

Conowingo Models



LOON'S NEST

HO scale



www.conowingomodels.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ConowingoModels/>
conowingomodels@yahoo.com

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Thank you for purchasing this kit!

This building was designed to be a camp house in the woods. Like many of our other kits, this camp could be just as at-home in suburbia.

See conowingomodels.com for more info and tips on the instructions below.

OPTIONS/CONSIDERATIONS

While this kit can be modified in a few ways, the only option item we will briefly discuss is the dormer. The wood for the dormer is cut in both lathe and clapboard. You could build either, neither or both. If you choose both, we didn't include a third double window for it.

This house does have some big windows, so if you're planning on adding lighting, we recommend using some chip board or other material to divide up the rooms.

While designing this kit, we were a little indecisive as to where to put the smoke jack. It should probably be either

on the back side of the cabin or on the left side roof, forward of the bump out.

INDEX

The instructions for this kit skip around. This is intended to keep the builder moving forward while things are drying. In an attempt to keep things straight, we've included an index.

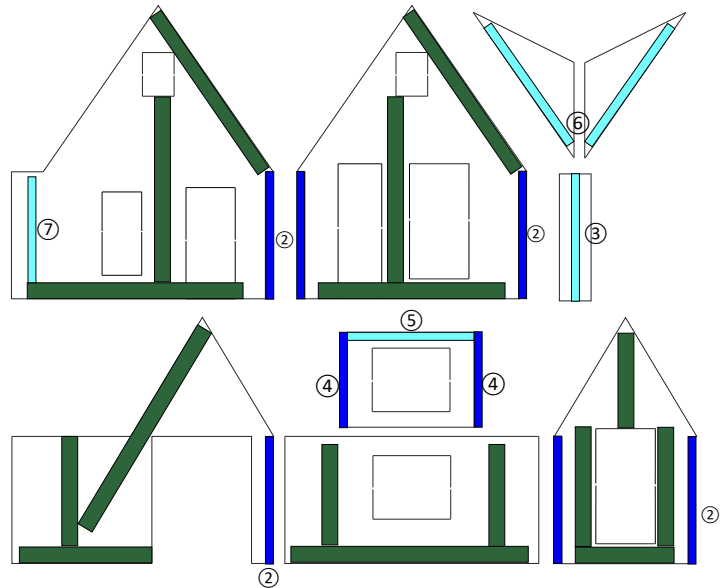
We've also included a stripwood guide on page 3 to help ensure you are using the correct stripwood for each application. Those include a circled number ① to indicate which pieces you are to use at a particular step.

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glued back into place. Should you choose to make them a different color than the siding, we recommend you add these later, but before assembling the walls.

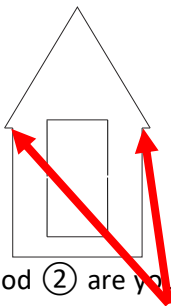


2. Add weights to ensure the walls and bracing dry flat.

BRACING

1. Start by bracing the walls as shown below. 1/8 stripwood is shown in green. 1/16 stripwood ② corner bracing is shown in blue. 1/16 stripwood ② shown in aqua is interior bracing.

- Ensure you will have clearance at the corners for the walls to come together.
- We use 1/8 stripwood at the bottom to ensure a good bond with the base.



- The 1/16 stripwood ② are your corner pieces. They tuck under the small, triangular portions of roof pieces. If these pieces break off, they can easily be

STRIPWOOD SIZING AND PAINTING GUIDE

These instructions assume that you are building the house as we did with the pilot model. Therefore, the colors listed below are only suggestions.

- **We recommend cutting the stripwood only as-needed.** Cutting all stripwood at once may have disastrous results. Should something not align properly or other malady there is a good chance that the wood will be either too short or too long and will end up being wasted. Use the dimensions listed below as a guide.
- Always cut stripwood pieces from the largest to smallest. Reserve any leftover pieces for the sheathing and trim.
- The pilot model suffered because we built the porch and then stained it. If you're planning on staining it, do yourself a favor and do the staining before cutting. If you stain all sides at once, it should not warp.

Below is the broad strokes version of the paint guide. The chart that follows has more detail.

