



Clapboard Siding from File Folders

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Materials

A few manila file folders

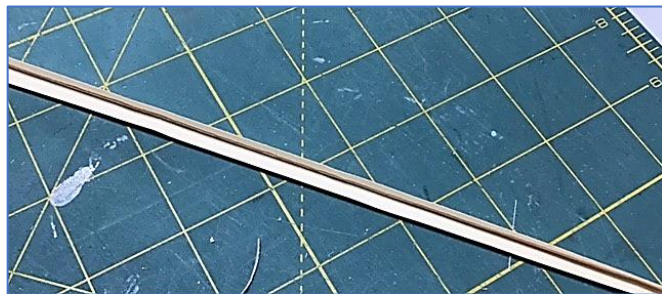
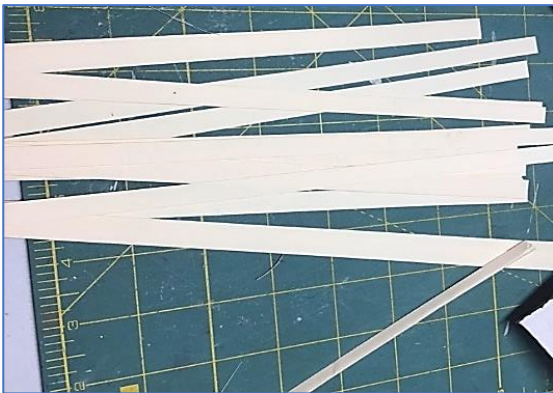
Scissors or a paper cutter (a paper cutter will make quick work of cutting strips)

Glue

Paints in your choice of colors

Cutting

Cut strips of the file folders between 1/4" and 3/8" wide. Keep the file folders folded when cutting - this way you will cut 2 strips at a time. You don't need to be precise with your cuts. This is a whimsical house and if the strips are not cut exactly even or glued perfectly it will give this house a charming look. You also want to cut the end where the file folder folds about 1/8" wide. These will be the corners to cover the raw edges.



Gluing

Starting from the bottom of the house, glue the strips on. Again, it will look more whimsical if they are not glued on perfectly even. You want to leave approximately 1/8" showing, a little more or a little less is fine on this house. Trim away the excess on the ends.



Painting and finishing

Once all the strips are glued on, give it 2 of coats of base paint. In my sample, I used antique white. If you want your house to look like it was freshly painted, skip the rest and go to the next step.

When dry, start dry brushing different colors. Think about a house that has been painted many times and the colors have started to chip and wear away. You may want to make a sample piece to practice the dry brushing and decide which colors you want. I dry brushed terra cotta, then white, then succulent (a very light green color).

Paint the trim pieces prior to attaching to them the house. It makes it easier, especially if you are painting them a contrasting color. The trim needs 2 coats of base paint. I used Ceramcoat GP Purple. If you are making a freshly painted house, you can glue on the trim now. Otherwise, dry brush the trim first - I used white and succulent.

