

The Front-Opening Shoppe

Parts List:

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| (1) Back: 22 ⁷ / ₈ x 11 ⁷ / ₈ , Scored | (1) Groove-fill: 1/8 x 3/8 x 4 |
| (2) Side: 15 ¹ / ₂ x 18 ⁷ / ₈ peak | (2) Rail: 8 ¹ / ₈ |
| (1) Left Front: 6 ¹ / ₄ x 11 ⁷ / ₁₆ , Window | (4) Rail: 4 ⁵ / ₈ @ 45° |
| (1) Right Front: 6 ¹ / ₄ x 11 ⁷ / ₁₆ , Window | (4) Rail: 4 ⁷ / ₈ |
| (1) Left Entry: 3 ⁵ / ₈ x 11 ⁷ / ₁₆ , Window | (4) Rail: 1 ⁷ / ₈ |
| (1) Right Entry: 3 ⁵ / ₈ x 11 ⁷ / ₁₆ , Window | (60) 1/8 Dowel: 1 ³ / ₄ |
| (1) Center Entry: 5 ⁹ / ₁₆ x 11 ⁷ / ₁₆ , door | (8) Window Frame: 6 ³ / ₄ @ 45° |
| (1) Front Roof: 23 ⁷ / ₈ x 11 ¹³ / ₁₆ | (4) Window Frame: 5 @ 45° |
| (1) Top Back Roof: 23 ⁷ / ₈ x 3 ¹⁵ / ₁₆ | (4) Window Frame: 2 @ 45° |
| (1) Bottom Back Roof: 23 ⁷ / ₈ x 7 ⁷ / ₈ | (2) Plexi: 6 ⁷ / ₁₆ x 4 ¹¹ / ₁₆ |
| (1) Ceiling: 21 ⁷ / ₈ x 2. Beveled | (2) Plexi: 6 ⁷ / ₁₆ x 1 ¹¹ / ₁₆ |
| (1) Base Floor: 22 ³ / ₈ x 15 ⁷ / ₈ | (1) Door |
| (1) Loft Floor: 22 ³ / ₈ x 15 ¹ / ₂ , Cutout | (2) Customizing Trim: (1/8 x 3/8) ~24 |
| (1) Interior Wall: 9 x 7 ⁷ / ₈ | (5) Shelf Trim: (5/32 x 3/4) ~24 |
| (1) Stair Base: (1/4) 11 ⁵ / ₁₆ x 2 ¹ / ₄ , bev. | (3) Shelf: (5/32 x 3/4) 19 ³ / ₈ , notched |
| (10) Stair Blocks: 2 ¹ / ₄ | (18) Shelf: (5/32 x 3/4) 6 ¹ / ₄ , notched |
| (2) Front Trim: 1/8 x 3/8 x 11 ⁷ / ₁₆ @ 41° | (18) Shelf: (5/32 x 3/4) 4 ¹ / ₂ , notched |
| (2) Rear Trim: 1/8 x 3/8 x 11 ⁷ / ₈ @ 41° | (2) Counter Top: (1/4) 7 ¹ / ₄ x 2 |
| (6) Hinges #1276 | (1) Counter Top: (1/4) 19 ⁷ / ₁₆ x 2 |
| (24) Screws: 3/8 #2 | (4) Counter Base: (1/4) 2 ¹⁷ / ₃₂ x 1 ⁵ / ₈ |
| (850) Octagon Shingles | (2) Counter Block: (1 ⁵ / ₁₆) 6 ⁹ / ₁₆ x 2 ¹ / ₂ |
| (1) Railing Assembly Jig @ 1/2: 8 x 1 ¹ / ₄ | (2) Counter Trim: (5/16 x 5/16) 6 ⁹ / ₁₆ |
| (8) Turnpost: 2 ⁷ / ₈ | (6) Counter Trim: (5/16 x 5/16) 2 ³ / ₁₆ |

