

American miniaturist

March 2020



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ISSUE 203



PROJECTS: ☆ CANE BED ☆ BACKGAMMON ☆ MACARON TOWER
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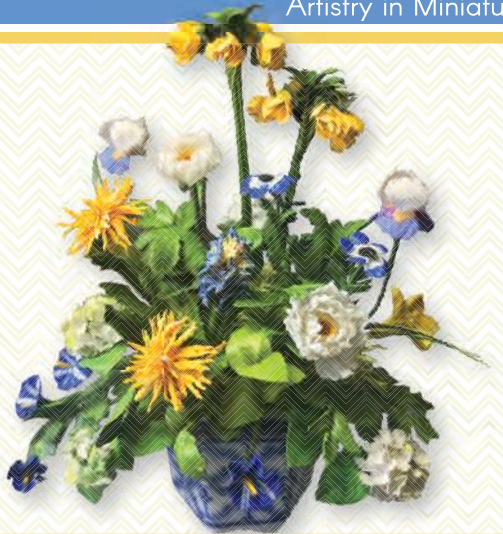
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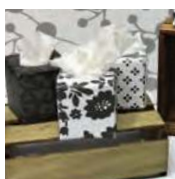
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C★O★N★T★E



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WELCOME



Creating miniatures is a moment when I truly feel free. I discovered at an early age the more someone would try to control me the more I would resist. But if I was trusted to do the right thing, I most certainly would.

This was because my father raised me with freedom and would share his wisdom and life experience. He was much older than the average father. I took everything he said to heart. Not that I didn't get into some trouble as a teen, but darn it if he wasn't always right! I remember climbing out my bedroom window at midnight to walk 4 miles on back roads with friends, just for fun. I could have went out the front door without him knowing, but I wanted to pretend I was undercover.

My grades skyrocketed when I started college because no one inflicted rules. It was up to me to succeed and I loved the challenge. This is how I feel when creating. It is my concept, my vision, and my own two hands that are free to make something out of nothing. I set high standards and take no shortcuts. So I am sure to be proud of the finished results. Sometimes it doesn't turn out as I would like, but I know I did my best.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *AM* and consider using the tutorials as a guide, but add your own creative spin and push your creative work to the next level. After all that is your number one job as an artist!

Auralea Krieger, Editor
auralea@ashdown.co.uk

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Brick chimney

Yet another way to create miniature brickwork

BY AURALEA KRIEGER

I like to experiment with different techniques when making projects so when it came time to make a chimney I tried something different. I have made brick many ways over the years. Each of my dollhouses are not only made with a certain time period in mind but also with a different feel. They have been rustic, haunting, crispy clean, whimsical and loosey-goosey.

Because of that I like to make bricks or stone in new ways each time to match them. This is just one

ways to make bricks. This technique is great for small areas of brick work.

1 Build your chimney shape. I used foam board and card board.

2 Next, cover it with wood filler paste and give it some texture with a coarse brush. Let dry. You may need to touch up by adding ore in spots.

3 Paint your chimney. I used Ceramcoat Frosted Crab apple and Autumn Brown. Let dry.

4 Cut a piece of mat board the height you want your bricks to be that is the width of the widest part of the chimney.

5 Lay it on the chimney and run your knife along it. You can see my blade is not at a point. I save my broken blades for things like this. I use a sharpening stone on one blade over and over for months unless the tip breaks then those

Scale = Any

Materials:

- Chimney structure
- DAP Inc Latex Plastic Wood Filler
- Spackle knife
- Coarse paint brush
- Knife blade
- Paint
- Paint brush
- Card stock
- Mat board
- White glue

are saved. Make all your horizontal lines on all sides. Make indents around the corners as you go.

6 Then figure how you will evenly disperse your brick rows. When I built my chimney skeleton I kept the lengths of my bricks in mind. They need to wrap around the edges just so to look authentic.

7 Try and keep your lines as straight as you can. A few of mine started to slant. You can repaint and fix

See more of my work be visiting @auraleakrieger on Instagram!





Noah's Ark

Make a mini toy for the nursery

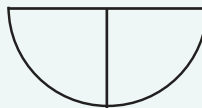
BY RONNIE GODFREY



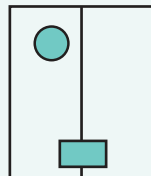
This was made with thin cardboard such as a cereal box. Cut 2" x 1/2" lengths of cardboard. Cut pieces of 1/16" thick wood for the cabin as shown in the diagram. Glue the two pieces of cardboard together and shape as shown. Assemble the cabin as in the diagram. Paint the Ark as desired.

Make giraffes from short lengths of toothpicks glued together, painted and stuck into the holes in

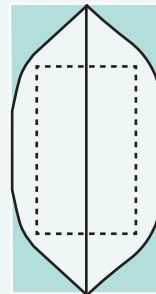
the roof. Mr. and Mrs. Noah are carved toothpicks with slivers of wood attached for arms and then stuck to wooden bases.



Glue 2 pieces of cardboard together



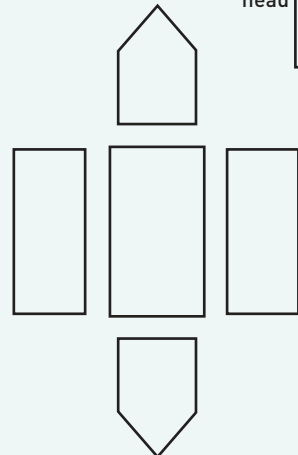
Roof pieces. Shaded areas cut/drilled out for giraffes.



Sand away shaded area
Position of cabin shown by dotted line



Assembling giraffe's head



MINI MAIL

■ AM is your magazine, and we want to hear from you. Write to: MiniMail, American Miniaturist, PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944. Or email: auralea@ashdown.co.uk. Letters may be edited if necessary.

★ Star letter

The article, “Christmas in the Dollhouse” in the December 2019 issue was undoubtedly the most poignant article I have read in *American Miniaturist* magazine. Deri Terry’s description of the loss she and her family experienced, most especially that of her grandson, Fin of his dad, was hugely moving.

Her gift of a dollhouse depicting Fin’s last memory of his dad was incredibly perceptive and to have included dolls representing the family members, so astute. I can only believe Fin will return again and again to that dollhouse to work through his deepest feelings. What a profoundly therapeutic and healing gift! I am so glad Deri decided to share this story with us all.

Eleanor from Hingham, MA

Great idea

There are lots of good things in the November issue of *AM* but my absolute favorite is the little list on page 84 of some past fall tutorials – a great idea to be able to easily

AM ritual

When *AM* arrives, I check that the dogs dishes are full, put them out to potty, and fix myself a snack. Then I browse through it, then read it cover to cover!

Gracia from Camarillo CA





find a fall project for club or personal fun. Thanks to whomever had that idea.

Beth from Manitoba, Canada

AM ritual

When I first get my magazine, I check out the Mini Scoop to see the new contests. Then I check out the Snippets page. From there I look at all of the projects. Then I read the welcome from Auralea and read every page of the magazine from beginning to end and searching for Arthur.

Joyce from Kettering, OH

Thank you

I wanted to thank you for the prizes that I won in the October 2019 *AM* Ritual Contest. The experience of receiving that box of goodies in the mail was beyond amazing. Incredibly it arrived just two days before my birthday and I thought that it was odd that anyone in my family would have gotten me a 'mini' gift and then I remembered that I had entered your contest.

And just like others I've

read about who have received one of your generous prizes, I was absolutely floored by your generosity and the beautiful wrapping of each 'little' present. You guys are simply fantastic. I love the magazine and I was honored to win the contest. Thank you so much!

Dawn from Hollywood, FL

Highlights contest

My highlight in January 2020 *American Miniaturist* #201.

Two articles excited me, "The mini Muskoka chair" and the "Making of a mini sewing room". Gail Mumford's mini Muskoka chair because I have been trying to figure out how to make two of them. Then there it was in front of me in my current issue of *AM* and it included patterns and clear instructions.

The "Making of a mini sewing room" was an amazing diorama and I enjoyed reading how Mary Ciccolella made it. Thank you for never disappointing me.

Susan from Apopka, FL



Make a cane bed

Everything you need to make this cane bed is right here

BY KRIS COMPAS

I had saved a photo this bed in real life for a few years hoping to make it in miniature. I have finally gotten around to making it and am sharing it with you this issue. The headboard and footboard have caning in them. For the caning I used 14 count waste canvas. I painted it using acrylic craft paint, you could use spray paint.

1 Trace the patterns onto mat board, 3 times.

2 I am going to use my scroll saw to cut these out. So I have glued two pieces of mat board

Materials:

Scale = 1:12

- 14 count waste canvas
- Mat board
- Pencil
- Scroll saw or craft knife
- Tacky Glue
- Ruler
- Square
- Card stock
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paint brush
- Sandpaper
- Satin varnish



together and traced. I have also traced another set onto a single layer of mat board.

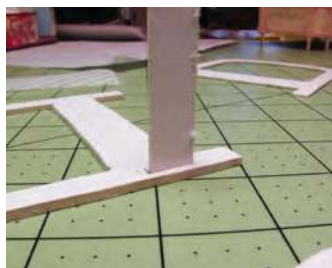
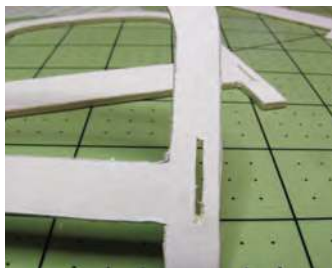
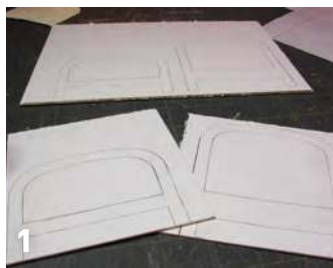
3 You can cut out the three layers using a craft knife. When you have finished glue two headboards together and two footboards together. Use Tacky Glue for gluing.

4 To cut out the center of the headboard I first cut a hole in the center. I removed my blade and put the mat board under the hold down. I put the blade

back in and cut the center out. Remove the blade to remove the mat board. Put the blade back in and cut around the outside of the headboard.

5 After you have finished cutting you should have two sets. One set is two layers of mat board glued together and the other set is only one layer.

6 I am adding something to this bed that I have not on my past beds. I want to mortise in the side



boards to make the bed more sturdy.

7 This is the headboard. Measure 1/8" in from the sides; 5/8" up from the bottom; the slot is 1/2" long.

8 Cut the slot at least 1/16" wide. Do not cut through. Cut down to the next layer of mat board.

9 For the footboard, measure 1/8" in from the sides; 5/8" up from the bottom; the slot is 1/2" long.

10 Cut the slot at least 1/16" wide. This slot you cut through.

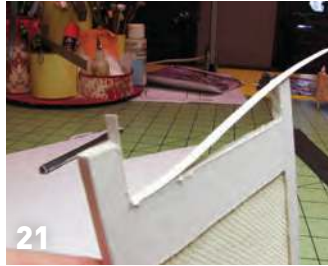
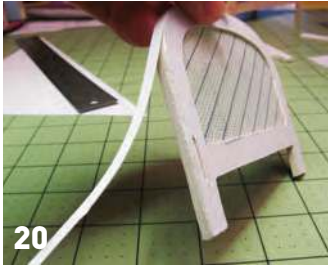
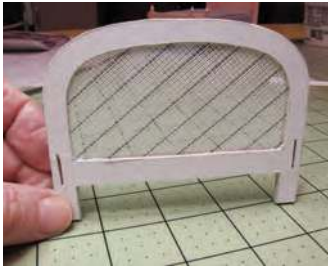
11 Cut the side boards for the bed. The strips are 1/2" wide and 6 5/8" long, cut two. I used a square to make sure I had square ends to keep the bed nice and square.

12 Try your side boards for fit. Trim out more mat board if needed. Do Not Glue In, Yet.

13 Use the pattern to cut the waste canvas. I put my pattern on the diagonal to get the caned look.

14 Use Tacky Glue to glue the waste canvas onto the single layer footboard.

15 Glue the doubled layer of mat board on with the waste canvas sandwiched between. So you have one side a little thicker than the other. The



single layer will be facing the mattress.

16 I experimented with the headboard first to see if the waste canvas could pass for caning. I was pleased with the results. This process was not photographed.

17 Trace and cut out the headboard waste canvas using the pattern. Glue this to the SINGLE LAYER headboard. Glue the doubled layer headboard

on top making sure the slots are showing.

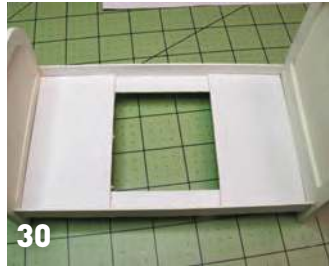
18 When you are looking at the bed finished the doubled layers will be facing you. The single layers will be facing a wall (that's the headboard) and the single layer of the footboard will be facing the end of the mattress.

19 I used card stock to veneer the edges of the bed. I used a diagonal cut for the headboard.

20 I cut this a proud 1/8" wide. Cutting the strip 5/32" was too wide. You can measure the thickness of the head and footboards to check this for yourself.

21 Glue the card stock strips onto the edge of the bed. Also cover the bottom edge of the bed.

22 As I mentioned earlier you can use spray paint to paint the whole bed. I did not.

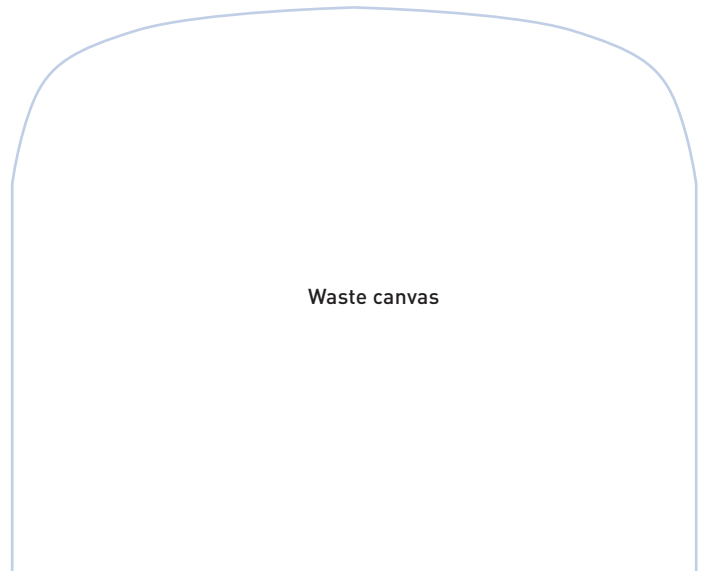
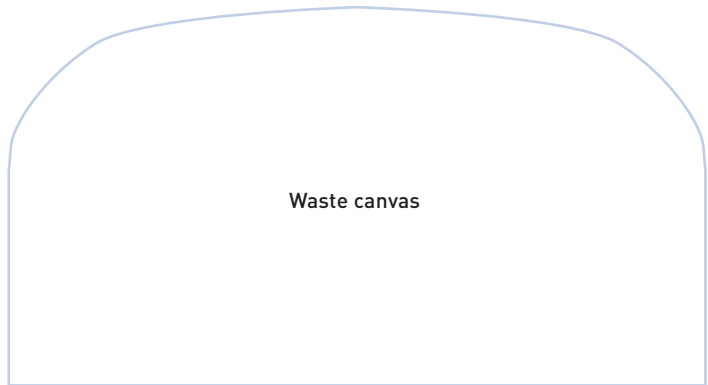


23 For my sample, I cut the waste canvas, placed it onto paper and painted with acrylic craft paint. I turned the canvas over and painted again. I used a T-pin to poke through the paint in the holes. I painted heavy to give the canvas some thickness.

