



STRUCTURE MODELLING

Recommended tool and equipment list – Spring 2022

The operations required to kit or scratch build structures can be broadly broken down into five categories; measuring, marking, cutting, assembling and finishing. The basic toolkit shown in the photo should cover most jobs whether working in plastic, card, balsa or thin ply/MDF. All the tools, including the self-healing cutting mat they are laid out on, were gathered up from my bench and show the battle scars to prove it!



Measuring and marking is taken care of with the steel rules, squares and a digital vernier. The latter is a very useful luxury and a cheap one from the likes of Aldi or Lidl is perfectly adequate – it also doubles as a very useful marking gauge. Actual marking can be done with a sharp pencil, scribe (needle in a pin chuck), or the Olfa cutters depending on preference.

Scalpels will cut most materials we are likely to encounter, although a heavier craft or Stanley type knife can be useful plus a pin chuck and small selection of drills. A small selection of files is useful – cheap Chinese files are perfectly adequate here, no need for expensive Vallorbe's as used in loco building. I also make up my own little filing sticks from coffee stirrers, double sided tape and various grades of wet and dry. The main use of the large bastard file is for filing mitres onto thick plastic sheet used for walls (such as Wills or Ratio), where its ability to remove material quickly comes into its own. The choice of glue for assembly will depend on

the materials being worked with but the selection shown in the picture should cover most bases.



Tweezers, pliers and clamps of all kinds can prove useful in final assembly including things like elastic bands, hairgrips and cloths pegs.

Final painting and finishing is very much down to personal choice, (enamels v acrylics etc) and whilst I'm happy to offer advice, whilst at Missenden it would be foolish not to visit the painting and weathering experts on hand and make use of their expertise.

Tools and materials should fit comfortably in a box file making structure modelling one of the most portable aspects of the hobby – perfect for setting up on the kitchen table for a relaxing couple of hours modelling.

If you do want advice on any aspect of this information do please contact us and feel free to make suggestions.