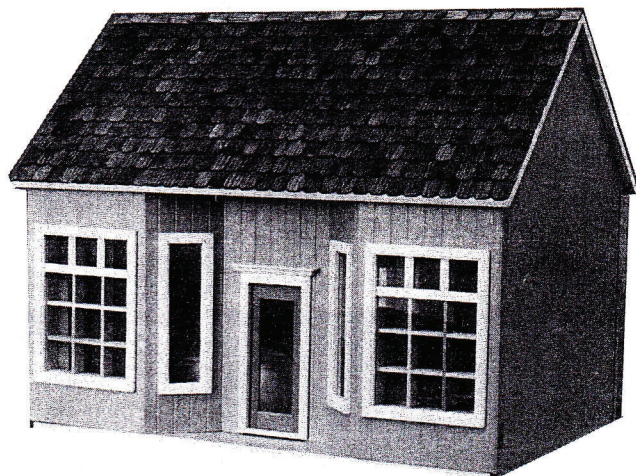
Start your checklist for assembly:

- Read "Tips for Building the Perfect Dollhouse"
- Read Assembly Directions for the FO-MK all the way through before beginning assembly
- Identify, sand, and clean all parts

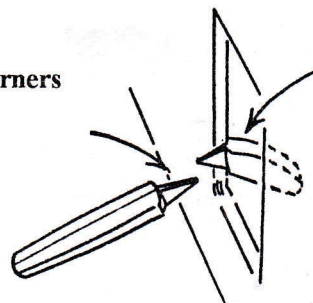
The easiest time to sand around the saw cuts and openings is now. Trim the inside corners, then clean and sand the door, window, and stair openings. Resist the temptation to put your dollhouse together until the general sanding and cleaning is finished. Lightly sand the scored siding design on the exterior walls before assembly; fold 220 grit sandpaper two or three times, then use the edge to sand the bottom of each score. Identify all of the parts and sort them according to the order of use during assembly.

You should paint some of the parts before or during assembly, particularly where two different colors will be touching. Plan ahead! Our Assembly Pro paints the stairs, rail parts, posts, trimstrips, window parts, door, and windows before attaching them to the painted house. He also dyes the shingles several days ahead of time to allow lots of drying time (#1125 shingle dye).

Only use premium quality semi-gloss latex paints. Avoid old gloppy paint and poor quality paint brushes.



Square the Corners



Utility Knife

Tips for Building the Perfect Dollhouse



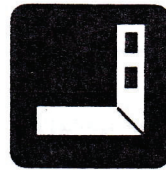
▪ **It's important to follow the instructions in order.** Take one step at a time. When you finish each step, put a check in each box as you go along to keep from getting ahead of yourself.

▪ We recommend that you try a **dry run for each section before final assembly** to check parts, to see how the parts locate, and to understand the assembly. Then you can comfortably start out again, following the instruction steps . . . this time using glue and nails. This dry run will help you avoid mistakes and help you visualize the way that the parts fit. In the dry run, you will understand the overall plan of your dollhouse and how it will work for you.



▪ We have found that sometimes assembly is easier with two people. Try to have someone around to give you a hand when you need it.

▪ You need a work area where you can keep all of your supplies, material, and tools at hand. Hopefully, you'll be able to leave your work out at the end of each work session. A flat assembly table at least 2' x 3' can be a real plus.



▪ Be sure to **FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY**

when they require keeping things "square" or "flush." Take extra time, and use help if necessary, to get these things in the right position as the glue dries.

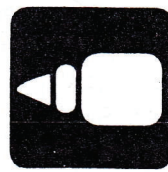
▪ The stair, window, and door holes have rounded corners which must be squared. Use a knife, file, or very fine-bladed saw; work from the surface inward on both sides to avoid surface splinters.



▪ A utility knife with a new sharp blade is safer and easier to use than a jack knife or kitchen knife for trimming, customizing, and cutting.

▪ We use lots of masking tape for awkward clamping operations. A little snippit can hold a trimstrip, and great bands of many thicknesses going all the way around the house can hold an entire porch or roof section in place. Whenever you use tape, start well past the joint to be glued (preferably around a corner) and rub the tape down for solid adhesion. Then stretch the tape across the joint to a point well past the glue, and rub it down again.

