PO216/235
PLATFORM KIT

To construct this kit you will need the following:

1. A Modellers knife.
2. A pair of sharp pointed scissors.
3. A steel ruler.
4. Glue - UHU All Purpose Solvent Free is good, also Deluxe Materials 'Speedbond' is equally good for the job
5. A cutting surface - a sheet of card or a cutting mat.
6. Tweezers to hold the smaller components

READ THROUGH ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE YOU START. This is complex kit that requires particular attention to fine details.

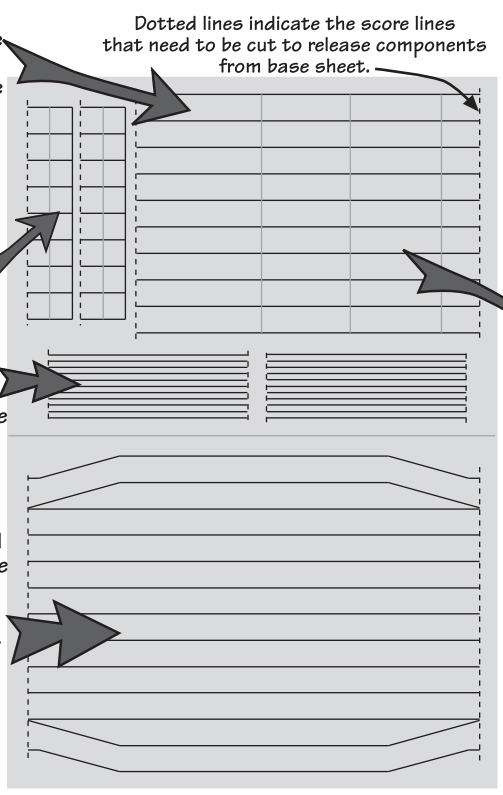
Most of the components are fastened to the sheet by means of a score line.
These are cut lines that have only gone about three quarters of the way through the card.
To detach each component from the sheet, locate the score line that is holding it in place and run your knife along to release.

CHECK LIST This kit pack should contain the following:

- 2 x Printed sheets folded in half containing the wall strips.
- 4 x Tarmac effect top sheets.
- 3 x PLAIN DIE CUT GREY CARDS folded in half containing the inner strengthening components.
- 1 x Sheet SELF ADHESIVE edging strips.
- 1 x Instruction sheet (this one).

GREY DIE CUT CARDS

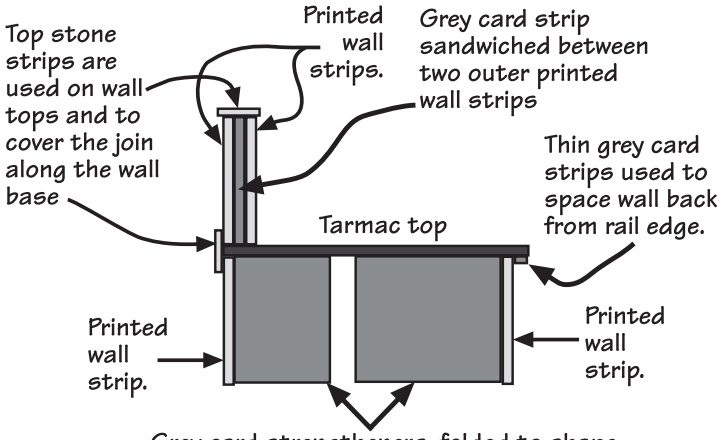
These unprinted sheets contain all the bits that fit behind the scenes to hold your platform together.



This platform kit is totally versatile and allows the modeller to build platforms to any shape required. The kit is designed to stand with our Mainline Station kit PO230, and the ancillary buildings PO231, & PO232 and PO234. But can be used on its own just as easily.

The make up of the platforms are quite simple, as these cross sections show.

Fig.1. PLATFORM WITH BACK WALL.



Grey card strengtheners, folded to shape and used to brace walls and tarmac from beneath.

Fig.2. ISLAND PLATFORM.

Just the same as Fig.1. but with the overhang on both sides.

