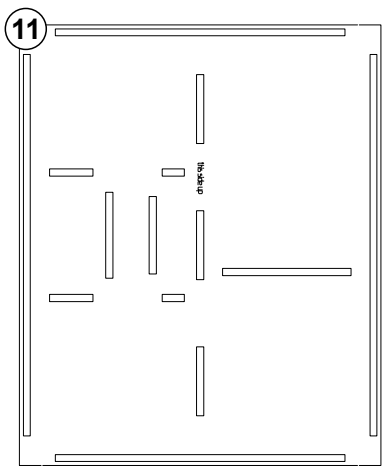
HO Structure Kit

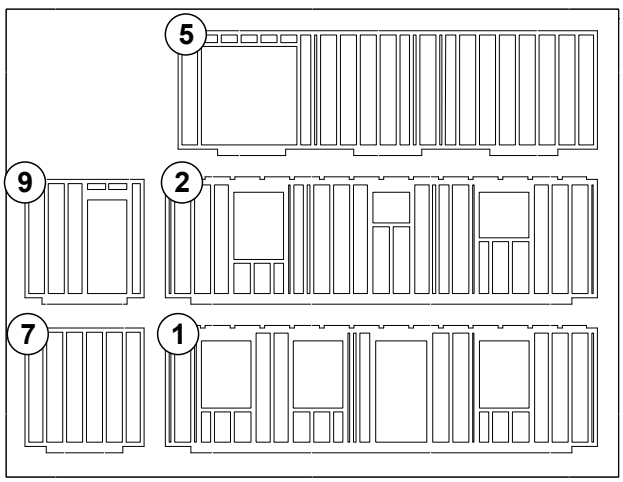
HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

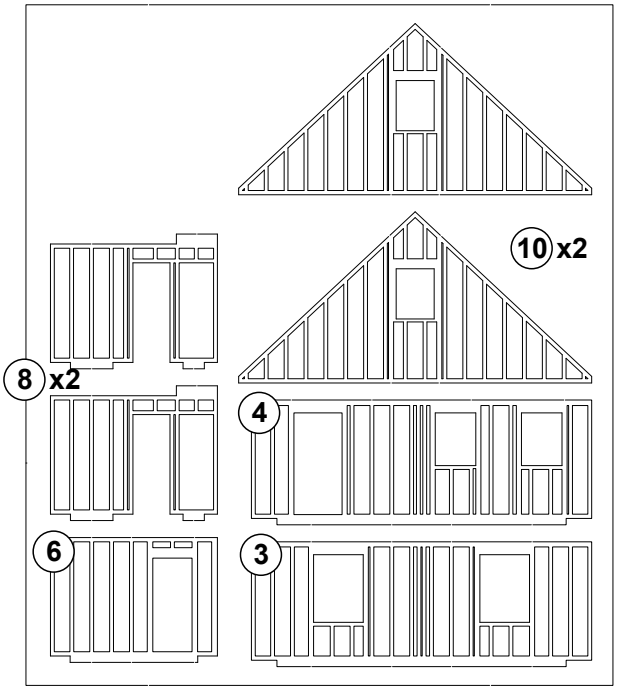
933-4157

Thanks for purchasing this Cornerstone kit. PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY BEFORE STARTING CONSTRUCTION! This kit consists of actual plywood parts, which have been pre-cut and shaped with a laser - however they are still attached to the frames by tiny frets. Never twist or break parts free from the frames; use a fresh blade in your hobby knife to carefully slice through each attachment point with a series of gentle cuts; some touch-up sanding may also be needed to remove the connection points from the parts. As the kit is real wood and models an unfinished structure, no painting is needed. You may however, wish to first seal the parts while they're still on the frames with a clear, flat spray, especially if your layout room is prone to changes in temperature and/or humidity. Applying any finish may cause some warping, which is natural as the wood absorbs it - if this occurs, allow the parts to dry to the touch then place them under a heavy object for 24 hours or so to flatten them. To identify parts and part numbers during construction, please refer to the illustrations on this and the following page, which show the fret layout - parts may look similar, but they're not, so please take a few minutes to read the instructions and study the drawings before starting construction - if you're not sure how parts go together, test fit before gluing! Any quality wood glue, contact cement or medium CA can be used for assembly. You can also build your kit at any point in the framing process; the prototypes were built assembly line fashion, with crews moving from one job to another, so several kits in various stages of construction can be used side-by-side.