▪ "Quick Grab" glue is extremely handy for things which can't be nailed or taped while drying. It is the only glue we recommend for gluing on clapboard siding.



▪ White or yellow wood glue (such as "Elmer's") is an excellent glue for most uses. When applying this glue, squeeze the excess air out of the top of the glue bottle before turning it over. Then, when you release pressure from the bottle at the end of a dab or line of glue, the bottle will suck the remainder of the stream of glue back in rather than running it all over your work.

▪ Sand the striking surface of your hammer to reduce nail bending. When driving in a nail, stop when the nail is almost all the way in to check that it has gone in straight. If not, you can still grab it to pull it out.



▪ Whenever possible, mark a butt joint on the panel through which the nail will pass first, then remove the panel and (on a thick stack of scrap papers) **PRE-PUNCH** nail holes, on center, between the marks. To **PRE-PUNCH** a hole, drive a nail through the panel from the marked side, then pull the nail back out. When you nail through this hole from the other side, your nail will be perfectly centered in the joint, and "split-out" will be reduced.

▪ **DON'T RUSH IT!** This dollhouse will reflect your patience and workmanship for years, maybe even generations. Take the time to enjoy the process.



BASIC TOOLS

Small Hammer and a Nail Set
12" Square Ruler
Sharp Utility Knife
Pliers
Glue
Masking Tape

Preview: In this section, you will glue and nail together the Sides, the Loft Floor, the Base Floor, and the Back. The Loft Floor can be installed with the stair hole on the right or left; all the drawings show the stairs on the left. Make sure the floors are flush with the sides (perfectly lined up, forming a continuous, unbroken surface) on the back edge.

The Base sticks out past the Sides in front

- 1. Pre-punch 3 holes in each of the Side panels' grooves for nailing into the Loft Floor and Base Floor. Spread glue in each of the grooves. Stand the Loft Floor on end (now is the time to choose left or right for the stairs).

Fit the Side's upper groove over the end of the Loft Floor. Check for a flush fit on front and back, and check that the Side is approximately square with the Floor.

Nail through the pre-punched holes.

- 2. Repeat the above steps to attach the Base Floor, flush at the back edge. Make sure the Base Floor is best side up. Take care to attach the Floor tight to the top of the groove.

- 3. Carefully turn the floor/wall assembly over. Glue and nail the other Side panel to the ends of the Floors, flush at the back.

Press the Groove-fill into the exposed groove within the stair hole.

- 4. Attach the Back to the floors and walls.

Set the Interior Wall between the floors to guarantee correct spacing.

Mark and pre-punch the Back for nailing to the Loft Floor. Spread glue on the back edges of the Floors and Sides.

Start nailing at one upper corner with the beveled edge of the Back lined up with the angled top edge of the Side.

