

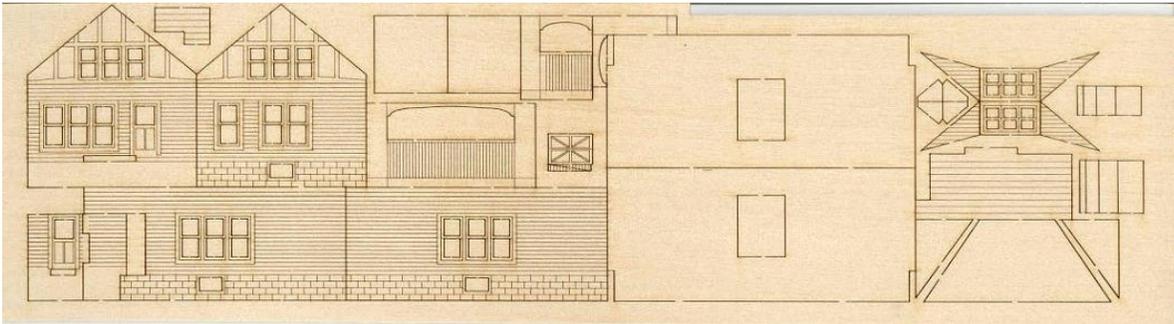
Catalog House #161 Assembly information.



Please read through these sheets prior to starting to see what goes where.

- **Required for finish:**
A very sharp, thin-bladed hobby knife
Wood glue
Fine sandpaper
Paint (A thin paint works best)
Fine tip paint brush & a steady hand
- A jewellers file helps to smooth the inside of the window openings

The cut parts.



The laser-cut parts. It is recommended that the tiny waste pieces in the windows & doors be removed before cutting the individual pieces free. Tiny areas of uncut wood hold everything together in the sheet. (Hold it up to a light to see where cuts need to be made.)

A very sharp blade and some patience will be successful. A new, unused X-Acto knife blade works well. Resist the temptation to snap, pull, prod or twist the parts free. This is wood and the wood fibers will not snap off cleanly. The following picture will show where most of these parts go.

Some modelers prefer to paint a base coat while the pieces are still attached to the sheet. Details can also be painted but that is also an individual decision

Painting.

I prefer to paint as much of the model as possible prior to assembly with touch-up later as required. Apply paint or stain suitable for birch plywood in very thin coats so as to not fill the lightly etched lines with pigment. I've used Folk Art Acrylic paint, thinned with water and applied lightly with a sponge to apply the main color. Avoid heavy application of paint as it will clog and hide the finely etched lines. Paint the trim, door and window details as desired with a fine-tipped brush.

These kits are cut in plywood which reduces the problems of warping or curling while the paint dries. Still you should still insure parts remain flat while drying. One way to do this is by pinning it to a board using push-pins along the edges and at window openings. A slight warp may be removed by gluing a brace made of excess wood from the parts sheet to the inside of the structure. Clamp or weigh down and allow glue to dry completely.

The sub-assemblies.



The sub-assemblies. Parts have received a base coat of paint. When these assemblies have been completed, now is the time to paint the joints or any details as once the main assemblies are joined, getting a brush to some areas will be difficult. (Note, in production kits, there is a square panel in the middle of each roof panel over which the dormer sits to allow future lighting if desired. Removing this piece is at your option.)

Building the sub-assemblies.

The main house body:

Consists of 4 wall panels. Except as noted below, the wall ends must be mitered at a 45 degree angle to form a clean joint. This joint will be covered by a small piece of trim so perfection is not required, only aspired to. Use some small pieces of scrap to brace the corners as required.

Do Not miter the lower portion of the rear wall at the side porch stairs. (See Photo above) This remains square, though the top is to be mitered where the upper part of the left side wall meets it. The lower end of the left sidewall (which resembles concrete block) should also remain square. The notched portion of that wall will be mitered to mate with the short wall that turns into the recessed porch.

Mitering can be done either with a power tool but it is preferable to do this carefully by hand with a medium to fine sandpaper. Take your time as this wood is very thin and is easy to remove too much material in a very short time, even by hand. Join all walls with wood glue, taking care to insure that the walls meet at 90 degree angles.

The porch assembly:

Consists of 3 wall panels, a floor panel and 4 short strips of various depths to form the stairs.

Miter the porch corner walls by carefully sanding to 45 degree angles. Test fit around the floor panel. Glue corners together and square up.

When dry, glue the porch floor to this assembly by using the slot in the front wall to determine the correct height.

Recessed Rear Entry assembly:

Consists of 2 small wall panels and a floor panel.

Match the tab to the notch in these two panels. No mitering is required. Glue.

Glue floor panel to recessed panels aligning tab in floor with slot under door.

Dormer assembly (make 2):

Ea. dormer consists of 1 triple window panel, 2 triangular side walls and a roof. Test fit prior to gluing to orient parts.