You might think tiny homes are a new concept, but for tens of thousands of postwar baby boomers and their parents, small homes were a fixture of their then-new suburban neighborhoods. With the end of WWII, millions of Americans were ready to return to civilian life, many with young families, eager to find a home of their own. Severe housing shortages developed around most major cities, and construction of traditional stick-built homes was impacted by critical shortages of building materials as factories were slow to return to civilian production. Recognizing the immediate need for new homes, the firm of Levitt & Sons, based on Long Island, New York, adapted the basic ideas of the assembly line to home construction. In 1947, the firm purchased 1200 acres (485.6h) of farmland on Long Island, and began construction on the first planned community known as "Levittown." Initially planned as rental units at $60-65 per month, these freestanding homes were based on a single Cape Code design. Each measured 25 x 30' (7.6 x 9.1m) that required less materials and labor, but offered five variations in window style and placement, roofline and exterior color. Homes were also placed at different angles to the streets for some additional variety. The Levitts controlled every step of construction to ensure interchangeability and keep costs to an absolute minimum. All materials were precut, and loaded in the exact order required at the site, save for some such as concrete that had to be mixed there. Assembly (Levitt himself referred to the process as "manufacturing," not "building") was broken down into 26 steps, mostly done by unskilled laborers performing a single step then quickly moving to the next site - at the peak of construction, a new home was completed every 16 minutes! Federal legislation passed in 1948 opened the doors to low-cost 30-year mortgages, with just a 5% down payment (0% down for veterans), and the 1947-48-built homes were then offered for sale at $7,990. Move-in ready with landscaping, appliances and unheard of amenities including built-in TVs all included, each provided a compact kitchen located at the front, a bathroom, two bedrooms and a large living room, with an open first floor plan. Although they've been modernized, the Levittown community and its many Cape Cod homes remains a popular choice for new homebuyers in the metro area. Because of its low cost and quick construction, thousands of Cape Cod homes built in the the postwar period across the country generally followed the same general design as your new model, and can be found shoehorned into tiny city lots all across the US. Some unique prototype details you may notice have been incorporated in this kit. Attic roof trusses were used so the upstairs area remained open, but the space itself was left unfinished by the builders. Buyers could easily use the area as storage, or convert it into play space or bedrooms as needed. You'll also note there's no provision for a chimney nor basement. To speed construction and reduce costs, the prototypes were built on a concrete slab, and were the first homes in the US with radiant heating. These systems used a network of copper water pipes in the floors, supplied with hot water in season by a small oil-fired boiler in the kitchen. An exhaust pipe was run through the roof once the unit was installed, and surrounded by a purely decorative chimney. Several of these kits can be used together, and in various stages of construction, alongside previously completed homes that can be modeled with the Brick Cape Cod House kit (#933-3774) and Cape Cod House kit (#933-3776), both available separately. For additional figures, vehicles scenery and more, see your participating dealer, check out the current Walthers Model Railroad Reference Book or visit us online at walthers.com.