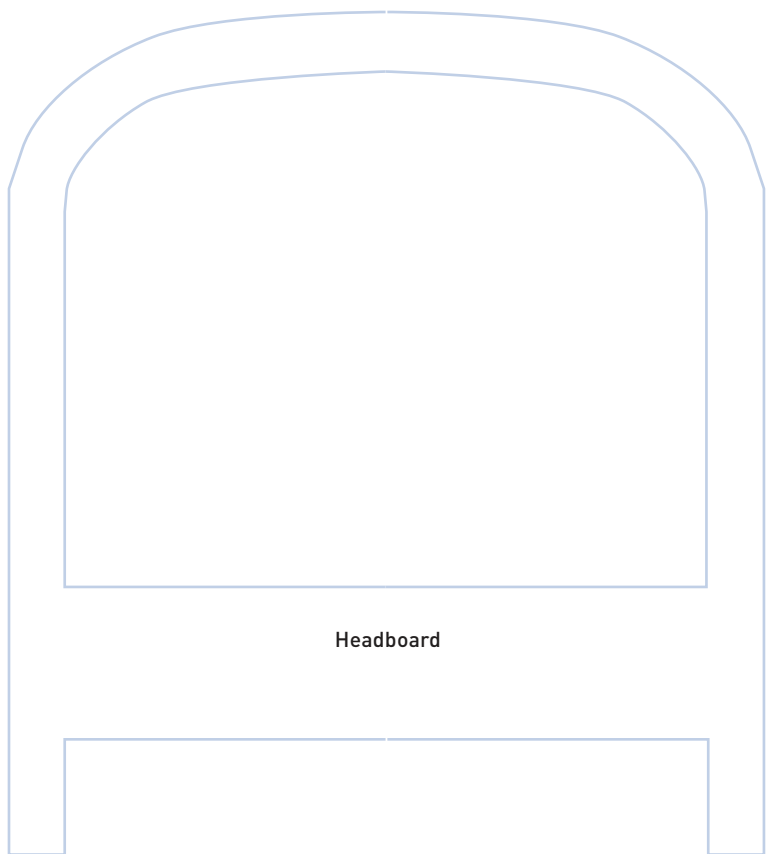
24 Before you paint, please sand the edges to take the sharpness off. I sanded around the inside edge and around the outside edge of the bed.

25 Since your canvas is all ready glued in we are going to paint it all together. I painted the canvas first on the foot board getting it to look the way I wanted. I only poked through the large holes in the canvas and left the others. That doesn't mean I covered them in on purpose I just left them the way they were.

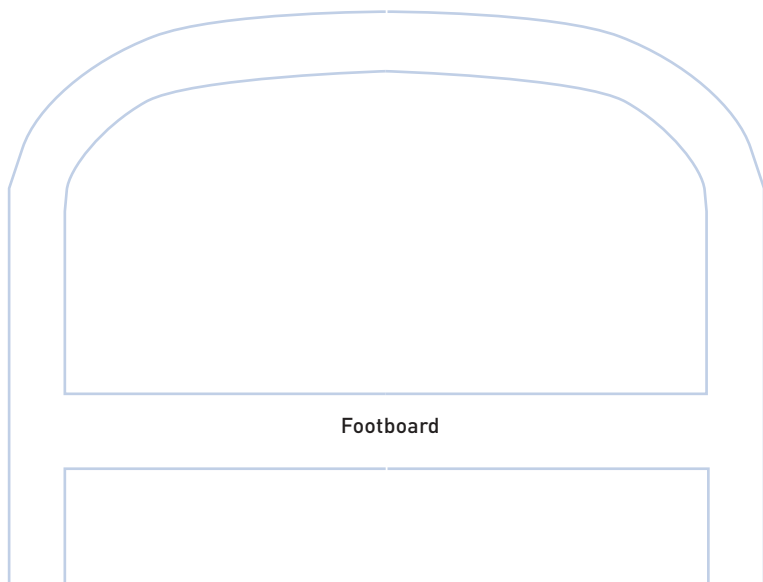
Pattern:



Pattern:



Headboard



Footboard

26 I painted two to three light coats of paint on the mat board. Be sure to let the paint completely dry before you repaint each coat. This is after all paper and you are making it wet and it soaks through. Don't rush this.

27 After that, I sanded lightly and gave the mat board a nice smooth last coat of paint.

28 To hold the mattress you need to cut two more strips of mat board. These are 1/2" wide and 6 3/8" long.

29 Glue the new strips to the sideboards.

Center these strips leaving a 1/16" on each end.

30 This photo shows the new strips glued to the side boards. The cut edge of the new strip is glued to the side board so that it doesn't show on the outside of the bed. Let this dry.

31 Glue the side boards into the head and footboards. Square up the bed and let this dry.

32 To give the bed more stability, I glued two wide strips of mat board onto the sideboards.

33 Measure between the sideboards, on the inside.

34 I cut 2 strips of mat board and glued them to the side boards. Let this dry. I could have substituted one large piece instead of gluing these and the second strips to the side boards. Your choice.

35 I sprayed a couple of coats of satin finish on the bed, the waste canvas, too.

Visit Kris at linchminisbykris.blogspot.com.



Capturing memories in miniatures

Frances Hulcher was the runner up for the Shops Across America contest by Real Good Toys

BY PAM NORTH

Maryland resident Frances Hulcher, a retired computer specialist, loves retirement because she now has more time to indulge her passion for miniatures. She makes 1:12 and 1:24 scale room boxes, houses, and furniture, and finds that building minis is a very relaxing and creative outlet for her. “I lose myself in it,” she remarked. “I get a peaceful feeling imagining a perfect miniature world where all is well.”

Books led her as a child to being interested in small things. Reading tales such as *Thumbelina*, *The Borrowers*, and *Wynken, Blynken, and Nod*, introduced her to wee characters and small-scale settings, and she was fascinated, imagining a little bed in a matchbox or a nutshell. The love of mini things endured, becoming a major part of her life through subsequent

Right: The busy potions table in the half-scale room box.

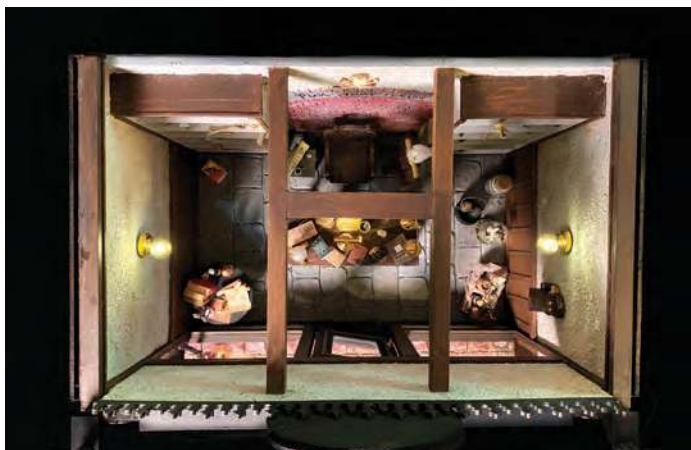




Above: The front of the shop. The bricks are made from Paperclay.

years. Over the ensuing decades, Frances has built a small house for her three grandchildren, as well as room boxes and houses for herself, enjoying making her creations as realistic as possible. "I love how you can create an imaginary setting where everything is just as you like it," she said.

Frances always had wanted a dollhouse, never having received one among all the toys she was given in childhood. When she was 28 years



Above: An owl's eye look inside the room box from above.

old, her fi efighter father too a picture of a beautiful house in Baltimore, and in his spare time at the fi ehouse he built a dollhouse from scratch for her, made to look exactly like the real thing.

He made the bricks, siding, windows, floors, roof, and all the components of the house by hand. In the process, he told her how he accomplished each element, giving her the additional legacy of teaching her to build, measure, use tools, and have the desire and confidence to create her own miniatures. Mini saws and miter boxes were no longer mysteries. Since her father has now passed away, the dollhouse he made is a special treasure for her, one which she someday will pass on to her granddaughter.

Her latest piece, *Izzy's*

Curative Cauldron, came about after her 10-year-old granddaughter, a big Harry Potter fan, visited the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios in Florida with her grandfather. "It was a magical trip for both of them, and I wanted to capture the feeling of wonder she experienced," Frances recalled. "While I wanted to memorialize her trip, I didn't want it



Right: The shelf is full of carefully made potions, each with a label.

to be literal, but rather to pay homage to the wonder and feeling she had when there.” That goal was achieved, as the piece perfectly crystallizes the magical aura of a time of fantasy and spell-casting.

The one-inch scale project began with a kit as the basic structure, and metamorphosed from there, with Frances creating her own versions of bricks, a stone floor, shelves, walls with wainscoting, and the exterior. She sculpted the exterior and flooring from Paperclay to form bricks, stones, shingles on the overhang and the exterior walls, simulating concrete peeling away from brick.

It was the first time she had used Paperclay, and an X-ACTO knife was the carving tool. She mixed sand into the paint for the interior walls and made wainscoting with coffee stirrers. Paint was applied in a dry brush manner to age and antique, resulting in a realistic ambiance. “The hardest part was making the shop appear old and spooky; it’s easier to make something look new and pristine,” she explained.

She purchased the table and the owl chair from Heirloom Woodworks in Frost, Texas, and many of the potion bottles from various sources all over the world.





As miniaturists go through their creative processes with each project, the finished pieces can mirror the original vision, or they can evolve in unexpected ways. While Frances' basic concept of a Harry Potter-inspired potion shop was realized, each item's creation gave birth to new ideas.

"My favorite part is the back interior brick wall because it set the stage for the rest of the project. I enjoyed the fun of making it, especially making the exterior look like worn concrete with bricks showing through, moss on the walls, and old iron rain spouts (made from the centers of rolls of dog waste bags).

Working in miniature sometimes can be very expensive, and it also is difficult

‘Hopefully it will be cherished by my granddaughter and passed on to her family one day.’

to handle very tiny items, especially as I grow older and it is more difficult to see.

She plans on keeping her creation, saying, "Hopefully it will be cherished by my granddaughter and passed on to her family one day."

The future of miniatures is bright in Frances' opin-

Above: More magical potions are on the floor, which was beautifully made with Paperclay and then hand-painted.

ion. "I have a 10-year-old granddaughter who is just as fascinated with minis as I am, so I believe there always will be people in every generation who share a love of tiny things. I create for my own pleasure, and I'm gratified that others appreciate what I do."

She is looking forward to bringing new ideas into reality. "I'd like to create something nostalgic from my childhood, some places that were meaningful to me then, such as replicas of rooms in my grandparents' homes, as well as stores and places I visited."

Doll dressing

Dress your doll in a stunning red dress

BY DANA

I just love the Outlander television series and one dress has always stood out for me. The red dress! In this month's doll making tutorial we will be recreating that very outfit in 1:12 scale. The dress is deceptively minimal but takes quite a bit to recreate.

1 Paint your doll shoes with red fingernail polish and let dry.

2 Glue on several thin silk ribbon strips for the shoe straps.

3 Glue on a jewelry finding or a bead for the buckle on the sides.

4 Assemble your doll using your preferred construction method, leaving off the arms until later in the creating process. Make sure that her chest and shoes are pointed in the same direction. The head/neck on this mold tilts slightly to the side. I used the Camille mold made by Stacy Hoffman.



5 Glue the doll onto the doll stand.

Underskirt

6 Cut a very narrow slip (rectangle) out of the batiste. Make a tube and slide it on the doll's waist.

7 Glue on several layers of triangle cosmetic sponges as shown.

8 Top off the padding with a cotton ball to soften the shape of her pannier.

9 Cut out a 6" x 6" piece of batiste and fold in

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Doll
- Doll stand
- Cotton ball
- Florist tape
- Pipe cleaner
- Materials, trims as desired
- Aleene's Original Tacky Glue
- Pins
- Paper towels
- Red nail polish
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Knitting needle
- Silk ribbon
- V-shape cosmetic sponges for padding
- Viscose
- Beads, jewelry finding or shoe buckles
- Hair mister
- Water
- Flat iron
- Ruler

half, then iron so there is a nice crease.

10 Turn one side edge under to the wrong side and glue.

11 Glue the side edges together and form a tube around the padding. I gently folded the top edges inward and glued.



12 Lightly mist the underskirt with hair spray (1 or 2 times) to harden the fabric to use as a foundation.

Skirt

13 Cut a 4" x 14" rectangle of the red silk material. Turn the bottom edge under to the wrong side and glue for a clean finished hem

14 Turn one side edge to the wrong side and glue. Overlap the back

edges and glue to the back of the doll.

15 Cut a notch out by the doll's waist. Be careful you don't cut too much or you will have a gap between the bodice and the skirt.

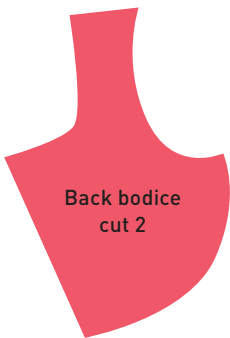
16 Starting on one side, simply hand pleat the silk material around the doll. Then, at the back only, glue the pleated skirt top-edge-down on the batiste underskirt.

17 When you reach the front of her skirt, turn the top edge of the hand pleated skirt under to the wrong side and glue. Then glue that on top of the back section. Repeat for the other side of the skirt.

