CORNERSTONE®

HO Structure Kit
PARKVIEW TERRACE
933-3176 933-3177

Thanks for purchasing this Cornerstone Series® kit. All parts are made of styrene plastic, so use compatible paint and glue. PLEASE NOTE - This is a partial kit, designed for use as a scenic background. Please study the drawings and read all instructions before starting assembly.

Demand for suitable housing was always a problem in cities. Available land was often limited by natural features such as hills, rivers or swamps and later by man-made obstacles including industries, streets and railroads.

To make the most of the land that was available for housing, lots were divided into narrow strips typically 25' wide by 100' long. The landowner hired an architect to design a building that would fit and virtually every inch of space was used. With little choice but to build upward, homes of three or four stories became common. This was about the maximum load the wood framing could support and most people didn't care to climb more than three flights of stairs at a time. With no restrictions on design, homes were packed in like sardines.

But as railroads began expanding in the 1830s, they opened areas outside the city to housing and transformed small towns into commuter suburbs. By the 1840s, waves of new immigrants began arriving in larger cities increasing demand for housing faster than it could be built. Any existing home was now a valuable commodity that could be sold or rented and many were converted into multi-family dwellings for extra income. While the original rooms had never been huge, the conversions made them even smaller. A typical apartment consisted of a front or living room, a kitchen and one bedroom, although the other rooms doubled as bedrooms for large families. Others used part of their home as a workplace, offering such services as dress or hat making and palm reading. And as once quiet streets became busy thoroughfares, the ground floor was sometimes remodeled as a storefront where a higher rent could be charged.

These changes created a building that was dark, airless and overcrowded. Sickness could spread quickly; residents who were now packed tightly together were easily exposed to new diseases for the first time in their lives. The lack of running water and proper toilet facilities was also a problem.

Landlords had no legal obligation to maintain their property and conditions in many of these tenements were simply awful. But the rise of an American middle class led to sweeping social reforms in the late 19th century. Sensational newspaper and magazine reports backed by civic campaigns put public pressure on lawmakers to establish building and zoning codes. (These efforts were so effective that the word "tenement," long-used to describe any multi-family dwelling, took on the negative meaning it carries to this day, and "apartment" became a reference to a more upscale multi-family building.)

This forced owners to make major changes to existing buildings and redesign new ones. Additional windows were added to increase ventilation and interior lighting, along with indoor plumbing and running water. During this period, many deadly fires helped increase awareness of how dangerous these older wooden homes could be.

Fire escapes became a common fixture and since the rooms were still tiny, the fire escape soon became a natural extension of the living area. In addition to its life-saving mission, it now served as porch, garden, storage area and laundry room, and on hot summer nights if there was no rain, a bedroom.

The early 20th century was a period of new and bigger industries that required rail service. While the land along the tracks was always of a certain value, some lots simply didn't lend themselves to industrial development. And new factories required more workers who needed housing. Many leftover lots along the railroad were large enough to construct multi-family apartment buildings. Stronger iron and steel beams allowed taller structures to be built (making elevators more popular) to make maximum use of available land.

Civic reforms and zoning created areas intended specifically for apartments. The problem was that the cities kept on growing and land around the apartment was soon swallowed by industrial and commercial development. And as railroads helped cities expand, they also helped divide them. The right-of-way became an imaginary line between the less desirable industrial areas with their run-down homes and buildings "the wrong side of the tracks" in American slang and established single-family neighborhoods or the newer, more expensive suburbs.

As had happened a century before, folks who could afford to move out did so, opening up housing for a new generation of immigrants. The cycle continues today, and many of these older apartments are still in use, still standing alongside the right-of-way.

ON YOUR LAYOUT

This special background building lets you use that last little bit of space to create a realistic background for any city area. The model can be used on the edge of your benchwork, along a shelf or modular layout and in dioramas. Once installed, it provides a smooth, realistic transition between 3-D foreground scenery and painted or printed backgrounds like Instant Horizons (949-701 series) and Instant Buildings (933-722 series).

While the basic building creates a four-story structure, molded cut lines allow you to shorten it if desired. Additional kits can also be combined to create buildings of different heights. The models are currently offered in two different colors, and it was common to build several apartments together, often sharing a common courtyard between them. Two or more buildings could be grouped to model this type of scene.

