

How to Make Paper Screen Models

Learn about Light in Japanese Architecture



Prepared by Aki Ishida (www.akiishida.com) for Japan Society

All photos by Aki Ishida unless otherwise noted

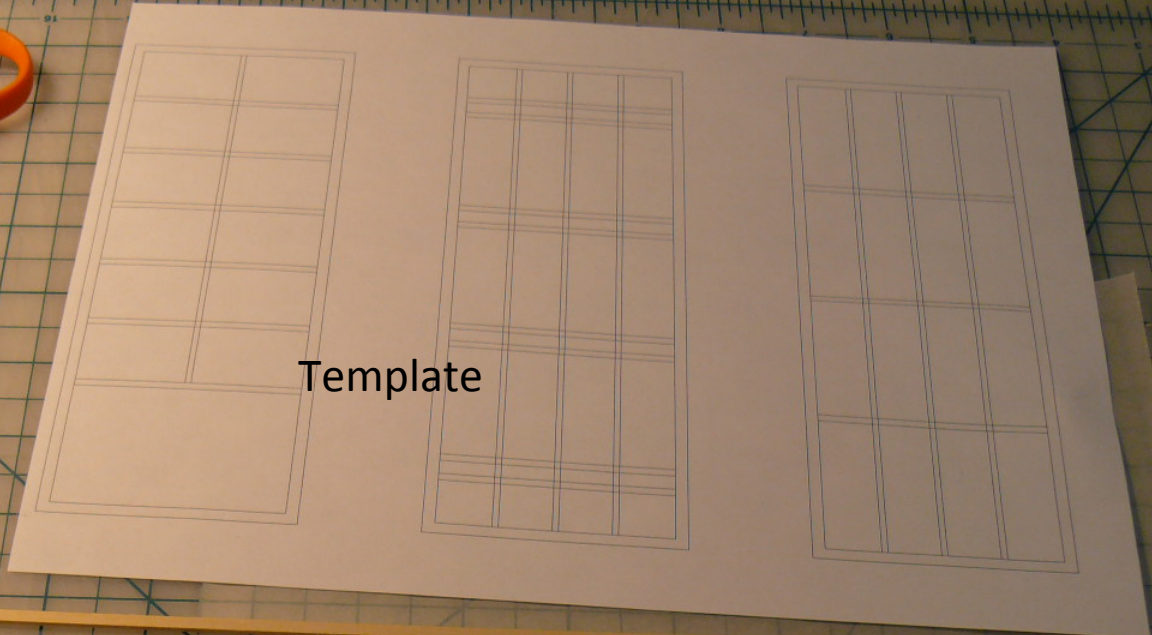
Scissors



Drafting tape or
masking tape



Template



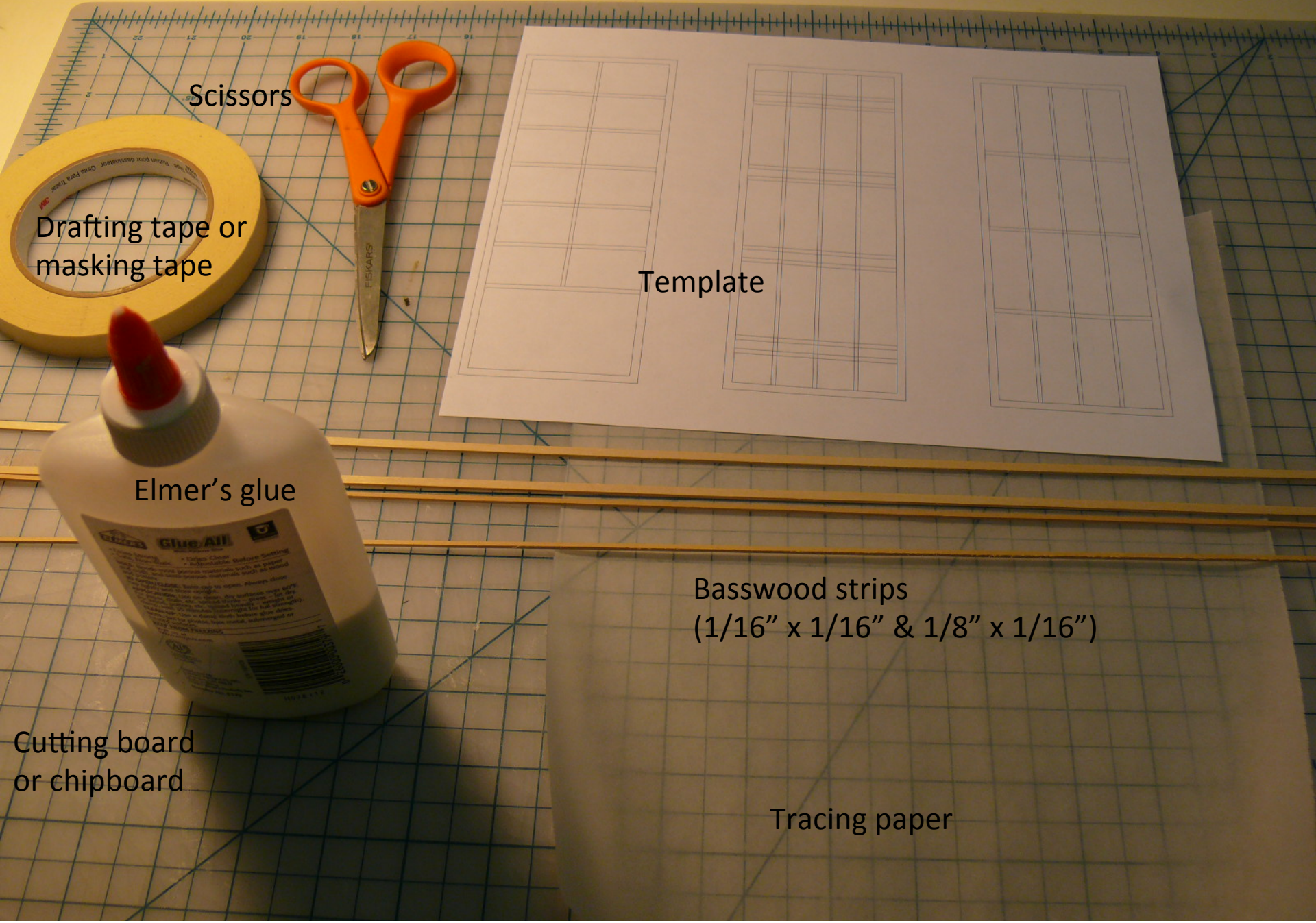
Elmer's glue



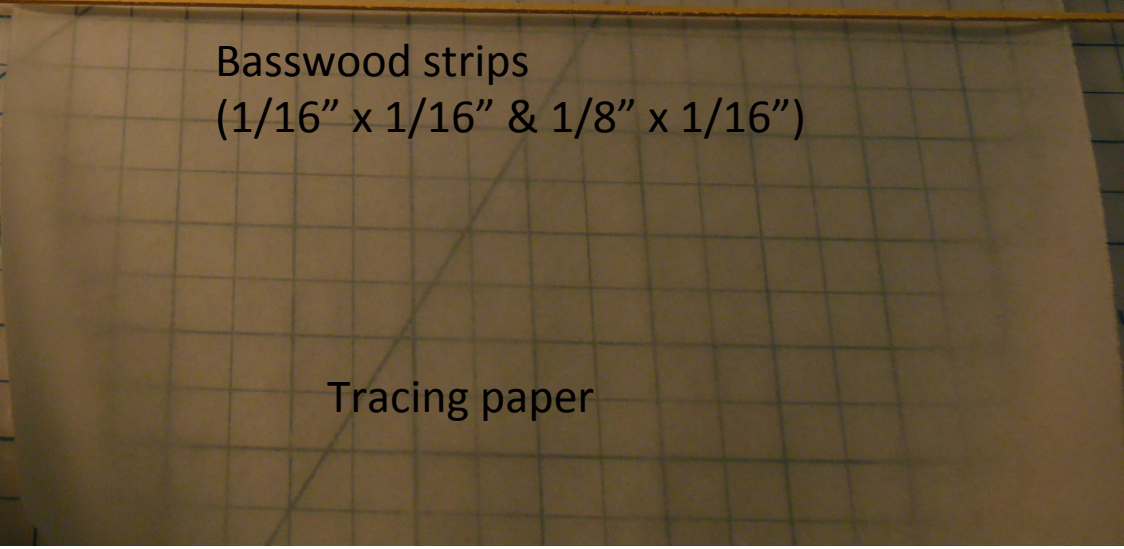
Basswood strips
(1/16" x 1/16" & 1/8" x 1/16")

