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WELCOME



Summer is here and it will surely be a little different than any we've had before. So the big question is, how will you make the most of it?

Personally during this time of quarantine I started to feel myself slowly withdrawing more than what would be considered healthy. I heard a radio personality talking about being aware of physical isolation turning in to social withdrawal. It can sneak up on you. Sure enough a few weeks later I was starting to feel it happening. Social withdrawal is a large part of depression so it is important to push out of that.

We are lucky enough to have social media and Apps like Skype and Zoom to help us reach out to others during this time. I would recommend taking advantage of that. A 20 minute video chat with family or friends can go a long way to feeling healthy and happy. For that matter you can enjoy one of this issues tutorials over video chat with one or more friends and all make some miniatures together.

This is also a good time to start a project you always wanted to try. There is lots of inspiration in this issue and all those back issues of *American Miniaturist* you have on your shelf. Just start flipping through them and let your imagination take you somewhere amazing!

Be sure to visit www.dollshouse.live to see the latest issues and to enjoy downloads, great films and much more. Let's make the most of this time!

Auralea Krieger, Editor
auralea@ashdown.co.uk

REGULARS

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DIY gumball machine

Taking you back to happy childhood memories

BY ELIZE VAN ES



MEET THE MAKER: Elize van Es

Elize van Es, from the Netherlands, loves making miniatures using different techniques. Experimenting with recycled art and making something out of nothing, makes her happy. Elize is a strong enthusiast of DIY mini recycle projects. There is so much you can make with little means, and items you will usually find in your own home. "I just love learning from others, and sharing tips and tricks."

Do you remember the joy of looking at a gumball machine filled with tasty, yummy sweets? All you needed was a coin to insert in the slot and with one turn of the handle out came a sweet treat.

Making your own 1:12 vintage gumball machine is a fun and easy DIY (recycle) project. All you need is some ordinary stuff that's just laying around your house along with a few purchased items. So let's get started!

1 Cut a straight strip from the tea light holder that's max 0.5cm (0.195") wide and about 1.5 x the height of the cap. Use a small scissor to round the corners on one side of the strip.

2 Fold the strip (using a piece of cardboard to ensure a space between the two sides). Measure the height in comparisons to the cap. The total height should be about 2/3 of the height of the cap.

Materials:

Scale = 1:12

- An old Christmas light
- Metal or plastic cap or ring
- Miniature door knob or an earring or tiny nail
- A tea light holder
- Cake sprinkles
- Red paint
- Clear nail polish



3 Glue the lid to the cap. Cut the door knob, earring or nail to fit and glue it to the cap. I use instant glue for this. Let dry!

4 Sand the cap and gently glue on the elements. Paint the first layer. Let dry and finish painting.

PROJECT



TOPTIP:

Paint, sandpaper and patience are your best friends for this project. So paint, let dry, sand and paint, let dry, sand and paint again. Don't rush. Give the paint time to dry!

5 Depending on the paint you used (acrylic or enamel) you might want extra gloss. Clear nail polish gives a lovely realistic gloss

6 After everything is completely dry, fill 3/4 of the light bulb with cake sprinkles and glue to the painted bottom.

Place in your mini general store or street scene.



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more minis
X

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 just visited at the Dollshouse.live website. Very nice to explore while we are cooped up! Before everything was canceled due to the nationwide shut down, I was looking forward to sharing my miniature chicken coop project as a workshop at The Miniature Show in Chicago for 2020.

My chicken coop represents the joy I remember as a child helping my grandmother scatter chicken feed, collect eggs and care for her chickens. The chickens seemed happy

Highlight

My favorite article from the April 2020 edition was Sophie Dalton's Fairies in the Woodland. I want to create these miniature scenes for my garden. I love summer and I love gardening. How nice it would be as I am weeding, planting and mowing the lawn, to look over and see these miniature scenes. The thought of that would bring a smile on my face.

Rochelle from Wakefield RI

to be there. I felt a sense of calm there. My grandmother explained that the coop was the chickens safe place.

They used a wall of ladders to perch themselves on for sleeping as well as nesting

boxes to lay their eggs which was on the other wall.

There was food and water in the middle of the floor and they were free to go outside during the day when grandma opened the door. At night when grandma came to close up the coop the chickens would all run inside to claim their spot on the roosting ladder to sleep.

Little did I know that I, and all of us, would soon find safety in our own 'coops'. How nice that we have a safe place to shelter. Meanwhile, we can lay our eggs (make minis) or enjoy our roost (soft beds) as we dream of the doors opening again. Then we will enjoy being free range!

Mary L Martin from Smithville, OH



Mini trunk challenge 2020

In our April issue we asked our readers to create a mini trunk and fill it so it's overflowing with miniature items. Here are some of our entries. Flip over to Miniscoop to see the winner of this challenge!



