The Midtown Apartment Building
“N” Scale Model Kit

Instructions for Assembly of The Midtown Apartment Building.

Kit Contents: 61 each laser cut acrylic parts. 3 each sidewalk parts. 1 each Window Glass Templates, 1 each Window Glazing. Instructions with diagrams.

Thank you for purchasing this kit. Please read these instructions completely before beginning and take your time. Allow parts to dry after painting or gluing and do not try to build this in one night.

Drawings of all the parts have been included for ease of part identification.

Practice gluing the acrylic together if you have never done it before. There is plenty of scrap in your kit that you can use for this.

If by chance a part is missing or broken, please write us indicating the kit name and part number and we will send you a replacement.

You will need the following items to assemble your model: Sharp hobby knife, file, paint (see “Painting Your Model”), paint brushes, glue (see “Gluing Acrylic”), modeling putty.

About the Kit

This kit will build a 7 story building. The kit is built up in modules labeled as units. There are four units in all. The units range from one to four stories. The units stack on top of each other when completed.

The assembly of each unit is very similar. Once you have built the first unit you will most likely be able to build the rest without reading the instructions. However... I spent a lot of time writing the instructions so I would appreciate it if you would. Repetitive sequences will be described in detail the first time and then less so subsequently.

Parts are labeled in the instructions inside parentheses. The first number is the unit number and the second is the part number in that unit. For instance (3-6) would be part six in unit three. Each unit has a base and top that are identified with a letter. As these are the same for multiple units there is no unit number associated with these.

Many parts have engraved details on them. Be sure that these are facing out when glueing the
parts together. It is easy to install these backwards by mistake.

**Gluing Acrylic**

Always glue acrylic in a well-ventilated area, and read the glue manufacturer’s label for instructions.

We recommend using Tenax-7R by Hebco or Plastruct brand “Plastic Weld Solvent Cement” (PPC-2 or PPC-16) or “Bondine Solvent Cement” (Bond-2 or BOND-16). Tenax-7R comes with a dispenser and Plastruct sells a Solvent Syringe (HT-8 or HT-10) and various other solvent dispensers. Most hobby shops carry these products or they may be ordered directly from Hebco (931)-796-7442 or Plastruct (626)-912-7016.

Acrylic must be glued together using a solvent that will melt the two edges and literally fuse them together. To do this, place the two pieces to be joined together and run a bead of solvent down the edge. Capillary action will suck the solvent into the joint and after several seconds the pieces will be fused. After only a few minutes the pieces will be strong enough to work with. The bond will be completely dry within twenty-four hours using the above-mentioned products. Solvent can be dispensed two ways.

Typically the solvent comes in a small bottle with a brush in the lid. The brush allows you to dispense a drop or two of solvent at a time.

You may want to use a polyethylene bottle or syringe with a blunt needle dispenser. This allows larger amounts of solvent to be dispensed quickly and cleanly. Be sure the bottle you are using is approved for the solvent you are using or you may melt through it. These may be purchased from CMR.

**Preparing Your Model for Painting**

We recommend lightly sanding all parts to remove the raised edge created during the laser cutting process. In order to hide the seams we recommend using “hobbyist putty” such as Green Squadron modeling putty. Do this in a very well-ventilated area. Apply the putty over the seams and allow to dry overnight. Once the putty has dried, place a sheet of fine sandpaper on a flat surface and sand smooth. You may need to apply a second coat of putty and sand again.

You may choose to “wrap” the engraved lines around the corners with a small triangular jewelers file.
Painting Your Model

After building each unit and prior to installing the windows we primed our building with Krylon Gray spray paint. We also primed the window frames. For our building paint scheme, we used “Poly Scale Acrylic” paints which are available in most hobby stores. We also used “Poly Scale Acrylics” for details and weathering. Always test compatibility of your paint with the acrylic by painting and testing a small area first.

We painted the building medium brown and the windows white. We then made a khaki wash with “Poly Scale” paints. The building units were laid flat with a wall facing up and the wash was applied and allowed to dry. The unit was then rotated to the next wall and the process was repeated, and so on. We air brushed the back and alley walls with a dirty black mix so that they would be darker. Finally we installed the painted windows into the units.

Note on Tabs

Sometimes it is necessary to sand or file the tabs slightly in order to get them to seat themselves into the slots. This is due to slight variations in acrylic thickness. If the tabs are not fitting into the slots properly, you may need to file them back at an angle to fit properly.

Window Glass

There are printed window shades included with your kit. These are designed to be laminated with acetate window glazing prior to installing in your model. The printed window shades are numbered to correspond with the window frame parts.

Lightly spray glue the window shade pages on the printed side with spray mount and apply a sheet of acetate to them. Press in place. We used 3M Spray Mount part number 6065 which is available at craft and office supply stores. Glue these to the back of the window frames using super glue (CA) after the frames have been painted as noted in the instructions.

After gluing the window glazing to the window frames, place the assembly face up on a cutting matt and trim off any excess glazing with a hobby knife. See figure 1.