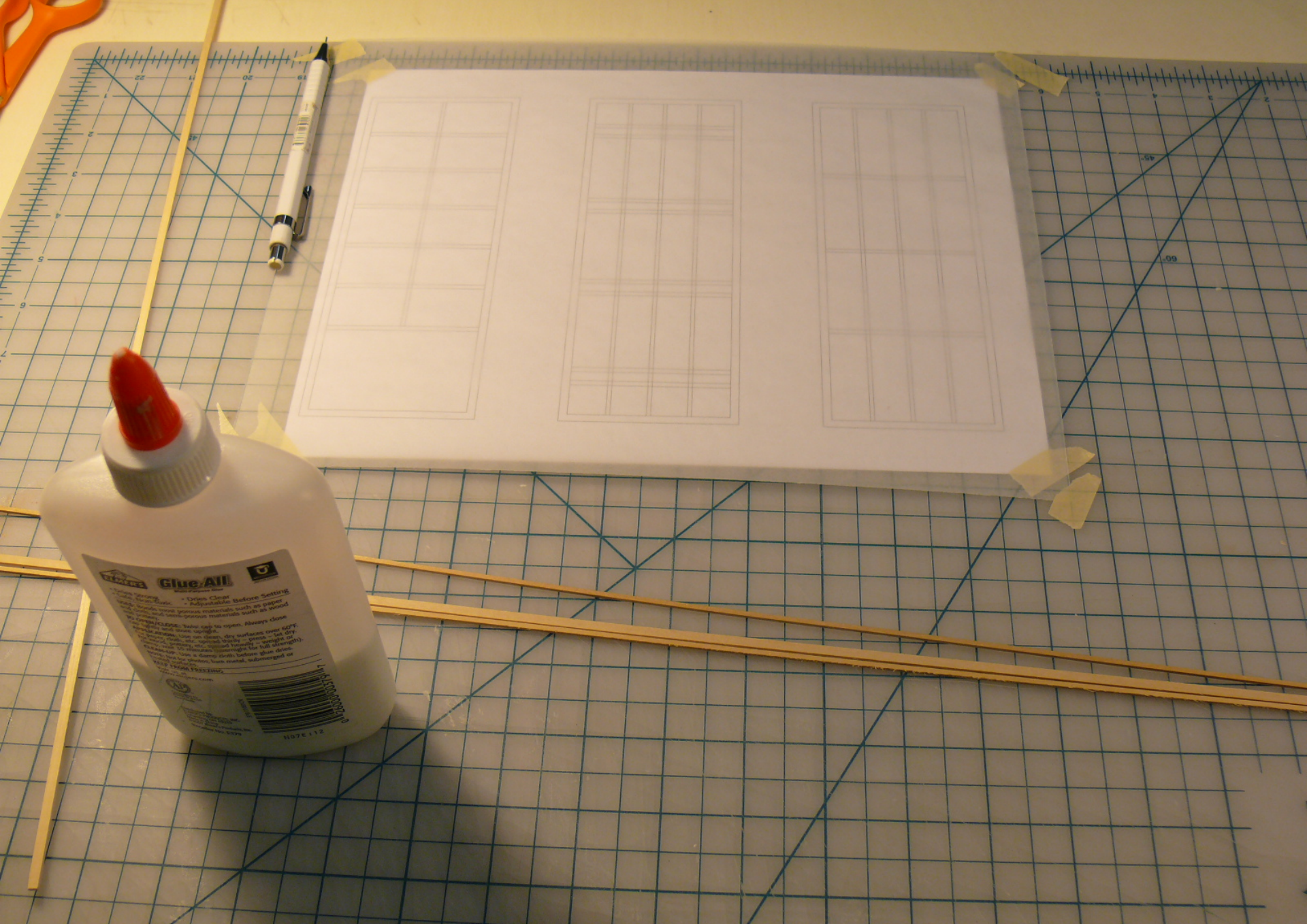


Cutting board
or chipboard

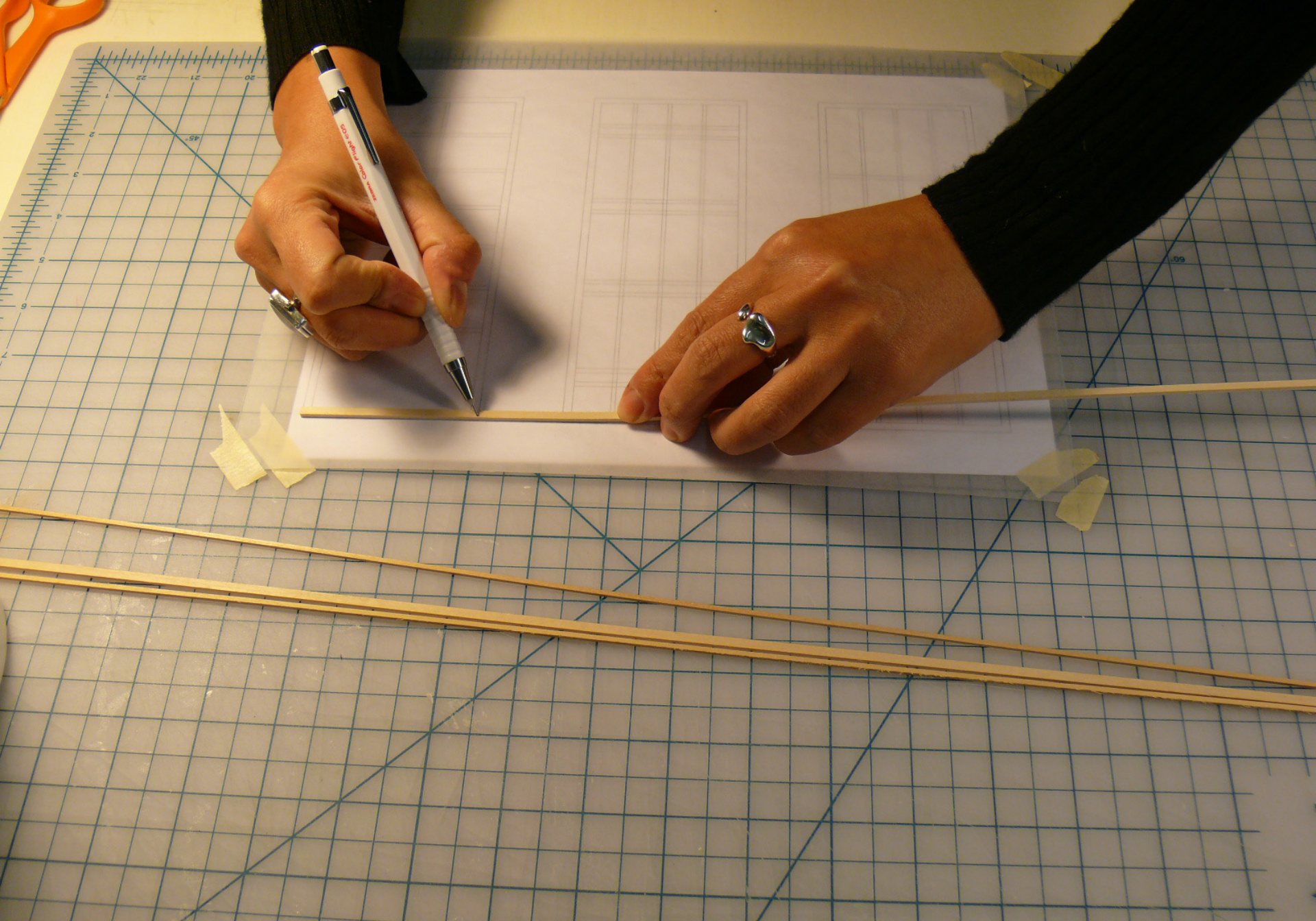