Lora Sigler



Janet Stromberg



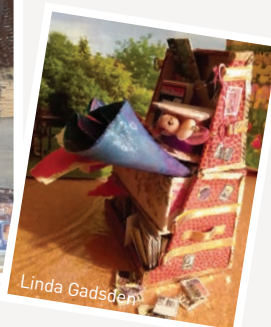
Jennifer Schwabe



Suellen Hoecker



Ron Seibert



Linda Gadsden



Diana Hoffman

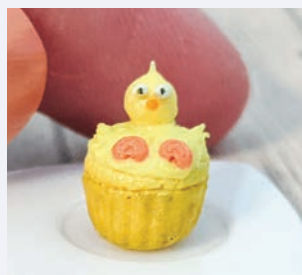
Thank you all for participating and sharing your creations!

Mini Make It Challenge

14 year old Gracie from Washington, IL took us up on our Mini Make It Challenge from *AM* April. Here is her amazing mini cupcake!



Above: Actual Baby Chick Cupcake found at <https://easyfamilyrecipeideas.com>.



Above: Incredible detail for a 1:12, cupcake. Especially for a 14 year old artist!

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*!"



I thought it would be fun to create some turn of the century style dolls for example some with a Hyde Park lavishness. One of those dolls was Lady Gylda, a doll dressed in day visiting attire.

1 Paint your doll shoes with the desired color of nail polish and let dry.

2 Assemble your doll using your preferred assembly method.

3 Adhere your doll to the stand to provide stability.

4 Cut a small rectangle out of the batiste, and glue around the assembly for a slip.

5 Cut out your gore pattern pieces from a paper towel to check the fit. Then cut the pattern from your dressmaking material.

Dress

6 Cut out the dress front panel pattern and glue a thin layer of glue near

Scale = 1:12

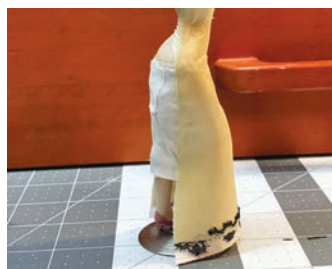
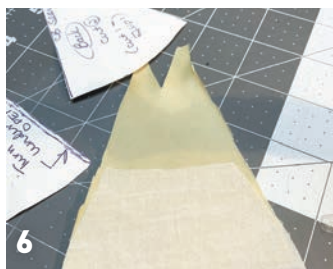
Materials:

- Doll
- Doll stand
- Dress materials
- Laces and decoration
- Flowers
- No-hole pearls
- Viscose
- Aleene's Original Tacky Glue
- Glue syringe
- Pins
- Nail polish for shoes
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Knitting needle (size 10)
- Doll assembly materials
- Doll draping board (macramé board)
- Wire nippers
- Flat iron/hair straightener
- Ruler
- Gel Super Glue
- Corsage pin
- Hair spray
- Toothpicks
- Feathers

the bottom. Lay the pattern piece on a small section of batiste to add a lining. Cut out.

7 Decorate the hem as you see fit.

8 Put a thin layer of glue on your doll's front and



let dry until tacky. Then lay the front panel on doll and smooth on.

9 Cut out the remaining dress patterns from your fabric.

10 Fold under the edges of the side gores to the wrong side and then glue them.

11 Glue the side gore edges flat on the doll as shown for a nice streamline look.

12 Turn under the very bottom edges of the hem to the wrong side and glue for a finished edge. I waited until this point, to see how much of the material I had left (i.e., making sure that it was long enough to drape).

13 Piece-cut the designs out of the black lace and cover the raw edge of her V front. You could also hold off with all the decorations until the entire doll is dressed.

