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April 2020



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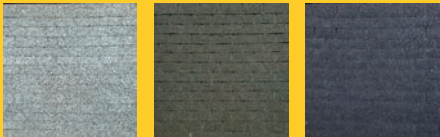
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ISSUE 204

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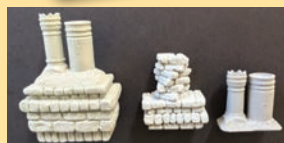
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SMALL DETAILS

April 2020 ☆ Issue 204

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Toll Free: 1-866-606-6587

Or write to: PO Box 219
Kasson, MN 55944

Email:
info@americanminiaturist.com

Website:
www.americanminiaturist.com

Editor: Auralea Krieger
auralea@ashdown.co.uk

Publisher: Kelly Johnson
kelly@ashdown.co.uk

Advertising Sales Team
adsales@ashdownmagazines.com

Design: Auralea Krieger
Ad Design: Steven Parker

On the cover: Sophie Dalton

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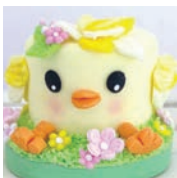
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WELCOME



R recently I lost the use of my right arm from an injury and couldn't work on my builds. Let me tell you I was going in circles trying to figure out what to do instead. I have always known that the importance of creating was close to breathing for me. But stubborn as I am I had to force myself to heal. I took the time to do small tasks like put together simple kits that were piling up. I cleaned up a few houses and moved some things around. I started taking longer walks and hikes. Until finally, I was able to start building again.

It made me realize how dependent I was on my right arm! So now I try to put my left arm to work as well. I have been training myself to be ambidextrous, just incase. Now I'm back to making minis. As you can see above, I finished a custom order for a mini elf version of me! I will admit that was a weird sculpt to create.

Now that spring is here there will be more time in the garden and less time in the miniatures studio. Unless I decide to make a miniature world in the garden. After seeing Sophie's amazing spring gardens in this issue, I may just do that.

I hope you all have a magical spring and are inspired by the exceptional work from our contributors in this issue. They never cease to amaze me and always inspire me!

Auralea Krieger, Editor
auralea@ashdown.co.uk

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Flaky croissants

For that ideal breakfast scene in your dollhouse

BY TANJA JENSEN

Scale = 1:12

Croissants are one of my favorites for breakfast and brunch – how can you say no to such a beautifully flaky, golden treat? So let's make some for that perfect miniature breakfast scene.

1 Mix the clay for your 'dough'. You want a pale, light buttery color with even amounts of white and translucent (slightly more white) but be careful of too much yellow — add very small quantities at a time.

2 Create the shape of a 'chubby banana' 10–12mm in length depending on your preference.



3 Roll out a thin sheet of your 'dough' and cut layers similar to what's shown in the picture. Then add these to the 'banana shape', starting with the widest, and cut off excess.

4 Using the needle tool, make lines to create the look of the layers of the puff

Materials:

- Polymer clay - white, translucent, Ecru, yellow
- Cutting knife or blade
- Clay rolling pin or pasta machine
- Fine needle tool
- Pointed silicone tool (a gum massager)
- Acrylic paint - Raw Sienna, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber
- Gloss varnish
- Small paint brushes

pastry and use the silicone tool to create a slightly bumpy texture on the 'flat' surfaces (you can also use a piece of crumpled up tin foil for this). Then bake according to the instructions on your clay package.

1



2





5 After baking, add a thin layer of the Raw Sienna to the flat surfaces on the croissants, as well as on some of the lines created with the needle tool. Then mix together Raw Sienna, Burnt Sienna and a small amount of Burnt Umber and go over the lines as well as parts of the flat surfaces — wherever you'd like, to give them a more baked/ crisp appearance.

Then finish off by dabbing on a small amount of gloss glaze, just enough to give them a sheen, and your croissants are ready to serve. Visit www.sugar-charmshop.dk.

editor picks from Instagram

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



miniproperty developer

This miniaturist shares her collection of miniatures.

hornerjen

Enjoy looking though an amazing miniature collection and handmade pieces.



monkeygstudio

Amazing jointed miniature dolls that are hand-sculpted.

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

I'm always excited when my new issue of *American Miniaturist* arrives in the mail. I appreciate the difficulty of working in small scale, and I absolutely adored Regina Bryant's work. The baking table with the pink mixer is darling. All the fine details in her pieces are exquisite.

Thank you

Thank you for the lovely surprise I found when I went to the post office today! I woke up with a cold, but my day was instantly brightened when I found such sweet surprise for finding Arthur. Thank you once again for the surprise and all the work put into *AM* magazine that I look forward to every month!

Joan from Sterling, MA



The gypsy wagon by Bruce and Judy Steinke is so cute and even though tiny, fits everything one would need on the road!

Being from North Carolina, I am familiar with drug store soda fountains. Lauren Cooper's is spot on! I love the photo of the drug store's mural next to the life-size version – complete with red pick-up truck! What a great idea to use sand paper for the bricks.

I find working with fabrics challenging, so I appreciated Auralea Krieger's tips, and I have to concur about the vintage handkerchiefs. I haven't had the heart to cut mine either!

I like that the magazine always teaches me something new. I had never heard

of encaustic hot wax, so I enjoyed learning about it and seeing Hazel Rayfield's gorgeous paintings.

The tutorials and lovely photographs are fun to see and great inspiration that I look forward to with each new issue.

Dina from Raleigh, NC

Past winner

Thank you so much for the gift I received as the winner of the Highlights for January. I am thrilled to have this precious Irina Martin doll. I love *American Miniaturist* magazine and anxiously await its arrival each month. There is so much in each issue that it is hard to pick out the stories and tutorials I like the most. Thank you again for this gift.

Susan from Apopka, FL

Highlights

Each month I look forward to my subscription of *AM* popping through the door, I don't think you can beat an actual physical copy to sit and read. I cannot say I have ever been disappointed with a single issue!

If I had to choose, tutorials would be my highlight and for this February what a treat! Valentines cakes, brownies, heart mobiles to name but a few. My favorite however



had to be the unique little Valentines wreath! Its so different and I will definitely be giving that one a go!

Natalie from United Kingdom

Favorite article

One of my favorite articles in the February issue is the



“Master maker in the mini kitchen” on page 16. Maria designs such amazing food, it's hard to tell that it's not real! I especially like all the detail that she puts into it, like the crumbs on the tray with the muffins. The detail is just amazing!

Another one of my favorites is on page 22, “Let's visit a vintage drug store”. I love all of the details from the checkered flooring to the counter and vintage signs. She even has the pharmacists diplomas posted! All the detail on the outside too, from the old time car, to the bike and bench. Very cool!

It's really hard to pick just one favorite. There's so many talented artists!

Susan from Weyauwega, WI

Small on Houses Big on Family

Gail Hart's family has been involved with miniatures since she was a child

When Gail Hart won a dollhouse in a raffle when she was a child little did she realize where it would lead. Her mother made all the furniture for it and, when Gail was 16, mom opened a miniature shop, Miniature World, where Gail often worked doing demonstrations and building houses. When the shop was sold her mother began selling her own creations at shows.

Gail said: "In 2008 my daughters started college and we took the internet plunge opening a shop on Etsy in order to help pay for college. We now own a laser and 3D printer and are designing our own line of smaller scale houses and furniture."

Gail's focus now is primarily on designing and producing the 1/48th and 1/144th house kits.

She said: "Having been a part of a shop and knowing what the customer would



need to finish the house, it was important to me to have everything included in the kits.” She even designs all of her own wallpapers.

The newest house is the St. Beckham Victorian, named after a recent addition to the family — grandson Beckham Rockne. Last year’s house was named after granddaughter, Harper Grace.



“Gail’s focus now is primarily on designing and producing the 1/48th and 1/144th house kits.”

“I have wanted to design a Gothic Victorian for a while,” Gail said. “I needed to come up with a way to deal with the octagonal tower and roof line that would be easy for the customers to do. I believe I have accomplished it.

“There is a small amount of sanding and you do need to follow the directions in order, but I am happy with the final design. I added the extra details to the wrap around porch, railings, gingerbread, bay window, and interior staircases.”

Hart’s Desire Miniatures currently offer twelve 1/48th scale houses and thirteen 1/144th along with four styles of furniture in both sizes: Victorian, traditional, country and modern. They also carry twelfth scale furniture and accessories.



GETINTOUCH:

Hart’s Desire Miniatures

Email: hartsds@aol.com

Etsy: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/HartsDesireMinis>

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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!

Easter dessert

Roll into spring with a twist on the traditional carrot cake

BY SADIE BROWN



MEET THE MAKER: Sadie Brown

"Passionate about bringing the world of small scale to as wide an audience as possible, I created my first miniature from clay more than 25 years ago. Living on the Isle of Skye in Scotland, home provides a constant source of creativity and inspiration!"



Every Easter feast scene will need a fun dessert. Follow along and add this tasty looking cake to your miniature party!

1 Mix 1 part white clay with 1 part translucent, adding Golden Ochre, Dark Cadmium Orange and brown grated pastel until you have a shade you feel happy represents a carrot cake base color.

2 Roll the base color out to around 2mm in thickness. Repeat with a ball of white clay the same size. Cut an oblong from the base color mixture and a slightly shorter oblong from the white clay. Place the white clay on top of the base color and roll into a tube 8mm in diameter. Place in the freezer for a few minutes, allowing the clay to harden up before removing and cutting a 1.3cm length.

3 Use a sewing pin or needle tool to texture the

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Polymer clay - white, orange, Sunflower Yellow, brown, Apple Green
- Pastels - Golden Ochre, brown, Dark Cadmium Orange, white
- Metallic acrylic paint - gold, Mother of Pearl, Bronze, green
- Sculpey Bake & Bond
- Small paintbrushes
- Cutting knife
- Old butter knife
- Roller
- Old toothbrush
- Sewing pin or needle tool
- Small ball tool
- Matte varnish
- All-purpose glue
- Self-adhesive landscape flower tuft (yellow)

cake at each end, taking care to avoid the cream cheese filling. Use an old toothbrush to add a little texture to the 'outside' of the cake.

4 Mix some orange polymer clay with a very tiny amount of brown. Make tiny holes in both the ends and 'outside' of the cake



roll, adding tiny pieces of 'carrot' with a pin or needle tool. Bake the cake and allow to cool thoroughly.

5 Use an old butter knife to mix Sculpey Bake & Bond or similar with white clay, creating a cream cheese consistency. Use a pin or needle tool to spread the mixture across the top of the cake roll. Grate a little white pastel over the cake.

6 Mix Apple Green clay with Sunflower Yellow

and brown to create a color which replicates that of pistachio nuts. Add a little additional brown to half the mix to create a slightly darker shade. Take a small piece of the lighter mixture and put to one side. Roll both pieces of clay out to around 2mm in thickness and brush one side of each with a Golden Ochre/brown grated pastel mixture before baking. Once cooled, cut into tiny little nut pieces and sprinkle liberally over the cake's cream cheese topping.

7 Create two tone rose petals by putting a tiny ball of orange clay with an equal size ball of Sunflower Yellow clay, blending the two together while still retaining the two separate colors. Repeat until you have enough petals for a single rose. Flatten the balls of clay with a fingernail and use a needle tool to carefully lever each petal from your work-surface. Roll one petal into a cone shape. This will form the central core of the flower.

8 Add the other petals around the center core of the rose until you are happy with the size and shape of the overall flower. Next, take a 2mm ball of orange clay and roll into a carrot shape. Use a small ball tool to flatten the top of the carrot, creating a tiny round hollow. Next, roll the side of a needle tool around the carrot to create natural markings all the way up and add a small ball of brown clay, flattened with a fingernail to the hollow in the top. Roll a thin rope from

the green clay put to one side in step 6 and cut three small lengths, putting them together and sticking them to the top of the carrot with a little Bake & Bond. Add both this and the rose to the top of the cake.

9 Roll a selection of very tiny eggs from some spare clay and bake alongside the cake, which needs to be returned to the oven at this point to bake the cream cheese topping and decorations. After allowing everything to cool, paint the

eggs with acrylic paints in a variety of metallic shades such as gold, Mother of Pearl, Bronze and green.

10 Once the eggs have dried thoroughly, use all-purpose glue to stick them to the top of the cake. Coat the cake with matte varnish, add more grated white pastel if required, and allow to dry before adding a small piece of self-adhesive landscape flower tuft to complete the look.

Happy Easter!

A miniature pet

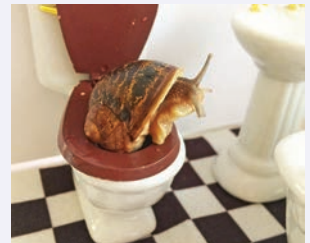
Change your mind about snails by giving them a mini play ground

April from Reno, NV discovered the wonderful world of minis after deciding to photograph her pet snail engaged in human-like activities! Meet, Simon, an active snail who now has lots of interesting things to explore.

Having a snail as a pet is an up and coming pastime and using miniatures as a play ground for exploring is a must! But there is much to know



about caring for snails so if you decide to adopt one be sure to do your online research so you can care for them properly.



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Fairies in the woodland

An Australian backyard filled with trees and wildlife hides a secret world filled with joy and enchanting gardens

BY DEB WEISSLER

Somerset England-born Sophie Dalton has always adored gardens. Brought up on a farm with a huge walled garden and acres of woodland to roam, her childhood was filled with secret worlds to create and explore.

Her surroundings, along with beloved books like *The Famous Five* series by Enid Blyton, Frances Hodgson Burnett's *Secret Garden*, Cicely Barker's *Flower Fairies* and Beatrix Potter's enchanting cast of animal characters, has inspired Sophie's love for

outdoor fairy gardens.

Since recorded time, man has been fascinated by the world of fey. Many ancient cultures believed in spirits that dwelled in the trees, rocks, water and plants around them. As cultures developed, these spirits evolved into tangible forms like fairies, sprites, brownies, and gnomes in legends and folk tales.

