

Welcome to the World of Fold-Up Paper Modeling!



Roleplaying or miniatures gaming is more fun when you use three-dimensional gaming aids. Nothing can match the feeling as your friends see you place before them the very village or castle their players are about to enter. Paper modeling is an inexpensive method of visually enhancing your game play. The concept is not a new one, but we have improved and adapted the technique. From the beginning, we felt it was important to keep the designs generic. You can always customize models to suit your own needs. What follow are instructions for building the structures pictured here.

Getting Started: Basic Tools and Safety Tips



You need to make a few preparations before you can start building your fold-up models.

First of all, always work in a well-lit area with good ventilation. Make sure you have a suitable surface, such as an old worktable, for all of your cutting. We recommend that you get a good-quality cutting mat like the one pictured here. You can find these at art supply and craft or fabric stores.

Next come supplies. You'll need some clear tape, a pair of scissors, and an X-ACTO knife plus a supply of blades. Of course, cardstock or posterboard is essential for mounting the printouts. As well, it's handy to have a roller or some similar tool, and a few gray and brown markers. Other useful materials include white masking tape, a can of spray adhesive such as Super 77 brand, and some white glue. (Weldbond brand is best for this type of project, as it dries more quickly than others; you can find it at craft stores.) Finally, you'll need a metal ruler or straightedge.

Observe some basic safety precautions when working. Never use spray adhesive indoors unless you have a spray booth. Take care when cutting with an X-ACTO knife: Always cut away from your hand, and change blades frequently--a dull blade can easily slip. Don't rush, and make sure you are well rested before beginning any project. With that said, let's get to it!

Mounting and Burnishing



First, print out the pieces of the desired pattern. (If you have a printer that can print directly onto cardstock, you can skip the spray-mounting process.)

Step 1: Start by applying a thin layer of spray adhesive to a blank piece of posterboard. Don't lay it on too thick! If you prefer, cut the posterboard down to a more manageable size first.



Step 2: Spray a mist of adhesive onto the backs of the printouts. Once all of them are coated, you are ready to mount and burnish.

Note: It's best to let the posterboard and printouts sit for 30 seconds or so after spraying. This will produce a better bond.



Step 3: Carefully lay each printout on the posterboard, art side up. Then flatten it smoothly (burnish), using a roller or rubbing carefully with your hands. Repeat until all the printouts are mounted. To avoid messes, place a piece of plain paper over the printout while burnishing.



Step 4: Using scissors, roughly cut out each mounted piece of art. Scissors alone are enough for most cutting other than the most intricate borders.

Cutting and Scoring



Use the X-ACTO knife to make any special detail cuts, like the one shown.



Step 6: Once you have cut out the artwork, gather all the pieces for the structure you're assembling.



Step 7: Score the folding lines for easier bending of the cardstock. To do this, lay a ruler or straight-edge along the dashed lines and cut along them lightly just through the surface. Don't worry if you cut too deep; you can easily mend it with some clear tape on the opposite side.



Step 8: Lay the scored lines along the edge of your table or cutting surface for folding.

Attaching the Wall Sections



Step 5: Once the bond has set, apply glue as above to a blank white side. Have the two outside wall sections nearby, face down and ready for gluing.



Step 6: Carefully press the glued side of the base onto the bottom of one wall section. Allow some time for the glue to set before fastening the other side.



Step 7: Apply glue along the exposed side of the base, as shown.



Step 8: Gently press the bottom of the opposite wall section onto the preglued base and fasten in place.

Attaching the End Pieces



Step 9: Once both wall sections are attached, check to make sure the structure is level.



Step 10: Test fit the end pieces first.



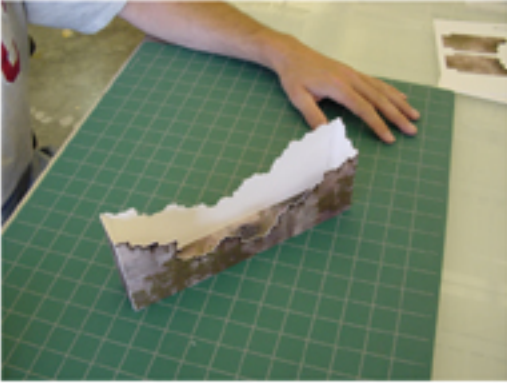
Step 11: Apply glue along the side tabs of one end piece, as shown.



Step 12: Gently slide the end piece into place.

Step 13: Repeat steps 19 and 20 for the other end piece. Hold the glued pieces in place for a few seconds.

Final Details



Step 14: Let the assembled wall frame stand for a while to let the glue set properly.



Step 15: Glue the interior wall pieces onto the completed frame. The final structure is shown here.



Tip: If you wish, use a gray art marker to cover up white edges and fold lines.



You can also use gray or brown markers to create a weathering effect along the broken wall edges. Don't be afraid to customize your model!

House

Folding and Gluing



Step 1: Fold the pieces cleanly along the scored lines. Don't force the fold; if necessary, rescore the piece lightly.



Step 2: Using a ruler or straightedge as a guide, cut along the lines provided for inserting dormer windows. Make sure to allow for the width of the cardstock (about 1/16 inch).



Step 3: Squeeze a long thin line of white glue down the roof tab. Then, using your finger, spread the glue smoothly over the entire surface of the tab.



Step 4: Carefully line up and press the two roof lines as shown.

It's a good idea to reinforce the underside of the roof with clear tape. One or two strips should do it.

Attaching the Side Walls



Step 5: The side walls attach to the long walls, which are part of the roof sections. Apply glue as above to the side wall tabs.



Step 6: Carefully press the side wall piece against the two long wall sections, as shown. Allow some time for the glue to dry before fastening the other side. (It sometimes helps to hold recently glued parts together for a while.)



Step 7: Applying clear tape along the inside helps make the model more sturdy.

Attaching the Dormer Pieces



Step 8: Fold the end window dormer piece and slide it into place in the slots you cut earlier.



Step 9: Fold the dormer roof piece and carefully slide it into place over the end window dormer.



Step 10: Fold the side window dormer piece and slide it into place in the slots you cut earlier.



Step 11: Tape the dormer tabs into place on the inside of the model to keep the pieces from shifting.

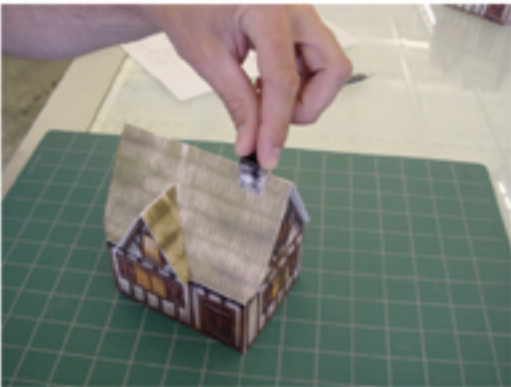
Chimney Preparation



Step 12: Before folding the chimney piece, color the underside with a gray art marker to prevent white from showing.



Step 13: Glue the chimney together. Decide where you want to place it before fastening it to the building.



Step 14: Hold the chimney to the building for a few seconds to help the glue bond.