- 1. Paint the following items **WHITE**
 Doors
 Windows
 Undersides of roof and stoops, stoop supports
 4 pieces of 1/16 x 1/32 stripwood (8)
 4 pieces of 1/16 x 1/16 stripwood (2),
 - 2. Paint the smoke jack **SILVER**
 - 3. Paint the exterior walls **RED**
 - 4. Paint the base **GREY/CONCRETE.** Don't forget the sides and the front and back steps.
 - 5. OPTIONAL – Paint the interior. This camp has large windows, so the interior may be easily visible. Some people prefer black or a dark grey for this. We prefer a dark tan.
- The chart below includes **approximate** the required stripwood.

- We recommend that you use a caliper to measure the lengths needed.

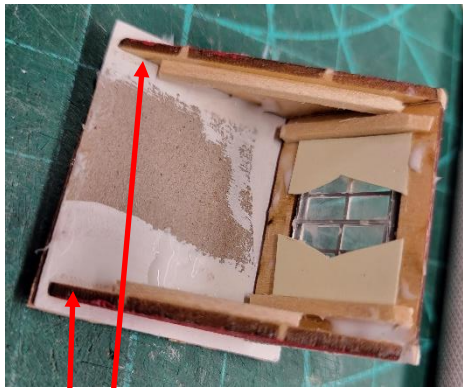
Stripwood Sizing and Paint Guide					
Part	Stripwood	Length (Inches)	Qty	Purpose	Paint/ Stain
①	1/8 x 1/8	various	4	Interior bracing	None
②	1/16 x 1/16	1.37	4	Corner bracing	White
③	1/16 x 1/16	1.37	1	Bump out wall bracing	None
④	1/16 x 1/16	0.82	1	Dormer corner bracing	White
⑤	1/16 x 1/16	1.10	1	Dormer horizontal bracing	None
⑥	1/16 x 1/16	1.25	2	Dormer side bracing	None
⑦	1/16 x 1/16	0.91	1	Bump out wall bracing	None
⑧	1/16 x 1/32	various	4	Roof/Dormer trim	White
	Bump Out Roof		1		Paint undersides/edges white
	Cedar Roofing Shingles		2		Stain Hunterline Concrete
	Doors		2		White
	Main Roof		1		Paint undersides/edges white
	Stoop Roof		2		Paint undersides/edges white
	Stoop Supports		4		White
	Stovepipe		1		Silver/Grey
	Walls		4		White
	Windows		10		White

ASSEMBLING THE WINDOWS/DOORS

- 1. Using a clear-drying glue, install the acetate in the windows and doors.
- Some people install the doors, windows, etc. before assembling the building. For some, it solves dexterity issues. If you are having this issue, go ahead and try it. If not, we recommend waiting until after the building is fully assembled and dry before adding those items. This is so you don't damage anything should you need to use clamps to straighten your structure.

DORMER ASSEMBLY

- 1. There are three sides to the dormer. Hopefully by this stage, you have painted all the required parts.

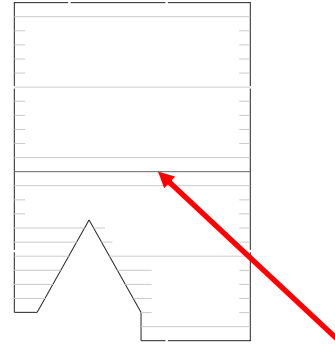



- 2. Attach the sides to the 1/16 corner (4) posts as shown above.
- 3. Fit the dormer roof to the dormer walls.
 - Side to side overhang should be even on the sides.
- Test fit the dormer onto the roof to determine if you want any overhang on the rear.
 - Front/Rear overhang should be mostly on the sides.
 - Most of the overhang should be on the front.
- When you are happy with the alignment, glue the dormer roof into place on the dormer.
- 4. Cut a piece of 1/16 x 1/16 to the same length as the front wall of the dormer.
- Glue the 1/16 into place at the rear. We didn't do this on the pilot model, but it will help keep the sides from turning outward.

- Ensure that the 1/16 will not interfere with the dormer sitting on the roof.
- 5. Set aside to dry.

