Make Your Own Toy Theatre

You will need:

- The PDF document 'Theatre Theatre Model', printed onto thin card
- Thin wooden rods, about 25cm long (kebab skewers work well)
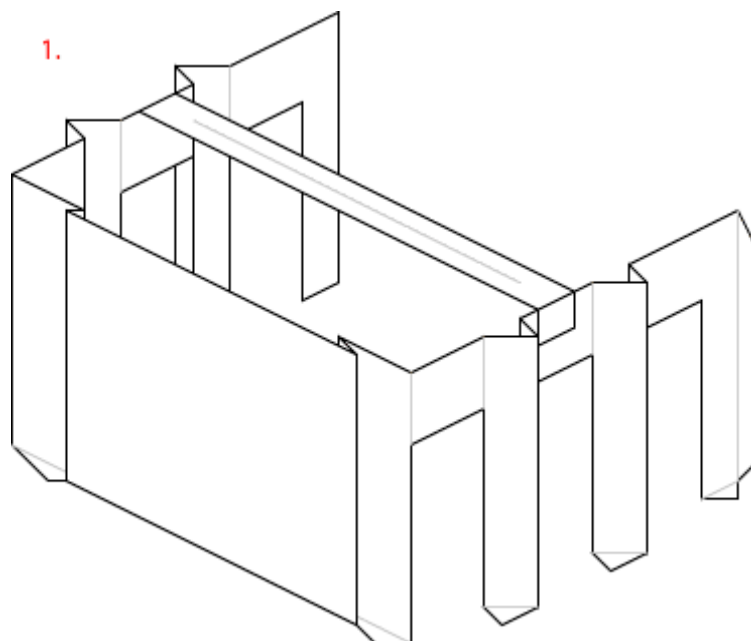- Glue
- Sticky tack or tape

The support pieces are better printed in colour so that the colour-coded fold and score marks are clearly visible. The backdrops and characters can be printed in black and then coloured in.

If you don't have any card for printing, just use normal paper and then glue the pieces to card afterwards - the back of a breakfast cereal packet is good for this. It is important that the support structure is fairly strong to prevent the theatre from wobbling about!

1. Making the support structure

Take the two sides panels and carefully score along the red and blue lines (to make it easier to fold, the red lines should be scored on the printed side of the line and the blue lines should be scored on the back). Fold them into shape and glue to the theatre base using the numbered tabs as a guide. Repeat for the back panel and top supports. (Picture 1).
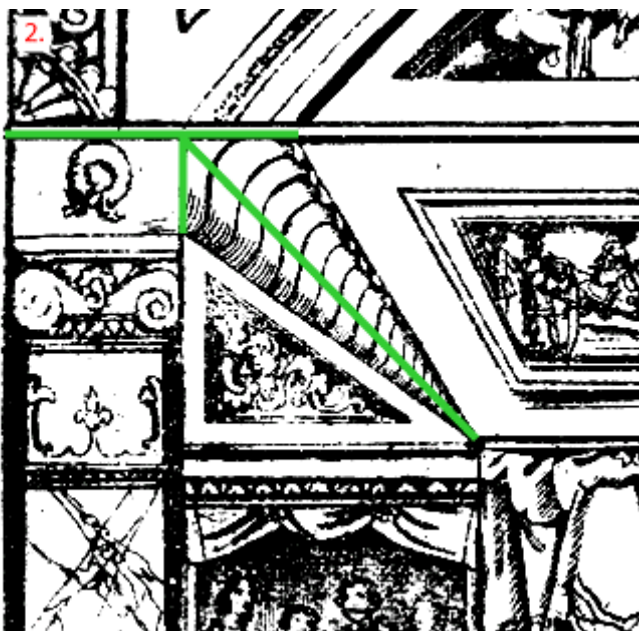
Once in place, the top bar can be folded along its centre-line to provide more rigidity
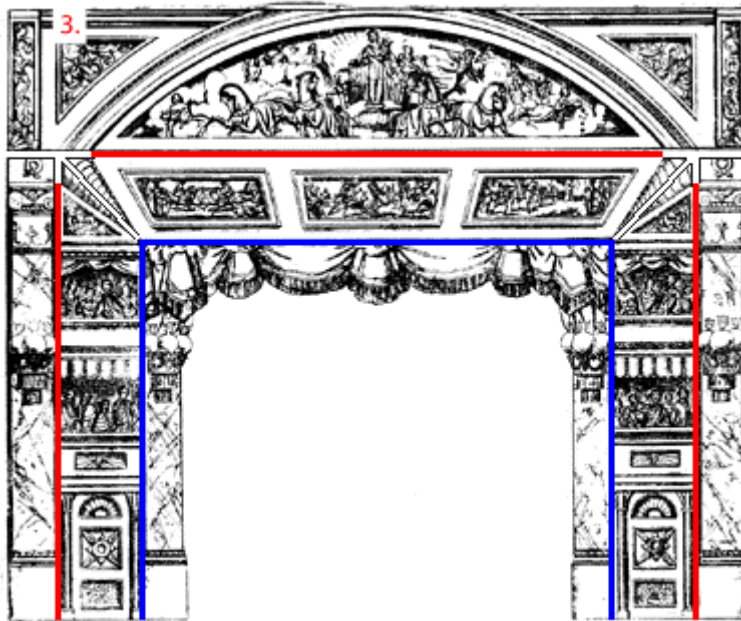
2. Attaching the stage front

