

Ffestiong Railway - Dduallt Station

The quiet station at Dduallt on the Ffestiong railway was first opened as a passenger station in 1880 following a request from the landowner Colonel Tottenham. Built in wood it had a single office for the station master and an open fronted waiting shelter. This station was also known as Rhoslyn station due to the adjacent (Rhoslyn) lake.



In 1884 it became a block post when the instruments from the south portal of the Moelwyn Tunnel were moved here. Up goods trains are said to have had to stop at Dduallt for examination before passing through Moelwyn Tunnel. The station building was altered so that the office was extended and the waiting shelter enclosed and accessed through a door leading onto the platform. Later photographs also show a “facilities” extension on the rear of the building.

From this modest peak as a block post its importance seems to have declined steadily, becoming an unstaffed halt by the 1930s until final closure to passengers on 15th September 1939. The current slate building at Dduallt was constructed between 1990 and 1994 after through traffic to Blaenau had resumed via the “deviation”.

For a period in the late 19th century William Thomas Edwards was stationmaster here during his time working for the company. He was a poet, whose bardic name was Gwilym Deudraeth; sometimes he would indent for repairs in verse, at others he would engage in poetic competition with the Loco Superintendent William Williams (Gwilym Meirion). Dduallt is one of those places in Welsh legend where, if you spend the night, you wake either a madman or a poet.

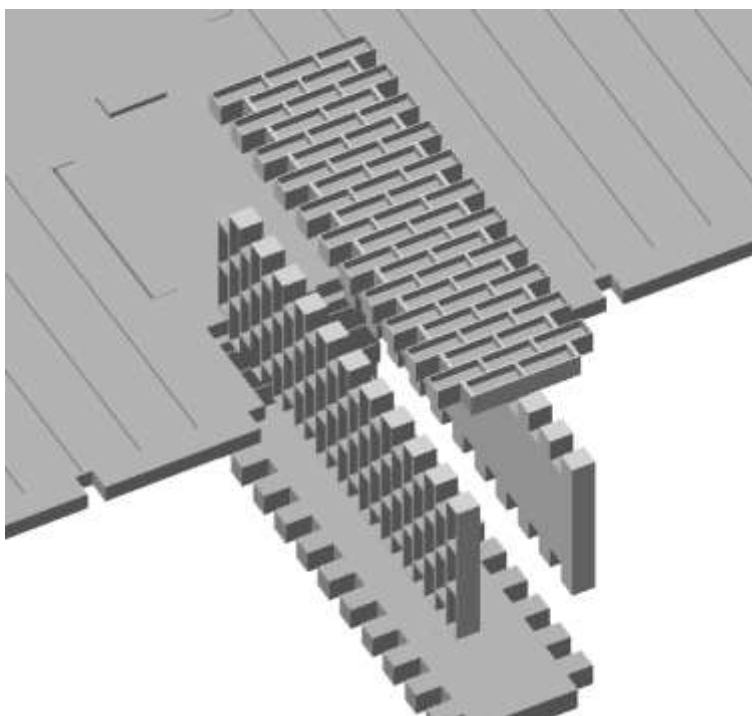
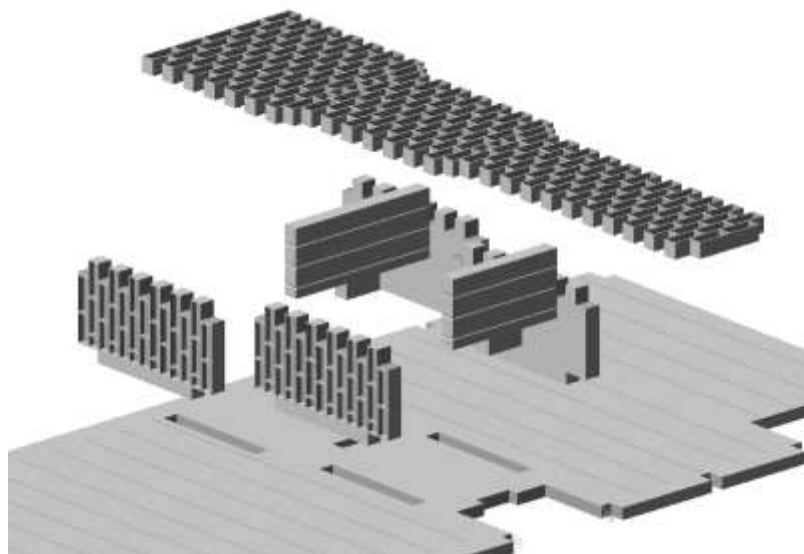
Most of this kit is laser cut Birch plywood . This is moderately water resistant but with a reasonably amount of painting or varnishing should prove rain resistant if not left outside all winter. We do however recommend using water proof PVA wood working glue (e.g. Evostick Resin-W in the blue bottles) to glue the plywood parts together.