Figure 1
Assembling the Tower Units

This structure is asymmetrical in that opposite sides do not match one another in detail and character. There are two detailed sides, or street sides, which have engraving and multiple layers built-up to create depth. The shorter of these sides will be referred to as the front, and the longer as the side. Note that the base on these sides is wider. The two remaining sides are less decorative, have fewer windows, and the base on these sides is narrower. The shorter of these sides will be referred to as the back, and the longer as the alley. Figure 2 shows base part A face up with the first set of wall parts ready to install into their appropriate places.

![Diagram of the Tower Units]

Figure 2

Please note that all pieces referred to as bases and tops (parts A, B, C, & D) should have the part number facing up during assembly unless otherwise noted. This is the correct orientation to insure that the tabs on the wall parts will fit into the slots facing the right direction.

Window Orientation

The tabs on the wall parts are symmetrical, and we recommend assembling the walls the way we have shown. You may choose to flip the back and alley sides, however, if the window arrangement works better for you. Just be sure to be consistent with this and flip your window frames as well.


**Unit 1**

Begin by taking base (A) and laying it flat on your work surface with the engraved part number facing up. Working clockwise, insert the tabs of the front wall (1-1) into the slots on the “front” side of part (A) and glue in place (see figure 1 for orientation). Note that the tabs on the top and bottom of the wall parts are different sizes and positions, and the walls will only fit into part (A) in one direction.

Next, insert the tabs of the side wall (1-2) into the slots on the “side” of part (A) and glue in place. The two walls should meet and be glued at the corner. Insert the tabs of the back wall (1-3) into the slots on the “back” side of part (A) and glue in place. Then, insert the tabs of the alley wall (1-4) into the slots on the “alley” side of part (A) and glue in place to form a box. Make sure to glue all the corners together. See Figure 3.

Glue the top (B) onto the assembly with the engraved part number facing up. Check that all the tabs are seated properly. See Figure 4.

Now that the basic wall structure is together, the front and side walls get built out to create a decorative facade. Working counter-clockwise, glue part (1-6) to the “side” wall, making sure the windows are centered. The right side will be flush and the left side will have an overhang. Next, glue part (1-5) to the “front” wall. The left side will overlap the edge of (1-6) and the right side will have an overhang. See Figure 5.
The back and alley walls have decorative corner columns that get built out. When gluing the next pieces into place, take care to note that all the corners should be flush and that the engraved sides are facing out. This will save you time from having to file overhangs or fill gaps.

Take part (1-7) x 4 making sure that the orientation is correct with the smaller stone on top (see parts diagram). On the “alley” wall, glue one part (1-7) on the left side up against the overhang of part (1-5) and one part (1-7) to the right side keeping the corner flush. On the “back” wall glue one part (1-7) on the left side keeping the corner flush, and one part (1-7) to the right side up against the overhang of part (1-6). Make certain part (2-7) has the correct orientation with the smaller stone on the top (see parts diagram). See Figure 6.

Next, build up the entrance ways of the “front” and “side” walls. Glue one part (1-8) over top of part (1-5) and part (1-6) keeping it centered around the doorway. See Figure 7.

Fill and sand the corners of the assembly if necessary. You may choose to “wrap” the engraved lines around the corners with a small triangular jewelers file. See “Preparing your Model for Painting”.

Paint the unit and set aside to dry.

Paint the window frames (1-9), (1-10), (1-11), and (1-12) your choice of color and install the window glazing as described earlier. When gluing the window frames in the building, make certain that the engraved side is facing out. Install part (1-19) behind the “front” wall, part (1-10) behind the “side” wall, part (1-11) behind the “back” wall, and part (1-12) behind the “alley” wall. See Figure 8.
Unit 2

Begin by taking base (C) and laying it flat on your work surface with the engraved part number facing up. Working clockwise, insert the front wall (2-1) into the slots of the “front” side of part (C) and glue in place with the engraved side facing out. Note that the tabs on the top and bottom of the wall parts are different sizes and positions, and the parts will only fit into part (C) in one direction. Next, insert the side wall (2-2) into the slots on the “side” of part (C) and glue in place with the engraved side facing out. The two walls should meet and be glued at the corner. Insert the back wall (2-3) into the slots on the “back” side of part (C) and glue in place. Then, insert the alley wall (2-4) into the slots on the “alley” side of part (C) and glue in place to form a box. Make sure to glue all the corners together, as well. Glue the top (B) onto the assembly with the engraved part number facing up. Check that all the tabs are seated properly. See Figures 9 & 10.

![Figure 9](image)

![Figure 10](image)

Working counter-clockwise, build up the next layer of decorative facades and columns. Glue part (2-6) to the “side” wall with the engraved side facing out, making sure the windows are centered. The right side will be flush and the left side will have an overhang. Next, glue part (2-5) to the “front” wall with the engraved side facing out. The left side will overlap the edge of (2-6) and the right side will have an overhang. See Figure 11.

