

Cardboard House

A step by step guide to making a cheap and cheerful piece of terrain

What you will need

washing powder box

cereal box

sharp knife

scissors

pva glue

clothes pegs

The idea of this tutorial is to make a cheap piece of terrain using as little expense as possible by taking advantage of every day things that would otherwise be thrown away. I'm going to be making a ruined house but you can quite easily make a complete house using the same methods.

step 1

take your washing powder box and mark out the sides of the box, running from the top corner nearest the hinged lid to the bottom opposite corner, if you look at the picture carefully I have actually sloped the lid to the angle of where I want the roof to be and marked out from here, the dotted line shows the angle of the roof line and also this where I will be scoring the cardboard later, you don't have to be too precise marking out as this is going to be a ruined house when completed



step 2

Now to mark out where the windows and doors want to go you can put as many or as little doors and windows as you want and put them on any of the sides you wish it is entirely up to you, for the purpose of this tutorial I'm going to put a door and four windows in. First of all you will need to get yourself a figure that you game with so you can get the proportions of the doors and windows correct, there's no point in having a 1cm high door for a 3cm high figure it just won't look right, you will also need the figure to know how high to put the windows (too high or low and your figures won't see in or out of the building)



the dotted line running horizontal is whereabouts the first storey floor is going to be and can be used when marking

out the upper windows , when you're happy with the marking out move on to the next step which is cutting out

step 3

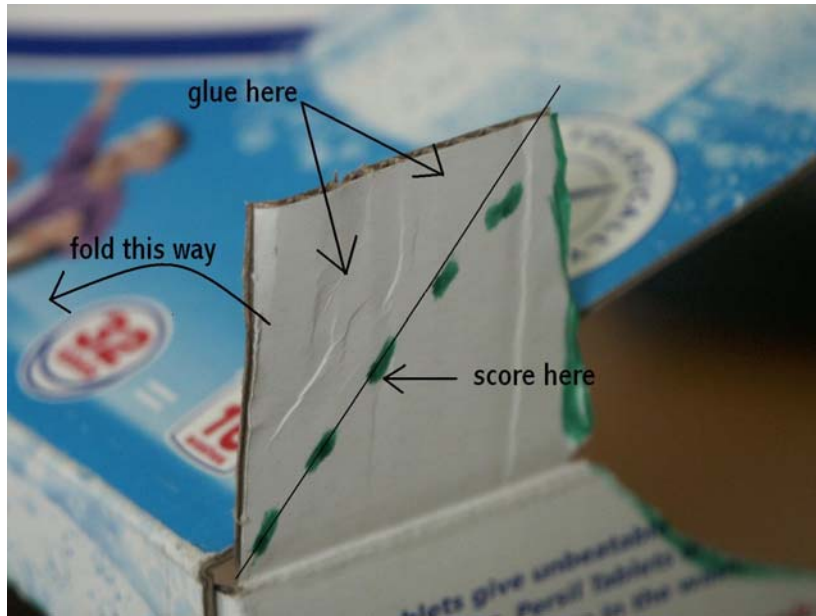
now on to cutting out the windows and back of the building, using the lines you have put onto the building take a sharp knife (Stanley knives are ideal) and cut out the solid lines not the dotted lines taking care not to cut yourself in the process



again you don't have to be too precise when cutting out just remember not to cut out the dotted lines ,save any cardboard that has been cut out these will be used later in the tutorial

step4

taking your knife score along the dotted line of the tab at the top of the side walls (scoring is when you either use the back of the knife blade to heavily mark the card or when you use the cutting edge of the blade very gently so you don't actually cut through the card)



after scoring bend the top of the tab inward and apply glue to the edge that has been folded over and using a clothes peg hold it in place with roof and repeat with the other side. When dry it should look something like this ,



step5

mark out the roof line where you are going to cut out the roof



then cut out along the line this will give you a ruined roof line

step 6

you should have a big off cut from earlier that looks like this (from the back of the washing powder box)



this will need trimming down like so



you will then have a piece of card with flaps on three sides
insert the piece of card into the inside of the building and
mark out the floor for cutting



Cut out the marked area and apply glue to the flaps and reinsert into the interior of the building holding it in place with pegs using a figure to get the right height