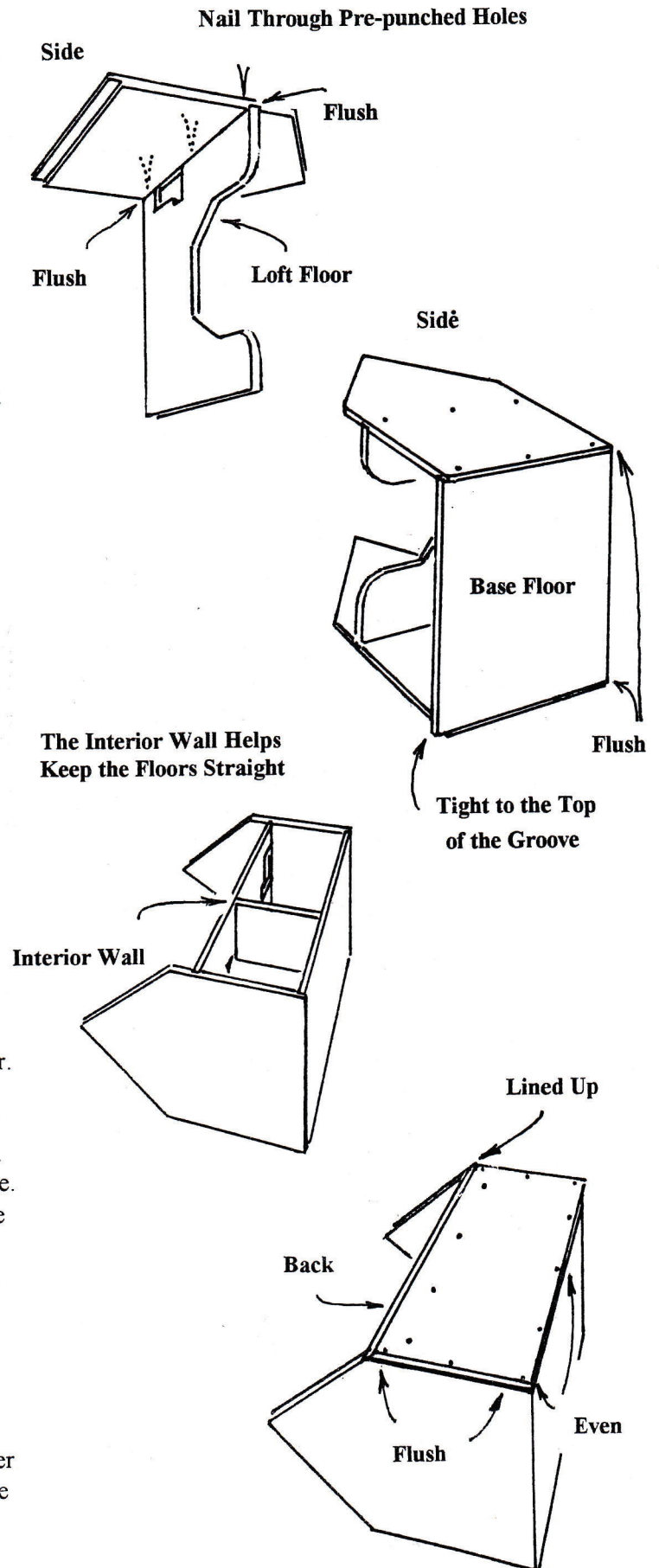
Nail the Back to the Side, perfectly flush along the side.

Line up and nail the other upper corner, and nail along the Side.

Make sure the Base Floor is straight, and is even with the bottom edge of the Back. Nail the Back to the Base Floor.

Hold the Loft Floor tight to the Interior Wall. Nail the Back to the Loft Floor through the pre-punched holes.

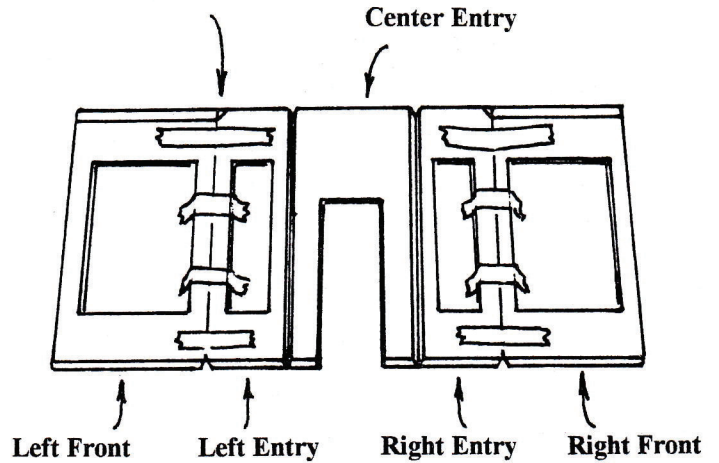
Review: The Sides, Floors, and Back are attached together with all the joints tight, with the Base Floor tight to the top of its groove, with all the edges flush or even, and with the floors straight.



