

Instructions for Kit #J-550

The ADIRONDACK
Dollhouse Kit
2/98

Kit #J-550 Parts List

The Shell:

- (1) Base Floor: $10\frac{7}{8}" \times 22\frac{11}{16}"$
- (1) Mid Floor: $10\frac{7}{8}" \times 22\frac{11}{16}"$, Stair Hole
- (2) Sides: $10\frac{7}{8}" \times 18\frac{1}{2}"$, Peaked, Grooved
- (1) Front: $10\frac{9}{16}" \times 23$, Window and Door Holes
- (1) Dormer Front: $5\frac{7}{8}" \times 17\frac{7}{8}"$, Window Holes
- (1) Divider: $9 \times 10\frac{7}{8}"$, Door Hole
- (1) Attic Partition: 9" tall $\times 6\frac{7}{16}"$ base
- (2) Dormer Side: $5\frac{1}{2}"$ edge Triangle
- (2) Upper Roof: $1\frac{1}{2}" \times 23\frac{7}{8}"$, Beveled
- (2) Front Eaves: $9\frac{1}{8}" \times 3"$
- (2) Rear Eaves: $1\frac{1}{2}" \times 9\frac{3}{8}"$
- (1) Dormer Roof: $5\frac{7}{8}" \times 19\frac{5}{8}"$, Beveled
- (1) Porch Base: $4\frac{3}{8}" \times 21\frac{1}{2}"$
- (1) Porch Roof: $5\frac{3}{8}" \times 22\frac{1}{4}"$
- (1) Door Base: $3\frac{1}{16}" \times 7\frac{1}{16}" - 3"$

Finishing Materials:

- (80 Feet) $\frac{3}{4}"$ Log Material
- (6) $\frac{9}{16}"$ Logs
- (4) Shutter stock: $\frac{9}{16}" \times 1\frac{1}{8}"$
- (4) Porch Post: $\frac{9}{16}" \times \frac{9}{16}" - 8"$
- (1) Chimney
- (550) Shingles
- (1) #D13-K $\frac{7}{16}"$ Jamb Door Kit
- (4) #W13-K $\frac{7}{16}"$ Jamb Window Kit
- (2) Stair Sides

You will need

- A flat work surface
- A Light Hammer
- Pencil and Ruler
- Thick White Glue (Elmers® will work, but Arlene's® or Quick Tack® are much more trouble-free)
- Plenty of high quality $\frac{1}{2}"$ or $\frac{3}{4}"$ Masking Tape
- An X-acto® Razor Saw or other fine bladed saw
(I use a 32 tooth per inch hacksaw blade)
- A coarse File...to final fit the logs
- A Utility Knife...for general trimming and for carving logs in window openings and at the top of the walls
- Dye-1 Brown or Dye-3 Grey Shingle Dye...
Real Good Toys' specially formulated non-toxic water-based dye for wood, available through your miniature dealer - dye (or stain) logs and shingles before beginning construction

Test assemble (without glue) the entire shell before the real assembly begins. This will allow you to test all the parts and zoom ahead with the assembly when glue is being used; the parts will fit better if you progress faster than the glue can dry.

The smooth surface of the shell parts should be the inside; logs and shingles will cover defects on the outside.



Pre-assemble and paint the windows and door following the instructions in those packs; then they will be ready and painted at installation time.

Logs

Logs are supplied in bulk form. Because you are the one to cut and fit the logs, material with misshapen ends has been left in the bundles and extra count has been added to make up for the lost material.

Texture and surface variation in the logs are a desirable feature in the rustic character of a log cabin. Material that has checks or roughness will enhance the pioneer look.

Attach Logs one course at a time all the way around the house. Check after several courses to be sure they are straight and level, and make tiny adjustments if necessary to keep them that way.

Use just a few dots of glue instead of a whole line of glue to attach the logs. A whole line of glue may add enough moisture to one side of the log to make it warp.

Carving: Always try to take off little flakes of wood. Big chunks mean loss of control over the amount of wood you are removing, loss of control over splits and breakage, and loss of control over your knife (DANGER) at the end of a stroke. If the flake is turning into a big chunk, stop that stroke and try again... this time carving in the other direction.

Preview

In this section, you will assemble the shell **without the roofs**. The roofs go on after most of the logs are attached.

Assemble the house body

☐ 1. Spread glue in the grooves of one side panel. Tape the Base Floor (good side up) into the base floor groove of the side panel. Repeat for the other side panel.

☐ 2. Install and tape the Mid Floor with the best side up into the mid floor grooves of the side panels (note the position of the stair hole in the illustrations).

☐ 3. Without glue, place the divider between the floors in the center of the house to guarantee the correct spacing between floors. Spread glue on the front surfaces (the stair hole is toward the front) of the sides and floors only.

Lay the front in place carefully lined up with one side panel at the bottom and all along the edge. Thoroughly tape the front to side panel.

Tape the front to the base floor keeping the base floor even all along the bottom of the front panel.

Tape the front to the other side panel, once again carefully lined up with the bottom edge.

