

# ASTORIA COLUMN KIT

## ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for purchasing your Astoria Column flexible wood model kit.

The following instructions will guide you through the construction process. **We recommend that you read the instructions completely before beginning to assemble.** While not difficult, there are some parts that will require extra time and patience to successfully assemble the model.

By following these instructions, you should end up with a realistic display model of the famous Astoria Column.

Materials you will need:

Wood glue. Any good wood glue will do. (Clear or translucent glue will make it easier).

Paper towels to clean off glue.

Cotton swabs to clean or apply glue.

A small disposable paint brush to apply glue.

Tweezers to help set and adjust the smaller parts.

Nice to have:

A small hammer to gently tap base pieces together if needed. (Do not use a large hammer!).

Small clamps. Not absolutely necessary, but nice to have.

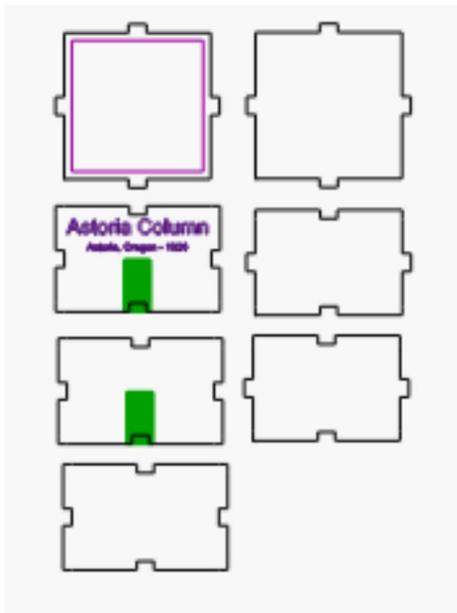
# Step 1

Before proceeding, separate the parts and place them into groups as follows:

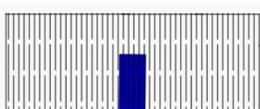
A small sign that you may optionally affix to the model when complete.



Base pieces. These pieces will form the base of the model. There is an optional front piece that has the same information as the sign (above) that you can use if you like. NOTE: The actual column does not have this signage on it, so if you want it to be as close as possible to the actual column, then just use the blank piece (with the engraved "door"). It's up to you!

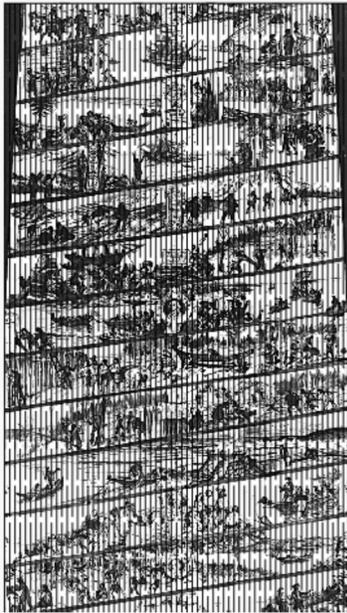


Top flexible wood piece. **Caution: Do not bend this piece until instructed!**



The flexible wood that will become the column. This has a representation of the actual images from the column. **Caution: Do not bend this piece until instructed.**

(Step 1 continued)



Large top and bottom rings for the column.



Small top and bottom ring for column.



Small top ring for column top. Note: These rings have a small line engraved on one side to help with alignment later. (An extra ring is included in case of breakage. The extra ring is not used in the assembly).

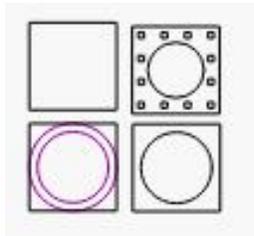


**(Step 1 continued)**

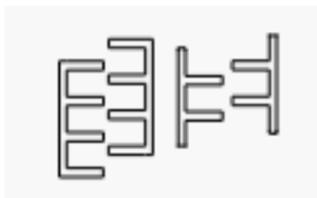
Pieces for dome for top of column.



Top and bottom pieces for column



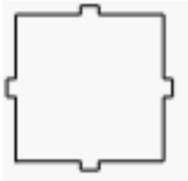
Railings.



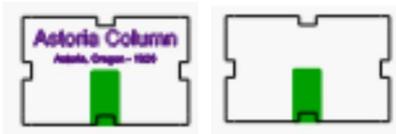
## Step 2.

Assemble the base.