Dress insert

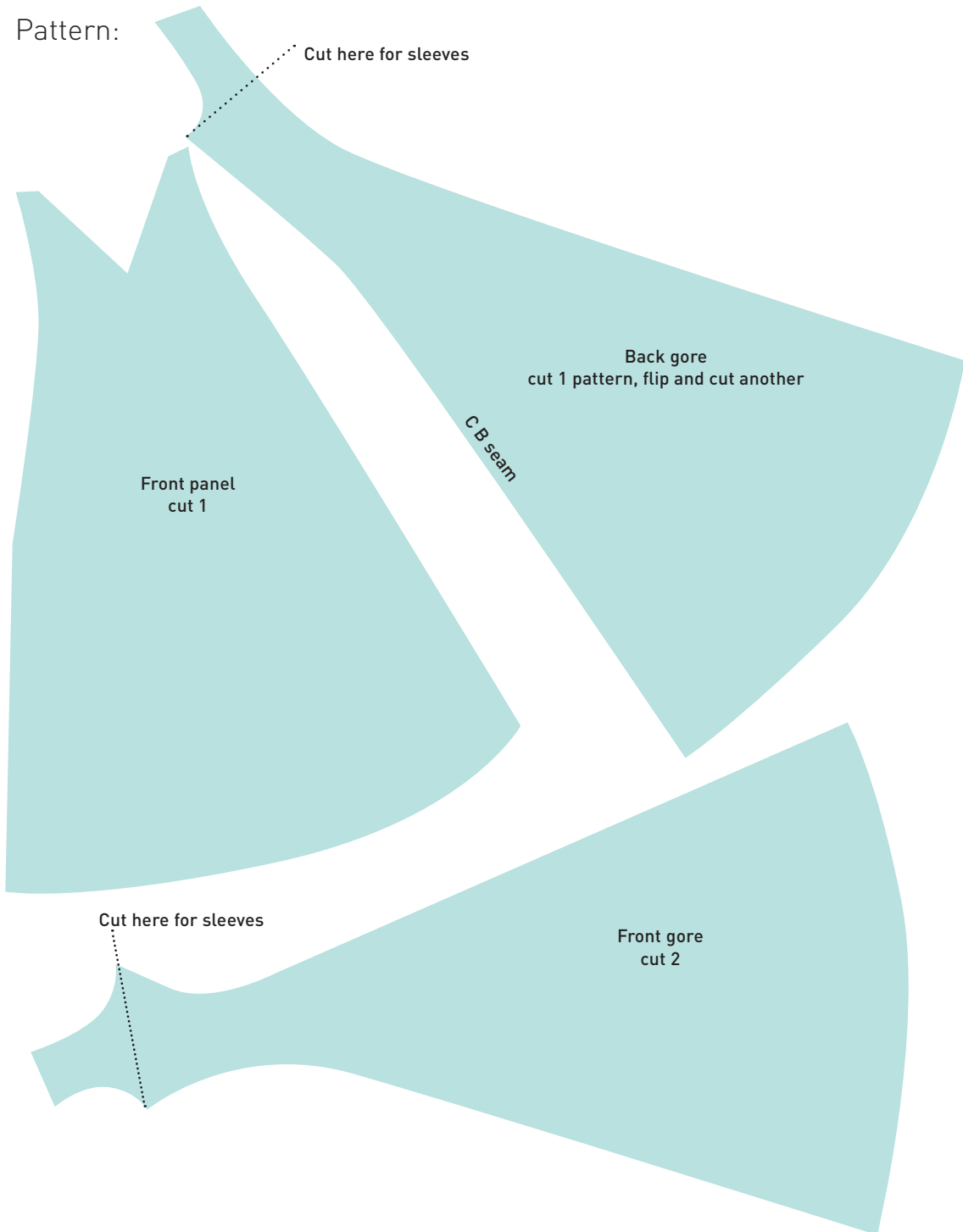
14 Cut a piece of the batiste to 4" x 5". Turn the sides and the bottom under to the wrong side and glue.

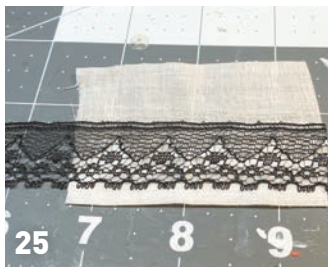
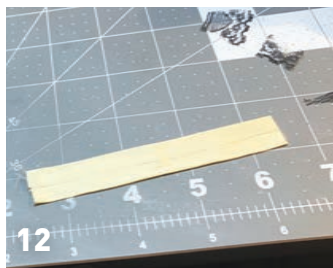
15 Glue two rows of the black lace across the bottom of the dress.

16 Hand pleat the insert while glue is still wet.

17 Glue the insert to the side of doll's skirt. Add decoration as desired.

Pattern:





Dress train

18 Cut a 4" x 6" rectangle of the dress material. Turn under the bottom and both side edges to the wrong side and glue.

19 Hand pleat and glue the folds in place.

20 Glue the train right under her butt.

21 Pin the train in place, and lightly spray with hair spray to get a permanent drape.

22 Cut a 4" x 1 1/2" rectangle from the dress material. Turn the top and the bottom edges to the wrong side and glue them forming a loop. Then pinch in the middle and glue on over the top of the dress train to hide the raw edges.

Dress sleeves

23 Glue the arms into the torso. I painted my arms with matt white fingernail polish to simulate her gloves.

24 Cut a 2 1/2" x 1" rectangle from the batiste. Glue the black lace on the bottom. Hand pleat and cut off the excess material so the sleeve falls at her mid-upper arm. Glue on around each arm.

