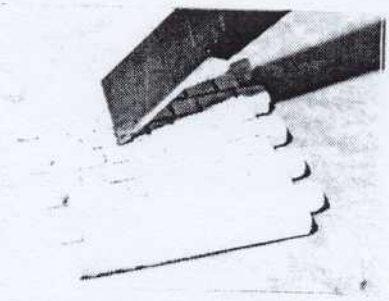
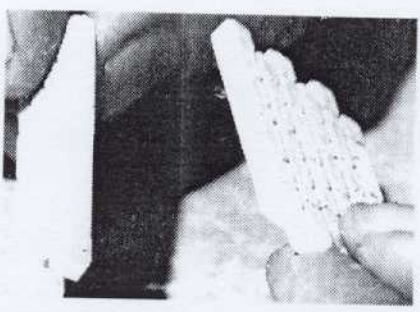
HORIZONTAL CUTS

Horizontal cuts are straightforward. A standard stone panel (from mould S1) is ten rows of stone high. Suppose you want to build a stone wall only six rows high:

1. SCORE ALONG THE APPROPRIATE MORTAR RUN 4 OR 5 TIMES.



2. THEN SNAP THE SECTION APART.



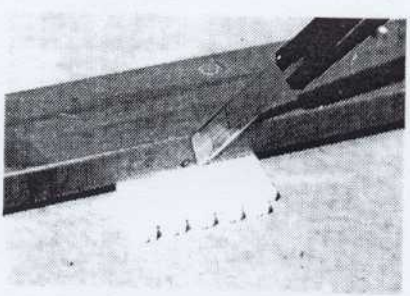
This can be done with any stone, brick, slate or timber casting where the engraving on the casting will help guide the craft knife.

Sand the edge smooth if necessary.

DIAGONAL AND VERTICAL CUTS

These are best achieved by working on the smooth (non-engraved) side of the casting.

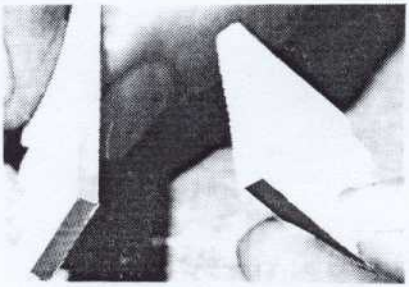
1. MARK OUT WHERE YOU WANT TO CUT.
2. PLACE A METAL STRAIGHT EDGE ALONG THE LINE AND WITH A CRAFT KNIFE SCORE ALONG THE LINE SEVERAL TIMES.



CUTTING AND SHAPING

DIAGONAL AND VERTICAL CUTS (contd.)

3. THEN SNAP THE SECTION APART.

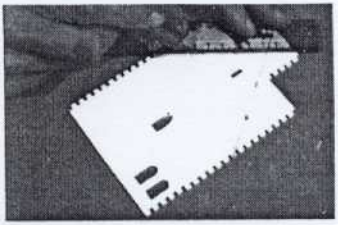


Frequently, rather than cut each section one by one, it is more convenient to build a whole wall and then cut off the surplus part. The principle is the same - smooth side up, score along the line required, then snap off.

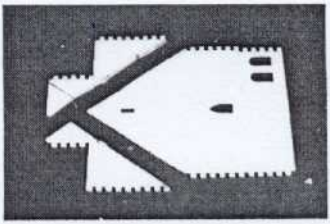
The most common use of a diagonal cut is for changing the angle of the roof of a building. The ready-made gables from moulds S4, B6 and T1 are very useful, but if you use them all the time an unrealistic regimentation will creep into your models.

Create your own gable angle as follows:

1. BUILD WHOLE WALL UNTIL IT IS ABOVE THE GABLE LINE OF YOUR CHOICE

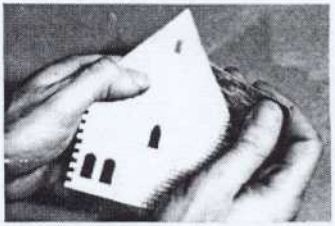


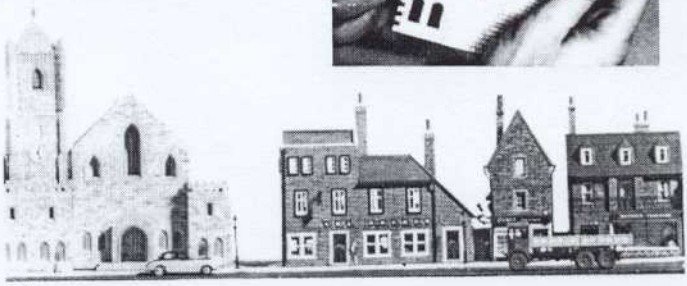
2. MARK OUT THE GABLE LINE AND SCORE ALONG THE LINES SEVERAL TIMES.



3. SNAP OFF THE SURPLUS SECTIONS.

4 SAND THE CUT SURFACES AS REQUIRED.





An attractive Linka System street scene showing effective use of varied gable roofs.

CUTTING AND SHAPING

POWER TOOLS

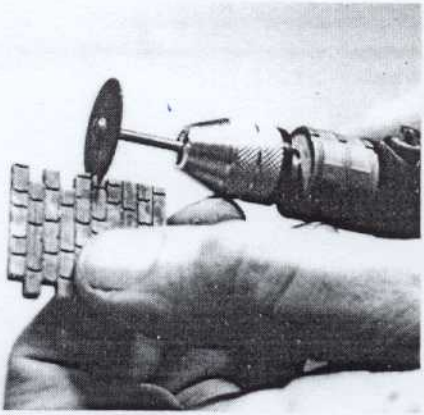
The techniques described on the previous pages can be carried out with a craft knife and sandpaper, with occasional help from a needle and file. Building a stock of 2 or 3 grades of sandpaper and a number of different files, along with scribers and razor saws, aids the versatility and ease of cutting, shaping and etching Linka System castings. Scribers can range from household items such as darning needles, compass points etc., to purpose-built cutters normally used for lino-cutting and scraper-board etching, available at most good art stores.

If you have many models to build, we recommend you consider using a power tool - there are a number of 12 volt miniature power drills on the market, some of them converting up into a total miniature workshop.

The most useful accessory for a power drill is the miniature Carborundum slitting disc often used (with admirable effect) for rail cutting. This disc can be used for most cutting and shaping jobs with Linka System, cutting the castings with ease. Practise on some scrap pieces of Linka first, because the sheer power and speed of the tool can damage your model if you have not developed some skill in handling. Never forget that any power tool can inflict injury if thoughtlessly controlled, even in miniature.

The standard Linka panels are available in full or half length, but sometimes a special length casting is required. (Especially to match the two-thirds length castings on moulds S2, B4 & T2.)

Cut a full-length casting down to the size required, as shown on page 12 'Vertical cuts', then cut in new jointing teeth with a slitting disc fitted to the drill. Cut the two outer slits first along the mortar runs, as shown in the photograph, then cut in other slits until the new tooth has been gouged out.



The miniature twist drills can be used for gouging Linka castings and are particularly useful for introducing dilapidation into a Linka System structure for ruined houses or castles.