Set this piece on a table or other suitable surface. This is the bottom piece.

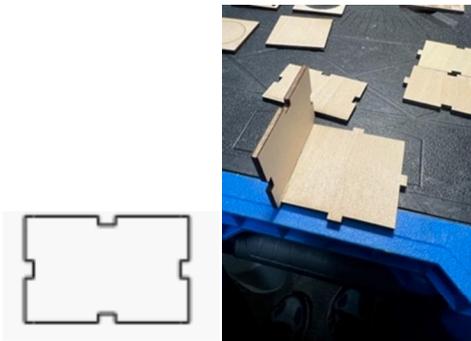


Choose either of these pieces depending on your preference (**only one will be used**). For these instructions, I chose the blank piece, but assembly is the same in either case):



Apply a small amount of glue to the bottom edge of the piece you select (the engraved door must face out on the base). Press the piece onto one side of the bottom piece. If they are too tight to push all the way together, a gentle tap with a small hammer will set them together. Make sure the door side is facing out.

Now apply glue along the bottom edge of the back piece (similar to how you applied it to the front piece with the door).

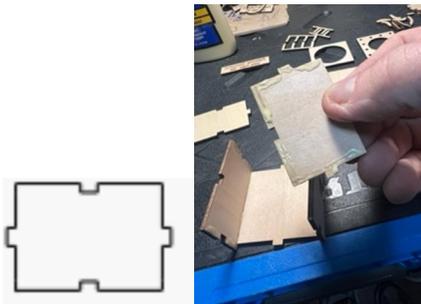


Press this piece on the back side of the bottom piece, directly across from the piece you already installed.

**(Step 2 continued)**



Now apply glue to the bottom and side edges of one of the side pieces.



Align the slot with the tab on the bottom piece and press together. Repeat with the remaining side piece.

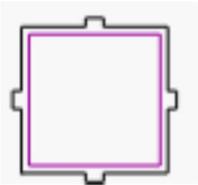


Press the base and side pieces together for a tight fit. Tap with small hammer if necessary.

**(Step 2 continued)**



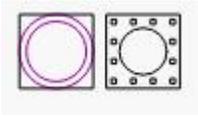
Now, find this piece:



Apply glue to the edges inside of the base and align the tabs of the top piece with the slots in the base, and press into place. Make sure that the engraved square on this piece is on the top. Press or tap all sides and top and bottom together to ensure a tight fit. The pieces should be tightly together. Set this part of the base aside for now to dry.

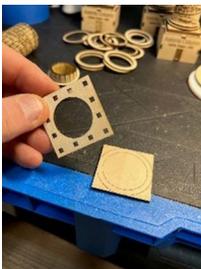


### Step 3:



Apply glue to one side of the piece that has the round hole and 12 square holes. Glue it to the blank side of the piece with the engraved circles. The circles should be opposite the piece with the hole. Line up the pieces so that the edges are exactly aligned to be square. Make sure there is no glue in the holes as this would make it difficult to install the railings later on.

When you are done, you should have the piece with the hole glued to the piece with the engraved circles, and when you turn it over (away from the hole), the engraved circles are visible. (See photos)



### Step 4:

There are two remaining square pieces:



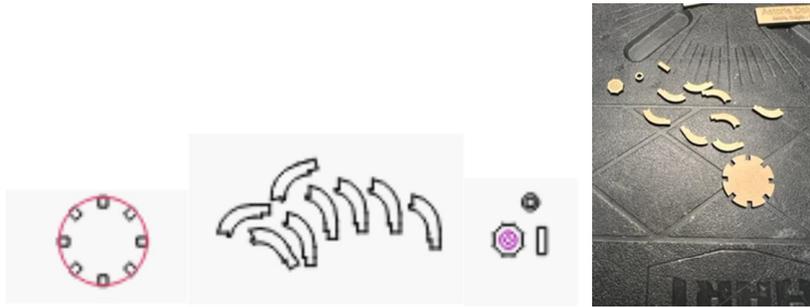
One of the pieces has a hole. The other is a solid square piece.

Apply glue to one side of the piece with the hole, and glue it to the solid square piece. Align the edges exactly so they are square. After the pieces are pressed together, it may be helpful to set a small weight on top to ensure the pieces don't separate as the glue dries.