The window panes and roof overlays are laser cut high impact polystyrene. This is totally weather proof but won't stick with PVA glue. We recommend Hafix industrial glue (this is a pressure cured adhesive) or a contact adhesive (e.g. UHU or Bostik) *but do follow their instructions properly.*

Painting or varnishing is very much a matter of personal preference. We suggest you plan ahead and either paint the components before you assemble them or assemble the lot; paint in your base colour and then pick out the details in other colours. It's whatever works for you.

Step 1 – Chimney

Glue the four chimney stack sides and the “cross pieces” into their locating sockets in the back wall. Then glue the chimney/fireplace back onto the 4 sides. You may find the “teeth” a tight fit in which case lightly file the teeth sides. You do not want to have to force the teeth together as you glue them.

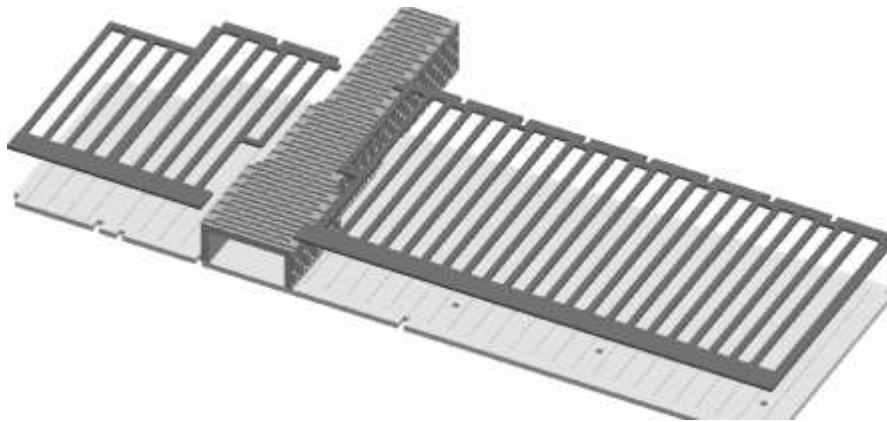


Now glue the remaining chimney top pieces in place together.

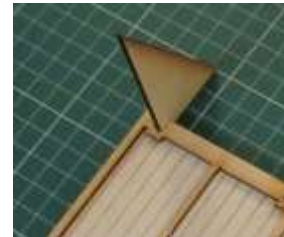
Once the glue has set, gently file back any corner teeth that are slightly proud. (We have to cut the teeth slight long to allow for variations in the plywood's thickness.)

Now is a good time to paint the chimney stack. A quick way is to spray it with red oxide car paint primer from a “rattle can” after masking the back wall with masking tape and paper.