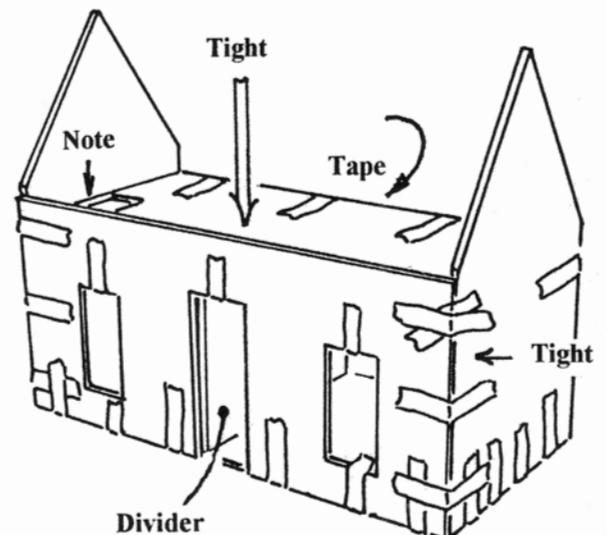
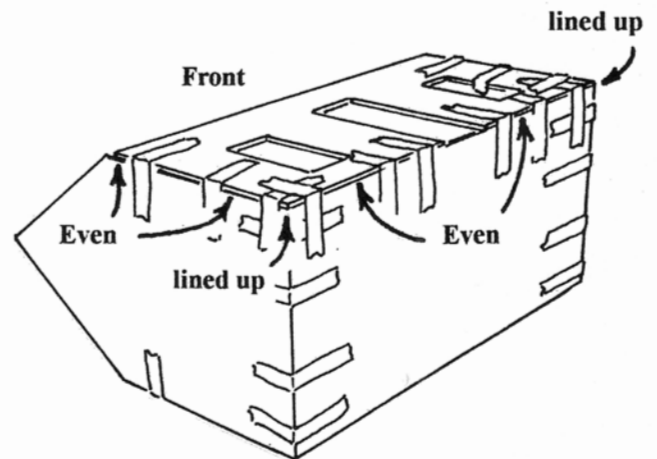
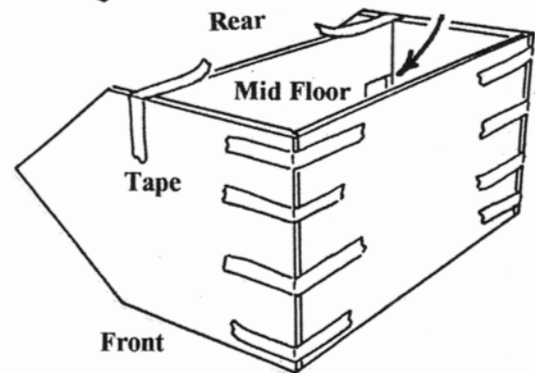
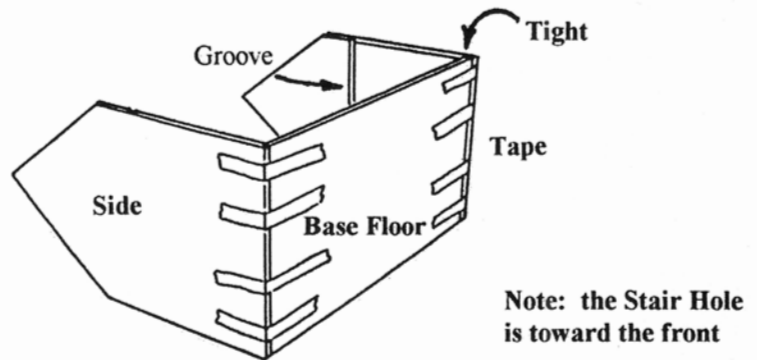
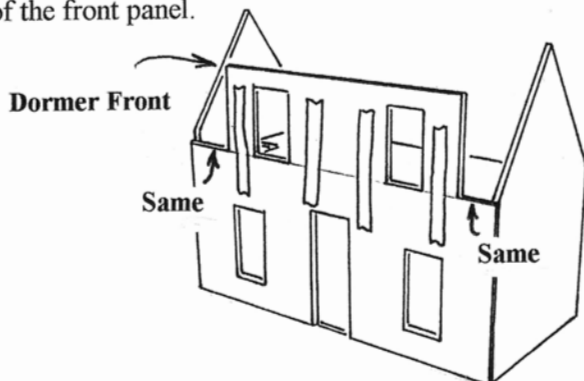
Tape through the windows and door to the back edge of the mid floor to squeeze the front to the floor. Make the floors tight to the divider as the glue dries.

☐ 4. Glue and tape the Dormer Front to the top edge of the front panel, centered side-to-side, and smooth with the front panel inside and out. Check the centering by holding the Front Eaves in place and making sure that they overhang evenly on both sides.

Pre-assemble the front and rear roof sets (see section 9)

Review

The fronts, floors, and sides are glued and taped together with all the joints tight, with the floors spaced by the divider, and with the sides and floors straight along the edges of the front panel.



Attach the logs

☐ 5. Hold a log against the house front starting at the door opening and lined up with the bottom of the front wall... mark the length to the corner (if a log comes a little short of the door opening, the door frame will cover it). Use the fine-toothed saw and cut the log clean and square.

Glue the logs to the bottom of the front wall straight and flush at the bottom, and flush at the outer edges.