Tracing paper

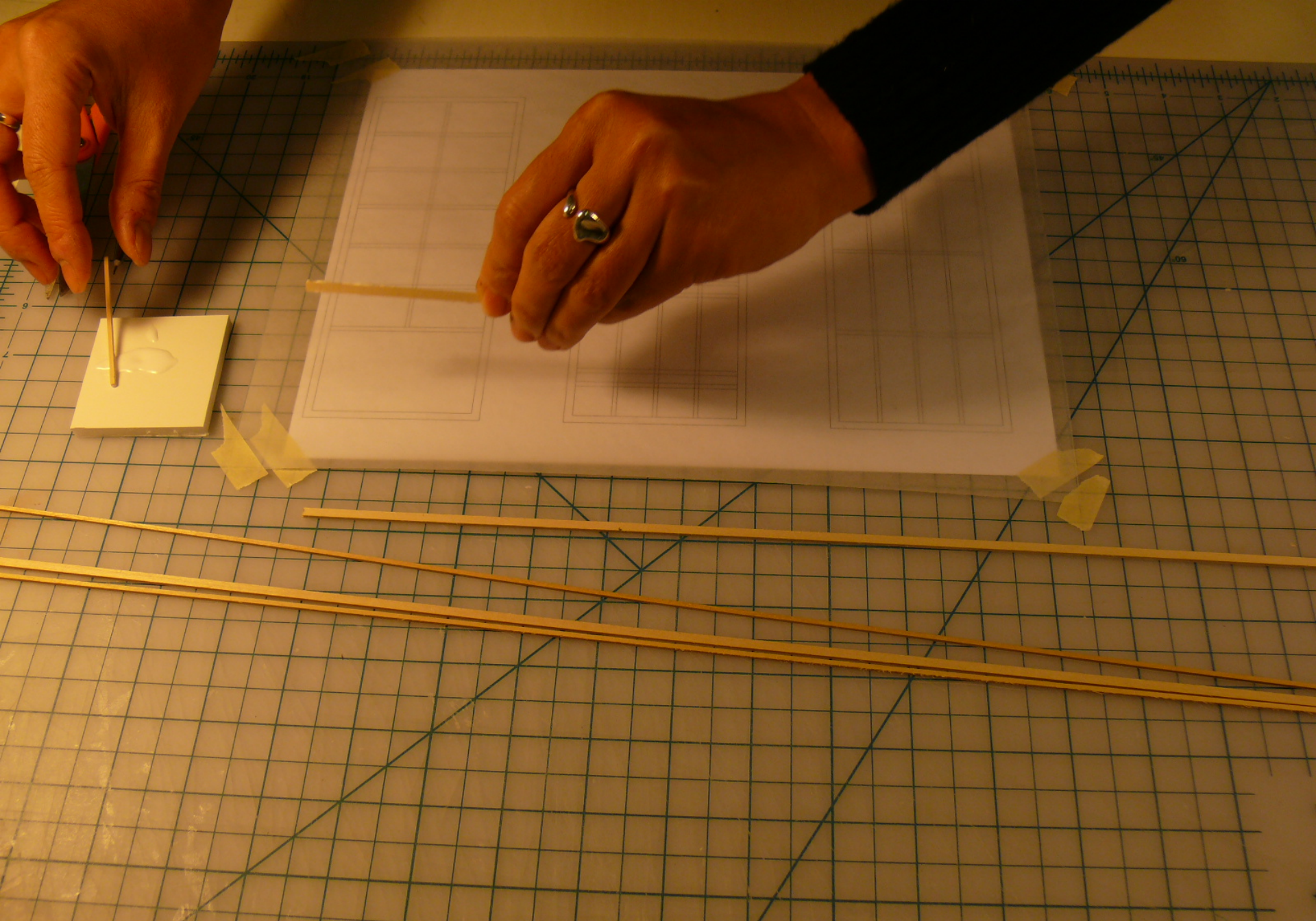




