

# **MIKE ASHEY PRODUCTIONS**

## **BUILDING THE OLD TIME CANNERY AUTHOR: MIKE ASHEY HO SCALE KIT**

### **BUILDING NOTES**

I wrote this article for the local model railroad club here in Tallahassee, Florida to demonstrate the application of basic scale modeling techniques. In addition, I demonstrate how a good finish can be achieved with enamel spray cans and simple weathering techniques using pencil pastels.

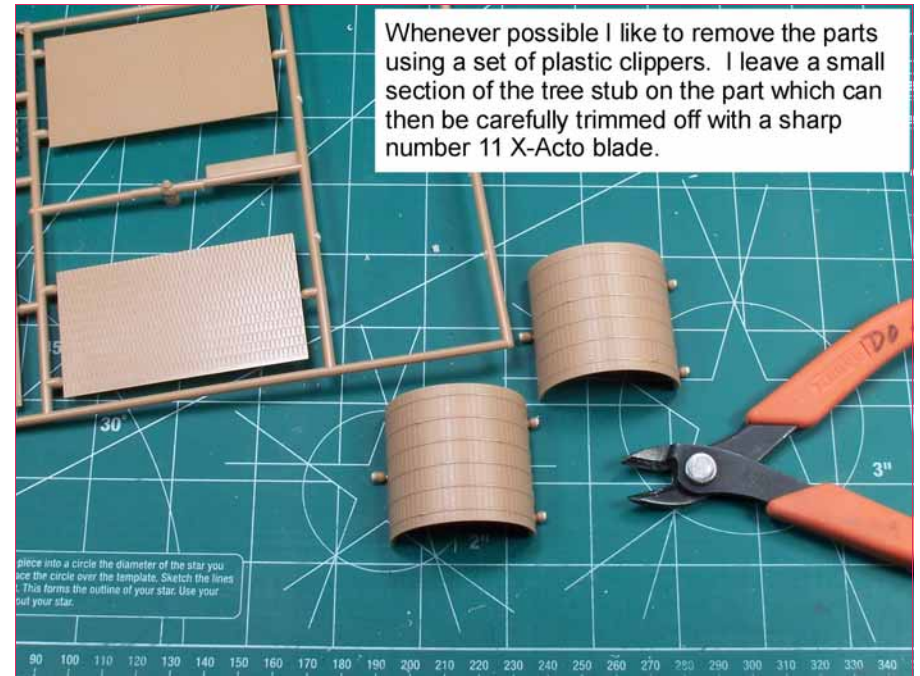
This model is well engineered and easy to build.

Testors model master enamel spray cans were used to paint the structure. To highlight the water in the water tower I drybrushed the ripples with white and dark blue paint. An explanation of the drybrushing technique can be found in my book titled "Detailing Scale Model Aircraft" pages 23-24, which can be found in the book section of this web site. For the controlled application of super glue I make a puddle of it onto a piece of paper and then dip a thin stiff wire into the puddle and apply it to the model along a seam line. More pictures of this model can be found in the gallery section of this web site.

The first step in building a kit is to inventory all the parts, become familiar with them and review the instructions.



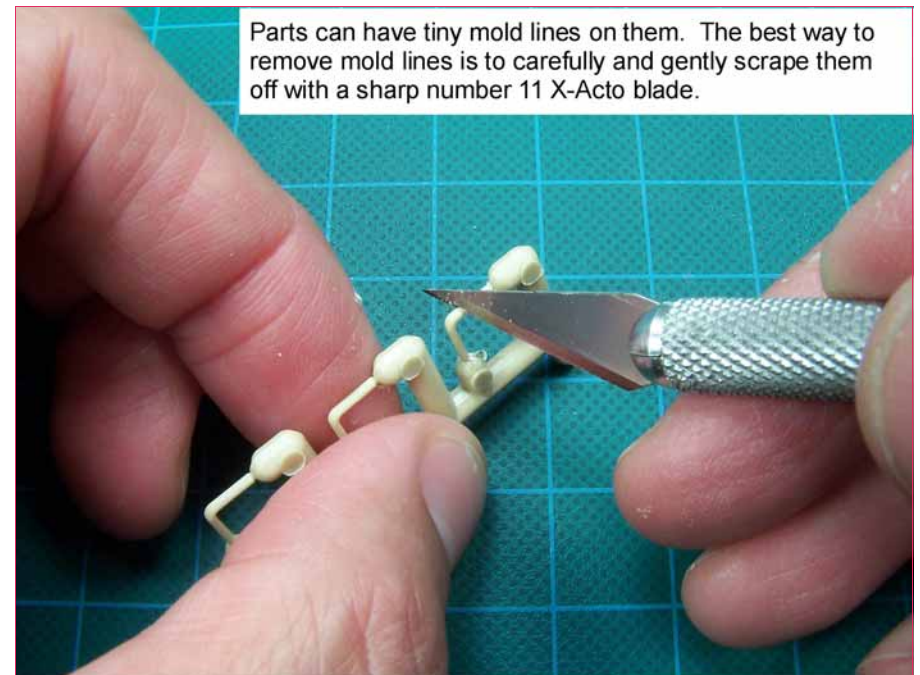
Whenever possible I like to remove the parts using a set of plastic clippers. I leave a small section of the tree stub on the part which can then be carefully trimmed off with a sharp number 11 X-Acto blade.



Here the tree stubs are being carefully trimmed off. Note that the part is elevated onto a wood block to make the trimming easier.

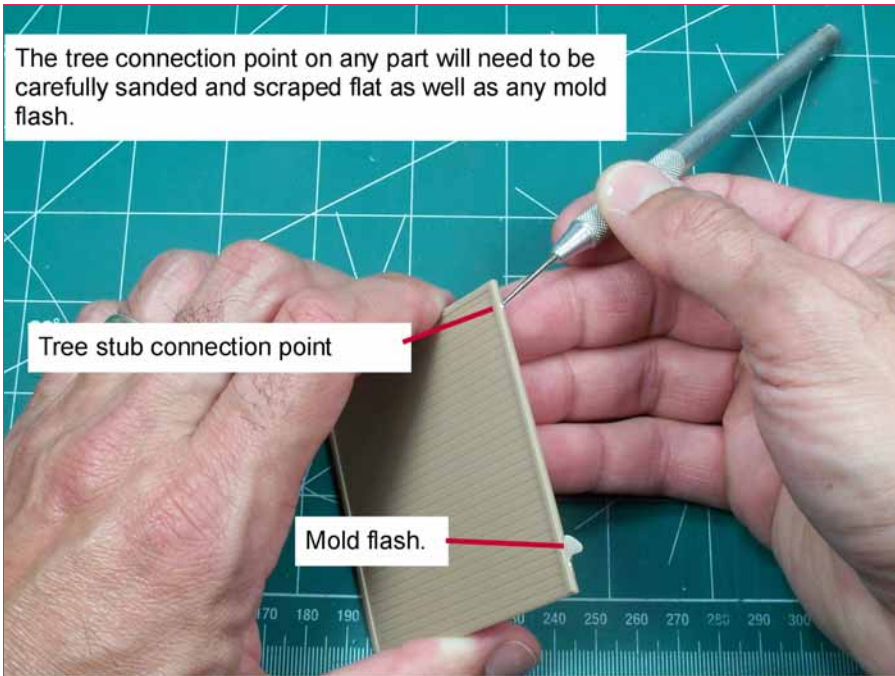


Parts can have tiny mold lines on them. The best way to remove mold lines is to carefully and gently scrape them off with a sharp number 11 X-Acto blade.





The tree connection point on any part will need to be carefully sanded and scraped flat as well as any mold flash.



Tree stub connection point

Mold flash.

I like to use sanding sticks in combination with scraping using a number 11 X-Acto blade held at approximately 45 degrees to remove stubs and smooth out the surface.