Step 2 – Front and back wall overlays

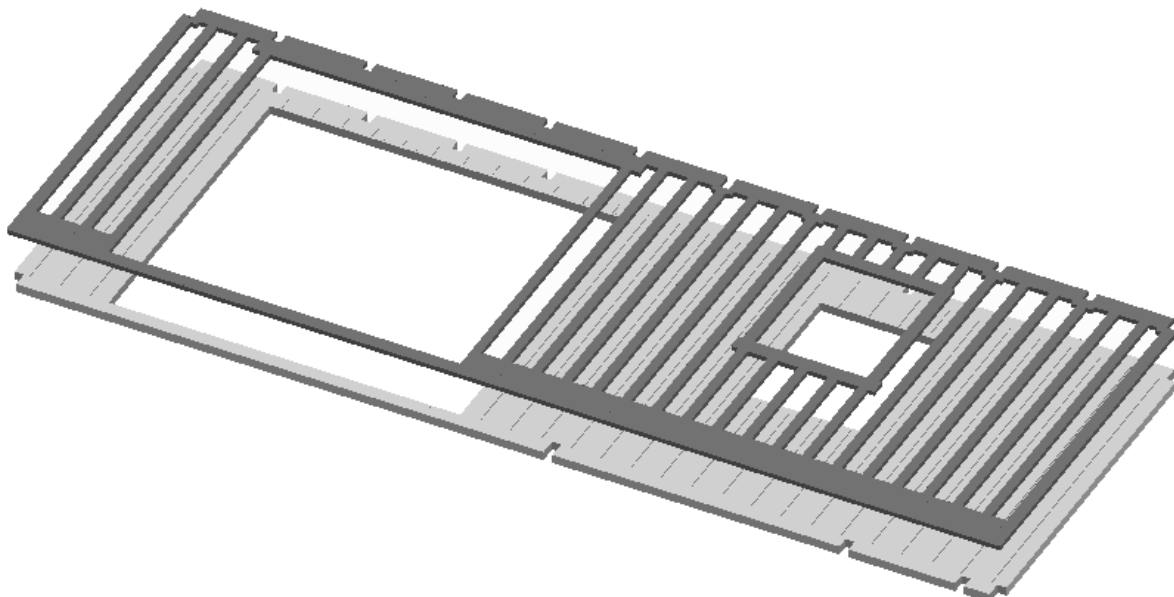


Glue the back overlays (1.5 mm ply) onto the back wall (3 mm ply). The top and bottom edges should be flush and the side edges should overlay the locating lugs on the wall sides. Clean off any glue that oozes onto the front face or onto the side edges. Place something flat and heavy on top of the two overlays and wait for the glue to set

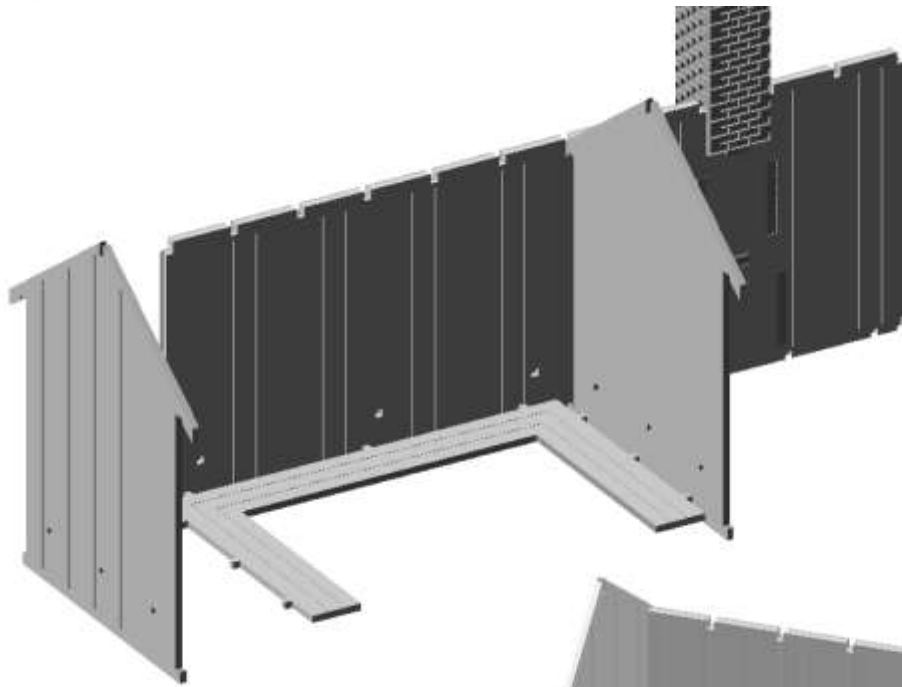


TIP: Temporarily push a couple of scraps of 3 mm ply into the slots to help align the parts.

Repeat for the front wall and its overlay.