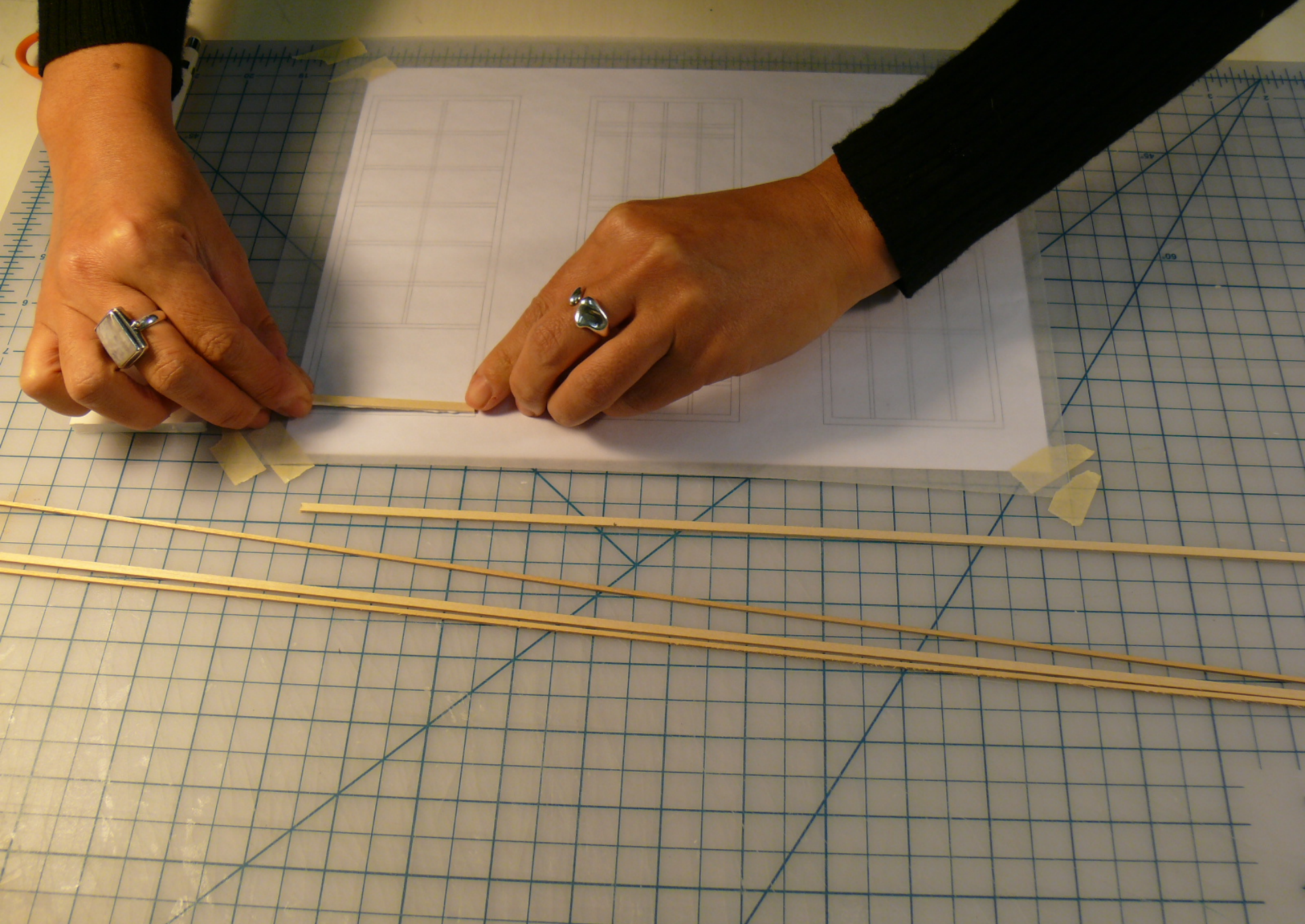
Tape the template on cutting board. Tape the tracing paper on top.