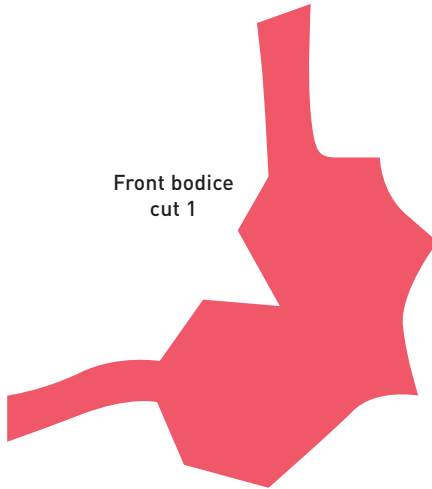
Sleeves

18 Next, glue your porcelain doll arms onto a pipe cleaner. Wrap the arms with white flo ist tape until a little bulk is achieved to replicate a realistic arm shape.

Pattern:



Front bodice cut 1



Decoration

22 Cut (2) back bodice patterns out from the batiste material.

23 Carefully glue the batiste pattern to the red silk and let dry. Then cut out the pattern with and added 1/4" seam allowance. Glue the seam allowance to the batiste as shown.

24 Glue on the back-bodice piece to her torso and around to the side. Glue down her shoulder strap to the middle of her shoulder.

25 Repeat on other side. Glue a thin strip of silk ribbon down the back to cover the raw edges of joined back bodice.

26 Cut out the front bodice piece from batiste. Following the directions above, glue to the front of her torso around to her side. Overlap the sleeve straps at the top of her shoulders and cut off any excess material, then glue it on flat

27 Lastly, glue silk ribbon in a crisscross pattern around the front of her bodice.



19 Insert the arm into the torso and cut off any excess wire until a realistic arm length is achieved.

20 Cut a 1 1/4" x 2" rectangle of the red silk. Note that this is only a suggestion of the size. You will need to measure your arm

with a paper towel pattern to get a perfect fit because everyone assembles their doll a bit differently.

21 Make a tube, slide it up the doll's arm and leave the top edge open to glue to the shoulder as shown. Repeat for other arm.



I cannot stress enough, using a paper towel or batiste scrap **FIRST** to make sure that your pattern fits our doll. Everyone assembles a doll differently, and if you do not make adjustments for your own individual doll size then this pattern will not work.

Wigging

28 Mist viscose with water and wrap around a knitting needle tightly. Clamp on with a flat iron to dry and set the curl.

29 When the hair is cool, slide off the rod, and gently pick hair apart for nice waves.

30 Glue a realistic hairline on the doll's head. Gently spread a section of the viscose and lay on the glue (from nose to neck).

31 Glue a line from ear to ear and press a strip of viscose on. Let dry. This effectively forms a wigging cross.

32 When the glue is dry, carefully gather hair into a loose ponytail and glue to the top of her head for a messy bun. Pin in place if necessary, to shape bun while the glue dries.

33 Lastly, glue on the red rhinestone earrings.

You did it! Now sit back and enjoy your very own version of Claire!

DanaBurton.com





Mini tutorials needed

We hope you have been enjoying all of the wonderful tutorials featured in *American Miniaturist*. There are so many impressive creative ideas and new techniques in the miniature community. We try our best to find projects we think our readers will enjoy, but we know there are more that we can find out there.

If you would like to be a part of this fun publication, please consider being one of our valued contributors.

We have great opportunities for miniaturists who submit tutorials such as credit towards subscriptions and individual issues. And, if you are in business, your tutorials might actually help promote what you are selling. We'll furnish you with these details after your submission has been approved.

Imagine how much joy your mini project could give others who share your passion for this art form!

Send your step-by-step instructions and photos to Tutorial Submission, *American Miniaturist*, PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944. You may also send your entries via email to auralea@ashdown.co.uk. Please be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and email address. We can't wait to see your projects!

A magical miniature world

Veronique Lux is an artisan who weaves miniature dreams created with whimsy

BY JOAN MCKENZIE

As a child, Veronique loved playing with her sisters with little home-made characters and kit furniture. She did not have a dollhouse. At that time she found a cardboard box would work just as well if she used her imagination. There was never a time when she wasn't building, drawing or painting.

Today she does own a dollhouse that was built by Frances England. It is full of furniture and accessories made by artists from around

the world. In addition to her miniature collection she also collects children's books, old toys and decorative objects so her full size house is just as full and as busy as her dollhouse!

After visiting multiple miniature shows, Veronique decided to launch her own original creations. She has a very unique design and style. If you look at her work, you'll immediately know that it belongs to her and her alone. She is a prolific artist with many customers.

‘After visiting multiple miniature shows, Veronique decided to launch her own original creations.’

Her first miniature show, where she displayed her handmade treasures, was close to home in Paris, then

Below left: Veronique Lux at her show table. **Below:** Bunnies carrying wood. **Right:** Veronique makes small shops to display her miniature creations.







Right: Lots of baby donkeys tucked comfy in their beds.

she went to London and next to Chicago. Now she attends the Chicago show every year. She has also dreamed about exhibiting in Japan. She showcases her work across most social media platforms.

Veronique takes inspiration from children's books, many as old as 60 years, also from old toy catalogs, the Internet and Pinterest.

With some student training in drawing and painting, Veronique finds that once she has a drawing in place, she is then confident that she can transform it into something





“She loves portraying festive moods and family projects like trimming a tree.”

three dimensional.

As an artisan and miniaturist, she has finely honed skills. Originally, she began by creating miniature bird cages which she has now perfected and no dollhouse should be without one of her charming birdcages! They come in all sizes and colors and each one is charming.

Above: A 1:12 scale toy shop full of handmade items. **Right:** An elephant marching band!

She soon decided that her unique art forms would be representations of small humanized animals such as little rabbits, hedgehogs, squirrels, pigs, cats, mice, etc. These creatures are always busy working through life's daily activities.

She loves portraying festive moods and family projects like trimming a tree.

Veronique also loves making shops and very small





Above: The Tom Thumb toy shop is a welcome gathering place for many creatures. **Left:** A hand full of little kittens dressed in charming little outfits

houses largely inspired by fairy tales and children's stories so that her imagination will take over and before she knows it, her concept has come to life.

Her passion for miniatures compels her to work



every day of the week. “It would be very helpful if I had more than two hands and more than 24 hours in each day to achieve all that I want to create”. She has more ideas than she can possibly make at any given time, so she takes notes and

“She has more ideas than she can possibly make at any given time, so she takes notes and makes sketches to remind her of her ideas.”

Above: An extensive collection of miniatures, both cherished antiques and handmade art.

makes sketches to remind her of the ideas. Then, when she has the time, she executes them into her wonderful art form.

In the future, Veronique



Above: Mr. Bear's toy shop always has lots of customers. **Left:** These bunnies are getting ready for Easter. **Below:** Mommy bunny is rocking her little one to sleep.





Above: Three little pigs with the materials they will use to build their houses. **Above right:** Veronique's signature miniature birdhouses. **Below:** Friends keeping warm on a chilly day.

would like to devote herself to creating illustrations in parallel with her work. What an ingenious idea. I have some of her original paint-

“It would be very helpful if I had more than two hands and more than 24 hours in each day to achieve all that I want to create.”



ings and they are so instantly recognizable as her signature art work. She shares, “When I was a child, I was never bored. It’s wonderful to be passionate about our work!”

The passion and creativity are bursting out all over her work. Enjoy the beautiful photographs showcasing her creations.



Introducing Galesong

A simple creative miniature project as a child can stay with you your whole life

BY PAUL BLOCK

I have made many nautical themed dollhouses in the last several years. Galesong is a sail and tack shop located in a sleepy little harbor somewhere around the Great Lakes. That is where my inspirations rooted as a young boy. I wandered Lake Erie's shore in what seemed to be endless summers.

The winters however were very cold. I would spend hours making cardboard buildings inside our warm home while mom did her housework. I am a steelworker

now in a small town in Colorado. The work is intense. I have needed to find a way to unload a long day's pressure. Reliving my youthful memories as I build a dollhouse has become a great pastime. Over the years my youthful activities have merged and every project returns me to the shores I knew as a youth.

Galesong sat on my coffee table for nearly a year as I completed her, about four months of that time spent finishing the building. When the building was nearly com-

pleted I started the detailing which has become my favorite part of a build.

I purchased a band saw a few months ago and it has proved to be the handiest of tools to modify furniture that I build or buy. I believe that I can say that I have never installed a piece of furniture without some sort of modi-

Below left: Paul tells a story by staging his houses with small moments, like the shirt hanging on the stair post. **Below:** A peek inside the house. **Right:** The side view of Galesong, a handmade 1:12 dollhouse.







Above: A beautifully made row boat. **Right:** Paul has made a creative way to look inside.

fiction. Each house I make needs to tell a story. Each piece of furniture helps tell the story. I find when a piece has a story it gives it authenticity. It can even be something simple. Dad lost his car keys. Little brother broke his glasses. I have perfected some ageing and wear techniques and I enjoy using them to help define each project's story. The gal in *Galesong* is waiting for a gallon of milk to be delivered by a friend.

I have tried in the past to make commissioned pieces to sell. I lose interest in the





Above: The kitchen is simple and effective. **Below:** The downstairs is a boat workshop.





Above: The bed and bathroom.
Right: The bedroom has a window with a view.

work long before completion because my heart wasn't in it. So I have decided not to do that kind of work anymore. I will only make what I am inspired to make. It sells or

‘My ambition is to enjoy what I make and the enjoyment has to come from inside.’

it doesn't. My ambition is to enjoy what I make and the enjoyment has to come from inside. Commissioned work seems to get in the way of all that. My biggest fans, my



family, enjoy this attitude because they receive most of my houses. Why not? We share many of our memories. My older brother has my light-house displayed in a studio in Colorado Springs. That's

big-time for me. It warms my soul to share it with him. I have entered a few pieces in the Colorado state fair and was very successful. I don't enter a work for the prize although the recognition as an



Above: The 1:12 scale boat house shown from the front.

artist is nice. I just have a need to share and I enjoy watching people view my work. I sneak around the room to whiteness the reactions.

Dollhouses are big by nature because of this many people don't dedicate room for them in their homes. At the same time I remember

the many winter hours I spent in our home as a child captivated in creativity. I believe the value of miniatures is self evident.

I think we need to remember to keep it simple when creating a project for a child. Take a shoebox and put a door in it. Hand that to your

child and encourage them to continue with it. Ask them to tell a story. Make a chair out of a paper cup and watch them go. Some will take to the idea and they will have a gift that they may keep and perfect all their life. Remember creativity is the lifeblood of nations. Miniatures can be a big part of that.

It is time for me to work on my next piece. I am getting a little hungry and my ambitions are leaning towards building a crab shack on a dock somewhere. So I will say bye for now. Remember to keep it simple!



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Backgammon

Add a game board table to your dollhouse

BY LAURIE JACOBY

Rainy and cold days are best spent playing a board game inside with friends. But in such a tiny house, where do you keep all those game boards and pieces? Where do you find the space to play if mother doll is baking on the kitchen table and father doll has his feet kicked up in the living room? This backgammon coffee table solves all those little problems while also providing an interesting conversation piece for your doll house's den, playroom, or game room.

Measurements

- Tabletop- 3 1/8" x 2 1/8". Cut one.
- Front and back table panels- 2 1/4" x 5/8". Cut two and include a 1 1/2" x 1/2" opening centered on one piece to create the drawer opening.
- Legs- 1/4" and 1 1/2". Cut four. You can cut your own from wood or use bamboo forks/skewers.
- Side table panels- 1 1/2" x 5/8". Cut two.
- Bottom table panel- 2 1/2" x 1 1/2". Cut one.
- Drawer front- 1 1/2" x 1/2". Cut one and sand to fit the

Materials:

Scale = 1:12

- Wood approx. 1/4" thick
- Glue
- Photo paper
- Iron-on wood laminate
- Mat board
- Bamboo forks or skewers - optional
- Decorative bead, button, earring, etc. in scale to a drawer handle
- Oven bake clay
- Scroll saw
- Sharp knife
- Printer

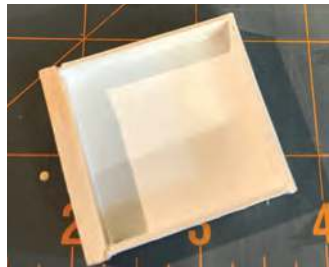
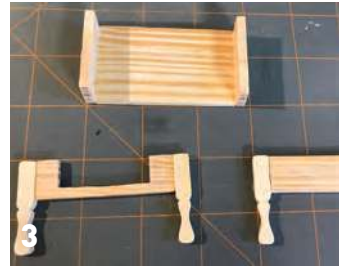
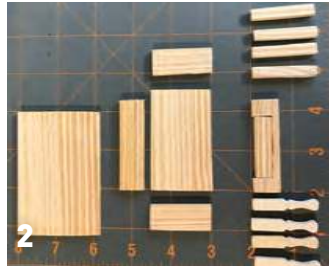
front opening.

- Drawer base- 1 3/8" x 1 3/8". Cut one from mat board.
- Drawer sides- 3/4" x 1 3/8". Cut three from mat board. The third side for the back of the drawer should be slightly longer than the other side pieces to glue onto the side pieces.

I gave my table decorative legs using bamboo forks I found online. The forks were thin, so to stabilize them I glued two of the thin bamboo forks together before cutting the legs



PROJECT



down to size. Alternatively, you can cut out your own legs from wood.

2 Cut each of the table unit and drawer pieces according to the measurements listed. The table pieces are wood, and the drawer pieces other than the front drawer panel should be cut from mat board. Be sure to sand each piece before assembling.

3 Glue the legs to the sides of front and back

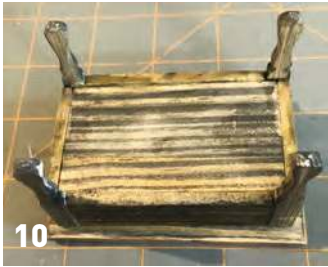
table panel pieces. Make sure the drawer opening is facing up when gluing the legs to the front panel piece. While the front and back panels are drying, glue the table panel sides to the bottom table panel piece.

4 Glue the front and back table panel pieces to the bottom and side table panel pieces.

5 Print the game board on photo paper. The game board image should

measure 2" x 1 3/8". Center the image on the tabletop piece and trace the shape onto the wood. Do not glue on the game board image until the end. You can also paint the image onto the table so long as it fits those dimensions.

