

# MICHELLE WARD designs

## Frankenstein Castle Assembly Instructions – Gatehouse

*A 3D paper Gatehouse from the Electric Screams collection by Michelle Ward Designs*



*What you're making.*

### Materials

#### Tools and Adhesive

- Paper glue, a tape runner, or a hot glue gun
- Tweezers — the Interior Stone Covers are small and there are a lot of them
- A silicone mat, if you're using hot glue
- An LED tealight or a short strand of fairy lights (optional)

Hot glue works and sets fast, which is why I use it for builds like this. Two things come with it: glue strings, which look like cobwebs and are arguably seasonal, and a real risk of gluing your project to the table. Work on a silicone mat.

#### Paper

Use 80 lb cover cardstock or heavier — about 216 gsm — for the structure. Don't skip the word "cover" — 80 lb cover and 80 lb text are two different papers, and both exist. 80 lb text is closer to thick writing paper, and a piece built from it will lean.

You'll want at least two 12" sheets — one for the Back/Side Wall Combo and one for the Rooftop Overhang. Everything else fits on smaller sheets, in whatever size suits your machine and your layout.

For the Interior Window Covers, use 30–48 lb translucent vellum — and err on the side of lighter. The vellum on the model is a little too opaque, and the light behind it suffers. Thinner than 30 lb and you may see the individual bulbs; thicker than 48 lb and you may not see much light at all.

## **Parts**

Two of the counts below depend on the choice you make in the first step, so read that step before you cut.

## Frankenstein Castle Gatehouse Parts List

| Part                                                                                | Name                                                      | Number to Cut                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|    | Floor                                                     | 1                                     |
|    | Front Wall with Window<br>or<br>Front Wall without Window | 1, either version                     |
|    | Side Wall                                                 | 1                                     |
|    | Back/Side Wall Combo                                      | 1                                     |
|   | Rooftop Overhang                                          | 1                                     |
|  | Roof Cap (Optional)                                       | 1, if using                           |
|  | Upper Step                                                | 1                                     |
|  | Lower Step                                                | 1                                     |
|  | Step Side Cover                                           | 1                                     |
|  | Reverse Step Side Cover                                   | 1                                     |
|  | Step Top Cover                                            | 1                                     |
|  | Interior Window Cover &<br>Exterior Window Frame          | 3, or 4 with the<br>window front wall |
|  | Interior Stone Cover                                      | 24                                    |
|  | Door, Door Frame, & Doorknob                              | 1                                     |

## Before You Start

**Every building in the castle has a hole cut in the middle of its floor.** That's deliberate — it's where the light goes. It's also useful while you build: you can reach a finger through to press a glue joint from the inside.

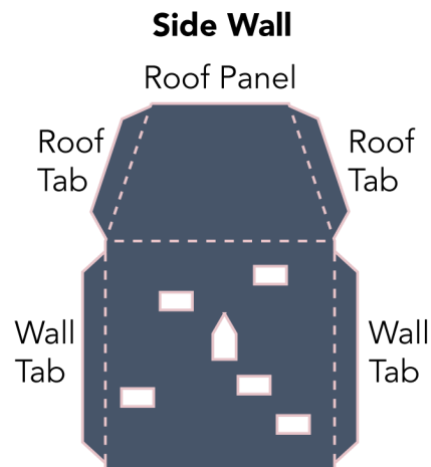
Keep glue out of the fold lines. Glue that seeps into a crease sets hard and the fold stops folding.