When dry it should look like this

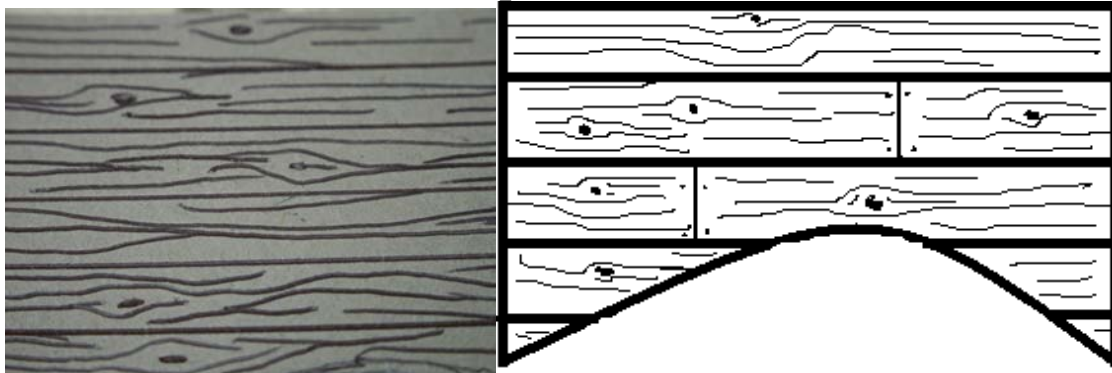


step7

now take the cereal box cardboard and cut to the width of the floor you have put inside the building then insert and mark out so that it matches the contour of the floor, you will need to make sure you place the patterned side of the cereal box face down ,not face up like it is in the picture.



When you have cut out where you have marked the cereal box take a ball point pen and pressing hard draw in the floorboards .the picture on the right gives a clearer idea of what to do than the actual photo.

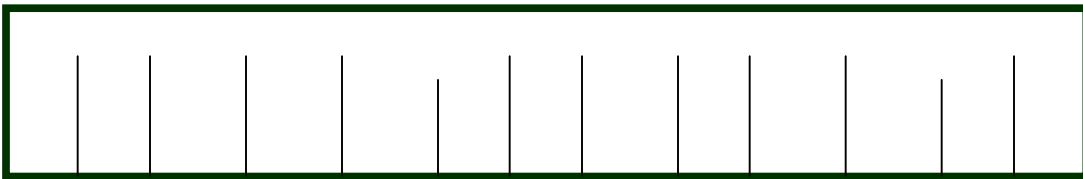


Once you have marked out the floorboards glue the piece into position inside the house using pva glue when done it should look something like this



step 8

Now to make the roof tiles, take a cereal packet cut the back off the box and lay the piece of box printed side down cut it into roughly 2cm strips then cut like this using scissors



Then cut like this



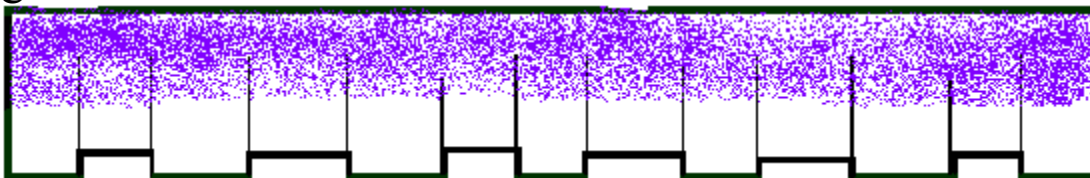
You will need several of these to cover the lid of the box along with some individual tiles .