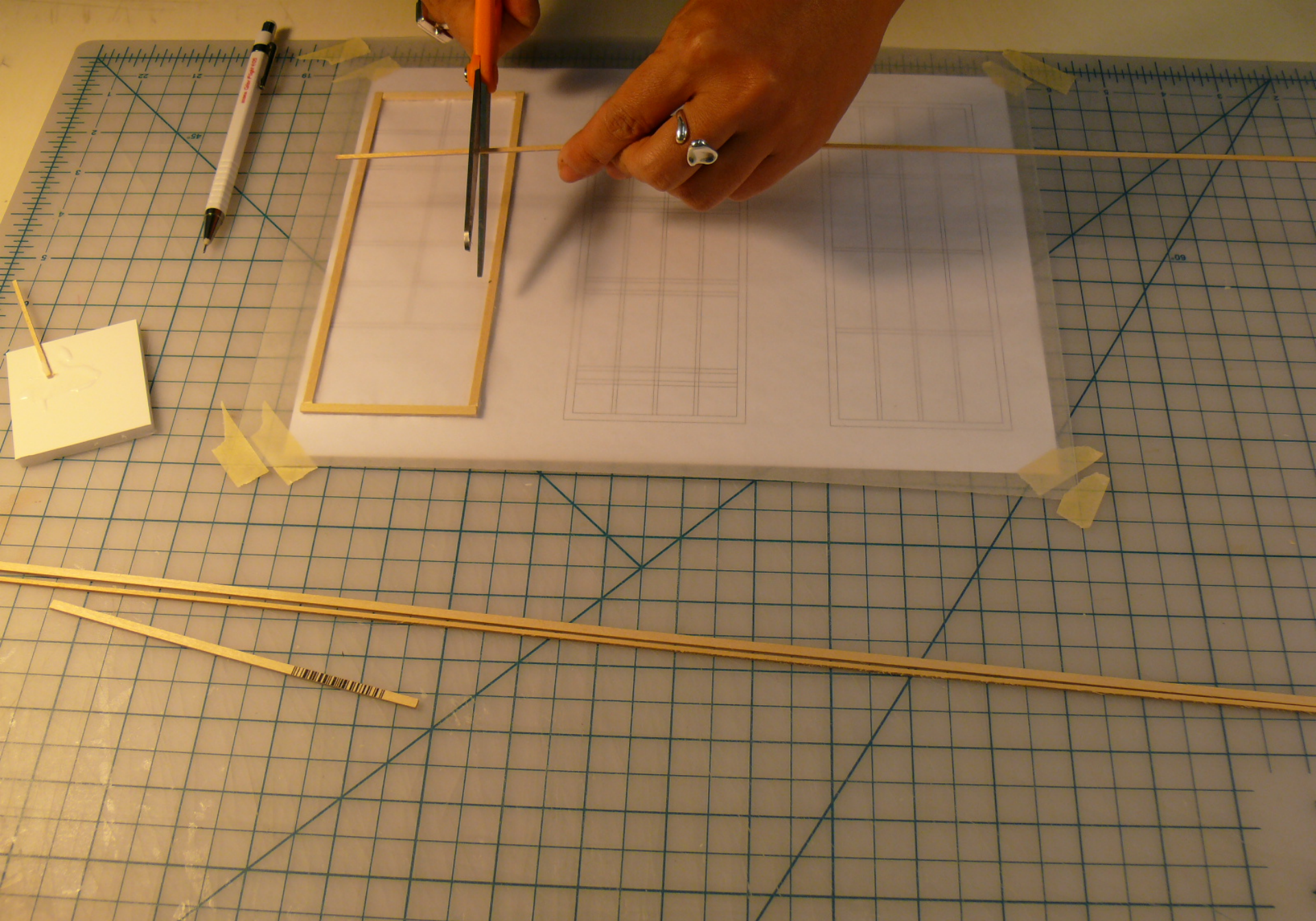


Use the template to mark where to cut. Use scissors to make the cut.