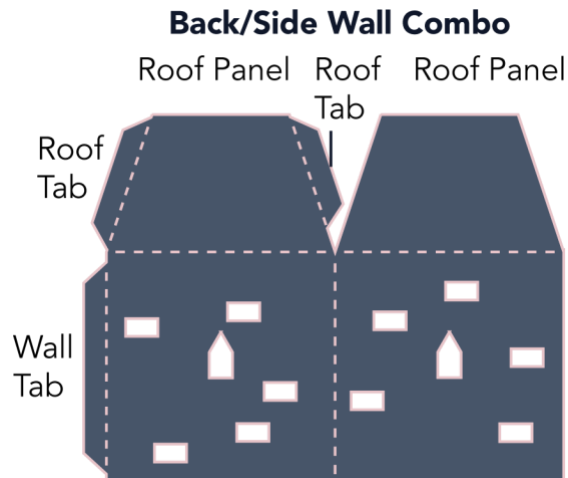
## Choose Your Front Wall

There are two versions of the Front Wall, and this is the one real decision in the build.

- **With a window** — more symmetrical, and it gives you a fourth lit opening.
  - **Without a window** — more authentic, since a guardhouse wouldn't have had a front-facing view. This is the one on the model.
1. Pick the Front Wall you want and cut that one. If you chose the version with the window, cut four Exterior Window Frames and four Interior Window Covers. If you chose the version without, cut three of each.

## Prepare the Walls





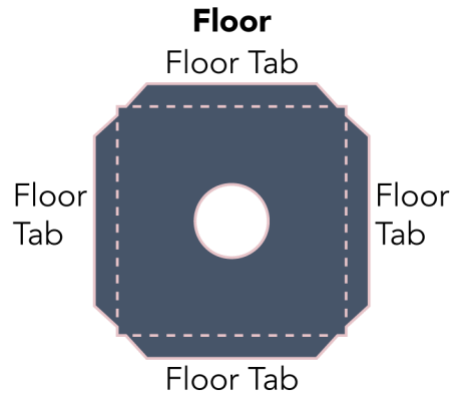
2. Fold the Front Wall, the Side Wall, and the Back/Side Wall Combo along all fold lines. Only one side of the Back/Side Wall Combo has tabs — that's the Side Wall portion.
3. Work out which face is the inside before you glue anything to it. Lay each wall flat with its Roof Panel and its tabs hinging up toward you — the face you're looking at is the inside. Everything in this section except the last step goes on that inside face.
4. Add the Interior Window Covers over the pointed windows, on the inside. Use translucent vellum if you plan to light the Gatehouse, or yellow or orange cardstock for a faux-lit look. Run a thin line of glue on the wall around the opening, not on the vellum, and keep it back from the edge — glue that creeps into the opening shows through once the light is on.
5. Glue an Interior Stone Cover over each rectangular opening, still on the inside and glued the same way — a thin line around the opening, kept back from the edge. There are 24 in this build. They show through from behind as stones in a different color from the wall, which is what gives the Gatehouse its texture — so pick a color that reads against your wall stock. They're small, and tweezers help.
6. Turn the walls over and glue an Exterior Window Frame over each window on the outside.

## Work Out Which Wall Goes Where

Do this before you glue anything. **Two of the four walls have no tabs on their side edges: the Front Wall, and the Back Wall half of the Back/Side Wall Combo.** Those two go opposite each other. The two walls that do have tabs — the Side Wall, and the Side Wall half of the Combo — then drop into place between them, one on each side.