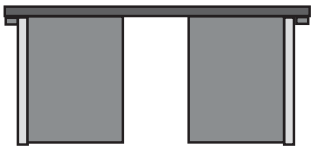
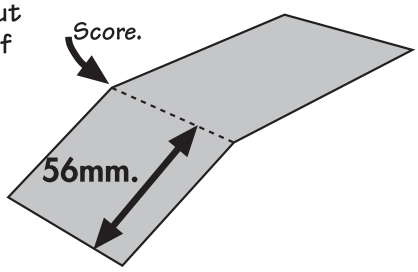
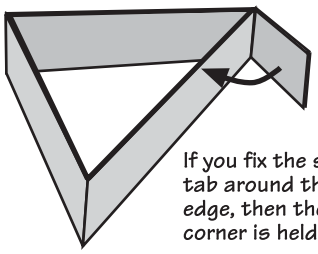


Fig.3. RAMPS

If you are going to put ramps at the ends of the platform you will need to score the surface of the platform top 56mm from the end of the platform to allow the card to bend down the slope.



TRIANGULAR STRENGTHENERS



If you fix the small tab around the outside edge, then the opposite corner is held at a right angle.

These are ideal for fitting underneath the platform to hold the top rigid and also to fit against the side walls to hold them in place and keep the whole platform rigid.

CUSTOM SHAPED PLATFORMS.

The beauty of this kit is that it gives you the freedom to easily make custom platforms to fit your layout, but you need to lay your track first before you start on the platform layout.

Shown here is just a basic example of making a platform to fit a curved section of track.

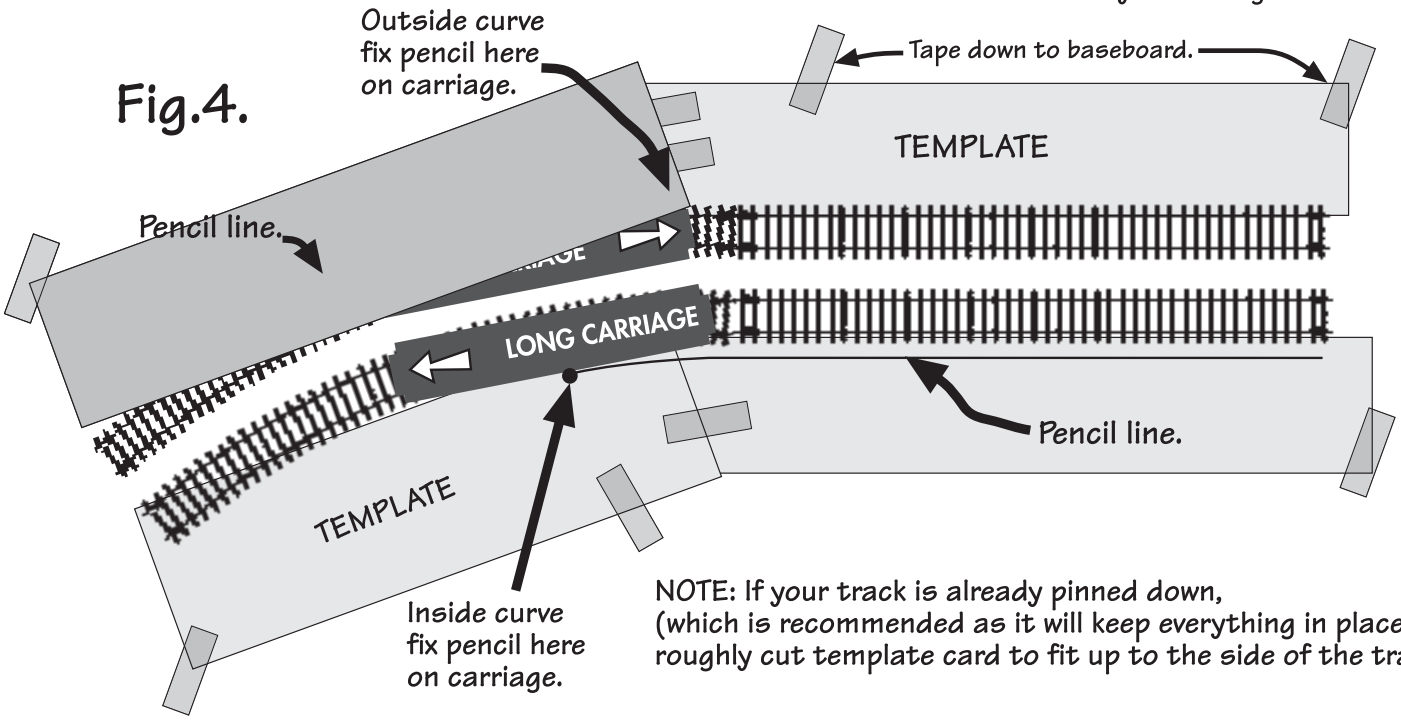
The same principles are to be used for all other designs.