Glue the triangular ends to the back of the window panel, not to the ends or dormer will be too wide. Take care to insure the etched siding faces out. The longest side of the triangle rests on the main roof with siding lines horizontal.

When glue is dried, sand the both the top & bottom of the assembly so the roof panel rests evenly on the three sides and the dormer sits flush on the main roof. Go slowly & sand until satisfied. The goal is to avoid gaps. If you plan to use the printed shingle sheet material provided, don't glue dormers in place on the main roof yet.

The dormer roof consists of one small panel. Glue to the dormer wall assembly, with about 1/16" overhang in front. Miter upper end of panel as required to meet main roof smoothly.

The main roof assembly:

The lower corners of both panels have small notches. Find 4 small pieces to insert into these notches to form lower eave corner trim. (These are the small parts on the parts sheet alongside the dormer parts). The longer dimension aligns with the top of the panel. Test fit & glue in place. When dry, sand as required to square with roof panel. Using the small angle in the heel of the trim as a guide, sand the lower edge of the roof panel even with the trim. Then sand the bottom of the trim to be horizontal when finished.

The upper panel edges forming the ridge are to be mitered by sanding to meet each other squarely. Again, sand these parts carefully so as to not remove too much material. Use the assembled gable end walls as a guide. If desired, remove the center squares where the dormers will sit. (Helpful if you intend to add lights.)

The porch roof assembly:

Consists of one trapezoid panel and two triangular panels. The short length goes against the front gable wall directly under the triple window

The shortest leg goes against the front house panel. The long side of the smaller triangle pieces should be mitered slightly by sanding to form the hipped ridge. Do this slowly and stop to test fit often until a suitable angle is achieved. Only a small angle is necessary to apply to achieve the shallow slope required for this roof. Glue parts together. When dried, the assembly may be sanded along the bottom to reduce the apparent thickness of the fascia. Sand the joints for a smooth transition for the roofing

Stairs (make 2 sets.)

Consists of 4 short strips of various depths to form the stairs. Front stairs are wider than the rear. Lightly sand parts as needed for finish. Simply stack and glue the 4 strips beginning with the largest on the bottom and progressively smaller as you go up. Square up the ends and rear to form an even staircase.

The painted sub-assemblies.



The sub-assemblies. Parts have received a final coat of paint, etched trim around the doors and windows have been painted, corner trim has been painted and applied. Paint & apply a stripwood trim board above the foundation walls. (Not needed in front due to porch.)

Roofing

Can be installed to the sub-assemblies now or after they are joined together, though it is far easier to glue the dormers to the printed roofing on the main roofs than to try to cut piece the sheet around the dormer.

Included is pre-printed roofing shingle material. Also included is a roofing template that reflects the actual size of the cut wood parts. When cutting material, always align shingle pattern with the horizontal bottom of the roof panel. Cut slightly oversize & test-fit.

Apply the peel & stick roofing to roof planes. Apply main roof shingle sheet material before installing dormers. Carefully align the edges at the ridge and you won't have a gap to cover. If you wish to, you can use the scrap from the shingle sheets to cut some thin strips and form a ridge cap. (In the real world, overlapping shingles are laid vertically across the ridge.) Align the dormers with with the triple window on the main floor side walls and glue to the roof.

The adhesive on this material is slightly forgiving if no pressure is applied while test-fitting. The roofing material should be test fit and trimmed as necessary. Key is aligning the ridges for a clean, crisp joint since we offered no ridge cap with this kit. (Always clunky in N Scale.)

Smooth any seams & touch up any white edge that may be visible with an appropriate colored pencil.

Final assembly.

Prior to joining the above sub-assemblies together, test fit the parts without glue. There will be a couple of points where corner trim needs to be cut back to allow porch parts, stairs and the porch hip roof to meet the main structure. Use a sharp knife to make a small notch where required. Glue the sub-assemblies together and allow to dry.

When installing the rear vestibule, the porch deck rests on top of the side wall. Sand the stairs as required to fit within the opening.

If not done previously, apply the peel & stick roofing to roof planes as described previously. Align the dormers with the triple window on the main floor side walls and glue to the roof.

A plastic chimney casting is included. Test fit and lightly sand at the angle as required to sit vertically on the roof. When gluing, avoid smearing glue on the printed shingles. A steady hand and some patience while the glue sets is helpful

Lastly, there are two tiny wood triangles and an etched rectangle that form a cellar door. (These are next to the arched porch wall on the parts sheet.) It was a last minute addition and was not built with the model in the photos. Glue the parts together and pick a spot along any wall if you wish to use it.

Need help?

Email muddycreek@northernstudio.com with any questions. Should a part break and gluing it back together only makes it worse, we'll try to help by getting a new part to you. Your suggestions are most welcome.