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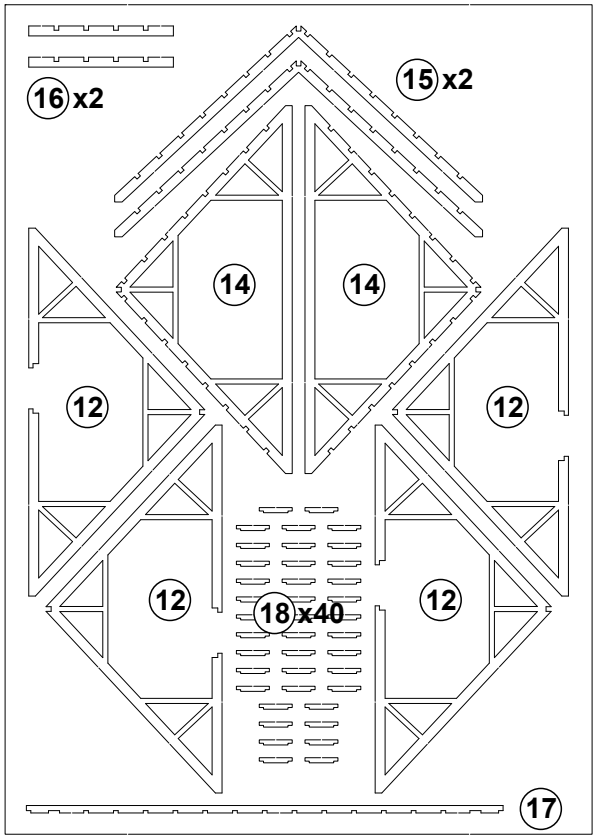
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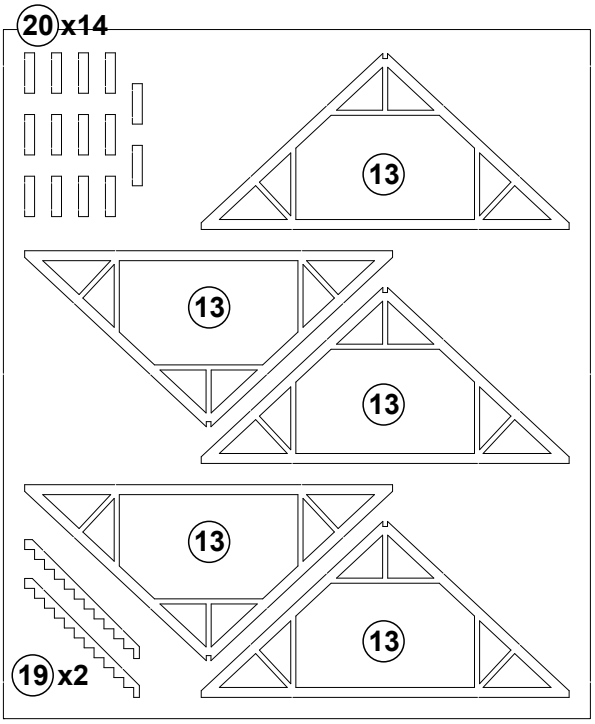
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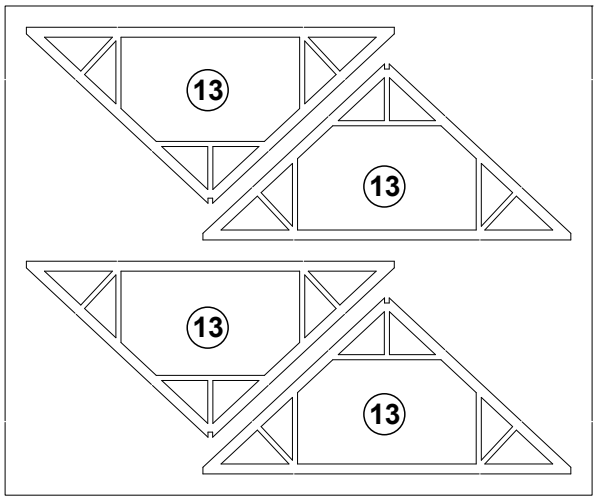