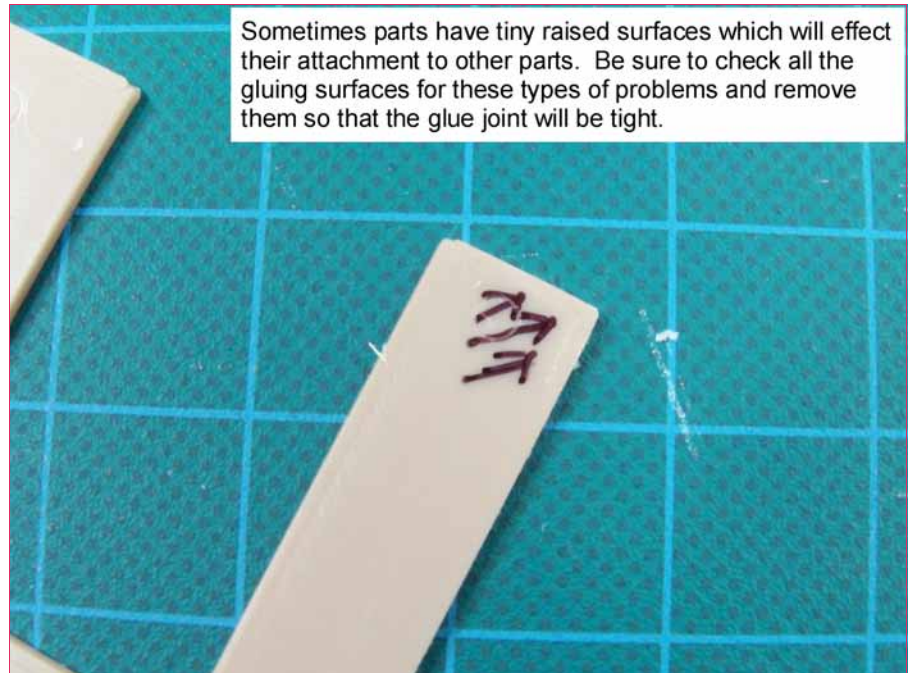


30°

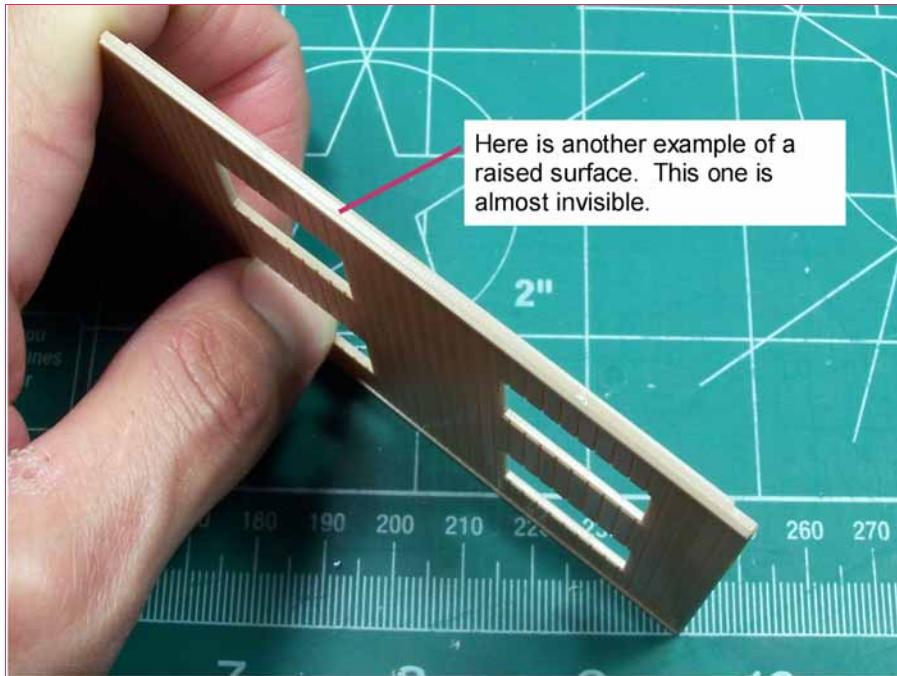


Once all the parts are cleaned up I like to assemble as much of the structure as possible with masking tape so that I can identify any fit issues and voids between parts along a seam line. I make notes on the instructions sheet and determine the best way to fix any noted issues before I start gluing the model together.

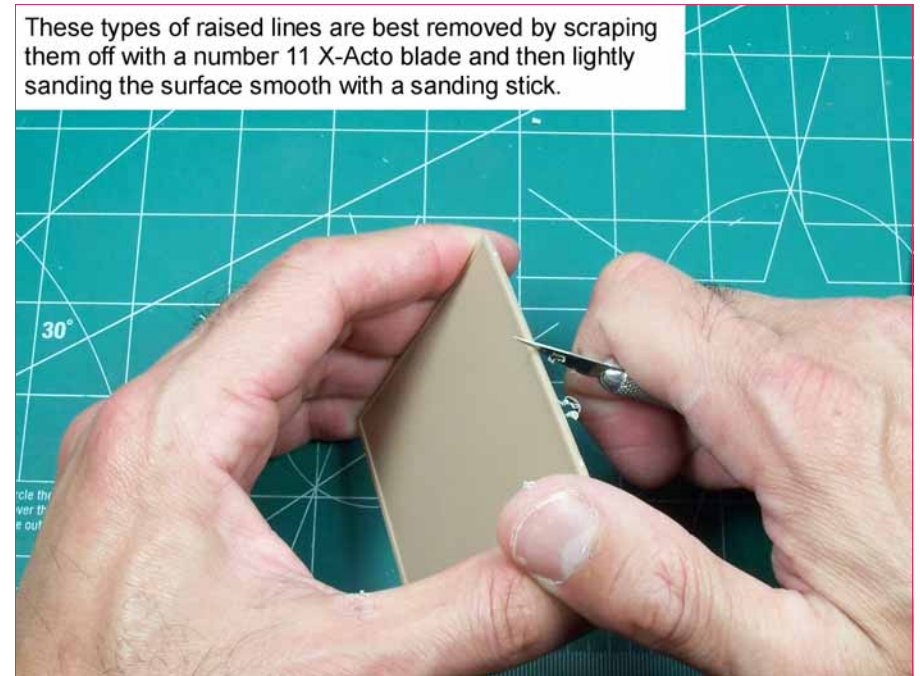
Sometimes parts have tiny raised surfaces which will effect their attachment to other parts. Be sure to check all the gluing surfaces for these types of problems and remove them so that the glue joint will be tight.



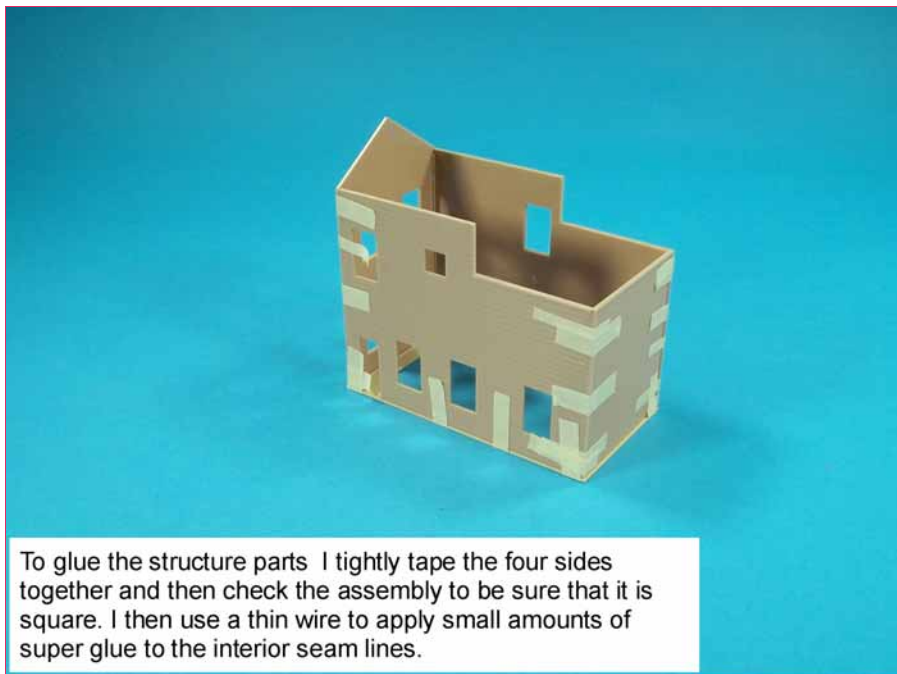




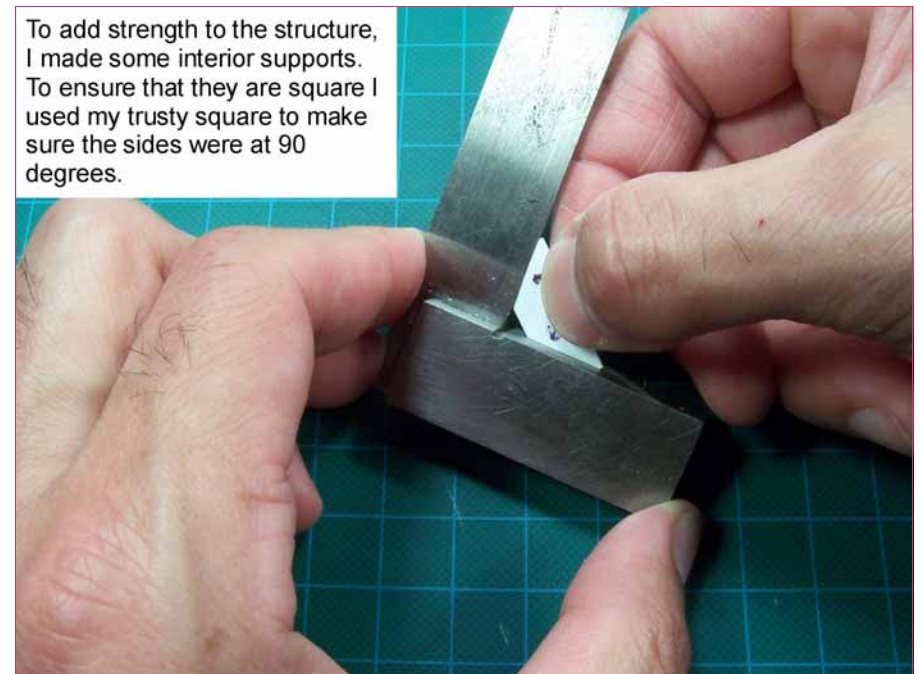
Here is another example of a raised surface. This one is almost invisible.



These types of raised lines are best removed by scraping them off with a number 11 X-Acto blade and then lightly sanding the surface smooth with a sanding stick.