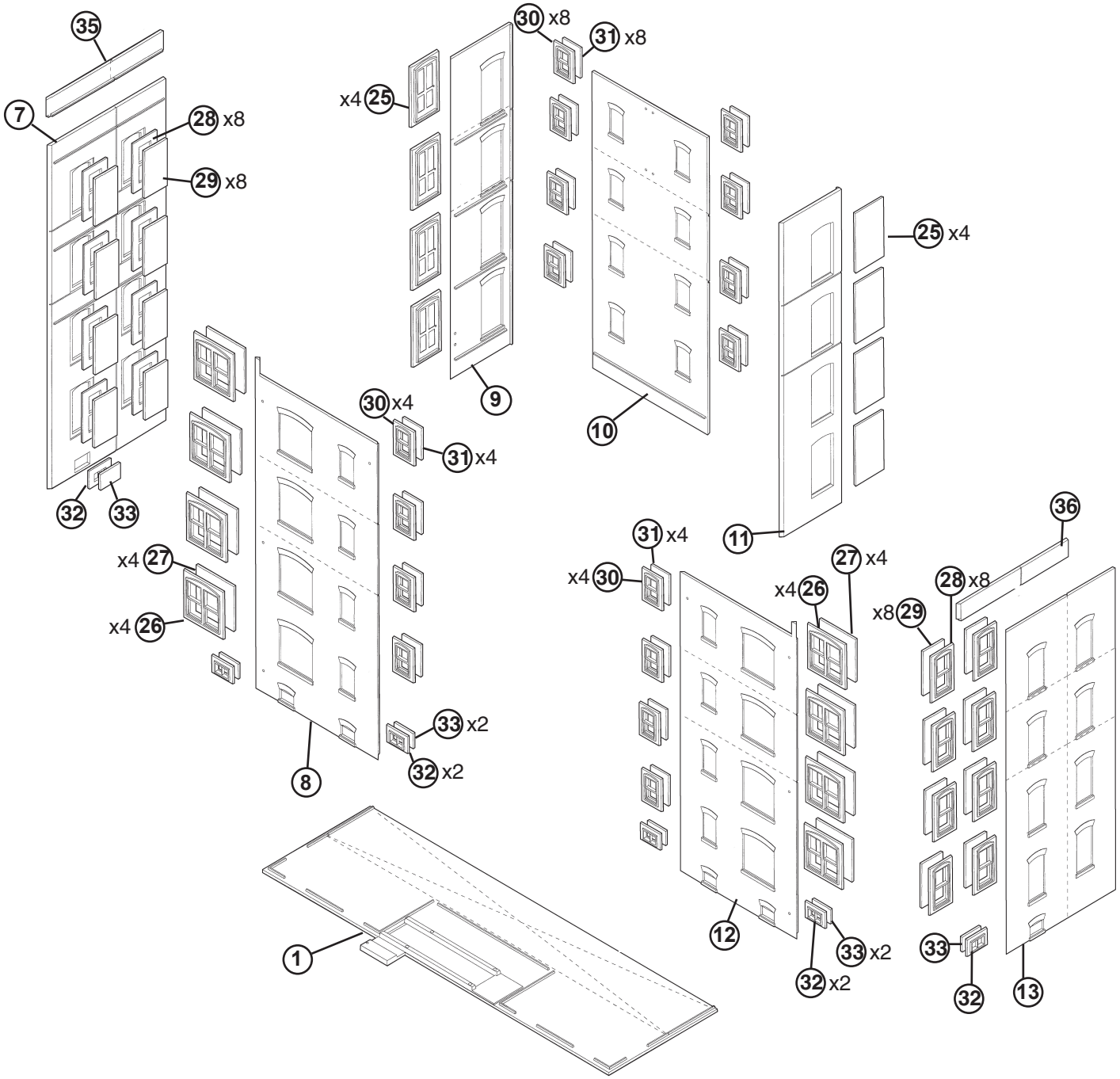
With appropriate figures, signs and details, your new model fits any era from the 1900s to the present. The open fire escape is a natural for superdetailing and will allow you to add a lot of life to a small area.