TEMPLATES.

Make your templates using large sheets of card. Cereal packets opened out are good for the job, or even wallpaper.
Always cut the cards bigger than the finished size. Tape the card together and fix to the base underneath the track.
To mark out the RAIL EDGE of your platform, take a long railway carriage and tape a pencil to the side (as shown in Fig.4.) with the point firmly pressed down on the template.

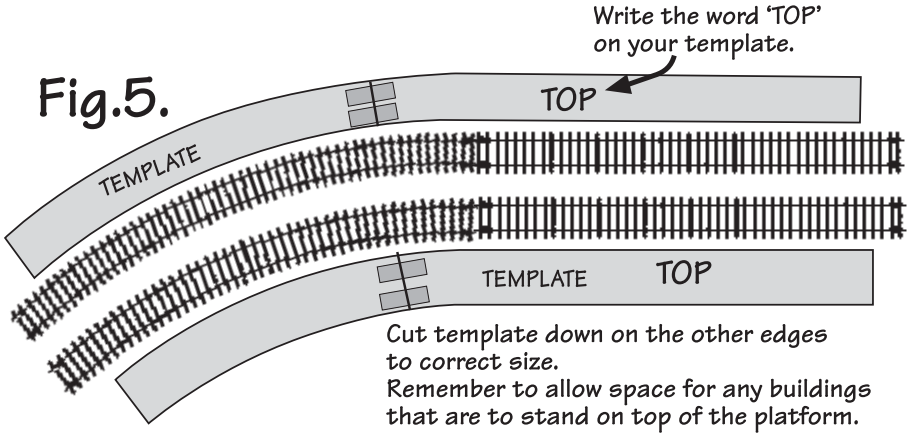
For the inside rail curve, fix the pencil in the centre of the carriage.
For the outside curve fix it to the end of your carriage.

Fig.4.



NOTE: If your track is already pinned down, (which is recommended as it will keep everything in place) roughly cut template card to fit up to the side of the track.

Fig.5.

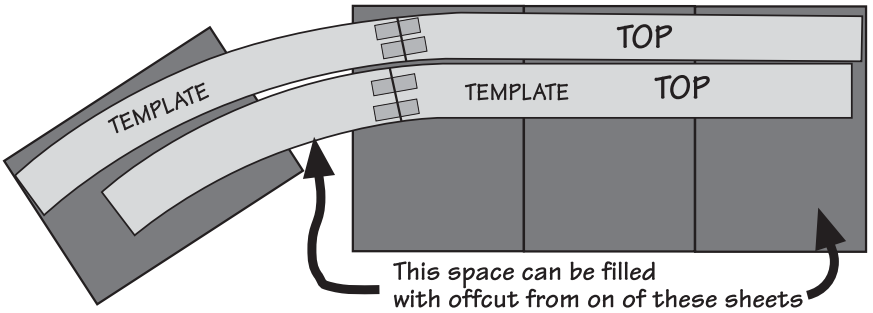


Cut template down on the other edges to correct size.
Remember to allow space for any buildings that are to stand on top of the platform.

Great care must be taken when cutting the template. On curves, cut with a very steady hand if using a knife.
Alternatively, large scissors for cutting the curves are good.
When cutting straight edges always use a steel rule to guide your blade.

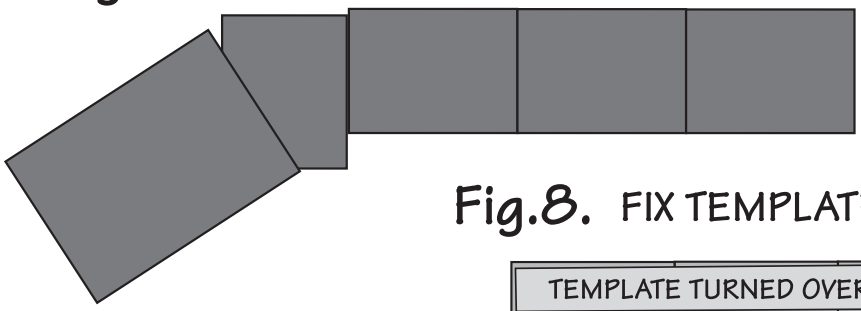
The none rail edges are just as important. Take great care to plan out and cut smooth edges it makes it a lot easier to fit walls flush to the edges.

Fig.6. GETTING THE BEST CUT from the tarmac sheets.



