Demystifying Scratchbuilding

A beginners guide

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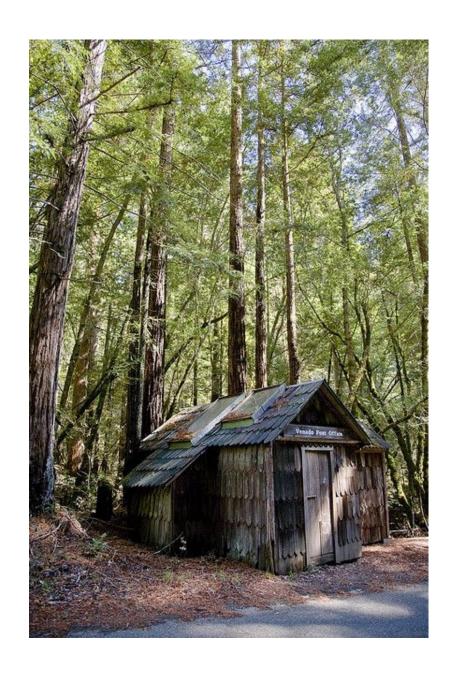
Why scratch building?

Subject of the model hasn't been manufactured.

Manufactured model sucks Satisfaction of creating it yourself.

"You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, you get what you need." Rolling Stones





Where to begin?

- Finding a suitable subject
- Prototype or freelance

Working from drawings

Working from photos

Materials

Wood

Cardstock

Styrene / Plastic

Metal

Paper

Plaster

Wire

Rubber

Resin

Foam

Stone



Materials can come from anywhere

Hobby shop

Hardware store

Toys

Packaging

Household items

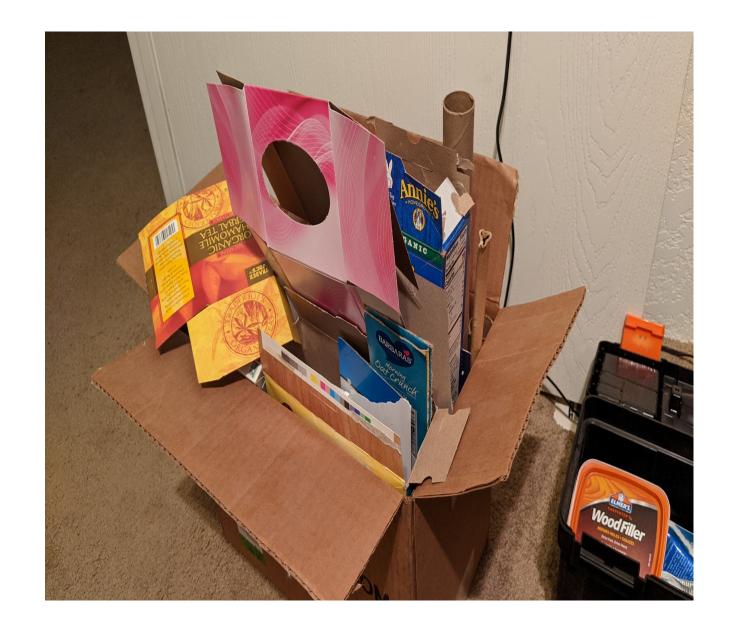
Use objects that have the shape you need

Modify the parts to fit

Sanding

Cutting

Filing





- Cardboard tube
- Scored cardstock for the plankes
- Carpet thread for the hoops
- Paper bits for turnbuckles
- Timbers from a paint stir stick
- Shingles from a paper bag
- Aluminum foil for the roof cap

Model and photo by Peter Loughlin

Before & After

Models and photos by Peter Loughlin



Card board

Popcicle sticks

Paint stir stick

Paper bag

Commercial doors and windows











Tools

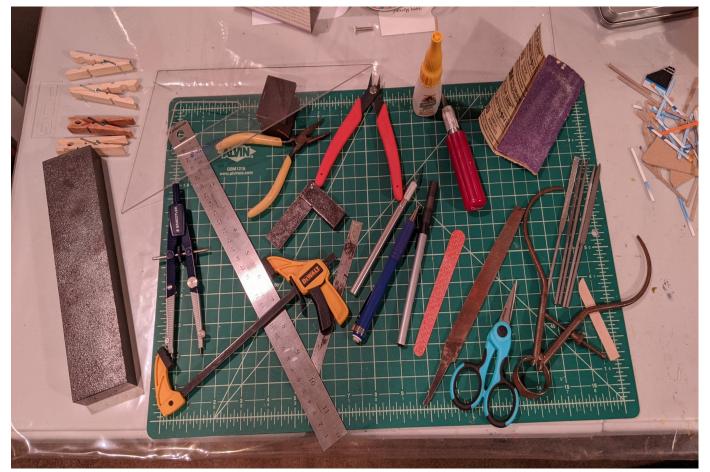
Think safety!

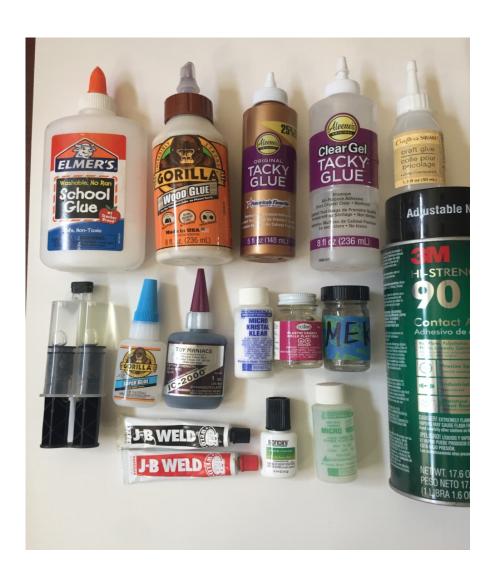
Basic tools.

Jigs.









Adhesives

Types of adhesive.

Choosing the correct adhesive.

Applying adhesive correctly.

Construction Techniques

Patience isn't just a virtue!

Clean & organized work space.

Good lighting.

Sharp tools.

Secure the part you are working on.

Steady your hand.

Slow and deliberate movement.



Details make your model come to life!

Details tell the story.

Study your surroundings for detail ideas.

Prototype photos show a lot of detail you might otherwise overlook.

Progress photos of your work help to identify things you might have missed, or messed up.







• Thanks for stickin around!

Material resources

- Specialty scale lumber (walnut stripwood)
- www.modelexpo-online.com
- Laser etched brick and stone sheet
- www.larkspurlaserart.com
- Basswood strip and sheet stock
- www.northeasternscalelumber.com
- Metal sheet and shapes
- www.ksmetals.com
- Doors and Windows
- www.titchytraingroup.com