ROOFING

This kit features shingles made of real cedar. Luckily, they come with adhesive backing.

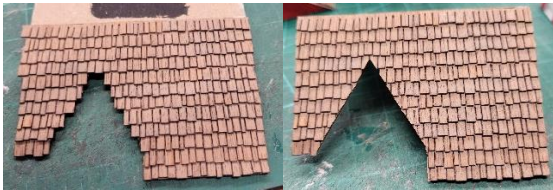


- The main roof is shown above. It has a split line in the middle where the ridge goes.
- We've included laser etched guides on each piece of roofing to help keep your shingles straight. Keep in mind that you may need to deviate in order to keep your shingles lined up.
- 1. Begin by determining where the dormer will be. Ours is centered on the right side roof at the top, so the dormer roof will be positioned under the ridge cap.
 - Mark that area with a pencil.
 - Paint the area inside of those lines flat black. This will prevent the grey chip board from showing through.
 - Alternatively, you could cut out some of that area. If you do this, be sure to leave room for the walls to be supported.
- 2. Add a thin, blank strip at the bottom of the chip board from the shingle sheet. This gives the proper angle to the first row of shingles.
 - 
- 3. Add a strip of shingles over the top of the strip so that the shingles overhang the edge of the roof slightly.

- As you shingle, it helps to let the end shingle overlap the edge slightly as shown in the photo below.

- When you reach the end of the chip board, cut off the end shingle and begin the next row. This cut doesn't need to be perfect. We will fix it later.

- When you run out of a strip of shingles, start the next strip where you left off. This adds the randomness that you need for a more realistic look.



- Stagger the shingles so that the cut lines do not line up from row to row. However, with cedar shake roofing this isn't always possible.

- We're left-handed, so we work right to left. If you are right-handed, you probably want to work left to right.

4. When you get to the top row, we recommend trimming the top of that row (as shown above) so that it will tuck neatly under the ridge caps.

- You do not want the uncut edge of the top row showing.

- You do not want the top of the top row protruding where they will not fit under the ridge caps.

5. When complete, using a hobby knife with a SHARP (new) #11 blade, flip the roof over and cut the ends of the rows so that they are even with the chip board underside. (See photo in step 3.)

- You MUST use a SHARP blade for this step, otherwise it will tear the shingles.

- We recommend a vertical pressure as opposed to a slicing motion. This prevents any loose shingles from moving and causing an uneven cut.

6. Proceed to repeat steps 1 - 4 with the dormer roof, the porch roofs and the bump out roof.

- On the bump out roof, one side will hang down lower than the other. It looks better that way and nobody will notice.

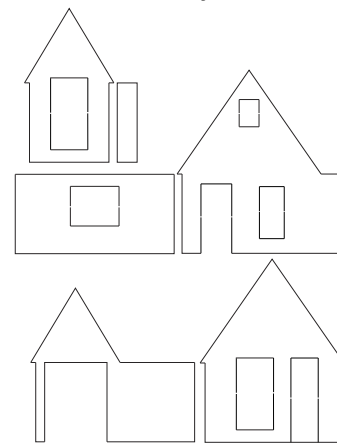
- Also on the side roof, it's ok to leave the angled side jagged, for now.

7. Shingle the two stoop roofs in the same manner as above. Shingle with the lettering oriented so you can read it.

ASSEMBLING THE WALLS

- For this set of instructions, we used a magnetic gluing jig to keep the corners at 90° angles.

- **The instructions on this page should be done fairly close together, while the glue is tacky. This helps ensure the building goes together squarely. Corner bracing not shown for clarity.**



1. Take one end and one side piece and glue them together at one corner as shown above. We recommend gluing the walls together in pairs as shown above.

- Ensure that the bottoms line up and that the edges are even.

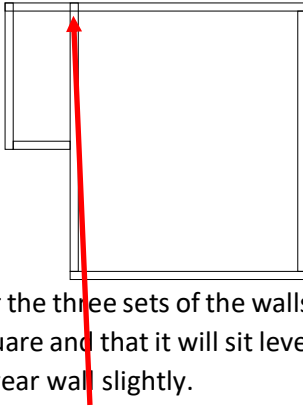
- Brace the walls at a 90° angle

- Each of the two walls should meet at the 1/16 stripwood ② used on the corners.

