

Technical Theatre

Unit Five: Mini-Construction

The Importance of Developing the Skills to Use Tools:

As a student of design for theatre production, being able to use each of the tools is necessary to be able to bridge the gap between designer and craftsman. A design for a show will never impact an audience if it is not built with quality and care. The only way to become comfortable enough with the tools to get the most out of them is to **practice**. With this knowledge, you will be able to realize your designs successfully.

The Assignment:

Take the color elevation you completed in the last unit of a stock piece of scenery, a flat, platform, or stair unit, and build a finished scale model of it. (scale down by $\frac{1}{4}$) You should use at least a **1"-1' scale**. The model should be constructed using exact construction methods for full-size stock scenery, and should be finished to look exactly as you designed it in your color elevation. The piece should be painted in the theatrical technique you chose earlier in the design process. You may not change the design at this point.

1. CUT LIST

This is a detail look at the lumber needed to build a scale model of your set piece. Use an appropriate scale that reflects **WHAT YOU WILL ACTUALLY BUILD**. Not what it would be in "real life". So a scale model of a 4x8 Flat in "real life" would be 1x2.

2. BUILD

"Measure twice –Cut one" Measure your wood using your cut list and assemble the pieces. Obviously, you will only be able to start building, after a safety skills test has been completed and passed.

3. PAINT

After you have learned painting techniques, use your **COLOR ELEVATION** as a reference to paint your set piece. Remember to **PRIME, BASE AND TEXTURE!**

Tools to Use:

Make several scale sketches of your piece on graph paper before you start building. You should know the needed dimensions of every piece of lumber before cutting or constructing. Use a tape measure to double-check the dimensions of the wood before and after each cut.

The rule is: Measure twice, cut once.

After this is done, cut all pieces and locate hardware. Finally, you should construct, trim, and paint. You may want to practice the painting techniques on a piece of scrap before painting the project itself.