully in the grooves. Hold the Railing set on the drawing (see the "Printing Note" below); make the Rail ends exactly line up. Final-adjust the Dowels - - straight and square. Lay the Railings in an inside corner of the house to hold them square as the glue dries.

- d. Repeat for the other Railings. Let the glue dry.

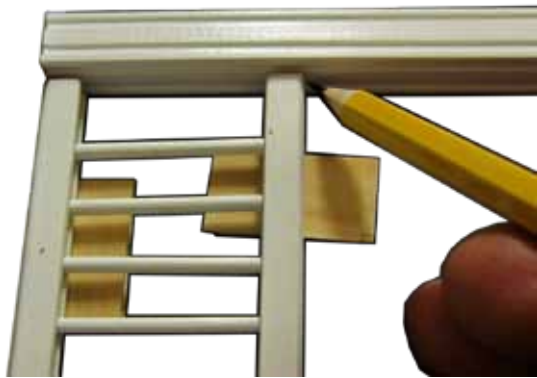
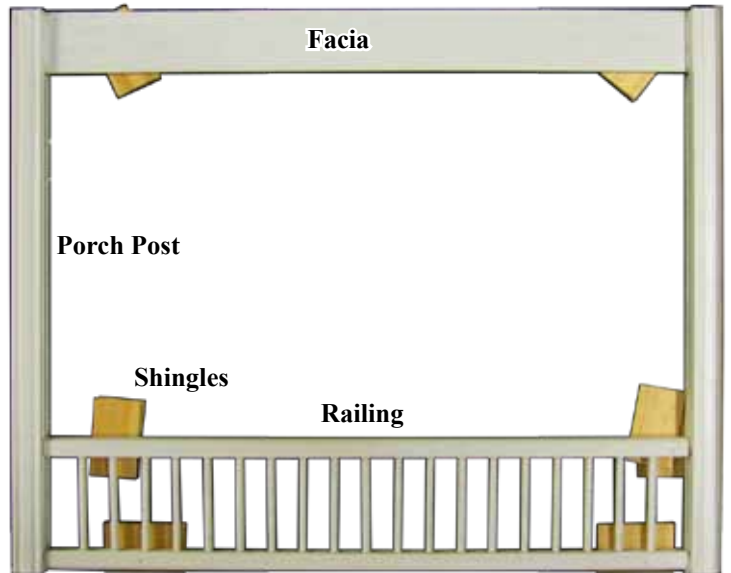
4. Paint (second-coat) the Railings. If the Railings, Posts, and Facia are all going to be the same color, I wait until they are all glued together for the second coat (stronger and avoids much of the "scrape-for-gluing"); otherwise, second-coat those parts along with everything else now.



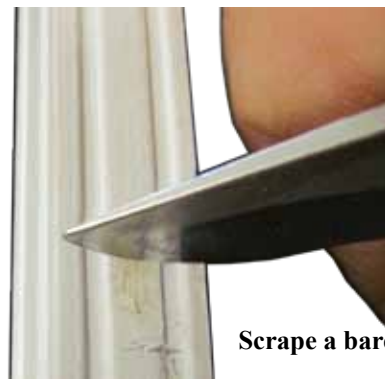
Note: Printers do not always scale the drawings perfectly, and this graphic might not print to the exact Railing measurements. That's OK - what matters is that the Dowels are spaced evenly, are straight, and are spaced the same from each end. To do that, center the Rail on the drawing and line up the Dowels as they are drawn.

5. Assemble two sets of Posts and 10⁵/₁₆ Railings & Facia.

- a. Stack Shingles under the Facia and Railing to lift them to the center of the Posts.
- b. Line up the Railing at the bottom and the Facia at the top of the Posts. Note: you may space the Railing two or more Shingle thicknesses above the bottom end of the Posts; gluing the Rail to the floor is stronger, elevating the Rail is more authentic.
- c. Mark and scrape a small bare spot where the Railing and Facia ends line up with the Posts.
- d. Glue the Railing and Facia to the Posts; make sure the assembly is square, let the glue dry.