First, the stage front needs to be folded to make it stronger, and to create a 3-d effect. Follow the instructions below for both the left and right sides:
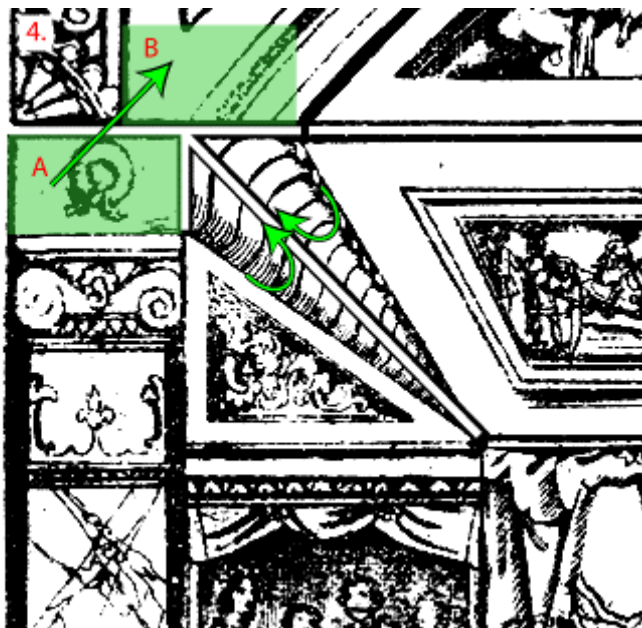
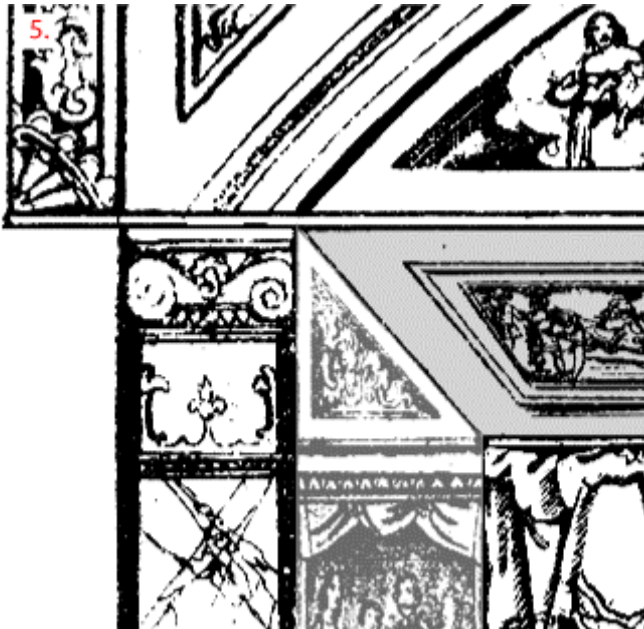Cut along the lines shown in green (Picture 2, below)