step 9

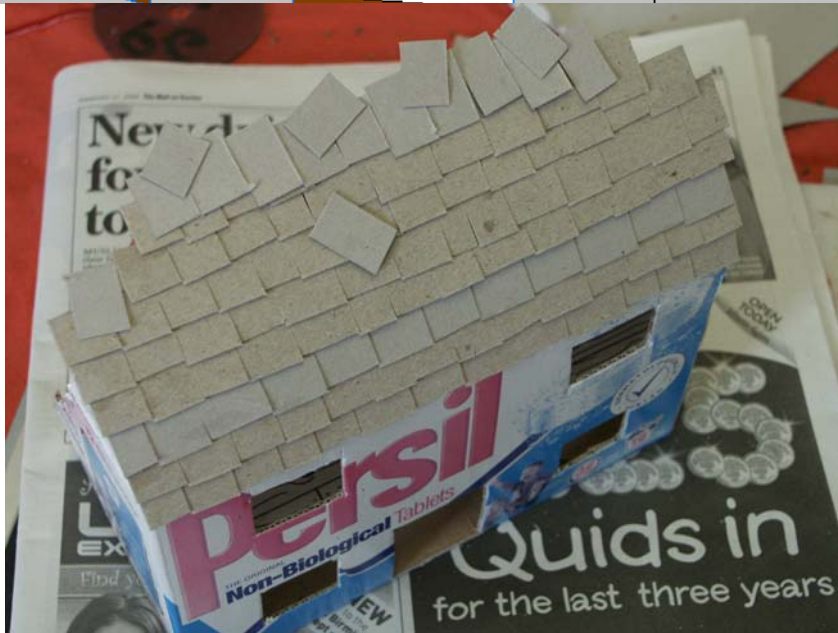
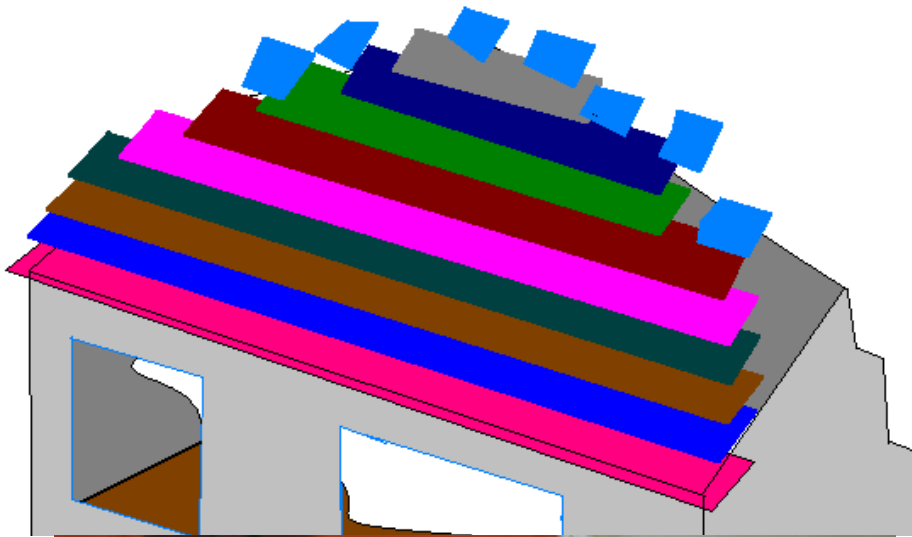
Once you have sufficient strips to cover the lid of the box (your roof), get the pva glue and using a brush apply a generous amount of glue to the bottom edge of the roof, to the depth of the tile strips you are using



then apply a strip of tiles, don't worry if it overlaps the edge of the roof they can be trimmed down with scissors when dry, while the first glue on the first strip is still wet apply another layer of glue to the roof ,this time partially covering the first layer ,like so, the purple area being the glue



stick the next strip over the first strip , and continue to repeat the process until you reach the top, the very last strip needs to be made of individual tiles, any gaps at the edges need to be filled with individual tiles as well .The illustration below shows how it all fits together, I've coloured each strip differently to show how they overlap as you work your way up to the top of the roof