☐ 6. Cut one $\frac{3}{8}$ " long piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ " log material (this is called a "Nub"... nubs fill out the thickness of a log that sticks out past the wall on an extended overlap).

The length for the bottom side log includes the thickness of the front log and the length of the $\frac{3}{8}$ " nub.

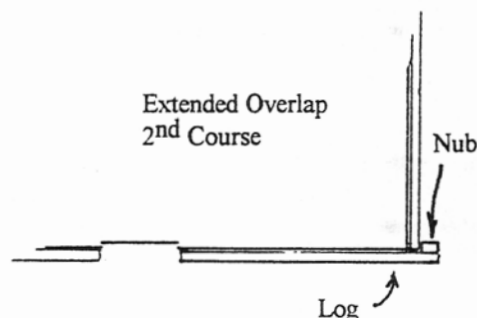
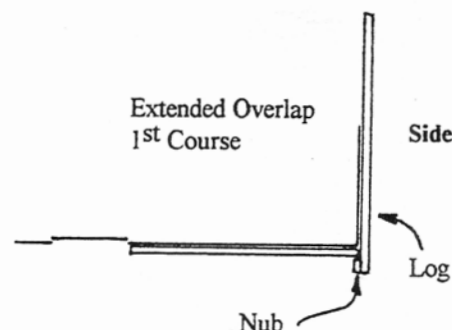
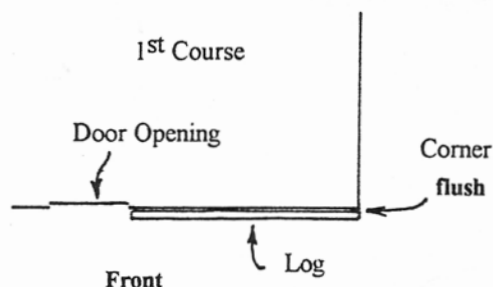
Measure, cut, and glue on the bottom side logs flush at the back edge and extending past the front for an extended overlap.

Let the glue dry on the bottom logs. Check from time to time to be sure they have stayed where they belong ⇒ straight and flush with the bottom of the house, and tight to the walls. If there is too much moisture in the glue joint, you may have to use tape, or dabs of Quick Grab Cement® or hot melt glue to make sure the logs are flat as the white glue dries.

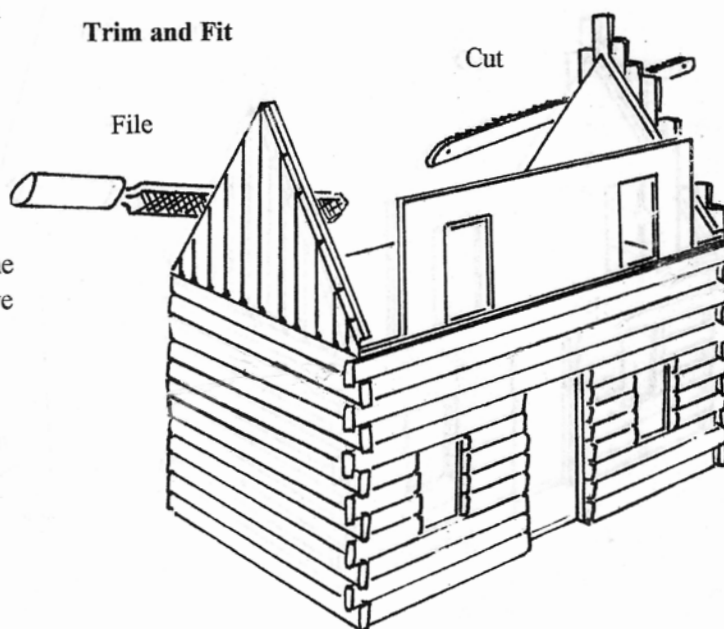
☐ 7. Measure, cut, and glue on the next course of logs, this time attaching the side logs first and extending the overlap to the sides.

Continue up the wall in the same fashion, one course at a time, alternating the overlap first to the front then to the side, etc. Lay a long log across the top of the front courses as they are being attached to make sure they are straight with each other. Let the logs cover the bottom and top edges of the window and door holes until the glue is dry; then saw and carve away the un-wanted material. Stop after 13 full courses of $\frac{3}{4}$ " logs (when the space at the top of the front is too small for another whole $\frac{3}{4}$ " log).

☐ 8. Measure, cut, and glue log pieces to the peak of the side panel you can trace and cut the logs or (this is what we do) glue on logs cut slightly oversized. When the glue is dry, use the edge of the walls as a guide to final cut the logs. Never cut away too much or gouge the plywood... clean up the edge of the logs with a coarse file, testing and filing until the fit is perfect.



Trim and Fit



Pro Tip: Shingle guidelines are easiest to draw after the Upper Roofs and Eaves are assembled, but before they are attached to the house. Pre-view the Shingling Instructions now.

Attach the Roofs

- ☐ 9. Test the way the bevels work to make the Upper Roofs fit on the house (the bevel goes at the top and the shorter face is the inside), then glue and tape together the Front Roof set using an Upper Roof and (2) Front Eaves. Repeat for the Rear Roof set using an Upper Roof and (2) Rear Eaves. When the roof sets are dry, Glue and tape the front and rear roof sets together with the rear roof overlapping the front roof.