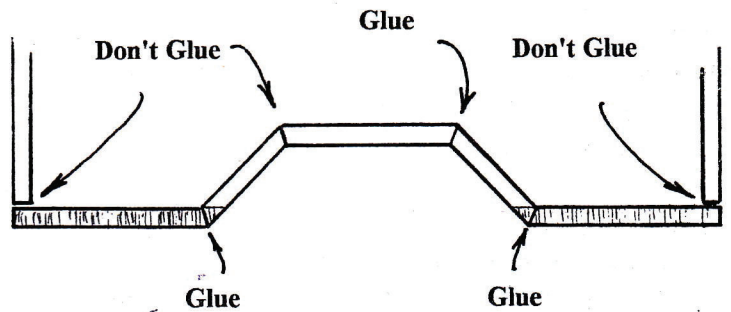
to continue...

- 5. Without glue, test the fronts in place with the top bevels lined up. Lay the Fronts on the workbench, face up. Tape across the point of the bevels the Left Front and Left Entry, flush at the bottom. Tape together the Right Front and Right Entry. Turn both Front sets face-down and tape in the Center Entry. Stick several pieces of masking tape to the Base to keep the fronts from being glued to the Base, and to space the Fronts "swing clearance" above the Base. Glue together the Left Front and Left Entry; and the Right Front, Right Entry, and Center Entry. Do not glue the Left Entry to the Center Entry. Clean up all the glue squeezings so glue won't smear onto the Shoppe. Stand the fronts in place on the Base Floor, lined up with the edge of the Base Floor, overlapping the Sides, and flush with the outside surface of the sides. Tape the Fronts to the Sides and Base Floor as the glue dries.

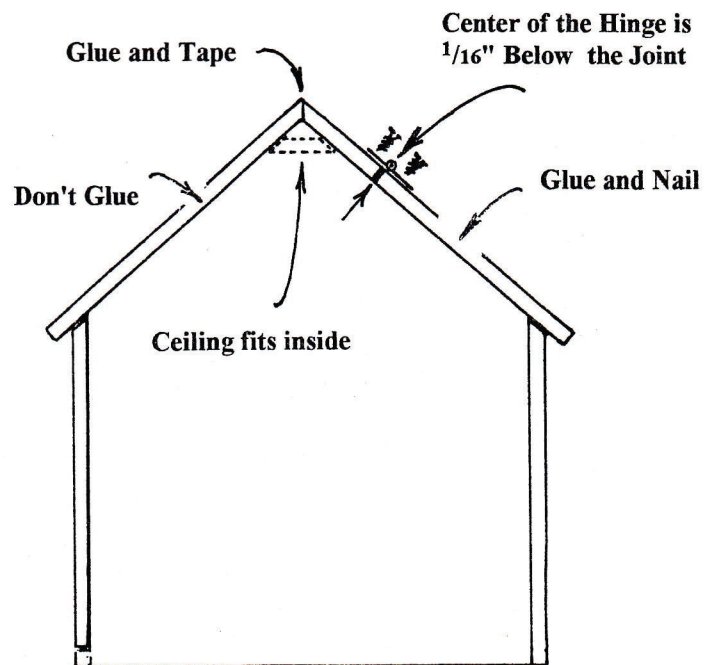
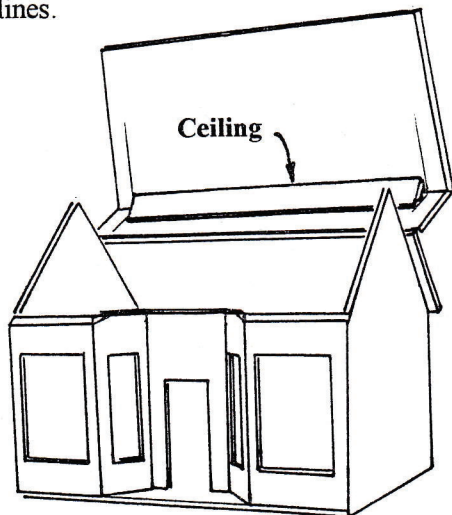
The Bevels Line Up



- 6. Tape together the Front Roof and Top Back Roof across the points of the bevels. Glue the Roofs together. Let the Roofs dry in place on the Shoppe.
- 7. Glue, nail, and tape the Bottom Back Roof to the Sides and to the Back, slightly spaced from the Top Roof Set, and centered side-to-side. Install two hinges spaced 1 1/2" from each roof edge. Offset the hinges 1/16" toward the bottom edge of the roof (this offset will help protect the shingles from binding).



