Assembly instructions for building kits.

This is a photographic step by step instruction on how to assemble foamboard based buildings. It focuses on the Reims Pressbox but the principles cover the whole range.

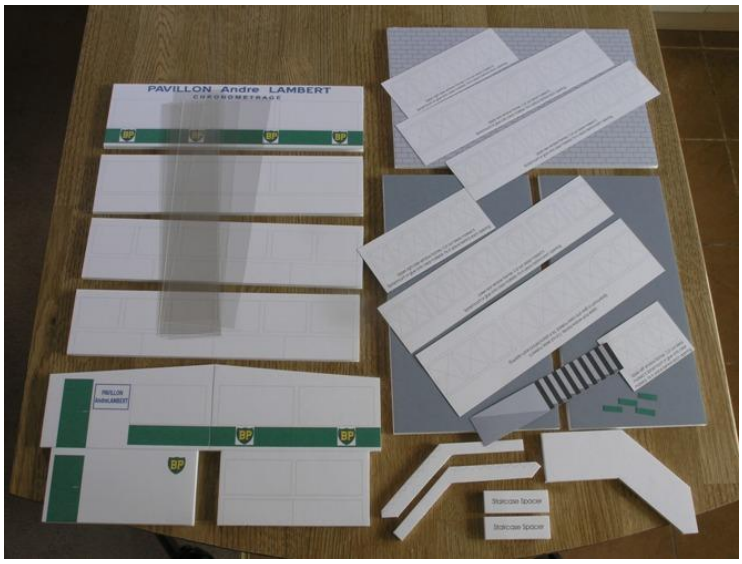
Below shows what is needed to complete the build. A scalpel or craft knife along with a new sharp blade. A straight egde. Pins. PVA glue.

The material cuts very easily as long as you take it slowly. Sharp new blades are best.

PVA glue is cheap and readily available and is suitable for card and foamboard. It is water soluble. It also dries clear.

As an option 3M craftmount for glazing. A permanent fine spray glue.

Lay out all the parts. Before cutting begins it's suggested that a "dry fit" of all the wall, floor and roof panels to get an idea of where everything should go. There are two sides, two upper panels and two rear panels. A lower floor (smaller) and an upper floor, this being the larger of the two. A "tiled" roof panel completes the main structure.



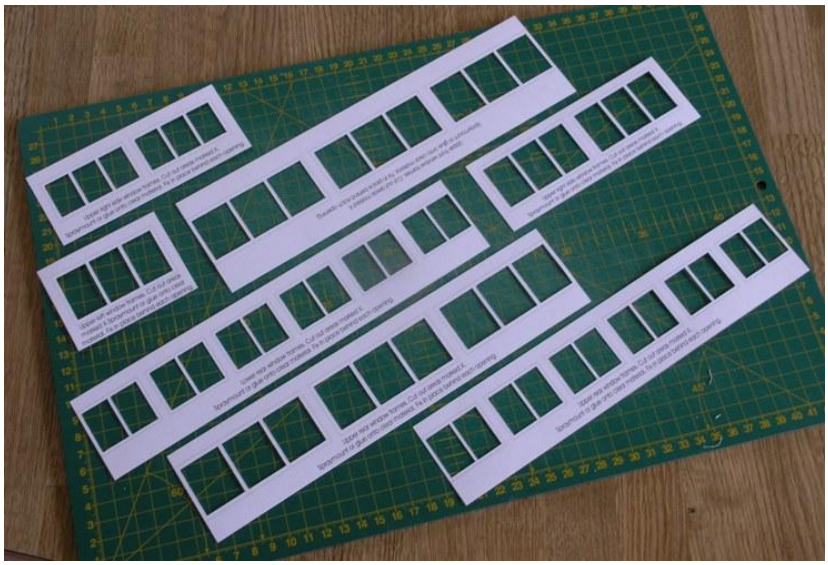
The first step is to cut out all the window openings. Using the straight edge and the knife gently cut out each opening. It is suggested that the blade be drawn one way only. Take time on this.

This is one end wall with all the window openings cut out.