Test the Front Roof on the house; Make sure it is not lifted away from the angled edge of the Sides by the thickness of the top log (file down the corner of the top log if necessary for a good fit).

Glue and tape the roof assembly to the side panels and to the front panel, centered side to side.

- ☐ 10. Without glue, set the Attic Partition in place against the Dormer Front, and close to one Front Eave.

Test then glue and tape a Dormer Side to the edge of the Dormer Front and to the top of the Front Eave. Adjust the fit of the dormer side until the top edge is lined up with the top edge of the dormer front.

Repeat for the other dormer side, once again using the attic partition to help locate the pieces.

Wait to attach the Dormer Roof.

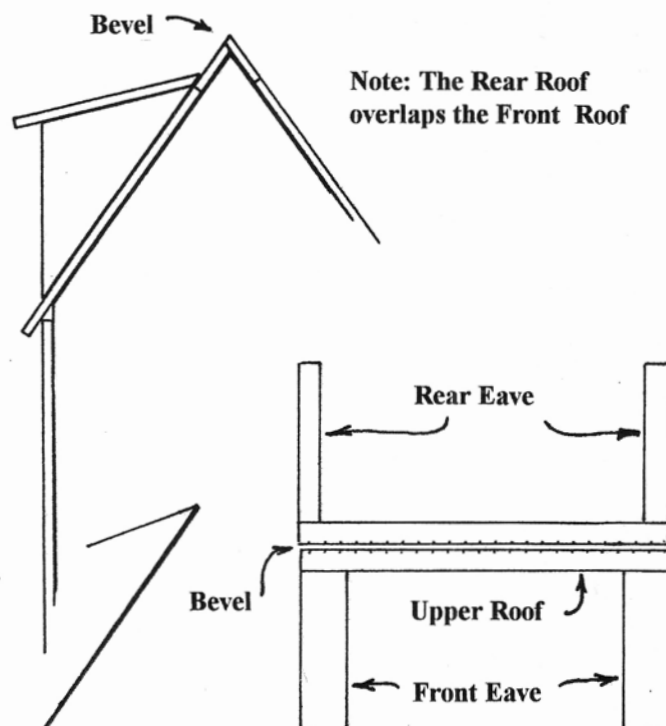
Logs

- ☐ 11. Cut the next log for the front to fit between the eaves. Piece in $\frac{9}{16}$ " logs on the ends under the front eaves.

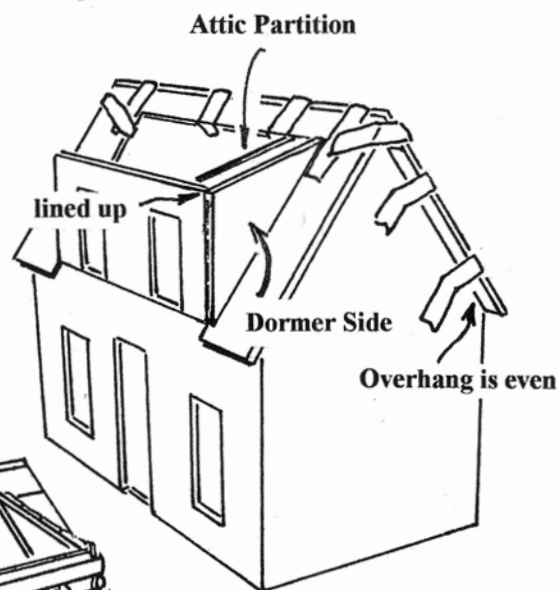
Continue application of $\frac{3}{4}$ logs on the Dormer Front and Dormer Sides with the next course's extended overlap to the front, then alternating after that. Use the angle guide to make a template for cutting the dormer side logs to fit against the roof.

- ☐ 12. When the glue is dry, test and final fit the logs at the top of the front and dormer sides.

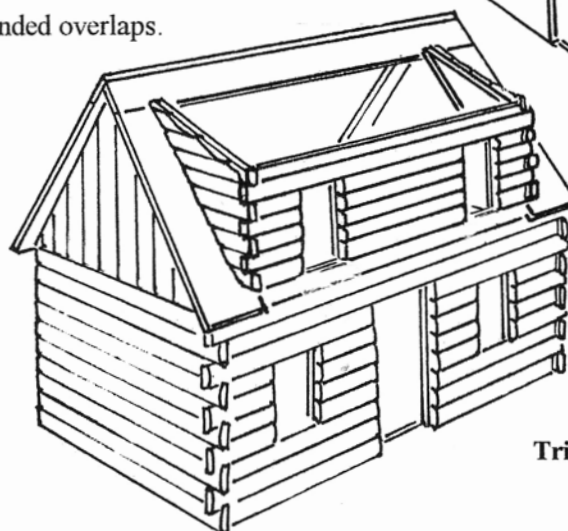
- ☐ 13. Cut and attach nubs for all the extended overlaps. Dye the exposed ends of all the logs.