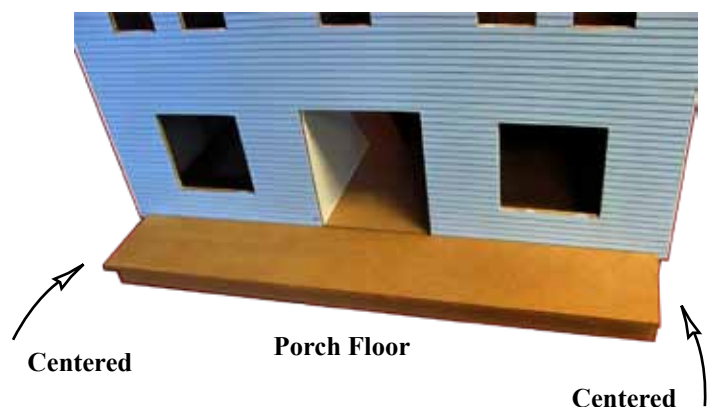
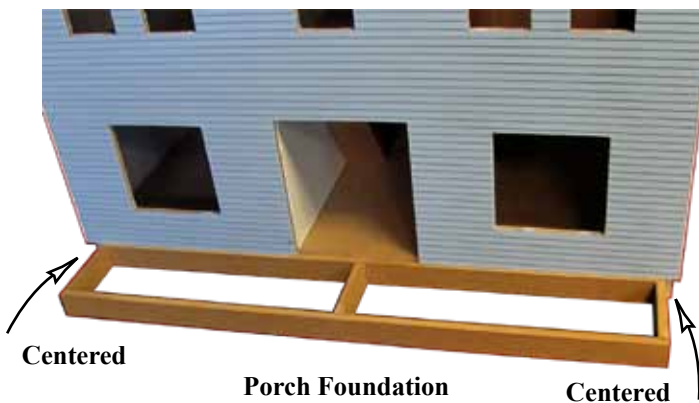
Mark for scraping



Scrape a bare spot for gluing

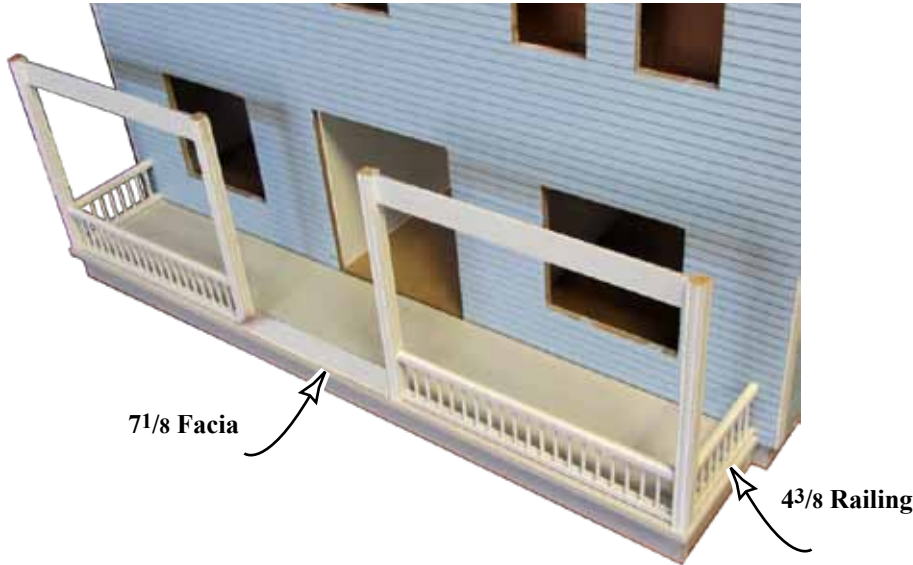
6. Assemble the Porch Base.

- a. Glue and tape the Porch Foundation to the House's Foundation, centered side-to-side. Use plenty of glue and stretch the tape all the way around the house for a tight and strong glue joint.
- b. Glue, tape, and weight the (painted) Porch Floor to the house and to the Foundation; let the glue dry.



7. Assemble the Porch.

- a. Set up the Post assemblies spaced in the center with the 7 1/8" Facia and from the house with the 4 3/8" Railings.
- b. Mark and scrape-for-gluing the Porch Floor.
- c. Glue the Posts and Rails to the Porch and house. Check the middle two posts with the 4 3/8" Facia spaced to the house.
- d. Move the 7 1/8" Facia to the top of the Posts - glue and tape. Let the glue dry.