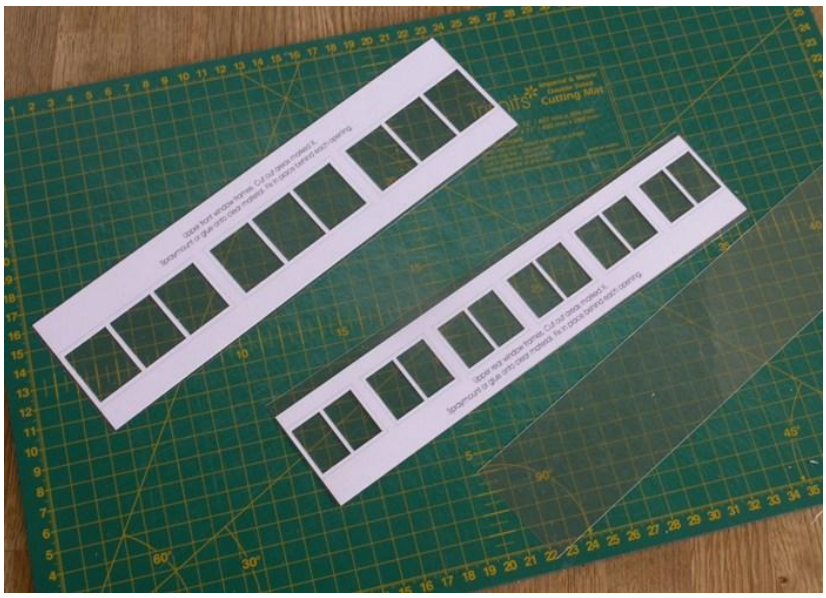
The photo below shows all the window openings removed.

The next step is to prepare the window “frames” and glazing. In some kits the frames are pre-cut.

Due to the size, the frames in the Reims Pressbox require cutting out manually. This is a very simple task but will benefit from a new blade.

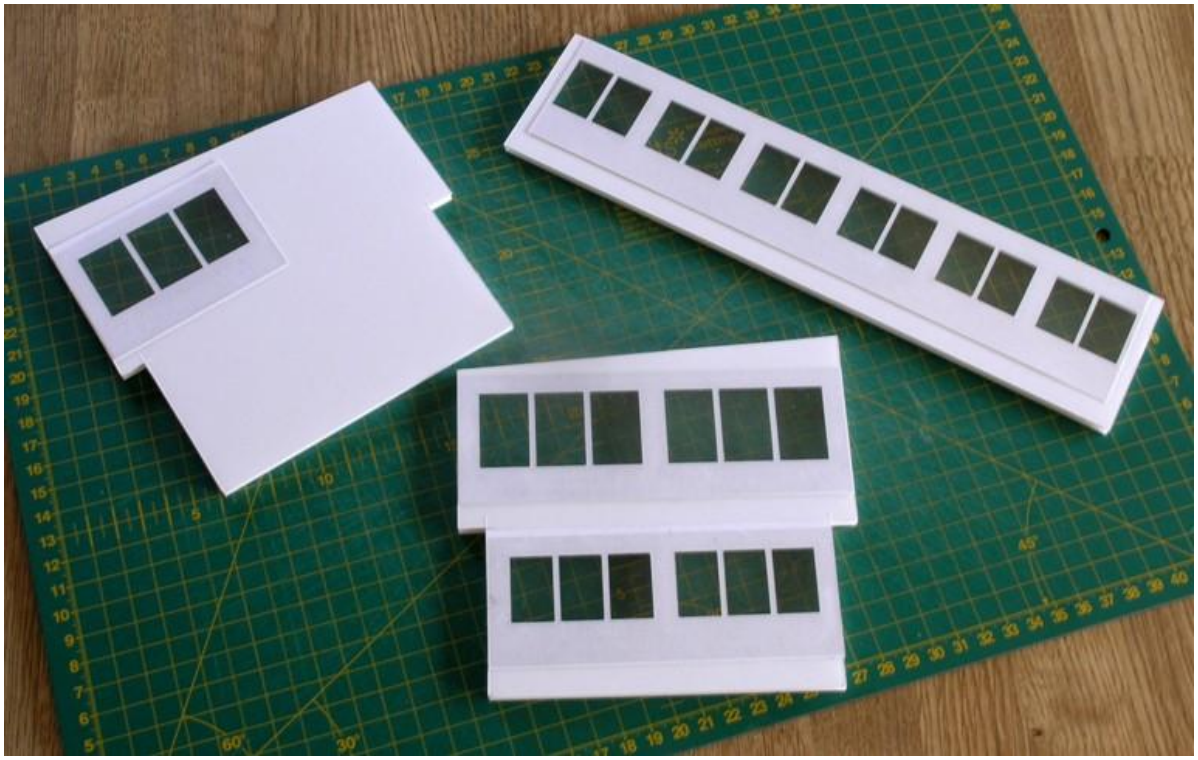


The glazing is supplied in strips which are oversize for each frame. Each frame requires glue or craftmount (see top of page) applying to the rear and then sticking down onto the clear material. Allow to dry for a few moments and then trim to the size of the frame.