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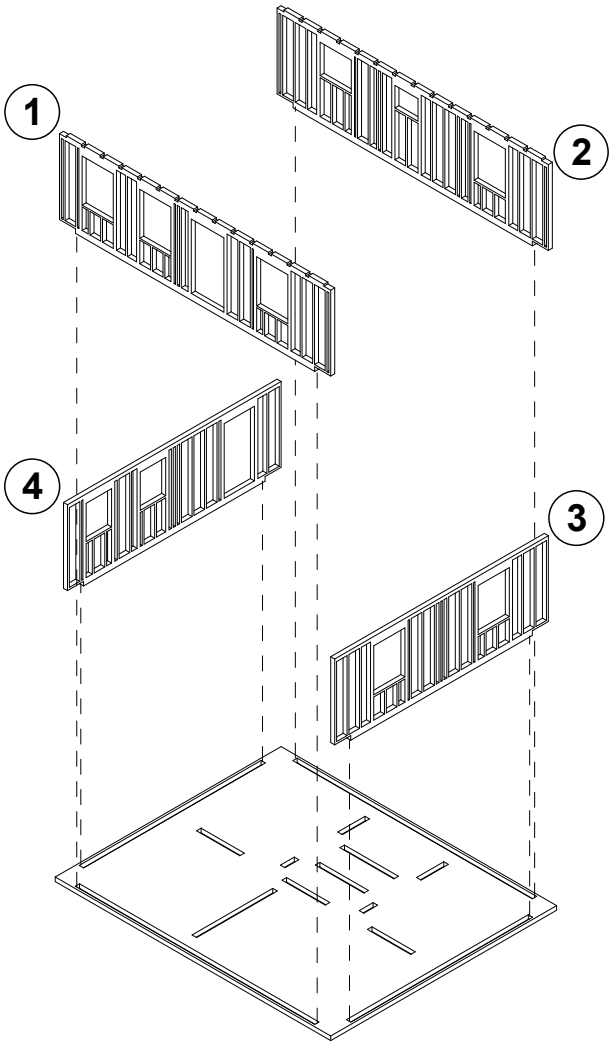
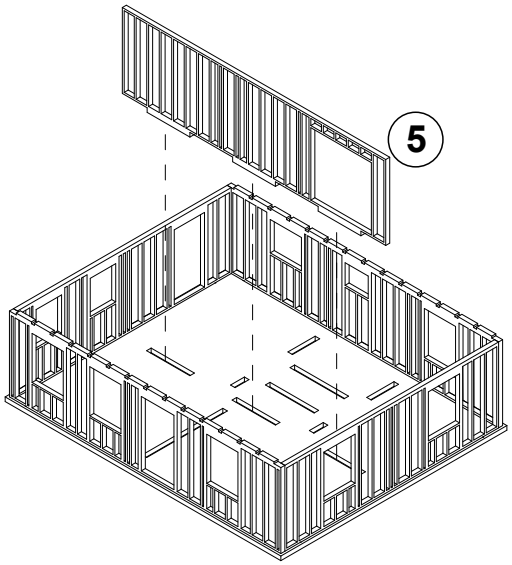
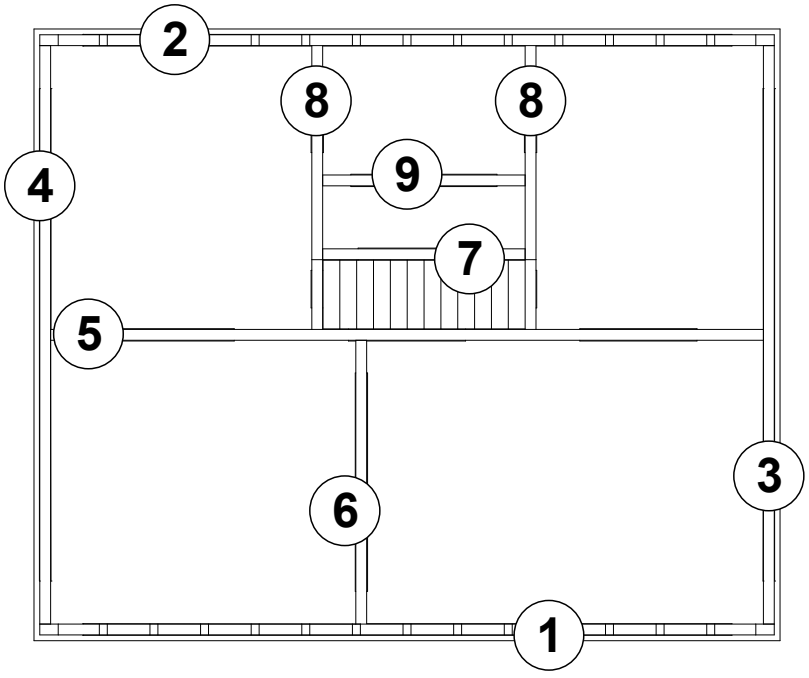
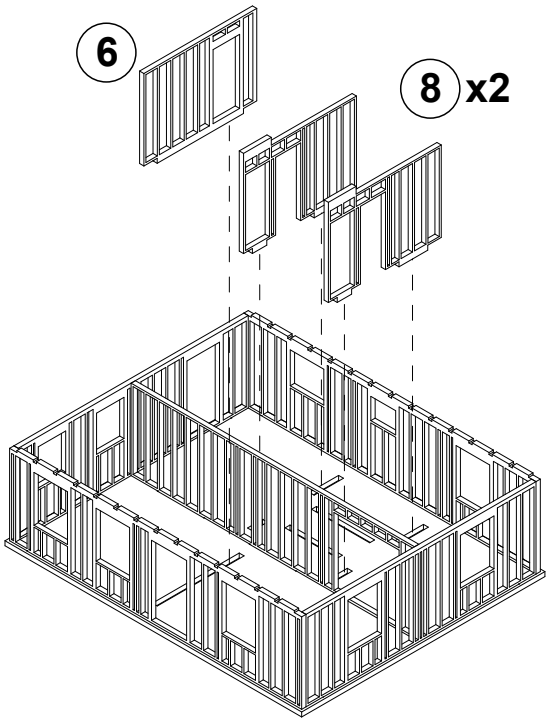