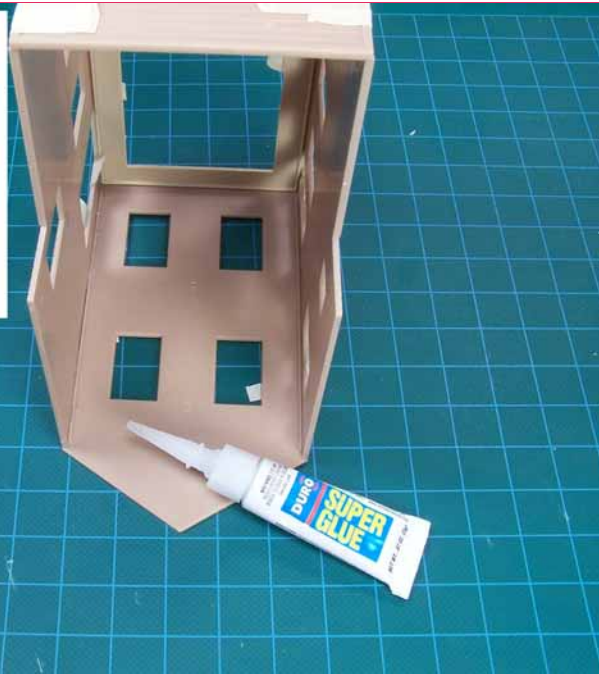


To glue the structure parts I tightly tape the four sides together and then check the assembly to be sure that it is square. I then use a thin wire to apply small amounts of super glue to the interior seam lines.

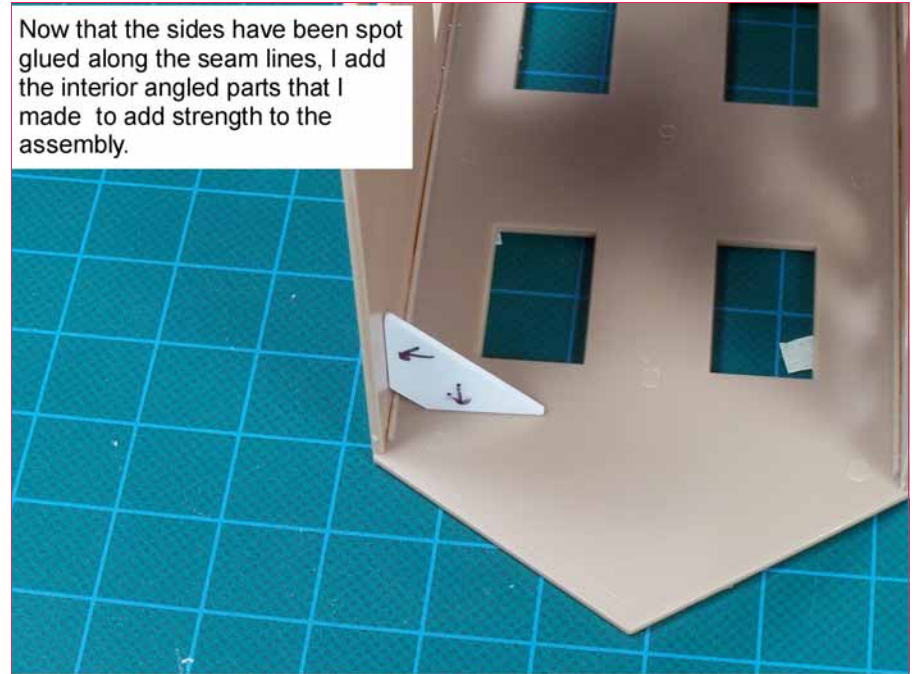


To add strength to the structure, I made some interior supports. To ensure that they are square I used my trusty square to make sure the sides were at 90 degrees.

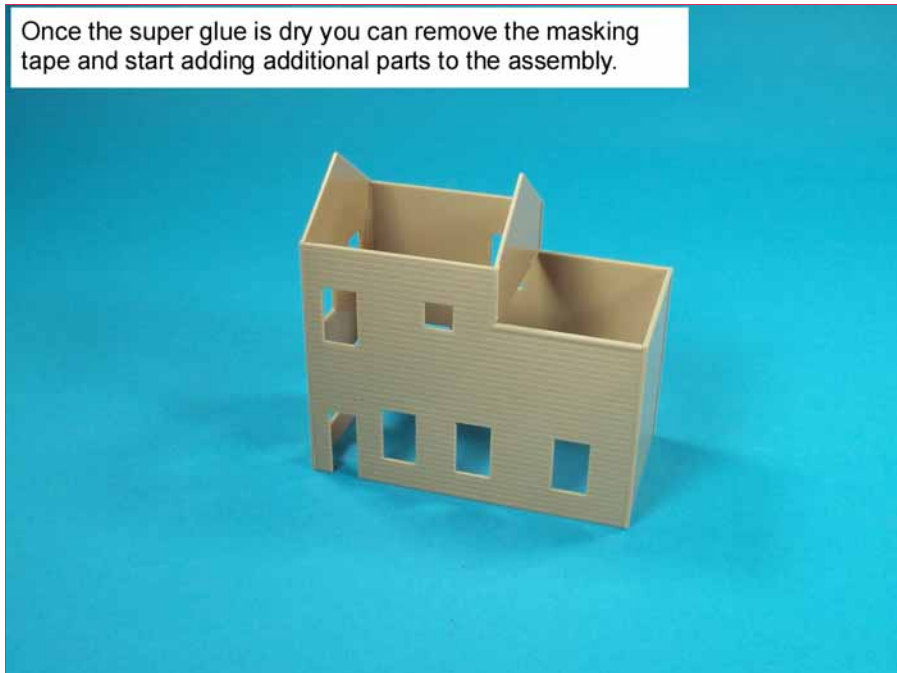
Once the interior seam lines are spot glued I add a bead of super glue from a small tube. Be careful not to apply too much glue because it can flow along the interior surface and out one of the window frames.



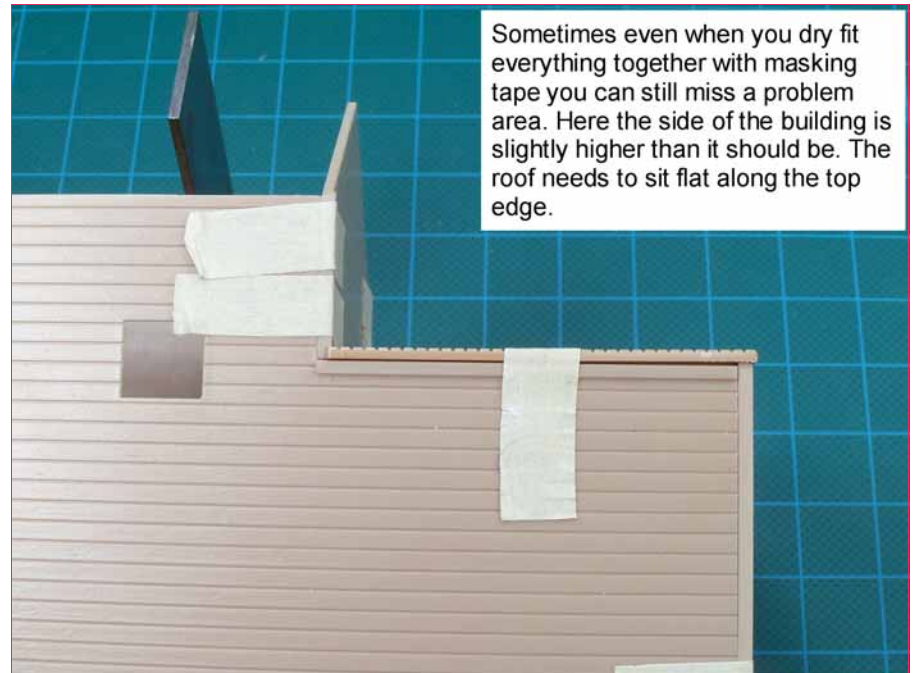
Now that the sides have been spot glued along the seam lines, I add the interior angled parts that I made to add strength to the assembly.



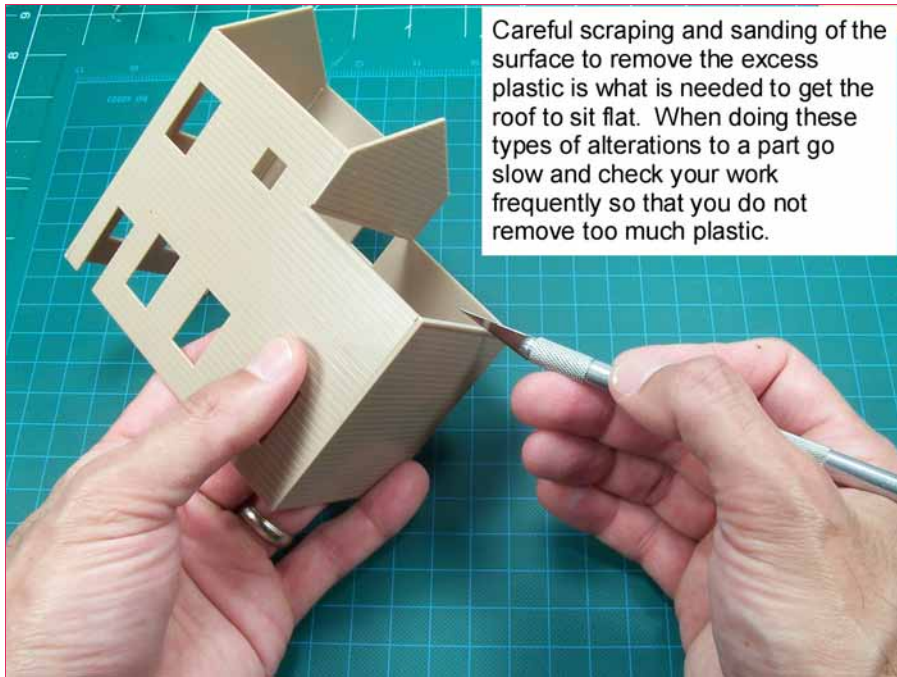
Once the super glue is dry you can remove the masking tape and start adding additional parts to the assembly.



