

Noville School Diorama Part 4 Making the Floors and Plastering the Walls and Ceilings

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Moulds and Materials

To plaster the walls we used:

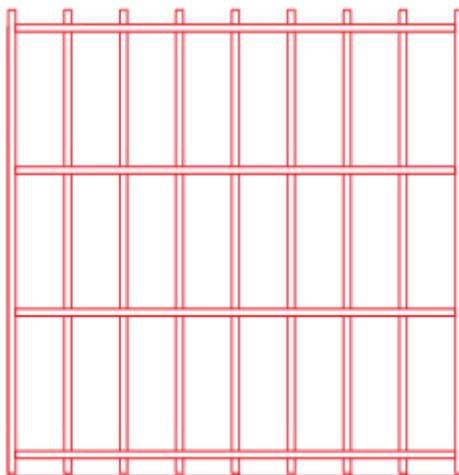
- 1:35 Scale 8' x 4' Plaster Sheets Mould (1350017)

The materials we used:

- Hard casting plaster.
- Polyfilla Multi Purpose filler in a tube.
- Black powder pigment.
- Regular soft wood cut down to size.

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Making the Floors.



Print out a full size drawing of the 1:35 scale floor.



Attach double sided tape to the drawing to hold down the wooden floor joists and noggings.

The floor joist and noggings are just regular soft wood cut down to approximately 1.5mm thick by 4.5mm wide. We used a water proof wood glue mixed with a small amount of black powder pigment to stick them together. We coloured the glue because we will not be able to weather the clean wood underneath. Alternatively you could weather the wood before gluing it together.



Once the floor joists have been stuck together you can stick down the floor boards. The floor boards are 0.75mm thick by 4.5mm wide.

If you are making a ground floor, all that is left to do is to colour the floor boards to suite the room decor and weather any exposed wood. We used an oak wood stain to colour the floor boards and a weak wash made up of black powder pigment and water to weather the whole thing.



If you are making the first floor you will need to add a ceiling. Most old buildings would have a lath and plaster ceiling.

Before attaching the laths you may want to weather the underside of the floor.

When this has dried you can stick down the laths. The laths are made from 0.5mm ply cut to 1.5mm wide. You can cut the ply with scissors or a good paper guillotine. Do not make the gaps between the laths too wide (they should be less than 1mm apart).

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Plastering the Ceiling



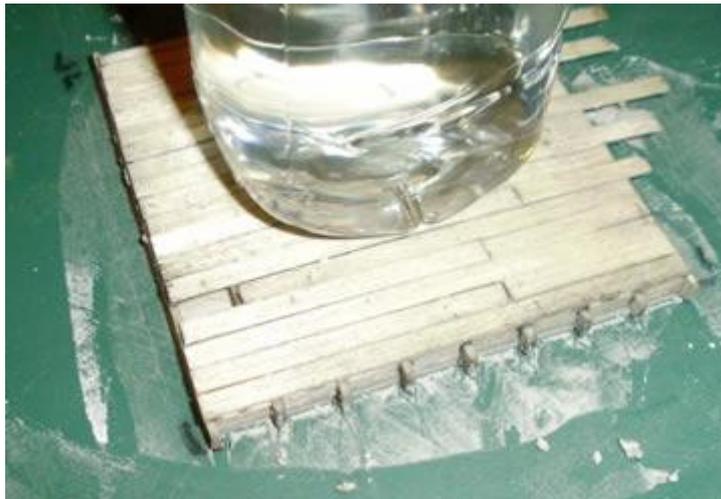
Ply packer.

Before plastering the ceiling you need to add a 0.5mm ply packer to each corner.

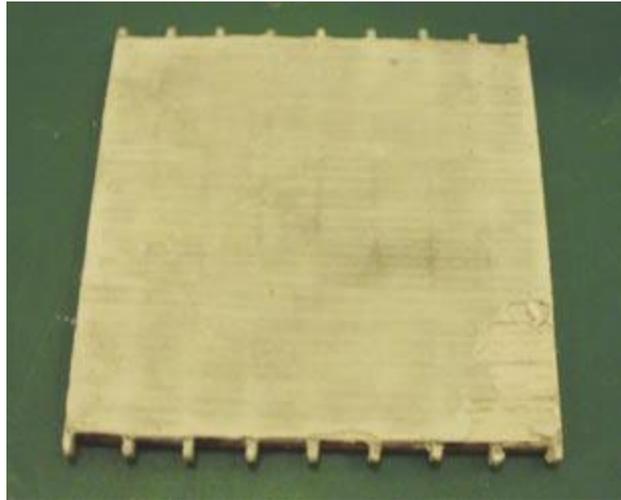


You will need a flexible piece of plastic to plaster the ceiling. We used a cheap flexible plastic kitchen chopping mate.

Mark out the size of the floor on the plastic mate. Make up a slightly thicker than normal mix of plaster (we coloured it light grey) and spread it over the marked out area.



Press the ceiling down into the plaster and remove the excess that squeezes out before it gets too hard.



When the plaster has dried you can bend the plastic mat to release the plastered ceiling/floor section.

The next step would be to paint the ceiling.

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Plastering the Walls

Cast some plaster sheets using the 1:35 scale 8' x 4' Plaster Sheets Mould. It is best to use the glass method (see Beginners Guide).



Note: *In the picture above you can see a horizontal line around the room where the wall sections meet. This is because we used too much glue when we stuck them together and the glue has stained the plaster, luckily this will be covered with the plaster sheets.*

We have stuck down the ground floor and have started sticking the plaster sheets to the walls. We used diluted filler to stick the plaster sheets to the walls but you may find it easier to use wood glue.

To stick the plaster sheets to the walls:

1. Dilute some filler with water (it needs to be a thin mix) and coloured the same as the plaster sheets.

2. Dampen the wall and plaster sheet with water.
3. Paint the diluted filler onto the plaster sheet (do not paint the filler onto any parts of the plaster sheet that will be chipped away).
4. Press the sheet of plaster onto the wall and hold it in place until the filler solidifies.
5. The plaster sheets around the window should overlap the opening. When these sheets have been stuck down and have dried use a file through the window to file them to the exact size (make sure to apply plenty of diluted filler around the opening. You can fill the joint from the outside through the window).

Tip: Score and snap the plaster sheets rather than trying to cut them. Use the same technique as you would when cutting glass or wall tiles.



Use the diluted filler to fill the gaps between the plaster sheets. Paint it on then scrap off the excess with a straight edge. Once dry you can give it a light sand and paint or wall paper the walls.

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Installing the Ceiling and Floor

Note: The ceiling we made in the pictures above was not made for the room in the pictures. The ceiling and floor section that goes with this room would only have the joists sticking out one end. It would have 3 flat sides (the noggins would be flush at one end). To make the pictured ceiling fit this room you would have to cut out pockets in the end wall for the joists to sit in.



Above is the finished room. The ceiling has been taped with a small hammer to represent damage before being installed. It was then glued in place resting on top of the plaster sheets. Keep the bits of broken plaster from the damaged ceiling for rubble.

You would now repeat the process for the room above and the rest of the building.



One of the other rooms.



A different view of the building with finished wall plaster.

In Part 5 we will be covering how to make the roof.