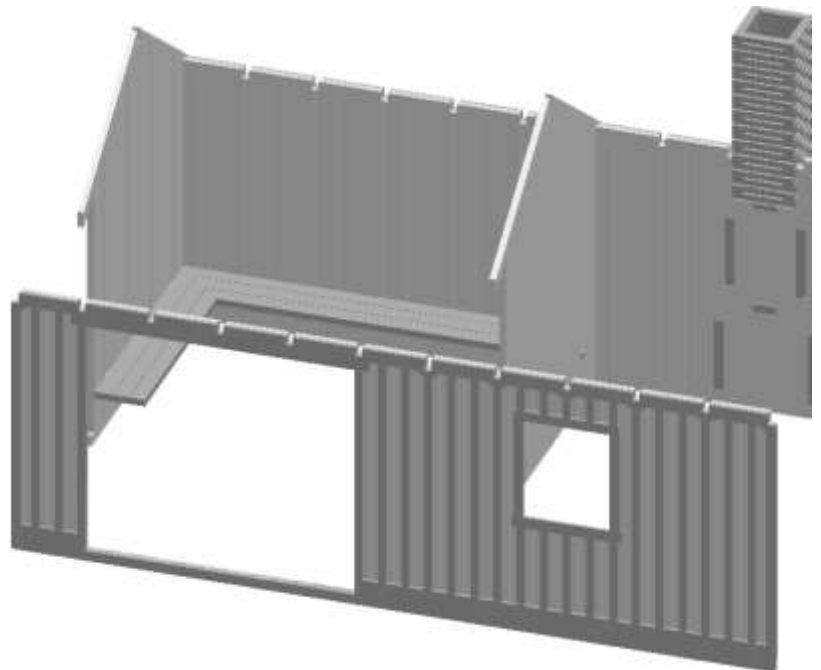


Step 3 – Main structure assembly



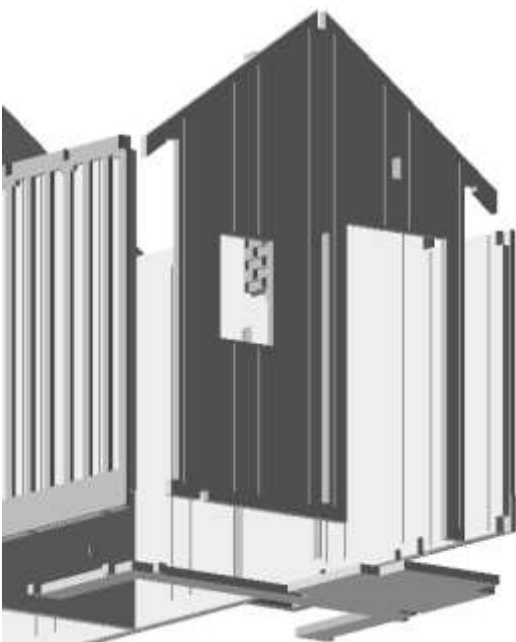
Glue the plain centre wall and waiting room seat to the back wall. (You may find you have to ease the two sockets in the back wall with a small file). Next glue the planked end wall (planks outward) to the assembly.

Glue the front wall assembly in place. Again you may need to ease the locating sockets with a small file.



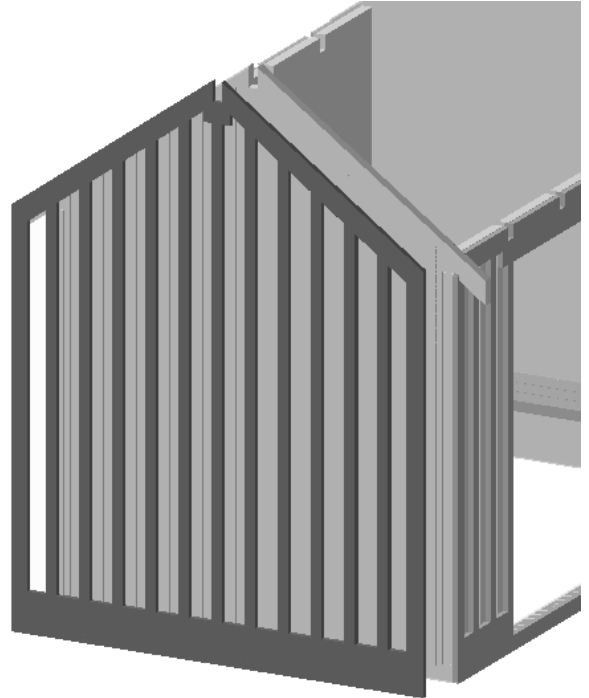
Next glue the door end wall in place together with the end brace (which includes the porch floor and doorstep).

Put the complete assembly on a nice flat surface. Use a couple of modeller's clamps or picture frame clamps to keep all the joints "tight" while the glue sets.





Glue the porch side and front in place followed by the porch roof ridge beam.

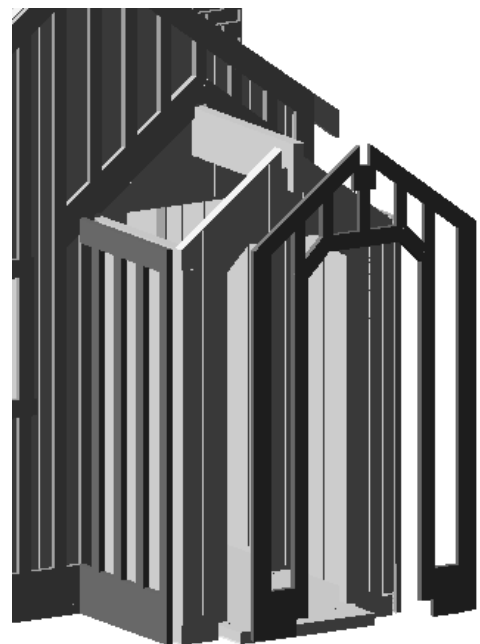


Step 4 – Wall overlays

Glue the planking overlays onto the end walls. You may find that the front and back walls are slightly too long and will need filing down slightly so that the end overlays lie perfectly flat on their walls.

