Roof Maker

This extension is designed to help make roof pieces for 3D papercraft designs. It also designs the pieces for dormer windows of several types.

The parameters that are available to the user will be in the extension pane:

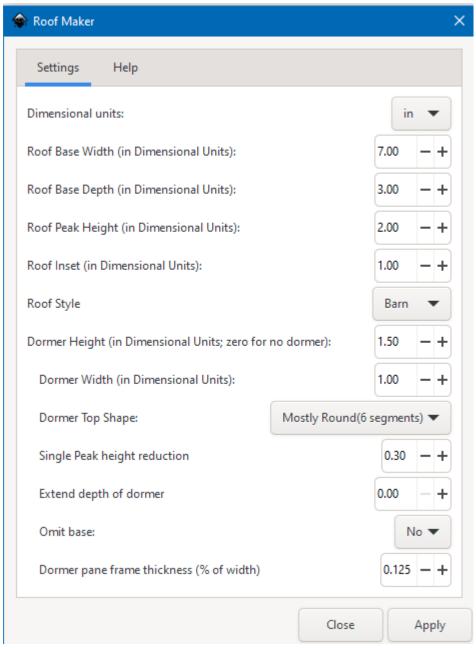


Figure 1: Parameters

Dimensional units: This parameter is the units that the user is using in Inkscape

Basic Roof Settings

Roof Base Width: From a front view, this is the left to right width of the roof

Roof Base Depth: From front to back at the base of the roof

Roof Peak Height: The vertical measure from the base of the roof to the peak

Roof Inset: If used, this will make your roof narrower at the top than the bottom . The inset refers to how much this is on each side. E.g. if you use .5", the top of the roof will be a total of 1"

shorter than the base. This is ignored if the roof style is set to Barn

Roof Style:

Normal: One angle from base to peak.

Barn: The angle at near the top will change to tilt in more

Dormer Window Settings:

Dormer Height: The height of the dormer window. **If zero,** then no dormer windows will be drawn.

Dormer Width: The width of the dormer (from a front view)

Dormer Top Shape: Dormer windows are one of four types:

Mostly Round: The top is formed with six segments - essentially the top of a dodecagon Geometric: The top is formed with four segments - essentially the top of an octagon

Single Peak: The top will come top a single center peak

Just the Base: The window will be rectangular

Single Peak height reduction: If the dormer is the Single Peak type, then this number can be used to lower the peak to a flatter profile. Dormer height will remain the same.

Extend depth of dormer: Normally the dormer will be flush to the roof at the base. This amount will be used to allow your dormer base to be outset from the roof.

Omit base: If using a dormer type other than Just the Base, then you can opt to use only the top shape of the window. This will limit your dormer height to the shape of the top of the dormer. (The calculated height of the dormer top is normally equal to half the width of your dormer.)

Dormer pane frame thickness %: This is how thick you want the "frame" area around the dormer window "glass" pane. Increase this to have more room for trim, for instance.

Usage and notes:

After installing, the extension can be found in "Extensions->Papercraft"

Basic usage: Just fill out the form and apply. Your pieces will be created.

Some of the pieces created will be positioned on top of each other. Just move them apart. Most are single paths. The only exception to this is the main roof pieces, which are grouped with their scorelines. This was done to make it a little easier to add the dormers (explained below). Following is an example of the pieces created. Yours will likely look different depending on the parameters you use.

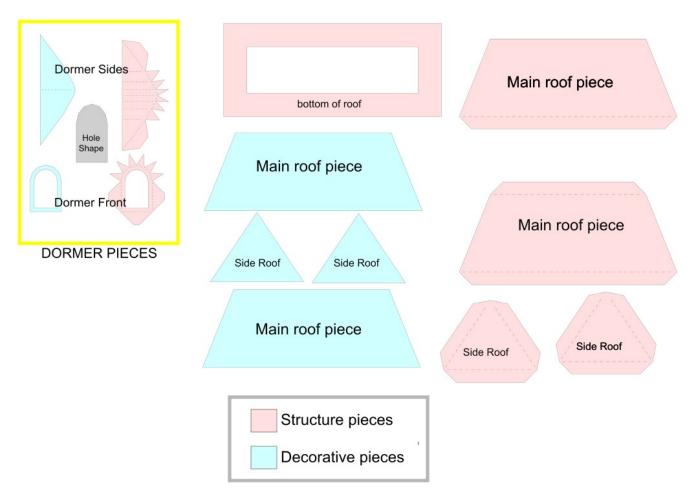


Figure 2: Pieces that the extension creates

Dormers Placement:

You will need to decide how many dormer windows you want, and where to position them in your roof, if using them.

Here are the steps for doing that (this will go very quickly once you've done it a couple of times):

- 1. Move the decorative roof main piece over the roof piece. You will want to cut holes in the decorative piece in exactly the same place as on the structure piece.
- 2. Ungroup the decorative piece if it is grouped with scorelines.
- 3. Drag one or more duplicates of your hole shape onto the decorative piece.
- 4. Once you have your hole shape(s) in position, select them all and combine (ctl k) into a single hole path
- 5. DUPLICATE THIS PATH (leave the duplicate selected)

- 6. Shift-click decorative piece and difference with the holes (ctl shift) to make a new roof path
- 7. Select the scorelines (if present) and roof piece and combine. You will now have a single path that incorporates your decorative roof panel and the roof.
- 8. Move the decorative roof piece aside. You should still have the original holes path and the structure piece in place. Follow the same steps as above to place holes into the structure piece. No need to duplicate the holes in step 5 unless you are going to use them on the second roof piece as well (if you want dormers on the front and back of the roof)
- 9. Be sure to duplicate the dormer pieces (except the hole, which you don't need any more) so you have the pieces you need for any additional dormers.

Other changes you might want to make:

Roof decorative pieces: you might want to extend the height of these so they will overhang your roof a bit, or you might want to create shingle cuts in them for interest.

Dormer side decorative piece: You might want to increase the height of this (the long side) just a small amount to help it fit better over the structure piece when assembled. A very small amount (a couple of hundredths of an inch) should be enough. It depends on the thickness of your paper to some degree, so is not done automatically by the extension.

About the extension: The guts of the extension were written by me (Obzerving's wife, The Serial Crafter) with a whole giant heap of Obzerving's routines for adding tabs and scorelines, as well as his much needed assistance with turning it into an extension. It is literally the first Python program and first extension I've tried writing, and the underlying code shows it, I know. Maybe someday, I'll rewrite it to be better. Hopefully, though, the result will be helpful to anyone trying to make houses and buildings in 3D papercraft.