As villages and cities formed, man relied on hunting and home gardens for sustenance. Their gardens contained both edible and

medicinal plants and part of any medicinal garden included plants that people believed would keep evil spirits away.

The gardens eventually attracted fairies and in order to keep the fairies happy, in hopes they would bring good luck, gardeners started planting things that they believed

Below left: Miniature gardener Sophie Dalton. **Below:**

Everything you see growing in these tiny gardens is real!

Right: Her backyard is full of tubs, wheelbarrows and other containers, each holding a small magical world.



the fairies enjoyed.

Gardening for fairies continues to evolve, but the goal remains the same-- keep the fairies coming and make them happy. "I make outdoor miniature fairy gardens using real plants and real dwarf trees," Sophie points out. "I like to think this is where fairies come when they go on vacation!"

We buy the houses but





Above: Bunnies are working hard in their little garden!

make many of our own wooden fences, trellis, doors, paths, gates etcetera.”

Sophie’s first foray into fairy gardening began as a project with her daughter some years ago. That first project touched some hidden memory of childhood’s enchanted spaces and the pair became hooked.

“Most of our gardens are done up in pots. We love using recycled containers; some as tiny as a teacup while others as big as vintage bathtubs. I’ve lost count of how many gardens we have –perhaps 40 by now.”





Each garden plan is carefully thought out, then accessories are collected and plants bought. “We don’t place fairy figurines in our gardens, apart from some animals,” Sophie explains. “I like the viewers to imagine themselves immersed into the garden scene rather than a figurine telling the story.” She refers to their style of fairy gardening as ‘rustic woodland’.

“Here in Melbourne, it is famous for having four seasons in one day. We can have baking heat and hailstones all within a few hours!” Sophie says. “I can only use miniatures that will withstand living permanently outside. Resin, plastic, wood and

“It is also a constant challenge protecting the gardens from birds and wildlife.”

metal all need to be sealed and then often repaired and repainted when they break or fade. It is also a constant challenge protecting the gardens from birds and wildlife. It certainly isn’t dull working with miniatures outside!”

For Sophie, fairy gardening is cathartic. As a registered nurse who cares for breast cancer patients on a surgical ward, gardening is a huge stress reliever after the horrors

Above: A lovely little manor with a fountain. Makes you want to jump on the bike and ride in circles while enjoying the garden.

of reality. She can lose herself for hours planting, rearranging, crafting, painting and dreaming of fairy realms.

“It’s hard to be grumpy when you’re outdoors creating. I would love to be out in the garden more and making miniatures and feel frustrated when I can’t. It’s so important for mental well-being to have that balance of home, work and creativity.

My daughter is my biggest fan. Gardening keeps her outside in the fresh air, off her iPad and it’s a great common interest we share. She is in her

teenage years now, but has a big love of plants and the windowsill of her bedroom is filled with greenery.”

Sophie usually starts with a container she admires and chooses one key element like a bench, structure or statue around which she builds her garden. The fun part is planning the scene and the story it tells, choosing the right plants and envisioning it in her head before planting begins.

She loves how a living garden changes over time – growing, spreading out and giving a real life aspect. It’s very tempting to let them grow wild and out of control





Above: A gardener's patio.

before them pruning back again. "I think my husband worries we will run out of room in our backyard!" Sophie laughs.

In addition to the challenges of weather, Sophie's greatest challenge is finding plants that will grow and stay small in order to work well with 1:24 and 1:48 scale. "I particularly love flowering plants and it's especially hard to find tiny blooms.

My biggest thrill is finding new dwarf and miniature plants that I can use and I utilize lots of ground covers and bonsai starters."





Above: Bright orange blooms add excitement and romance.

Sophie belongs to The Miniature Garden Society run by Janit Calvo, renowned author of *Gardening in Miniature* and owner of an on-line miniature gardening store in the US. “It’s an amazing source of information for miniature and fairy gardeners, plants choices, seasonal care of gardens, indoor gardening, accessories and tutorials, as well as an on-line forum to share information, ask advice and meet other mini gardeners from all over the world.”

Although Sophie says folks don’t quite understand what miniature gardening is







Above: A small fox visiting a blooming 'tree'. **Above right:** An Easter patio scene in 1:12 scale.



all about, as more and more people transition to apartment and condo living, backyards and gardens are becoming smaller, lives get busier, and people have neither the space nor the time to devote to large scale gardening.

Miniature and fairy gardening are perfect, even in the smallest containers and require minimal maintenance. Best of all, they can be combined with indoor miniatures and live plants.

Despite the challenges, Sophie loves seeing the look on viewers' faces when they

see one of her miniature gardens for the first time and smile. "It takes people to a different world. Miniaturists often create their own surroundings as replicas in miniature. For me, the gardens I

create are pure fantasy and I can only dream about having these gardens and imagine myself getting lost in one of these little secret worlds."

Visit Sophia on Instagram @minifairygarden!



Auricula display

Display your mini flowers all in a row

BY AMANDA WILSON

Auriculas were first seen in gardens in and around Europe during the mid-sixteenth century. The first known illustration of this plant was drawn for the director of the botanic garden in Padua, Italy, and in England John Gerard, a well-known garden designer, knew and used a few varieties in his gardens.

The auricula became very popular and was grown by the rich as well as more humbler folk, throughout the 18th and

19th centuries. They usually flower in late April or May with lovely velvety flowers in numerous colors.

Although they are hardy plants, they don't like wet conditions when they are flowering. So for this reason the idea of the theatre, a wall mounted wooden shelf unit with its own tiled roof became popular for displaying the plants when in flower.

During the Victorian period when the auricula was at its most popular, flower shows were organized in towns and villages,

Materials:

Scale = 1:12

- Basswood
- Thin brown cardboard
- Scissors or knife
- Paper punches - small flower and leaf
- Colored papers
- Green paper
- Acrylic paint - white, yellow
- Florist wire
- White glue
- 9 x small flower pots
- Foam or plasticine for flower base
- Dirt - dried tea leaves

and miners and weavers especially in the North of England would carry their auricula theatres on their





backs to the shows.

Societies were set up with members from all backgrounds and it is through these groups that the auricula has survived and has expanded with many new varieties of both the edged

and self-colored auriculas and the modern doubles.

Display shelf

1 Cut out the pieces as per diagram.

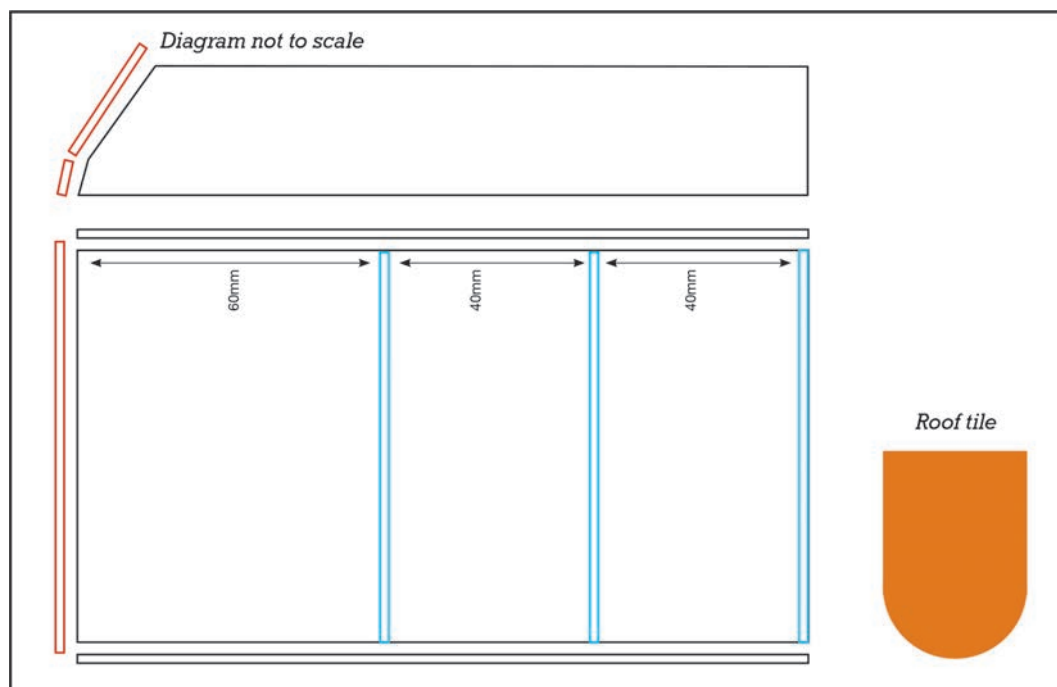
Back: Cut 1 - 75mm x 140mm

Sides: Cut 2 - 25mm x 1340mm

Shelves: Cut 3 - cut 3 - 22mm x 75mm

Support strips: Cut 3 - cut 3 - 3mm x 75mm

Roof pieces: 82mm x 25mm - 82mm x 8mm



15



Roof tiles: Use diagram to trace and cut 22 tiles from thin cardboard

2 Paint or stain all of the pieces. Leave to dry thoroughly.

3 Mark where the shelves are to be glued on the back piece. Mark 40mm up from the bottom edge and 80mm.

4 Glue side pieces to the edge of the back – make sure they are at right-angles.

5 Glue the shelves in place.

6 Glue the roof pieces across the top edge.

7 Add roof tiles.

To make the plants

8 Punch out the flowers – you will need 6 punches for each plant.

9 Paint white circles on flowers. Let dry. Put a dot of yellow in the center.

10 When completely dry, put the flowers on to an eraser and make an indentation in the center.

11 Glue five leaves together around a piece of florist wire, about 7mm down from the top.

12 Glue five leaves together around the top of the wire, leave to dry.

13 Spread open the top leaves and glue five flowers around edge of leaves and one in the center to make up the flower head.

14 Put foam flower base into each flower pot.

15 Spread white glue over top and sprinkle with earth.

16 Push one bloom into each pot.



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 cm 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!

A perfect summer day in miniature

Eva Perendreu makes a special miniature place to get away and relax

BY PAM NORTH

Eva Perendreu, an avid miniaturist in Barcelona, Spain, loves creating room boxes. She has always loved crafts, but began focusing on dollhouse miniatures about 15 years ago, using room boxes as the primary venue to display the many miniature items she had purchased.

In 2008, her discovery of polymer clay wrought a major change for her; she discovered that she could make many of the items herself. "When I see those first room boxes I made, I realize that I would do them completely differently now, but I just have to view them as part of my history," she recalled. "Miniatures are my passion. Thanks to them, I have traveled and have met wonderful people from many parts of the world and especially in my own country."

During the last several years, she has participated

Right: The room box shown in full in a small greenhouse.



as a seller in the Barcelona Miniature Show and the International Tom Bishop Show in Madrid, also open-air local markets and online miniature shows.

Eva's recent piece, *A Romantic Greenhouse*, was her entry in last September's contest at the Barcelona Miniature Show, and it reflected the theme of an enjoyable scene. "My idea was a greenhouse where one could escape from daily troubles," she explained. "It would be a warm and cozy place where the sun shines in, where one could work with flowers and gardening and smell the soil; a place to hide and heal if necessary, or read a book while seated in a comfortable chair. I found this lantern, white and distressed in finish, and I thought that,

Right: The table has a flower arranging scene in progress.



with some magic, it could become a beautiful and romantic miniature greenhouse. It actually is my second greenhouse, each totally different from one another."

She elaborated on the process she used. "The first step was to create the back wall and the floor, and I did both with foam. I sculpted the bricks, gave them texture and



Right: Eva made many of the flowers herself using paper.

then color for realism. The window limits the space for accessories in the back wall, but it also helps to create a better atmosphere. I really like its shape and that it's partially framed by the ivy.

I made many of the plants that are in the greenhouse: the hydrangea, wreath, gerbera, peonies, pansies, blue vine and ivy were made with paper. It is a small scene but transmits spring, smiles, and good vibes, don't you agree?"

She cites no formal training in her hobby, simply "just learning by doing." Currently working full-time in her job





Left: Eva sculpted foam for the flooring and the wall.

as a biologist, she has less free time as she would like to pursue her interest in miniatures, but she manages to enjoy her hobby and to improve in her creativity. “It’s not always easy combining real life and miniature-making, since my job often keeps me so busy, but I push to continue because it cheers me up and it keeps

my mind healthy.”

Now in a slightly slowed-down period in her regular job, she is concentrating on learning more about making miniatures, improving her techniques, and trying new things. “I love to do miniatures related to fantasy, fairy homes, trees with faces, parties in the forest. I love nauti-

cal themes, probably because I live close to the Mediterranean Sea, so I have room boxes and thematic displays with items related to the sea.

I also like cupcakes, carts, bakery tables, ponds, fountains, and everything that makes people smile. New challenges are the best to keep you fresh.”

‘I love to do miniatures related to fantasy, fairy homes, trees with faces, parties in the forest.’

“Inspiration is everywhere for me,” she continued, “in Pinterest, Instagram, miniature magazines, and certainly in daily life, because miniaturists always are thinking about how to recreate scaled-down objects or rooms!”

Her workplace is a combination of her craft room and her job office. “It’s completely white with a lot of natural light (in fact I have a window on the roof over my table). I am surrounded by lots of cabinets, some of them glass exhibition cabinets, full of my miniatures and my collected ones from other artisans.”



She said what she loves most about miniatures is “that one’s creativity has no limits,” and what she finds most difficult about working with them is the obvious, “The size!”

Eva’s work has been noted: she has won the contest in the Barcelona Miniature Show twice, with her *Gypsy Cart* (featured in AM141) and her *Chill-Out Beach Bar*; another time she won second place with her *Romantic Bedroom* (featured in AM143) and in an online contest she won third prize with her *Brocante Shop*.

As for what’s next for Eva and her creations, her plans include a very special Christmas room box, and to prepare new items for the Barcelona Mini Show in November 2020.