When gluing the next pieces into place, take care to note that all the corners should be flush, the engraved sides face out, and the pieces are oriented correctly (see parts diagram). This will save you time from having to file overhangs or fill gaps.

![Figure 11](image)
On the “alley” wall, glue one part (2-7) on the left side up against the overhang of part (2-5) and one part (2-7) to the right side keeping the corner flush. On the “back” wall glue one part (2-7) on the left side keeping the corner flush, and one part (2-7) to the right side up against the overhang of part (2-6). Make certain part (2-7) has the correct orientation with the smaller stone on the top (see parts diagram). See Figure 12.

Fill and sand the corners of the assembly if necessary. You may choose to “wrap” the engraved lines around the corners with a small triangular jewelers file. Paint the unit and set aside to dry.

Paint the window frames (2-8), (2-9), (2-10), and (2-11) your choice of color and install the window glazing as described earlier. Install part (2-8) behind the “front” wall, part (2-9) behind the “side” wall, part (2-10) behind the “back” wall, and part (2-11) behind the “alley” wall. See Figure 13.
Unit 3

Begin by taking base (C) and laying it flat on your work surface with the engraved part number facing up. Working clockwise, insert the front wall (3-1) into the slots “front” side of part (C) and glue in place with the engraved side facing out. Next, insert the side wall (3-2) into the slots on the “side” of part (C) and glue in place with the engraved side facing out. The two walls should meet and be glued at the corner. Insert the back wall (3-3) into the slots on the “back” side of part (C) and glue in place. Then insert the alley wall (3-4) into the slots on the “alley” side of part (C) and glue in place to form a box. Make sure to glue all the corners together, as well. Glue the top (B) onto the assembly with the engraved part number facing up. Check that all the tabs are seated properly. See Figure 14.

Working counter-clockwise, build up the next layer of decorative facade and corner columns.

Glue part (3-6) to the “side” wall with the engraved side facing out. Make sure the windows are centered and the corners flush. Next, glue part (3-5) to the “front” wall with the engraved side facing out. The left side will overlap the edge of (3-6) and the right side will have an overhang. See Figure 15.

When gluing the next pieces into place, take care to note that all the corners should be flush, the engraved sides face out, and the engraving lines up with the adjacent wall. This will save you time from having to file overhangs or fill gaps.

On the “alley” wall, glue one part (3-7) on the left side up against the overhang of part (3-5) and one part (3-7) to the right side keeping the corner flush. On the “back” wall glue one part (3-7) on the left side keeping the corner flush, and one part (3-7) to the right side up against the overhang of part (3-6). Make certain part (3-7) has the correct orientation with the smaller stone on the bottom (see parts diagram). See Figure 16.
Fill and sand the corners of the assembly if necessary. You may choose to “wrap” the engraved lines around the corners with a small triangular jewelers file. Paint the unit and set aside to dry.

Paint the window frames (3-8), (3-9), (3-10), and (3-11) your choice of color and install the window glazing as described earlier. Install part (3-8) behind the “front” wall, part (3-9) behind the “side” wall, part (3-10) behind the “back” wall, and part (3-11) behind the “alley” wall. See Figure 17.
**Top**

This is the top of the building and comprises of the roof and balustrade.

Lay part (E) upside down on your work surface. The side with the engraved rectangle for the roof hatch should be face down. Glue part (D) to the underside of part (E). Make certain that the two pieces are centered all the way around. See Figure 18.

Flip the assembly back over so that part (E) is on top. When glueing balustrade parts into place, note that parts for the short sides are different, as the middle posts are not centered. Insert part (4-1) into the slots of the “front” side of part (E) and glue into place. Glue part (4-2) to the “side”, part (4-3) to the “back”, and the second part (4-2) to the “alley” side of part (E). Next, glue one part (4-6) on top of each part (4-2) of the long sides. The posts should line up and the corners flush. Then, glue part (4-4) on top of part (4-1) on the “front” side, and part (4-5) on top of part (4-3) on the “back” side, keeping all corners flush. See Figure 19.

Glue the roof hatch over the engraved rectangle on part (E).

Fill and sand the corners of the assembly if necessary. Paint the unit and set aside to dry. See Figure 20.
Assembling the Building

Now that you have built all of the building units, it is time to assemble them. Make sure that the bottom and top of each unit is perfectly flat and smooth. Sand or file any imperfections off as necessary. It will be easier to glue the units together upside down.

Begin with the roof Unit 4 upside down on your work table and glue Unit 3 to it upside down as well. You can run a bead of glue along the cornice where the two pieces meet. Continue gluing the units together in this fashion making sure that everything is straight and true as you go along.

Once completed touch up any glue and paint imperfections along the cornices. Paint the roof flat black. Paint the provided sidewalk concrete.

Your building is finished and ready to install on your layout. You may add lights and other details. We thank you for purchasing this kit from CMR and hope that you have enjoyed building it. Be sure to see our other kits at www.cmrtrain.com.