Score along the red and blue lines. Tip: red lines should be scored on the printed side of the line and the blue lines should be scored on the back of the page. (Picture 3).
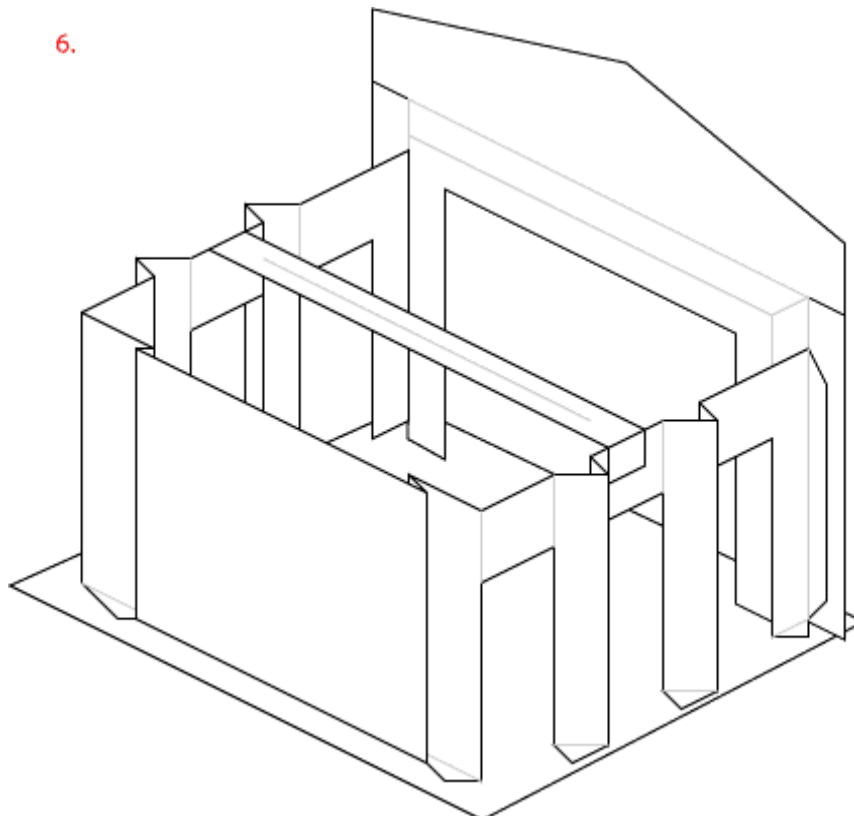

Fold the triangular parts outwards so that the rectangular tab 'A' moves to position 'B', as shown below (Picture 4).

Now glue the triangular parts together and glue the tab into place to create a 3-d stage front (Picture 5).

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The stage front can now be glued to the support structure, using the long tabs to the side and the numbered tabs to the base (Picture 6).

6.

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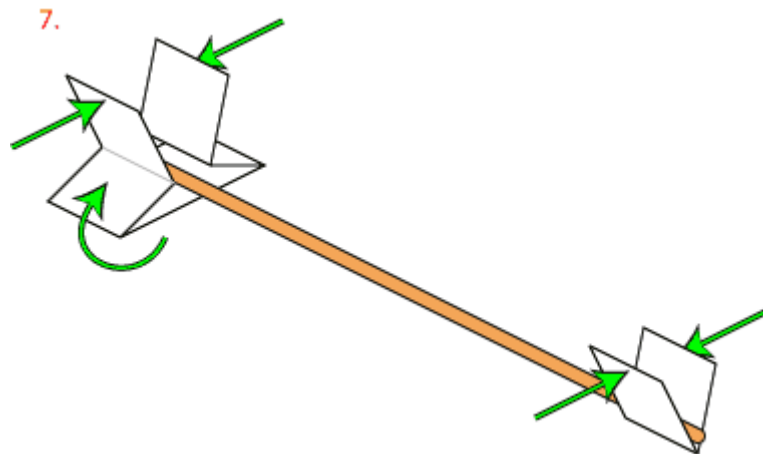SW7 2RL

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Glue the side wings to the top-frame, matching the numbers. The frame should be folded along its length to make it more stable.