Doll dressing

Dress this stunning Edwardian lady

BY DANA



MEET THE MAKER: DANA Burton

"I live in Wisconsin and enjoy creating as well as teaching. I have been making miniature dolls for the past 30 years and love traveling around the world to share my knowledge through my workshops. I am excited to share with the readers of *American Miniaturist*!"



Greetings and welcome to my beautiful Carmina tutorial. This stunning Edwardian lady is sure to impress your miniature dollhouse visitors. Carmina is a very challenging tutorial specially designed for my more advanced doll making readers. There is a free online class for her, being held the end of April. Check my website for more information.

- 1** Paint your doll shoes in the desired color.
- 2** Assemble your doll using your preferred method and attach her to a doll stand.
- 3** Make a small tube of batiste and glue it on the doll tightly to cover the wire armature.
- 4** It is ESSENTIAL before you start, to cut out the 5 gores from a paper towel and test the length and girth of your own assembled porcelain doll for a maxi-

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Doll
- Doll stand
- Screen printed gold silk
- Gold silk taffeta
- Small cream lace
- Thick embroidery cream lace
- Dried tan flowers
- Red/black metallic roses from Mari Smith-Welch
- Green leaves
- Black heavy design lace trim
- 1/2 pearls for back buttons
- Netting
- Med brown viscose
- Aleene's Original Tacky Glue
- Pins
- Nail polish for shoes
- Matt white nail polish for gloves
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Knitting needle
- Doll assembly materials
- Doll draping board (macramé board)
- No-hole pearls
- Plant mister
- Wire nippers
- Flat iron
- Ruler
- Super Glue
- Corsage pin
- Mister
- Hair spray
- Needle and thread
- Alligator clip



mum close fit. I have given you 5 gores to fit a variety of (assembled doll shapes) but I only used 3.

Dress train

5 Cut out the train pattern from the silk material.

6 Cut out (2) 2" x 12" rectangles of the gold silk. Fold each rectangle in half and gather the tops to fit the bottom of the train.

7 Glue or sew the first strip under the train

material and the 2nd strip on the top as shown.

8 Put a line of glue on the top of the raw edge of the upper strip and then carefully overlap the train down on it for a nice finished edge.

9 Turn the side of the train to the wrong side and glue on, to finish the train.

10 Glue the train on the doll's butt and then pin to drape.

Dress

11 Cut out the gores from the silk material.

12 Glue the lace around the V upper bodice edges to finish.

13 Glue the gores together. There is no seam allowance in the pattern as I glue everything right to the edges. This joins and seals all in one step.

14 Lightly spread the glue on the front of the

Pattern:

Skirt
cut 1

A

Side front
cut 2

B

B

C-B

Back
cut 2
adjust if needed



doll's torso and let the glue almost dry (tacky).

15 Press the front of her dress to the Tacky Glue and let dry.

16 Glue one back edge of her dress, to her back for a nice tight fit.

17 Carefully turn the other edge to the wrong side and overlap. Then glue on her back to finish the back bodice. Let dry thoroughly.

18 Now take each side and hand pleat to her butt. Repeat on the other side of the dress.

Decoration

19 Piece cut lace for some decoration and glue over the raw edges on her dress.

20 At this point in dressing, I draped the train (skirt) even tighter and then sprayed it with a light mist of hair spray to hold the drapes in place.

21 Insert (glue) tiny scraps of lace in the folds or the creases of the train as desired for even more decoration detail.

Train insert

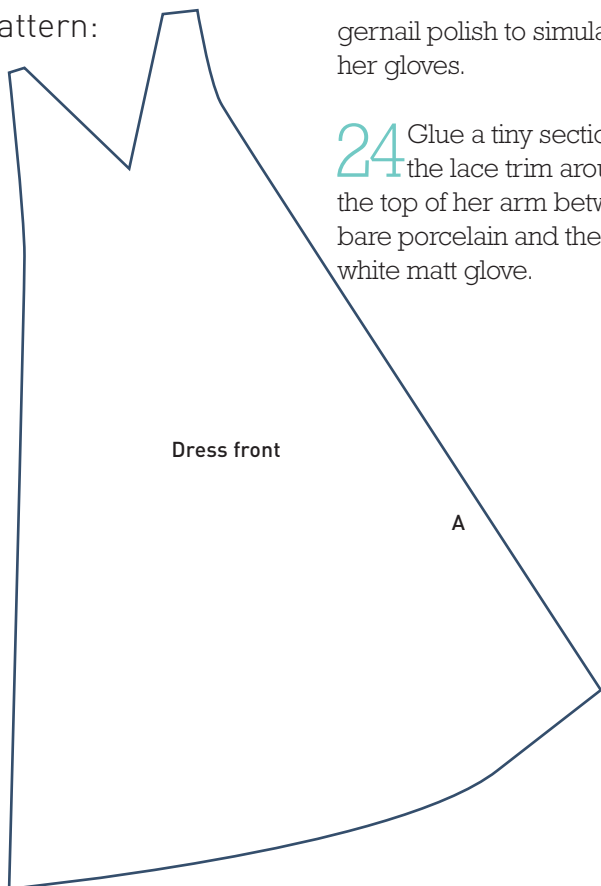
22 Cut a rectangle of 2" x 3" and fold down (and) glue like an accordion. Insert this under her train at the top to give more visual interest.

Sleeves

23 Paint the doll's arms with white matt fin-



Pattern:



garnail polish to simulate her gloves.

24 Glue a tiny section of the lace trim around the top of her arm between bare porcelain and the white matt glove.

25 Finish by gluing a small piece of lace around her arm joint until it resembles a sleeve.

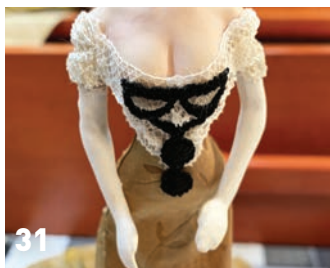
Train bow

26 Cut a 1 1/2" square and put glue in the middle and then let the glue dry until tacky.

27 Fold the top and the bottom edges to the middle and gently press into the glue.

28 Put a line of glue in the middle (vertically) and squeeze the center together with your tweezers until dry.

29 Wrap this pinched middle with gold silk ribbon to finish. Now glue



this bow on the top of your doll's train.

Front bodice

30 Cut small pieces of lace and glue across her front to fill in the V shaped gap.

31 Cut a black trim design and glue to her front for visual interest.

32 Piece cut a leaf design from embroidered lace and glue over the black trim to make the

design visually smaller.

33 Continue to decorate with flowers and beads as desired. My gorgeous flowers were created by Mari Smith-Welch.

Wigging

34 Glue a realistic hairline on the head.

35 Lay a strip of viscose from nose to neck.

36 Make a line of glue from ear to ear.

37 Lay a strip of viscose from ear to ear.

38 When hair/glue is completely dry, simply twist into a bun on the top of her head and pin in place. Add a bit of glue underneath to hold.

39 Add a few curls and decoration to soften her hairline.

That's it! Your gorgeous doll is now ready to showcase in front of a mirror or grand

entry way. I hope you enjoyed making Carmina with me and as always, Creating!

DanaBurton.com



American Miniaturist want to hear from all our valued readers!

We at *American Miniaturist* magazine would love to have your opinion to help us improve our publication. Your input will ensure that we continue to provide our best ideas and news for our readers.

Please take time to answer the questions we have provided and email them to joan.mckenzie10@gmail.com or mail your answers to PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944.

Please number your answers to correlate with the survey questions on a separate piece of paper or in your email.

Because we know how valuable your time is, just by answering our questions, or by submitting a suggestion, you will automatically be entered into our contest to win one of the 5 donated miniature gifts shown.

The winning names will be randomly drawn using the name of the subscriber who has returned either suggestions or answers to the questions below. Five winners will get to choose from the listed miniatures shown.

The initial winner chosen by the random drawing will select first from any item in

this list – and so on.

In addition to these 5 precious miniature awards, if we choose to implement any of your suggestions you may be eligible to be awarded a FREE one year's subscription to *American Miniaturist*.

Questions

1 What is your favorite part of your miniature magazine?

Feature Articles

Tutorials/Projects

Artist Showcase

Letters to the Editor

Upcoming Shows

Other – please specify



Left: 1. Silken cherry wood hand-carved teddy bear toy chest by Lynn Jowers from South Africa - with tiny bear from Manda Theart of South Africa.

2. Punch needle rug kit by Carol Sherry from Minnesota.

3. From Anna Braun of South Africa, a dressed and jointed handmade OOAK bunny.

4. Belly Button Baby dressed in an exquisitely knitted white dress and bonnet by Leonie Fourie from South Africa in a wicker cradle by Ludmilla of Italy.

5. Whimsical knot work rug kit by Teresa Layman "Gnome Sweet Gnome".

2 Do you think we should feature miniature dolls inside the dollhouse? Or do you prefer not to display dolls inside the dollhouse? Please elaborate if you feel strongly.

3 What is your preference, easy to find pieces like Bespaq etc. or homemade one of a kind miniatures for your own dollhouse?

4 What do you wish our magazine would cover that we do not yet offer?

5 What kind of tutorials are you looking for? Think if anything were possible, what would you like to see in *AM*?

6 What do you consider your skill level to be in the miniature art form: Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced?

7 Is your subscription electronic or hard copy?

8 Do you subscribe to *American Miniaturist* or *Dollhouse Miniatures* or both?

9 For demographic purposes only, which is your age group?

10 - 22

23 - 35

36 - 49

50 - 65

Older than 66

Prefer not to answer

10 Are you a member of IGMA? If not, do you understand the benefits of membership?

11 Do you have ANY ideas/thoughts about how to encourage young people to understand the joy that can be had by partici-

pating in one of the IGMA/NAME/other classes?

12 What is the name of your favorite miniature magazine, even if it is one other than *American Miniaturist* or *Dollhouse Miniatures*?

13 What country do you live in?

14 Are you a miniature artist or do you have a miniature business or both?

15 Would you like to be considered as a contributor to one or both of our magazines? If yes, would you please provide your contact details so that our editorial team may connect with you?

Please be assured that your data will never be shared with anyone outside of Ashdown Inc. Please return survey by May 31, 2020. Responses should be emailed to joan.mckenzie10@gmail.com or mailed to PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944.

No purchase is required to be entered into the drawings. Entries need to be postmarked no later than May 31, 2020. No employees of Ashdown will be allowed to participate.



Window blinds

Build some stylish custom wooden window blinds

BY KAREN HRITZ

Scale = 1:12

Make some mini custom made window treatments for your dollhouse. It's little touches like these that will bring your dollhouse to life.

1 For a standard single dollhouse window, you will cut the 1/4" x 1/16" strip wood into 2 1/2" pieces. You will need 20 pieces. Stack the pieces and tape, then sand any that are not the same length as the others with a sanding stick.

2 Mark the spot where you will drill the holes 1/8" from each end. If you are using a finger drill, you will need to re-tape the slats into smaller stacks so you are drilling through only 4 or so at a time. Note: It is important to keep the drill at a right angle to the stack so that the holes are all aligned.

3 Sand all the strips as well as the 2 channel pieces, then finish with



stain, paint or varnish. I used 2 coats of varnish on each side, sanding between coats. Note: Keep a toothpick handy to clear any paint or varnish out of the holes before it dries.

4 I call this step 'making the ladder'. The photo shows a larger crochet thread so it is easier to see. I tried this with 4 different types of cord/threads and ended up using the size 80 fine thread so that the knots were small and the ladder wasn't stiff.

To tie the ladder, clamp

Materials:

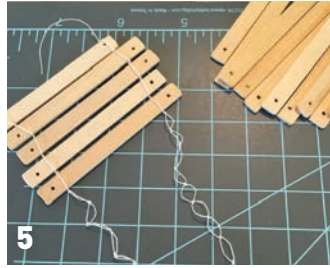
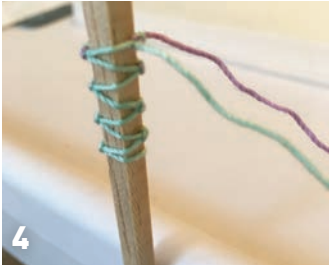
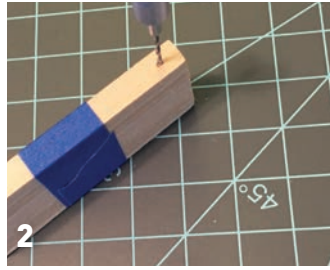
- Strip wood – 1/4" x 1/16" x 24"
- Channel strip – 1/4" x 1/8" x 5" – cut into 2 – 2 1/2" pieces
- Strip wood – 3/16" x 3/16" x approximately 6"
- Size 80 crochet thread
- White glue
- 1/16" drill bit or finger drill
- Sanding stick
- Toothpicks
- Floral wire
- Paint or varnish

or tape the 3/16" x 3/16" strip wood to the edge of your worktable so that it is standing up.

Measure a piece of crochet thread that is about 30" long. Tie the thread around the strip wood with a double knot, making sure that the ends are equal lengths. Align the knot on the corner of the strip wood.

Next, wrap the thread to the opposite side of the strip wood and tie another double knot, again making sure the knot is on the corner. Continue to do this,

PROJECT



zigzagging back and forth until you have at least 42 knots. Note: The tighter the knots are, the more evenly spaced the slats for the blinds will be.

5 Slide the ladder off the strip wood and cut in half. Make sure you have 21 holes in each piece. Insert the slats into the ladders as shown.

6 Cut another piece of crochet thread 25" long. Thread the crochet thread

through the holes, making sure the loose ends are nice and even.