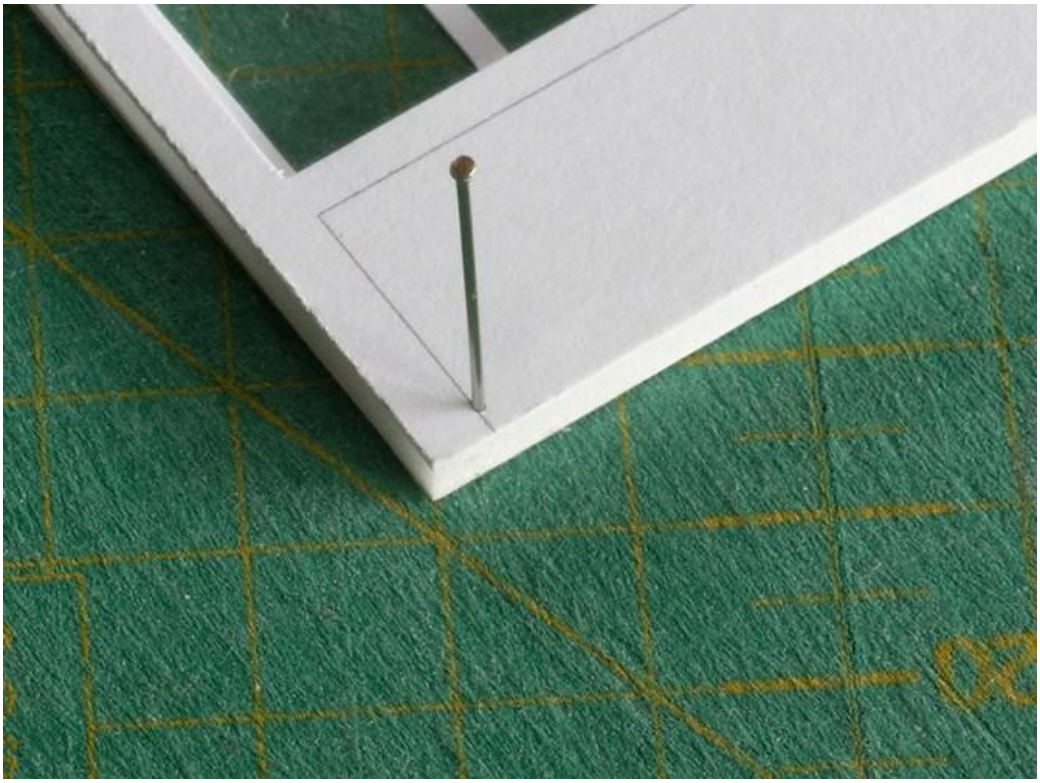
Line up window frames as shown below then glue each frames behind each appropriate window opening.

The image below shows complete window units glued in place on the rear of each wall section.



The next step is to start putting the wall panels together. To start this off you will need pins. Preferably model making pins with coloured heads, or simple dress making pins. I use dress pins which are shown in the photograph below.

