

Making buildings from Coroplast and Styrene windows and doors.

by Bob Strolenberg

This is a very inexpensive way to construct buildings for your garden railway. This material can be purchased at any art supply store and I have found it at Home Depot as well. It comes in different thicknesses. I use the 1/8" it seems to be quite strong. The key ingredient for this recipe is the glue that holds it together, for that I use Marine Goop. I have found this glue at Canadian Tire in the boating section. It is a very strong silicone that seems to last for years.

Draw the sides and roof pieces of your building onto the Coroplast and cut them out using a straight edge and an exacto knife. Then measure and draw where the windows will go, I do this by first just placing the windows on the sides to see what looks good. Then I measure and cut the holes for the windows. You need to cut the holes big enough for the window opening only not the whole frame. Same goes for the doors.

Now when cutting the styrene windows and doors, I just use scissors and cut them out leaving the edges on. [Styrene windows and doors can be purchased from any dealer of Precision Sheet Plastics](#). I will glue the window to the sides using the edges. When you have all your doors and windows glued in place, you can then start on the siding. Choose the styrene sheet you wish to use, brick, wood siding, or stone. [\(Also available from Precision Sheet Plastics\)](#). Now you need to be more tidy cutting the styrene sheets for your doors and windows as they will fit snugly over top of the window frames and doors. So measure twice, cut once fitting your piece to the side several times to make sure you are doing it right.



Once you have cut all your siding to fit, it's time to paint so don't glue the siding on yet unless your siding is going to be the same colour as your window frames and doors. I paint the inside of the walls with a grey acrylic primer spray paint. This makes the walls opaque so when you light the buildings up at night they won't look like a lamp shade.

Paint the building's other side with the window frames and doors using an acrylic gloss spray colour of your choice. I use the acrylic paints because they don't seem to fade or peel over the years and I have one house that is now 6 years old.

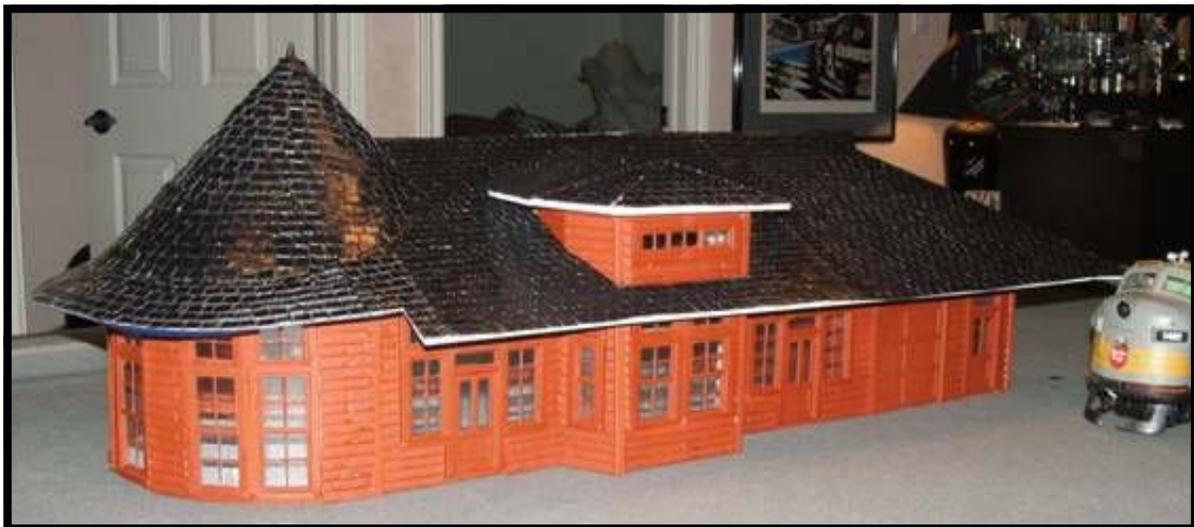
You now need to paint your siding on the top side only with an acrylic spray paint of your colour choice. Now glue the building's walls together and hold them with masking tape till they dry.

In the case of this building the windows and doors are clear so I used liquid mask on the windows and then peel it off once painted. [Liquid Mask is available at Michaels or any art supply store.](#)

The next step is constructing the roof. You need to figure out the pitch and determine the size of your roof. Make it from your Coroplast first, then cover it with your styrene sheets. You can make your roof removable or at least make an entrance hole for light replacement. Now all you need to do is trim the edges of the roof. I use the vinyl strips used for masonite paneling from



Home Depot. They make good eve troughs, and the flat sides make good trim.



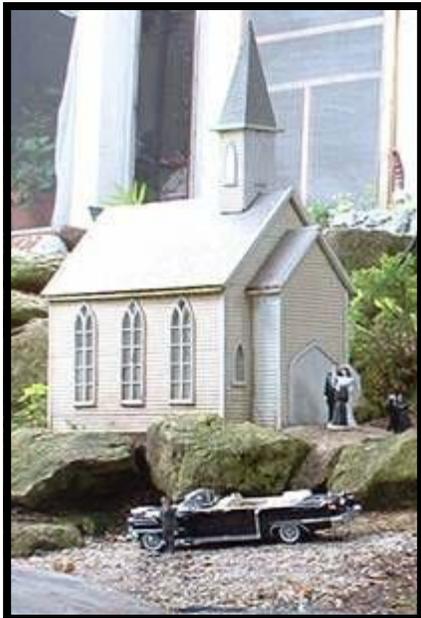
Now you can detail the insides, place lights in it and place it on our layout.

Start with a basic building to get used to the do's and don't's then progress to the more complicated buildings.

Here are some examples of buildings I have made.



Farmhouse and barn



church



Small house



Fire station