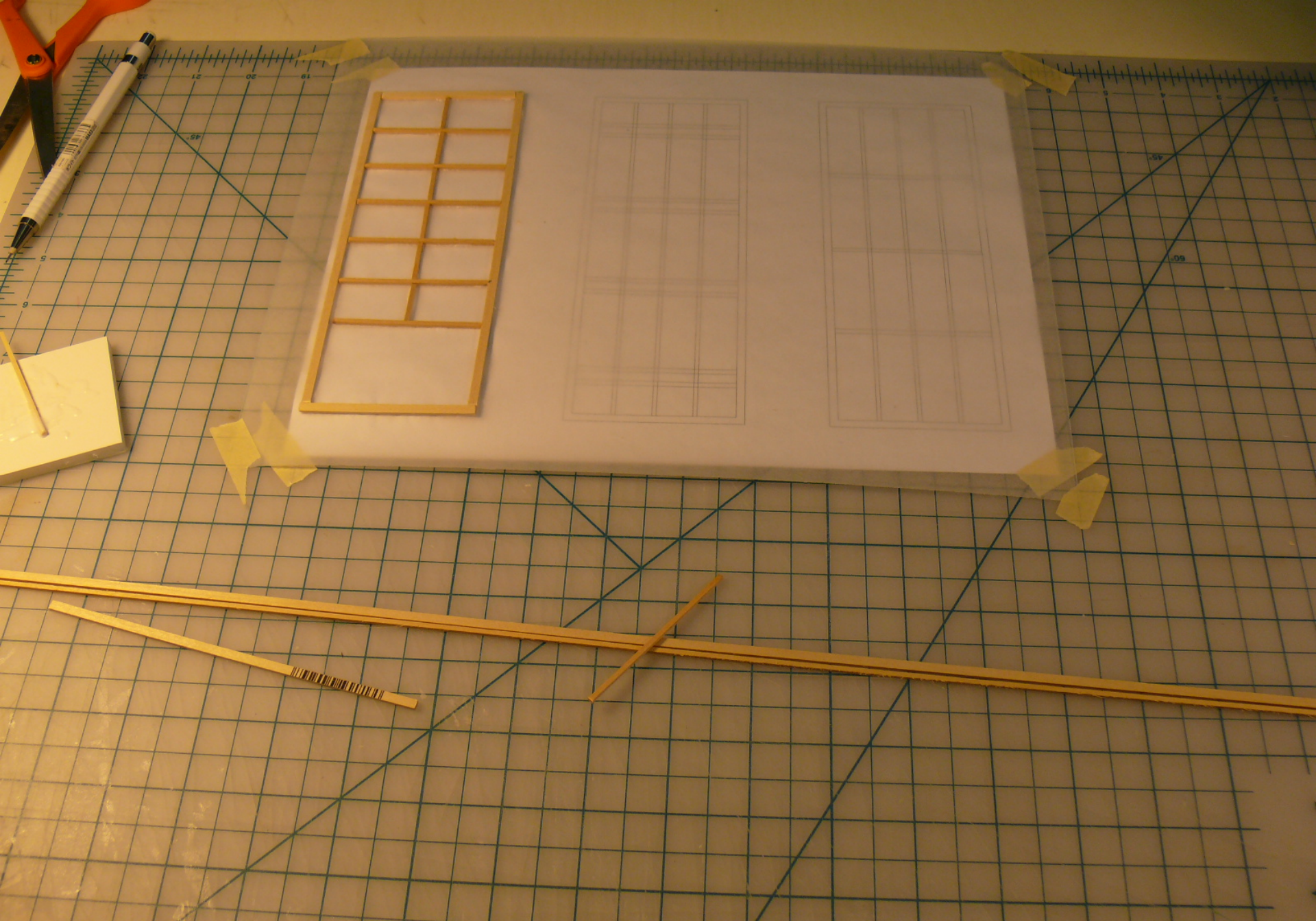


Apply glue. Place on top of tracing paper.