7 Run a thin piece of floral wire through each set of holes in order to hold the slats vertical for the next step.

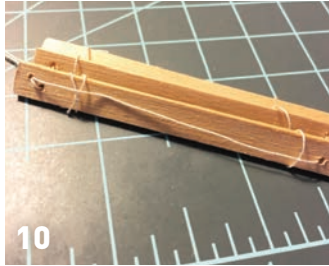
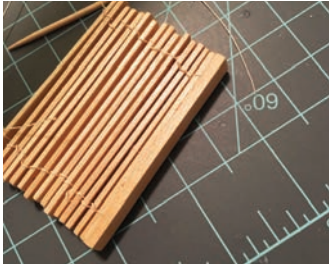
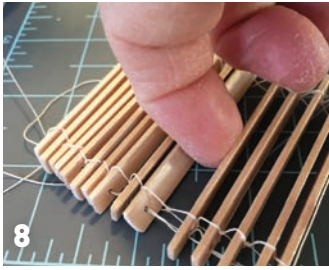
8 The next step is to center the knots from the ladder on the underneath side of each of the slats and a scant 1/8" from the hole. Secure with a small spot of glue. I put a little pressure

on each slat as I glued them while the glue dried.

TOPTIP:

Make sure to keep the glue away from the holes.

9 When the glue is dry, pull the wire out. To finish the bottom of the blinds, run a thin bead of glue on the edges of one of the channel pieces. Place the channel over the bottom slat, enclosing the all the thread ends. Let dry.



10 To finish the top of the window blinds, drill another hole at one end of the top slat (between the original hole and the corner). Pull the threads all the way up so that all the slats are closed. Now run the two thread ends through the new hole.

This step creates the cord that will raise and lower the blinds. Apply a thin bead of glue along the edges of the other channel and place on the top slat being VERY CAREFUL not to catch any of the threads with the glue. Or they will not be able to open and close.

While it dries, pull on the bottom slat to expand the blinds, then clamp. This action will let you know you don't have the threads



caught in the glue.

11 Glue the blinds to the top of your window. With the blinds fully expanded, tie the two cords together with an overhand knot in 3 or 4 places.

12 Add a valance or cornice board, if you like!

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!

Brick fireplace

Make a spectacular fireplace from basic supplies

BY JODI HIPPLER



MEET THE MAKER:
Jodi Hippler

"I am Jodi Hippler, a 51 year old wife and mother. I first became enraptured with miniatures while decorating a dollhouse for my daughter. Since coming back to minis in 2012, I have made numerous builds and creativity has become as essential to me as air!"

The central focus of my little piggy scene is going to be the fireplace. So, I needed to come up with a design that would fit the layout and accommodate the elements that I wanted to include. Important stuff, like firewood storage, a place to bake yummy loaves of bread, and of course a large enough fire to heat the house and cook with. I measured the wall space and then drew a rough design that was the perfect size for Maxwell. He seemed very happy with it!

I decided that foam core would be the best mate-

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Foam core
- Cutting knife
- Pencil
- Fast Grab Tacky Glue
- Ruler
- Clamps
- Egg cartons
- Acrylic paints
- Paint brush
- Matte varnish
- Spackle
- Fire kit

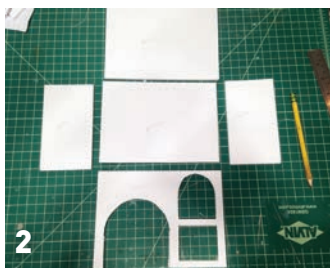
rial to work with. It's easy to cut and is much lighter than wood. So, to start, I measured my drawing and cut the pieces.

I did a dry fit to make sure it looked proportionate to Maxwell. Then I glued and clamped it, leaving the front and shelf as separate pieces for easier brick application.

While the glue dried, I set to work making my 'bricks'. I grabbed a couple of egg carton lids. Then picked out colors and squirted a little of each one on a paper plate. I started with the lighter color com-



PROJECT



binations as the backdrop, then splotched and dry brushed on additional colors until I liked the look.

4 Once the paint had dried overnight, it was time to cut out the bricks. I only used two lids, but it took a very long time to cut each little brick to size.

5 Brick by egg carton brick I went. In total, it took me about two full days to cover every inch. In the end, I had just enough!

6 I left the front and the shelf detached so that it would be easier to grout. This meant that I had to attach the side bricks and the brick openings around the shelf only half on so that they could be joined to the main piece and grouted after the pieces were glued together.

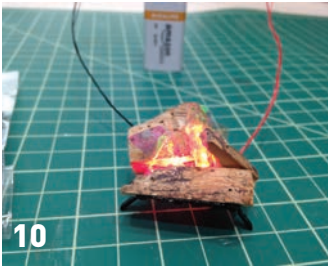
7 I wrapped around and glued bricks where the openings could be seen.

TOPTIP:

Using two coats of matte varnish keeps the 'bricks' safe when you spackle on the grout.

8 I applied two coats of matte varnish, letting them dry thoroughly in between, and then used spackle to grout the bricks.

9 While I let everything dry and while I was contemplated how I would



age the grout/brick, I decided to get out the supplies I needed to make a fire for the fireplace.

I purchased a miniature fire kit last summer. Unfortunately I can't remember where I got it but you should be able to Google it. It has three bulbs; two orange and one red.

It flickers and runs off of its own battery so you don't have to worry about it pulling juice from your 12 volt system and dimming the lights. This is a known problem when you run the flickering bulbs off of the main circuit of your dollhouse lights. It also comes with a piece of shimmery cellophane that when lit up, gives the effect of a real burning fire.

10 I glued the three bulbs into a metal fire grate, then layered the cellophane and logs to get the look of a real fire. This is it when it was finished drying and hooked up to a 9 volt battery to test it.



I love it! It's going to look great under the copper pot in the fireplace!

11 I made a swinging pot arm with a hook and attached it to the inside of the fireplace. Then I aged the grout and brick with a watered down brown wash. I love the way it turned out! All it needs now is a mantle and some fun accessories!

I have a blog in which I

share weekly updates to my projects. I try to include all of the tips and processes I encounter along the way in order to encourage the creativity in others.

The best part of this whole miniature obsession is the connection I have made with fellow mini crazed people, many of whom have turned into real life friendships!

Us mini minded are true kindred spirits, and the support and encouragement we give to one another is a unique and special aspect shared by those with this passion!

Come visit me at www.mysmallobsession.com!



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■ Some of our upcoming showcases are: Furniture, Kitchen, Food/Drink, 4th of July, Summer, Autumn, Halloween, and Christmas. If you would like to be considered in these top miniature artist showcases, email auralea@ashdown.co.uk

ARTIST

THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATE



ANGELA GAGLIARDI

ITALY

Incredible 1:12 scale roses handmade from polymer clay. With such exquisite detailing it is difficult to believe they are not real roses!



ELISSA GILLESPIE

NEVADA

A sweet spring miniature birdhouse with a tiny blue bird at the opening.



SHOWCASE

SPRING WITH SOME FUN MINIATURES FROM TOP MAKERS



MARTINA FRITSCHER
CZECH REPUBLIC

A watering can filled with handmade clay flowers and a beautiful 1:12 scale dollhouse ring sponge cake on a tray.



KAREN ROBINSON
UNITED KINGDOM

Welcome Easter with a handcrafted dollhouse miniature chick cake, Easter bunnies celebration cake and Easter cupcakes, decorated with tiny bunnies, carrots, cute ducklings, mini roses and blossoms, butterflies and teeny tiny Easter eggs!





EBE KOFUGATA

ESTONIA

These gorgeous bearded iris "Queen circles" are made from a flower kit in 1:12 scale. Below shows a tiny handmade mouse!



ROXANNE FERN

NEW YORK

It isn't Easter without Roxanne's wonderful Easter baskets full of goodies!



SARA BLACK

WASHINGTON

Enjoy this amazing collection of 1:12 scale wedding cakes that were hand-sculpted from polymer clay.



LAURA CRAIN

CALIFORNIA

Handmade flowers around a peaceful bird bath in 1:12 scale.



GETINTOUCH:

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Laura Crain

Phone: 949-496-9841

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NAGIHAN SEKER AUSTRALIA

Alice in Wonderland theme miniature tea party table in 1:12 scale. Completely handcrafted with polymer clay. Teapot height measures 30mm. Miniature card soldiers are ready for their Queen. There is a singing white rose in all its beauty. This adorable tea time miniature set will make all your Alice in Wonderland dreams come true!



Imaginative and whimsical food

Kiva Atkinson's creations are guaranteed to bring a smile to your face

BY JOAN MCKENZIE

Perhaps you thought you had seen it all when it comes to miniature food. If this is the case, you may be delighted to know that Hawaii's own Kiva Atkinson is a local phenomenon due to her precision work with her own particular signature style.

Once you get to the point of recognizing Kiva's work, even pieces that are not identified as hers, it's a fair bet that now you have become familiar enough and have at the same time fallen

“When Kiva was a very small child, she had a dollhouse, but she lost interest early on.”

in love with her distinctly imaginative and often hilarious creations.

When Kiva was a very small child, she had a dollhouse, but she lost interest early on. Her family lived in San Francisco from

the 1990's to 2005 until her father Joe passed away after a long illness. There was a dollhouse store on the street where they lived and Kiva and her sister Rhana became smitten with all that the miniature world had to offer. It was at that point when their mom, Linda, asked if they wanted a dollhouse.

Linda had decided she would make a dollhouse for

Below left: Delicious pancakes covered in maple syrup.

Below: Kiva's whimsical take on a miniature octopus-clock.





Rhana and Kiva. The only thing a little bit different about this story is that Kiva was in her 20's when the mini bug bit her and her resourceful mom began the task of showing her daughters that often enough you may have all you need at home to actually create anything that you desire!

When the dollhouse was completed by Linda, Kiva began furnishing it, but she didn't like any of the miniature food she saw online or in the stores. Her mom and dad told her to make her own. She got her hands on some polymer clay, along with all of the additional supplies she thought she might need and then jumped right in.

When her parents complimented the miniature food she had made, they were so enthusiastic about the quality, they began encouraging her to try

‘She got her hands on some polymer clay, along with all of the additional supplies she thought she might need and then jumped right in.’

selling some on eBay. Martha Terburgh, a well-known miniature writer, found Kiva on eBay and wrote an article about her for one of the miniature magazines, and then wrote several more features as Kiva's repertoire increased.

After that experience, Kiva began writing her own



Right: Amazing miniature eggs that have expressions!



Above: A hyper-realistic roasted goose in 1:12 scale.

blogs and communications with a series of tutorials for different magazines in the USA and the UK.

Since those early days Kiva only creates miniatures for her living expenses. She no longer has time for more tutorials. There is a beauty in working for yourself with no one else to answer to, but the downside is that all of the work is on you.

There are no shortcuts to take, because if you take shortcuts it will show, and any quality drop, no matter how slight, is an opportunity for one review with less than

‘Experience has taught her that resolutions to problems come with time.’

glowing words that can be the beginning of the end.

While serious and beautifully crafted roasts and multiple variations of delicious looking foods are her staples, she also loves making silly, outrageous and highly imaginative miniature things related to food, like mice who take over and

multiply! Halloween is her favorite time of year, so this is when her mantra becomes: “The sky is the limit on crazy!”

One of Kiva’s proudest accomplishments was having her miniature produce featured in President Jimmy Carter’s Presidential Library, within a miniature replica of the family grocery store owned by his parents from Georgia. The exterior was constructed by the famous miniature artist Thomas Norpell in 1:8 scale.

All of the produce items in the recreated miniature family grocery store was made by Kiva alone, on commission from Norpell, except for the red lettuce/cabbage.

Her work is also on display as part of the Kaye Savage Browning collection



Left: During Halloween Kiva gets extra creative and let’s her imagination fly away!

Right: A 1:12 scale roasted turkey and a dish of roasted vegetables, both with perfect realistic quality.



in Maysville, Kentucky.

Her Mom Linda likes to say that Kiva has 'spider fingers' as she is easily able to make the tiniest detail look real. She likes all of her chosen crafting tools, but she loves translucent polymer clay because it can be the base of any color.

These days she keeps most of her tricks a secret! Kiva takes inspiration from everywhere, grocery markets, photographs, real food, and most importantly – her famously wild imagination.

Kiva used to model in Hawaii and in Europe, but she tired of that lifestyle after a while. She also worked in Hollywood in film and television. Once she decided that neither modelling nor film life would be the career path she wanted, she worked in coffee shops in Los Angeles

and in San Francisco until she discovered her own talent with miniatures and polymer clay.

Her family members of her Mom and sister are her most enthusiastic supporters. Her father who died in 2005, was her number one fan! After he passed away, they returned to her birthplace in Honolulu, Hawaii, which has always been her true home.

She has a large network of friends who enjoy all of the things that adventurous people do in Hawaii, which is truly paradise on Earth.

Kiva has been an IGMA Fellow for the last 12 years. She does not keep any of her own creations.

As someone who takes delight in looking at Kiva's work on a daily basis, I would say this is a little mystifying for me. If I were Kiva I would have at least a few of my best miniature work sitting at eye level on my work-desk smiling back at me as I enjoy breathing

Right: A game of checkers between mouse friends.



in Hawaiian life and seeing such wonderful pieces staring right back at me. A girl can dream... and actually, I do have quite a few of Kiva's pieces staring back at me at



this very moment.

My favorite being the petrified eggs. No one makes eggs like Kiva. To the best of my knowledge, no one else incorporates such lighthearted silliness into their miniature food creations. There is only one Kiva, and if you say the name Kiva to another person in this miniature world everyone knows of whom you speak. Even her name makes us smile.

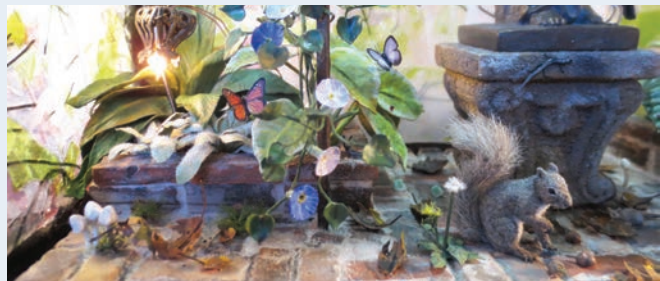


Above: A miniature serving of wine and snacks.

