

Painting the Vermont Farmhouse Jr. Assembled Model

Painting the Vermont Farmhouse Jr Assembled Model is fun and rewarding. Now is the time for planning the project, choosing colors, wallpaper, flooring, and accessories like lighting, banisters, and additions. See www.vermont-farmhouse.com for color ideas, accessories, and builder's techniques.

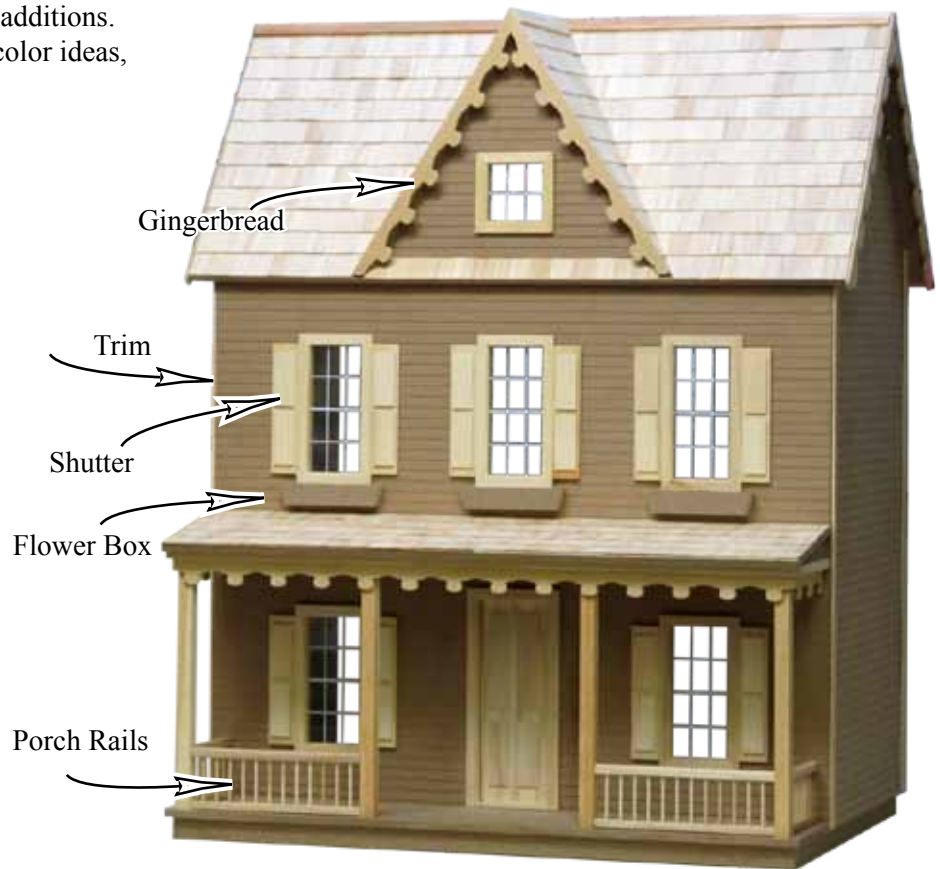
Note: photos are chosen to show the technique you are using, but they may be a different house. Please believe them anyway.

Read these instructions all the way through to understand where you are headed and to help make your painting plan.

Can I do it differently?

YES you can! It's your house. ☺

The techniques offered here are "best practices" advice; you may have different tools, or different skills, or something else in mind... just be sure to consider all of the issues before you proceed and visit www.vermont-farmhouse.com for more information and help.



Supplies you will need:

Paint (semi-gloss interior latex)...

For the housebody: a quart is the smallest amount most paint stores will mix. It is important to get good quality paint even if you have to buy a bit extra. For trim and ceilings, a pint of white may be enough.

For the details: choose "samplers" at the paint store or acrylic paint at the craft store.

Sandpaper: 320 grit is the most used sandpaper (get 3 - 5 sheets) but a non-woven abrasive pad is faster and almost as good for smoothing clapboard walls.