Angle for the Dormer Logs



Dormer Side



Trim and Fit

Finish

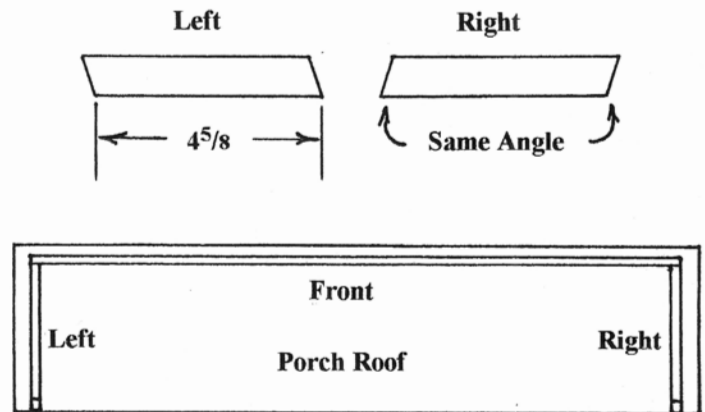
☐ 14. Glue and tape the Dormer Roof in place, centered over the dormer front.

☐ 15. Cut one left and one right Porch Facia from $\frac{3}{4}$ " log material $4\frac{5}{8}$ " long along the edge, and mitered on both ends using a template made to match the angle guide.

Cut one Front Facia piece $21\frac{1}{2}$ ", square ended.

Glue and tape together the Porch Roof and Facia, flush along the back edge of the porch roof, and spaced evenly along the sides and front. Let the glue dry.

Porch Facia



Angle for the Porch Facia

45° Angle for the Knee Brace

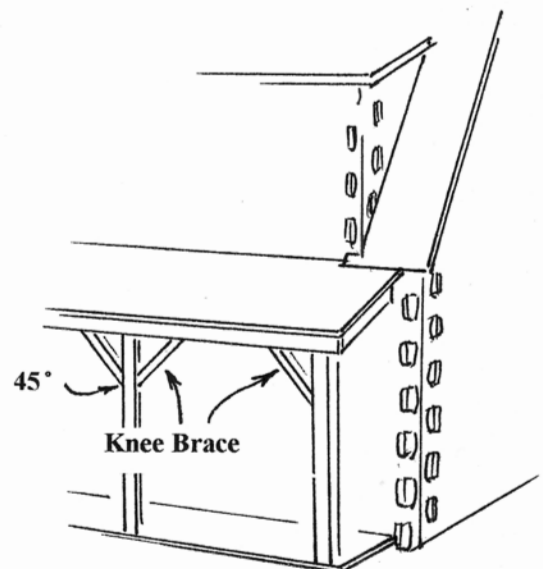
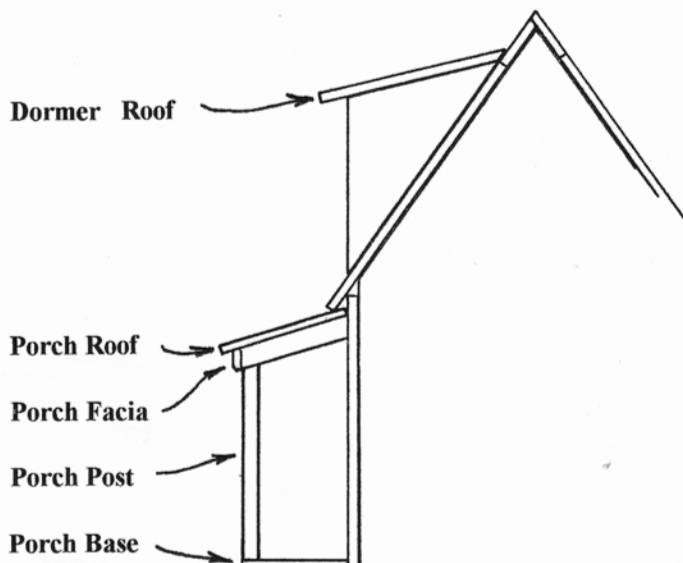
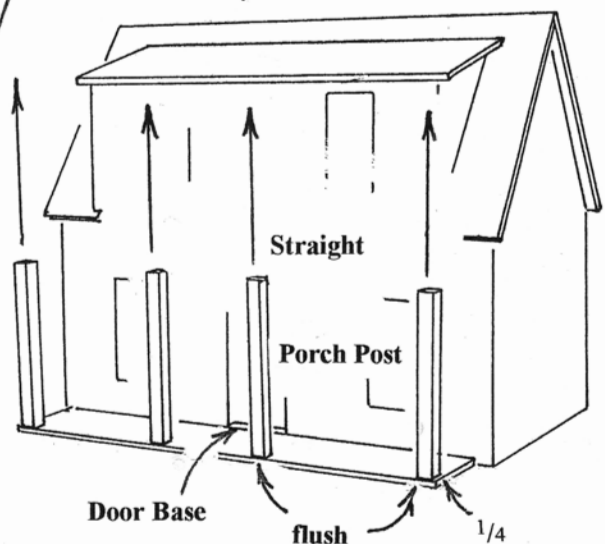
☐ 16. On a flat surface; glue, weight, and tape the Porch Base to the front of the house, centered side-to-side.

Glue the Door Base into the gap in the base of the doorway.

Glue (4) Porch Posts to the front edge of the porch base, spaced $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the side edges (posts' outside-to-outside fits into the porch facia frame), and touching the front edge. Make sure they are spaced evenly and straight up-and-down. Let the glue dry.