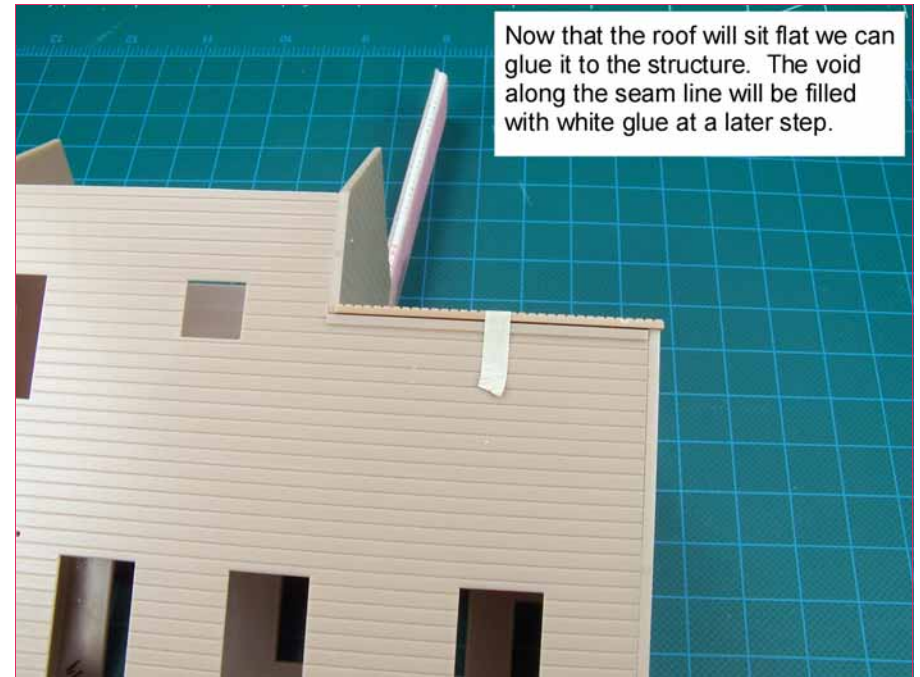
Sometimes even when you dry fit everything together with masking tape you can still miss a problem area. Here the side of the building is slightly higher than it should be. The roof needs to sit flat along the top edge.



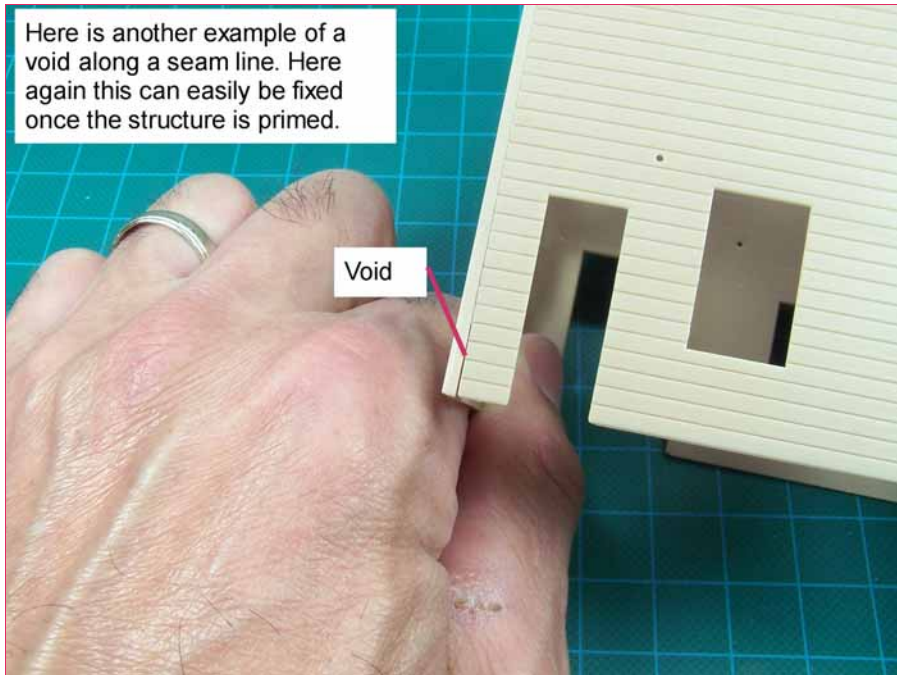




Careful scraping and sanding of the surface to remove the excess plastic is what is needed to get the roof to sit flat. When doing these types of alterations to a part go slow and check your work frequently so that you do not remove too much plastic.

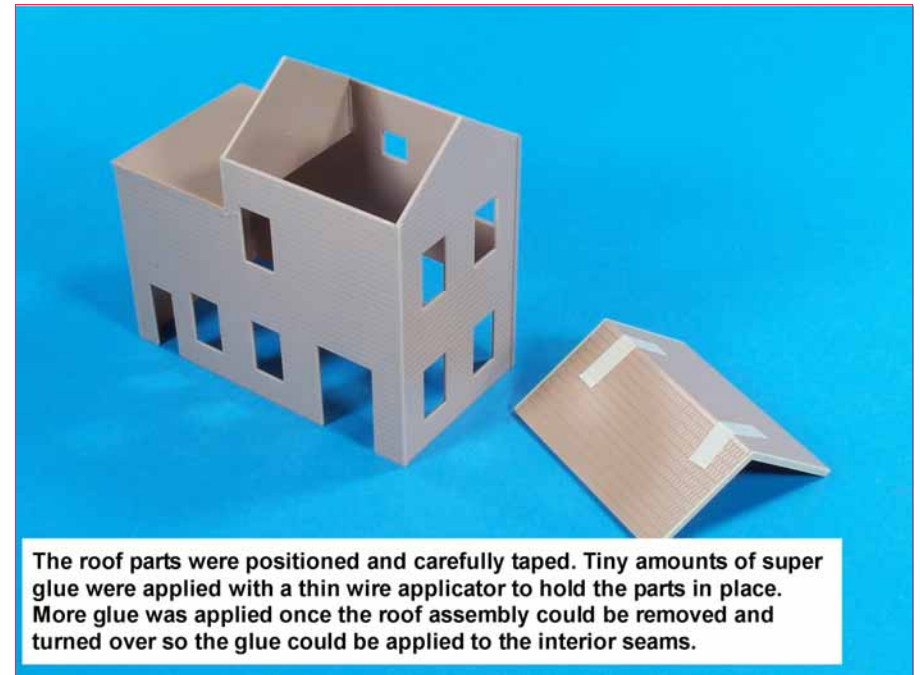


Now that the roof will sit flat we can glue it to the structure. The void along the seam line will be filled with white glue at a later step.



Here is another example of a void along a seam line. Here again this can easily be fixed once the structure is primed.

Void



The roof parts were positioned and carefully taped. Tiny amounts of super glue were applied with a thin wire applicator to hold the parts in place. More glue was applied once the roof assembly could be removed and turned over so the glue could be applied to the interior seams.



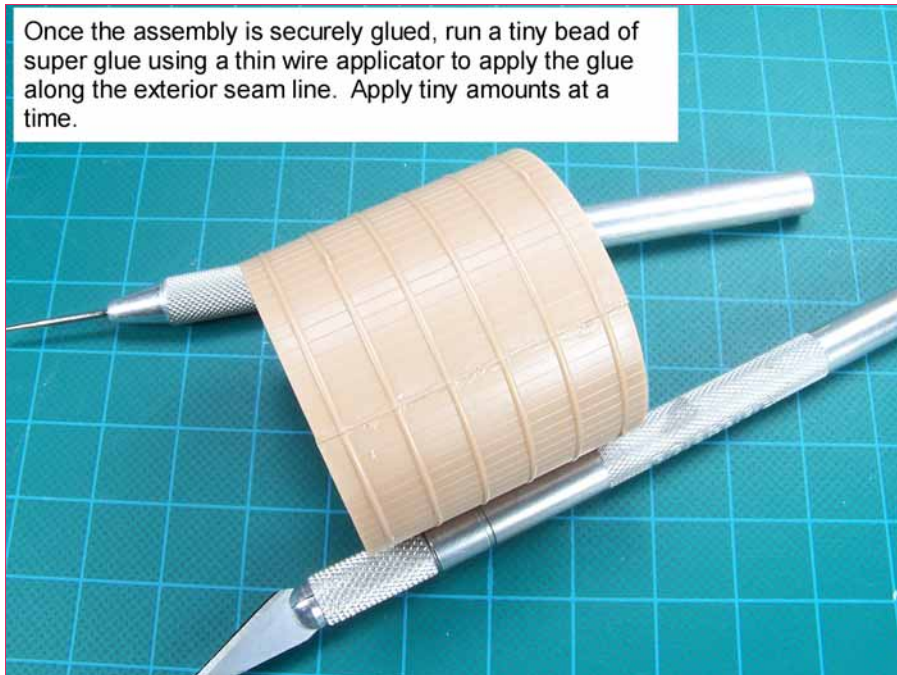
The easy way to flatten out gluing surfaces on these types of parts is to run them across a stationary piece of sandpaper. A few passes usually does the trick.