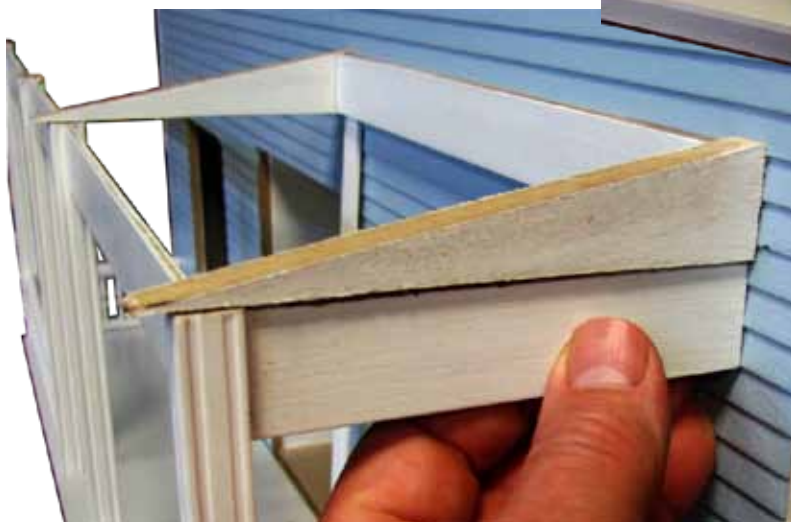
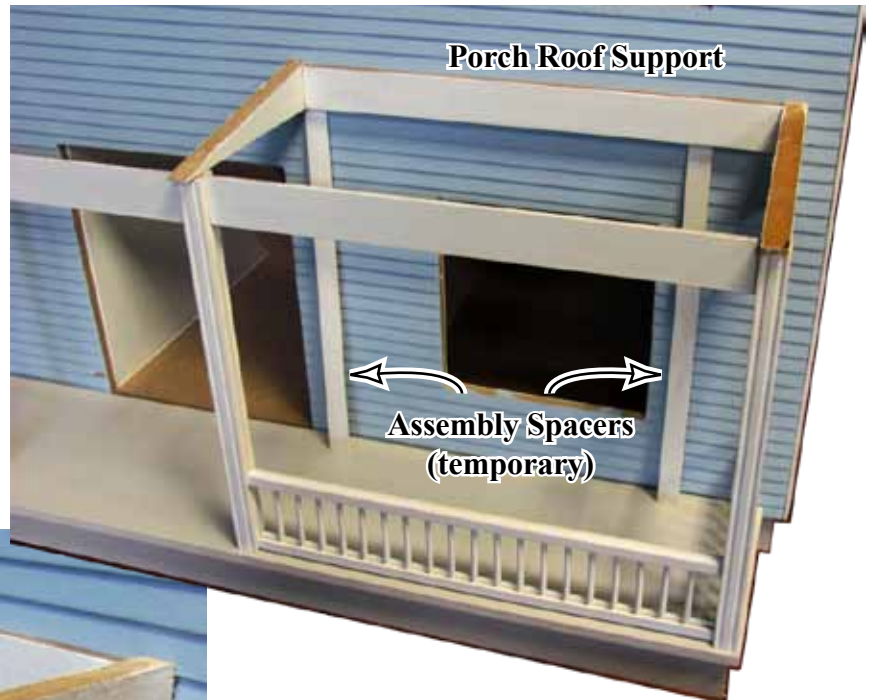
The Posts are even in the corners



Scrape for gluing

8. Attach the Porch Roof Support.

- a. Stand the Assembly Spacers on one side of the Porch (both spacers will be used for each Porch Roof Support).
- b. Set one Porch Roof Support assembly on the Posts in front and on the Spacers in back.
- c. Mark and scrape-for-gluing the house's Front that is behind the Porch Roof Support.
- d. Glue the Porch Roof Support assembly to the house's Front and to the Posts.
- e. Glue the 4 3/8" Facia to the Post, Triangle, and the house's Front.
- f. Repeat a - e for the other Porch Roof Support



Let the glue dry

Note: it is not recommended to nail or screw the Porch Roof Support to the Front. Use lots of glue for this joint.