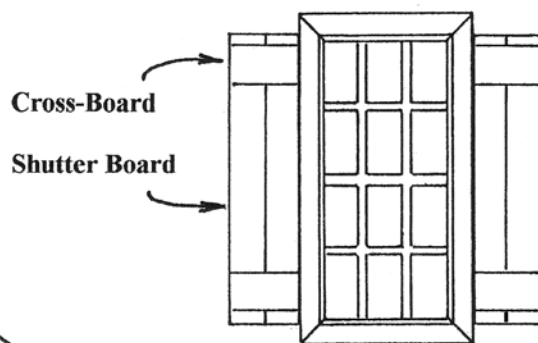
☐ 17. Glue and tape the porch roof assembly to the house and to the porch posts.

After cutting the Eave Trim from the $\frac{9}{16}$ " logs (see section #20), cut and install 3" knee braces mitered 45° on the lower end from the remainders.



Trim

- ☐ 18. Cut (16) shutter boards $4\frac{5}{8}$ " and (16) cross-boards $1\frac{1}{8}$ " from the shutter stock. Assemble the shutters as shown. Paint or stain the shutters before attaching them to the house.



W13-K Window

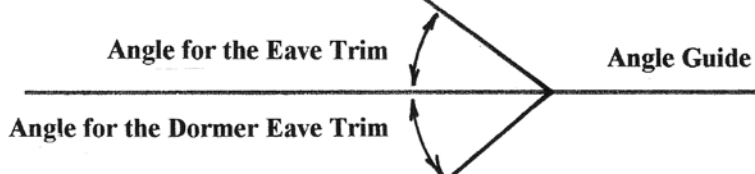
- ☐ 19. Test then install the pre-assembled door and windows. You may have to trim the corners of the window and door openings for a good fit.

Install the Shutters

Install the Chimney (ill. pg. 1).

- ☐ 20. Measure and cut the Peak Eave Trim from the $\frac{9}{16}$ " log material. Use the angle guide (or the angle at the back edge of the side panel) to lay out the mitered cut at the peak.

Measure and cut the L&R Dormer Eave Trim using the angle guide for the end that touches the roof.



- ☐ 21. Shingle the roof following the enclosed instructions.

- ☐ 22. Assemble the stairs, and install the divider and attic partition as part of your interior finishing. Plan ahead to avoid having these parts in the way of wallpapering, flooring, etc.

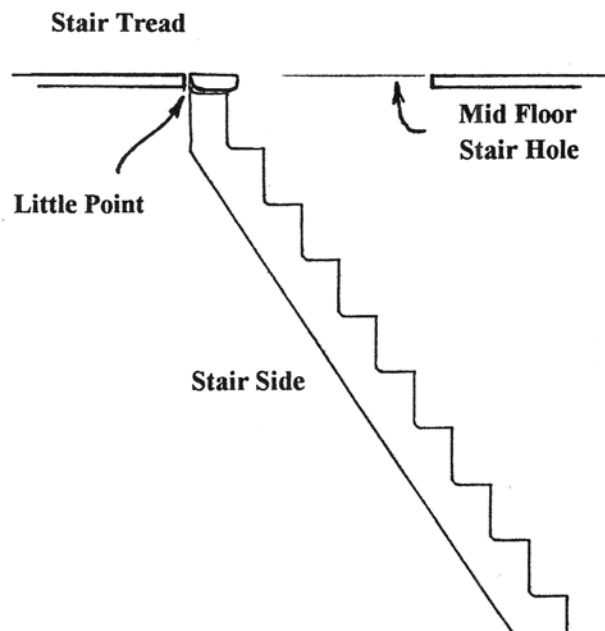
To assemble the stairs: Cut (10) $2\frac{1}{4}$ " stair treads from the $\frac{3}{4}$ " log material. Glue one tread flat-side-up into the front edge of the stair hole, flush with the floor surface.

Test the fit of one stair side against the wall and touching the bottom of the top stair tread. Notice the little point at the top of the stair side; it fits into the rounded front edge of the under-side of the top tread, and locates the stair side front-to-back.

Glue the stair side to the wall and to the top tread.

Glue and tape the other stair side to the top tread and to the base floor spaced evenly: about $1\frac{7}{8}$ " from the wall.

Glue the other stair treads in place.



**The dollhouse part of your project is done.
Enjoy the rest!**

Stain the Shingles: Our pro uses Real Good Toys' Shingle Dye (available through your Real Good Toys miniature dealer) when dyeing the shingles for this house.

Batch dye or stain the shingles several days ahead of time so they will be dry when the time comes to use them (instructions are with the shingle dye).

Shingle the Roof: Glue: Use a thick *solvent-based* (not "water clean-up"!) panel adhesive such as Liquid Nails[®]Macco available in caulking gun tubes at building supply stores. Trim just a little of the end of the tube for a tiny hole, giving a thin bead of glue. Always use good ventilation with solvent based adhesives.

Draw Shingle Guidelines on the Roofs:

Draw the lowest guideline one shingle length ($1\frac{1}{4}$ " above the bottom edge of the roof or eave. Draw the rest of the guidelines 1" apart.

