

Gable End Designs Vacuum-formed Brickwork

Instructions for fixing and painting

The recommended adhesive for attaching the brickwork to the wooden structure is Dunlop "Thixofix" or Evostik "Time Bond". These are both thixotropic (non-drip) contact adhesives which allow a small amount of shuffling of the parts to be bonded before fixing.

The brickwork is made from polystyrene plastic which may be attacked and softened by excessive amounts of these adhesives, which contain solvents. The fixing method advised is as follows:

Work in a reasonably warm but well-ventilated atmosphere so that the solvents evaporate quickly. Avoid breathing the fumes from the adhesive.

Coat the wooden parts (to which the brickwork will be applied) with adhesive as recommended on the tin, using a spreader.

Coat the back of the brickwork with adhesive, again using the spreader, but avoid building up any thick 'blobs' of adhesive.

Allow the adhesive to lose its tackiness, but not become completely dried out, on both surfaces and then position the brickwork and press down firmly. Use a hard roller, such as a wallpaper seaming roller, rolling pin, or similar to assure good contact. If the adhesive is left for too long before bringing the surfaces together, the bond may not be quite as good.

Any small gaps at corners can be filled with a proprietary filler, such as Davids P38 car body repair paste or flexible decorator's filler prior to painting.

Painting can be done with 'Humbrol' type enamels (from model shops), or emulsion paints if a protective coat of matt fixative is given afterwards.

Paint the entire area in brickwork colour (this may require 2 coats) and then use thinned Humbrol enamel or Tamiya acrylic paint for the mortar line; this may be applied with a fine brush, or better, with an adjustable spring drawing pen. These pens have a fine screw adjustment to allow for differing thicknesses of ink/paint and resulting line. They should be available from drawing office or artists' suppliers and will last a lifetime.

Weathering of the brickwork is best done with artists' oil pastels. These can be bought from art supply shops and are like soft crayons. Apply various colours (blue, red, brown and black) here and there with a fingertip and smudge until the required effect is obtained. Finally apply a coat of matt varnish or artists' fixative to seal. That supplied as a spray varnish with 'Plasti-kote' "Fleck Stone" works well, or use Rowney Artists Fixative spray.