

Kowalski Hardware Store



RIVER LEAF MODELS, LLC

Thank you for purchasing the Kowalski Hardware Store structure kit. Your kit includes everything you need to produce the final assembly. We recommend using “Carpenter’s Glue” available in a number of different brands, including Elmer’s. We also recommend using a steel square for aligning your walls for perpendicularity, although a drafting triangle will also suffice. A sharp X-Acto knife and a sanding tool – either fine sandpaper or a nail file will be suitable.

Step #1 –Glue the Four Wall Together.

Apply Carpenters Glue to the edges of the side walls (B & D). Again, do not use an excessive amount of glue or the glue will seep out the sides. Apply a thin bead of glue and spread it to a thin coat. You may also opt to apply a bead of glue to the inside surface of the front and side walls (A & C).

Carpenters Glue will afford you the time to perfectly align your walls, as there is some “setup” time. I recommend you do one corner at a time in one sitting. This will give you the flexibility to adjust the perpendicularity of the structure. Once you have your walls all secured, I recommend letting the glue dry for 24 hours. While the glue is setting, you can use the roof panel as a checking tool to ensure the building corners are perpendicular. You may want to use clamps positioned with the clamping faces on the front and rear of the building to form a tight glued seal.

On structures made of lighter or less sturdy material, it is common practice to run a square brace tucked into each quarter using 1/4” or 3/8” square wood. On River Leaf Models, this is not necessary; however, the option is there to do so if you wish.

NOTE: check, using the main frame entrance the distance between the wall B-D

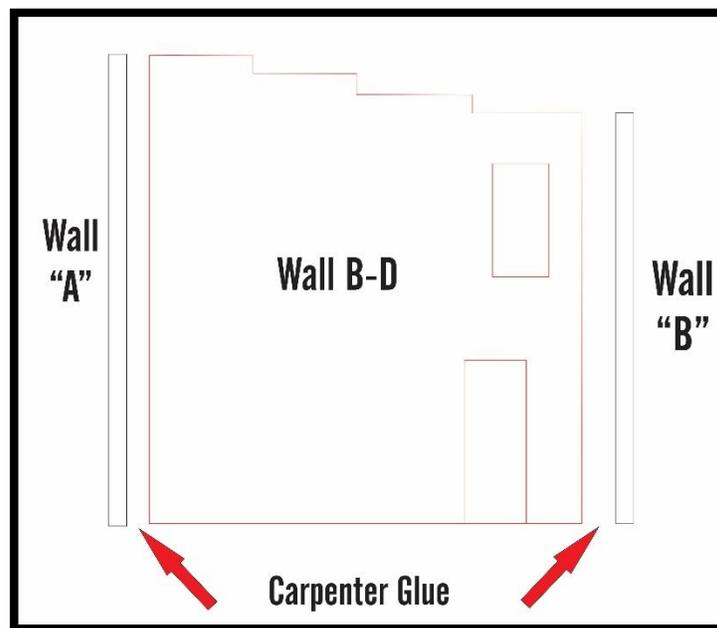


FIGURE 1 – GLUING YOUR STRUCTURE WALLS

Step #2 –Glue the strip of brick facing to the side of the front wall.

The walls of your kit are cut from MDF with the brick pattern etched to the front surface. As a result the side of the wall section of the front and rear of the building (A-C) require adding the brick pattern. As show in the Figure 2, apply the supplied brick pattern strip to the sides of the front wall using carpenter glue.

Be careful to not use excessive amount of glue when applying the strip. Glue will seep from the side. Apply a thin bead down the center of the side surface of the front wall and spread it evenly over the area. Apply the brick pattern strip on the glued area.