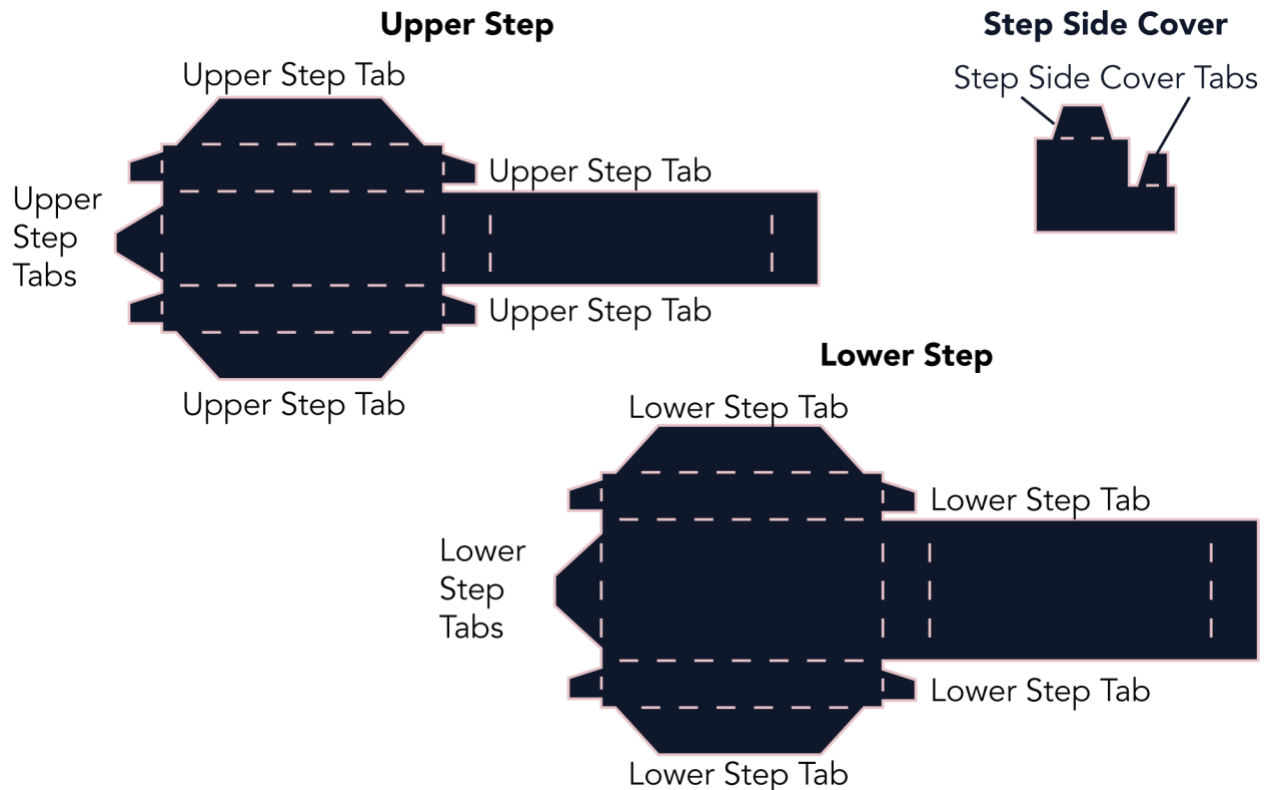
It's worth a minute now. Get it wrong and you find out three seams in, when one corner has two tabs meeting and the corner opposite it has none.

## Assemble the Walls and Floor



7. Fold the Floor Tabs upward. Either direction works, but folding them so the glue face ends up on the outside of the tab is easier to press.
8. Starting with the Back/Side Wall Combo, glue one Floor Tab to the inside bottom of one of its walls, then the next Floor Tab to the inside of the other.
9. Glue the Floor Tab next to the Back Wall to the inside of the Side Wall, then glue the Wall Tab on the Side Wall to the inside of the Back Wall to close that seam.
10. Glue the remaining Floor Tab to the inside of the Front Wall.
11. Glue the remaining Wall Tabs to the Front Wall to close the last seams. Line each seam up before the glue grabs — once three walls are up you can't get a hand inside to fix anything.

## Build the Steps



**Do the steps before you close the roof.** The Door Frame sits directly on top of them, so you need the finished step height in front of you before you place the door.

12. Fold the Lower Step into a rectangular box and glue the Lower Step Tabs to close it. Do the same with the slightly smaller Upper Step and its Upper Step Tabs.
13. Stack the two boxes to form the steps and glue them together.
14. Glue one Step Side Cover to one side of the steps, covering the seam between the boxes. Fold its Step Side Cover Tabs over the top of the steps and glue them down. Then do the same on the other side with the Reverse Step Side Cover. The two are mirror images, so if your cardstock has a texture or a printed side, it faces out on both sides of the steps.
15. Fold the Step Top Cover and glue it over the top of the steps. It hides the tabs, the seams, and whatever happened underneath.

