

MICHELLE WARD designs

Frankenstein Castle Assembly Instructions – Tower

A 3D paper tower 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 one 12" sheet for the Tower Walls. The Floor and the roof pieces are cut separately because the whole Tower won't fit on one 12" sheet — that's why they aren't attached to the walls.

The Tower is tall enough that a standard tealight won't light the windows. Fairy lights are easier — you can bend the wire to reach the highest window.

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.

Or use glow-in-the-dark vellum. Or color the vellum with phosphorescent ink. Or stamp or glue silhouettes — ghosts, bats, or cats — to the back of the vellum.

The model shown here was built in grays and near-black, with a warm orange glow behind the windows. That's a description, not a shopping list — any sturdy cardstock that suits your project will work.

Parts

Frankenstein Castle Tower Parts List

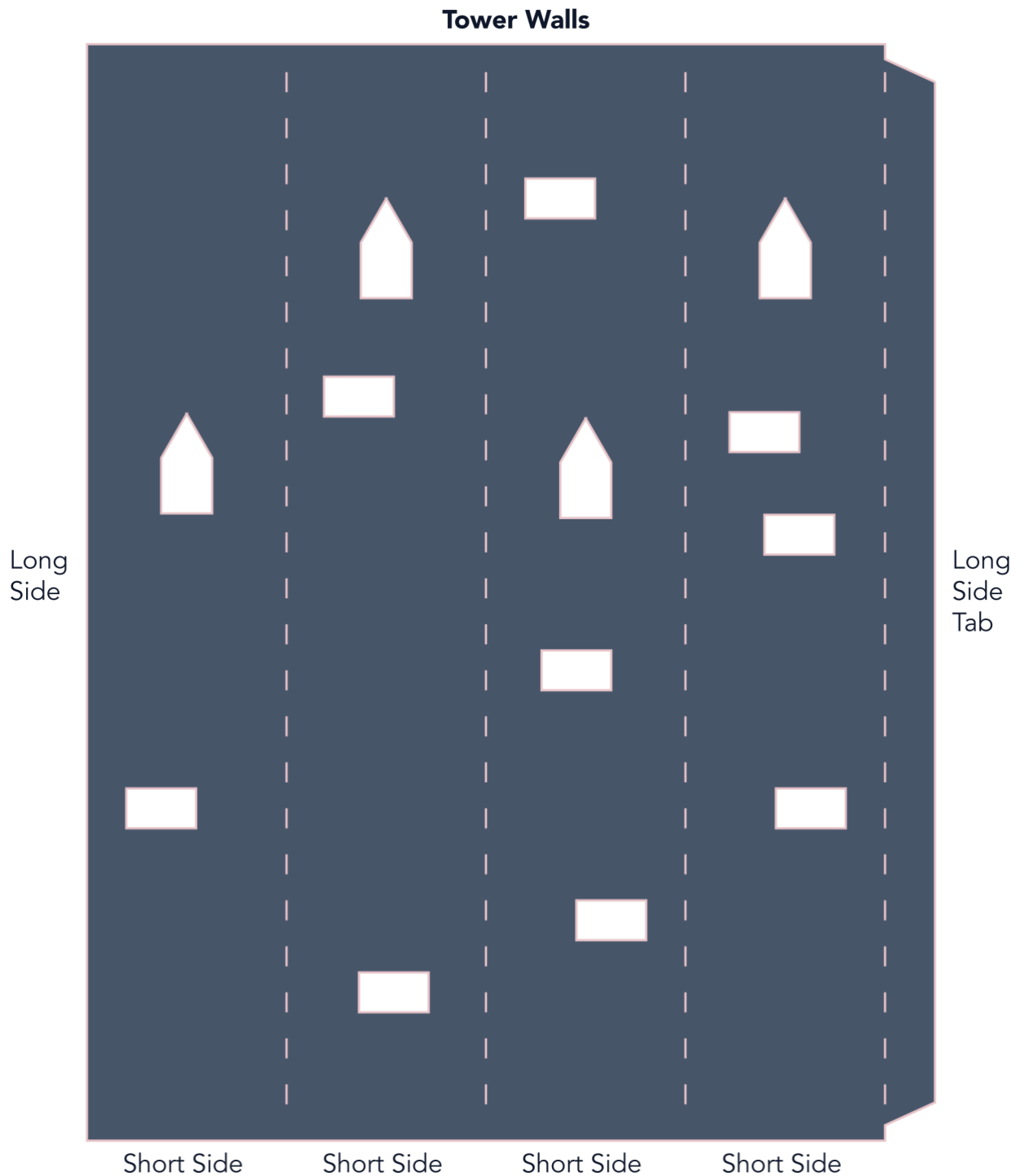
Part	Name	Number to Cut
	Floor	1
	Tower Walls	1
	Pyramid Roof	1
	Cone Overhang	1
	Exterior Window Frame	4
	Interior Window Cover	4
	Interior Stone Cover	9