2. Repeat step 1, ensuring the three sets of walls are glued together at the same corner.

3. Let dry enough so that it is tacky.

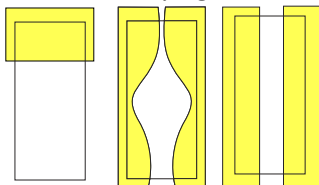
ASSEMBLING THE HOUSE



1. Glue together the three sets of the walls, ensuring the building is square and that it will sit level. The left wall overlaps the rear wall slightly.
2. Glue the walls to the base while the walls are still tacky.
- The house should sit so that it slightly overlaps on all sides.
- If the walls don't sit level on the base you can gently place 3-2-1 weights across the side walls to help level the walls.
3. Let glue dry.

WINDOW AND CURTAIN INSTALLATION

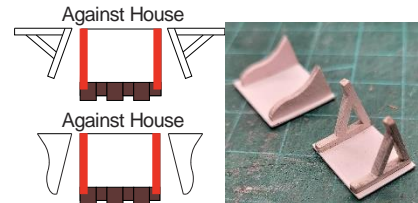
1. Install all windows and doors. Do not forget to install the acetate with a clear-drying adhesive.



2. Cut various sizes of the yellow cardstock to form window shades and/or curtains, gluing them to the interior top and/or sides of the windows as you go.
 - They should not be perfect. They just need to cover the top and both sides of the window. See the examples above for curtain ideas.
 - You can mix the first and second or first and third styles shown above. We'd recommend using different colors for the shade and curtains.
 - Various lengths show "signs of life"

- Alternatively, you could use different colors, but a dirty white or tan would have been the predominant color. We chose this shade of yellow because we felt it would show some age and sun fading.
- If you don't have other colors of cardstock, you can use either colored construction paper, sticky notes, regular paper or paint the cardstock. Painting will cause the paper to warp a little, but curtains and blinds are not perfectly flat.
- The cardstock can also be cut and painted to form drapes. Again, feel free to use different colors. Also, feel free to try different shapes. A vertical accordion-style could be used.

STOOP ASSEMBLY



1. Decide which stoop supports you want to go on the front of the house.



2. Gather the larger of the two stoop roofs (marked front until you shingled it) and attach the stoop supports to the undersides as shown above step 1 in red.
 - You can move the supports inward, as we did on the pilot model. However, make sure the supports don't interfere with the door.
 - Only the bottom row of shingles is shown to indicate direction.
 - DO NOT attach the supports to the shingled side.
3. Repeat for the rear stoop.

ROOF ATTACHMENT

1. Glue the main roof into place, so that the roof is centered front to rear.
 - You may choose to let the glue solidify before continuing on to add the bump out roof.



2. Glue into place the bump out roof, ensuring it fits snugly against the main roof.

FINISHING TOUCHES



1. Cut and install the roof trim (8) for both ends and the bump out, ensuring that the trim is butted up against the roofing and fits well against the corner bracing.
 - You can cut the trim as shown above or cut it so that the trim pieces meet in the middle.
 - We recommend using CA for this step, so you can avoid gaps as shown below.



2. Install the trim (8) under the rear side of the bump out. We found two pieces looked correct for this spot.



3. Cut and install the dormer roof trim (8) as shown above, on both sides of the dormer.
4. Attach the smoke jack in the location of your choice.
5. Do paint touch-ups and weather as appropriate.
 - We recommend a very thin wash of Hunterline Concrete to grime up the structure after all weathering has been completed. We used a thicker coat on the shingles to age them.

CONCLUSION

Please share your photos on our Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/ConowingoModels>

Once again, thank you for your purchase!

If there are any parts missing, please e-mail us what you need to complete the kit and we'll send it your way. Also suggestions for improvement are welcome. Please send photos!

See the Conowingo Models website
www.conowingomodels.com

Many thanks to my family, Jeff Grove, Steve Milley and Mark Schreier for their support!