Hint: the bottom corners of the side wings and the backdrops can be trimmed off to allow them to be inserted into the support structure more easily.
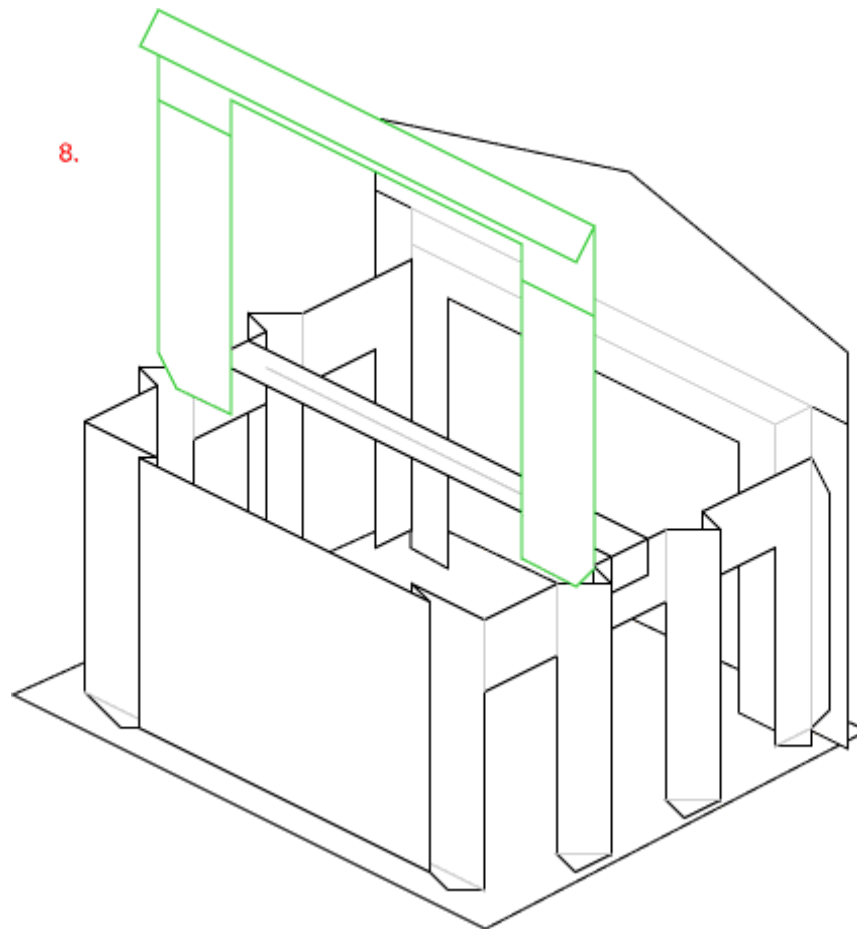
3. Making the character stands

Fold the character into a 'T' shape, then glue them to the wooden rods (Picture 7)
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Attach the characters to the stands using tape or tack.

4. Assemble the Stage

The side wings and the backdrops can now easily slide in and out of the support structure and characters can enter the stage between the side wings. (See picture: 8)

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8.

5. Showtime!

Print out the PDF document 'Cinderella Script'. Follow the script to show you what to do with the characters and scenery you've created.

Tip: If you print in colour the characters' lines are blue, stage directions are dark red, instructions for the set are green and the commentary is grey.

Now, with the theatre complete, your script ready and the characters waiting in the wings, the play can begin!

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