

Painting the Alison Jr. Assembled Model

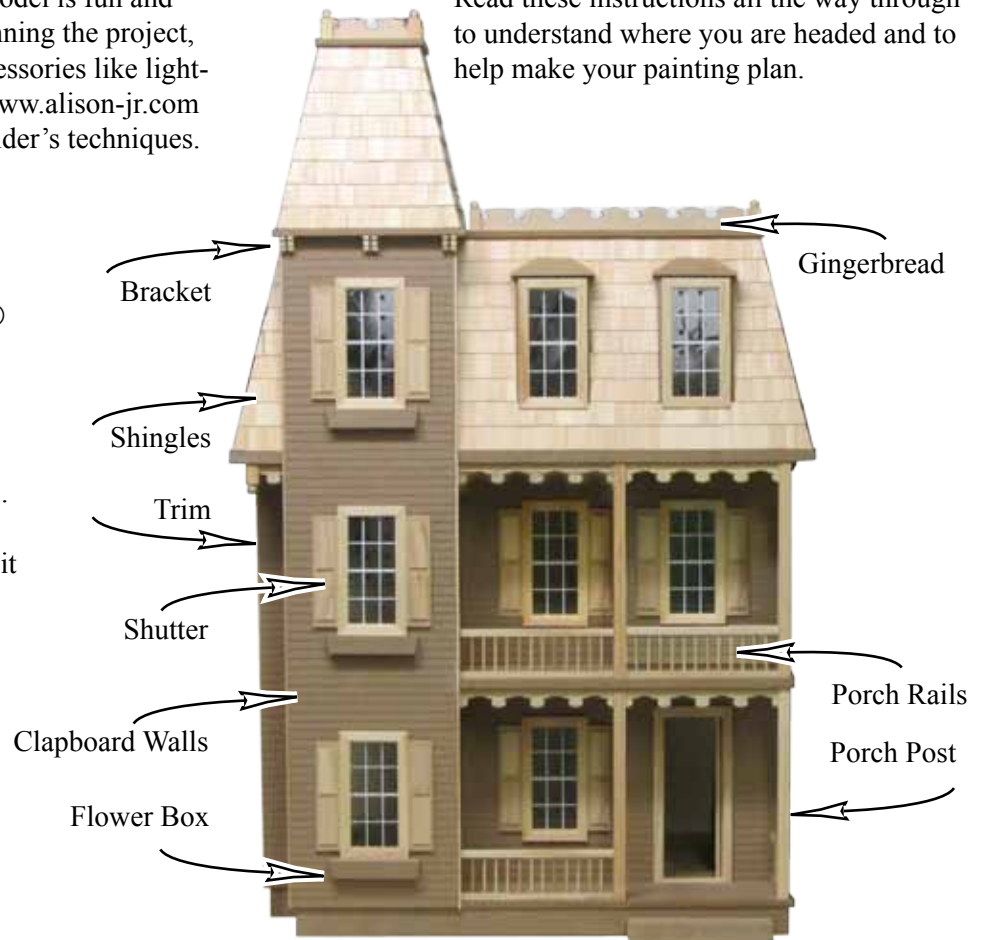
Painting the Alison Jr Assembled Model is fun and rewarding. Now is the time for planning the project, choosing colors, wallpaper, and accessories like lighting, banisters, and additions. See www.alison-jr.com for color ideas, accessories, and builder's techniques.

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.alison-jr.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) .

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),
- Blind Dividers and Stairs.



Removing *everything* 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 to dye the shingles on the other side... 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. Dye the corners carefully to avoid drips. Mop up what you can with the brush, then wipe the roof with a paper towel to get off the extra.

Dye the Tower Side Roof too.

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

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



One row at-a-time



Dye the Corners carefully to avoid drips



Mop up the excess



Paint the Walls:

Lay the house on it's side to paint the side wall. 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. I recommend painting the underside of the third floor and the brackets with the wall color, and adding a stripe on the Bracket-face later for the color and pizzazz.

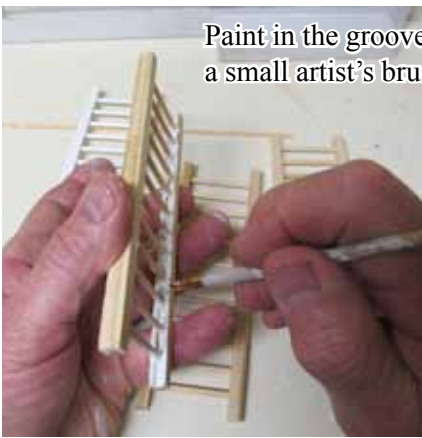


Paint adjacent to the shingles very carefully with an artist's brush (I use a 1/8" or 3/16" flat artist's brush for the tight spots and details on this house). Paint to approach the shingles but do not touch them... leave a little gap that will remain the shingle dye color. The best edge is straight but not touching!

Finish painting the walls, tipping the house to make access easier.



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). Don't be too fussy with the back of the center Porch Posts... they can't be seen from anywhere.



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

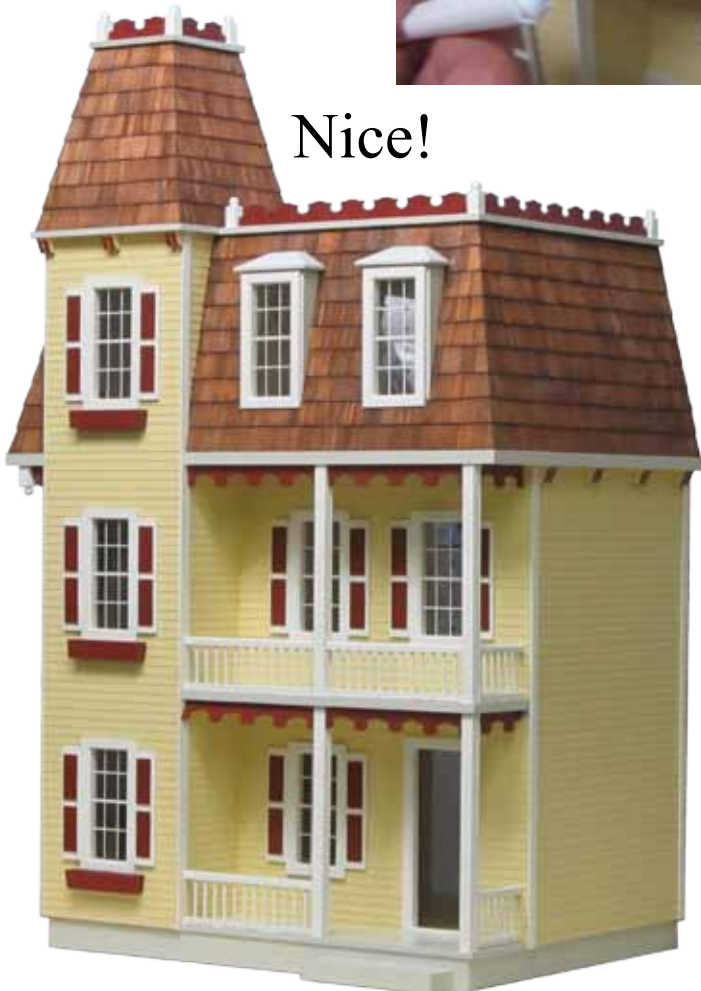
Second-coat the painting. The second coat goes on thick and creamy with the amount of paint that won't leave drips or puddles. Keep transitions clean and straight.



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



Nice!



Dormer Trim is bigger than the other 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!

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

Remove the Stairs for interior finishing