6 Frame the space for the game board image using the iron-on laminate. Make miter cuts in the corners of the frame. Cut strips of the laminate to fill any additional openings between



the game board space and the frame on the shorter sides of the tabletop.

7 Construct the drawer by gluing the mat board sides to the mat board base. When the sides have dried, glue on the wooden drawer front.

8 Slide the constructed drawer into the front panel opening and make sure drawer fits into the table. Sand down the opening until the drawer fits and slides smoothly into place.

9 Center the table onto the underside of the tabletop piece and glue.

10 Paint and decorate to your preferences

before gluing your game board image to the tabletop. You might need to add some card stock under game board to bring it flush to the frame.

11 Add a knob to the drawer front. There are infinite options to use for door or drawer handle.

I used a small earring, but you can use a bead, button, or any fun find that fits the scale. To play, make some game pieces out of oven-bake clay using the instructions on the packaging. You need fifteen round token-shaped pieces for each player.

If backgammon isn't your doll's favorite game, this piece could easily be customized to fit any doll's taste. Use a check-board print for chess or checkers.

Print a Candyland board and cut out colorful cards for a kid's room. Make tiny houses out of clay for your favorite edition of Monopoly.

Whatever game you choose, the design for the tabletop will add a pop of color and whimsy to any room, and the drawer will keep all your pieces in place until the next rainy day. See the Snippets page for your game board top.

Toolbox

BY RONNIE GODFREY

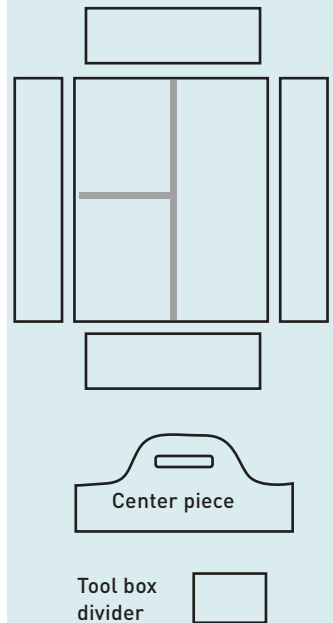


Materials:

- Wood
- X-ACTO knife
- Ruler
- Sandpaper
- Wood glue

1 Cut pieces of wood as shown in the diagram and glue as shown.

2 Either leave natural or stain as desired.



Tissue box

It's all those tiny details that make a scene come to life

BY JODI HIPPLER

Make a stylish, modern one-inch scale box of tissues to fit a y decor.

1 Trace the pattern onto card stock. I used 80# card stock.

2 Glue the pattern to the wrong side of the scrapbook paper, lining up the bottom of the box pattern to the edge of the scrapbook paper. Note: If you want to center the pattern, make a mark on the scrapbook paper to line it up with. Press firmly to remove any gaps or air pockets. Let dry.

3 Now cut the pattern that has been laminated to

the scrapbook paper.

4 Center the tissue opening in your punch, then punch. You can use any shape or size of punch you have, as long as it leaves enough room for gluing.

5 Cut the patterns out. Add numbers and letters to each flap an section as shown.

6 Cut a 1/2" square from your zip-seal bag. Apply glue to all edges around the tissue opening. Center the plastic over the opening and press to seal all the edges. Clean up any glue

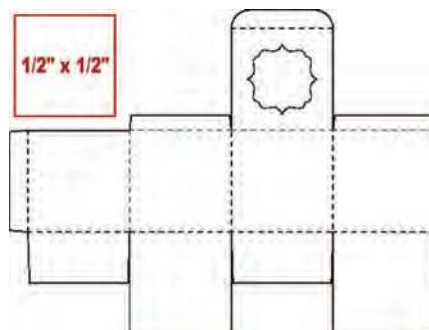
Scale = 1:12

Materials:

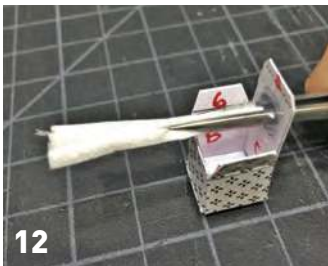
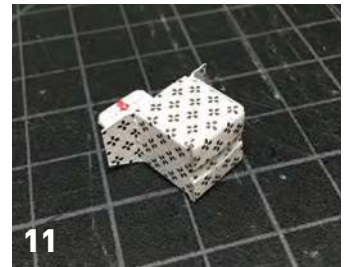
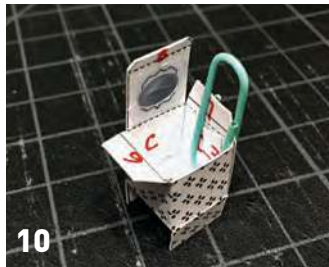
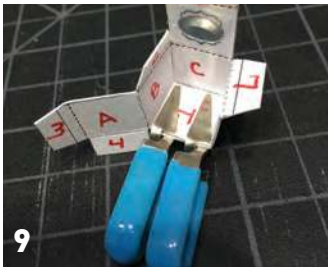
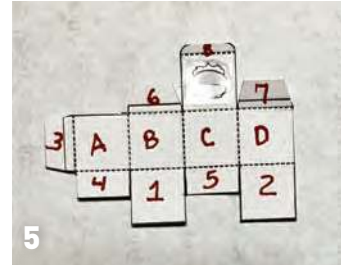
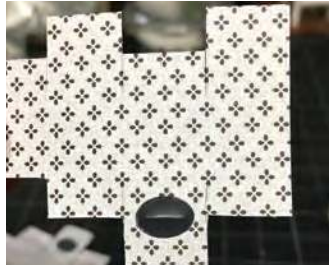
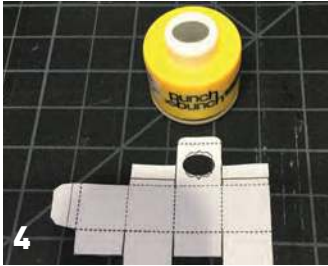
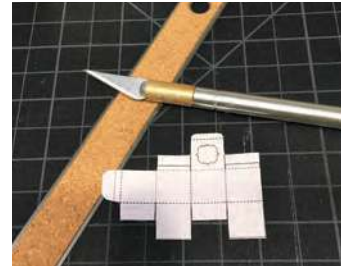
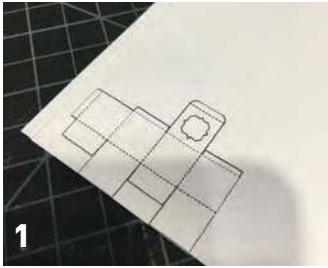
- Tissue Box Pattern
- Card stock
- Scrapbook Paper
- Glue stick
- Zip-seal Bag
- Tissue
- Paper Punch
- Ruler
- X-ACTO Knife
- Tweezers
- Tiny Clamps or Paperclips
- Stylus tool
- Scissors

that may have seeped out the top side with a toothpick. Let dry. Note: Tacky glue and zip-seal plastic do not stick to one another. Use a glue stick.

Pattern:



PROJECT



7 Cut a 1/4" slit lengthwise into the center of the plastic. This is where the tissue will feed out from.

8 Using your stylus tool and ruler as a straight edge, score all of the dotted

lines, then practice folding them into place.

9 Glue flap 1 to flap 3. Clip to hold. Let dry.

10 Spread glue to the patterned side of flap

3. Glue to the inside of the box D, leaving flap 4 outside. Let dry.

11 Glue flap 4 and flap 5, pressing down to form a tight seal and level sitting surface. Let Dry.

12 Cut a 1-1/2" square of tissue. Fold in accordion style.

13 Push the tweezers through the top side of the plastic 'window'. Then pull the tissue to about half way through the opening.

14 With your scissors, cut about half of flap 6 and flap 7

15 Apply glue to the patterned side of flap 6 and 8. Fold 6 and 7 down, then tuck in flap 8. Press for several seconds to get good adhesion to each surface. Let dry.

16 Using scissors, cut the tissue to the desired length then fluff out to the opening.

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Here are a few Instagram pages that will brighten your day! Each has something special to offer and is worth a follow.



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The Mini Time Machine Museum of Miniatures' collection of fine-scale artifacts includes over 500 antique and contemporary dollhouses and roomboxes, while special exhibitions highlight the breadth and diversity of the art of miniatures. Celebrating it's 10th year, the museum has recently refreshed its gallery spaces and installed new exhibits. Ten exhibitions, ranging from a hand-carved circus to mid-century modern miniatures, are scheduled for 2020. For more information visit www.theminutimeamchine.org



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Wicker flower basket

Weave a little basket to hold your mini flowers

BY KAREN HRITZ

Scale = 1:12

Making this hand weaved basket is easier than it looks. Follow along and make your own.

1 From 1/8" thick wood, cut a square or rectangle. Mine is 3/4" by 7/8". This is the base of your basket. Sand the corners off the wood.

2 Trace the basket base on a card. Draw a vertical line (number 22 on the diagram) and a horizontal line (number 3 on the diagram) through the center.

Now draw a line at each corner (numbers 6, 12, 19 and 25).

3 On 3 sides, draw 2 lines between the corner and vertical/horizontal lines. This gives you 5 lines between each corner. On the 4th side, draw 3 lines between the corner and horizontal line. NOTE: This is important because you need an ODD number of upright rods for your basket.

4 Finally, lay your base on the card and transfer

Materials:

- Wood - 1/8" thick and approximately 3/4" wide x 7/8" long
- Cord - I used 16 feet of waxed Irish linen thread
- 18 gauge white wrapped wire
- Toothpicks
- Paint
- White glue
- Craft knife
- Sanding stick
- Wire cutters
- 1/16" finger drill
- Paint brush
- Scissors

the lines onto the sides of the wood base.

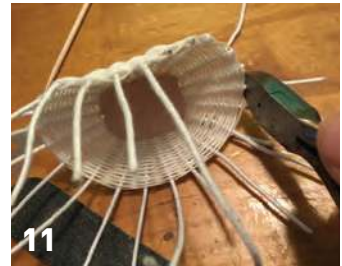
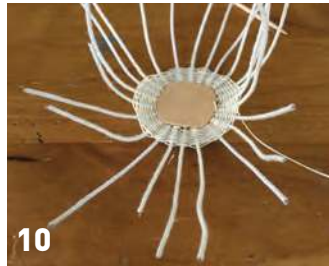
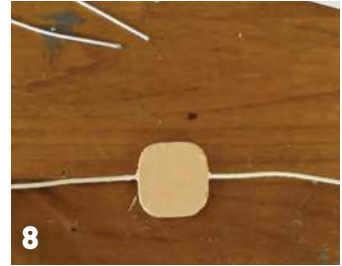
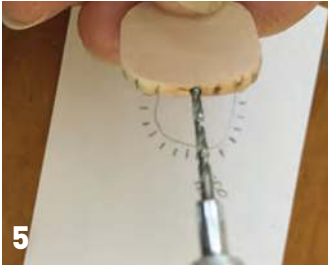
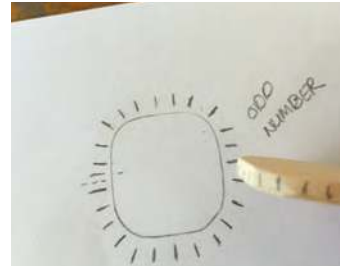
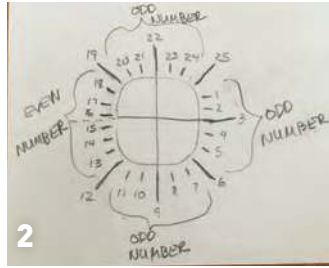
5 Using a 1/16" finger drill, drill holes into the side of the base at each of the transferred marks. They should be about 1/16" deep.

6 Cut 2 pieces of wire that are about 2" long and 23 pieces that are 1 1/4" long.

7 Seal the ends of each piece of wire by dipping into white glue and



PROJECT



twirl between your finger s. This is important because the wrapped wire will unwrap itself. Let dry.

8 When the wires are dry, glue the 2 long pieces at the horizontal line marks. This will become the handle of the basket. Now glue the shorter wires into all the other holes. Let dry

Weaving the basket

9 Starting at one of the long wires, put a small dot of white glue at the

base of the wire and begin to weave over and under the wires.

As you make your way around the basket, use a toothpick to push the thread against the row before it so you will have a nice tight weave.

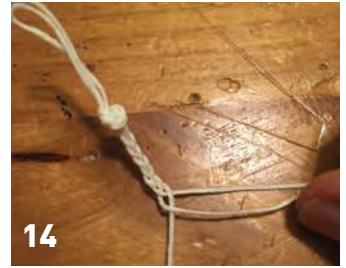
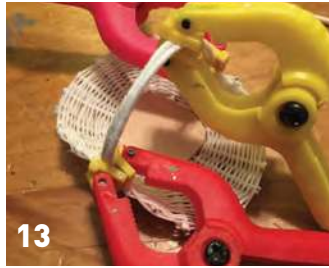
10 When you have woven about 10-12 rows, bend the side wires to give the basket the shape you want. Continue weaving as before until your basket is the size you like.

11 Cut off the excess wire on the 23 short pieces close to the weaving. BE CAREFUL NOT TO CUT OFF YOUR HANDLE PIECES!

12 Using a toothpick, put a dab of white glue at the end of each piece of wire to secure the weaving to the wire.

13 Fold the 2 handle wires over the basket. Glue them together and clamp until dry.

PROJECT



14 Cut 3 pieces of cord approximately 13-14 inches long and tie together on one end. Loosely braid the pieces.

15 Starting at the handle on one side, glue the braided piece to the edge of the basket. When you get to the other side, glue

the braid across the handle. Continue to glue the braid around the other end of the basket. When you get to the starting point, cut off the excess braid. Let dry.

16 Paint the basket base and your basket is finished

Fill with flowers and display in your miniature scene.

dollhouse miniatures

FINE MINIATURE ART FOR THE DEVOTED COLLECTOR

Don't miss the tutorials, tips, and techniques by top makers in the latest issue of Dollhouse Miniatures. Tanja Jensen makes mini ice skates. Sue Dubowi shares how she made a Rococo overmantel and Lou Geary shows how to make a Christmas shepherd fire screen.



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Decorative miniatures

Vintage farmhouse hanging apron

BY DEBBIE BOOTH

Hello from Ribbonwood Cottage on Etsy. This month I'm starting a vintage farmhouse series with this vintage style apron. When creating new miniature items I look at something and think how can I make this an easier way. As a professional seamstress and quilter I learned quite awhile ago that traditional methods don't always yield the best results when sewing miniature items.