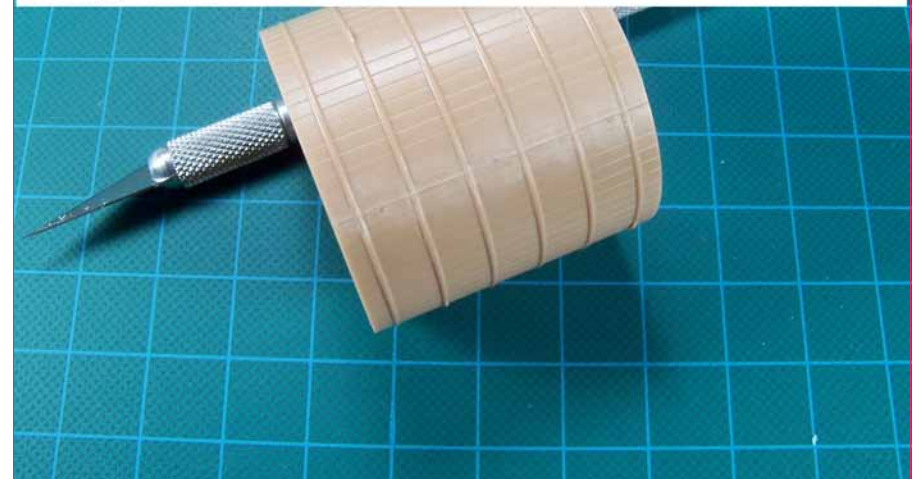
The next step is to check the parts fit. Once you are ready to glue the parts together, tape the assembly tightly and run a bead of super glue along the inside seam line.



Once the assembly is securely glued, run a tiny bead of super glue using a thin wire applicator to apply the glue along the exterior seam line. Apply tiny amounts at a time.

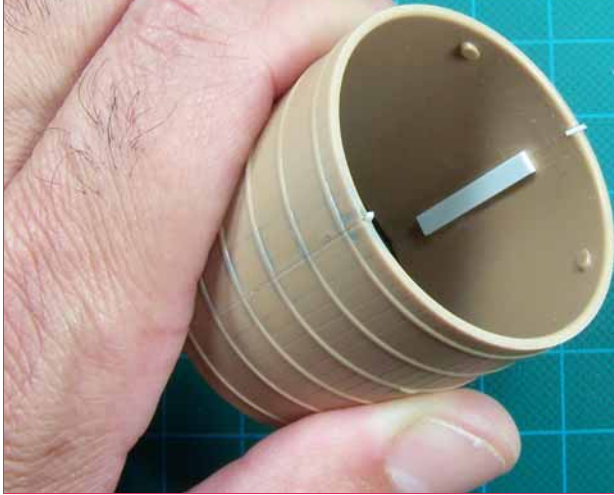


Careful scraping with a sharp number 11 X-Acto blade and wet sanding with a sanding stick and a Flex-I-File will remove the excess super glue and smooth out the seam line. To check your work apply a small amount of Testors silver paint over the seam. The silver colors will make any flaws stand out. Apply more super glue to the needed areas and then repeat the scraping and sanding process.

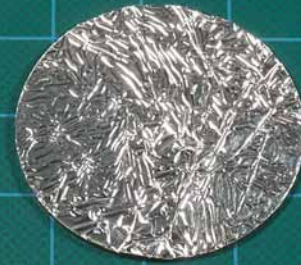




I added some additional strips of plastic to the inside seam line to strengthen the assembly. There were also slight indentations at the interior edge seam lines which I filled with small strips of plastic glued in place with super glue. The strips were then trimmed and shaped with a sanding stick.



I added a disk shaped piece of aluminum foil to the top plastic disk of the water tower. Once this is painted and drybrushed, it will look like rippled water.



## PART –II

# PAINTING THE MODEL



For this modeling project I used Testors spray can enamels to demonstrate how to achieve a good finish without the use of an airbrush. Large scale kits like HO and O scale structures lend themselves well to the use of spray cans. Always test spray cans before you buy them to ensure that there is a mixing ball inside the can. A good shaking is the best test.



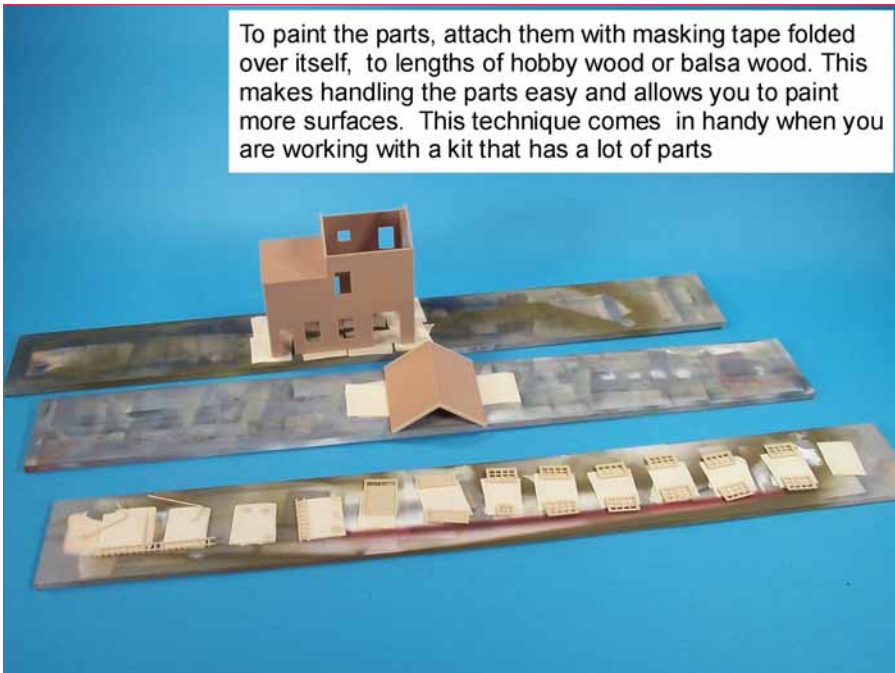
One of the secrets to achieving a good paint finish with spray cans is to warm the paint in hot tap water. This makes the paint flow smoother and provides for greater surface adhesion and color consistency. Always shake the spray can well before use and always test the paint prior to spraying onto the surface of the model. **Do not warm the paint can on the stove.**



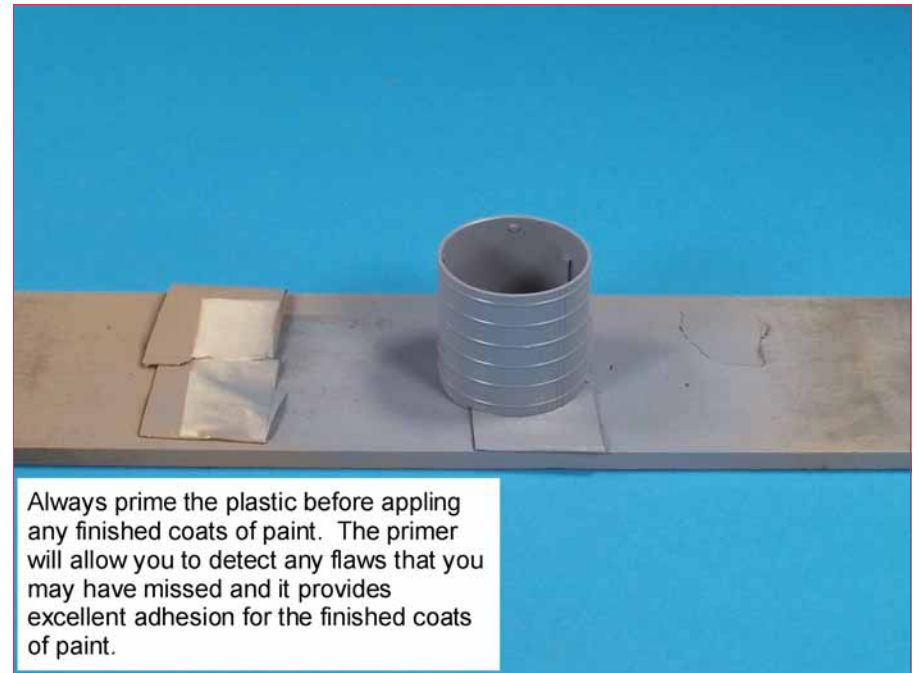
When you are finished using a spray can turn it upside down and spray out the residual paint and then clean the spray tip.