## Step 5:

**NOTE: THE STEPS THAT FOLLOW WILL REQUIRE SOME PATIENCE AND CAREFUL GLUING. IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO COMPLETE THESE STEPS. DON'T RUSH. THESE STEPS ARE THE MORE DIFFICULT PARTS OF THE ASSEMBLY.**

Gather these pieces:

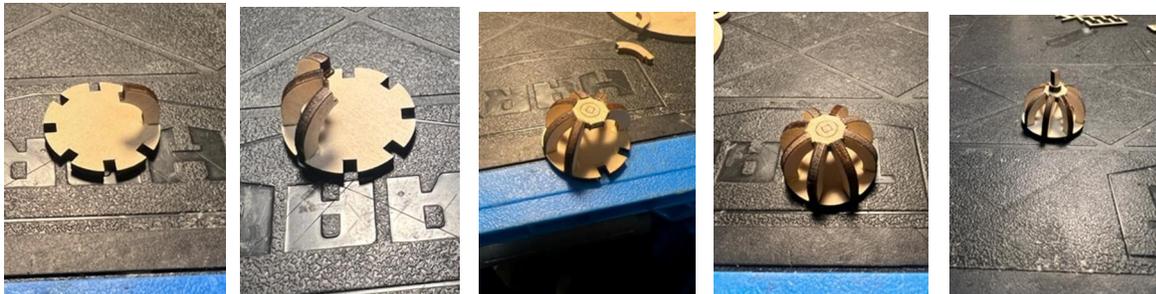


**(NOTE: Your kit may have a dome base plate that has square holes instead of notches. The assembly is the same in either case).**

You will now assemble the dome for the top of the column. Tweezers will help a lot with the assembly.

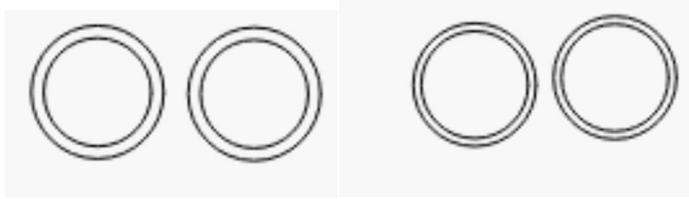
Apply a small amount of glue to the bottom of one of the 8 dome pieces and place it in one of the notches (or holes) in the dome base plate. Repeat until 6 of the 8 dome pieces are in place. Do the best you can to keep them as upright as possible. Now, take the small octagonal (eight-sided) piece and apply glue around the edge. Using tweezers set the small top piece into the center of the 6 dome pieces and gently press into place. Now, apply glue to the bottom of the remaining dome pieces and install them. The center piece will be supported by the dome pieces. Before the glue sets, gently adjust the dome pieces to be vertical and square to the center piece, and that the dome pieces that are opposite each other are lined up to one-another. It should look equal and centered. Make sure the bottom of the curved pieces are completely set into the slots (or holes) of the dome base plate, both around the base plate and vertically. Check that the center piece is level with respect to the base plate, and is centered. Wipe off any excess glue and set aside to dry.

After this dome is dry, apply glue to the lightning rod piece and slide it into the small base. The bottom of the "rod" should be flush with the bottom of the small base. Apply glue to the bottom of the small base and glue to the top of the dome in the engraved circle on top. The rod should be vertical with respect to the dome. Set aside to dry.

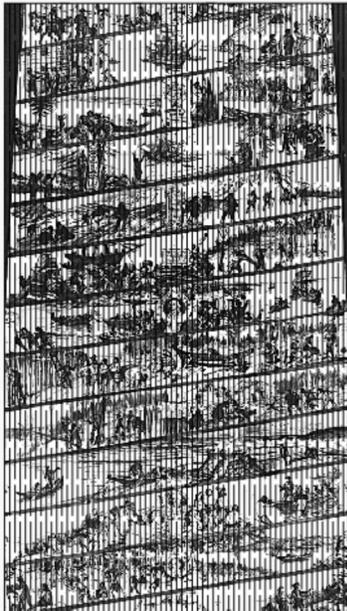


## STEP 6:

Gather the large and small column rings:



And the column flexible wood:



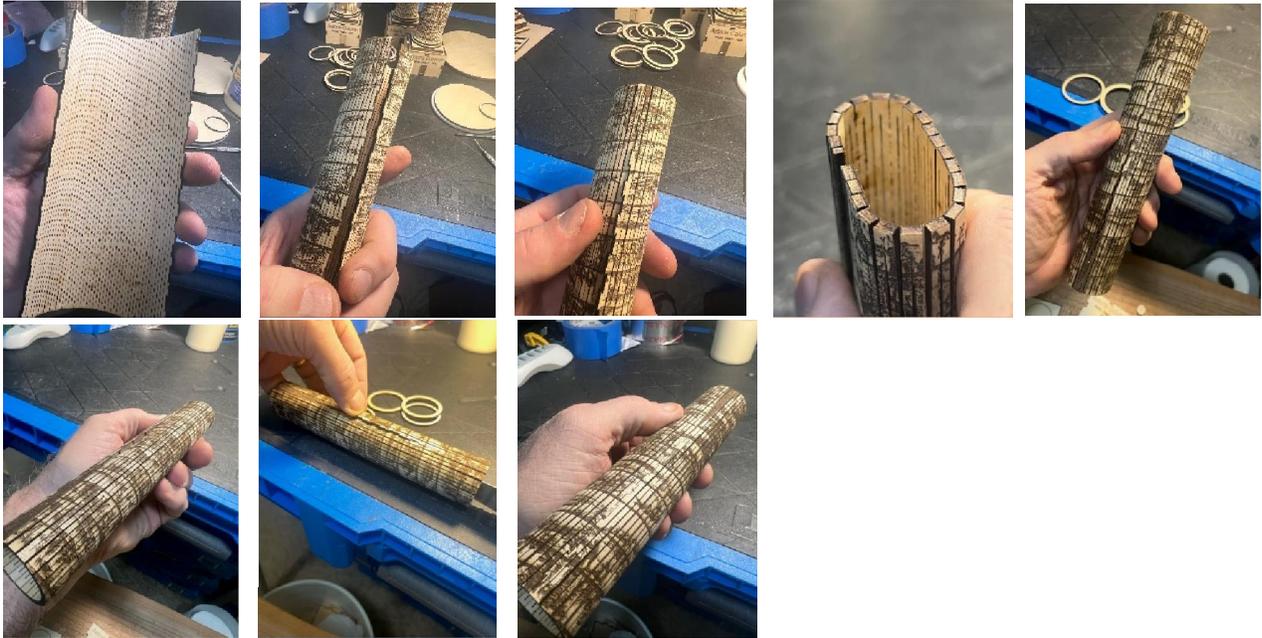
**NOTE: THIS STEP MUST BE DONE GENTLY. DO NOT RUSH. TAKE YOUR TIME. YOU ARE GOING TO BEND THE WOOD INTO A CYLINDER.**

NOTE: THE WOOD WILL ONLY BEND IN ONE DIRECTION, THE LONG WAY. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BEND IT THE OTHER WAY.

Be gentle and patient. WORK SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY.

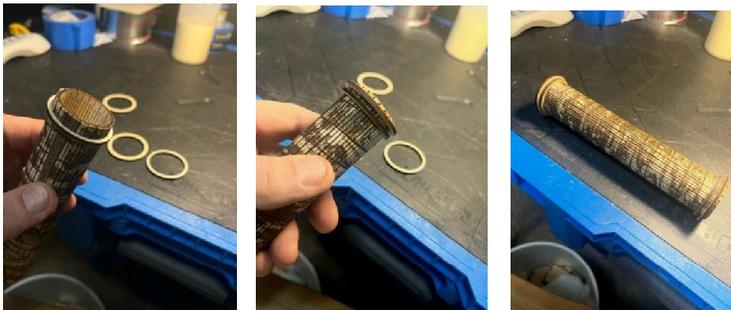
Gently roll the flexible wood into a cylinder, and then attach the two ends together by placing the first tab on one end of the column into its corresponding slot. Work gently and try to keep the tabs level with respect to the slots. When they are lined up, they will pop right in. **DO NOT FORCE!** It's fine to gently push down to keep the tabs and slots "flat" to each other (see photo). **Do not compress the column piece more than necessary to have each side level with the other!** The tabs will not go into the slots unless they are lined up as in the photo.