1) Refer to the floor plan sketch below for placement of walls. Begin assembly by inserting tabs on lower edges of Front (1), Rear (2), Right (3) and Left (4) Sidewalls into openings in Base (11) and glue in place.

2) Insert and glue Interior Load-bearing Wall (5) to openings at center of Base and between sidewalls as shown.



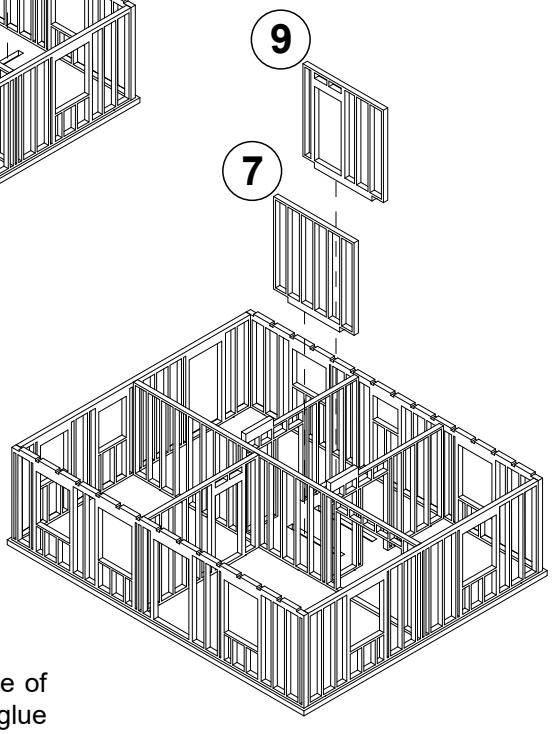




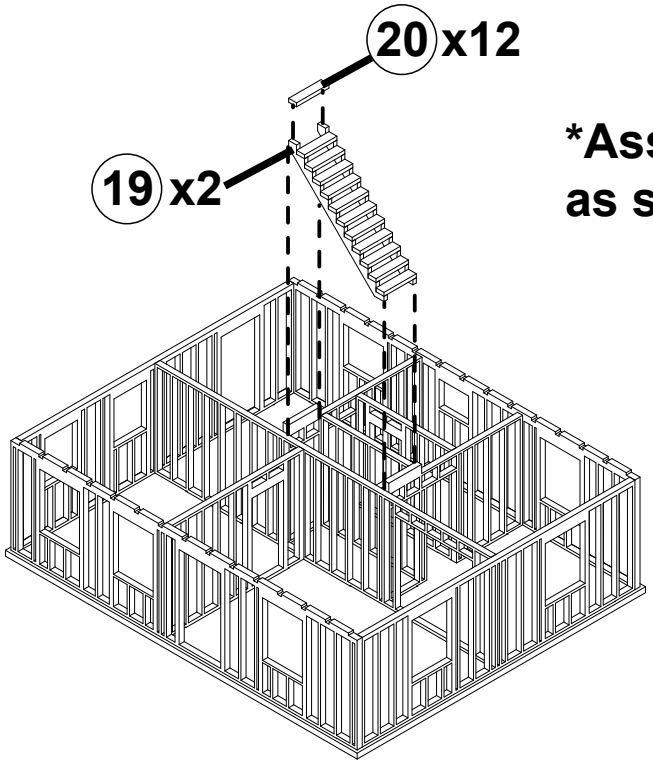
3) Insert and glue Interior Bedroom Walls (2x 8) to openings at right rear of Base

4) Insert and glue Kitchen/Living Room Wall (6) to openings at left front of Base.

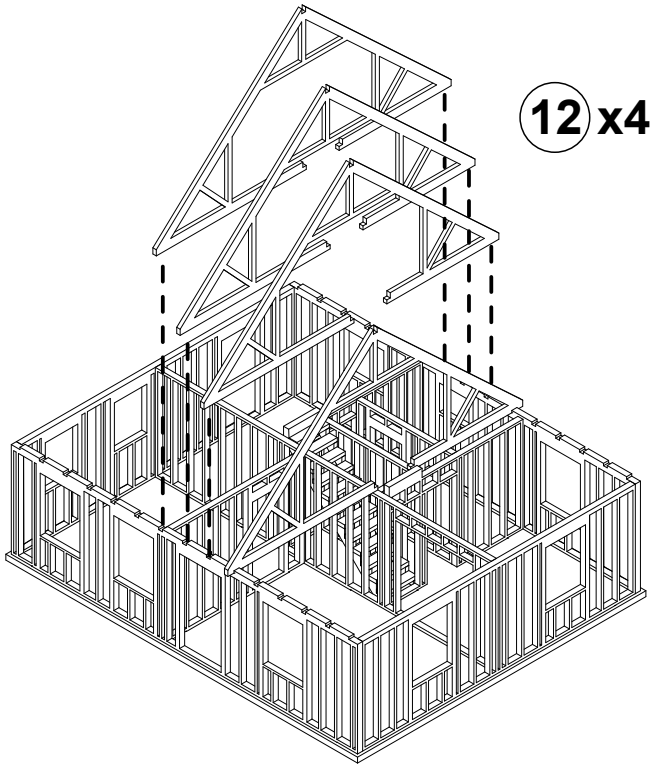
5) Insert Bathroom (9) and Outside Stair Well (7) Walls to openings in Base at center as shown, and glue in place.