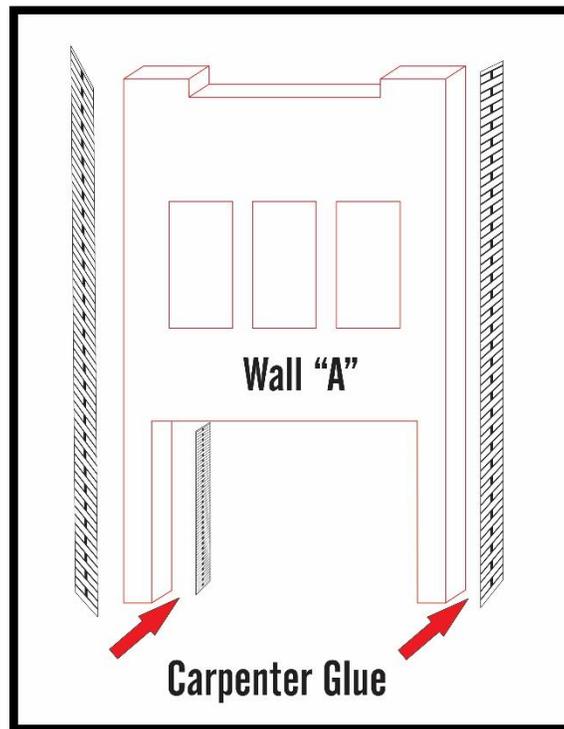


FIGURE 2 – APPLYING BRICK PATTERN STRIP

The brick pattern strip is longer than the edge of the wall. Trim off the excess and repeat for the inner sides of the entrance as indicated in Figure 2. You will also need to apply the brick pattern strip to the right side edge of the rear wall (Face C). Rear wall face B is not necessary because the stucco.

Step #3 - Painting the Base Structure.

There are a number of methods for painting the structure and experienced modelers will find the structure is well suited to any number of painting and detailing techniques. Here is a technique I believe will deliver excellent results.

Once the glue has completely dried, you will find you have a very sturdy base on which to work. To achieve the effect of mortar lines between brick layers, paint the entire structure with an undercoat of the color you want for your mortar lines. White is a logical choice as it gives you distinctive mortar lines and provides a consistent undercoat base for the brick surface of the building. Paint the entire structure, concentrating on the engraved mortar lines and let the building thoroughly dry.

Having the building completely dry is an important step, as your second step is to paint the brick surface and you want to avoid streaking. After the building is completely dry, paint your desired color on the brick surface. You want to avoid getting paint in the mortar lines. Use acrylic paint in your desired color using a “dry brush” technique. Dry brushing calls for using a minimal amount of paint on your brush and painting the surface lightly – preferably with a broader brush. This technique will have the paint cover the brick surface without seeping into your mortar lines.

In order to achieve a “dry brush” after dipping your brush into paint, whip a few strokes on your backdrop paper or other surface. This will remove the excess paint from the brush. Dry brushing may require you to apply a few coats. Don't try to achieve full coverage in one coat. Dry brushing is a process in which you build your color through a series of layers. By following these instructions, your finished product will have a distinctive mortar line and a pleasing brick surface color. Once your structure is painted and completely dry, you can move on to adding the details.

Step #4 – Assembling the Front Entry

Your structure is now stable, squared up and ready for the details. Prior to any installation, this is the time to decide on your color scheme and paint your detail parts, including window and door frames. From my experience, painting these prior to installation will yield the best result.

The front entry consists in the main frame, door, front showcase glasses and street number . We recommend to paint the etched text on the acrylic using acrylic paint, let it dry and wipe out the leftover using a damp cloth before assembly. If the pieces are too tight, using 300 grit sandpaper you can sand it and adjust them to the main frame.

The door is could be glued either in open or close position, paint if first and add the acetate from the back. We recommend Aleene’s clear gel to glue the acetate and acrylic windows.

After finished the front assembly install it on the building. The Main frame enter precisely between the walls. Some glue from the previous stage could interfere the process. Using a chisel remove the dry glue.

