

Building Kits

1 – Wash all plastic parts in warm water and detergent to remove molding oils and finger oils. I use Comet. Liquid dish washing detergent is OK but some have oils in them. I don't know which so I stick with powder.

2 – Make sure the plastic is completely dry.

3 – If assembling a building as opposed to a simple front whether you paint before or after assembly is a personal choice. I usually paint before assembly because it is easier to paint the inside and outside. If you paint before assembly be sure to put tape on portions of walls that get glued together. If need be simply scrap off paint with a razor blade.

4 – When gluing walls together use a few drops of super glue (I recommend Gorilla Glue that comes with the light blue tip) top and bottom to tack the walls. Use a right angle to make sure the walls are perpendicular then use an appropriate liquid glue. If you have clamps all the better. 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.

For OGR kits a plastic solvent like Plastruct Plastic Weld or Bondene works well. It melts the type of plastic OGR uses for their walls. For OGR walls it is a good idea to add polystyrene square rods (Plastruct or Evergreen) to the wall joints for added glue space (see note 5).

For Korber models plastic solvent does not work. It will not melt the plastic Korber Models uses. It is recommended you use Gorilla Glue here. For Korber models it is a good idea to add square wood rods to the walls joints using gorilla glue for added glue space (see note 5). After gluing with CA it has been recommended that a bead of hot glue be used on the inside of the joint to add some plasticity to the joint. CA makes a good but brittle joint that can come apart if the building is dropped or handled roughly during shipping.

5 – I also add extra bracing to the walls for more glue surface. I glue polystyrene plastic square rods about 3/8 to 1/4 inch square to the edges of one wall for OGR product. Be sure you glue the rod to the correct wall. Place the walls together and see which wall edge is supposed to be seen (brick on edge). This wall will also have alignment pins. Glue rods to the other wall edge. Be careful not to glue the rods in places that will interfere with the alignment pins on the other wall.

Use wood rods for Korber Models walls.

6 - 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:

- If you are not using opaque wall treatments tape all openings from the outside then spray paint the inside structure a dark color.
- Once the paint is dry tape all openings from inside then spray the entire outside the color you want the brick to be.
- If you want mortar now is the time to apply. Some people use thinned out acrylic paint however I use Robert's Brick Mortar. If you follow the instructions on the container you can not go wrong.
- 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 use small brushes and the cheap acrylic paints like Folk Art you can buy at Hobby Lobby / Michaels.

- Note: I use Rustoleum and Krylon Fusion for brick base coats and the acrylics 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 – some like to use alcohol. 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 - Let all paint dry for a few days then if you are applying decals first spray with Testers Dullcote. This locks in the wash and more importantly gives you an even surface for the decals. I have found that if I do not spray after drying the decals have a 'mottled – dark/light spots' look to them.

9 – Once the decals dry and after applying softening solution to make the decals sink into the mortar lines spray with Dullcote again to protect the decals.

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.