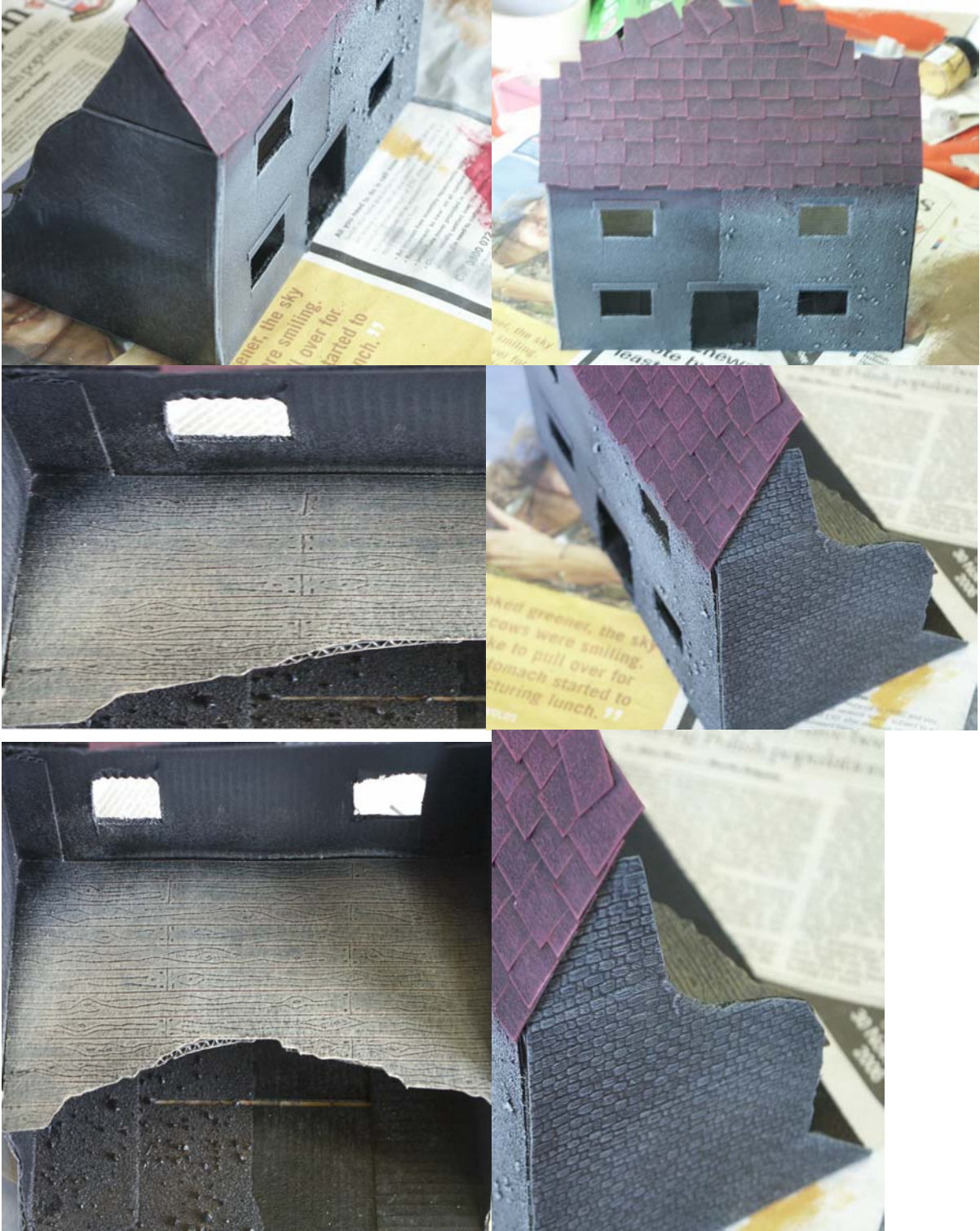


step10

You can leave it at this stage if you want a go straight on to painting the building, but I have put in some ideas you may want to try to enhance the appearance of the building a little. Using some cardboard make some lintels for the windows and doors these need to be just a bit wider than the windows, and stick them on using pva. On one side of the building I have put some wallpaper which has a pattern similar to brick , on the front I have done one half with Games Workshops “rough coat” and one half with sand stuck down with pva this will need to be sealed in before painting, this is where you let the pva dry and then apply a watered down coat of pva over the top of the sand , this will make the sand stay on during normal use. The final side was left alone for comparison.

To paint the building all that is needed is an undercoat of black paint, spray paint is ideal for this, and then a dry brush all over using a big brush, the walls were dry brushed using a grey, the roof tiles dry brushed using a red and the floor boards dry brushed using a brown, of course you can use what ever colours you like it is up to you.

See next page for pictures:-



If you look closely at the floor boards you will see that the pattern drawn on to the cardboard earlier shows through, this is why you need to use a ball point pen and need to press on hard when drawing them in .

With a bit of practice you can make some convincing scenery like the examples below