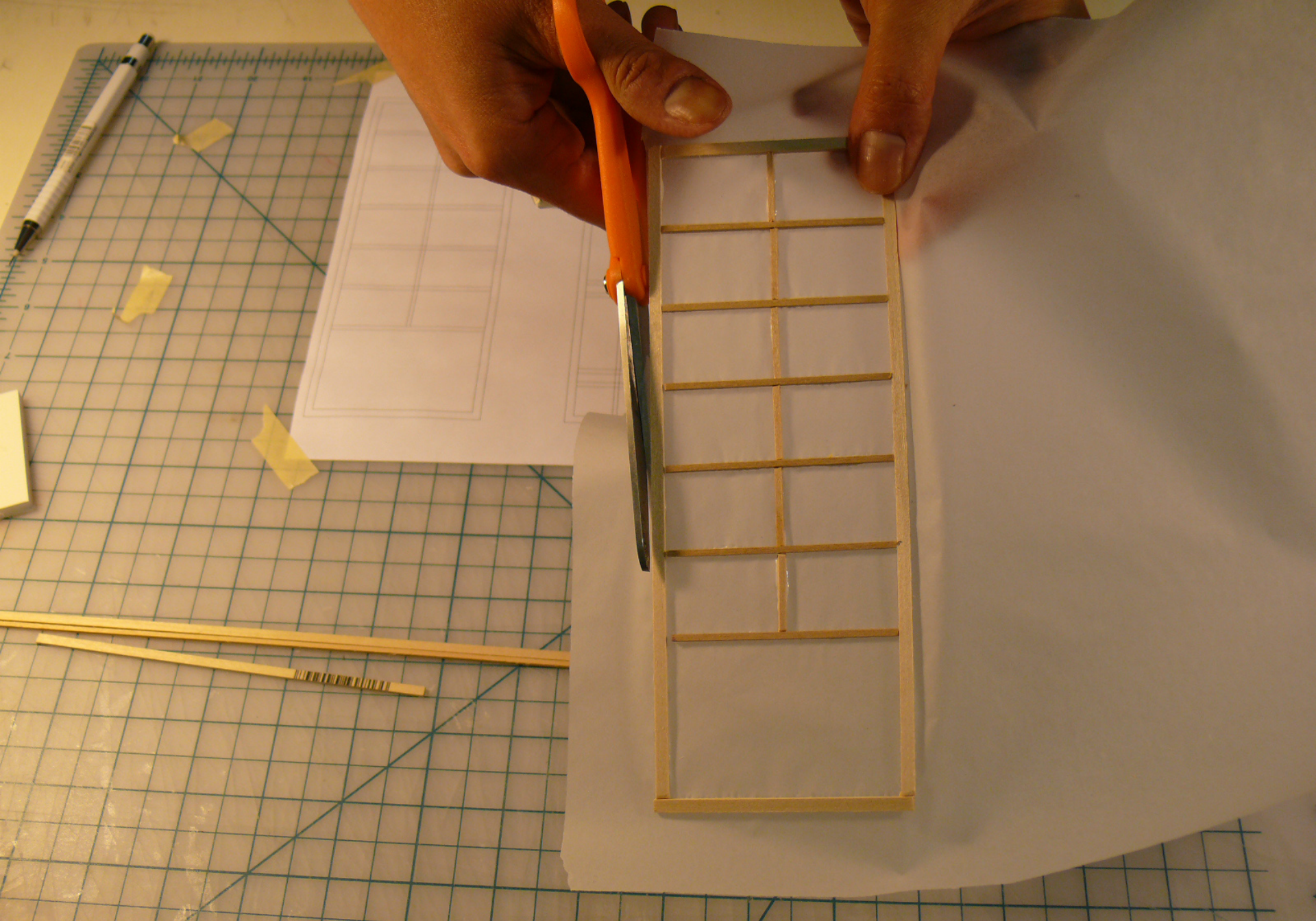




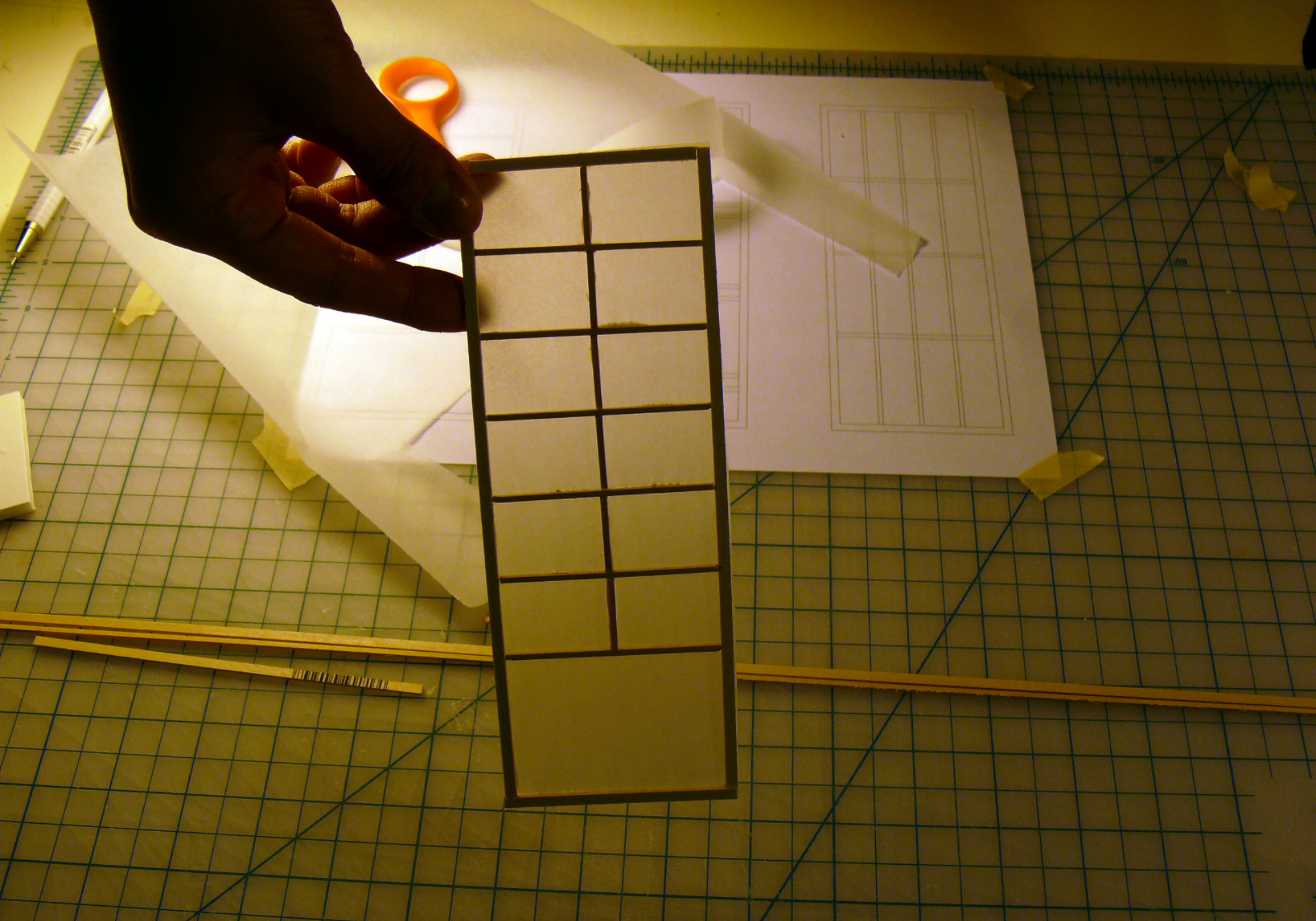
Continue cutting and gluing all pieces of the screen.