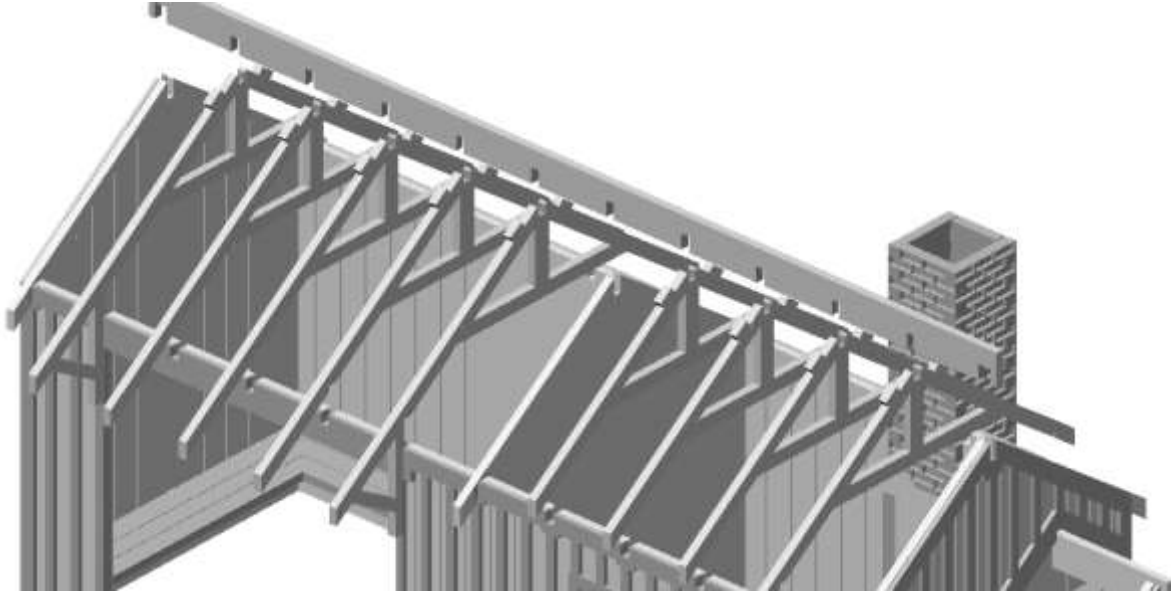


Next glue the planking overlays onto the porch

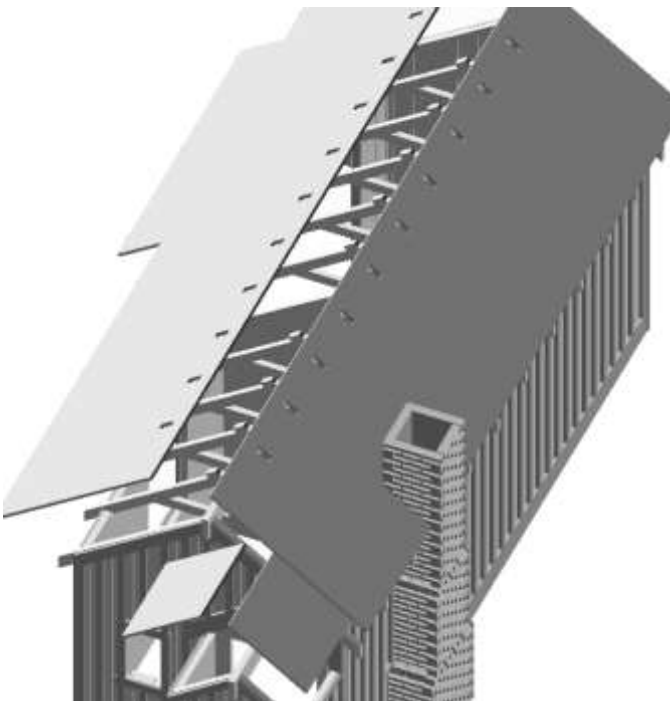


Step 5 - Roof

Glue the 9 rafters into their sockets in the wall tops. (These sockets may need cleaning out with a file first if the overlays aren't aligned perfectly). Note the two rafters with the cantilever brackets go either side of the waiting shelter opening and will need a bit of glue to stick them to the wall.



Then glue the roof ridge beam in place. Allow glue to dry.



