

Glass Block Doorway using Real Glass Blocks

by Fran Casselman

Supplies Needed:

#66951 25 Glass Blocks set (2 sets)
#66952 10 Glass Blocks set (1 set)
#6001* Houseworks 4-Panel Door (has transom)
#1114 Door Knob and Keyplate with Key
#5515 Omni-Stick Glue
#9200 1/8" x 1/8" strip wood
#17531 3/8" x 3/4" strip wood
Non-stick work surface (wax paper)
Craft knife
Bar clamps with span at least 9 3/4" (4)
1/4" thick scrap wood or foam core
Masking tape
White or wood glue

*Doors #6000, #6009, #6012 and #6018 are also suitable for this project.

Other items in the scene were crafted and/or purchased from craft stores and other retailers.

Some miniatures.com items listed may be temporarily unavailable or may be permanently discontinued; we apologize for any inconvenience.

Assembly Instructions

Following the general glass block instructions (above), prepare two assemblies of 20 blocks each, arranged in two rows of 10 blocks each, for the sidelights (see photo of finished project). Prepare two assemblies of two blocks each, for the sidelight transoms. Set aside.

Remove the acrylic glazing piece and the vertical wood bars from the transom of the door.

The glass blocks vary slightly in size, so dry-fit individual blocks into the transom area to find three that fit well.

Cut 1/8" x 1/8" stripwood to the height of the individual glass block for the transoms. You will need a maximum of nine lengths.

With a sharp craft knife, carefully split seven of the wood pieces lengthwise into two pieces. With the 1/8" dimension facing out, glue a split wood piece into the recess on one side of each transom block. When the glue is set, glue blocks together to make an assembly of three blocks. Glue a split piece at the end of the row



The completed doorway assembly is approximately 8" x 9 5/8".

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

If you plan to stain any parts of the doorway project, do that before any glue is used. If you plan to paint, do a test piece and make sure it will not be affected by the Omni-Stick glue. Paint will cover the glue, but it may be easier to paint before assembly, especially the smaller pieces.

and fit into the transom area, working with the door face up and flat on the work surface. Adjust the end strips as needed and glue in place, flush at the back. Allow to dry.

Glue up another assembly row of four blocks with split wood strips between, but do not add strips at the ends. Square up the assembly and clamp to dry.

The framework for the doorway unit is made of 3/8" x 3/4" strip wood, with the 3/8" dimension facing out. Because the glass blocks vary slightly in size you will need to measure as you go with the assemblies you have prepared. Cut two horizontal pieces the full width of the door frame. Cut four horizontal pieces the width of the sidelight assemblies.

Begin to dry-fit/assemble the project flat on the work surface. Put a door-width horizontal piece on edge; place the door above that; the second door-width piece (on edge) and then the four-block assembly. The combined height of these pieces is the measurement you need to cut the four vertical pieces of the frame.

Add the vertical pieces and the remaining horizontal pieces to the assembly (see fig. 1), then measure and cut the top horizontal piece to the combined width of the elements. Put the sidelight assemblies aside for the moment and, working quickly, glue the wood frame pieces together (using white or wood glue, if preferred). Glue the top-row glass block assemblies in place (using Omni-Stick), flush with the back of the unit, centering the four-block section. Clamp the unit together, making sure it is square. Allow to dry overnight.

The sidelight assemblies are centered front-to-back in their openings, so you will need some scrap material about $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick for spacing. With the doorway unit flat on the work surface, put scrap material in the sidelight openings, then glue the sidelight block assemblies to the sides of the frame, centering vertically (there will be gaps at the top and bottom). With the spacer beneath, they should be inset approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the front face of the unit. Allow to dry.

Use $\frac{1}{8}$ " square stock to cover the gaps on the sidelights and at the ends of the top center transom. Add $\frac{1}{8}$ " square stock as trim around the sides and top of the door, or use quarter-round molding if preferred.

Excess dried glue on the glass blocks can be gently scraped away or carefully removed with cotton swabs and rubbing alcohol.

Add door hardware as desired.



Fig. 1