Please read these instructions completely through to be sure you are familiar with all the steps. Then following along again as you build your structure. Download a .zip file of all the pictures including many more assembly pictures HERE!

HYDROCAL: The front portion of The Fulsome Inn is Hydrocal. It is very fragile so please handle it with extreme care! A small crack or two is easily repaired with glue. A finished “crack” adds an extra type of realism. Who hasn’t seen a crack in an older brick building?

1. Using a pencil color in the back of the casting as shown. Then you’ll want to attach a full piece of sandpaper to a flat surface. I use a 12x12 ceramic tile I bought at a home improvement store. Lightly, with very little yet even pressure, sand the casting with a gentle circular motion. You are trying to remove the pencil marks and flatten, or “true” the rear of the casting. The pencil marks will show you the areas that are still not even with the surface. When the pencil marks are gone, the back of the casting will be flat.

2. Using a new (sharp) #11 blade, remove any imperfections or “bubbles” from the front of the casting. Remember Hydrocal is very fragile! Then, with very light pressure, cut out any remaining material left in the window openings. Use multiple passes just slightly scoring the plaster with each pass. The window frames are very delicate and will break if you aren’t careful! Make the corners of the openings 90° square.
3. You can choose to paint the entire casting with your brick color, then go back and hand paint the storefront with a brush. We sprayed ours, so the brick was masked off then we painted the storefront with Model Master SAC Bomber Green. We then masked the storefront, and painted the brick with a Rust-Oleum brown primer. Go one step further and color or paint a few random bricks with a darker color. A “wash” of a white, slightly watered down, acrylic paint was then applied over the brick, and wiped off. The result will leave white in the brick lines, or “mortar” – do a small area at a time - we don’t want the white to dry. Paint the “granite” foundation & blocks below the windows too.

4. Prepare the windows and doors for installation. First, we’ll clean them up. Then cut them off of the sprues. Use a sprue cutter, a chisel blade, or a #11 blade. Whatever you use, make sure it’s new & sharp! Clean up any burrs with a small file and/or sandpaper. We’ll spray paint them as this is the best method. Using a brush is time consuming and messy, with paint tending to “pool” up or collect in the corners. Attach the windows, doors, and frames to a piece of masking tape to hold them for painting. Lightly coat them multiple times until covered. Allow time to dry between coats. We used the Model Master color that we also used on the Hydrocal storefront portion.

5. Assemble the windows that have 2 parts. You can model them open. Vary the amount that each window is open. Apply your “glass” to the window openings. Clear Acetate can be used, but we prefer clear drying Canopy Glue or Gallery Glass (available at craft stores.) Follow the manufacturer’s instructions to obtain results like we have.
6. Place the door and windows into the Hydrocal casting. We glued them using Formula 560 Canopy Glue. The storefront has printed Acetate windows. They can be placed behind the casting, if you chose to just use the window frames that are molded into it. Or, you can put them in front of the casting, but behind the “gold” window frames as shown. Cut the Acetate carefully using a new sharp blade. Score it lightly, multiple times until you’re completely through it.

7. Cut out the window and door openings in the wood clapboard walls. Clean up/remove any wood tabs or burrs. Brace the walls using the 5/32 bracing according to the bracing diagram included with the kit. Mark the back of each wall at 3/16 from the top edge. You don’t want the bracing past this point. Use white, yellow, or Canopy Glue for all the wood-to-wood assembly. Keep the wall flat while the glue is drying. A good amount of clamps can be very helpful for this step!
8. Paint the walls and stripwood trim at this step if you’d like. We first “aged” the clapboard walls by lifting a few random boards. Add seams too where boards would meet. We then covered the walls with a mix of alcohol & India ink. This is often referred to as A&I stain. We lightly painted the walls with an off-the-shelf acrylic gray. A sponge coat was then applied with white paint that was first dabbed on a piece of paper to remove all but a slight trace of the white. This effect can be mixed with a few different earth tones. It will give the effect of a weathered and worn look to the clapboard.