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*. Auralea Krieger makes a Gothic Revival fireplace. Shannon May shares how she made a spring wreath and Jo Bevilacqua features her *Morning Glory Garden* and shares great tips!



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Card soldiers

Make card soldiers from Alice in Wonderland

BY MICHELL BRYANT AND DERI TERRY

Scale = 1:12

Once again, Michell Bryant and Deri Terry have joined forces to bring you a fun tutorial, the second in the *Alice in Wonderland* series. This is even a fun project that you can make with the kids or while your grand kids are visiting.

1 Dust the mold with cornstarch and press the clay, in the color of your choice, into the foot mold.

2 Next, roll or press some clay and cut out a long rectangular piece to make a bootie for the soldier. Lay the piece you just rolled out over the foot and pinch together until it makes a boot. Curl it up at the toe and cut excess off, cut any excess off the back of the foot.

3 Use a stylus ball tool or your finger to smooth out any clay bumps. Next, cut a little strip of the same

Materials:

- Pack of playing cards
- Polymer clay
- 26 gauge wire
- Hot glue gun
- Rubber molds of faces, hands and feet
- Cornstarch (for dusting the mold, so the clay does not stick)
- Roller pin for clay
- Mod Podge
- Kabob skewer and beads for a spear
- 1:12 paintbrush
- Pastels for color on faces

color clay for the top of the boot. Repeat all of these steps for the other foot.

4 Next, you will double over a piece of 26 gauge wire, approximately 6" long. Twist together and insert the wire into the heel of the foot, making sure that you do not push all the way through the clay.

5 Get your playing cards out, since you'll be using two cards glued together for this project, make sure that you make



PROJECT



two indentions of the card pressed into the shoe before you bake it so you will be able to stand up the cards. Put the foot on your baking tray and set aside. Repeat for the next foot.

6 Make sure you have cornstarch in your hand mold and press the clay into the hand molds, then release. We chose red and white for our colors to represent gloves. Repeat for other hand. Double over 26 gauge wire and insert it into

the hand mold, you need to decide what hand position you would like before you bake. You may want your soldier to hold a spear which you would make by using a kabob skewer and a bead. You may want one of your soldiers to hold a paintbrush, so you will need to position your hands in the correct position.

7 Cut approximately 6" of 26 gauge wire and twist together and insert into the wrist only part of the hand

mold. Place the hands on the baking tray.

8 Make sure you have put cornstarch in the face mold. Press the clay into the mold and release it.

9 Get creative and make whatever kind of hat or hood that you can dream up. You can use a heart shape cut out or you can roll out a long rectangular shape and make a hood like we did, by draping over the center of the head and

PROJECT



simply pinching it closed. Insert doubled over and twisted 26 gauge wire into the neck of the figure. Make sure you press the head into two playing cards before you bake the head.

10 All of your pieces are ready to bake with the wire already inserted. Please follow the baking instructions on your clay package. Once your pieces have baked and cooled, it

will be time to assemble.

11 Pick two playing cards. The choice is yours. We chose to do a show the front and back on our cards. You should

already have made and indentation in the feet before you baked so the cards should slide into the feet slots. Pick ONLY the card that you will be using for the back and slide it in to the indented slot. Add a little Mod Podge into the slot on the foot, just the back slot.

Next, use your hot glue to adhere the wire from the feet to the back card.

12 Position the hands and hot glue them to the back of the card only. You will actually be gluing the wire to the card. Get the card that you will be using for you front facing card and slide it in the front slot that you made in the feet. Carefully line up the two cards and hot glue and press down about half way, mak-

ing sure you leave room to attach the head. If you made your hands in a position to hold a spear you may glue it in position now.

13 Gently pull open the card and slide the wire from the head in between the two cards, make sure they are lined up and the hot glue them together.

14 You may want to add a little color to the faces of the soldiers by brushing on some pastel dust. That is totally up to your preference, depending on the clay colors you chose.

We hope you enjoyed making these card soldiers. This could be the start of a fun project!



Contemporary range

Make a modern range for your mini kitchen

BY KRIS COMPAS

Scale = 1:12

When I wanted to make a stove I went on Google images. I found one that looked simple and it had measurements for proper scale. It also had a good photo of the grates.

We will make the burner grate for the range first. To keep things square, I used graph paper. For cutting I used a Chopper.

1 Cut two pieces of the 1/16" x 3/16" x 2" long. This is the front and back of the grate frame.

2 Cut four pieces 1 7/8" long from the same stock. Set two aside for the middle of the frame.

3 Glue two of the 1 7/8" lengths to the surface of the 2" long front and back pieces.

4 The 2" piece is covering the ends of the 1 7/8" pieces. Measure from the inside of the square and mark 3/4" from the side. Then do the same



thing from the other side.

5 Glue the other two 1 7/8" long pieces on the marks you made like I have. You should have about a 1/4" between the two pieces. I am using my square to check on things!

6 Measure between the two middle pieces and then cut three pieces from the 1/32" stock to the length you measured, which should be 1/4", but I want you to measure your grate just to be sure.

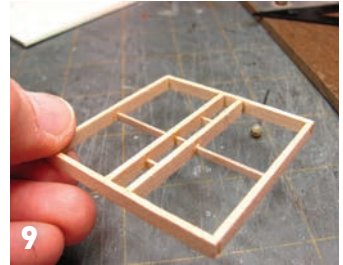
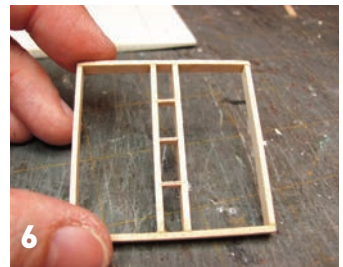
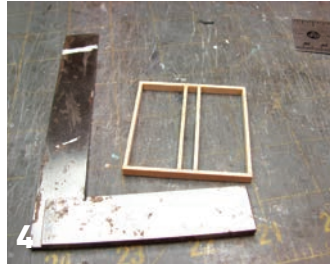
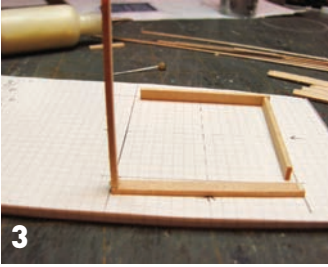
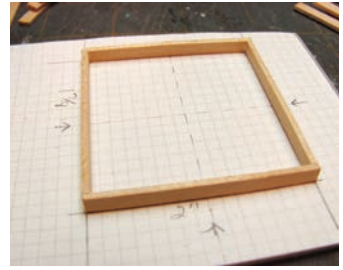
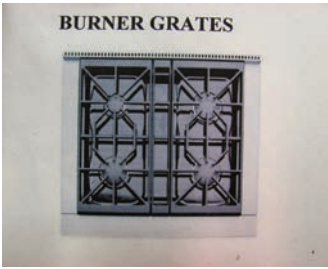
7 This is how I measure to set the 'stop', that's the

Materials:

- 1/16" thick and 3/16" wide basswood for grate frame
- 1/32" thick and 3/32 wide basswood for grates
- Graph paper
- Chopper
- Ruler
- Wood glue
- Tacky Glue
- Tweezers
- 1/8", 1/4" and 5/16" punches
- Mat board
- Cutting knife
- Black spray paint
- Rust-Oleum's Stainless Steel spray paint
- 220 grit sand paper
- 400 grit sand paper
- 320 grit sand paper
- Paper
- 1/16" dowel
- Old T-shirt
- Krylon clear gloss finish
- Packing tape
- Foam core
- Acrylic paint - black, white
- Paint brush
- Clear thick acrylic
- Toothpick
- Acrylic gloss finish
- Pencil
- Square

black triangle thing on the left. Use tweezers to remove your tiny pieces. The Chop-

PROJECT



per uses a single edge razor blade and it can slice you in the blink of an eye!

8 Cut your three pieces and glue them into the center space. One piece is in the center. Then each space is divided and the second and third pieces are glued in each center following the picture above.

9 The $\frac{1}{32}$ " x $\frac{3}{32}$ " grate pieces will be flat with one side of the grate frame. This is showing the flat side.

10 I've also measured for the center pieces and glued them in.

11 I will be using $\frac{1}{8}$ ", $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{5}{16}$ " paper punches for this miniature range. Now get some card stock and punch a $\frac{5}{16}$ " circle and place that in the center of one square. This is the top of the burner.

12 Remember to put your grate on top of the graph paper. This helps keep your build square.

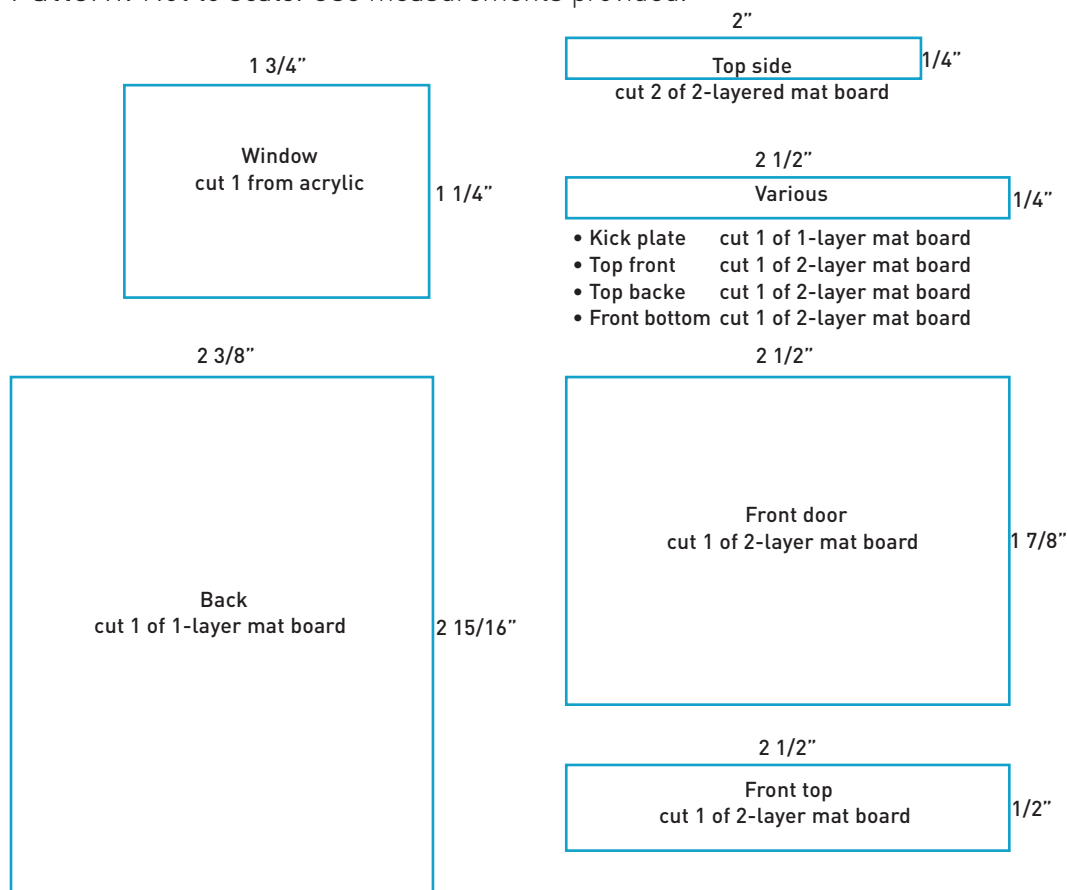
13 I measured from the corner to the burner. I want to leave space at the center of the burner.

14 Cut eight pieces and then glue them into the corners.

15 Measure from the bottom of the grate to the top of the corner piece.

16 Cut four this length and glue them into the frame. Measure as before, cut the lengths for the out-

Pattern: Not to scale. Use measurements provided.



side sides and glue them into the frame.

17 My center sides were just a little different from the outside side measurement. I cut and glued them into the frame.

18 I've measured for the inner corners and glued the pieces in. Showing the underside of the grate.

19 I measured for the inner center pieces and glued them in. Set this aside to dry. This grate is a little simpler than the original.

