

## OGR Building Kits

If you need any suggestions on building the kit feel free to send me an email. In a nutshell I do the following:

1. Wash all plastic parts in warm water and detergent to remove molding oils and finger oils. This makes gluing / painting a lot easier. If you paint after glue up you can wipe the plastic down with mineral spirits before painting.

When assembling a building whether you paint before or after assembly is a personal choice. I usually paint the insides before assembly because it is easier to do before glue up. If you paint before assembly be sure to put tape on the inside portions of walls that get glued together. If need be simply scrap off paint with a razor blade.

2. Spray paint the walls the color you want for the brick and let dry at least one day. I use Krylon Fusion for Plastic or Rustoleum. Both are good paints for plastic. Some people like to spray Testors Dullcote first to add 'tooth' for the paint. It is a good idea to paint the inside of the walls also. I usually use flat black for this. Remember to tape the portion of the walls that glue together or use a razor blade to scrape off the paint prior to gluing. Let dry for at least one day before applying mortar (step 3) or re-painting (step 4).

3. WRT mortar wash I was using Robert's Brick mortar. This stuff is a little expensive but the jar goes a long way. The beauty of this product is that after painting in the mortar lines you let it dry. After it dries rub off the excess with a damp cloth. I have started using joint compound which is much less expensive. Simply rub the compound into the mortar lines with your fingers and immediately wipe off the excess from the bricks constantly using a clean portion of your fingers. I keep a sponge and cloth handy to wipe off my fingers.

4. I go back and hand paint the windows, doors and trim a different color using Krylon or Rust-O-leum paint sprayed onto a piece of cardboard. If you use an airbrush so much the better. I used to use to hand paint with the craft acrylic paints (Hobby Lobby / Micheal's) but found that too many applications were required to get adequate coverage. With spray can paint usually one or two applications are all that is required. Both types of paint will adhere to painted surfaces but coverage for both is extremely poor on unpainted plastic. This is the reason in step 2, I spray paint everything. Let the paint dry for at least two days prior to gluing, especially if you plan on holding walls together with tape.

5. Gluing the walls together is straight forward. Glue the front to a side wall using a square to keep them perpendicular to each other. A drop of super glue gel on top and on the bottom will tack the walls together. Then use a solvent such as Plastruct Plastic Weld (melts plastic together) Simply apply to the inside joint and let the liquids wick into the corners. If the walls are warped use small clamps (do not over tighten) to hold the pieces together for about 5 minutes.

To re-enforce the corner bonds some like to glue in styrene square rods (usually .250 square). I recommend this.

I also use the styrene sq. rods if floor supports are necessary.

6. Some people like to use tape on the outside to hold the walls together. I don't like this method because if glue seeps out it will also glue the tape making a mess when peeling the tape off. If you use tape DO NOT let and glue wick out the front where the tape is going.

7. Using the same procedure glue the back wall to the other side wall. Once dry, glue the two sections together. Use the roof panel to keep everything square.

Be careful not to let any of the Plastruct wet out to the front painted surfaces otherwise it will remove paint. If this happens you will need to do some touch up painting. If Plastruct (any solvent type) wicks out – don't wipe it just let it dry.

8 – If you wish to 'darken up' the mortar lines then brush paint several coats of an India ink wash. I put a few drops of the ink into distilled water and stir. You will need to experiment with the water/India ink ratio. Basically you do not want to have 'black particle residue – ie too much India ink' left on the building after the wash dries.

9 - If you want to apply decals first let the paint dry for a few days. Then spray with Testers Dullcote. This locks in the wash and more importantly gives you an even surface for the decals. Some like to spray a gloss coat saying decals adhere better to a gloss finish. I have found Dullcote to be quite adequate but one or the other must be used. I have found that if I do not spray an over coat and simply apply decals after drying the decals have a 'mottled – dark/light spots' look to them.

10 – Some use a setting solution to place decals while other use warm DI water. I prefer the water. Once the decals dry apply a softening solution to make the decals sink into the mortar lines. A couple of applications may be necessary. Brush on the solution and let it sit. Don't be tempted to push the decals down – they will tear. Once completely dry spray with Dullcote or gloss coat again to protect the decals.

11 – Once this is done now is the time to attached the 'window panes'. If you want a dull looking widow pane you could attach the clear plastic first then spray the Dullcote. An alternative is to use vellum which already comes frosted.

## **Korber Kits**

1 – Wash all plastic parts in warm water and detergent to remove molding oils and finger oils. This makes gluing / painting a lot easier. If you paint after glue up you can wipe the plastic down with mineral spirits before painting. Make sure the plastic is completely dry before painting.

2 – When assembling a building whether you paint before or after assembly is a personal choice. I usually paint the insides before assembly because it is easier to do before glue up. If you paint before assembly be sure to put tape on the inside portions of walls that get glued together. If need be simply scrap off paint with a razor blade.

3 – Korber kits use a type of plastic material that normal plastic cements will not work with.

Only CA glue will work as a glue. CA glue is very strong but also very brittle. If the completed assembly is dropped the walls will most likely snap apart. For this reason some builders will also run a bead of hot glue down the inside joints to add extra strength.

4 – When gluing walls together first use a few drops of super glue gel top and bottom to tack the walls. Use a right angle to make sure the walls are perpendicular then run a bead of liquid CA along the inside edge. If you have clamps all the better. Clamp first then run the CA bead. If not you will need to hold the walls together for about 1 minute for initial set. If possible use clamps to secure the walls while the glue cures. Some people use heavy duty tape on the outside. I don't like this method because if glue seeps out it will also glue the tape making a mess when peeling the tape off. Glue seepage is also the reason I like to paint the outside after glue up. The paint will hide any glue seepage.

I don't use hot glue. Instead I add basswood square rods to the wall joints for added glue space.

5 – Once the basic building is glued and cured I will wipe it down with mineral spirits as a final clean before paint. Paint process is as follows:

- Spray the entire outside the color you want the brick to be.
- If you want mortar now is the time to apply. WRT mortar wash I was using Robert's Brick mortar. This stuff is a little expensive but the jar goes a long way. The beauty of this product is that after painting in the mortar lines you let it dry. After it dries rub off the excess with a damp cloth. I have started using joint compound which is much less expensive. Simply rub the compound into the mortar lines with your fingers and immediately wipe off the excess from the bricks constantly using a clean portion of your fingers. I keep a sponge and cloth handy to wipe off my fingers.
- After mortar clean up is done now is the time to brush paint all details the different colors such as the doors / windows etc. I also use Rustoleum and Krylon Fusion for detail work.

7 – If you wish to 'darken up' the mortar lines then brush paint several coats of an India ink wash. I put a few drops of the ink into distilled water and stir. You will need to experiment with the water/India ink ratio. Basically you do not want to have 'black particle residue – ie too much India ink' left on the building after the wash dries.

8 - If you want to apply decals first let the paint dry for a few days. Then spray with Testers Dullcote. This locks in the wash and more importantly gives you an even surface for the decals. Some like to spray a gloss coat saying decals adhere better to a gloss finish. I have found Dullcote to be quite adequate but one or the other must be used. I have found that if I do not spray an over coat and simply apply decals after drying the decals have a 'mottled – dark/light spots' look to them.

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10 – Once this is done now is the time to attached the 'window panes'. If you want a dull looking widow pane you could attach the clear plastic first then spray the Dullcote. An alternative is to use vellum which already comes frosted.