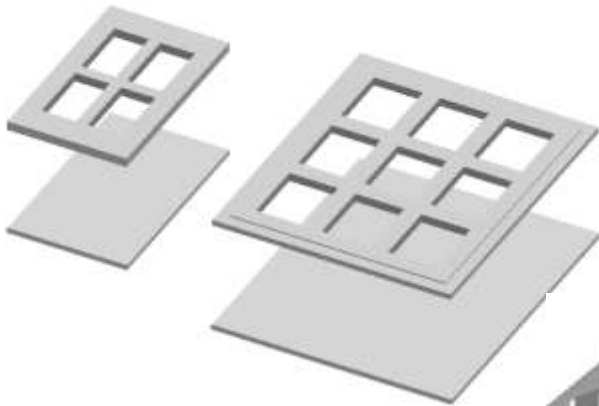
Before gluing the main roof panels in place; use them as templates to cut the plastic “slate” overlays to shape. Trick is to align the bottom edges of the panels to a horizontal slate course so that you get a complete tile at the bottom. The top edge will be covered by the ridge piece so a partial tile course does not show.

You may need to file a slight chamfer in the back roof panel in the socket that goes around the chimney.

Glue the main roof panels in place and then the porch roof panels (1.5mm ply).

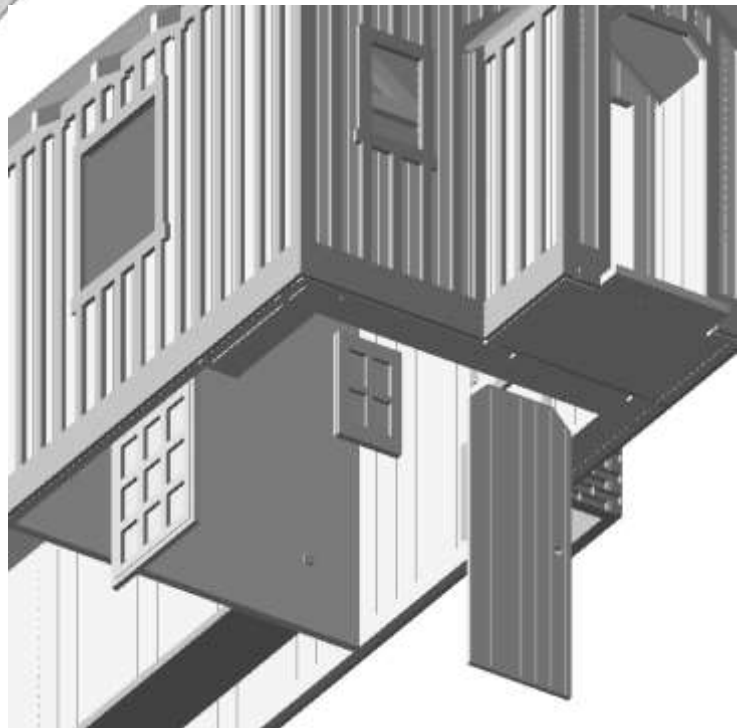
N.B. the porch panels are slightly wider than they are tall.

Step 6 – Windows and door



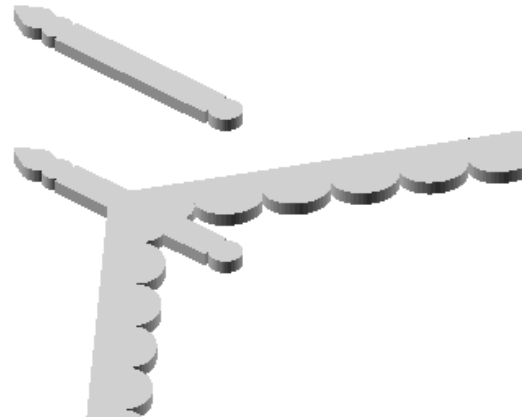
Cut the two window frames from the 1.5mm “fret” and paint them. Glue the wooden window frames to the clear plastic glazing.

Glue the windows and door in place.

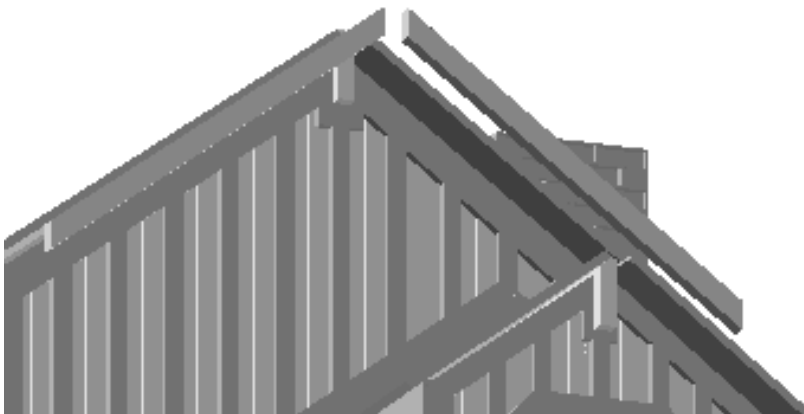


Step 7 – Barge-board preparation

Cut the three finials and three barge boards from the 1.5 mm frets and glue the finials in place to thicken the finials on the barge boards