Brushes: a pack of 1" foam brushes may be enough. Use a small (3" or so) foam roller for interior surfaces.

Keep foam brushes in a bag, refrigerated between uses to make them last longer.

A 3/16" Artist's Brush is necessary for railings and detail work.

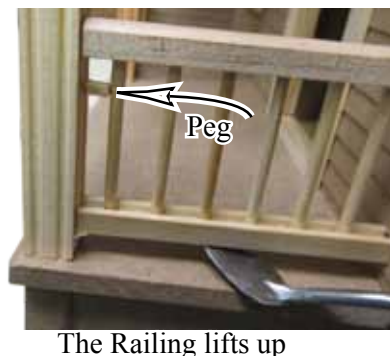
Shingle Dye: Real Good Toys' Dye 1 or Dye 3

Wallpaper: Real Good Toys wallpaper packs are a great value

Master's Touch Metal Palette Knife - #1017

Aleene's Original Tacky Glue.

Remove the Porch Rails for painting, and to give good access for painting the items on the porch. Heat a pallet knife (a hair dryer does a good job) and gently slip it under the middle of the bottom rail. Take it slow and let the heat do the work (the first one takes a minute or two as the pallet knife heats up); the hot pallet knife will cut the hot-melt glue and let you lift the Railing up to disengage it from the pegs at the top.



Removing the Railings is recommended; other parts are optional. Here are the parts that can be removed using this same technique:

- Porch Railings,
- Trim,
- Shutters,
- Flower Boxes,
- Gingerbread
- Door and Windows (removed from the inside),
- Stairs.

Removing these things takes extra time and space.



Dye the Shingles: In the full-sized world, shingles make the rain run off the house. Miniature shingles will do the same thing to the dye (or stain) - you will make the process a lot easier and tidier if you tip the house on one side, then the other to dye the shingles on the Gable Roof... that lets the dye run *up* the shingle instead of down, and lets you minimize the amount of dye in the brush which gives you control over where it goes. Dye the shingles starting at the bottom of the roof and completing one row before moving on to the next.

Mop up what you can with the brush, then wipe the roof with a paper towel to get off the extra.

Tip the house on its back to dye the front roofs and on its front to dye the back.

This same technique works with penetrating stain or paint mixed 50% with water.



One row at-a-time

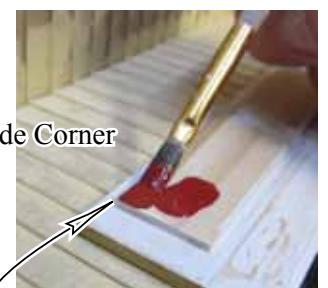


Mop up the excess



Paint the Walls:

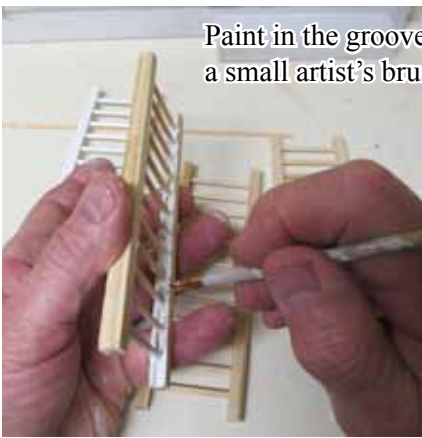
Lay the house on it's side/back/other side to paint the walls. Paint from the top to the bottom, putting on enough paint so it doesn't all soak in, but not so much that there's a lot of paint on the surface to sand away.



Outside Corner

Details that are still attached: If you are painting a contrasting color, paint the edge the wall color and paint the surface the contrasting color so the transition happens at an outside corner.

Paint your other areas and colors. Keep the transitions clean and straight. The Porch Floor can be masked from the Walls (take off the masking tape immediately) or painted close-to-but-not-touching the walls. You can also mask the Gingerbread or remove it for painting.



Paint in the groove with a small artist's brush



Paint the face and corner, but not the inside edges of the window frames



Make color transitions at outside corners

Sand all the surfaces and edges. Sand until the wood is showing and smooth. Sand each surface including every clapboard "board" with 320 grit sandpaper folded to keep it fresh.



