

Laser Kits for Klutzes

Tips

Read the instructions. You don't need to follow them totally, but read them.

Work slowly and carefully. Just about anything you mess up can be fixed, but it's really easier to get it right the first time.

Build up a supply of spare wood, plastic shapes, stairs, windows, doors, etc.

For best accuracy, it's usually best to cut a bit oversize if possible and sand down.

Try to get pictures of the specific prototype; this applies even if you're doing a "standard" structure. And try to get them for the time period that you're modeling.

Try to develop a "light touch", cut gradually, nudge the wood gently, paint slowly and carefully.

Don't measure when you can use jigs, templates, or the actual piece to be fitted.

Making the roof removable, even if you're not going to detail the interior; makes repairs easier.

Keep in mind the purpose of the structure on your layout, and its location.

HAVE FUN – THIS IS A HOBBY

Tools:

Sharpe model or surgical knives.
Scriber
Tweezers
Scale rule
Straight edge (you can use your scale rule; please don't use mine)
An assortment of clamps
Surface plate with magnets
Squares
Files
Sandpaper
Emery boards
Toothpicks/kabob sticks
Razor saw and mitre box
Machinist's vise
Optivisor
Cutting Mat
Pencil
Q-tips
Adhesives, including craft glue and acc

Chopper
Tru Sander

Sources: NWSL, Micro-Mark, Harbor Freight, Woodcraft, Rockler
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/traintools/>