

Building A Model Kit

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Model building

A short introduction into the world of model building.

Model building is the creation of miniature replicas of real-life objects, often with plastic. Popular models include automobiles, airplanes, and boats. They range in complexity, from snap-together kits that anyone can build, to complex, finely detailed works of art that require expert skill.



Required materials

- Model kit
- Cutting device (X-Acto knife, sprue cutter, and/or other small blade)
- Paint
- Paintbrushes (large and small)
- Flat object as an easel
- Modelling glue
- Sandpaper and/or nail file (from fine to coarse grain)
- Piece of cardboard (can be from model's box)
- Warm water
- Cup for warm water

Related concepts

[Terms](#) on page 5

Knowing the different terms of modelling is a great way to get started with the hobby.

Preparing the model

Before building the model, prepare the model with these steps.

1. Assemble modelling tools.
2. Open the box and remove all the items from their packaging.

3. Wash the sprues in warm water with dish soap:
 - a) In a sink, wash the sprues around with soapy water and then leave in the water for five minutes.
 - b) Remove sprues from water and dry with a cloth.
 - c) Lay to dry on a clean surface.

Related concepts

[Terms](#) on page 5

Knowing the different terms of modelling is a great way to get started with the hobby.

Related reference

[Required materials](#) on page 3

Painting small parts on sprue

It's easier to paint the small parts of the model while they are attached to the sprue. This should be done first as small parts usually are assembled before larger parts.

1. Identify with the instructions which parts are assembled first.
2. Determine which color paint goes with the parts.
3. Stir paint up.

This can be done with a matchstick or the end of your paintbrush.

4. Transfer paint on to easel-like surface.

Paint may need to be thinned with water to avoid brushstroke marks when painting. A 5:1 ratio of water to paint suffices in most cases. Consult your paint manufacturer for more information.

5. Select a brush size suitable for the size of the piece.
6. Start painting.
 - a) Gather just enough paint on the paintbrush for the piece.
 - b) Paint until every surface of the piece is covered
7. Elevate sprue with painted pieces for drying.

Removing items from sprue

After you have painted the small parts and they are ready to be assembled, they must be removed from the sprue and prepared for assembly.

1. Using a small blade or X-Acto, carefully cut at the stem of the sprue where it connects to the item.
2. Remove the excess plastic of the nub by using one of these methods:
 - Scrape away the nub with your small blade, angling it away from the direction of motion.
 - Take coarse sandpaper and sand down the nub.
3. Apply extra paint to the bare surfaces as needed.

Painting large parts

Some large parts arrive not attached to a sprue, or they are easier to work with once they are out of the sprue. Follow these steps on how to paint large parts.

1. Remove parts from sprue.
2. Prepare paint.

3. Gather required supplies.

Some builders like a pair of tweezers or Blu-Tack to hold the piece in place while they paint

4. Deposit your paints on to an easil-like surface and dilute with water appropriately.

5. Paint the part in one direction with the brush, up-down.

6. Let dry.

7. Paint again this time against the direction you painted last time, side-to-side.

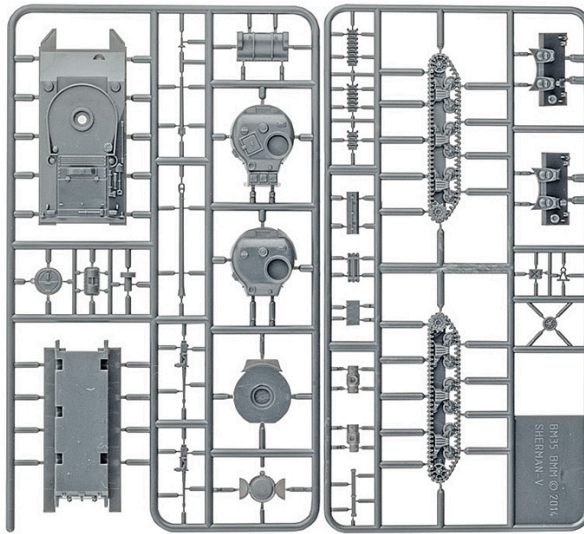
8. Repeat steps 5-7 until the part has a uniform layer of paint.

Terms

Knowing the different terms of modelling is a great way to get started with the hobby.

Some common tems:

- Sprue: a plastic frame which holds the parts before



assembly.

- X-Acto knife: a small blade meant for precisely cutting small



objects.