Step 8 – Barge-board supports



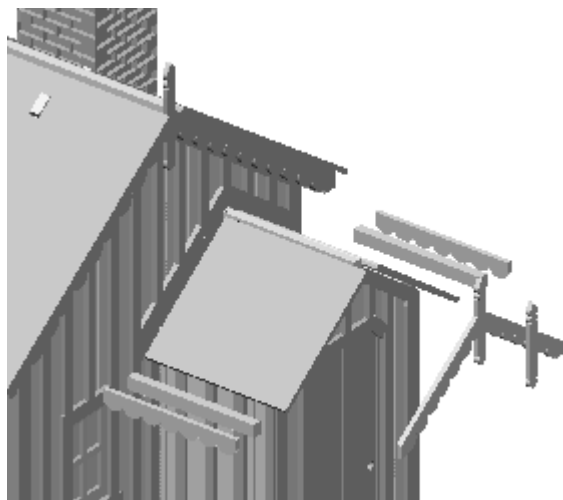
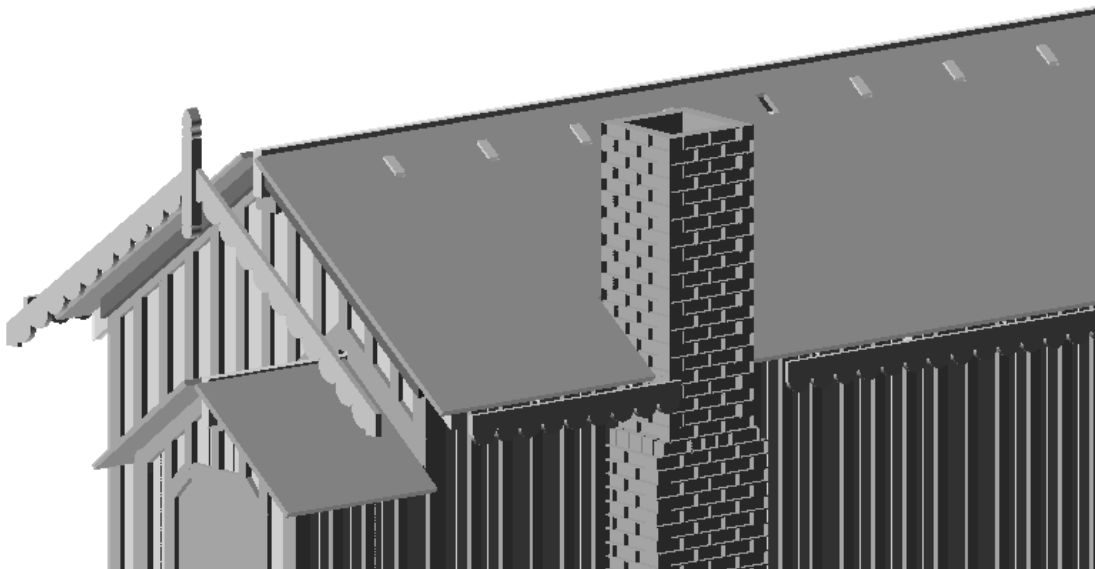
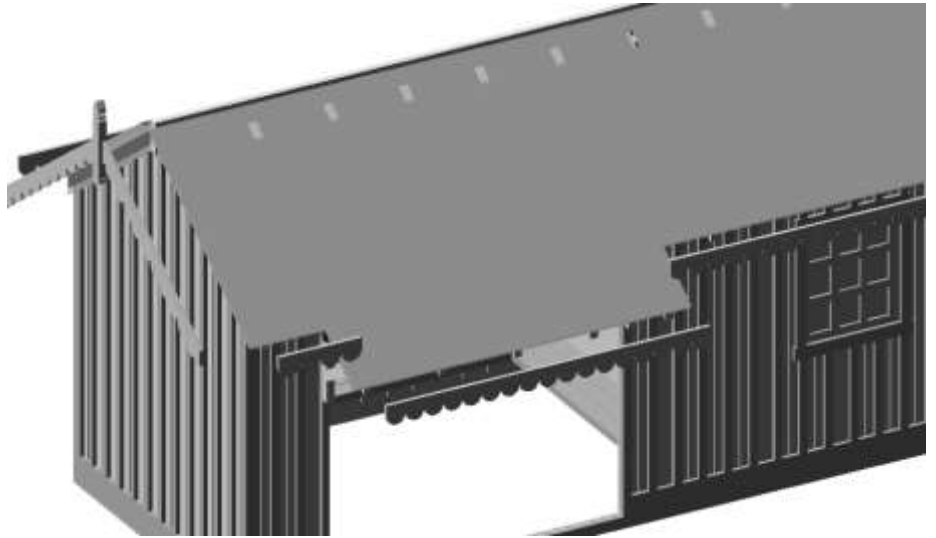
Cut the four parallelogram barge board spacers from the 3mm frets and glue onto the gable ends; either side of the roof ridge beam, tucked up right under the roof panels. They are designed to give a surface to glue the barge boards onto (next step).