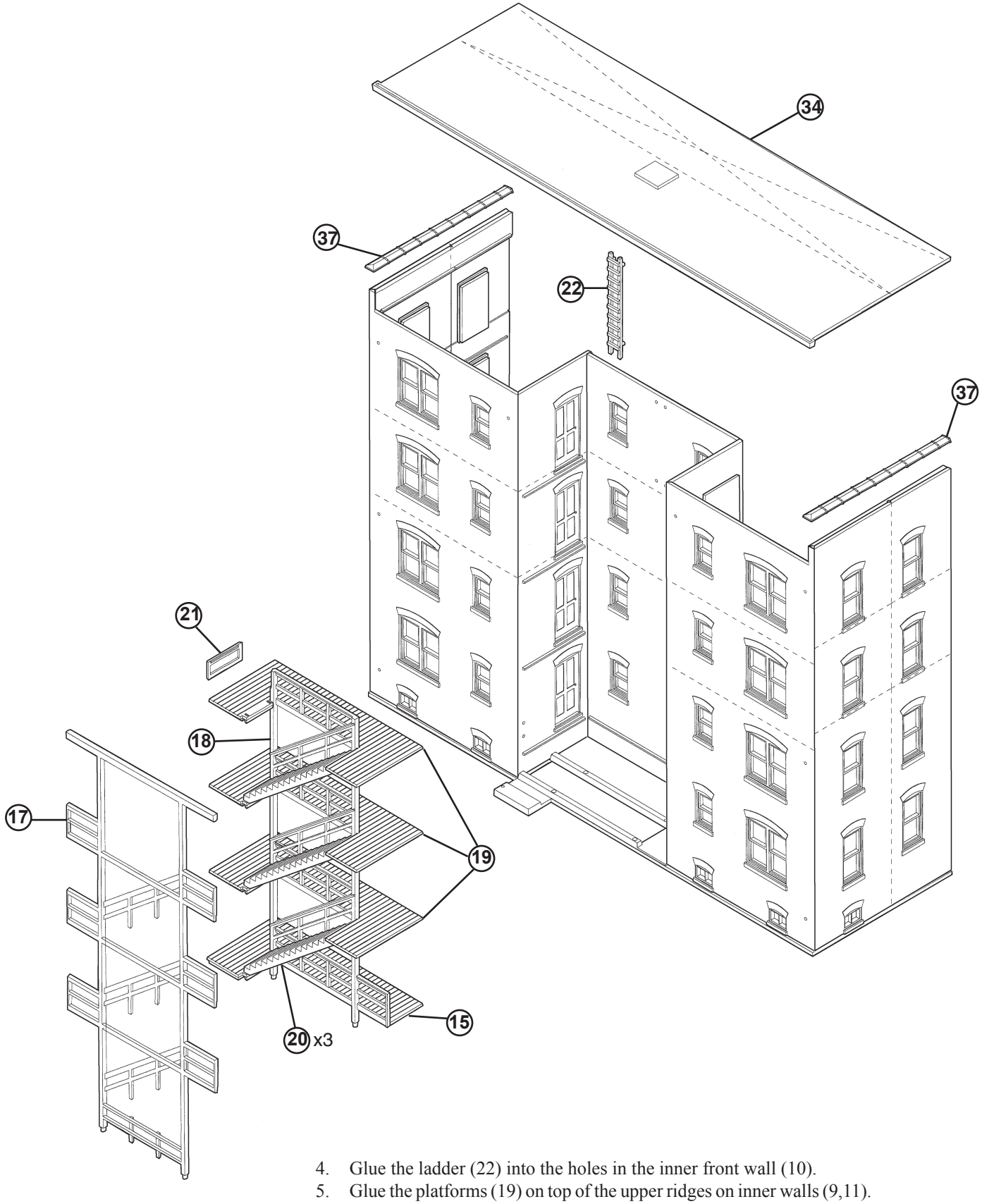
For ideas on detailing your model, as well as additional Background Building kits, see your dealer, check out the current edition of Walthers HO Scale Model Railroad Reference Book, or visit our web site at waltherscornerstone.com.

You have the option as to how deep your structure is, at what angle it sits against your backdrop and how many stories it is. For the depth and angle refer to the base (1) and roof (34). You will notice engraved guidelines on the under sides of the pieces to use for cutting. Cutting straight across the horizontal line will make your structure one inch narrower. Doing this will also necessitate cutting the side walls (7&13). Cut by following the vertical lines on the inside of these pieces. To angle the structure to the left or right, cut following the appropriate diagonal lines on the base and roof. You will then have to cut one of the side walls, depending on the angle. Study the illustrations.

As to the height of the structure, it can be built as either four or three stories tall. For four stories, no modifications are needed. For a three-story structure, you will need to cut out the middle sections of walls #'s 7,8,9,10,11,12,13 by following the engraved lines on the inside of these pieces. Discard these sections and glue the top sections onto the bottom two-story sections. You will then have to shorten the stairway as well as the downspouts.