When all pieces are glued, let them dry.



Once dried, use the scissors to trim the tracing paper.



Finished and ready to be lit!



Children cutting balsawood according to templates. From “Light in Japanese Architecture” class for children at the Japan Society, 2010



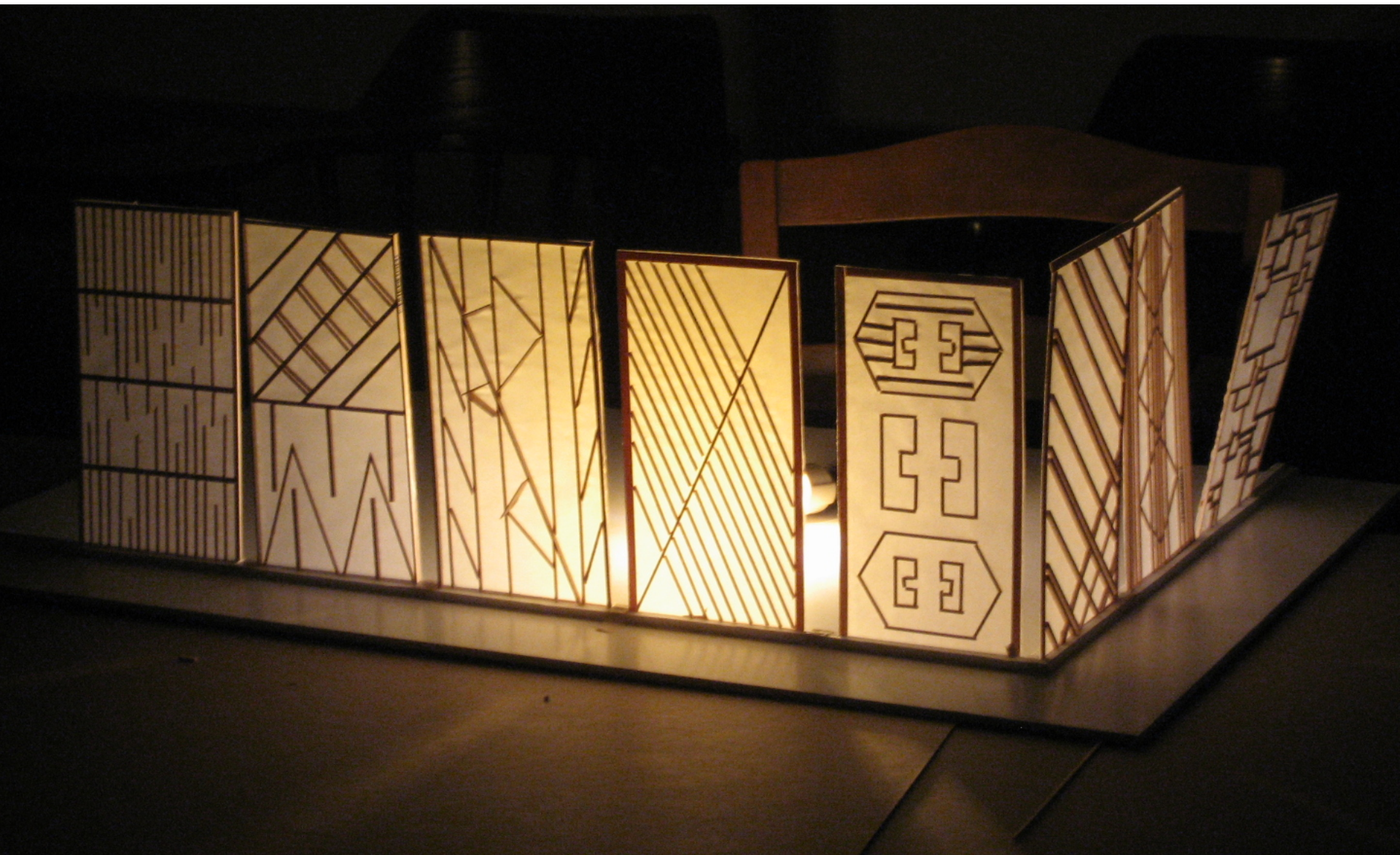
Older students can use basswood and X-Acto knives in place of softer balsa wood and scissors.



Foamcore frame was built to hold the screens and allow them to slide. From “Light in Japanese Architecture” class for children at the Japan Society, 2010 by Aki Ishida & Mina Hatano-Kirsch. Photo by Japan Society staff.



Foamcore frame was built to hold the screens and allow them to slide. From “Light in Japanese Architecture” class for children at the Japan Society, 2009 by Aki Ishida.



An example of a frame that is easier to make. Foamcore base with two $\frac{1}{4}$ " strips of foamcore or basswood to create tracks that hold the screens. From summer class for high school students at Columbia University, taught by Aki Ishida in 2010.



Experiment with different types of lamp, and try moving the light source closer and farther away from the screens to see the shadows change in size and focus. Photo by Japan Society staff.



Experiment moving the sliding screens to create more open or closed rooms and demonstrate that a Japanese space is made of modular, flexible screens.