

## Newline Designs' 20mm Ancients Building BU02 Small Roman Town House £5.00

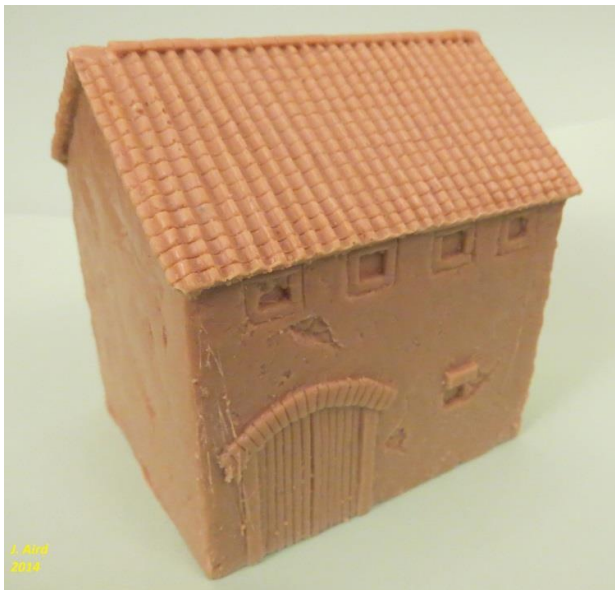
### Review by Jonathan Aird

Not every Roman was lucky enough to live in the richly appointed villas that we're so familiar with from films and history lessons. The majority of people lived in much humbler buildings, and this model represents one of these. Not the huge insula apartment blocks of Rome itself, this is the kind of dwelling that would have studded the towns and cities of the Empire, something more permanent than a lean-to-shanty but still not a palatial dwelling.

The Small Roman Town House is a simple rectangular building with one major entry door with some decoration over it at the front with a single small low window and a row of small high windows to provide some light whilst still offering security against robbery. The rear has a similar arrangement but the door is smaller and plainer and only three lights are set into the upper level. It has a tiled roof and was once fully plastered externally, although this is now showing cracks as time and the weather has taken a toll.



The measurements are 3" long, 2.5" wide, 2.25" up to the bottom of the tiling and 3.25" to the highest point on the roof. It looks really fine with 20mm plastics as shown in the third picture, and of course with Newline's own metal 20mm and 1/72nd figures (the unpainted metal) and would certainly fit in perfectly with any true 25mm range, but perhaps look a bit small with heroic scale 28mm figures.



There are only minor mould lines to remove and painting should be a breeze as it is quite a plain structure -- it'll need some weathering around the cracks in the plaster and should be fairly mucky at street level. Some graffiti would also look good if I can manage to do the fine detail ("people called Romanus go into the house?"). I may build a wooden lean-to against a side wall, or possibly put a wooden shop booth on the front by the door. If I do that, I'll base the

model in order to protect the extension. Otherwise, I'll probably leave it as a free-standing model for ease of use on the table.

Overall, the Small Roman Town House is a substantial piece of resin and excellent value for money at just £5. I took advantage of the recent Newline summer sale and picked up several saving a hefty 25%. I bought them mainly to use with "Song of Shadows & Dust" (the ancient city riots spin-off from the Song of Blades & Heroes rule set) but now I'm not sure my shady back street is going to be crowded enough. I may well add some more at the full price. Newline delivered in what I consider a very reasonable time considering that they must have had a lot of orders placed in a short time scale -- a couple of weeks after placing my order I had the parcel. That's good enough for me. Thoroughly recommended.

Newline Design Website : <http://www.newlinedesigns.co.uk/>