Non-woven pad



Folded sandpaper

A "Non-Woven Abrasive Pad" (also called "Synthetic Steel Wool") is a fast start for sanding irregular shapes

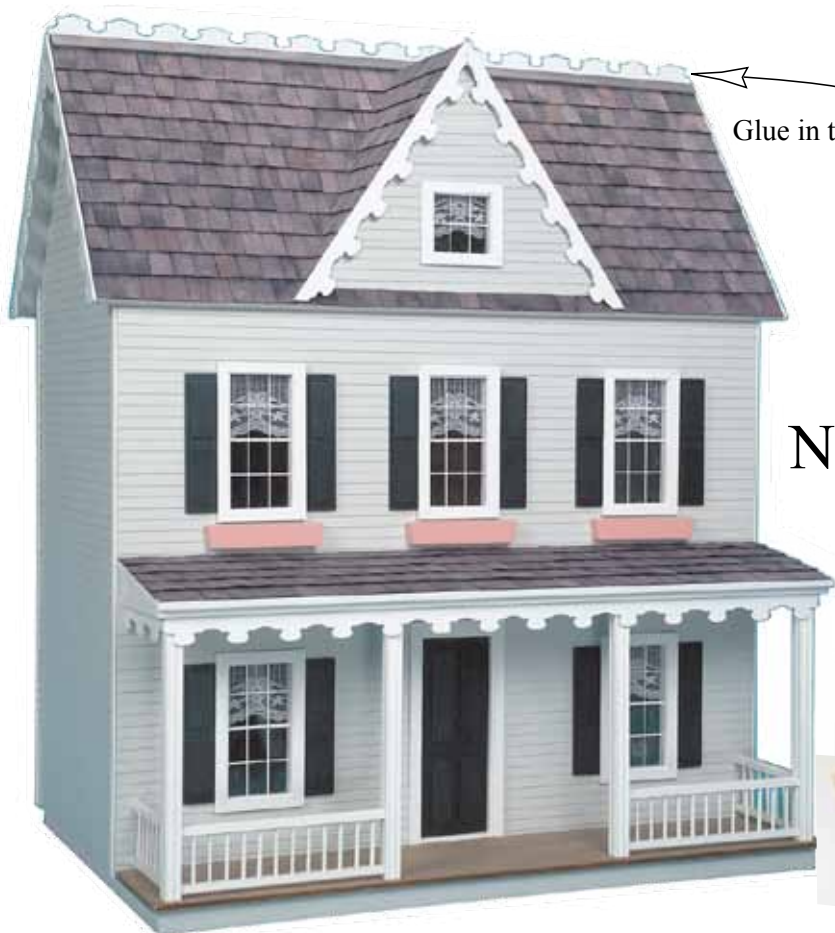


Folded sandpaper

Second-coat the painting. The second coat goes on thick and creamy with the amount of paint that won't leave drips or puddles. Keep transitions clean and straight.

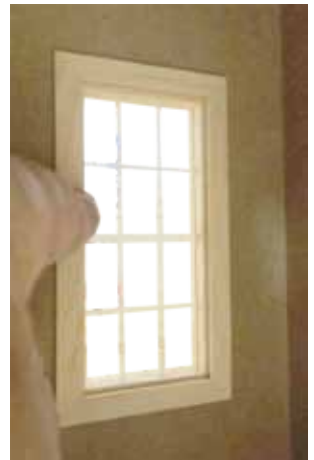


Test, clean and sand if necessary, then glue in the Rails



Glue in the Rooftop Cresting

Nice!



Interior Window Trim

Finish the interior

When you are ready to paint or wallpaper the interior of your house, remove the Stairs with a hot pallet knife. Then do the electrification, painting, wallpaper, baseboard and crown molding, whatever you have envisioned. Finally, install the interior trim for the windows and door, and re-install the stairs. Happy building!

Remove the Stairs for interior finishing



www.vermont-farmhouse.com has links to more interior finishing help.