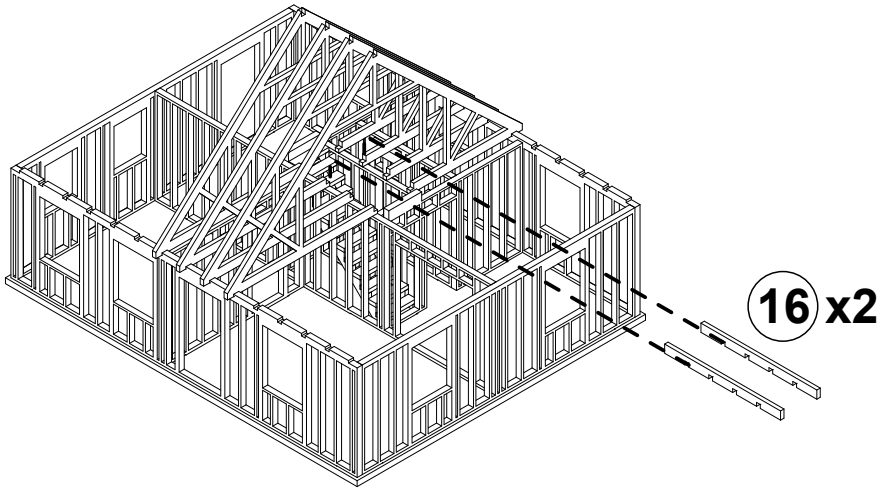
6) Align bottom of Steps (12x 20) on top surface of left and right Stringer (2x 19) and carefully glue where parts meet. Glue finished Staircase in opening between Walls 5 and 7 as shown.

