

HOW TO APPLY CEDAR SHINGLES

David Ulmer, M.D.



No Better Way to Roof a Building!

This shows shingle color before and after one application of India Ink Alcohol - 1 tsp/pint water soluble ink. Roof on the right treated.



A rustic roof with weathering

This roof has had several applications of ink/alcohol and chinks to age the roof appearance.

Materials

- Cedar Shingles – Sierra Scale Models
www.SierraScaleModels.com Shingles come in three thicknesses – For HO I find that the medium thickness is easier to work with than thin. If you model in a larger scale, the thicker material may be more appropriate. Price \$3.95 for five sheets.
- Glue – Directions call for using white glue. For the past few years I have used Pacer Formula 560 Canopy Glue for almost all of my structure construction, but use what ever you feel gives you the correct results.
- Masking tape

Tools

- Hobby knife with new #11 blade and fine forceps
- Metal straight edge ruler – I prefer metric
- Paper cutter or
- Rotary Cutter – This really makes cutting the shingle material cross grain so much easier. I have a hand me down Olfa 45mm cutter from my quilter wife. She swears by the Olfa but Fiskars makes a similar device for less money. In addition, Joann's Fabric Stores sells Fiskars and often has 50% off coupons.
- Cutting Mat - I have a reversible mat that is metric on one side and inches on the other from Calibre Art.

Technique

Tape the sheets on both ends across the grain. Carefully mark across the top and bottom the width of the shingles you wish. Here I have marked 3 mm which is slightly less than a scale foot.



Cutting Shingle Width

Use a sharp blade to cut the wood. Be careful to not get off the mark. Despite care, there will be some variation in the width of the shingles due to grain causing your blade to wander a bit.



Cut Shingle Length

Then I rotate the sheet so it lines up on my metric cutting board as I cut my shingles .5 cm long - that is about 18 inches scale length. Much easier than marking the length as we did the width. I then use the rotary cutter. You could also use sharp scissors or a paper cutter.



Cut Shingle Length

Here is what you come up with.

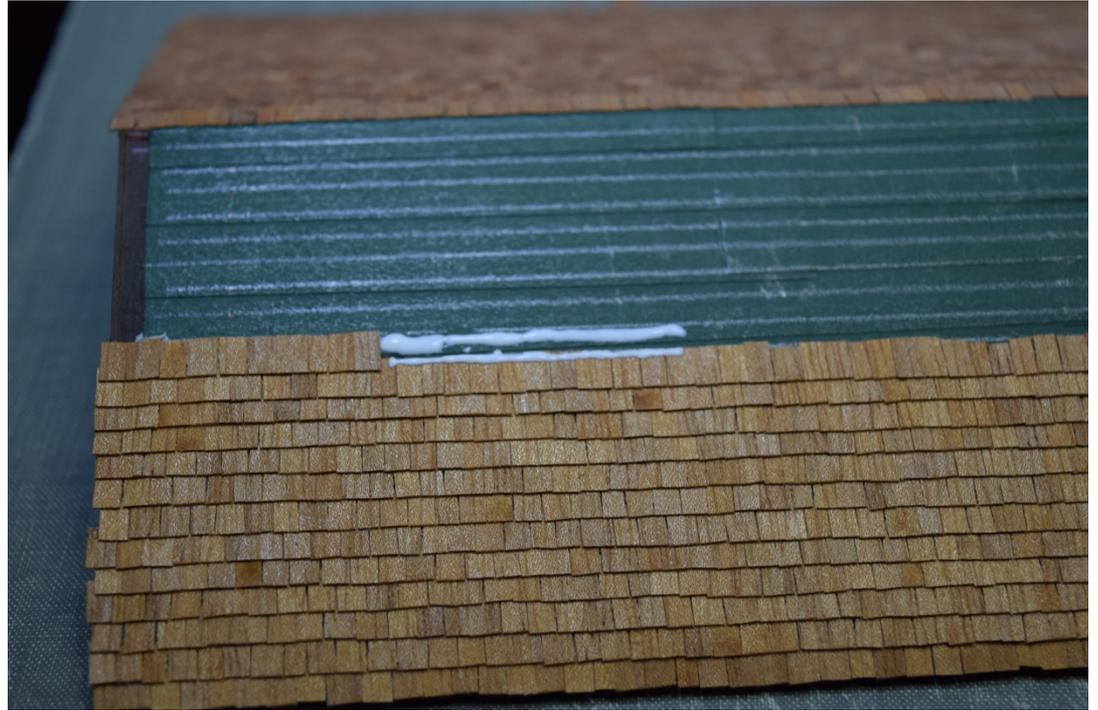


Apply Shingles

Line roof to keep rows straight. I make my lines 3mm or 1/8th inch apart. This allows for a pleasing reveal. As there will be some variation in the length of the shingles, try to keep the reveal the same across the rows. Also, shingles should overlap the joints of the row below. Don't want those little structures to have leaks.

Here I have placed glue for a few inches. I know from experience about how long I have to work before the glue starts drying. If all my shingles were factory made, I could work faster, but since the shingle maker is not perfect, I sometimes have to search for the correct shingle to use so joints will be correctly covered.

Use the hobby knife to spear a shingle and a forceps or toothpick in the other hand to position and manipulate.



And Above All Be Patient!!!

If you wanted a quick result, you would not be adding a shingle roof to your building.

