

Building a Ruined Building

Buildings can seem a daunting task but they add an extra dimension to your games and are worth having a try. A ruined building can be a lot easier to make than a fully roofed one.

To start with we will have a look at what materials I will be using.

Here is the typical stuff I have used in this build.



Corrugated cardboard: I am lucky the stuff I picked up free is 7 mm thick.

Thinner card: This will be used for paving slabs outside the building and can be used for roof tiles.

Masking tape: This will be used to cover the edges of the card and hold pieces together whilst the glue dries.

PVA glue: Pictured in the photograph is woodworking PVA glue

Textured paint: I have made my own for this build using a match pot PVA glue and sand.

A square: This is really important if making buildings as angles that are not right angles stick out like sore thumbs. (even when I use the squares—I still get it wrong at time)

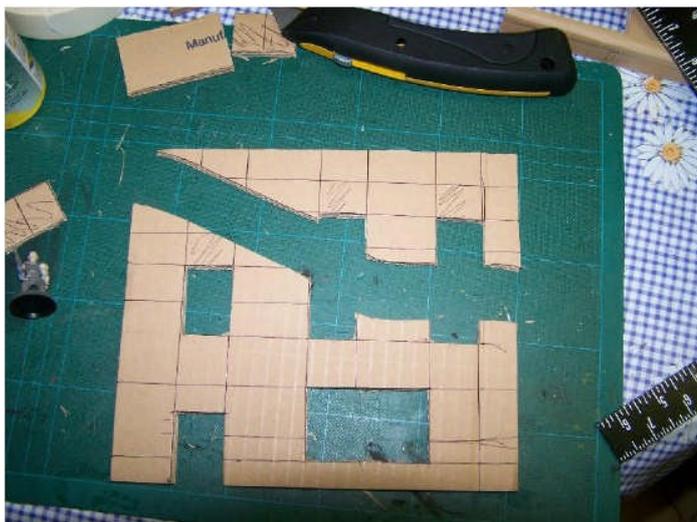
Modelling knife and cutting mat: You can use scissors, but they aren't that effective especially with the 7 mm card. If you don't have a cutting mat you can use a thick piece of corrugated card but remember it isn't designed for being cut on.

I started off by straightening all pieces I was going to use, only did 3 sides on each, as the final side would be ruined.

I then sketched out an initial idea on the card as to where doors and windows would be. I did the front full height adding all windows – even though it was intended to be somewhat damaged. I find this is easier in the long run. It means you can have smashed up windows that fit in with the rest rather than trying to add them to the ruined bit later.



I always have a figure handy just to make sure that a. they can get out of the doors and b. they can see out of the windows.



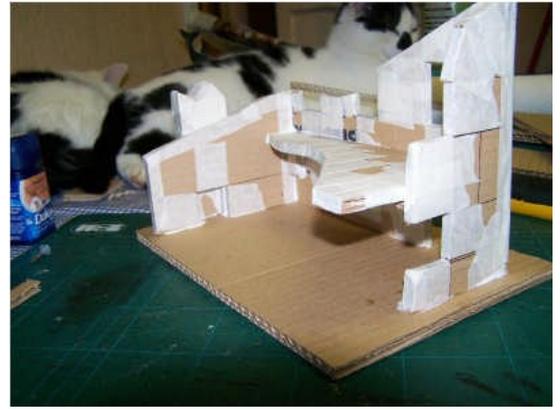
Once the front was finished I chose a random cut pattern and took it apart with a Stanley knife.

I didn't chuck out the top section – it became an end wall – I just trimmed the top edge to 90 degrees to the sides.

Next comes the boring part – taping all of the edges – this takes the longest to do! I did all sections of the part made. I added a floor again with a random cut to look like damage. I also added another end wall and put a fireplace in to it (don't ask me why) I just never tried it before. I added a double thickness of card on the outside to act as a chimney.



I then stuck all the bits together and glued it onto a base of card.



Once the glue had dried I used my mixer pot textured paint to cover the whole structure, inside and out. Once this was dry I gave the building walls a coat of black poster paint. And then dry brushed progressively lighter colours of grey to show off the texture... When this was dry I added the sign board above the main window.. I painted this white to take the sign.



As this was drying I added thin card paving stones to the front of the building and added a couple of posters to the end walls. These were taken from the internet and shrunk to size. There are 3 pages of them as a PDF which may be available for a download.

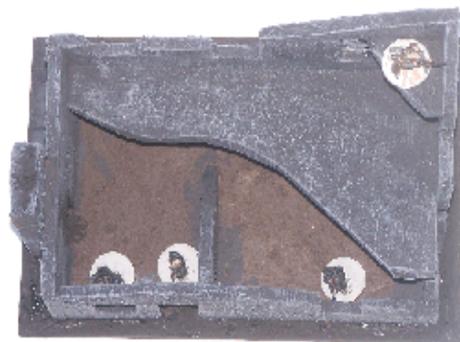


As the building was a ruined French shop the signs were French ones, one was a movie poster for a Humphrey Bogart film and the other for a French ocean going liner company. I chose posters that would show up, but weren't too garish.

While the glue for the posters and paving slabs were drying I super glued some plastic from a model blister pack into the window openings. This was cut to seem like broken glass.

After letting everything dry I lightly dry brushed the paving slabs and when dry I added a very small amount of clump material to the front and sides of the building. I also took the opportunity to print out a name for the shop and glue it to the sign board.

For a finishing touch I added smoke damage above to two whole windows. To be honest I think I overdid the damage above the sign, but on the whole I am pleased with the building.



Figures from my own collection by Black Tree Design

This was a very cheap building to make it was made on the whole out of the free card. I used a 5 cm strip of balsa wood for the sign. I suppose I should add in the cost of the match pot less than £1 and the cost of printing my posters.

There are a few things I would have done differently, I would have increased the amount of sand in the textured paint as some of the tape lines are still visible close up. I also think I should have made the first and second floors out of balsa wood. This would have looked more realistic. I didn't bother too much with rubble both inside and out as I wanted the building to be used for gaming. Too much rubble makes figures very difficult to stand up. But on the whole I am pleased with it.

This building will now be added to the 5 already done for my next weird wars game.

Signing off for now
Beardy Steve.