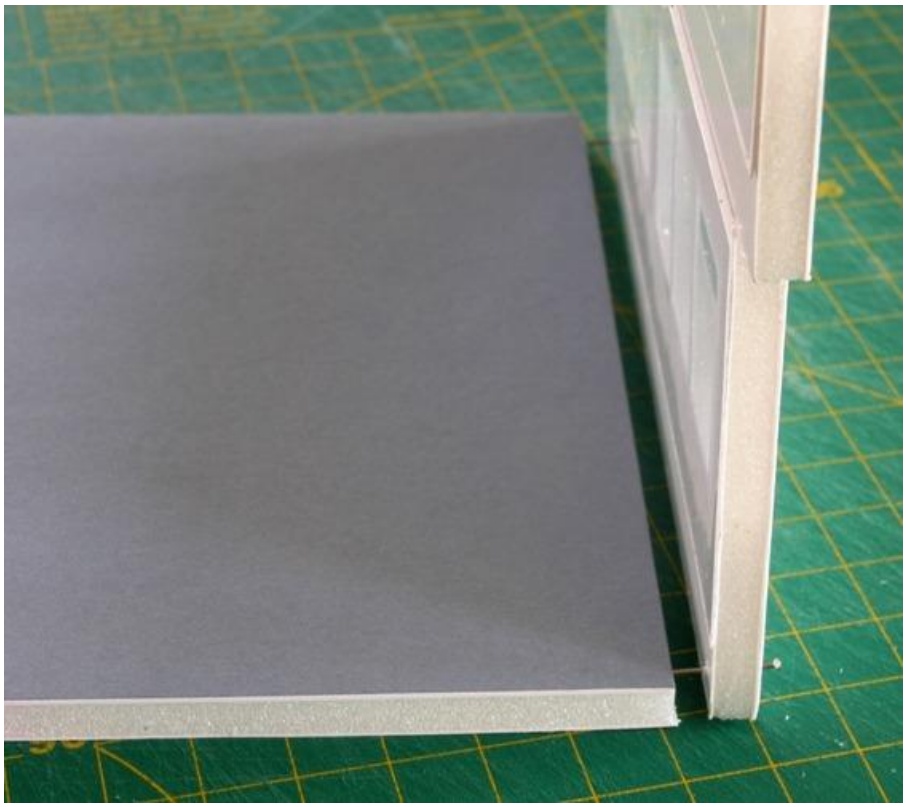
The pins should be placed at roughly 2.5 mm from the edges of each section as shown below.



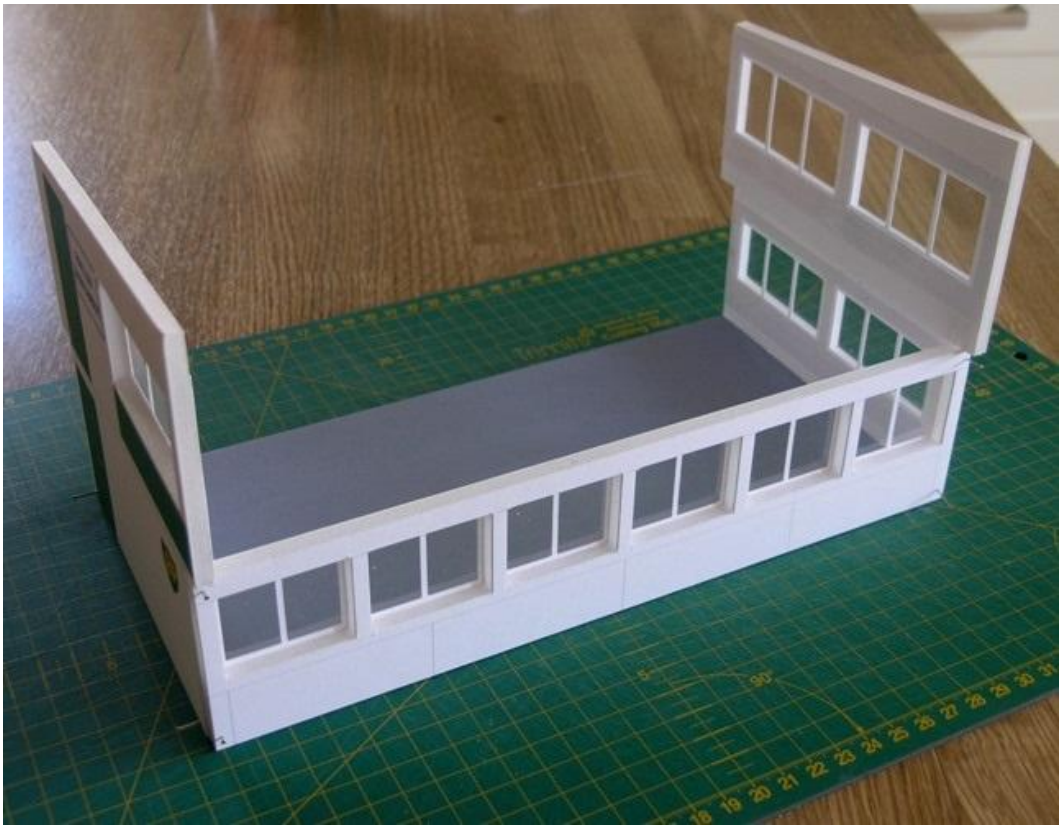
Push the pins into the section but not all the way through. Use a flat board keeping the pin as upright as possible.

Line up the two parts and pin them together but not pushing the pins all the way. Leave around 8mm of the pin showing. Pull the two parts slightly apart creating a slight gap.

