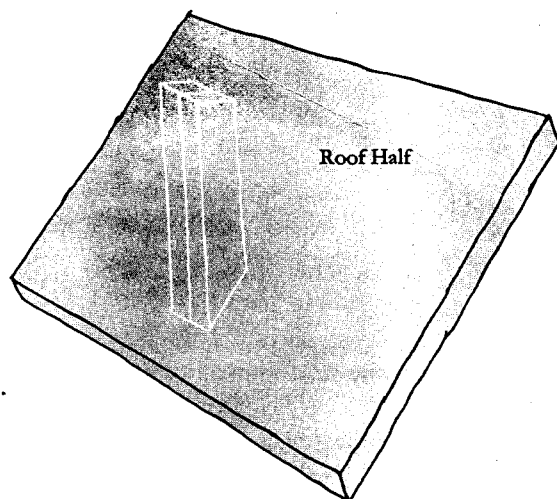


Chimney



Roof Half

the front. Ice and add the post in the corner. Hold these pieces until set.

Ice the two remaining corner posts and put them in position front and back, allowing space for the side wall as shown in the exploded view of the house, *top right*. Now ice the bottom and ends of the remaining wall and put it into place. Hold the wall until it is set, then let the icing dry for at least 10 minutes.

Finally, ice the top edges of the end walls and lay the roof over them. The roof pieces should meet, but do not try to overlap them; simply fill the space between them with icing to make a roof peak. Hold the roof until it is steady. Then ice and join the two chimney parts, ice the bottom and put the chimney in place, holding it until it sets.

Decorate the house as fancifully as you like with icing and with sweets or tiny biscuits. (If you need more icing, make another batch.) Apply the roof icing first, forcing it through a piping bag or swirling it on with a small palette knife. Don't forget a crown of icing snow for the chimney top. Spread the backs of the sweets and biscuits with icing and press them gently into place. When the house is done to your taste, sprinkle the roof and base with snowdrifts of sugar.

Fragile though it seems, the finished house can be a delight for many Christmases. Just cover it well with a sheet of plastic and store it in a cool dry place between seasons.