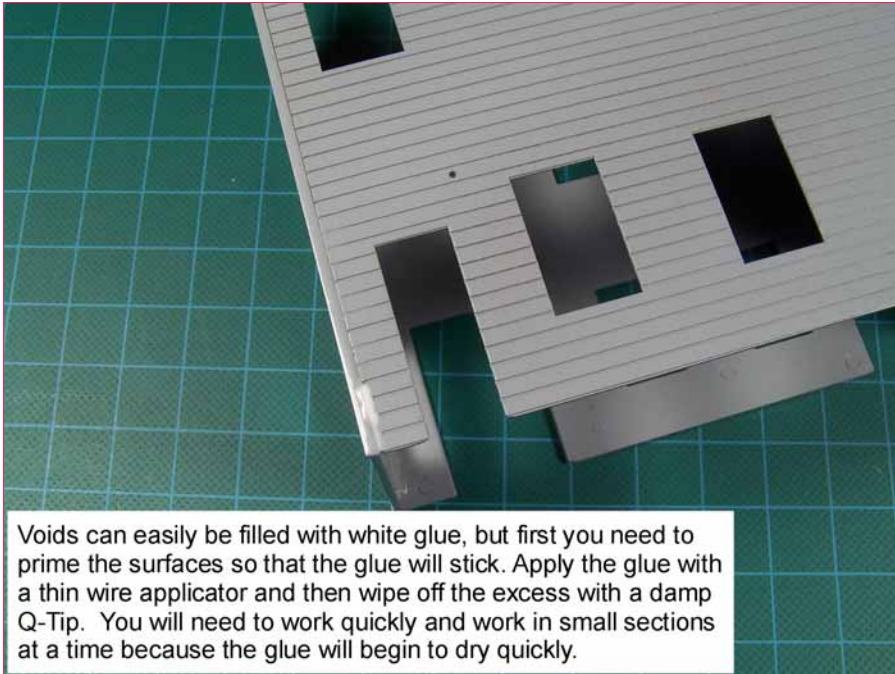
To paint the parts, attach them with masking tape folded over itself, to lengths of hobby wood or balsa wood. This makes handling the parts easy and allows you to paint more surfaces. This technique comes in handy when you are working with a kit that has a lot of parts



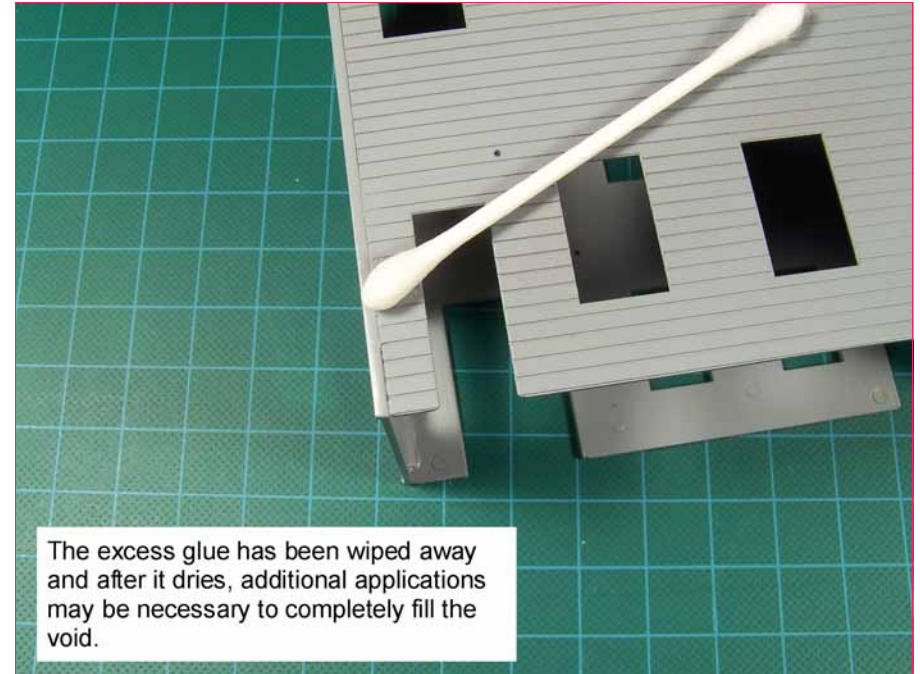
Always prime the plastic before applying any finished coats of paint. The primer will allow you to detect any flaws that you may have missed and it provides excellent adhesion for the finished coats of paint.



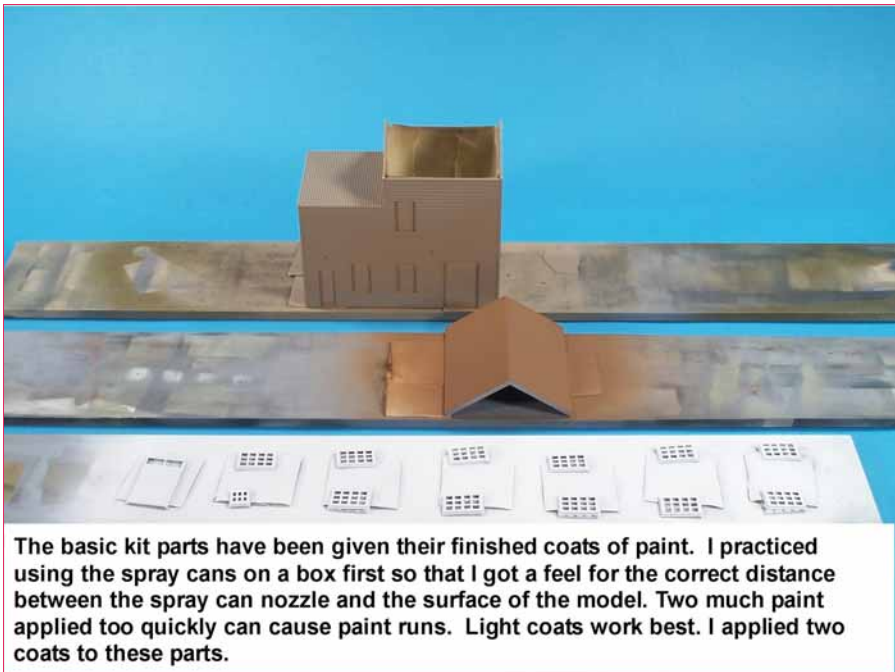




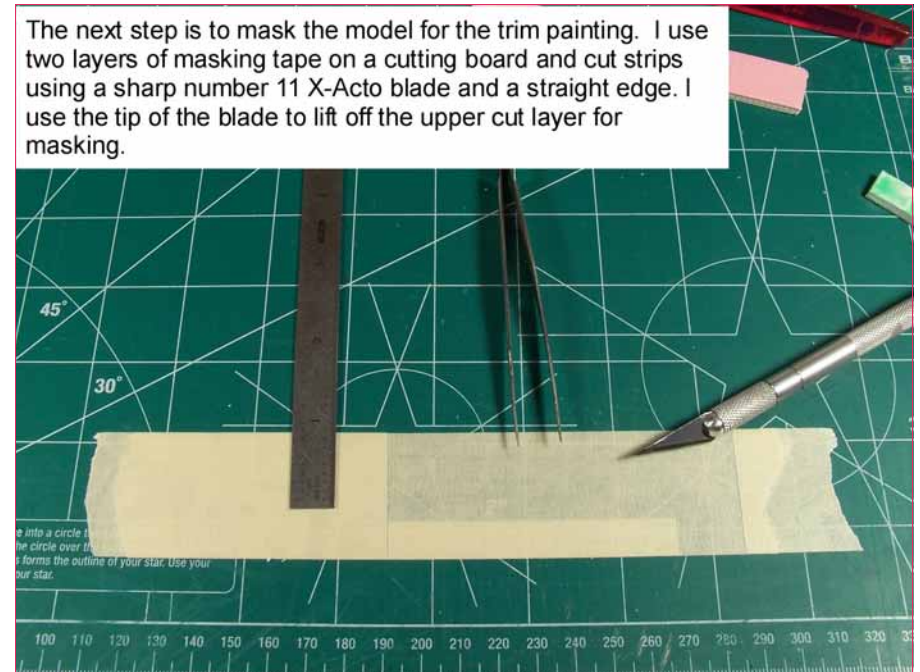
Voids can easily be filled with white glue, but first you need to prime the surfaces so that the glue will stick. Apply the glue with a thin wire applicator and then wipe off the excess with a damp Q-Tip. You will need to work quickly and work in small sections at a time because the glue will begin to dry quickly.



The excess glue has been wiped away and after it dries, additional applications may be necessary to completely fill the void.



The basic kit parts have been given their finished coats of paint. I practiced using the spray cans on a box first so that I got a feel for the correct distance between the spray can nozzle and the surface of the model. Too much paint applied too quickly can cause paint runs. Light coats work best. I applied two coats to these parts.



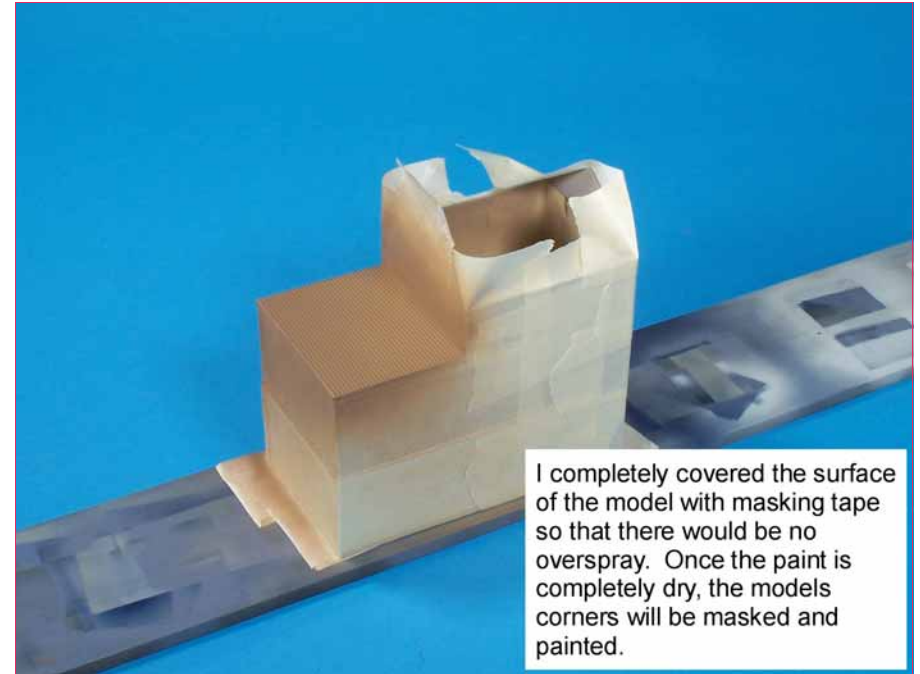
The next step is to mask the model for the trim painting. I use two layers of masking tape on a cutting board and cut strips using a sharp number 11 X-Acto blade and a straight edge. I use the tip of the blade to lift off the upper cut layer for masking.