9. We’ll assemble the building walls. Begin by gluing on the corner trim (1/16\textsuperscript{th} square stripwood) to the both sides of the rear wall. Keep the building walls 90° square while you allow it to dry thoroughly. We cut 2 pieces of 5/32 bracing the same length as the Hydrocal building front to help keep the front distance correct. We glued these behind the first piece of bracing on the side walls. These will also hold the view block we’ll talk about in the next step. You can see what this in the pictures shown for Step 10 on the next page.

10. You can glue in all the doors and windows. (You can chose to put them in before Step 9 if you prefer.) In the pictures on the next page, you’ll notice we put in “window shades” of various lengths. We used a piece of black paper to cover the front view of the picture windows on the storefront. Otherwise you’d be able to see inside to the empty cavernous shell. Unless you plan on doing an interior. Another idea may be to search the internet and find/print out pictures of a storefront and put those behind the windows. Don’t be afraid to experiment and try various things!

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11. Cut or trim the matboard roof card to fit the opening. It should be flush with the front walls. After you've verified a proper fit, cut a piece of sandpaper and attach it to the roof card. As shown in the second picture below, we used 3M #465 Transfer Tape to adhere it. Glue will work too. We used chalk powders to weather the sandpaper on our model. Another method is to apply glue to the roof card and simply sprinkle a fine sifted sand or dirt onto the roof card then shake off the excess. A sand roof version is shown in the 5th picture below.

12. Paint the foundation base the same color as you did the granite blocks of the Hydrocal casting (Step 3.) Attach the Hydrocal casting to the front (straight) edge of the matboard foundation. Keep it square! You can see we used a 90° angle weight we bought from the Micro-Mark.com catalog.
13. Attach the wood portion of the building to the Hydrocal front.

14. Assemble the add-ons. The walk-up stairway first. Brace according to the included diagram if you haven’t already. The walk-up stairway has three wood pieces and two matboard pieces for the floor and roof. Install the door and window. Glue the assembled unit to the side of the building. The roofing material is corrugated metal or paper, depending on which kit you purchased. Both are attached to the roof cards using 3M #465 Transfer Tape. A CA (Cyanoacrylate Adhesive) or Super Glue will also work to attach the metal roofing. Just about any type glue will work well for the paper versions. We painted our metal roofing with the same primer we used for the brick color on our Hydrocal. They should be cut into scale 4’x8’ or similar sized sections. We then weathered it further with chalk powders. We also ran a bit of black paint where the metal roofing meets the wood wall to simulate a tar sealant.

Pictures of walk-up stairway continued on next page...
15. In this step we’ll build the rooftop access shack. It’s four walls & a roof. 1/16” stripwood corners. Brace according to the diagram. Paint & glue it. Cover the roof card with any roofing material you’d like. Glue in the door. (Not shown.)
16. Assemble the roof top billboard. We attached the sign with 3M #465 Transfer Tape.

17. Paint the rooftop chimneys/accessories/vents. Clean up any flashing before priming the metal details.

18. The fire escapes are best assembled using CA or Super Glue. Use a square edge to gently fold the corners of the brass versions. Spray paint them with a flat black. We used the CA to attach them to the wood also.

19. Glue the remaining items onto the roof. This includes the Hydrocal cornice piece & the matboard top edge trim.
20. For the awning there is a curved piece of matboard that you can attach to the front of the building. Wrap this with the simulated "brass" decorative trim piece as shown below.

21. To finish up the structure we've include a sidewalk that wraps around the building. This can be painted a concrete color and weathered with chalks.

THANK YOU FOR BUILDING THE FULSOME INN.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT SECKLER FOR BUILDING THE PILOT MODEL AND MARK PANZERA FOR BUILDING AND PHOTOGRAPHING THE INSTRUCTION MODEL!