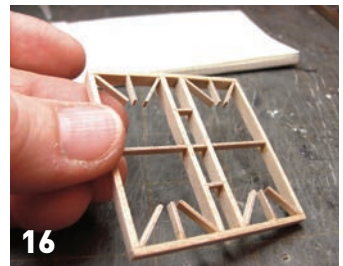
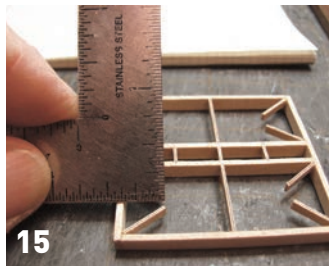
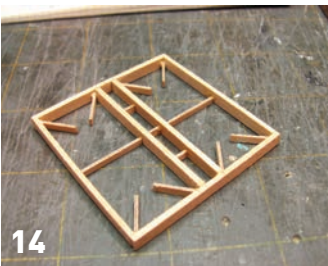
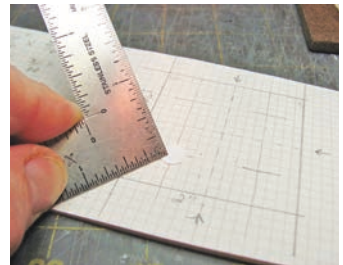
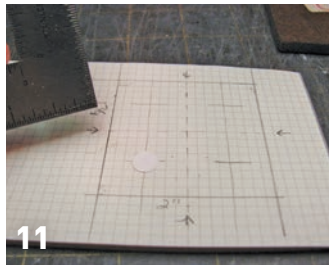
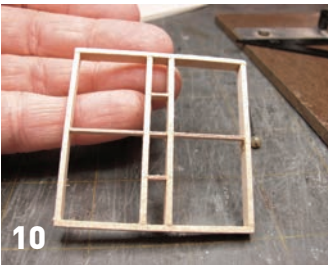
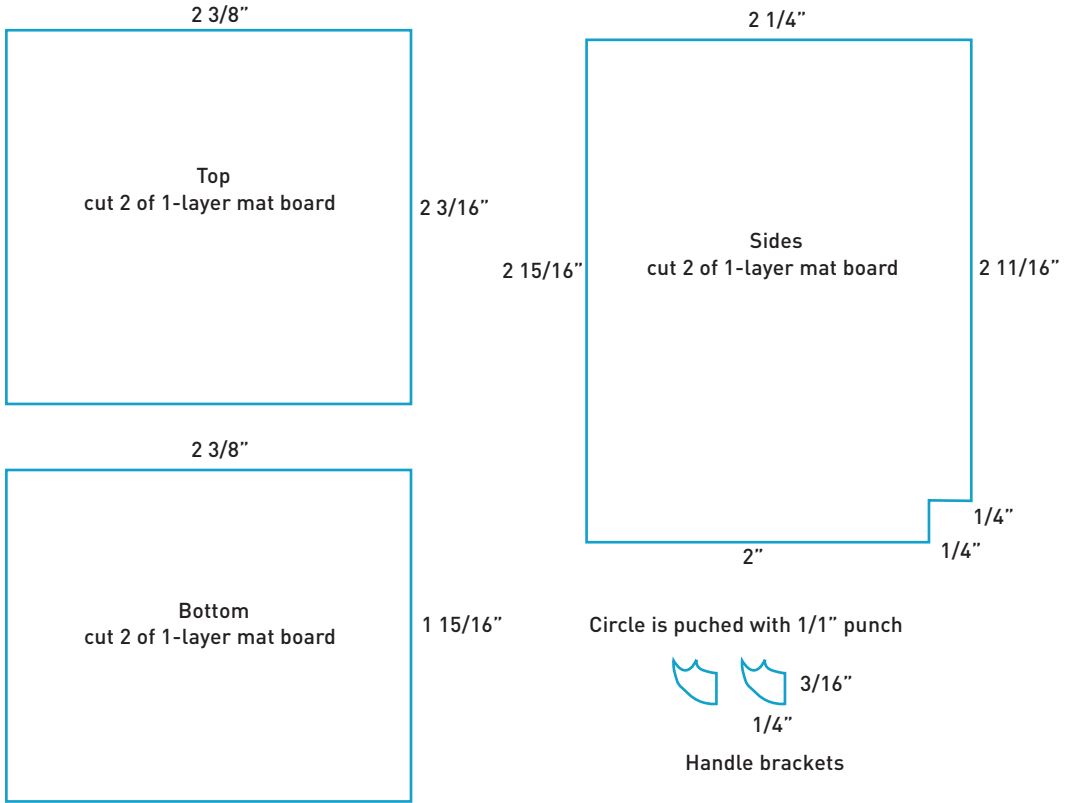
20 Put Nancy's patterns onto card stock. We put all the patterns on this time so you won't have to measure to draw the rectangles. I still want you to measure to make sure the parts are the right size

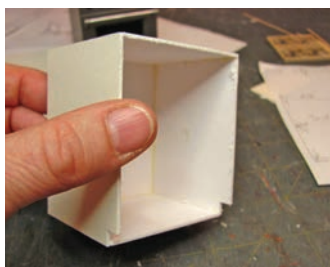
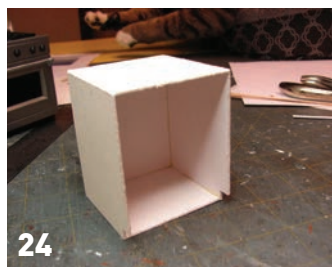
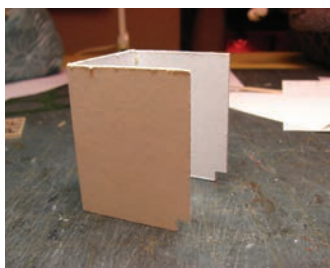
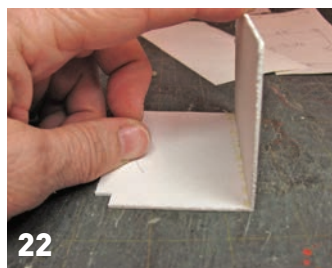
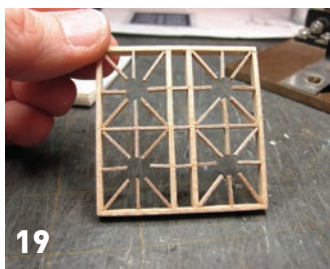
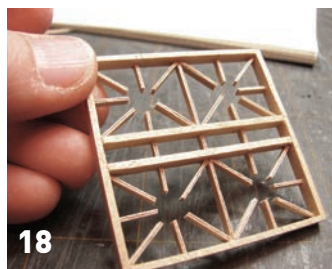
when you trace and cut them out. We are building a box and everything has to be square.

21 Cut out the two sides and the back from 1 layer of mat board. Note: if you want to build this from basswood, Use $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick.

22 Glue the back between the sides. Use the edge that does not

PROJECT





have the notch. Both sides are glued on.

23 Cut out a bottom from one layer of mat board and glue inside the sides and back.

24 Cut two tops out from 1 layer of mat board and set one aside for now. Glue one top inside the sides and back.

25 This is a view of the top of the box. Just to give you an idea.

26 While the box is drying I went outside and spray painted my grate. Let the paint dry.

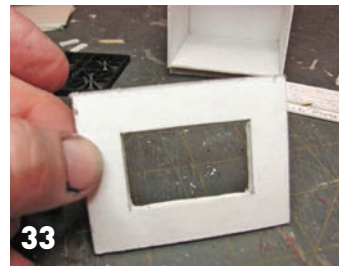
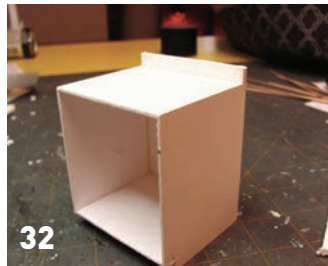
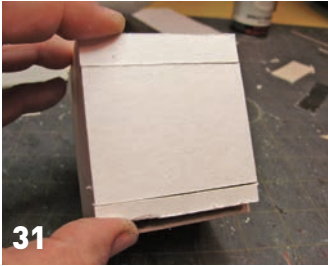
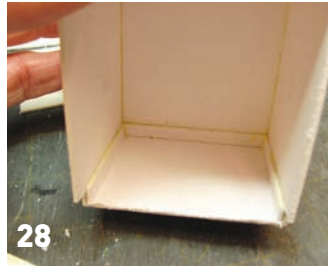
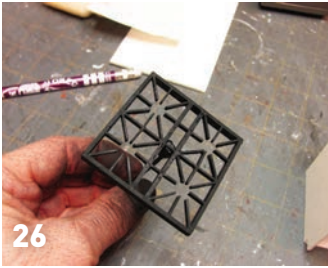
27 Carefully lay the flat side of the grate on 220 grit sand paper and sand it a bit. Use gloves to keep spray paint off your hands! Spray the grate again. Make sure you have all the little spaces painted. Let this dry.

28 Cut a strip of mat board 3/16" wide.

Cut three pieces and glue them into the bottom.

29 Get the other top and glue that into the bottom of the box onto the strips you just glued in.

30 Cut two strips of mat board 2 1/2" wide. The strips need to be at least 4 1/2" long. Use Tacky Glue to glue the two pieces together. I found that wood glue would make the mat board curl up a bit. Press the two together and make



sure the edges are even. This will make the oven door, the rest of the front and the four pieces for the top of the stove.

31 I've cut the front top, front door and front bottom. Dry fit. Everything should be fitting flush with the sides, top and bottom. If not, sand the top, door and bottom until they do.

32 I've cut the top back and glued it to the top back of the stove. This

should be flush with the back piece.

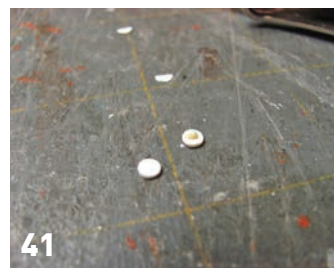
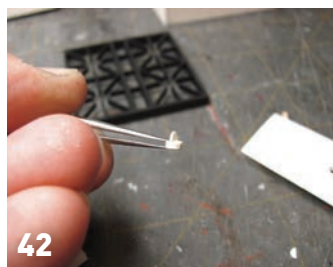
33 I measured in a 1/2" from each side of the door and drew a rectangle. Use a sharp blade and cut out the window in the door. Cut the rest of the pieces out: the top sides (2) and the top front (1).

34 I've cut a bunch of 1/8" wide strips from PAPER. I am gluing the strips around the edges of each piece I cut. This cov-

ers up the raw edge of the mat board.

35 Glue a piece over the edge of the top back piece. Glue a piece to the inside edge of the window of the door.

36 After the glue was dry I used 320 grit sand paper to lightly sand the edges of all the pieces. I rounded them SLIGHTLY, just so you could see the joint lines when the pieces were together.



Dry fit the top pieces with the grate, sand these pieces in so that they are flush with the sides and the stove's front top.

37 A 1/16" dowel was used for the handle. It's cut 2 1/4" long. Use a 1/8" wide paper strip to make a 'cap' on the end of the handle. Wrap and glue the paper strip around two or three times.

38 Glue the handle bracket patterns onto

four layers of card stock. You should have two brackets of five layers of card stock now.

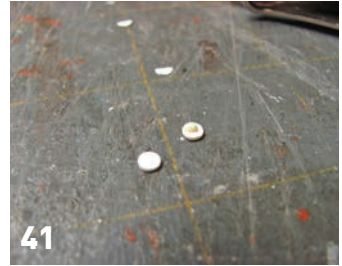
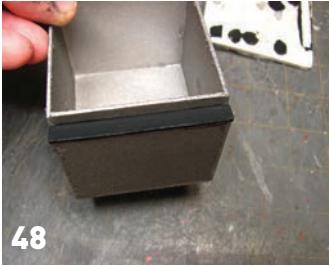
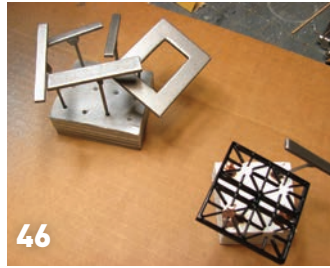
39 I used a 1/8" punch to punch the circle out first. I then cut the rest of the bracket out. This is the handle assembly.

40 Here I have punched out a few circles from card stock using the 1/4" and 5/16" punches. These are going to be the burners. Glue 4 layers of

the 1/4" together to make 4. Then glue 3 layers of the 5/16" together to make 4.

I found later on that I could glue at least 5 layers of card stock together and still punch through so you could do it that way instead.

41 Glue 4 or 5 layers of card stock together. Use the 1/8" punch to cut at least 10 circles. Glue two circles together, 5 times, to make 5 stove knobs. Be sure to press them together tightly.



42 Glue two layers of card stock together and punch out at least 5 circles, extra for mistakes. Cut the circles in half. Glue the half circles to the center of each knob.

43 For the back of the knob, I punched out 10, 1/4" circles and glued two together to make 5 knob backs.

44 Spray the stove with Rust-Oleum's Stainless Steel paint. Give all the surfaces a sanding with 320 grit paper. Then, spray again.

45 Sand everything with 400 grit sand paper. I don't want to rough up the surfaces. I want to smooth

the surfaces that I sanded earlier to round the edges.

46 After sanding, rub the surface down with a scrap of an old T-shirt. All surfaces were sprayed again and when they were dry and buffed with the T-shirt.

47 Spray grate with Krylon clear gloss finish.

48 Wrap a strip of packing tape around a piece of foam core to make a sticky surface for the knobs, brackets and such. You will see that I have cut out the kick plate from one layer of mat board.

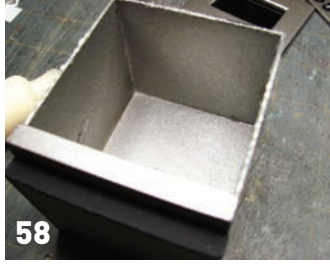
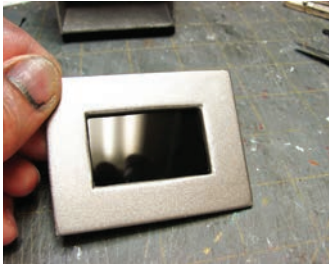
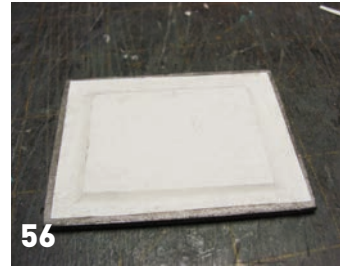
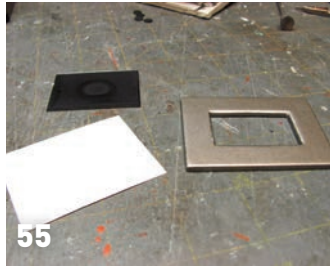
49 Paint the kick plate black. When it is dry,

glue it to the bottom of the stove in the notched area. Finish off with some Krylon clear gloss.

50 Paint the burner bottoms, 4 layers 1/4" circles, the burner tops, 3 layers 5/16" circles and the knob backs, 2 layers 1/4" circles black.

51 Paint the handle brackets and the knobs silver. Finish them with the stainless steel spray paint later. Spray the knobs, bracket and handle with the stainless steel spray paint.

52 Give the circles another coat of black. Painted the half circles of the knobs black. Then give



everything a coat of gloss spray finish, including the handle.

53 Peel off only one side of your clear thick acrylic for the window and spray paint two coats onto this surface. Let the paint dry between coats.

54 Paint the top of the stove black.

55 Cut a piece of paper just a little smaller than the door.

56 Peel off the other side of the acrylic and place it onto the back of the door. Then apply wood glue around the acrylic. Don't glue the acrylic to the door. Press

the paper onto the glue and then press the paper down around the acrylic. Now the window is in and looks great!