**(Step 6 continued)**



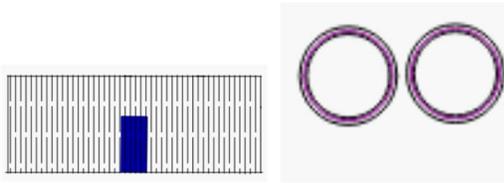
When you have one of the tabs in its slot, then move to the other end and place the first tab into its slot. Then gently work the remaining tabs into their slots. It will be a close fit. You want the seam to be smooth. It's fine to press the column itself down some to align the tabs and slots (see example in photo). Do not compress it more than about  $\frac{1}{2}$  the diameter of the column (otherwise it will break). You are trying to get the edges parallel. If it doesn't want to connect with the tab going into the slot, try placing the slot over the tab instead. Just work carefully and take your time. The tabs will generally slip easily into the slots.

Once the column has been made into a cylinder, carefully work the small column ring onto the end of the column. You will start the ring on one side of the column and gently work around in, gently aligning the column pieces inside the ring until it slides on. Work slowly and position the ring about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) down from the top). Now slide one of the large rings onto the end of the column next to the small ring. Repeat the same process at the other end of the column with the other small and large ring. (NOTE: It's fine if the top or bottom of the column "flares" out a bit. This is caused by the natural grain and slight imperfections of the wood. Once the rings are in place, the column will retain the correct shape. Just work the ends gently into place).

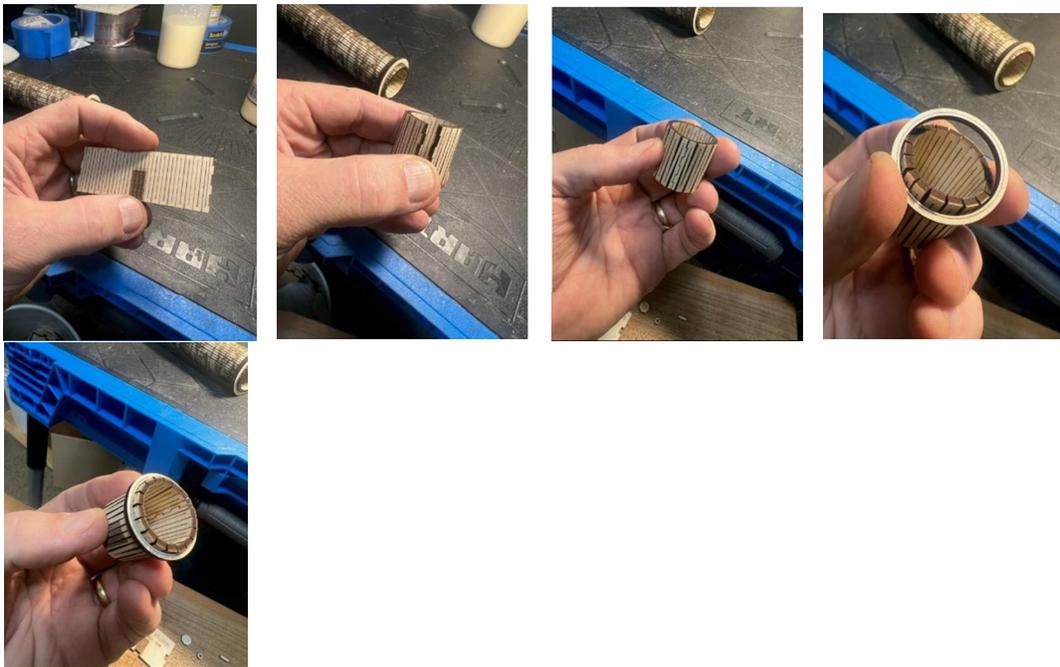


## Step 7:

Now, gather the top flexible wood piece and small rings with the engraved circle:



Gently roll the top piece into a cylinder as you did with the column. Inset the tabs into the corresponding slots. Slide one of the rings onto the top of the cylinder and position it about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (6mm) down from the top. The engraved circle should be facing up.



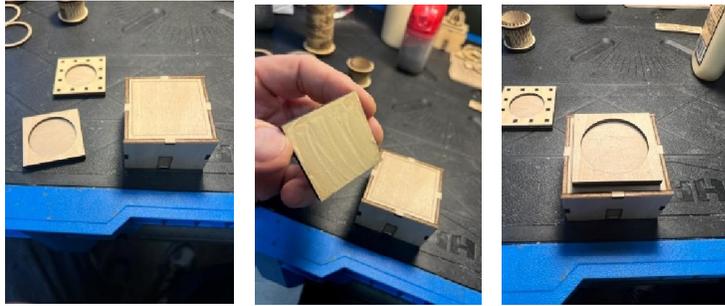
## Step 8:

Find the assembly of these two pieces that you made earlier:



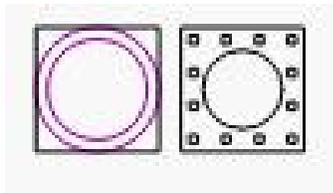
Apply glue to the solid side (away from the hole), and place the assembly onto the top of the base, aligning with the engraved square on the top of the base. Allow glue to thoroughly dry.