This is why I created the term 'decorative miniatures'. While I have sewn for museums, professional dollhouse collectors and other miniaturists that require perfect sewing, there is a time that collectors and miniaturists want to add a simple seasonal touch to their dollhouses – a 'decorative miniature'.

This decorative vintage style apron takes after the look of aprons that my grandmother would make and wear. She often used feed sack cotton fabric for them. My grandmother



raised 10 children on a farm and would sew my mothers' school dresses out of the feed sack cottons.

My mother told me that my grandmother would make aprons for the ladies in her quilt guild and hide them in her house. The ladies would come over to sew and quilt and would giggle while trying to find their hidden treasures. She influenced me greatly with the style of miniature patterns I design and make. This apron is extremely easy to make.

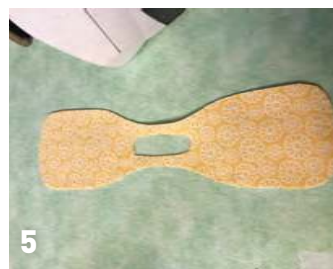
Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- 1 small package or 1/4 yard of HeatnBond iron on fusible web (double sided adhesive)
- 1/4 yard or scraps of cotton prints – small prints include small floral, small dots, small plaids, etc.
- Scraps of beige cotton for the pie crust
- Scraps of colored cottons for the pie dish
- 2 tiny buttons
- Miniature hanger
- 1 yard of 1/4" or 1/8" wide ribbon for bows
- Needle and thread
- Iron
- Scissors
- Mini rolling pin - optional

1 Using the pattern provided, draw the apron pattern design onto the paper side of fusible web. One side is paper and one side is sticky.

2 Trim around the folded apron design cutting on the line. Place the apron paper piece onto the wrong side of the cotton fabric. Try to never press the sticky side of fusible web directly to iron. Makes a mess!



3 With a hot iron (no steam) press for a few moments adhering the fusible web to the fabric.

4 With sharp scissors carefully cut around the apron pattern piece. Cut the neck opening carefully creating a smooth oval look.

5 Next, tear away the paper from the front of the fusible web. This side is now sticky and can be placed sticky side down on the wrong side of the fabric.

Press in place. Trim away the outer fabric and the neck area. The apron piece should now have fabric on both sides. This will be the apron foundation.

The pocket

6 Using the fusible paper backed web, measure and cut a piece measuring 1" x 1 1/2" (2.54 centimeters x 3.81 centimeters). Press the paper onto the back of the cotton fabric that will be used for the pocket. Trim around the

fabric creating the pocket. Set aside.

7 Draw the pie crust design onto a small piece of the paper backed fusible web. And set aside. Do the same for the pie dish. Take the paper pattern fusible piece and press to the back side of the beige cotton.

8 Trim around the design and set aside. Do the same for the pie dish paper pattern piece to the back of the alternating colored fabric.

9 Cut around the pieces. Pull the paper off. Now take the pocket piece, leaving its paper backing on for now, and center the pie dish on the pocket.

10 Place the pie crust piece on the pie dish making sure it overlaps the pie dish piece slightly. The two pieces together need to look like a pie. Press.

11 Center the pocket on the bottom front of the apron. Sew the pocket close to the edge.

12 Peel the paper off the pocket piece. Center the pocket on the bottom front side of the apron. Press on the outer lines of pocket so inner part of pocket can be used. Or don't press and sew around the pocket adhering it to apron. Or

press the entire pocket to the apron as a decorative look rather than a functional look. Let cool.

13 Sew little buttons on before the bows. Using a pencil, carefully eyeball and mark where the buttons will go, using the final photo as a guide.

14 With a needle and thread, sew the buttons in place. Sew just a couple of stitches to hold in place. The buttons could be glued on as well. I tried this but the glue showed up on the outside and through the tiny holes so I opted for sewing them on.

15 Last step is to make the bows. First cut a piece of ribbon about 9-10" long. Start bigger and work smaller.

16 Make a bow and then tug at the tails reducing the side until the bow is very small. Trim the length.

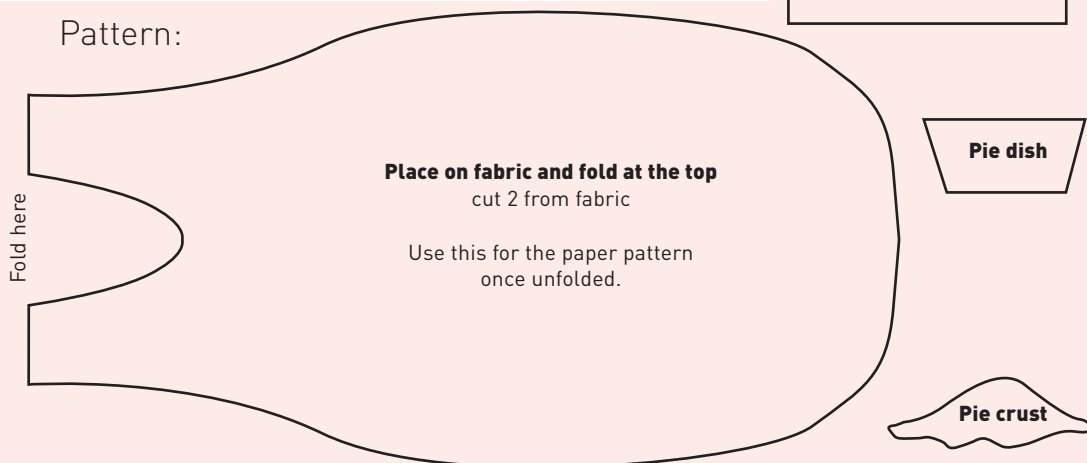
17 Make a second bow. Again, using a pencil mark where the bows will go on each side.

18 Hand sew the bow in place by sewing through the apron and knotting on back. Remember this apron is decorative and will not be used or placed over anyone's head.

Make these for different seasons or make a gardening apron and place garden tools in the pocket!



Pattern:



Macaron tower

A quick and easy way to make macarons

BY DERI TERRY AND MICHELL BRYANT

This tutorial was a joint project completed by Michell and myself. We have devised an easy way to create miniature macaron cookies. We went another step further and created macaron towers, similar to real ones in popular french bakeries.

Instead of forming each half of the cookies from clay, we used metal brads, ensuring they are all a uniform size and color. Although working with such tiny objects is tedious, it is our hope, that most miniaturists will find our method easier.

Below: Michell and her finished piece on the left. Deri and her finished tower is on the right.

- 1 Using pliers, snip off tab ends of brads.
- 2 Flatten the remaining ends.
- 3 Roll coordinating colored clay into a tiny ball.
- 4 Sandwich clay between 2 brad caps, squeezing out extra clay.
- 5 Remove remaining clay, from sides of cookie, using a toothpick.
- 6 Arrange macarons onto a baking sheet and bake according to manufacturer's directions. (Because they are small, we only baked

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Craft brads in pastel colors
- Thick white glue or a hot glue gun
- Polymer clay in coordinating colors to the brads. White may be substituted.
- Toothpick
- Cake decorating icing tip in a cone shape
- Corn starch
- Latex indoor primer
- Indoor latex, white, semi-gloss paint
- Cap from broth container
- Baking sheet
- Optional clear glitter and heart-shaped brads
- Small pliers
- Metal snippers
- Small craft paint brush
- White polymer clay (or black)



PROJECT



ours for 7 minutes.) Set aside to cool.

7 To form the cone, coat the inside of the icing tip with corn starch or water, ensuring the clay won't stick. Then, press clay into the tip, leaving the excess clay, outside.

Holding the remaining clay, pull down to remove the shaped cone.

8 Separate the cone from the excess clay, using a knife.

9 Place the cone onto the baking sheet and bake according to directions. Set aside to cool.

10 To create the cake base, paint broth cap using one coat of latex indoor primer. Let dry. Paint cap with 1 coat of latex semi-gloss, interior paint. Allow to dry.

11 Form icing swags by rolling a thin snake of white clay, approximately 3" long. Drape multiple swags

onto the baking sheet, approximately 1/4" high and 1/2" long. Bake. We baked ours for 5 minutes, so they would be pliable enough to wrap around the broth cap. Let cool.

12 Using a thick white glue or hot glue gun, tack the icing swags around the cap, trimming excess, where the ends meet.

13 Coat the entire cap, including swags, with white paint. Allow to dry.



Note: Michell used colored clay for her swags. If you chose this option, paint the last coat of paint onto the cap, before you apply the colored swags. Allow it to completely dry.

14 At this stage, glue the cone to the cake base, by applying thick white glue. Allow it to dry.

15 Starting from the bottom of the cone, glue the macarons (using white glue or a hot glue gun) around the perimeter, creating a full row. Judge the spacing as you apply the cookies, ensuring they are equally placed. Start a new row above, staggering macarons between the ones, below. When you reach the top point, flip a

macaron onto its side and glue it, as the topper. The tower is complete.

At this point, the tower can be decorated. I left mine as directed, but Michell chose to decorate hers, in an “Alice In Wonderland” theme. She glued brad hearts onto the icing joints, of the cake. She also filled in the gaps between the macarons, by sprinkling clear glitter onto applied white glue.

This gives the look of sanding sugar, used for real confections. Her tower was completed by gluing tiny playing cards to the top. Feel free to use your imagination and make this your own. The tower may stand alone or be displayed on a cake stand.

Why it is important as a miniaturist to have rulers for all units of measurement.

Our world isn't as small as it used to be, no pun intended. Since the invention of the internet we are able to communicate and share with the rest of the world so easily and each part of the world has their own unit of measurement.

When creating a miniature project some measurements can be crucial. Conversions can be tricky. Sometimes a rough conversion will suffice but there are other times when even a slight mistake can alter the outcome.

In this publication we try to determine when it is acceptable to round up or down to inches from cm or mm. But there are times when it is more efficient to give you a specific conversion measurement instead of a slew of decimals to inches.

Having a cm, mm, and inch ruler is a great idea for those that would like the most accurate results from our tutorials. Even if you are pulling some tutorials from the internet it will save you time and frustration in the long run.

We will continue to do our best to convert to inches for you but please consider expanding your units of measurements by having a ruler for inches, mm, and cm. We are very lucky to have our *AM* family expand across the globe!

Tambourine

Make some mini music with this little tambourine

BY RANDALL CASTLE

Music is food for the soul. I play my ukulele to chill and get re-centered. My bud plays his guitar at his aunt's coffee shop and his girlfriend wanted to join him so our human made her a tambourine! My human will take it from here and share how they did it for this month's tutorial.

1 First, stack up three pennies. Stick a small blob

of wax in-between to hold them together.

2 Hold up a piece of card stock and make a mark for the height. Cut a long strip with a knife and ruler.

3 Wrap it around the pennies allowing a 1/8" over lap and cut.

4 Now wrap the card stock strip around a second time and mark with

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Three pennies
- Wax
- Card stock
- Knife and ruler
- Pencil
- Wood glue
- Tape
- 15 sequins
- Seed bead
- White glue
- Scissors
- Rounded scissors
- Toothpick
- Paint
- Paint brush
- Ribbon or thin tape

a pencil where it overlaps, under and over.

5 Lay that strip on your board and tape it at both ends.

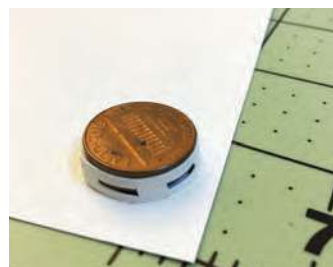
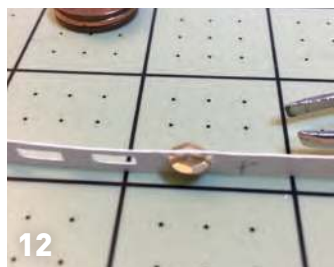
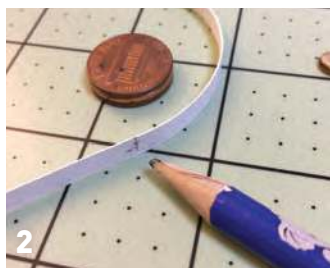
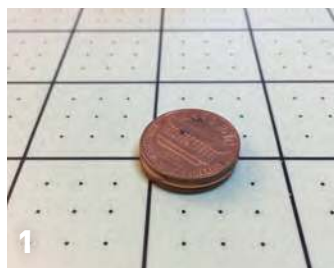
6 Now grab 5 sequins and put a spot of wood glue in the base of each with a toothpick.

TOPTIP:

You can use scrap book papers in different color for your tambourine.



PROJECT





7 Place a seed bead on the glue and slide the sequins away so the glue doesn't stick through the tiny hole. Let dry.

8 Grab three sequences and cut them in half.

9 Line them up in-between the two marks you made so they are evenly spaced.

10 Make marks with your pencil so you know where they will go. Keep the width of the line the same as the sequin.

11 By now your white glue should be dry. Put another blob of glue on top of each seed bead and then place a sequin



TOPTIP:

Rounded tip scissors make cutting curves or circle a lot easier!

on each so now you have a sequence sandwich.

12 Go back to your card stock and cut out slots the thickness of the sequin sandwich. Do a test fit

13 Wrap your card around the pennies and glue it together. I pushed my pennies out a little so any excess wood glue wouldn't stick to them while it dried.

14 Once the glue has set, cut away the excess with rounded scissors.

15 Flip over and run some white glue around the inside edges of the tambourine to be sure the top says on. Let set.

16 Paint your tambourine sides. Let dry. Add a thin ribbon or thin piece of tape around the top edge.

17 From the inside, use your toothpick to put wood glue in the middle of each slot, then slide the sequin sandwiches in and let dry. Be sure they stay centered.

My human hooked you up, right? Come on over to Instagram @randall_castle and get to know me and my crew and join on our daily adventures.

Becoming a miniaturist artist

How to find your creative voice when starting your journey as a miniaturist

BY AURALEA KRIEGER

So you have decided that you want to embark on the journey to become a miniaturist. First, let me welcome you to the most wonderful art form you will ever encounter. Being a miniaturist means you will develop a countless number of skills and meet the kindest people you can imagine.

The most popular question for beginners is, “Where do I start?” The first object to becoming a miniaturist is to have fun! Fun needs to be the foundation for your journey. So the first step is to discover what brings you the most joy. Are you a builder, maker, or a collector? Or are you a bit of all these? To answer this question I would suggest that your first project be a room box with a front porch and small garden.