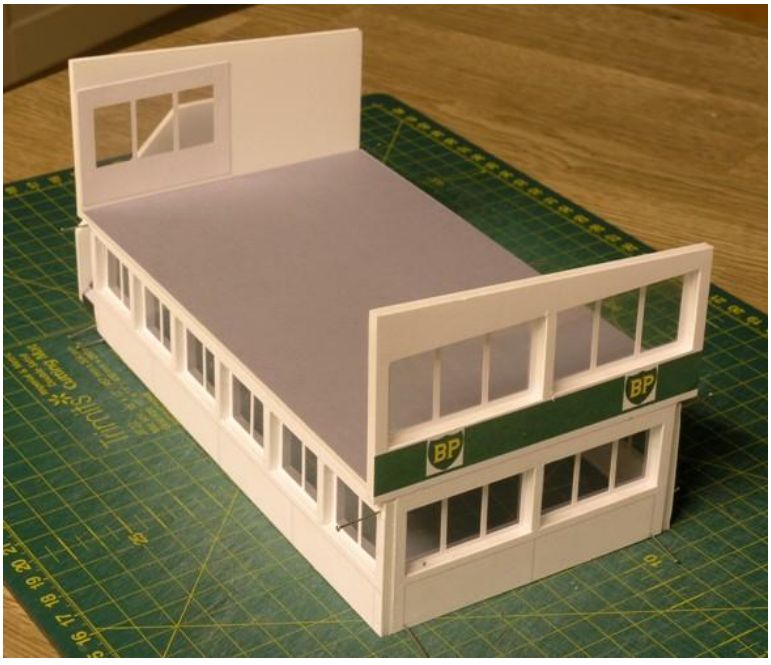
This is for applying the PVA glue. Once glued on in the inside, push the two parts together leaving the pins in place. This goes for every join on the building.