(Step 8 continued)



## Step 9:

Find the assembly of these two pieces that you completed earlier.



Apply glue around the inside of the hole. Don't worry about being too neat, just keep the glue inside the hole. This area will not be visible. Remove the bottom ring from the top flexible wood piece. The door is at the bottom. GENTLY position it with the door down toward the hole and press it into the hole so the bottom of the top piece rests inside the hole and is evenly sitting on the solid bottom of the hole. Make sure the door is centered on one side of the piece with the holes between the middle two holes for the railing. Set aside to dry.



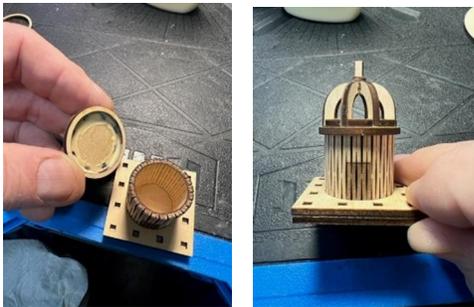
## Step 10:

In the next step, remove the ring from top of the top flexible wood piece. Apply glue to the bottom of the dome base plate and glue the ring to the underside of the base of the dome, using the engraved circle as an alignment guide and allow to dry. The engraved circle should face the dome base plate and is used to align the dome to the ring. Make certain it is centered in the ring with the engraved circle. Wipe off any excess glue. Set aside to dry.



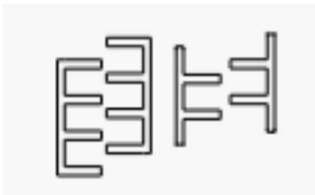
## Step 11:

When the dome assembly glue is thoroughly dry, apply glue to the inside of the ring that you affixed to the dome so that the glue covers the inside of the ring and around the ring on the base of the top piece. This is so the glue will bond the flexible wood to the top piece. Don't worry about excess glue inside the top piece as it will not be visible. Now glue the complete top assembly to the flexible wood top, making sure that the wood goes completely into the hole formed by the ring. Allow to dry.



## Step 12:

When the top assembly glue is dry, gather the 4 railing pieces.



Glue one of the 2 longer pieces (with 4 legs) into the holes on the top piece. Glue the other longer piece into the 4 holes on the opposite side.

**(Step 12 continued)**

Now glue one of the short pieces (with 2 legs) into the two holes on one of the remaining sides, and repeat for the other short piece. Apply glue to the ends of the smaller pieces prior to assembly to hold the corners square.



**Step 13:**

NOTE: The top of the column has the triangular shaped area at the top of the seam.



Remove the large ring from the bottom of the column. Apply glue to the small ring. Immediately slide the large ring back on the column and apply glue to the large ring.



Immediately apply glue inside the hole of the base and position the column so that the seam is to the back and centered away from the door. Gently press the column into the hole on the base so that the bottom of the column is all the way down inside the hole, and the seam is to the rear away from the door. Press the rings down onto the base so they are tightly together. The seam should be centered on the back side of the

**(Step 13 continued)**

base. Allow to dry. **(Note: The seam is darkened in the image to show where to position it with respect to the base).**



(Seam is darkened to show position)

**Step 14:**

Remove the large ring from the top of the column. Position the small ring about 1/8" (3mm) from the end. Apply glue as above, then slide the large ring on to the column as you did before. Apply glue to the top of the column and large ring. Now glue the top assembly to the top of the column and slide the rings up and press them against the bottom of the top assembly. Make sure that the door engraving on the top assembly is on the same side as the door engraving on the base. Center the top so the large ring is centered on all 4 sides at the edge (see arrows in photo). Before the glue sets, carefully place the column on its side on a flat surface and turn the top as necessary to make certain that the top is square with the bottom. Stand the column up and check to make sure the top is still centered on the column. Reposition as needed. Allow to dry.



**Thank you for purchasing our Astoria Column kit.**

**They are designed and made in Astoria, Oregon.**

**We hope you enjoyed building your model.**



Ver 2.04

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