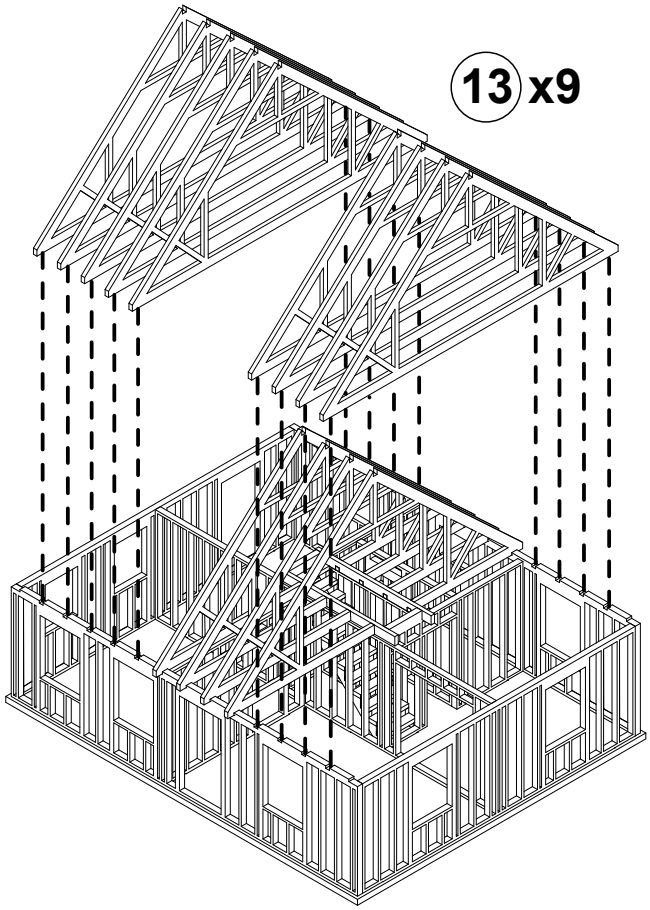


***Assemble staircase as shown**

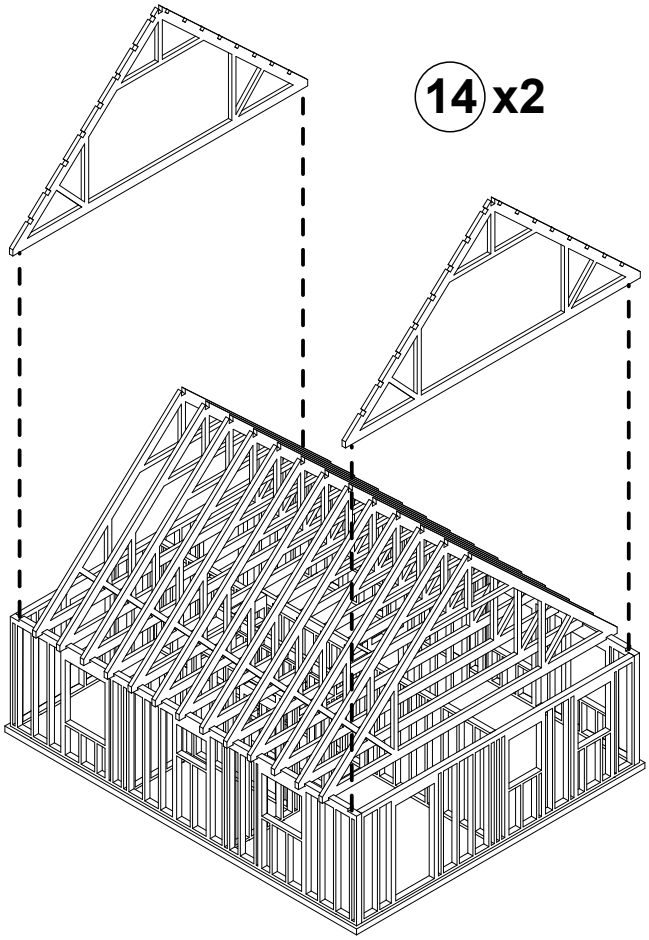


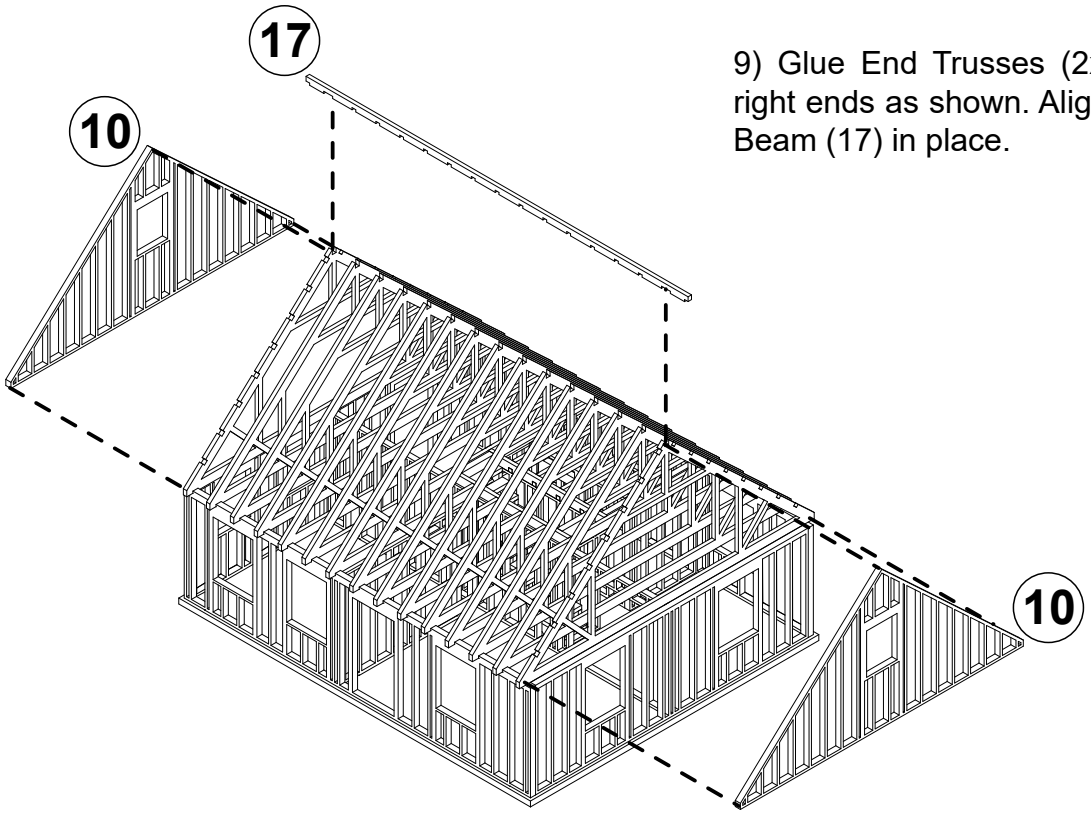
7) Note the correct placement of the Center Trusses (4x 12) in the openings in the top plate, with the bottom joists overhanging the edge, and glue in place. Align openings on bottom of Stairwell Crossbeams (2x 16) as shown, at inside edges of stairwell cutout on each Center Truss and glue where parts meet..