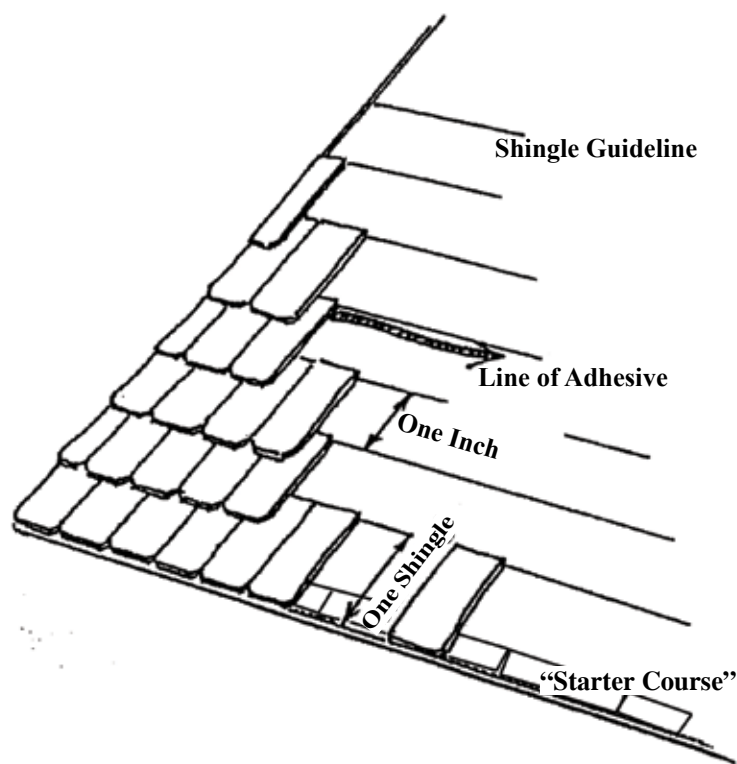
A. Glue a "starter row" of $\frac{3}{8}$ " long Shingles along the bottom edge of the Roof, to prepare the bottom edge of the Roof for the first row of shingles

B. Apply a thin line of adhesive just below the lowest guideline all the way across one roof. Press the top edge of a Shingle into the line of glue, squeezing out the excess. Hold the first Shingle and press another Shingle into the adhesive, tight to the first. Hold the next Shingle and press in another... etc. all the way across the roof, cutting the last Shingle to fit

Continue up the roof one row at a time. Start the next row with a half Shingle so that the seam between Shingles is staggered back and forth as you go up the roof. Line up the top edge of each row (except the starters) with the guidelines.

Cut the top row of Shingles so that each row will have the same reveal. Finish the top edge with a "Boston Lap": pairs of Shingles laid horizontally. Start at the ends of the peak, and, with each pair overlapping the previous pair, work to the middle.

Shingling and shingle dye or stain demos are available at: dhbuilder.com

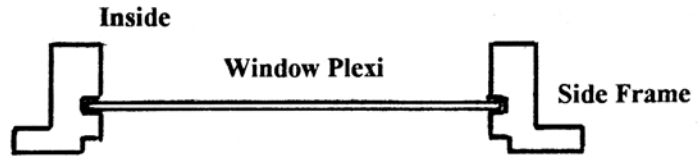


Instructions for Pack #W13-K

Windows for the
J Series Log Houses

Parts List for one set of W13-K:

- (2) Top/Bottom Frame: 2⁷/₈" Mitered
- (2) Side Frame: 5³/₈" Mitered
- (1) Window Plexi: 4⁵/₈" x 2¹/₈"



Face Down

☐ 1. Test assemble (*no glue*) one window set before you do anything else; identify the parts, see how they fit, and see where the glue goes. Now is the time to clean and paint the window parts (before you glue anything together), but you must not sand or paint the gluing surface.

Practice holding the frame pieces face-down on the work surface and putting on the rubber-band. When you can do it every time without pieces flying, then you are ready for glue.

☐ 2. Glue and rubber band together the window frame with the Window Plexi in place. Make sure the assembly is square as the glue dries.

☐ 3. Touch-up the sanding and paint, but *stay away from the window plexi!*

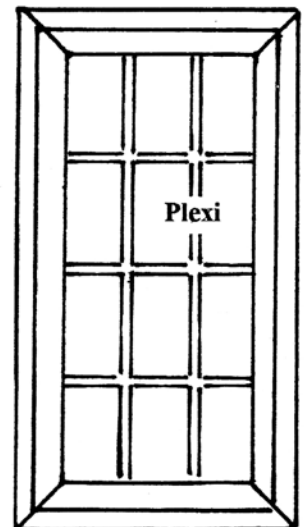
☐ 4. Check the fit of the windows in the openings. Make sure the windows can sit level with the house. Trim the corners of the openings square if necessary for a good fit.

☐ 5. Glue the windows in place only after the house exterior is complete and painted.