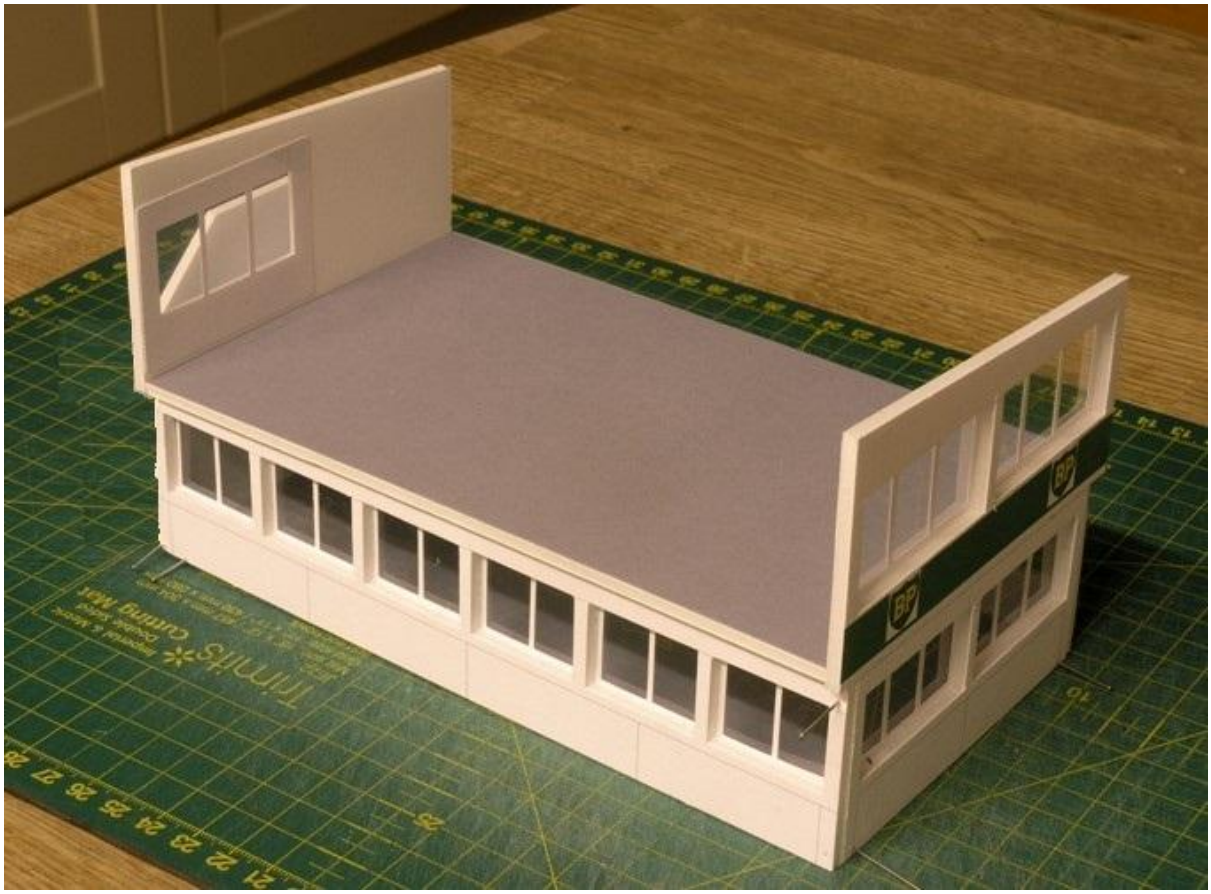


Repeat the procedure at the other end and connect the two with the lower front section.



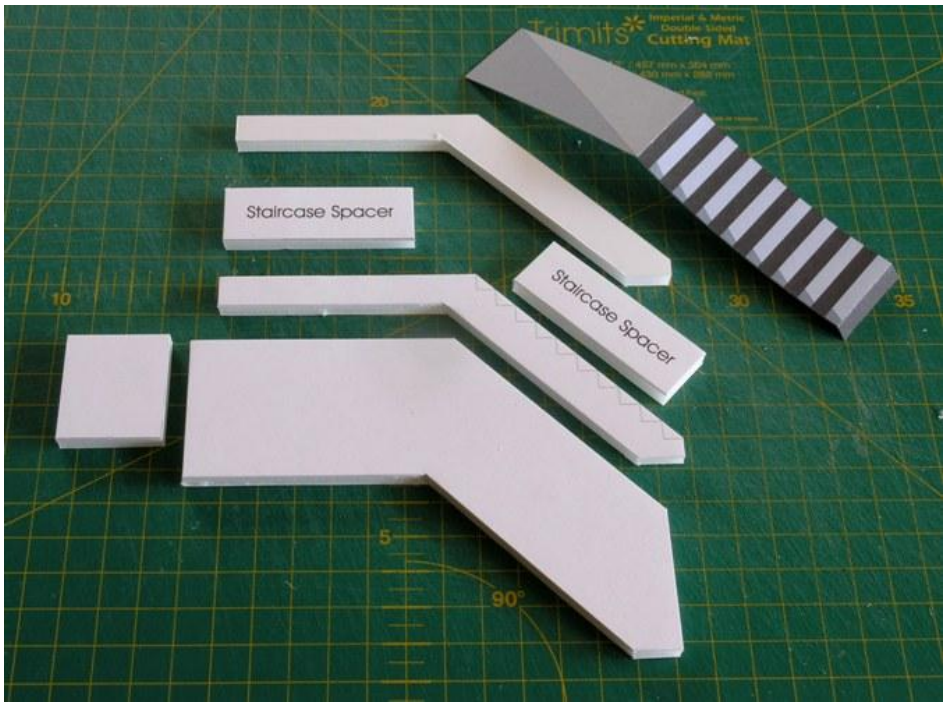
Add the rear lower section in the same way and at this point the upper floor is added which rests onto of the vertical sections as shown below. The glue is applied before the floor is placed. Pins are a great help here in keeping everything square. But not shown here.