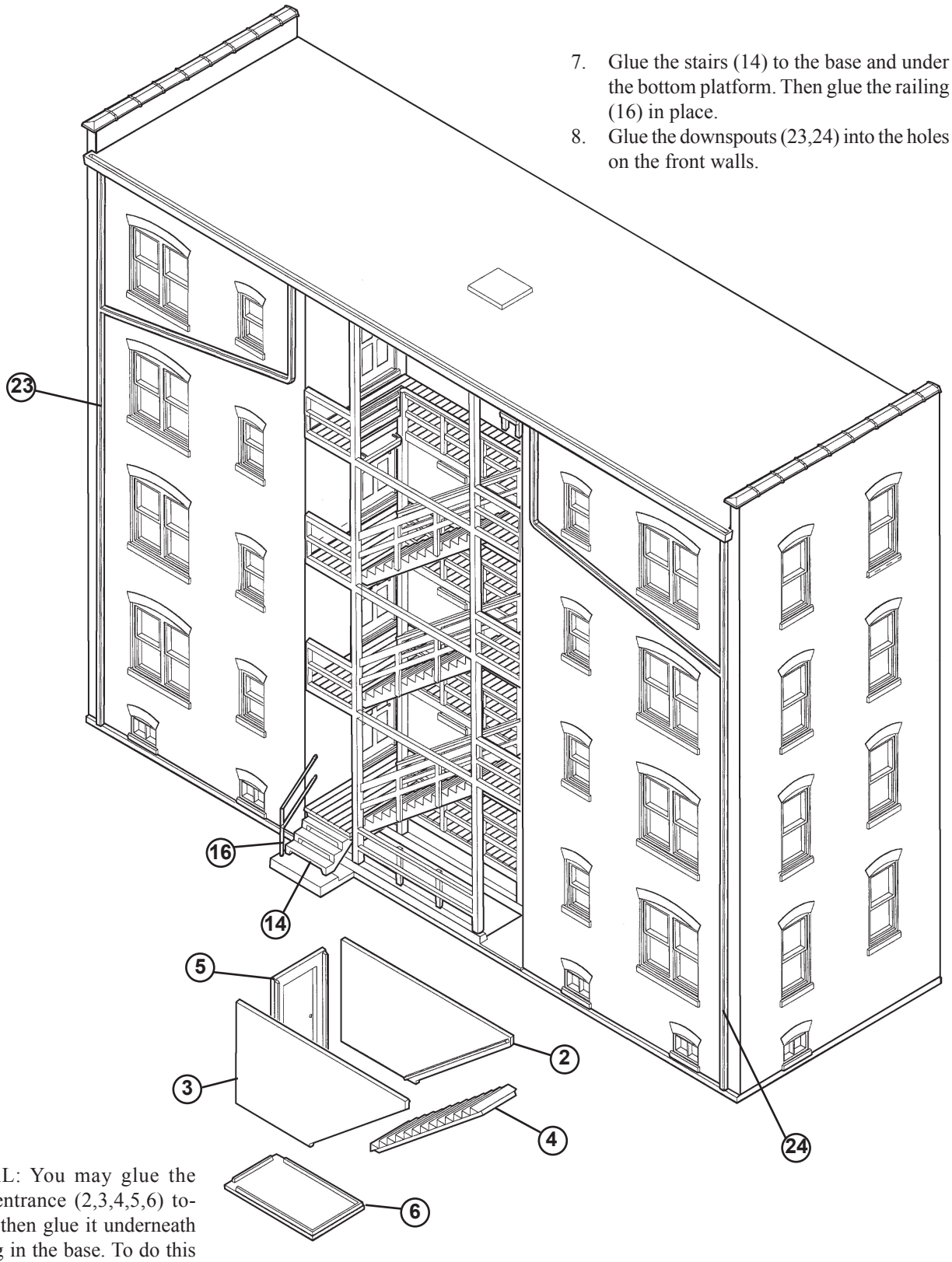
1. Glue the windows (26,28,30,32) and doors (25) into their appropriate openings on the backs of the walls (7,8,9,10,11.12.13). Then glue the window "glass" (27, 29,31,33) onto the backs of their respective win dows.
2. Glue the inside parapet walls (35,36) to the backs of the side walls (7,13). Note: Glue them on top of the ridge that is found on the walls.
3. Glue the walls (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13) together and to the base (1).





4. Glue the ladder (22) into the holes in the inner front wall (10).
5. Glue the platforms (19) on top of the upper ridges on inner walls (9,11). Then glue the bottom platform (15) in place on the walls. Next glue the inside support (18) to the platforms and the base. Glue the stairs (20) to the platforms as illustrated. Now glue the small railing (21) into the notch on part #18. Glue the outer support (17) in place to the outside of the platforms and the base. Make sure #21 fits into the notch on the inside of this support.
6. Glue the roof (34) in place and then glue the wall caps (37) on top of the side walls (7,13).

7. Glue the stairs (14) to the base and under the bottom platform. Then glue the railing (16) in place.
8. Glue the downspouts (23,24) into the holes on the front walls.



9. OPTIONAL: You may glue the basement entrance (2,3,4,5,6) together and then glue it underneath the opening in the base. To do this you will need to cut a hole the size of the entrance in your layout.

DECALING

1. After cutting out the decal, dip in water for 10 seconds, remove and let stand for 1 minute. Slide decal onto surface, position and then blot off any excess water.
2. Lightly brush on Micro Sol® on top. This will soften the decal allowing it to conform to irregular surfaces. DO NOT TOUCH DECAL while wet!
3. When the decal is thoroughly dry, check for any trapped air bubbles. Prick them with the point of a small pin or hobby knife blade and apply more Micro Sol®.