- 8. When the glue is dry, remove the Fronts. Mark with a pencil the inside surface of the Sides on the underside of the Top Roofs. Open the Roofs and glue the Ceiling to the Roofs, centered between the marked lines.



9. Hinge the Fronts:

Lay the Fronts face-down on the workbench. Set two hinges on each outside edge, pin down and hooked on the edge, one spaced 1" from the top, and one spaced 1" from the bottom. Screw the hinges in place. Fit the Fronts on the Shoppe with the hinges on the surface of the Sides. Screw the hinges in place.

10. Install Trim on the edge of the Back and Front panels where they show on the Side. Cut a small inlet to fit around the Hinges on the Front.

11. Assemble the Stairs:

Without glue, lay out the Stair Blocks on the Stair Back, evenly spaced, square, flush at the edges, and lined up with the top bevel (the more pointed one). Make sure all the Stair Blocks are right-side-up, then glue them in place.

Wait to permanently install the Stairs until flooring and wallpapering are done. Install the Interior Wall touching the Back and tight to the stairs as part of the interior finishing.

12. Railings: Hold one Rail against the side of the Railing Assembly Jig, with the space from the end of the Rail to the next locator (the grooves in the Railing Assembly Jig) the same on both ends.

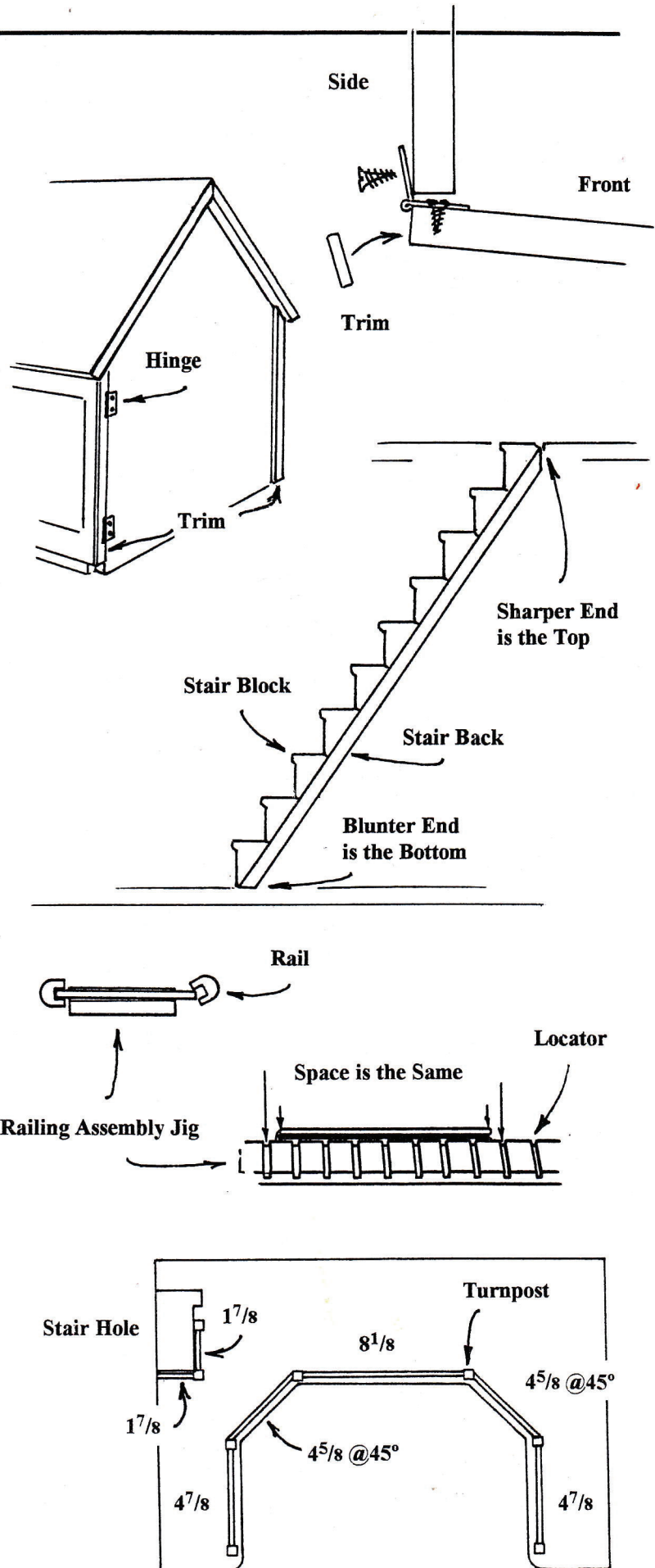
Dip the end of a $1/8$ Dowel: $1\ 3/4$ into a puddle of glue. Push the Dowel into the groove of the Rail at a locator. Add the rest of the dowels in the same fashion, one for each locator along the length of the Rail.