Outline the area to be painted with masking tape and then you can add more tape to protect the surfaces that will not be painted. The secret to sharp lines between paint colors are sharp edges on the masking tape and ensuring that the tape is completely attached to the surface.



I completely covered the surface of the model with masking tape so that there would be no overspray. Once the paint is completely dry, the models corners will be masked and painted.

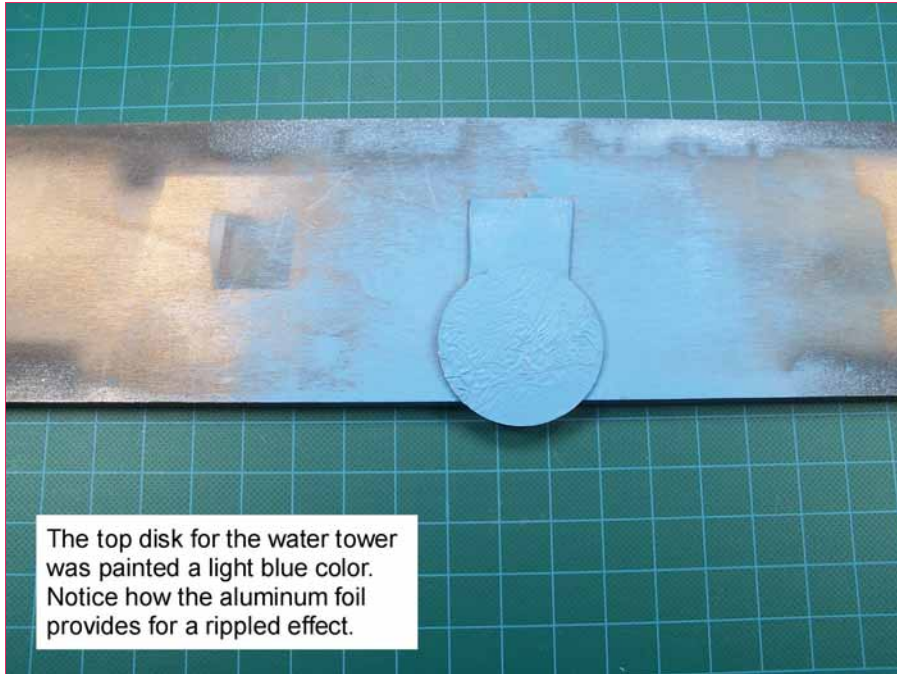


Careful masking along the corners will result in an excellent multicolored surface. Here again making sure that the masking tape is properly aligned and attached to the surface will yield good results with no paint bleeding under the masking tape.



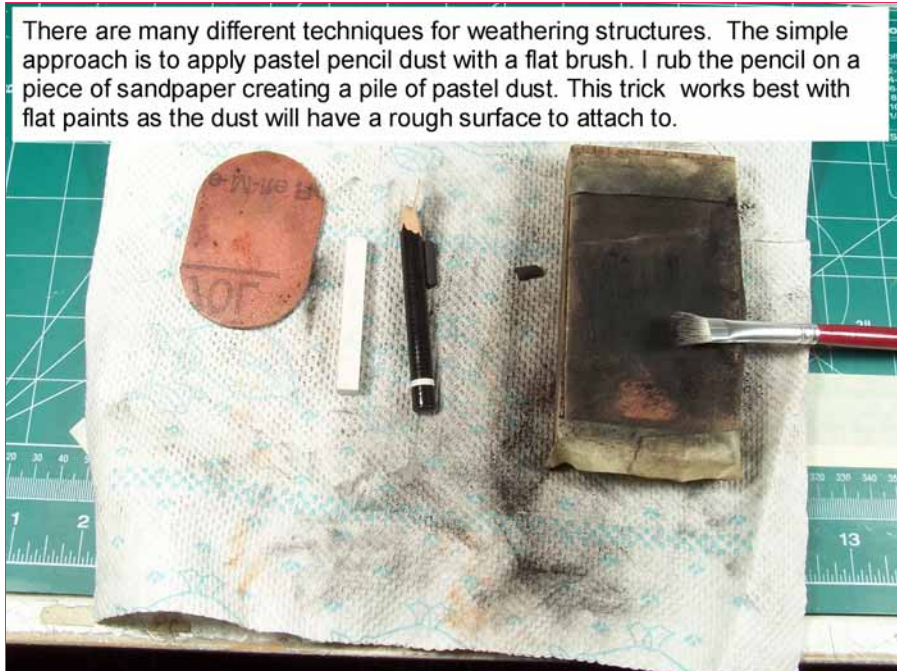
The window frames were painted white and two light coats were applied to each side. The board that the parts are taped too will also serve as a good base for applying weathering to the window frames.



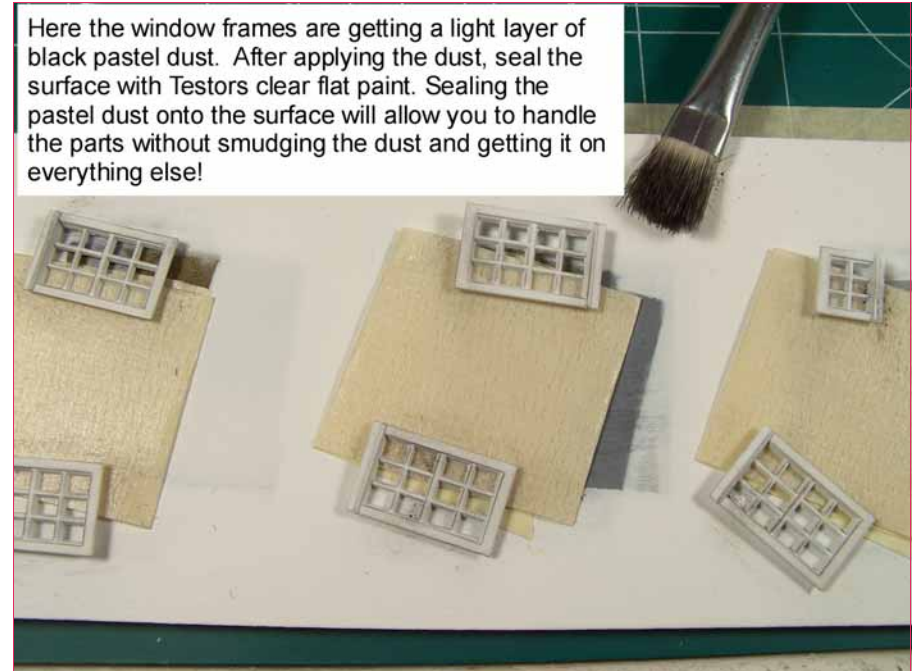


The top disk for the water tower was painted a light blue color. Notice how the aluminum foil provides for a rippled effect.

# PART III WEATHERING THE MODEL

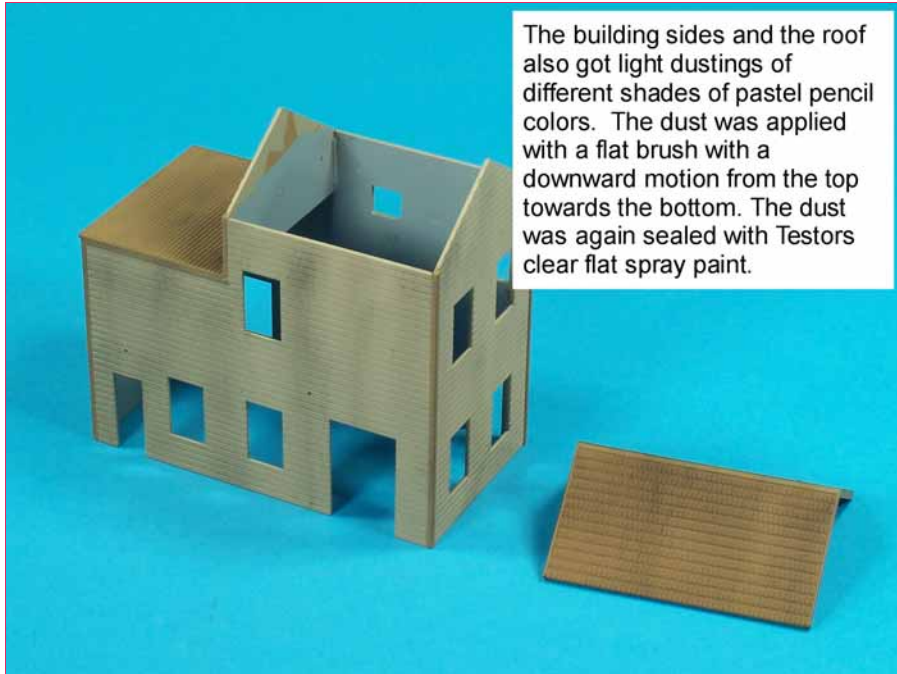


There are many different techniques for weathering structures. The simple approach is to apply pastel pencil dust with a flat brush. I rub the pencil on a piece of sandpaper creating a pile of pastel dust. This trick works best with flat paints as the dust will have a rough surface to attach to.