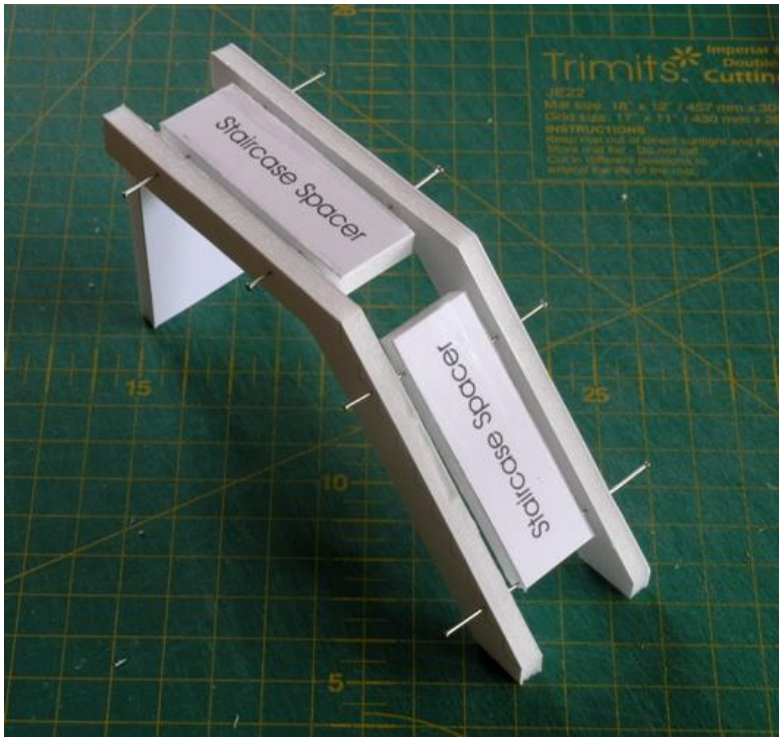


The upper front and rear sections are then pinned and glued in the usual manner, leaving only the roof.

The next step is to form the staircase unit. The photograph below shows the component parts laid out. 2 horizontal staircase spacers. 2 vertical staircase formers, 1 back wall, 1 sidewall and one printed “staircase pattern”.



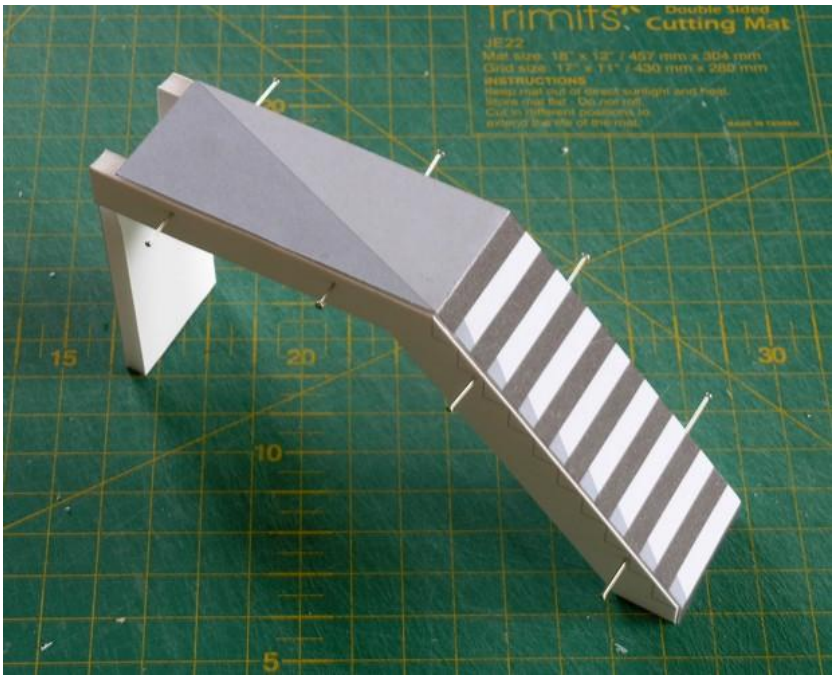
The 2 spacers and formers are pinned and glued togther in the same way as the wall sections on the main building. Due to all pieces being handcut, vertical side cuts are never absolutely spot on which results the staircase not going together square. To overcome this the pins are slowly removed one at a time, the unit squared up visually and then reinsert the pin to hold it in place. This maybe required several times.



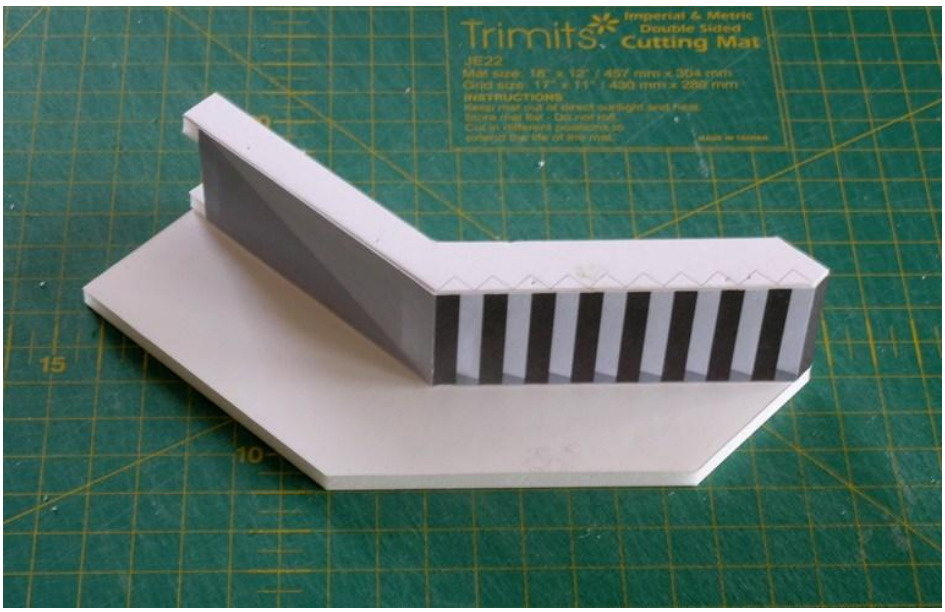
When the staircase former is complete, it should look like below.