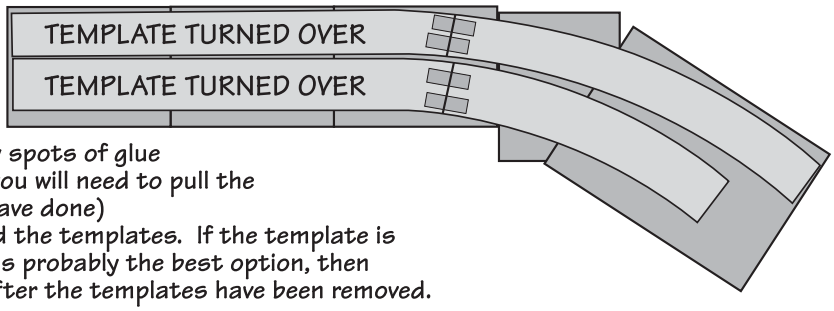
Lay the tarmac sheets against each other underneath the template. Try a few variations until you are happy you are getting the best cut with the east amount of waste.

Fig.7. FIX TARMAC TOGETHER.



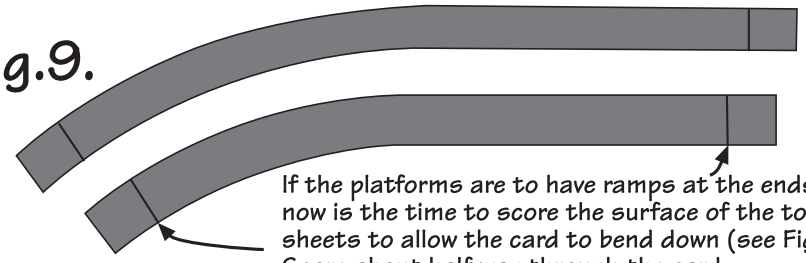
Butt end the edges of the tarmac together and fix underneath firmly with tape. This is only a temporary measure, once the walls are in place the joints can be fixed more permanently using card.

Fig.8. FIX TEMPLATES TO BACK OF TARMAC



TURN THE TARMAC AND TEMPLATES OVER
and fix the templates with tiny spots of glue (only enough to hold in place, you will need to pull the templates back off when you have done)
Next, either draw or cut around the templates. If the template is on thin card or paper, drawing is probably the best option, then carefully cutting the shapes after the templates have been removed.

Fig.9.



If the platforms are to have ramps at the ends, now is the time to score the surface of the top sheets to allow the card to bend down (see Fig.3). Score about half way through the card.

THE UNDERSIDE OF YOUR PLATFORM.

Fig.10. THIN GREY CARD STRIPS.

Turn the tarmac top over and place face down on your VERY CLEAN work surface.

Fix the thin grey card strips to the RAIL SIDE edge of the platform.
Fit FLUSH to the edge.

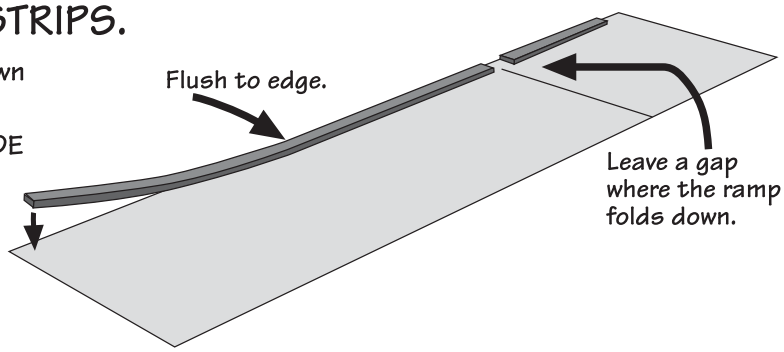


Fig.11. RAIL SIDE WALLS.

Stand the walls vertically and fix up against the thin grey strips.