Where to start

There are many miniaturists that started because they



wanted to make a dollhouse for their child or grandchild. A full dollhouse is a big undertaking for someone new to miniatures. I recommended a room box with a porch because it is a great way to discover what part of this art form you love the

Above: Denise Morales' 1:12 scale room boxes are a great example of all the skills you can acquire. She hand makes practically everything for her room boxes.

most and to determine your initial strengths. This will be discovered as you install windows and doors, create an



interior and exterior, make or purchase furniture and accessories, and create soft furnishings.

The reason I added the porch as part of your first project is so you can make flowers and a small garden or potted plants as well as creating an exterior and small roof. Gardens/plants are another sector of miniatures and shouldn't be overlooked.

Finding your strengths

This task reminds me of grade school, or at least how grade school used to be, where engaging in many elective courses and extra curricular activities would offer children the opportunity to discover what they enjoy and where they excel. In my high school we had music, art, home ec (home economics), wood shop, auto shop, interior design, and writing. I personally

took them all and loved it! I do remember I wasn't very welcomed to the wood, metal or auto shop classes, but I held my own. Thank goodness times have changed. It was during a shoebox house project in an interior design class when my passion for miniatures was ignited.

I mention all of this because in miniatures you will wear many hats. A builder, seamstress, brick layer, furniture maker, fashion designer, interior designer, sculpture, painter, I could go on and on. Trust me, while you're making your room box you will find your calling. You will also learn how to use power tools as well as basic tools.

Finding inspiration

Your next question will most likely be, "What room will I make?" To figure that out, you need to think about your

Above: An example to show how your skill sets will evolve. Left is a fireplace made by Auralea Krieger in 2004 with real stone and wood glue, which ended up discoloring the mortar. On the right is a fireplace sculpted from paper clay and painted in 2016 by following a Rik Pierce tutorial.

passions in life and write them down. Add a few together and you may just find your answer. Also think about what you want to say with this project. Do you want to show a specific time in history? Do you want to preserve a sweet memory? You may want to simply share your love for a favorite story or a life dream you have.

Even though you now have a concept, as any miniaturist will tell you, things may change as you're building. If you don't let yourself be flexible, you will get frustrated. Being open minded is such an important part of being an



Above: A collections of kitchens made by Auralea Krieger. The upper left was made in 2004, her fi st dollhouse. Upper right was made in 2009 by repurposing cabinets and a sink and scratch building the oven. Below is a cabinetry unit that was completely scratch built in 2017. Each were made with pride in their own time.





Above: Miniature artist Hubert Lengdorfer has made the *Charmed* house three times and each time it's more detailed. Above left 2007, above 2009. The latest, shown on the left, is in progress and has even caught the attention of the stars from the show *Charmed* on Instagram!

‘We are a very supportive bunch and keeping things positive is rule number one.’

feel afraid to ask others how they made something. Although some miniature businesses don't like to give away trade secrets, which is understandable, they will most likely help by giving tips. We are a very supportive bunch and keeping things positive is rule number one. Join mini groups or check out Facebook groups and



artist. Don't box yourself in. Remember this is a form of expression as well as a source of therapy. You may be pleasantly surprised where it takes you. If you are in a group setting don't get caught up in comparing your project

with someone else's. You are each on an individual journey. Here is where I will reiterate, this should be FUN!

The miniature's community
Our community will welcome you with open arms. Never



Left: The 1:12 babies on the far left were sculpted by Auralea in 2009. The baby to the right was created in 2017. A crude bigfoot sculpt from 2013 and Easter bunny sculpt from 2018.

When purchasing, try to focus on items that will not lose value overtime. This way you can sell at a later date to get something new. This will also help with your budget. Keep a binder with prices and maker names or put small sticky tags on your pieces where they can't be seen. But also shop for what makes you happy. Consider purchasing marked down items that you can up-cycle.

I am also a collector of vintage and antique miniatures, which is a whole other facet of miniature collecting. You will quickly realize that miniatures can go in so many different directions. From fantasy to hyper realism to whimsical, you will find our niche. Just be sure to let your niche evolve if desired or try a few different ones.

Advice for beginners

Research and tutorials are your greatest tools! There are so many video tutorials online. You have no excuse for saying you don't know how to make something. The number one thing to do is to subscribe to *American Miniaturist* either print copies or digital.

share on Instagram. We are also a very generous group.

Builder, collector or both

Don't pigeon hole yourself to any particular title just yet. Things will change as you learn and your passions grow. Starting as a builder/maker will help you appreciate all of the talented artists out there. I make as much as I can but when I see a piece that either I can't make or that was made perfectly, I will add it to my collection. The best part of

becoming a maker is to make and sell your work so you can purchase items from your favorite artists! What could be better?

As a collector you will have to make yourself a budget and stay offline when our budget has been reached because it can quickly become an addiction. I am not making a joke here. Make a strict budget, you will thank me for this advice! Be sure to cash in on your mini wish list for Christmas and birthdays.

Dollhouse Miniatures also has up to three tutorials an issue and is perfect for collectors and those that want to learn more about vintage and antique miniatures.

If you want to be stubborn and figure everything out all by yourself, good luck. It will take you years longer to get the results you want. So many artists before you have been experimenting and sharing

their findings, don't let all of that knowledge go to waste.

This evolution of human creative knowledge is so important, don't squander it away. Take what they have learned and push that even further. Then those that come to the art form after you will have an even greater head start in this art form.

Think about making test pieces before the final piece

Below: A Patrick Ducolu creation. Patrick designs, builds and hand-paints the most beautiful dollhouses. Find an artist or artists that inspires you as you are finding your way in this art form.



Above: A remarkable 1:12 scale doll sculpted by Jeanne Rullie.

“Get ready to have the time of your life and meet the best people.”

This way you won't be upset if something goes wrong. Make a mock curtain to see how it's done. Then make another and you will see how fast your skills improve.

I truly hope this article has helped to get you started. Now it is all up to you! Get ready to have the time of your life and meet the best people. Throughout this article, I have shared some of my miniature pieces from when I started to now just to show you how things will evolve. Hubert Lengdorfer has shared a before and after as well. Not many artists are open to sharing old work! Be sure to share your creations and tips with us here at *AM*! Now get ready to have some FUN!



A mini cottage

Build a little starter house or make it with improvements

BY JOAN KEY

First off, don't be put off by the length of this project. You can come into it at whatever level you choose. It can be made as shown and treated as a good trial run to test how you are going to take to the world of miniatures, or my hope is that adults and children will work on it together. The whole procedure could be simplified by gluing together two, or more, small cardboard boxes and letting children use their imagination.

The furniture could be bought or made. Cardboard boxes are free from the supermarkets; wallpaper samples for walls and

floors are also free from DIY stores. Most of us have emulsion paint left over from full scale decorating, or sample pots are cheap.

My only expenditure was

for the bedroom wallpaper and for the banister newel posts and turned spindles. Any DIY or craft orientated household will have the rest of the items.

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Strong cardboard boxes
- White glue
- Craft paint
- Wallpaper samples
- Cereal box card board
- X-ACTO knife
- Embossed wallpaper
- Clear acrylic sheet
- Wallpaper paste
- Newspaper
- Mat board







The front opens to reveal the inside walls of the house.

If anything goes wrong you can simply trash it and start again as I had to. Above all, have fun.

The idea for this project was sparked off by a week at Marlborough Summer School on a papier-mâché course taught by Julie Arkell. We used cardboard to start off some of our projects and my twelfth scale mind started adapting.

You must accept it is not possible to get perfect results. There will almost certainly be some slightly bumpy areas, but the overall effect should be acceptable to most people. The first project I attempted when I got home was a larger house made using boxes that some bathroom cabinets arrived in.

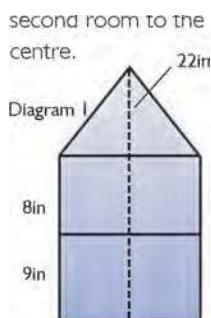
I used one technique

taught, which was to paste on several layers of torn squares of newspaper. All went well to start with, doors and windows were cut out and 'stone' edges of wrapped strips of card placed around windows and the front of the house. The inside was painted, the outside had brick paper pasted on and then varnished. Unfortunately, as more layers were added the whole thing started to bow and, although flattened under heavy weights each night, once the weights were removed the bowing gradually returned to the extent that I wasn't happy with it.

I had to start again which was a pity because I had used the Deco Granite stone effect paint and it was looking good.

The next attempt was on a more modest scale and is the one shown. If you are creating a larger house it would be a good idea to make two of the one shown to join together avoiding the need to paste and paint large pieces of card.

I Glue together two sheets of cardboard and cut two sections 22" high x 12" wide. Mark off first room height at 9" and



second room at 8". Mark a top center point and cut the sloping roof from the outside marking for the second room to the center.

2 Using wallpaper paste, adhere the edges of one of these pieces with strips of newspaper. Use this one for the front. Try to keep this edging even.

3 Paint a piece of embossed wallpaper for the front of the house 10 1/2" x 22". Allow to dry.

4 Cover enough 3/4" strips of cardboard with newspaper to go around the edge of the front and the top and bottom of the windows. Glue in place and paint with darkish brown paint, including the sides.

5 When dry, paste sections of your painted embossed paper to the front of the house, between

the timbers. Wallpaper the inside of the front to match your intended room decorations. Weigh it down to keep flat while drying.

6 When all wallpaper is dry, cut out the windows and door. Cut out 4" strips of mat board, paint dark brown and cut to fit all around the edges of the windows and door opening to neaten. Glue in place. The strip will need to be 1/2" wide for the right hand side of the door frame.

Windows

7 Cut a clear acrylic sheet slightly larger than the window openings. Make a crisscross pattern with a felt tip that writes on acrylic or plastic. If the lines go wrong wipe off with methylated spirit and start again.



8 Glue to the inside of the windows. Add 1/2" strip of mat board to the bottom of each window, on the inside.

Door

9 Cut two pieces of mount card to fit into the door -

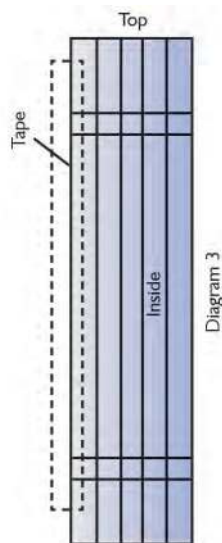
way allowing for the door to open and close.

10 Glue together, enclosing the edge of a piece of tape, on one long side to act as the hinge.

11 Score the card at 1/2" intervals from the top to the bottom.

12 Glue two 1/2" wide pieces of mount card 1" from the top and bottom of the door.

13 Trim to neaten if necessary. Paint dark brown, including the tape. The door will be hinged to the right hand side looking from the outside.



14 Glue a 8" wide strip of card to the center

of the top, bottom and left hand side of the door frame. This will stop the door pushing right through.

15 Cut a 1/2" strip of mat board long enough to frame inside the door. Cut to fit and paint brown.

16 Working from the inside, put door into position, glue left hand side of door frame in place, catching in the hinge all the way down. Frame the rest of the door.

17 You should now have an attractive front to your house, which will encourage you to keep going.

Rest of the house

18 Cut out two sides 17" x 9" and three pieces 12" x 9" for your ceilings and floors.

19 Mark the height of the rooms on the inside of each of your side pieces. Stand sides on the back piece at each edge and glue in place. Check the floors, as they will probably need to be trimmed to obtain a good fit

20 Glue in place at the marked levels. This is where you will wish you

had two pairs of hands but it can be done.

21 Cover all the front edges neatly with pasted newspaper strips. When dry, paint all the front edges white.

22 You can now start the fun part – the decorating! Use textured or small patterned papers as the cardboard indentations can show through your finished results. If any part is badly dented, cover it with cereal box card before papering.

Ceilings and walls

23 Paint lining paper or use an embossed paper. Cut to size, paint and paste in place when dry, allowing a small overlap at the side and back edges. Cover walls with wallpaper.

Floors

24 Cut some cereal box card to size and paste your chosen floor paper onto it. I already had a wood-colored paper which, when marked into planks at 1/2" intervals looked quite convincing. When dry check for fit and trim if necessary, then paste into place.

House trim

25 Paint 4" and 1/2" strips of card and glue into place after all papering has been done. Don't forget to leave gaps in your skirting for fitting doors and fireplaces.

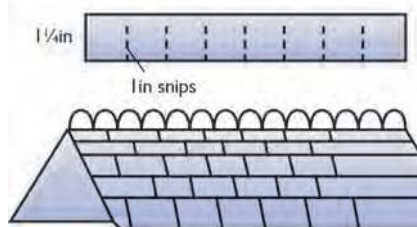
Roof

26 Cut two pieces of double cardboard slightly larger than needed to cover each roof side.

27 Hinge in the center with a piece of old sheet glued across the join, on the inside.

28 On two pieces of cereal box card, draw lines that are 1" apart. Cut strips of the card 14" wide in the opposite direction to the lines you have already drawn.

29 You should now have strips of card 14" wide with markings at 1" intervals along their length. Snip into these markings



for 1". Cover your roof cardboard with these tiles, overlapping each strip, starting from the bottom.

30 For the top point of the roof, cut two more strips of card about 1" wide, the length of the roof. Score lightly down the center of each of these strips and glue top 1/2" of each strip together.

31 Draw small curves or use pinking shears to cut a shape along the top of the glued section. Glue this to the top of the roof.

32 Paint your tiles with several shades of red, blending in well and making sure you get the paint into the cut sections but try not to obliterate the cuts or you will lose the tile effect you want.

Front of the house

33 Glue a piece of cardboard the width of your house front and about 2 1/2" wide along the front.

This gives a nice area to decorate and also stops the front falling forward. The plaque is made from Fimo, using a cake decorating cutter, a stick-on number and a transfer. The path



is sand mixed with white glue and the step a piece of Balsa wood, painted grey, with the center worn down a bit with sandpaper.

The dog is a miniature's show purchase and the

flowers are made from bread dough.

If you are still with me, congratulations! This project took me about 80 hours but don't forget you can do it any way you choose.

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Cottage features

Add a fireplace, a door, and curtains to your cottage

BY JOAN KEY

Make your cottage extra special with a cozy fireplace and a farmhouse style door in the bedroom. Add some curtains to the windows on the front panel door. The fun part is making this build your own.

Fireplace

1 Cut pieces from pattern, as indicated. Glue the two pieces of (3) together, trimming edges level. Glue front (1) and two sides of (2) together and add top (3).