The staircase pattern is pre-scored along both lines where it needs to fold/bend. These are shown below. Pre bend and dry fit to assure the angles are as close as possible before adhesive is applied.

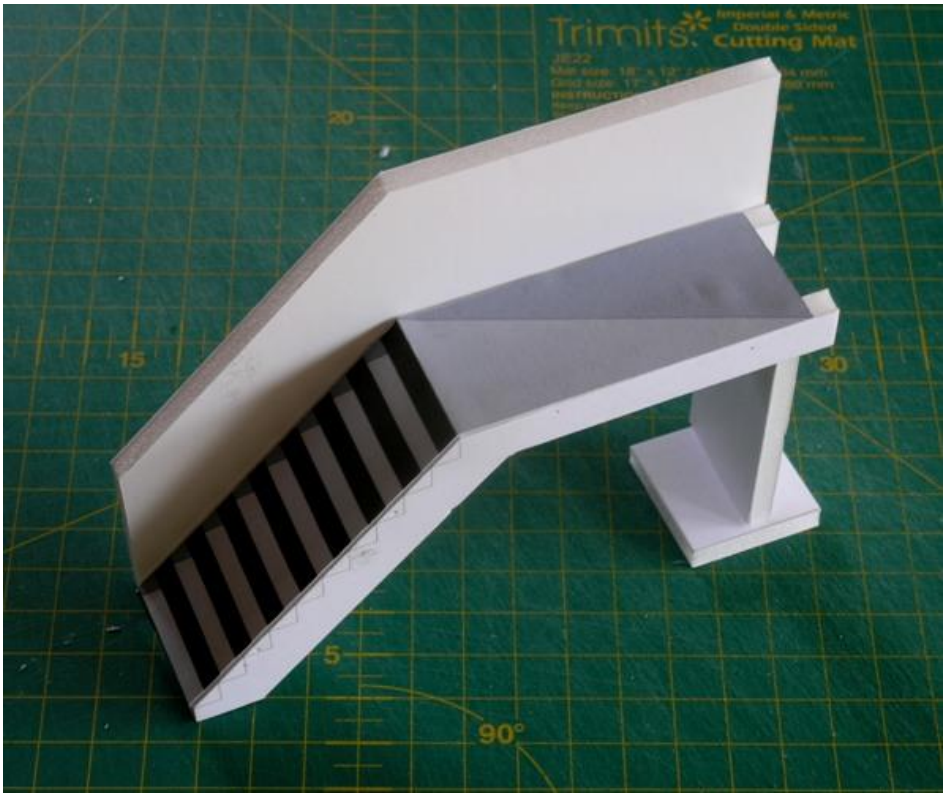
Craftmount gives a better reslut here as the spray is more even than hand applied PVA. Apply the adhesive to the rear of the pattern, place over the former and press evenly down. There is a little movement in the Craftmount adhesive allowing final positioning. Again allow to dry and remove the pins.



The sidewall of the unit can now be fixed in place. Spot glue PVA along the side of staircase former and hold aginst the sidewall. The bottom edges of both pieces should be flush.



The support shown on the right hand side is not part of the structure



The complete unit is then glued with PVA against the left hand wall making sure the the whole unit is both horizontal and also touching the ground at it's lowest point. And should look like below.

The final touches are to cover the cut material at the corners of the green stripe. In the kit there are four printed card strips. Three are required. One being a spare.

Cover the bare corners with green strips using PVA glue. It may be a suggestion that a thin layer of PVA is applied to the bare coners and allowed to dry before another application and fixing in place of the final pieces.

The final assembled structure.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