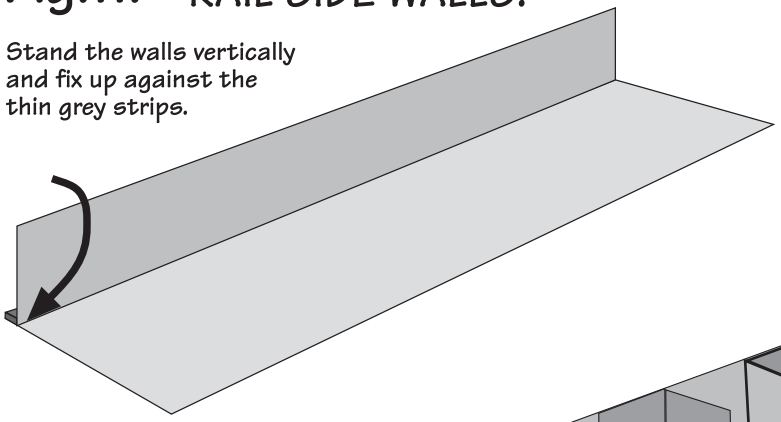
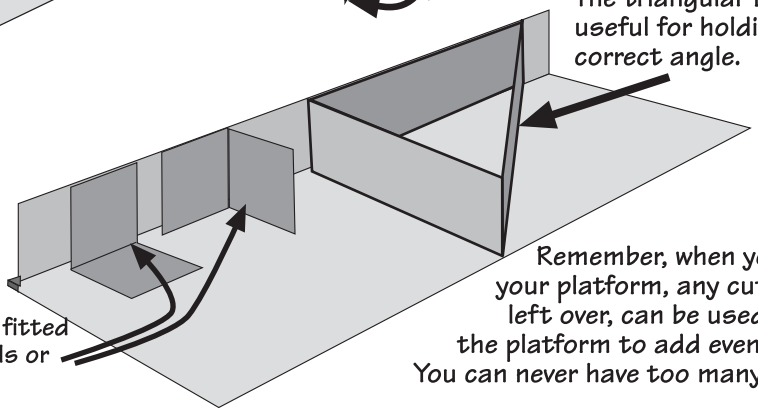


Fig.12. HOLDING THE WALLS STRAIGHT.

Tabs folded to form an 'L' shape

The triangular box sections are useful for holding walls at the correct angle.

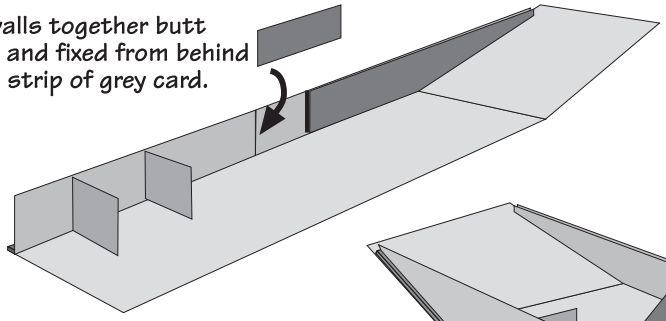


'L' shaped tabs can be fitted either way against walls or strengthening strips.

Remember, when you have finished your platform, any cut strips or walls left over, can be used up underneath the platform to add even more strength. You can never have too many strengtheners.

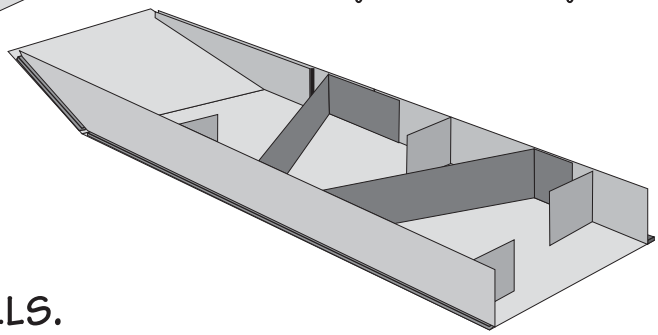
Fig.13. JOINTING WALLS AND STRENGTHENING UNDERNEATH.

Join walls together butt ended and fixed from behind with a strip of grey card.



The long grey strengthening strips can be used underneath the platform in a number of ways to make the platform rigid. Cut to length and score and bend the ends to make tabs, and fit in any way you like criss-crossing from side to side. The more you put in the stronger the platform.

Remember to leave enough strips for the upper walls though. Any left over's can always be used later.



Score and bend to make tabs

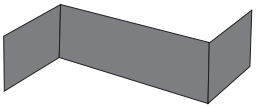
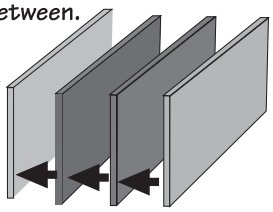


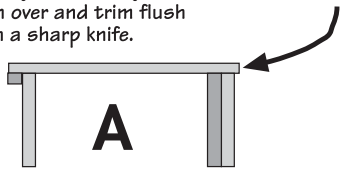
Fig.14. UPPER WALLS.