57 Find the center of the front top and mark where you want the knobs to be. Glue the backs to the stove front top. Glue the knobs on. Use a toothpick to paint a dot of white at the top of the knob back.

58 Glue on the front bottom. Glue on the door and the front top. Everything should be flush.

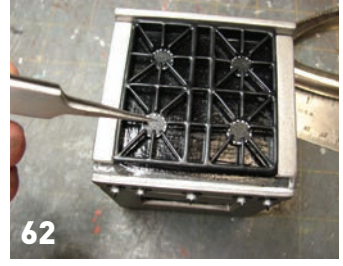
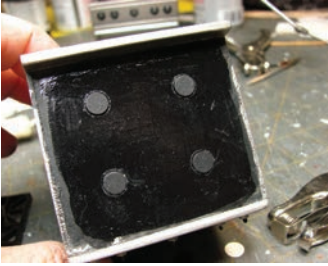
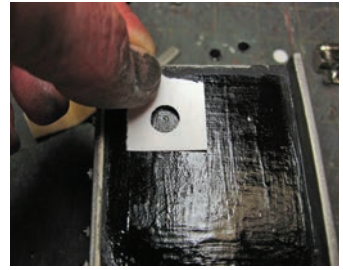
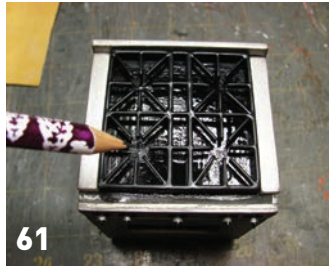
59 After a dry fit, I found that the paint and paper made a slight difference in the measurements of my top pieces.

So I sanded the front and back of the grate frame. I will touch up the paint a little later. The sides also needed sanding. Always dry fit!

60 Everything has been sanded in and the black paint on the frame has been touched up. Everything is fitting nicely. Brushed on some gloss finish to the top of the stove.

Mark the center of the burner placement with a pencil dot. Cut a stencil for the top by punching a 5/16" circle. Draw four circles on the top of the stove. Glue on the burner bottoms in the circles.

61 I little earlier I used a toothpick to paint



silver dots around the burner tops. I glued on the grate on top of the stove, I did not glue this on yet. I then glued on the top front and held it in place for a minute or two. The last two pieces are glued onto the top of the stove, the top sides.

62 To finish, I used Tacky Glue to glue the oven brackets to the front handle.

Here is the new miniature stove all ready to move into a dollhouse or room box kitchen. This is as easy as I could make this modern range tutorial. I hope some of you try it.

Come visit me at linch-minisbykris.blogspot.com/!



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Smaller scale food truck

Martha Bates made a 1:24 scale food truck based on a past AM tutorial

BY MARTHA BATES

The August 2019 issue of *American Miniaturist* my miniature club, here in Shreveport, LA (Ark-La-Tex Miniature Society), was taken to a whole new level! I was excited to see the project on page 66, *Make a food truck*. The article continued for several more pages with instructions to make the equipment in the food truck and even the food! I showed to article to the club members and they voted it as our next project.

We began working on our food trucks in September and continued through November. After a break for the holidays we finished our trucks at our January, 2020 meeting. I am the only club member that works in half-scale (1:24), so each challenge was even greater!

I made several modifications to the instructions such

as only using one layer of mat board for the trailer body and instead of glossy poster board, I used glossy paper. The sink was a real challenge as there was no jelly container small enough, so I used a single-serving butter container and even then had to cut it down in size.

The slush machine would have been a lot easier if I had plastic containers in the right size, but alas I had to use clear

acrylic to complete the machine. I did not have any half-scale cups, so I make paper cones and called my machine a Sno Cone Machine.

Instead of following the pattern for the trailer hitch, I took a picture of my husbands utility trailer and using corner boards, fashioned one. I also added a butane bottle (we're cookin' with gas!) and a roof top air-conditioner.

I searched on line for the



Right: The half-inch scale food truck shown open for business.



details, design and dimensions of popcorn machines and created my very own machine. The popcorn was an October, 2018 purchase at the Miniature Museum of Greater St. Louis, MO.

Sandpaper worked great for hamburger patties. I punched some out of brown sandpaper for cooked patties and some from reddish sandpaper for raw patties. For the cheese slices, I cut squares out of yellow tissue paper. I snipped pieces off a miniature outdoor dried weed clump to make French fries. Potato chips were easily made by drying the seeds from the interior of a red bell pepper!

I ran out of room to hang menu boards on the food truck so opted for a free-standing one. I also sprayed painted a creamer

container silver for a trash can, lined it with light-weight black plastic, put rocks in the bottom for weight and arranged used (dirty) food containers on top. Mustard and ketchup squirts came from Scribbles 3D paint.

Using a LED lighting kit from Evan Designs I installed two commercial-looking wall lights and one bulb above the cook top. The battery holder and switch are glued to the bottom of the trailer. I had fun adding to the attire of my two workers, the Bates brothers, by inserting a rag in one's back pocket and putting an apron on the cook.

I would say that my biggest challenge was making the ketchup and mustard containers. I tried several ideas and finally ended up with the tip of a toothpick inserted in seed

Above: A peek inside the truck.

bead and glued onto a piece of doweling.

Special thanks go out to my friend, fellow miniaturist, club member and new NAME member, Mickey Finley, who offered advice and made the package of buns on top the grill and the sno-cone holder on the counter.

I purchased the open hamburger bun, the sliced tomato and the donuts with box. The bags of chips and industrial size container of cooking oil were purchased on line.

I plan to create an outdoor setting for my mini food truck complete with a picnic table, a truck to pull the trailer and lots of customers! Again, mini thanks to JoAnn Swanson and *American Miniaturist* for this inspiring and fun article!

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.

Mini trunk challenge 2020

Be a part of our mini trunk challenge and win a finished trunk by Cats Paw Pam Lembo, Email: melembo@snet.net, Phone: 203-775-4717. See ad on page 2.

Create a mini trunk, any scale, and fill it so it's overflowing with miniature items. Let your imagination soar! Shown here is an example of an overflowing trunk to inspire you. Our team, here at *AM*, will choose the winner in the *AM* June issue. Deadline for entries is April 15, 2020.

Send your entry to Mini trunk challenge *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. Please



attach 1-2 photos of your overflowing miniature trunk that are in focus and high resolution. Shown below is the prize for the lucky winner.



Mini Make It Challenge

Each month we will give you a fun challenge by posting a photo right here in MiniScoop. Take your best shot to duplicate it in 1:12 scale or smaller.

We can't wait to see what you can achieve. Email your finished photo to auralea@ashdown.co.uk and we'll print it in MiniMail!

For this April issue, we challenge you to make this sweet 'Baby Chick Cupcake' for Easter found at <https://easyfamilyrecipeideas.com>. This could be a fun club project or a way to add some spring details to your existing projects. Have fun!



WHERE'S ARTHUR CONTEST

Arthur was found on page 6 hiding in Debbie Booth's apron tutorial in the February issue (*AM*202). We have randomly selected **Lyla** from **McGraw, NY** 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.

April Highlights contest



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

Send your entry to April

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.

Hat box giveaway

Enter to win this set of 1:12 scale pink and white striped hat boxes! Perfect to display in a boutique or bedroom of your project.



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, April 17, 2020**.

Good luck!

Recent winners

February Highlights

Bonnie from Portland, OR

Valentine's giveaway

Maddie from Aurora, IL

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!

Historical inspiration

Frances Roe highlights Victorian fascinations that provides a wealth of inspiration for miniaturists

BY FRANCES ROE

After the Industrial Revolution, arts and entertainment, along with industry, developed and grew at break-neck speed through ongoing new inventions, ideas and advancements.

Factories pumped out all manner of decorative items for the home, since even the most average Victorian seemed to have liberated their imagination. Much of Victorian design was over elaborate, sentimental and romantic, but the Victorians loved it. The Victorian era was the great age of the

English novel.

Charles Dickens had drama, humour, vivid characters and complicated plots. William Makepeace Thackeray wrote his satirical *Vanity Fair*, Emily Brontë

gave us *Wuthering Heights* while sister Charlotte wrote *Jane Eyre*. Thomas Hardy was fairly heavy going, while Lewis Carroll's escapism in *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*

‘Factories pumped out all manner of decorative items for the home, since even the most average Victorian seemed to have liberated their imagination.’



was wonderfully peculiar.

The running theme of writing a hit novel appeared to be political and social observation. Writers and artisans were in their element; Tennyson, Wilde, Kipling and Conan Doyle. A nation of avid readers devoured each publication, wishing

to appear educated and informed to fellow Victorians.

Culture – and becoming ‘cultured’ was a pastime that Victorians seized with both hands, as if it were a giant

balloon that lifted them out of the gloom of the Industrial Revolution and all that had gone before it. Through culture and entertainment, the Victorians became educated and confident.

Couples flocked to the opera and ballet and art





lovers spent many an hour
in art galleries, such as the
newly founded Tate gallery,
debating the merits of the
classical artists versus the
new 'Impressionists'.

Victorian fairy paintings
captivated the public desire



for mystery and illusion.
How they loved their tiny
fluttering friends as they
were illustrated hovering,





frolicking and enticing the onlooker. This became heightened when newly discovered photography techniques allowed certain

‘It was not all high-brow. Shows were held all over Britain from city to village green.’

individuals to trick the public into believing they had actually photographed real fairies.

It was not all high-brow. Shows were held all over





‘Music Halls were the mainstay of lighthearted entertainment and every town had one.’

Britain from city to village green. The Victorians loved the macabre and looking at so called ‘freak shows’ including the now famous ‘elephant man’. Circuses came to town and were immensely popular with audiences who might never afford to travel to exotic places and see lions and elephants in the wild.

Victorians loved theatre of any kind and revelled in the spectacle of plays

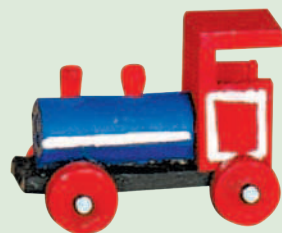


and melodramas, Whitehall farces and particularly pantomimes, through being required to boo, hiss and even heckle.

Music Halls were the mainstay of lighthearted entertainment and every town had one. While Victorian society and serious theatre-goers remained ‘prudish’, Music Hall, with its double entendres, drew working to middle class audiences and remained popular until cinema took its place.

Train for the nursery

By Ronnie Godfrey



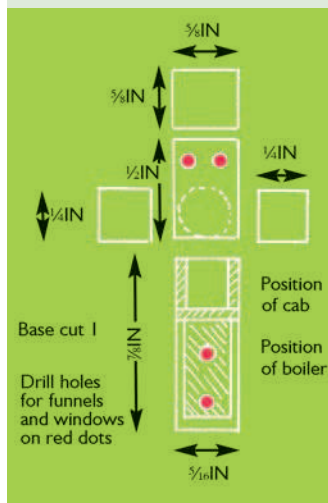
Materials:

- Wood
- 1/4" diameter dowel
- Saw
- Flat wooden beads
- Wood glue
- 4 short brass nails

1 Cut a 1/2" long boiler from a piece of 1/4" diameter dowelling.

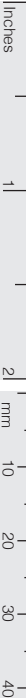
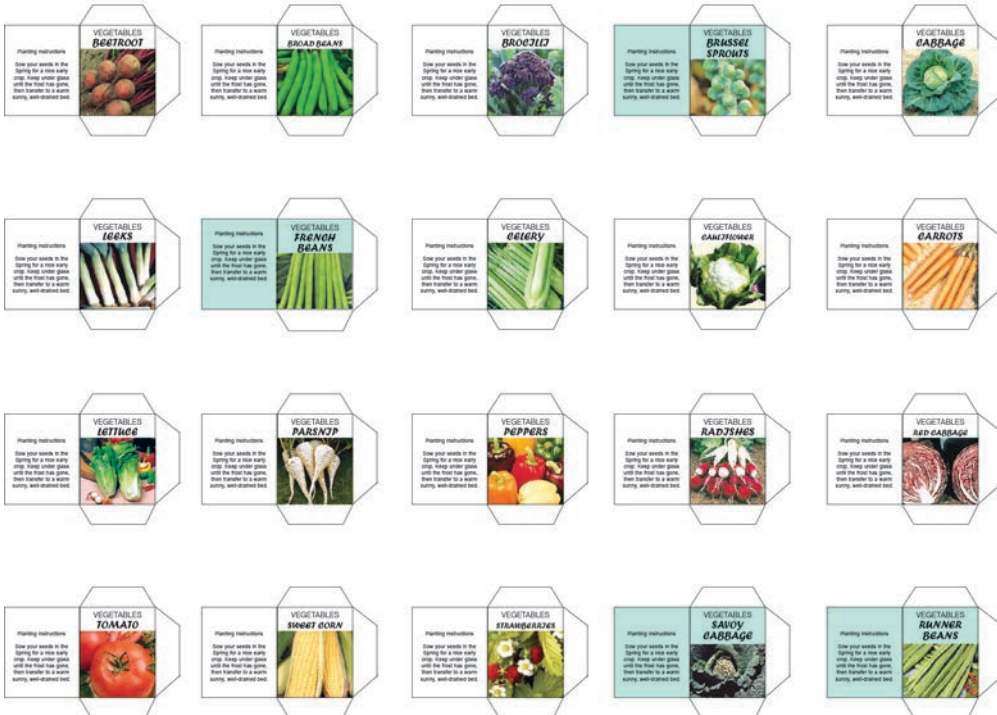
2 Cut pieces of wood for base and cab and assemble them.

3 The wheels are flat wooden beads pinned to the base with short brass nails.



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Easter plates in 1:12 scale and 1:24 scale and seed packets.





BACK ISSUES



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Get ready to be inspired by projects, features, and more!

- Noah's Ark Toy
- Cane Bed Project
- Brick Chimney
- Make Furniture



Issue 202

Get ready to be inspired by projects, features, and more!

- Vintage Drug Store
- Valentine Roses
- Coconut Heart Cake
- Good Sam Gallery



Issue 201

Get ready to be inspired by projects, features, and more!