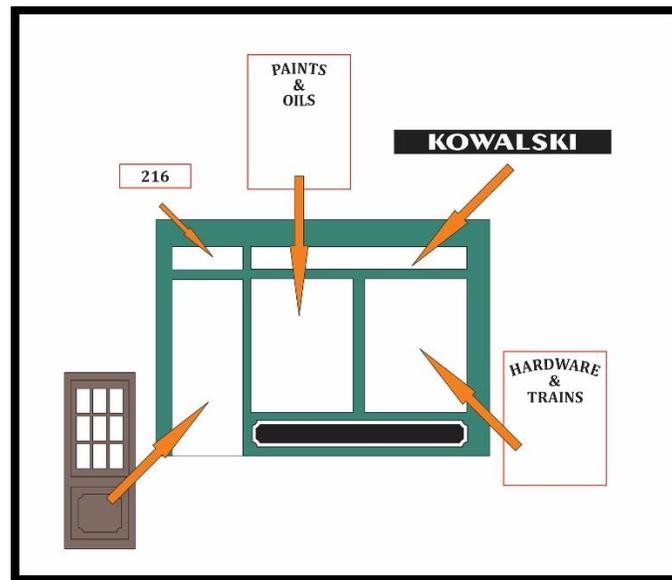


FIGURE 3 – ASSEMBLING THE FRONT ENTRANCE

Step #6 – Applying Windows, Doors and Details

After painting, place windows as shown. If you find the fit to be tight, a light sanding on either side should suffice for a good fit. Apply the window glass and insert into wall and the windows shades. The front and side views shown in Figure #4 show window, door and detail placement.

The Hardware sign is double, glue them together and after the glue is completely dry paint it with the desired colors. Drill two holes on the sign side and on the building at any location you decide and insert the pins.

Glue the top cornices (3)

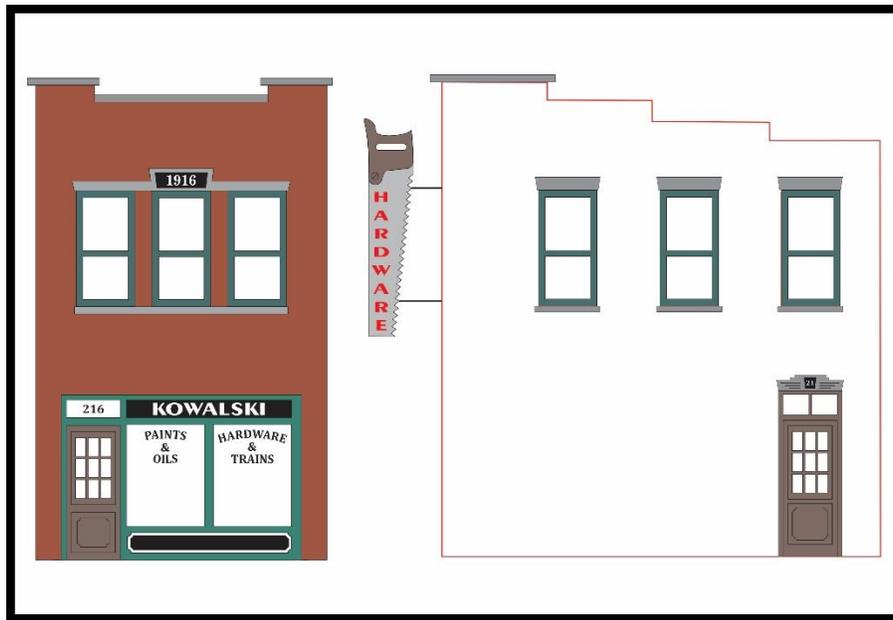


FIGURE #4 – WINDOW, DOOR & DETAIL PLACEMENT

Step #7 - Roof

Roof installation is self explanatory. I recommend painting the roof black and apply masking tape overlapping the edge for real appearance.

Step#8 – Top Wall Covers

Top wall covers are already cut in the installation order. Using a knife remove the pieces, apply a little amount of glue to avoid glue strew and glue it over the end on side walls. The front and side views shows in Figure #4 the top wall cover position.

Congratulations! Your building is complete!

With your building now finished, you may opt to further enhance the structure using weathering techniques such as chalk or misting. Keep in mind weather runs from top to bottom and will be concentrated in areas where water may gather and run off, like around windows. Likewise, you may have weather “splash up” along the base. We will be posting tips on aging and weathering on our website in the near future.

If you have questions on construction or suggestions, please contact us by email at riverleafmodels@gmail.com

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