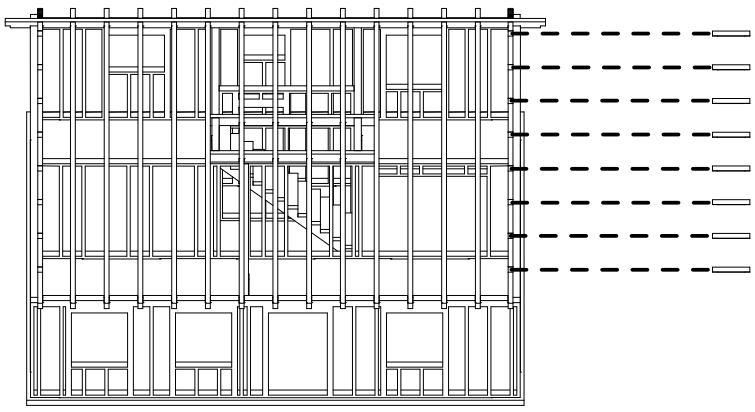
8) Glue Full Trusses (9x 13) to remaining side openings along top plate as shown. Glue Rafter Tail Alignment Trusses (2x 14) to two remaining slots at left and right end of top plate.





9) Glue End Trusses (2x 10) to left and right ends as shown. Align and glue Ridge Beam (17) in place.

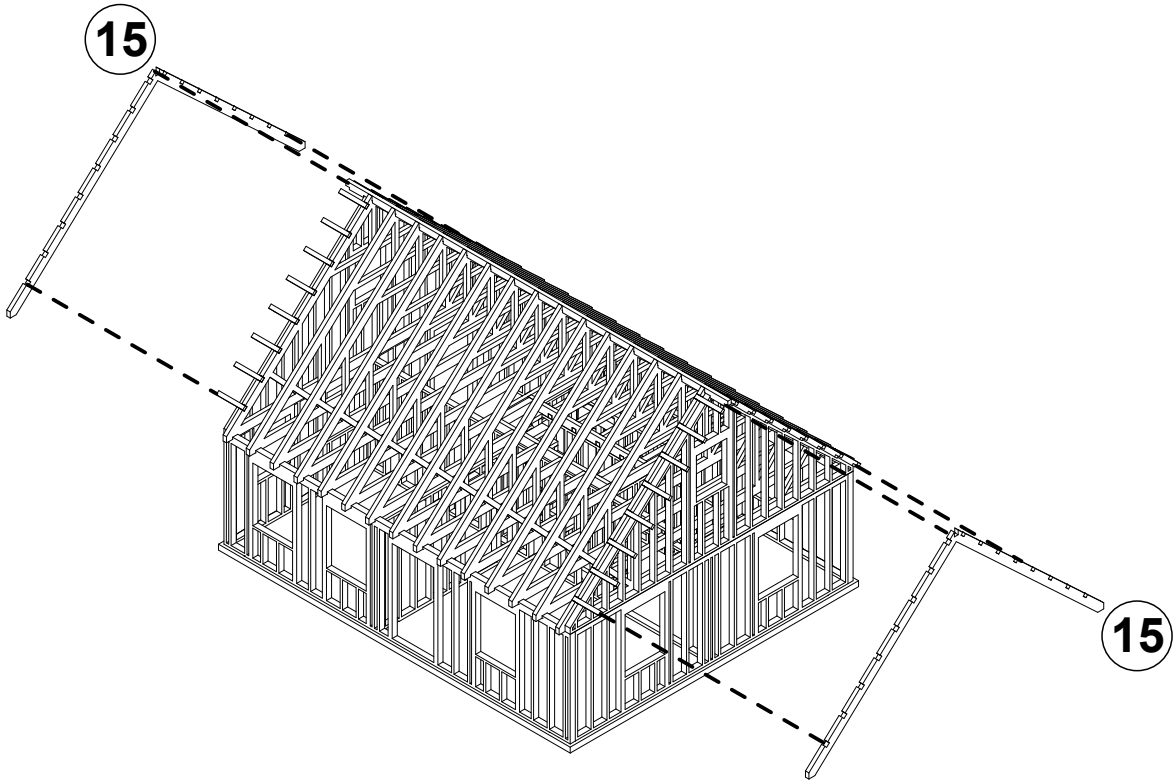
10) Align Rafter Tails (18; eight each at left and right (16 per end, 32 total) as shown and glue in place.



18 x8

***Repeat on remaining three corners.**

11) Complete assembly by gluing Fascia (2x 15; one each at left and right) to underside of Rafter Tails.



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