2 Cut (4) from black card and score where shown. Pull sides forward gently -

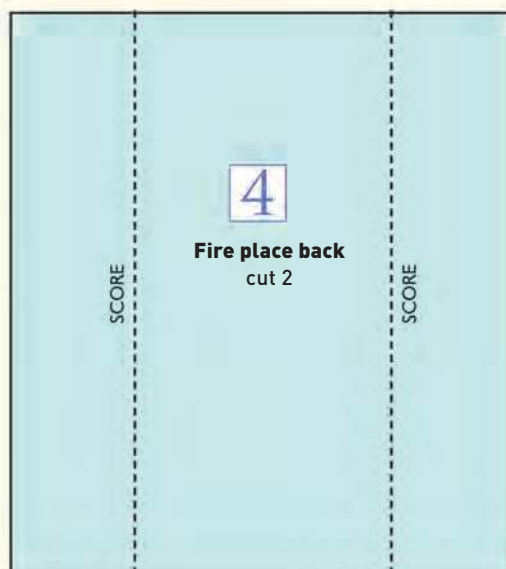
use the edge of a table to help you with the bending.

3 Decorate the front of the fireplace (1) with strips of embossed wallpaper and squares of card. Paint in the color desired.

4 Glue (4) in place as fireplace back.

5 Cut a piece of mat board for the fireplace hearth. Cut it slightly larger than the size of the made up fireplace.

Pattern:

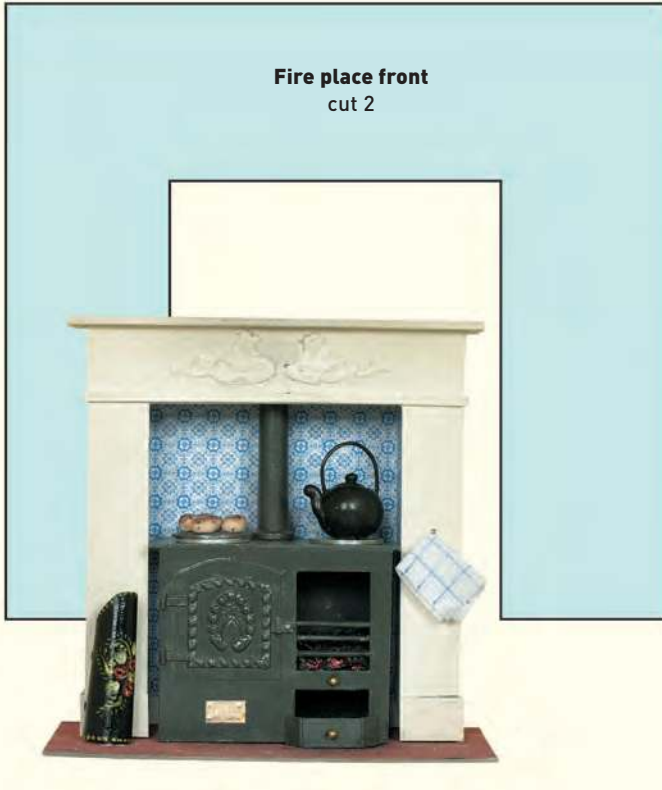


Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Mat board
- White glue
- Acrylic paint
- Thin black card
- Red glitter glue or shiny candy wrapping
- Embossed wallpaper
- Varnish
- Gold trim
- Newspaper
- Gold bead
- Double sided sticky tape

Pattern:



6 Paint, sponge with diluted colored paint and add a few pencil lines to look like veins. Varnish.

7 Glue the fireplace to the hearth. Stick a strip of gold cake decorating trim

to a piece of card. You may need to use double-sided sticky tape for this.

8 Add a little gold bead to the center for added decoration and glue it into the grate.

9 Paint a scrap of newspaper black. When dry, screw up and glue into the grate. Add some red glitter glue to look like a fire, or pieces of red sweet paper.

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Mat board
- White glue
- Acrylic paint
- Thin black card
- Door knob

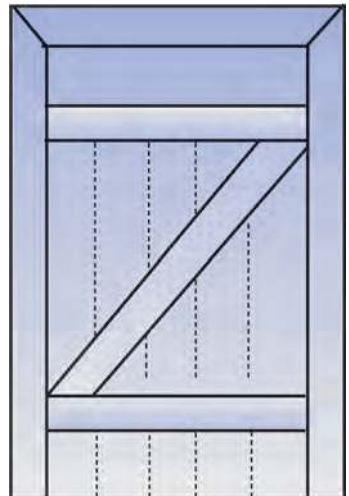
10 Glue the fireplace to one of the walls.

Bedroom door

1 Cut door from pattern.

Glue to a larger piece of mat board.

2 Score at 1/2" intervals from top to bottom of the door. Add 1/2" wide strips





of mat board to the top and the two sides.

3 Add further 1/2" strips to door as shown in diagram. Trim all edges level.

4 Paint. When dry, add a tiny square of thin black card and centre the door knob on this. A bead or top of a paper clip can be used for the handle.

Bedroom curtains

1 Cut a strip of wood the same width as your window and 1" wide. Cut a strip of curtain material 1 1/4" wide and pleat in

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Pretty pleater
- 100% cotton fabric
- Wood scraps
- Embroidery silk
- White glue or spray starch

the large size pleater using alternate ridges. Spray with starch or brush with diluted white glue. Dry.

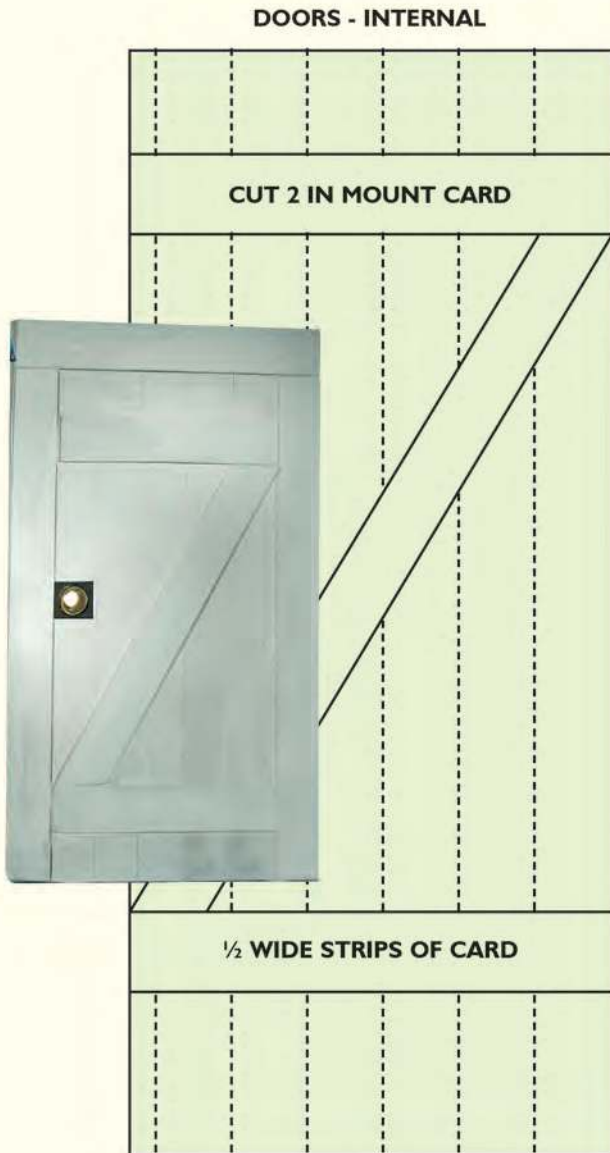
2 Glue another strip of material slightly narrower than 1 1/4" to the back of the pleats. Remove carefully when it is dry and press the pleats so they are nice and flat

3 Glue the pleated strip to the pelmet, wrapping around the ends of the wood. Glue a folded strip of material to the top of the pelmet to hide the edges of the pleats and glue the finished pelmet to the top of the window.

4 Pleat material to fit the rest of the window. Braid some embroidery thread to make tiebacks and glue all in place.

Don't forget to add all of your window and door trim. Then the floor molding after you install the floor .

Pattern:



Light shade

1 Table tennis balls can be cut with sharp scissors. Use sandpaper to remove

any rough edges. You should be able to remove any black writing by wiping it with acetone.

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Table tennis ball
- Black indelible felt tip
- Colored felt tips
- Jewelry finding
- Crochet thread
- Needle
- Scissors

2 Using the type of felt tip that writes on plastic, draw a pattern on the half table tennis ball. Fill in shapes with colored felt tip markers or hand-paint it.

3 Make a hole in the center top with a hot needle. Glue jewelry finding with a central hole over this.

4 Next, knot a piece of fairly thick thread and pass it through a large eyed needle.

5 Pass the thread up from the inside of the ball through the jewelry finding and then through another jewelry finding.

6 Secure the thread with a knot and glue it and jewelry finding to the center of a ceiling rose or straight on to the ceiling.

Make another one in a different style for the kitchen if you like!

THE mini SCOOP

■ AM's news page is devoted to keeping busy miniaturists up to speed. Please submit items of mini interest to auralea@ashdown.co.uk or to *American Miniaturist* - Mini Scoop, PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944.

Hobby Builders Supply/miniatures.com announces 2020 Creatin' Contest Kit

This year's kit, The Corner Place (#92020), is an open room box for unlimited ideas! This unique setting has multiple options for customizing. The windows and door (included) may be installed from either side, and the stair unit can be used at any point along the raised platform, which offers great design flexibility and takes the scene to a whole new level.

This unique setting has multiple options for customizing. The windows and door (included) may be installed from either

side, and the stair unit can be used at any point along the raised platform. The Corner Place kit is made of high quality MDF with whitewood component. Each kit includes easy assembly instructions and measures 14-1/16"W x 14-3/8"H x 12-1/8"D.

Grand prize for the Creatin' Contest is a \$1,000 Hobby Builders Supply/miniatures.com gift certificate, as well as the cover photo of the March 2021 catalog.

Three runner-up gift certificates will be awarded (\$500, \$300, \$200), plus other awards for honorable mentions and select first-time entrants. Every entrant receives a thank you prize. Entries are due by December 18, 2020, and the winner will be announced by mid-February 2021.



Congratulations

One of our contributors, Hubert Lengdorfer was invited to exhibit at the Palais Schönborn-Batthyány in Vienna at the Friday nights with Yury Revich show on March 13th. We wish him a fantastic show!

Giveaway contributions

If you would like to be considered to have your products featured for our giveaways with your link mentioned please email the editor at auralea@ashdown.co.uk.



WHERE'S ARTHUR CONTEST

Arthur was found on page 70 hiding in the library in the January issue (AM201). We have randomly selected **McKenzie** from **Montezuma, NM** to be our winner for this month's Where's Arthur contest. We will be sending her a very special prize for

helping us find Arthur.

But as you know Arthur loves to roam through each page and, as expected, he has once again wandered off while we weren't looking. Hopefully you can help us find him

March Highlights contest



We would love to know what your favorite highlights were in this issue of *AM*. You could win this 1:12 scale tulip kit by Angie Scarr. All it takes is a written paragraph for this random drawing!

Send your entry to March Highlights contest, *American Miniaturist*, PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944. You may also send your

entries via email to auralea@ashdown.co.uk. Please be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and email address.

1:24 chair kit giveaway

Enter to win this fabulous 1:24 chair kit donated by Red Cottage Miniatures. Learn more by visiting www.redcottageminiatures.com



Contest entries

To be eligible for the listed contests/giveaways please indicate the **name of the contest/giveaway** and **AM issue number** and send your entry to *American Miniaturist*, PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944, or email them to auralea@ashdown.co.uk. Please be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and email address. The deadline for this issue's entry is **Friday, March 20, 2020**.

Good luck!

Recent winners

January Highlights

Susan from, Apopka, FL

House kit giveaway

Elizabeth from, San Antonio, TX

Congratulations!

A little reminder. Please remember to add **ALL** of the required info in your contest entries so you can be considered for the drawings!



Be sure to like and follow *American Miniaturist* magazine on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

A miniature snapshot in time

Douglas Whitney made a miniature shop based on a shop he remembered while growing up

BY AM NORTH

Florida resident Douglas Whitney has an extensive background to enrich his interest in and enhance his creation of miniatures. As a design architect of record for thousands of buildings across 23 states in the USA, and with 39 years of experience as an architect in Maine and Florida, how could he miss?

He also built a speedboat in Maine, when he was 17.

He hand-painted all the 4' x 8' advertising signs for 25 advertisers for a Little League field when he was 1 and spent a year in London, England as a college student studying at the Architecture Association in Bedford Square. Minis had to be a snap.

As a child, Doug's first materials for creating miniature structures were found objects such as twigs and toothpicks,

and in adulthood, he evolved into building model kits and dollhouses as a hobby to while away the long Maine winters. His career as an architect and designer brought specialization in retail, healthcare, and senior living projects, but he also has designed everything from a go-kart track to a columbarium (a room or building with niches for funeral urns to be stored).

Somehow he has managed to keep miniatures incorporated into his life, primarily because he loves them. "I enjoy both the process of thinking through how to do things, and the satisfaction of the completion of each project," he remarked.

One of his notable pieces is the School Street Variety store, which came about from an ad for a contest, Real Good



Left: The miniature School Street Variety store won 3rd place in the Real Good Toys' General Store Challenge in 2019.

Toys' General Store Challenge in 2019, with a theme of Shops Across America. Doug immediately remembered a store which had been located across the street from his house in Danvers, Massachusetts in the 1960s, and he envisioned creating a replica of it as an ideal entry.

His successful interpretation of the store resulted in his winning a third place award. As a convenient shopping place for residents of the neighborhood for groceries and everyday staples, that small local store of his youth had been a vital spot in the community, and its re-creation emphasizes the fact that miniatures sometimes have an added validity by preserving a snapshot in time.

Doug started the project with a simple store kit that he adapted and customized for the replication, then he added the custom-made adjoining house to complement it, scaling down the footprint of the actual house to keep the size reasonable. While his original work is the dominant hallmark of the building, he did order the Coke signage decals from a licensed provider, and he also sought out and found unique store/grocery items and newspapers to place on the shelves.

The primary materials



used in the structure were wood and plastic. He implemented a drafting board to draw the lines of the wood clapboard siding, using a permanent marker in light gray, and a similar technique for the white lines of the blinds in the windows. Overall, it came out as he had hoped and envisioned.