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.

Prepare the Tower Walls

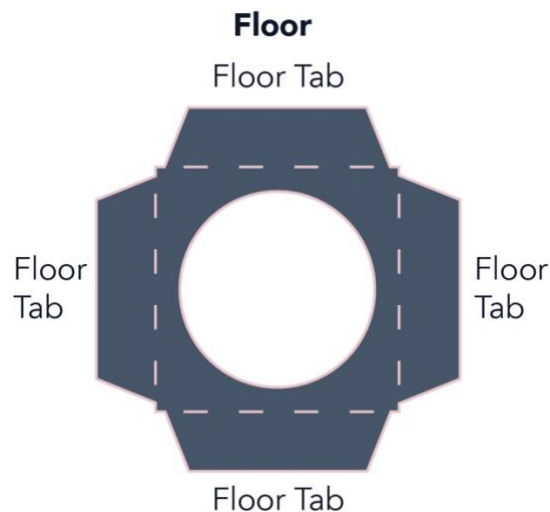


1. Fold the Tower Walls along all fold lines.
2. Work out which face is the inside before you glue anything to it. Lay the Tower Walls flat with the Long Side Tab folding up toward you — the face you're looking

at is the inside. Everything in this section except the last step goes on that inside face.

3. Add the Interior Window Covers over the pointed windows, on the inside. Use translucent vellum if you plan to light the Tower, 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.
4. Glue an Interior Stone Cover over each small rectangular opening, still on the inside and glued the same way — a thin line around the opening, kept back from the edge. There are 9 in this build. They show through from behind as stones in a different color from the wall, which is what gives the Tower its texture — so pick a color that reads against your wall stock. They're small, and tweezers help.
5. Turn the walls over and glue an Exterior Window Frame over each window on the outside.

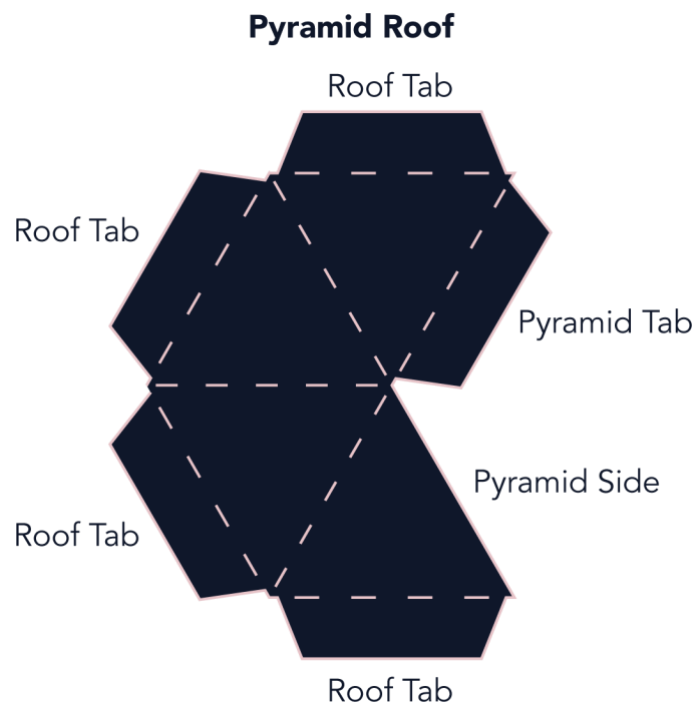
Install the Floor and Close the Tower



Check which way the windows point before you glue anything. The pointed tops are the only thing on the Tower Walls that tells you which end is up — the piece is otherwise a tall rectangle. Once you're concentrating on getting a Floor Tab square to the edge, centered on the wall, and on the inside so your decorations end up facing out, it's easy not to notice that the points are pointing down and your floor has become your roof. I did exactly that on camera.

