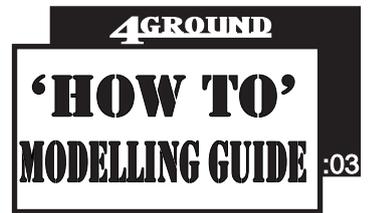


Windows for 4Ground's Dead Man's Hand Buildings

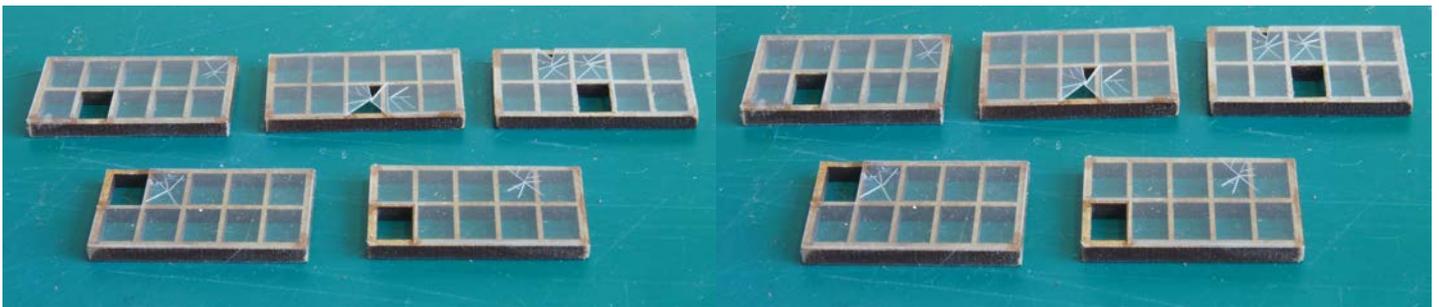
By Phil Hendry



Early on in my experience of building 4Ground's MDF buildings, I toyed with the idea of adding 'glass' to the windows, but didn't bother, because I didn't think it would make enough difference to be worth the effort. However, once I had 'Rogan's Bar' in my hand, I realised that I had to fit windows to the downstairs part of that. Having done so, I realised that upstairs looked sort of 'dead' - there were no reflections for one thing. All I can say is that it's amazing just what a difference a little bit of clear plasticard makes!

Windows are dead easy to make - cut out pieces of clear plasticard the same size as the window frames, or very slightly smaller (it's easiest to measure the window frames before beginning assembly!), and glue them behind the window frames - it's easiest to do so before you fit the window frames, but you can fit windows retrospectively. I had to fit them retrospectively on about six buildings, having discovered just how good they look! The best thing to use to fit the 'glass' in the windows is Micro Kristal Klear, Humbrol ClearFix, or similar - basically, they're a clear glue which won't cloud the plasticard at all.

Cracked panes can be simulated by scratching the surface with something sharp - the point of a scalpel or the point of a pair of compasses for example. Broken or missing panes can be simulated by cutting pieces out - but don't forget that if the whole pane doesn't come out when the window is broken, what remains is usually cracked - more scratching to do!



It's worth thinking, before starting, about which panes are most likely to get broken too. High panes in upstairs windows are probably least likely, whilst those downstairs alongside areas of 'high traffic' (such as along the boardwalks) are probably most likely - but if it's a thriving business, those are likely to get mended quickly too, because otherwise it gives a poor first impression of the business!

Window sizes.

Because of the way the buildings are produced, there are only a few standard sizes of window. All measurements quoted below are in millimetres and are width by height. The single storey 'Side Street' buildings all have windows which are 11.5 x 23.5 mm. The same goes for the 'Main Street' buildings.

It gets a little more complex with the 'Feature' buildings. The two 'lawmen's buildings have windows which are 11.5 x 18 mm. Rogan's Bar and the Undertaker's have upstairs windows which are 11.5 x 23 mm, and downstairs ones which are 16.75 x 23.5 mm (in case you want to change the identity of the buildings and use 'plain' windows, as I did); the bank's windows are 16.75 x 23.5 mm. The Livery Stable has windows which are 27.5 x 16.5 mm.