Lay the dowels into the locators, and adjust if necessary the location and fit of the dowels and Rail.

Dab glue on the ends of the dowels, and attach the other Rail (of the same length) squeezing one end onto the first dowel, then squeezing in another dowel, then another, one at a time. Wiggle and slide the second Rail to adjust the dowel location until all the dowels are straight and the Railing assembly is square on the ends. Individual dowels can be adjusted outside of the Assembly Jig by grabbing the dowel with pliers, and coaxing one end sideways with a gentle rocking motion.

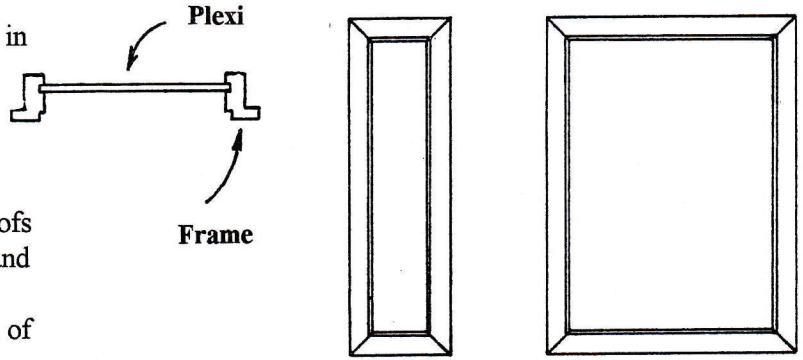
Test the Railings for squareness again before they dry.

13. Without glue, set up the railings and turnposts. Space the railings $1/8$ " above the floor with un-used dowels or shingles. When all adjustments are made and everything fits, glue the railings and turnposts in place.



- 14. Glue together the window frames with the plexi in the groove.

Install the windows and door in their openings (the corners are already squared, the painting is done).



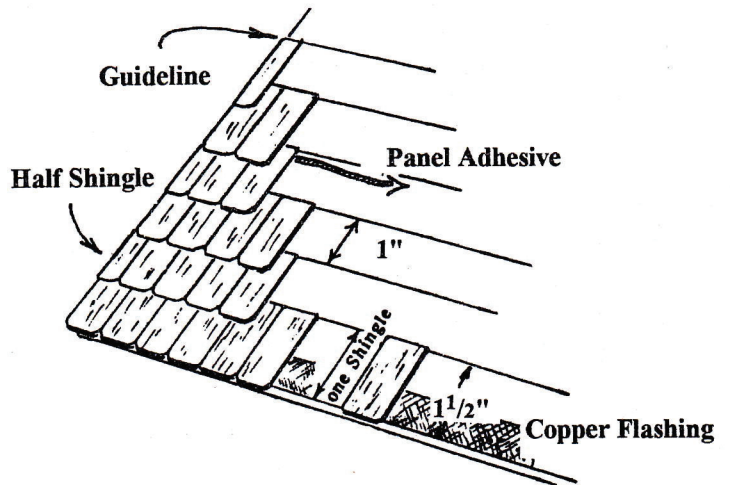
- 15. Shingle The Roofs. Draw guidelines on the Roofs starting $1\frac{1}{2}$ " above the bottom edge of the Roofs, and spaced 1" the rest of the way up the Roofs.