His reason for undertaking the project was primarily for the sense of accomplishment, and he had fun finding an building the parts and pieces and imaging how they could all be assembled. Ultimately, his favorite part simply was enjoying looking at his duplication of the familiar storefront that once had been a familiar sight viewed from

Below: A look inside the School Street Variety store.

his living room windows so many years ago.

His parents and siblings were amazed and amused by his creation, since they all were familiar with the corner store depicted in the contest entry. He even consulted with the former owners of the original store, and worked from actual photographs of the building.

Inspiration seems to come easily to him. "I have a life-long habit of being observant and picking out the details and unusual aspects of the environment around us, and that I think is the key," he explained.

His workplaces are a carved-out portion of his ga-

Douglas consulted with the former owners of the store. Then he used actual photographs of the building from his past for reference.



rage, a hobby room at home, and sometimes his kitchen table where he can do repetitive detail work like adding shingles to a roof. There are special items he finds most valuable to use, declaring his adjustable radial arm saw to be his favorite power tool, and his inexpensive reading glasses as essential for detailed work. He cites the biggest difficulty involved with working in miniature as size: "I try to look for projects that will not be too large when they are completed."

Doug doesn't sell his creations, preferring instead to give them as gifts. He has made a couple of items that he has chosen to keep - the

first two model classic car made of metal that he had built when he was a teenager. He also values a special collection - over 2,000 items of vintage metal toy soldiers with

dioramas from the 1930s-1940s and up to the 1970s.

His home life and career both encompass his passion for miniatures. "Model building has been a part of the design process with our company. We now, of course, have the ability to produce models in 3D using computer programs, but there is still something special about building a real three-dimensional model."

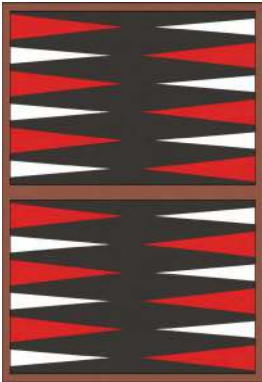
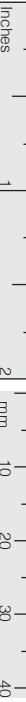
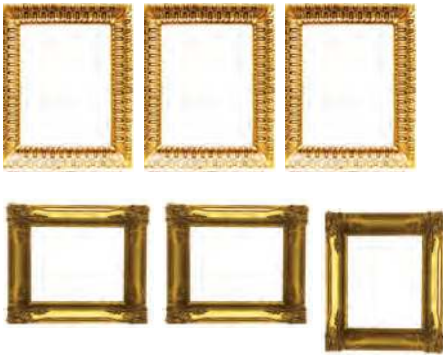
The future of miniatures seems bright in his estimation. "Building miniatures is like hand-drawing; it always will be something that is interesting and engaging."

New ideas beckon, and Doug admits to having a few projects lined up for the future, such as plans for upcoming dollhouses, when the timing is right and the spirit moves him.



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Easter card fronts, bunny ears for costume, frames, game board and wrapping paper or table cloth.





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- Dream Catcher
- Doughnuts

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- Quarter Scale Dolls
- Motorcycle Garage

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FEBRUARY 24-25

LAS VEGAS, NV

Announcing the annual wholesale miniature show in Las Vegas. International Market of Miniature Artisans website: IMOMALV.COM. February 24th & 25th 2020 at the Goldcoast Hotel & Casino, 4000 W Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV. Show times are 23rd (Setup, Sunday): 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, 24th (Show, Monday): 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, 25th (Show, Tuesday): 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Must register online or contact Cindy Gonzales for more information at IMoMA.LV@gmail.com. Come join the fun!

FEBRUARY 29 -MARCH 1

PHOENIX, AZ

Phoenix, Arizona Miniature Show & Sale on Saturday, February 29 & Sunday, March 1, 2020
Saturday show runs 9 AM to 5 PM, Sunday is from 11

AM to 4 PM. Show features a Sales room, exhibits, raffles benefiting charity, Door Prizes and a free "Make-and-take project for children ages 4 and older. Admission Adults \$8, Children under 12 \$2. Location Arizona State University - West Campus, 4701 West Thunderbird, Phoenix, Arizona 85069. For more Information visit: www.phoenixminiatures.com or call 480-466-9691 Email: phxminishow@gmail.com

MARCH 22

CLAYMONT, DE

Sunday, March 22, 2020, 10 AM- 4 PM. The First State Mini Club is offering its 43rd annual Show and Sale at the Crowne Plaza Wilmington North in Claymont, Delaware. Featuring about 50 vendor/artisan tables, exhibits, make-and-take, Saturday workshops, door prizes, free parking, no

taxes. Adults \$5, Children under 12 \$2.50. www.fistateminiclub.org for more information or email: fi_stateminiclub@gmail.com

MARCH 28

PARAMUS, NJ

2nd Annual GARDEN STATE DOLLHOUSE SHOW & SALE presented by Lorraine Scuderi & Karen Aird. Classes offered on Friday, March 27th from 8am - 5pm. To register for classes/workshops, please visit www.Karens-dollhouse.com or www.LorraineScuderi.com The show is Saturday, March 28th from 10am - 4pm at the Paramus Elks Lodge, 200 Route 17 North, Paramus, NJ 07652. Admission \$6.00. For further information, please visit our two websites or call Lorraine Scuderi at 732-216-4729 or Karen Aird's Dollhouse Shop at

UPCOMING SHOWS, AUCTIONS & EXHIBITS

908-766-3777. **Please Note: The Elks Lodge is Located Behind Raymor & Flanigan, Please turn into the Raymor & Flanigan parking, as the Elks Lodge is behind the store.

APRIL 11 **CARMEL, IN**

Museum of Miniature Houses HUGE ATTIC SALE!
Saturday, April 11, 2020, 9am to 3pm. Carmel Lions Club, 141 E. Main St., Carmel, Indiana. Location is just next door to the Museum. Dollhouses, room boxes, furniture & accessories. 100's of kits this year! H.O.M., Chrysnbon, Scientific, Shenandoah Come to the Museum, too, for more great Attic Sale bargains.

MAY 17 **CLEVELAND, OH**

2020 Greater Cleveland Dollhouse & Miniature

Show & Sale, Sunday May 17, 2020, 10am – 4pm. Show will be held at Willoughby Hills Community Center, 35400 Chardon Rd. (Rte. 6) Willoughby Hills, OH 44094. This is an eastern suburb, just off I-271 & I-90 (use the local lanes of I-271, not the Express). Admission: \$5, children 4-12 \$2, under 4 Free. Raffles, Cu tomer Appreciation Gifts, Special sales table for kids 12 & under. Snacks are available at the show! For more information, email minicellar@sbcglobal.net or wsmale@windstream.net or see our website at www.cleveland-miniatureshow.com Show benefits Rainb w Babies & Children's Hospital.

JUNE 13 **MOORESVILLE, NC**

7th Annual Mooresville North Carolina Miniatures Show and Sale will be held June 13, 2020 from 10

am - 4 pm at the Hampton Inn and Suites, 119 Gallery Center Drive, Mooresville, NC 28117. Contact Maria for more information including workshops at 704-230-0569 or via email at MariaCanz01@aol.com

AUGUST 9 **FOGELSVILLE, PA**

Lehigh Valley Miniatures Club 43rd Annual Dollhouse & Miniatures Show and Sale, will be held at The Holiday Inn/Delta, 7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville, PA 18031. Exit 49A off I-78 onto Rt. 100 South. 10 am – 4 pm. \$5.00 Adults (4.50 with coupon), \$1.00 children under 12. Show info: Karen Barone, 561-596-6855, kbarone0117@live.com. website: www.lehighvalleyminiatures.com

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Homemade furniture

Add some furniture to your little cottage

BY JOAN KEY

I have provided some basic patterns to make furniture for your little cottage. It is up to you to take each piece to the next level with your creativity.

Bed

1 Cut head and foot board to 2 1/2" x 1 3/4".

2 Glue a newel post to each side making the head and foot of each bed.

3 Cut two 1/2" x 6 1/2" strips of card (2) and glue to each side of (1) about 1 1/2" from the floor level. Cut a base 6" by just over 3" wide and glue across two pieces that are 6 1/2" x 1/2".

4 If you do not have turned newel posts use

1/4" square pieces of wood, approximately 3 1/2" long.

5 Decorate with fl w-ers. Add bedclothes. The bedspread shown was made from strips of cotton lace machined together and hemmed along cut edges.

Wardrobe

1 Cut pieces from pattern. Glue top (3), bottom (3), sides (2), front (1), and back (1) together.

2 Add 3" wide strips of card around edges and two pieces at center.

3 Punch out some circles of card with a paper punch and use as handles or use beads or proper handles. Paint and decorate with fl w-ers.

Hutch

1 For the top part of hutch, cut two pieces of (1) making one slightly larger than the other.

2 Glue together. Allow the larger piece to protrude at sides and front. Glue top (1), sides (2) and back (6) together. Insert a strip off-shaped card (8) at the top.

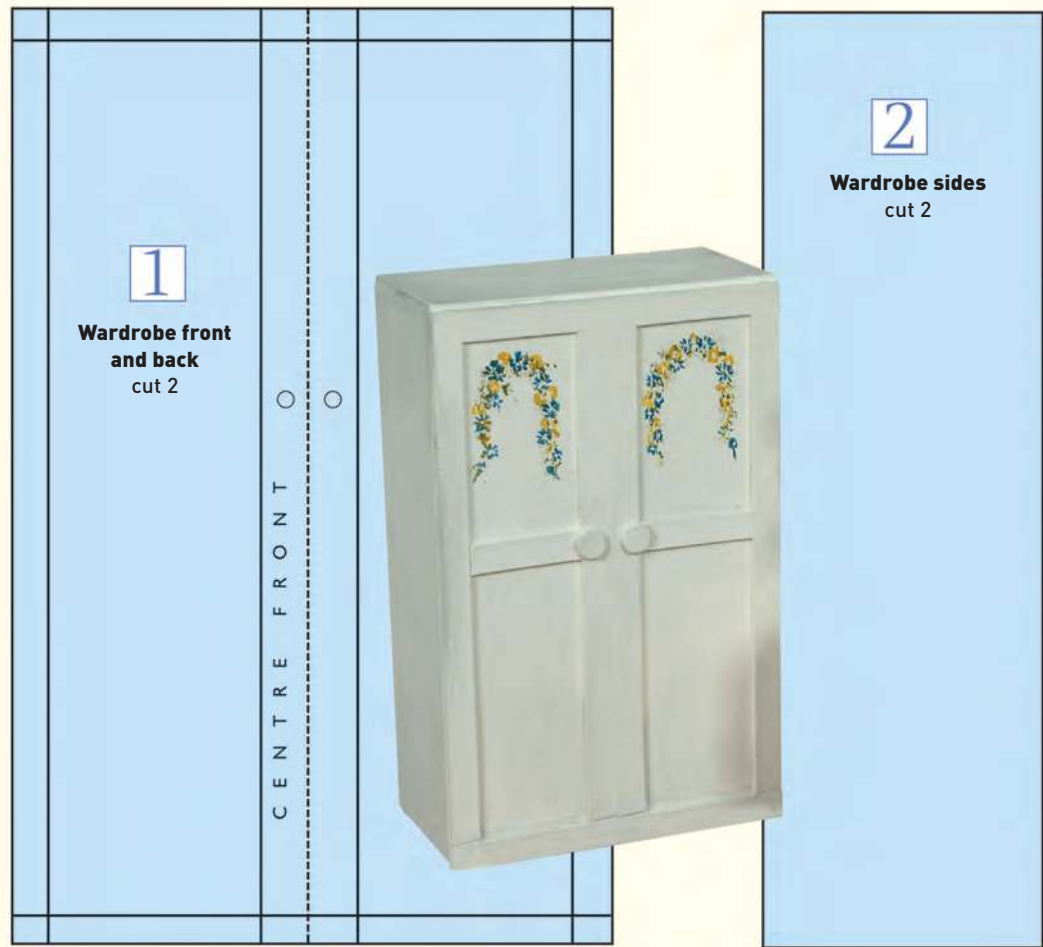
Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Mat board
- 4 newel posts
- White glue
- Acrylic paint
- Felt tips
- Beads
- Thin card



Pattern:



3 Glue 8" strips of card at shelf height and glue your shelves to these for extra strength.

4 Base of dresser – glue top (5), sides (4) and base (7) together, keeping base 4" from the bottom.

5 When dry, glue this to the bottom part of the



PROJECT



Pattern:

1

Hutch top
cut 1 slightly larger

3

Hutch shelves
cut 2

7

Hutch bottom shelf

9

Base trim
cut 1 in thin card

6

Hutch back
cut 1 in mat board

Top trim
cut 1 in thin card

8



Pattern:

5

Top of hutch base
cut 2

2

Hutch sides
cut 2

Sides of hutch base
cut 2

4

back (6). Add shaped card strip (9) the top of the front of the base.

6 Paint. The one shown was painted with cream and then color washed with diluted green.

Kitchen table

1 Cut table top from pattern using mat board. Paint the edges green.

2 Glue a piece of veneer to the top (or leave plain and paint the top). Glue spindles one at each corner, 1/4" in from the edges. Glue 1/2" strips of mat board between the spindle tops. Paint and give it a color wash.

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- 4 banister spindles
- Mat board
- Scrap of wood strip flooring
- Paint

3 Mark the table top with a few miniature cup ring stains and splodges using acrylic paint.

4 The jars on the top shelf are made from beads and paper clips.

5 Card plates are covered with magazine cut outs. Jars on the second shelf are made from plastic siphoning tube, two with material tops and three with rounds of baked Fimo glued on.



Pattern:



Table top
cut 1 from mat board and
1 from veneer

The rocking chair is a Chrysnbon kit, the kitchen light was made from half a table tennis ball.

Baking tins, coffee jug, etc., are a Chrysnbon kit and, although a little on the expensive side, they are very neat and attractive. The mixing bowl was purchased as was the sacks at the bottom of the dresser.

The kettle is made from Fimo and garden wire. The packet of flour is a scrap of white paper with blue lines drawn on and wrapped around a small piece of foam core.

The white containers on the dresser are pieces of dowelling covered with embossed wallpaper. The lids are the plastic caps used to cover screw heads. The towel over the back of the rocking chair is a piece of crepe bandage with felt tip lines drawn on, and the tea towels are white cotton lawn with blue lines drawn on them.

The loft is filled with odds and ends from other projects; boxes made from card, rolls of wallpaper and cutouts. My little friend, Amber, made the mice in

the attic. The old lady is made from Puppenfimo using a Push Mold. Have fun making your cottage!



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