Go back to the Master Instructions

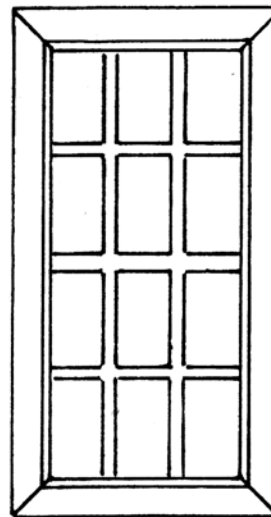
Face Down
Inside Showing

Side Frame



Bottom Frame

Outside Showing

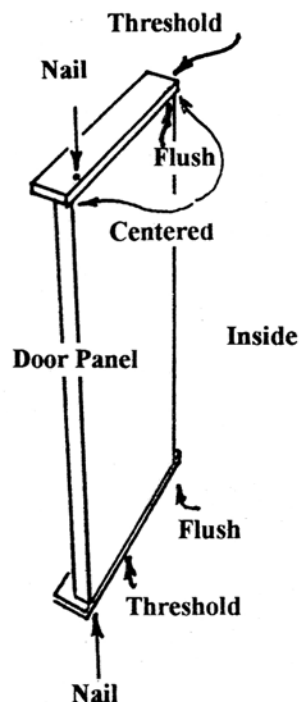
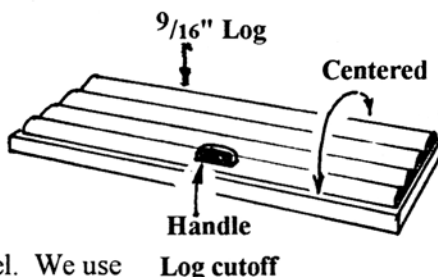


Instructions for Pack #D13-K

Door for the
J Series Log Houses

Pack D13-K Parts List

- (1) Top Frame: $3\frac{3}{8}$ ", Mitered
- (1) Left Side Frame: $7\frac{11}{16}$ ", Mitered
- (1) Right Side Frame: $7\frac{11}{16}$ ", Mitered
- (2) Threshold: $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", Drilled
- (1) Door panel: ($\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood) $27\frac{1}{16}$ "x $6\frac{15}{16}$ "
- (2) Nail: $\frac{1}{2}$ " #18



- ☐ 1. Apply the finishing treatment to the Door Panel. We use 4 pieces of $\frac{9}{16}$ " wide log material applied vertically. Cut the length to make the border on the top and bottom the same as on each side.

Other treatments such as 'panel door' or 'cross-buck' can be used instead.

A rustic Door Handle can be made with a $\frac{3}{16}$ " long cut-off of a $\frac{3}{4}$ " log, glued to the door.

- ☐ 2. Test assemble (*no glue*) the Door set before you do anything more; identify the parts, see how they fit, and see where the glue goes. Now is the time to clean and paint or stain the door parts (before you glue the frame together), but you must not sand or paint the gluing surfaces.

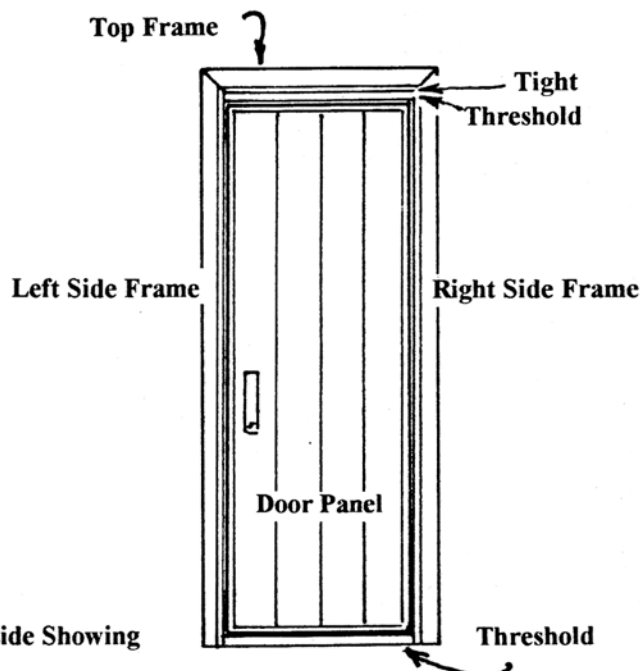
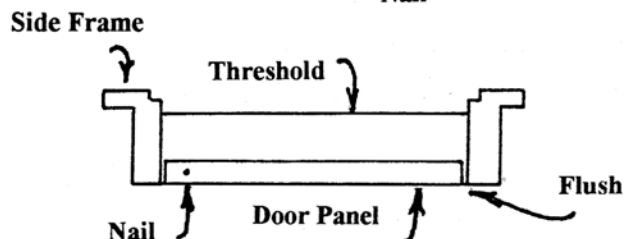
Practice holding the frame pieces & thresholds face-down on the work surface and putting on the rubber-band. When you can do it every time without pieces flying, then you are ready for glue.

- ☐ 3. Set one Threshold over the top of the Door Panel, flush along the inside surface (closest to the drilled hole), and centered side to side. Nail through the drilled hole into the door panel with one $\frac{1}{2}$ " #18 Nail. Turn the door over and repeat... **making sure the nails line up with each other.**

- ☐ 4. Glue and rubber band together the Door frame with the Thresholds and Door Panel in place. Turn the assembly face-up and press the thresholds to the work surface, making the assembly flush all along the back. Make sure the top threshold is tight to the top frame, and the bottom threshold is flush with the bottom of the side frames. Make sure the assembly is square as the glue dries.

- ☐ 5. Touch-up the sanding and paint. Check the fit of the door in the opening. Make sure the door can sit level with the house. Trim the corners of the opening square if necessary for a good fit.

- ☐ 6. Glue the door in place only after the house exterior is complete and painted.



Go back to the Master Instructions