

# Making Mini Brick Facades

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I've recently updated my best-selling miniature vintage stove design to a laser-cut kit and have been experimenting with ways to create a realistic-looking brick facade for the surround. What I came up with was to create a stencil on the Cricut Maker machine, then use the stencil with Modeling Paste and Grit Paste mediums.

## [Modeling Paste Grit Paste](#)



Both of these materials are easy to tint in any color you might want and are super easy to apply. Simply mix acrylic paints with either medium to get your desired color.

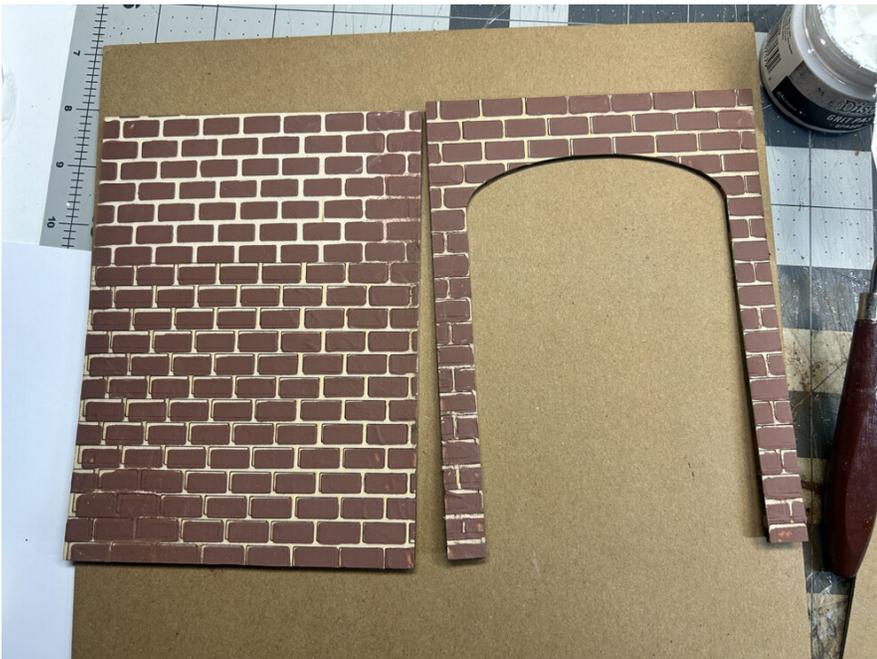
- Apply the stencil securely to your project and spread the modeling paste mixture over top of the stencil, in a thin layer, to form the bricks.
- Remove the stencil and set the project aside to dry.
- Wash the stencil immediately so it can be used again.
- When the bricks have dried, you can use the grit paste to create the grout. Working in small sections, spread the grit paste over the top of the bricks so that it falls into the cracks where grout would normally be. Stop and wipe the grit paste off the tops of the bricks carefully. Move on to the next section. Continue until all of the grout is finished.

Tip: If you do not get all of the grit paste off the top of the bricks, you can lightly sand the grit from the bricks for a smooth brick surface.

Tip: It doesn't take too long for the modeling paste to dry to the touch. You can set it outside in the sun for quicker drying time or use a heat gun to speed up the process.

Here are some examples of my process for the stove . . .

- Here is what the piece looks like after the bricks were made with the stencil.
- TIP: If you find that the modeling paste has run under the stencil or off the edges of the piece, you can use a pick tool to remove bits, then sand the edges to remove the run-off bits.



- Here is the final results and the process.
- I added the grit paste over the entire piece with the palette knife, then scraped over the top of the entire piece, removing most of the paste.
- I then used a medium damp paper towel to remove a lot of the paste on top of the bricks. Notice how in some areas I've removed more of the paste than in other areas.
- Lastly, I smoothed a bit of the grit paste onto the palette knife with my finger and lightly dragged it on top of the piece in various spots.



Note: I wanted a white grout, but you could tint the grout with acrylic paint before use or make up a paint and water wash in the grout color you want. Brush the wash on, then wipe it off immediately till you get the desired look that you want.

You will likely find that these mediums have made the wood warp a bit. Once you paint the opposite sides they should flatten back out. You can also place wax paper or parchment paper on top of the almost dry painted sides and place a heavy object on top to help flatten the pieces.

Once you have glued the pieces together, you might want to apply some more of the grit paste along the cut edges to cover the dark areas where the wood was cut.

I hope you enjoyed reading about this process and that you give it a try. The results are truly worth the effort and very rewarding!

Happy crafting,

Teri