Start with a row of Starter Shingles (cut a row's worth of shingles $\frac{1}{2}$ " long to support the first full row of shingles on the bottom edge), or start with a strip of Copper Flashing (#SC available through your miniature dealer from Real Good Toys: the copper peaks out between the octagonal profile).

Apply a thin bead of adhesive (Panel adhesive such as Liquid Nails®^{Macco}) $\frac{1}{4}$ " below the guideline, all the way across the roof. Press the top edge of the shingles into the line of glue, squeezing out the excess (the next course will cover the squeezings). Line up the top edge of the shingles with the guideline.

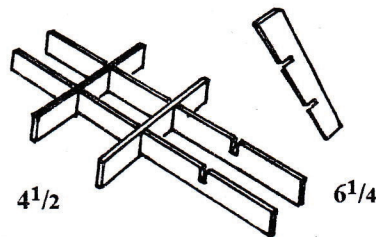
Start the next row of shingles with a half shingle to stagger the joints.

Continue up the roof cutting the top shingles to keep the same reveal as the other courses.



- 16. Build the Counters: glue the $6\frac{9}{16}$ Counter Blocks to the $7\frac{1}{4}$ Counter Tops, centered side to side and flush at the back edge. Glue on the Counter Trim.

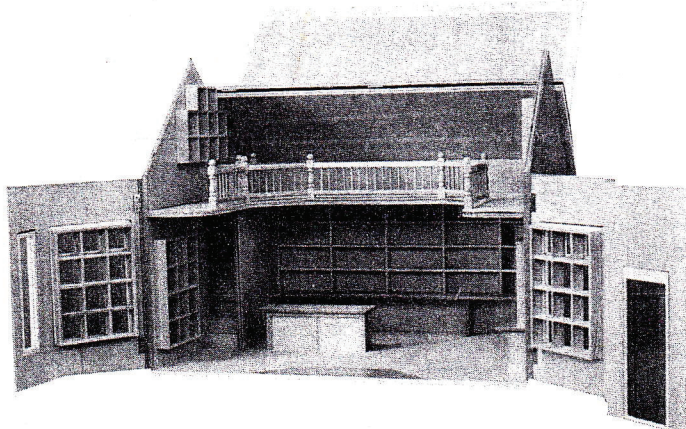
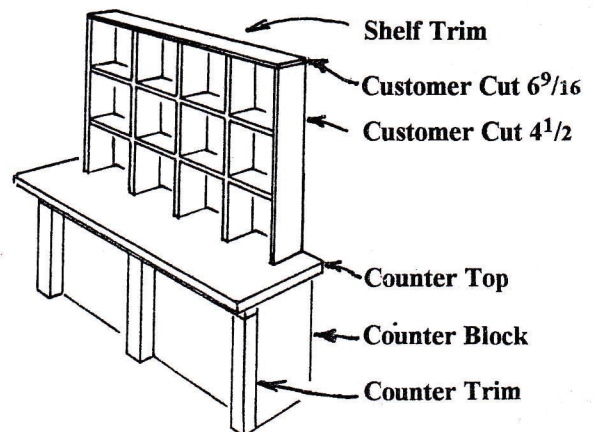
Set up the Back Counter using (4) Counter Bases spaced evenly against the Back (Interior Wall in Place), and (1) Counter Top $19\frac{7}{16}$.



- 17. Build the Shelves: Without glue, set up (1) shelf unit $6\frac{1}{4} \times 19\frac{3}{8}$, and (6) shelf units $6\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$.

Install the $6\frac{1}{4} \times 19\frac{3}{8}$ Shelf on the Back Counter...

Now Customize! A shelf can go on top of a counter, shelves can go in the windows, build a frame for some using the 24" lengths of Shelf Trim, cut shelf units up to fit in the peak. Use these shelf sets as raw material for setting up your own Shoppe ideas.



Now you're done with the Shoppe Kit part of your project...
Enjoy the Rest!