

Scratchbuilding a Cedar Shingle Roof

Plus – Weathering Cedar Shingles

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Monster Modelworks – The Monster is in the Details - www.monstermodelworks.com

This clinic will explain my technique for scratchbuilding a cedar shingle roof, a simple technique that delivers real results.

For the basic shingle product and the technique for cutting them is straight from the manufacturer of the shingles, David Barron from Sierra Scale Models (www.sierrascalemodels.com). The laying of the shingles and weathering is my own. I also get my scale glass for windows here too.

Basic Tools

- Cedar Shingle Sheets
- Canopy Glue / White Glue
- Transfer Tape (optional)
- Sharp Pointed Tool
- Single Edge Razor Blade
- Good Scissors
- Masking Tape
- Steele Wool (Super Fine #0000)

Washes, Dyes & Powders

Leather Dye & Alcohol Washes are a matter of personal preference. I have 4 or 5 different mixtures, simply to continue to introduce subtle changes in the shading of the wood. To me this helps to mimic real life. Below are the different mixtures I happen to use...

Stains & Washes (Available at www.monstermodelworks.com)

- Monster Mix #1 - Silver
- Monster Mix #2 - Grey
- Monster Mix #3 - Jet Black
- Monster Mix Black Wash Detail Enhancer
- Monster Mix Thinner
- Weathering Powders (Mainly Blacks, Browns, Grays & White)

Measuring and Cutting the Shingles

1. Place a piece of masking tape on the end of the cedar sheet
2. Cedar shingles are between 6 & 12 inches wide
 - a. Mark off measurements of 6, 9 & 12 inches on the top and bottom of the long ends of the sheet.
3. Cut each strip with your single edge razor blade; be sure to score the sheet with your first pass to avoid the sheet from splitting.
 - a. Be sure not to cut past the masking tape, this keeps the sheet together.
4. Cedar shingles are between 16 & 18 inches long
 - a. Mark off these measurements right down the middle of the sheet.
5. Take your scissors and cut at your approximate measurements.
 - a. Be sure to hold the sheet over a container to catch the shingles.

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Laying the Shingles on the Roof

1. Measure 4/32 from the bottom to the top of the roof. This will be the guidelines to laying the shingles. Included is a line sheet, you can cut out and glue on the roof.
2. Once the lines are down if you are going to use transfer tape, now is the time.
 - a. The transfer tape is not strong enough to hold the shingles by itself, but it does work great as another hand. Makes the process much quicker.
3. Time to lay the roof...
 - a. Start at the bottom and work your way up. This is done just as the prototype is done. The row above overlaps the gaps of the row under it.
 - b. You want to keep the shingle even with the line on the roof, this leaves the exposed edge uneven (exactly how we want it)
 - i. You can cheat and not keep the shingle even with top line; it is helpful during the install, as it will be covered anyway.
 - ii. Sometimes you need a shingle to fit just right
 - c. Lay a bead of glue between each row, just between the shingle and the roof.
 - d. Press down each section to make sure the glue grabs.
4. Work your way up as you see fit.
5. The roof cap can be made from tin foil, brown paper bag, or shingles...
 - a. Explore the different choices in the real world, sometimes these roofs have shingles, sometimes a lead/metal flashing...

Weathering the Roof

1. Apply Monster Mix Black Wash Detail Enhancer to the entire roof, let dry
2. Apply Each of the Monster Mix Stains #1, #2, and #3 be random, let dry
3. Mix a custom powder color using, grays, browns, black and white.
 - a. Apply to the roof wet Monster Mix Thinner, let dry
4. Repeat step #2
5. Rub with steel wool
6. If needed you can hit with one last coat of the Monster Mix Black Wash Detail Enhancer
7. Dry brush with white oil paint, upwards to highlight the tips

You can always stop at any point in the weathering process as your roof maybe newer than mine...