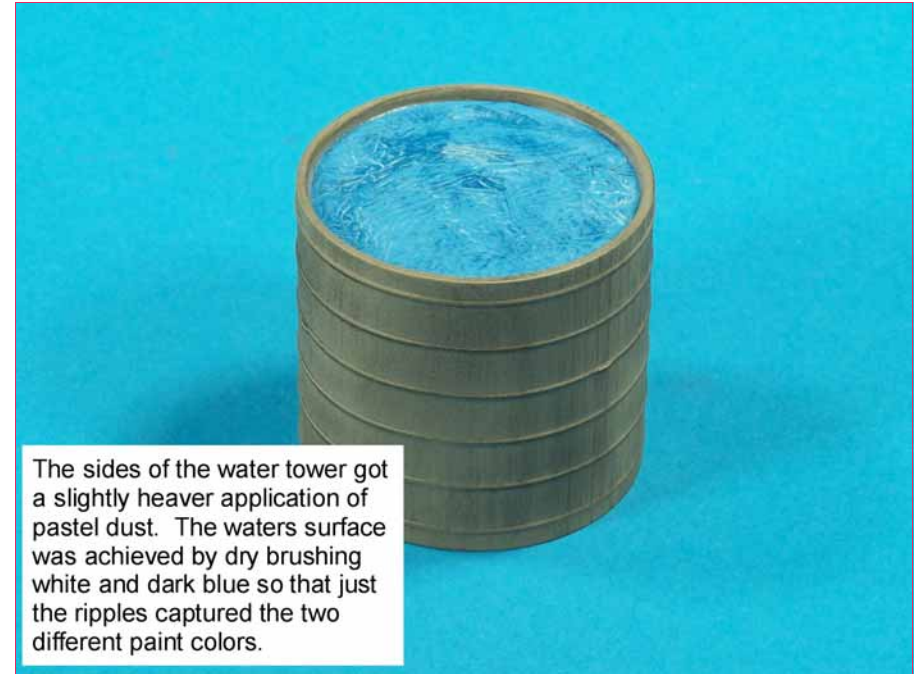


Here the window frames are getting a light layer of black pastel dust. After applying the dust, seal the surface with Testors clear flat paint. Sealing the pastel dust onto the surface will allow you to handle the parts without smudging the dust and getting it on everything else!



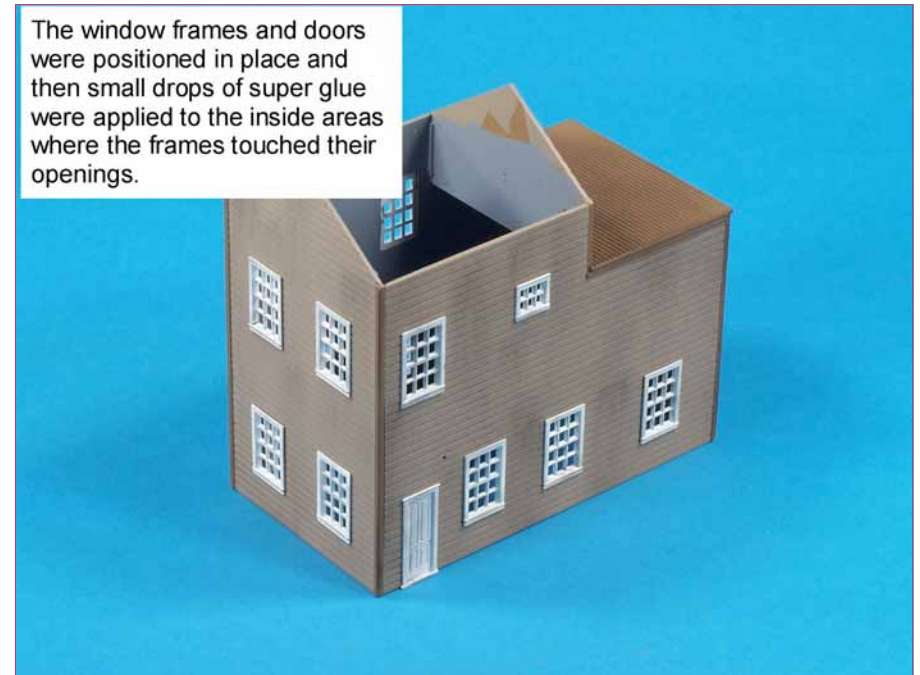


The building sides and the roof also got light dustings of different shades of pastel pencil colors. The dust was applied with a flat brush with a downward motion from the top towards the bottom. The dust was again sealed with Testors clear flat spray paint.



The sides of the water tower got a slightly heavier application of pastel dust. The water's surface was achieved by dry brushing white and dark blue so that just the ripples captured the two different paint colors.

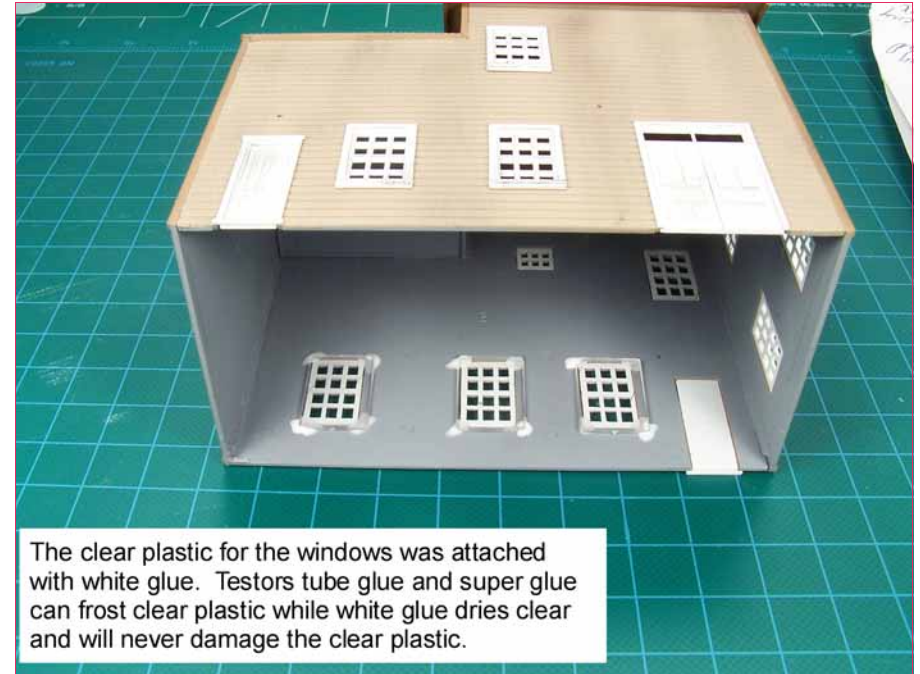
## PART IV FINAL ASSEMBLY



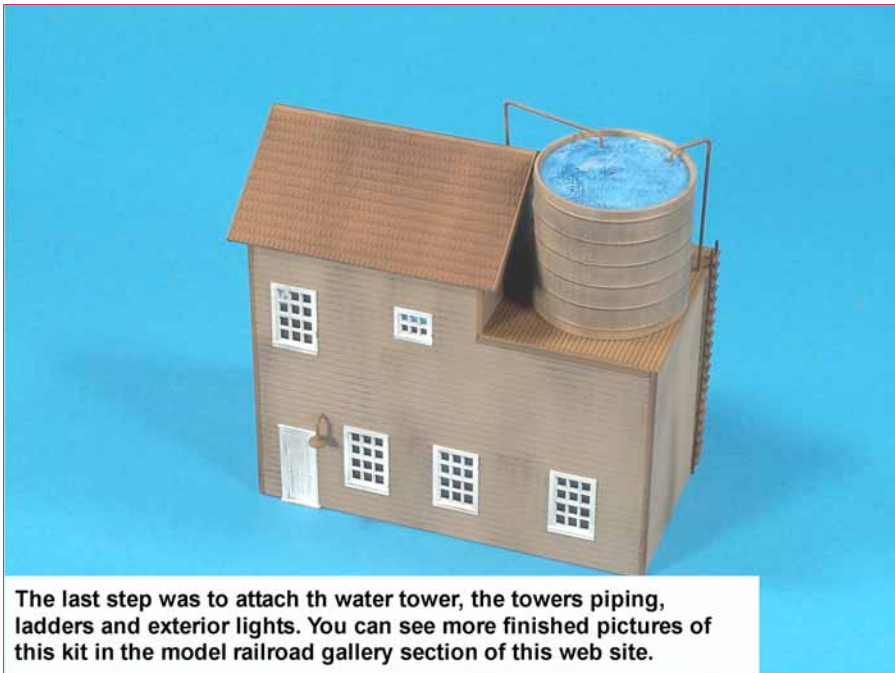
The window frames and doors were positioned in place and then small drops of super glue were applied to the inside areas where the frames touched their openings.



The next step was to attach the angled roof. Here again the glue was applied to the inside attachment points between the roof and the sides of the building.



The clear plastic for the windows was attached with white glue. Testors tube glue and super glue can frost clear plastic while white glue dries clear and will never damage the clear plastic.



The last step was to attach the water tower, the tower's piping, ladders and exterior lights. You can see more finished pictures of this kit in the model railroad gallery section of this web site.

Here you can see the sharp lines between paint colors. Cutting masking tape with a sharp blade, carefully applying it and ensuring that the tape is attached to the surface along its entire length coupled with good spraying technique can yield results almost as good as an airbrush on these large scale models.

