

# SCRATCH BUILDING HOUSES PLUS

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## RESEARCH:

- Gather all the pictures you can. Call or email relatives to see if they have pictures. It's a great way to reconnect with cousins that you only send Christmas cards to.
- Bing and Google Earth, and now MapQuest, are fun vehicles to check out your own house, your friends' houses and the buildings you want for your layout.
- The Acadia books give really crisp pictures if you are lucky enough to find the building you are looking for.
- Call your library first to see if they have the Sanborn maps you want. The maps will give you a footprint of the building and tell you the height(s) and construction material(s). Some windows and doors are also included. You may have to go to a major library, or the library of the city you are modeling.
- Many libraries have reverse directories where you can look up the address you want to build and find out what it was in the year you want to build it. This is especially true of stores, which change often.
- Regular old phone books can be helpful too. It's easier to look up businesses than street addresses, unless you know the name of the person who lived there then.
- Call the local Historical Society. The local library many times has the same information, but members can be very helpful in narrowing down the information or letting you know if they even have it.
- Go online to the local Historical Society; many of them have their pictures on line.
- Check Facebook or Google to see if there is an online forum. "I Remember When It Happened in Milford" is one in our area. You can ask questions and see if anyone knows the answer or can give you ideas where to find the answer.

## FOR THE ACTUAL BUILDING:

1. Check your available space and the surrounding buildings to determine size
2. Look at other scales when searching for materials, especially windows.
3. Draw a "blueprint"
4. Sketch the walls to size so you can place and fit windows and doors
5. Build a cardboard model if there is anything tricky about the roof lines or porches (probably not necessary for industrial buildings or simple houses, but saves a lot of redoing on more complicated structures) I recommend cereal box cardboard-Cheerios works well.
6. Use the cardboard as a template- be sure to number your pieces. On roof pieces mark the direction they go.
7. Brace your corners for strength and if your building is long, brace the sides.
8. Paint the inside of your building black (or the outside before your final color) to prevent

light bleeding through the walls if you are going to light your building.

9. Decide if you want to assemble your entire building before painting, if not remember to tape where you are going to add pieces so the glue will stick.
10. Whatever way you choose, use automotive tape to mask what you don't want painted. Use painters tape when airbrushing to hold pieces you want to add later.
11. Unless the bricks are glazed they are not all the same color EVER. So paint some of the bricks in one or two other colors, or add mortar.
12. I like CGLaser 3-tab shingles and Builders in Scale (self-adhesive), but I also use Plastruct asphalt shingles and/or tile. For really premium buildings, Northeastern Scale Lumber laser cut shingles.
13. Add gutters, downspouts, chimneys, electrical boxes and conduit and vent pipes. I make my gutters from Evergreen angle 080 (#292) nested inside angle 100 (#293) and paint with Model Master Jet Exhaust
14. Dullcote your building
15. Weathering
  - a. First drybrush with Applebarrel Country Tan or similar color.
  - b. I use my airbrush around the bottom on an angle to get a splash pattern of dirt and mud with diluted Roof Brown. You could use chalk or powders.
  - c. If the building is really old or really dark I airbrush the entire structure with a VERY diluted roof brown, to take away the newness and knock back any white. There aren't any good trim whites. It's too bright, yellow or gray.
  - d. Now add the "glass" windows. Dullcote the insides if you want to limit the view of the interior.
  - e. Window, roof and chimney streaks are added where needed-either with the airbrush or Weathering Powders.
  - f. Add dirt streaks where people would have walked on steps and porches.

#### EXTRAS:

Add interiors.

- a. Actual furniture you either build or buy.
- b. Blocks of styrene or cardboard cutouts that give the shape of furniture.
- c. Pictures of interiors set back a little from the windows.
- d. Divide interior with cardboard, black paper, or styrene so only certain areas will light.