Also cut the two small parallelogram spacers from the 3mm fret. Glue these in place on the sides of the cantilevered rafters, again tucked up under the front roof panels. These are designed to support the ends of the front valancing strips



Step 9 – Barge boards and valancing

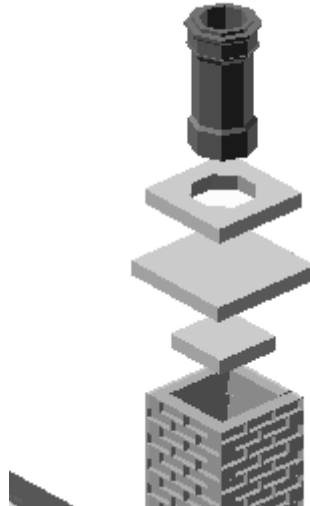
Cut the valancing strips from their 1.5mm frets. Glue the barge boards to the gable ends and then the valancing to the rafter ends.



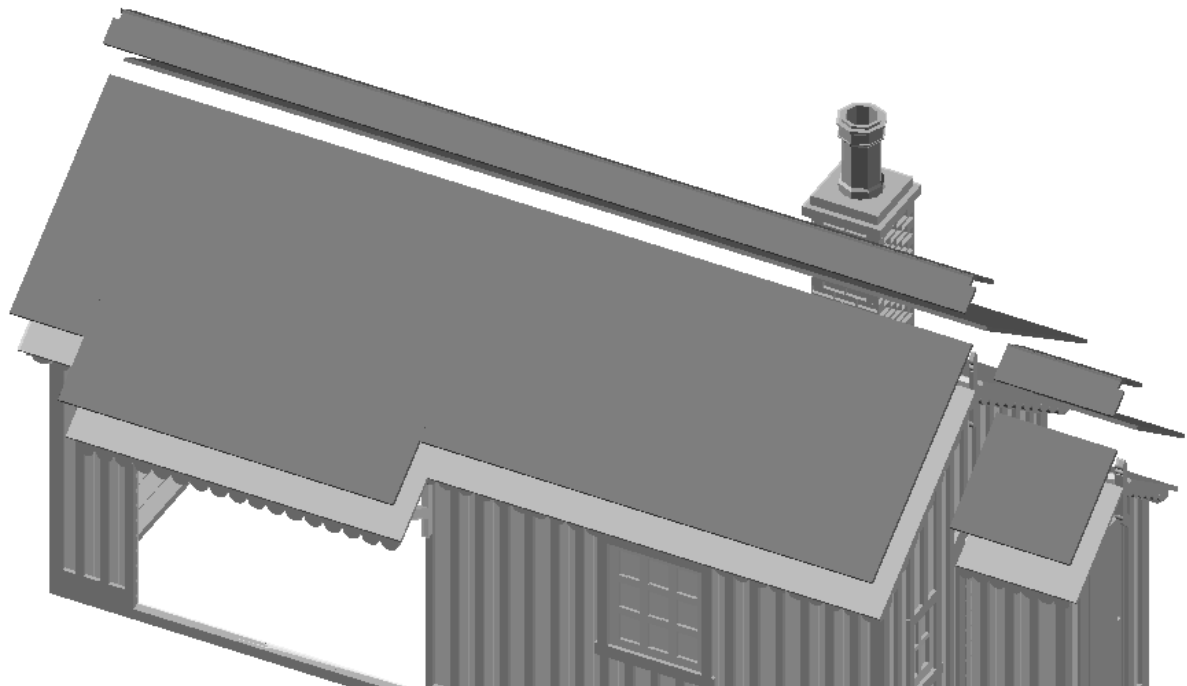
Cut the two small porch valancing supports from their 3mm frets and glue them to the top of the porch walls right under the porch eaves. Next glue the porch valancing strips to them and finally the porch barge boards to the porch gable end.

Step 10 – Finishing touches

Glue the three chimney cap pieces and chimney pot onto the top of the chimney stack.



Now glue the roof overlays onto the roof. Trim a roof ridge piece to length cutting little square notches in their ends to clear the finials and glue in place. Cut a small length for the porch roof and glue in place.



JOB DONE !