6. Fold the Floor Tabs upward. The hole in the middle leaves less paper between it and the fold line than you might expect, so support the fold on both sides and press right on the crease.
7. Starting with the edge of the Tower Wall that has no tab, labeled Long Side in the diagram, glue a Floor Tab to the inside of the Short Side. Make sure the tab is square to the edge and centered on the wall.
8. Glue the next Floor Tab inside the Short Side of the next wall and keep going until you run out of Floor Tabs and walls.
9. Glue the Long Side Tab to the inside of the now adjacent Long Side to close the seam in the Tower Walls.

Build the Pyramid Roof

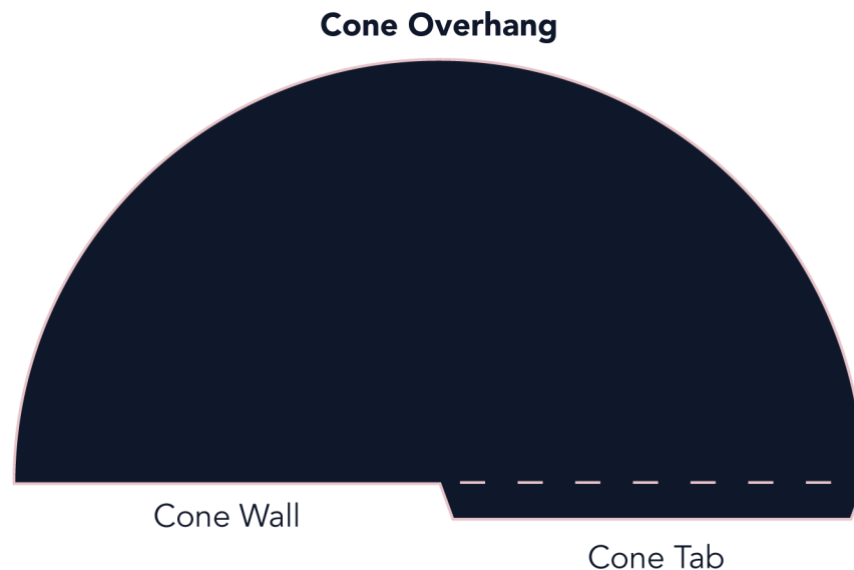


10. Fold the Pyramid Roof along its fold lines to form a pyramid, then glue the Pyramid Tab to the inside of the Pyramid Side to close the seam.
11. At the bottom edge, fold two opposite Roof Tabs inward and the other two opposite Roof Tabs outward, alternating around the edge.

Mount the Pyramid Roof

12. Glue the two inward-facing Roof Tabs to the inside tops of two opposite walls. Leave the outward-facing Roof Tabs projecting — the Cone Overhang attaches to those.

Add the Cone Overhang



13. Curl the Cone Overhang into a cone and glue the Cone Tab to the inside of the Cone Wall to close the seam.
14. Slide the cone down over the Pyramid Roof until it sits evenly, then glue the inside of the cone to the roof's outward Roof Tabs.

Light and Display

- Set an LED tealight or a short strand of fairy lights inside, through the hole in the floor.
- The Tower is tall, and a tealight at the base won't reach the upper windows. Fairy lights with a few bulbs pushed up the column will. The small battery LEDs with a pull-tab work too, though once one is inside you can't switch it off again without taking the roof apart.
- 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 Tower with the Gatehouse and the Battlements to build the full castle.

Enjoy your finished Frankenstein Castle Tower.

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