- Waterfall Bookcase
- Muskoka Chair
- Retro Diner
- Garden Room



Issue 200

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- Bench Project
- Make a Santa Suit
- Fun Christmas Trees
- German House



Issue 199

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- Newby Hall Exhibit
- 1:24 Stump Shop
- Banjo Clock Project
- Mini Apple Tarts



Issue 198

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- Cauldron Cake
- Witch's Broom
- Halloween Costumes
- Pumpkins



Issue 197

Be inspired by this issue filled with projects and more:

- Garden Tools
- Fruit Crumble
- Classroom Scene
- Fish Pond



Issue 196

Don't miss out on the inspiring, innovative minis in this issue.

- Food Truck
- Floor Tile Design
- Dream Catcher
- Doughnuts



Issue 195

Read this beautiful, summer issue and further your creativity:

- BBQ & Picnic Projects
- Quarter Scale Dolls
- Motorcycle Garage

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UPCOMING SHOWS, AUCTIONS & EXHIBITS

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.firststateminiclub.org for more information or email: firststateminiclub@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 [\[dollhouse.com\]\(http://dollhouse.com\) or \[www.LorraineScuderi.com\]\(http://www.LorraineScuderi.com\) 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 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.](http://www.Karens-</p>
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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 Mu-

seum. 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 3

LIVERPOOL, NY

Syracuse Area Miniature Enthusiasts will hold its annual show and sale on May 3rd from 10am - 4pm at the Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Pkwy, Liverpool, NY. On I-90 take exit 37. Admission is \$5.50, children 12 and under are free. No strollers. Dealers please contact Sandy Fillingham at 315-399-8520. For general information, please contact Marian at 315-469-4253.

MAY 17

CLEVELAND, OH

2020 Greater Cleveland Dollhouse & Miniature

UPCOMING SHOWS, AUCTIONS & EXHIBITS

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, Customer 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 Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital.

JUNE 13

MOORESVILLE, NC

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

from 10am – 4pm 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

JUNE 14

ELMIRA, NY

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JUNE 25-28

LAKELAND, FL

Miniatures Weekend present by the Lakeland Miniature Guild. Workshops run Thursday-Friday June 25th-June 26th. Saturday FUNDAY June, 27, 2020 with the Show and exhibits on Sunday, June 28, 2020, from 10:00am – 4pm. Admission Fee: Adults \$8.00 Children's 6-12 \$1.00. This Miniatures Weekend will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn at 3839 Don Emerson Drive; Lakeland, FL 33811. For more information call 1-407-733-7988 or via email disniedoll@aol.com and be sure to check out our website at www.Lakelandminiatureguild.com

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Mini quilting

Follow along with Debbie and make a miniature quilt

BY DEBBIE BOOTH



MEET THE MAKER: Debbie Booth

"My father bought me minis as a child to keep me quiet in church and I started making little things as I learned to sew and embroider. Now I am making them professionally as an adult. As a consultant for a leading skin care company, I am able to work from home. I live with my amazing husband in an old farmhouse in Anza, California. We also live with several farm animals on our farm."



Hey everyone! I want to share with you this simple to make quilt. This is what I refer to as a decorative miniature. It is made to be used on a dollhouse bed or hung on the wall for a little vintage farmhouse decor.

I remember visiting my grandmother who stirred within me a love for quilting. At her farmhouse, in Illinois, she often had a quilt on every bed and little quilts hanging on her walls for decor. She said they were too pretty to fold and put away. There were also many little quilt pieces waiting to be sewn into a larger quilt, or quilt tops waiting to be quilted.

As a young girl, I was intrigued with all the different fabrics, the quilting process, and the talents of my grandmother, who knew every step each project needed. Move ahead 40 plus years and I too have quilts in several stages ready to be finished. She passed down her love of fabric, sewing and quilting to me.

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- 1/4 yard of cotton fabrics: medium pink, red, yellow, green, blue, pale pink or blue
- White cotton 10" x 10" for quilt backing
- Ruler or measuring tape
- Scissors
- Straight pins

TOPTIP:

There is no batting in my quilts because I feel like it makes the quilts look like hot-pads!

This little quilt is a simple version of a challenging quilt pattern referred to as "Around the world". Normally there are several hundred squares that are sewn strategically together to create the pattern. One day I stood looking at this pattern and thought there's got to be a way to make a simple miniature version. You won't believe the simple technique I came up with. In fact it's so easy I can't stop making these little quilts!



Assembly

1 Cut each color of cotton fabric into 1 1/2" x 44" strips. Cut another red strip so that there are 2 red strips.

2 Take 6 cut strips and arrange in order to be sewn. See photo for placement order. Begin with the pink strip. Pin to the red strips and sew the strips together using 1/4" seam allowance. Once sewn together press two strips open and flat.

3 Pin a red strip to the pink strip side and sew together. Trim threads and remove pins. Press open.

4 Pin and sew a yellow strip to the side of the red strip. Repeat process.

Trim threads, remove pins, press open.

5 Pin and sew a blue strip to the side of the yellow strip. Repeat process. Pin and sew a green strip to the side of the blue strip.

6 Finish with a pink strip to the side of the green strip. Press sewn strips so that they are flat.

7 Next, take a piece of paper or cardboard and with a ruler or measuring tape and measure a 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" square. Cut square out.

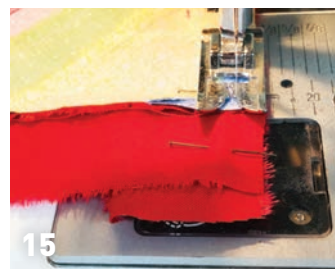
8 This is the simple part! Place the square on the fabric matching the point on the inner seam of the fabric.

Pin in place. Carefully cut out this square. You will need 4 of these squares for each quilt.

9 Look at the photo - match two blocks together, matching carefully the seams, pinning together. The seams should fit together fine because they were all sewn with the same seam allowance so they should be the same size.

10 Sew these two blocks together. Press flat. Match up the next two blocks, pin and sew together. Press flat.

11 The next step is to pin the top section to the bottom section. Match up the lines as good as you can



and pin carefully together. The center lines or seams need to match up correctly. Sew the bottom and the top together. Trim threads and remove pins. Press flat.

12 Finishing the front. Take the red strip without measuring or trimming, and pin it to the right side of the quilt.

Sew 2 pieces together using a 1/4" seam allowance. Remove pins, trim thread. Cut the excess strip length. Take that strip and pin it to the left side of the quilt. Sew

the 2 pieces together. Remove pins and trim thread. Trim away the excess fabric strip. Continue the process pinning and sewing the remainder strips to the top and bottom of the quilt.

13 Cut away excess fabric and square up the quilt.

14 Take the cotton fabric for the backing and place the square quilt face down onto the fabric. I place my quilt towards the corner, lining up the edges.

15 Pin the two pieces together before cutting. Then trim away excess fabric. Leaving a 2" opening on one side sew the front quilt to the backing. Where the opening is turn the little quilt inside out. Use a straight pin to work on the corners and make the corners squared. Turn in the opening 1/4". Pin closed.

16 Top stitch all around the edge of the quilt. I sew around the quilt about 1/8" from the edge on all 4 sides. This closes the quilt and also gives the top edge a nice looking finish.

17 If placing quilt on a bed, first spritz the back of the quilt with water or fabric sizing used for ironing. Place on bed. Fold the sides down and place books against the sides of the bed. This will make the quilt dry hanging down from the bed.

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Kitchen hutch

Part one of making a colorful hutch

BY RANDALL CASTLE

My human is making a hutch for my Bibi's (Grandmas) kitchen. I was asked to be the hutch model. So my human will take it from here.

Thought I would jump on the mat board bandwagon so I grabbed some from AC Moore at discount before they closed! I've been making as much as possible for Bibi's kitchen room box and will be sharing tutorials through the build. The

big reveal will be shown on Randall's Instagram page. Let's get started on part one of the hutch build.

1 Cut out these pieces from mat board. If you are using wood you may have to tweak some things. Back - 4" x 2 1/2". Sides - 1 1/2" x 2 1/2". Cut a design out from the bottom of your sides.

2 Hold a side piece flush to your cutting board

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Mat board
- Cutting knife
- Ruler
- Pencil
- White glue
- Fine and rough sandpaper
- Card stock
- Colored card
- Acrylic paints
- Fabric
- Tacky Glue
- Scissors
- Scrap book paper
- Hot glue gun
- Shish kabob skewer
- Saw or wood cuter
- Metallic paint
- Paint brushes
- Spackle - optional
- Satin or matte varnish to seal - optional

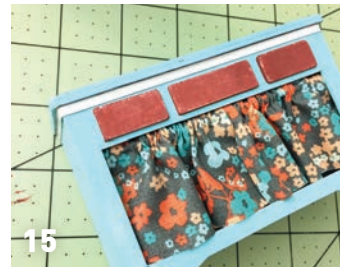
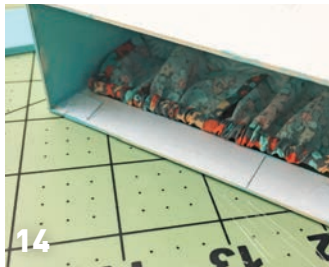
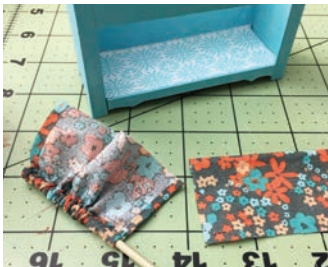
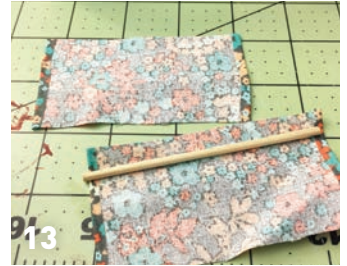
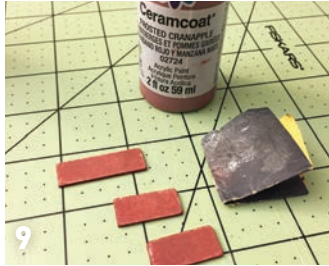
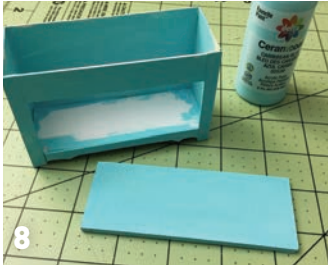
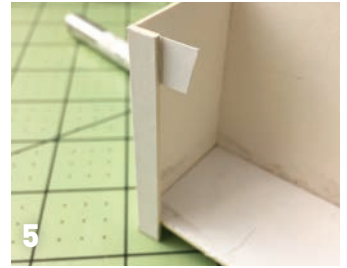
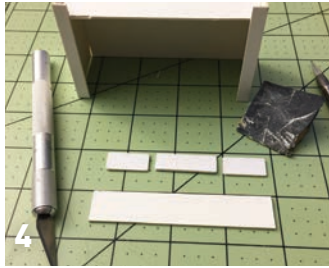
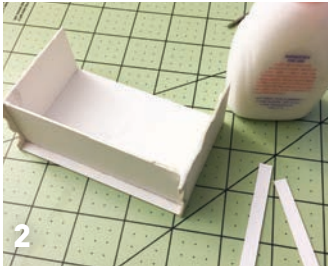


and push the back piece up against it. Mark the depth of your base piece. 4" wide and what ever the depth is so it is flush with the side.

Mark where the base will be on the back with a pencil. Glue back, sides and base together as shown.

3 Measure the inside front width for the hutch top front. It is 5/8" tall.

PROJECT



4 Then make the drawers. Two at $3/8'' \times 7/8''$ and one at $3/8'' \times 1\ 1/4''$. Sand the corners a little rounded if you like.

5 Glue in two card stock tabs to help support the top front. Then glue in the top front.

6 Lay the hutch upside down on a piece of mat board so the back is flush then mark it so there is a $1/16''$ lip all around the other sides. Cut that out.

7 Then place that piece on top of mat board and glue it. Then cut it out again so it is now 2 layers. Sand around the front corners, but be sure to leave the back corners sharp.

8 Paint the entire piece and the top. Distress it if you like.

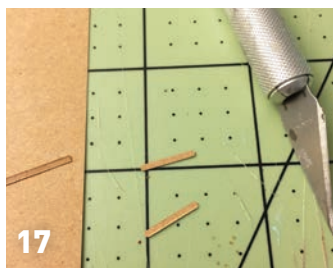
9 Paint the drawer fronts and distress them.

10 I put some scrap book paper inside the base.

11 Measure some fabric to fill the opening. Mine was about $3\ 1/2''$ wide. And the height of the hole, plus $1/2''$ to wrap around the pole.

12 Run Tacky Glue along the base edge and let dry. Then cut to keep from fraying. Then fold the sides.

13 Wrap tops over a shish kabob skewer and let dry. Put a dab of glue on the end and then once dry push to gather.



Slide the other on and glue the end to hold the gather.

14 Hot glue it inside, above the opening.

15 Glue the drawers on. There was some unevenness under the top, a thin strip of card will hide it.

16 For handles, cut a 1/16" strip of card.

17 Trim off the corners. Bend the ends. Roll over a paint brush handle and glue onto the drawers.

18 Paint the handles whatever color you like, I choose a metallic bronze.

19 There was a small gap on the base I filled with spackle, sanded and painted. A simple way to hide any miss-cuts.

Pattern:



Next month we will make the top for the hutch. So gather up two stair spin- dles and some scrap book paper with a fun design that accents your fabric choice!

My human hooked you up, right? Come on over to @randall_castle on Insta- gram and get to know me and my crew so you can join in on our daily adventures!



Sides
cut 2

Enjoy some past spring related tutorials in *American Miniaturist*



Here are some spring mini projects from past *AM* issues to enjoy this spring.

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180	Teacup garden
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191	Wheel barrow
192	Spring cake
194	Bonnet

Front base
cut 1

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