Wiring? Now is the easiest time to run the wire that will connect ceiling lights to the 2nd floor baserun. www.realgoodtoys.help

9. Draw shingle guidelines on the Porch Roof - the first guideline at $\frac{1}{4}$ " (for the "Starter Row", or $\frac{1}{2}$ " if you are flashing the drip-edge) and the rest spaced 1" apart. Attach the Porch Roof: glue, tape, and weight the Porch Roof to the Porch Roof Supports, centered side-to-side.

There is more Shingling info at www.realgoodtoys.help

Dye or stain shingles for your porch several days ahead of time so they will be fully dry when the time comes to glue them on.

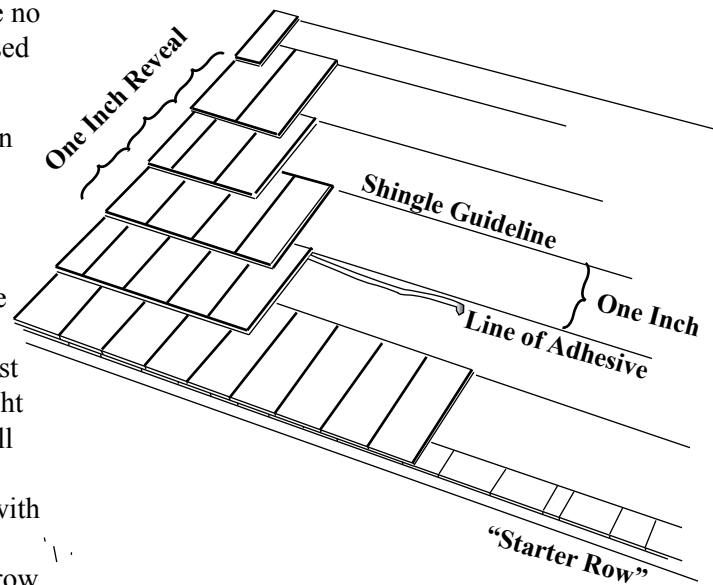
10. Shingle the Roof: Glue: Use a thick, *solvent-based* panel adhesive available in caulking gun tubes at building supply stores. Look for the "Flammable" warning to know it is a Solvent Based adhesive, and follow the manufacturer's warnings. If there are no warnings or if it says "water clean up", then it is an acrylic based adhesive and will curl the shingles.

a. Glue a "starter row" of $\frac{1}{4}$ " long Shingles square edge down along the bottom edge of the Roof, or "Flash" the edge with a $\frac{1}{2}$ " strip of copper (#SC from *Real Good Toys*) to prepare the bottom edge of the Roof for the first row of shingles

b. Apply a thin line of adhesive just below the lowest guideline all the way across one roof. Press the top edge of a Shingle into the line of glue, smearing the excess upward. Hold the first Shingle steady and press another Shingle into the adhesive, tight to the first. Hold the next Shingle and press in another... etc. all the way across the roof, cutting the last Shingle to fit

c. Continue up the roof one row at a time. Start the next row with a half Shingle so that the seam between Shingles weaves back and forth as you go up the roof. Line up the top edge of each row with the guidelines (line up the *starters* at the bottom).

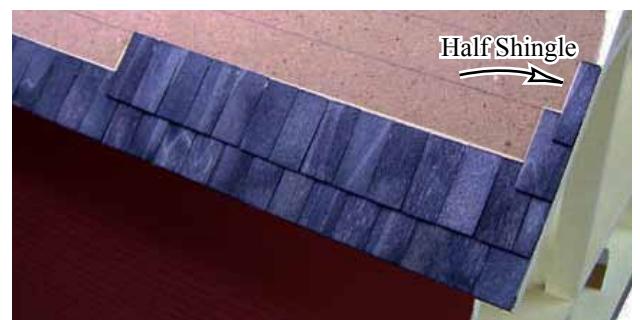
d. Cut Shingles for the top row so that the next lower row has a 1" reveal (the top row is about $\frac{3}{4}$ " on the porch in the photo above).



Starters



First course



Half Shingle

**You are done with the construction part of your Porch
Enjoy the Rest!**