The upper walls are made up of two printed walls with two grey card strips sandwiched in between.

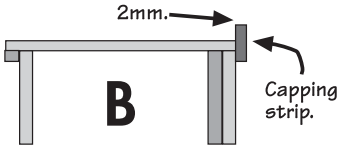


The easiest way to fit to the platform top, is to assemble in the following sequence:

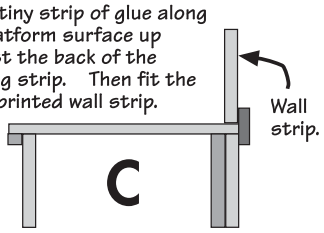
No matter how careful you are fitting the back walls, you will always have little bits overhanging. Turn over and trim flush with a sharp knife.



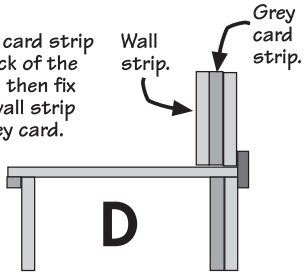
Start by fixing the capping strip so it covers the edge of the tarmac, with 2mm. standing above the surface.



Run a tiny strip of glue along the platform surface up against the back of the capping strip. Then fit the outer printed wall strip.

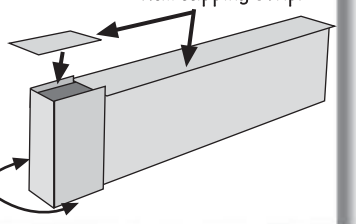


Fix a grey card strip to the back of the wall strip, then fix another wall strip to the grey card.

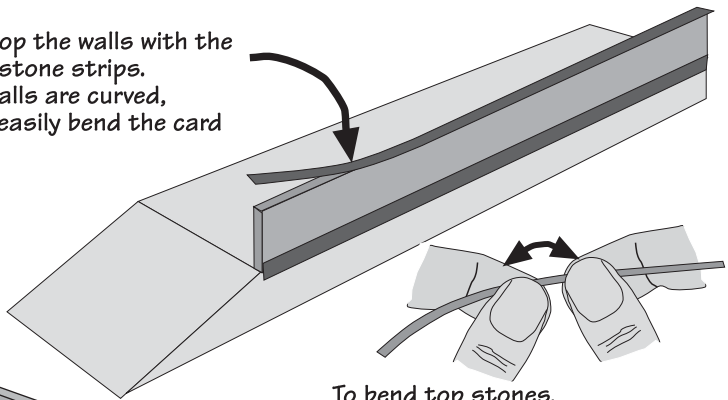


WALL END STONES

These are used to fit on the ends of the upper walls. Wrap around the wall end and then cap with a small piece of capping strip cut to size.



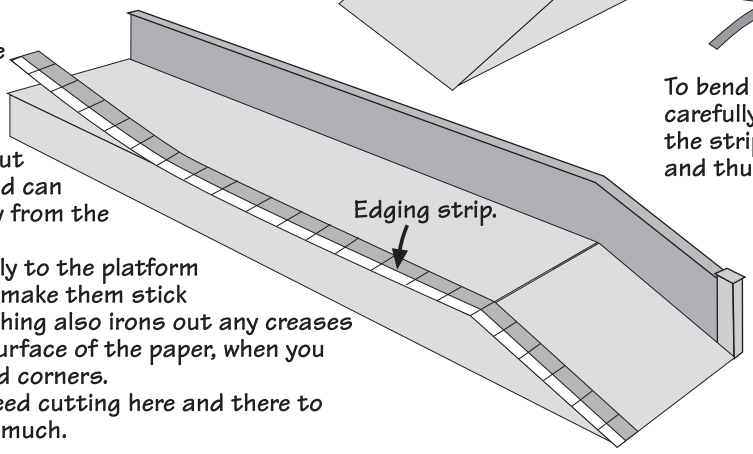
Finally, top the walls with the capping stone strips. If your walls are curved, you can easily bend the card to fit



To bend top stones, carefully bend, bit by bit, feeding the strip between forefingers and thumbs.

Fig.15. EDGING STRIP.

The edging strips are located on a sheet of self adhesive paper. The edging strips are partially cut along the surface and can easily be peeled away from the backing sheet.
Stick the strips firmly to the platform edge and burnish to make them stick permanently. Burnishing also irons out any creases that appear in the surface of the paper, when you lay the edging around corners.
Tight corners may need cutting here and there to stop it creasing too much.



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