## Attach the Entryway

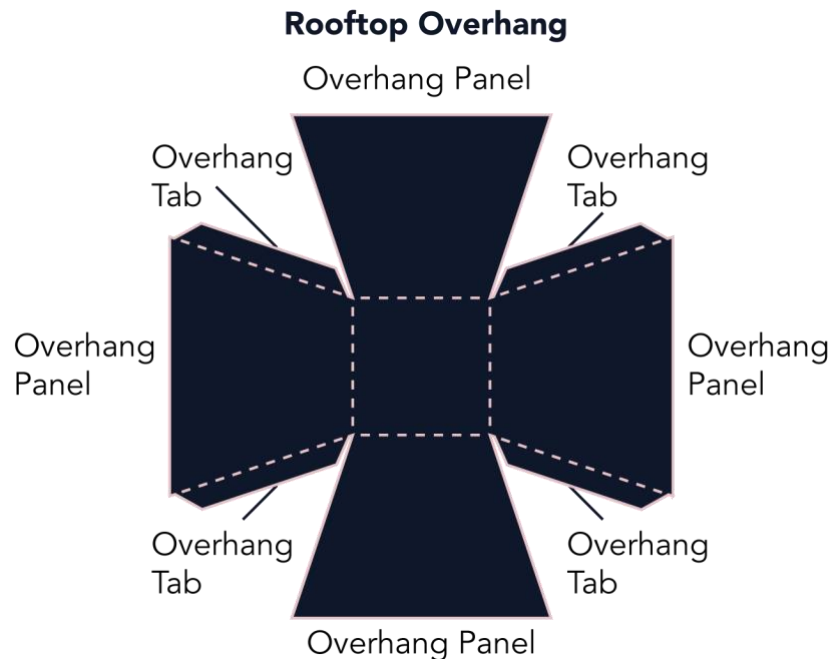
16. Glue the back of the finished steps to the Front Wall.

17. Attach the Door just above the steps.
18. Add the Door Frame on top of the Door — same size, so it stacks. The raised edge catches a shadow and keeps the doorway from reading as flat. If you'd rather the door matched the outside of the Gatehouse, skip the Door and glue the Door Frame and Doorknob straight onto the wall.

## Build the Upper Structure

19. Fold the Roof Panels inward toward each other and glue each Roof Tab to the inside of the Roof Panel beside it. You'll be left with a square opening at the top.
20. Decide whether to use the Roof Cap. Glue it over the square opening if you want the structure sealed. Leave it off if you'd rather reach inside later — that's what I did.

## Assemble the Rooftop Overhang



21. Fold the Rooftop Overhang along its fold lines and glue each Overhang Tab to the inside of the Overhang Panel beside it, forming a four-sided cover.
22. Fit the finished Rooftop Overhang over the top of the Gatehouse so it rests on the Roof Panels. It covers the seams up there, so don't worry about how they look.

If you used the Roof Cap, you can glue the Rooftop Overhang down for good. If you left the Roof Cap off, don't glue it — lifting it off is how you reach in to change a light or rearrange what's inside.

## Light and Display

- Set an LED tealight or a short strand of fairy lights inside, through the hole in the floor.
- Push a few bulbs higher up the inside so the upper windows glow too — a tealight sitting on the floor mostly lights the floor.
- For a scene, stand the castle on black posterboard and pull cotton balls apart into a thin drift around the base. It reads as fog, and it hides the edges of the board.
- Stand the Gatehouse with the Tower and the Battlements to build the full castle.

Enjoy your finished Frankenstein Castle Gatehouse.

Find more designs in the [Michelle Ward Designs Etsy shop](#) or at [michellewarddesigns.com](https://michellewarddesigns.com). For project tutorials, join me for Crafting with Chaos on the [Michelle Ward Designs YouTube channel](#). Happy crafting!