25 Piece cut the straight edge off the black lace to finish the tops of her sleeves and the bodice.

26 Piece cut a piece of the black lace to fill in the V on her bodice.



27 Decorate the rest of the dress as desired. My sample was made entirely from piece cut lace.

Wigging

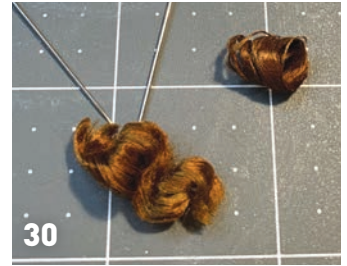
28 Take a small section of your viscose, and lightly mist with water.

29 Wrap the hair around a size 10 knitting needle and then clamp with a flat iron to set. Let cool.

30 Lay the curl on the table and gently pull apart small cut sections to her form curls.

31 Glue the curls to the doll's head. Keep stacking the curls on top of each other until you reach the desired effect.

32 Decorate her hair with pretty flowers as well as feathers and your Lady Gylda will be all set to shine!



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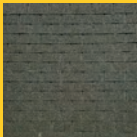
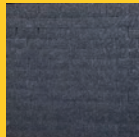


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Creating Victorian Illusions

Become entranced by a range of Victorian furniture from Erzsébet Bodzás as she takes on a new challenge

BY SADIE BROWN

Creating beautiful Victorian furniture is an exciting project for IGMA Fellow and familiar name in the miniatures world, Erzsébet Bodzás, but she is already producing magnificent works of 1:12 scale art to rival fellow artisans with many years of experience in making finely crafted pieces from an era famed for its ornate design.

“I made some rustic furniture in the past few years, mostly sideboards, but never with opening drawers and doors,” says Erzsébet. “The Victorian style is a new favorite with its elaborate but not too heavy details. I wasn’t so sure about the doors and drawers, since I thought I wasn’t ready for them.”

After asking fans of her work on social media if they would like to see furniture

Right: Erzsébet’s beautiful 1:12 scale vitrine. She is turning the page to new ideas.





which featured these functional, working elements, the overwhelming response was yes!

This sparked a journey which has seen Erzsébet create pieces including a stunning piano with working lid, lifting to reveal the keys below, and an incredible secretary desk. Inspired by the 19th century designs of William S. Wooton and the incredible Wooton desk, the latter is a piece which took her three weeks to complete.

What may surprise readers, however, and makes Erz-



sébet's furniture all the more remarkable, is that she uses materials such as cardboard to create these evocative miniature masterpieces.

"I know a lot of people like wood furniture," she admits. "But for me it doesn't matter

Above: Erzsébet's piano features intricate Victorian detailing.

if they're made from wood or not, the point is to make them look like wood. I'm an illusionist, I create food from polymer clay, ceramic bowls from vacuum formed plastic and wood furniture from paper. And they all look real. Wood is a great material, but like everything else it has its own limits. I can get better results with cardboards and other papers. They can be thinner, for example. But I use wood, too, when I need a



Above: This bed will guarantee a grand night's sleep!

very stable base, for turned parts or when I need to sand something. Cardboard could be sanded with a very fine sandpaper, but not so well as wood."

Erzsébet takes time to carefully plan each aspect of her furniture digitally, finding it essential in helping to iron out any bumps in the road before she begins work. "I hate cutting," she admits,

pleased that this is no longer a task she has to endure, thanks to an inexpensive laser cutter which enables her to take the strain out of this previously time intensive aspect. Instead, Erzsébet is able to concentrate on the intricacy of the detail which she manages to incorporate into her furniture. It's this level of detail which instantly grabs your attention and Erzsébet is more than happy to share a few of the secrets

behind her incredible illusionist art.

"Usually I use polymer clay for the fine details, shaping it before or after baking," she explains. "If you print a pattern to paper, then place it with the printed surface down onto a polymer clay sheet, the ink will transfer onto the clay. It's very useful in both cases. Then the right painting transforms the clay into wood. For the very fine and repetitive carving I use



my engraving machine. For some details I use pieces from my very big collection of nail decorations. It's unbelievable how many useful goods I have found in nail art stores."

In addition to the laser cutter and engraving machine, there are many other tools which Erzsébet has discovered invaluable along the way. "My lathe provides me with legs, columns and other turned parts," she says. "I regularly use my Dremel, mostly for drilling holes. And there is one of my new favorites, the 3D printer. I use it for making difficult

Left: Inspired by the famous Wootton desk, this piece has 40 individually made drawers.



shapes, like the lid of the piano, and for some bases I cover with cardboard. It's also capable of making me other tools, templates for bending or jigs for assembling parts. The printed parts are rarely visible, and when they are, only after thorough sanding and painting, so they are not recognizable at all."

Erzsébet believes that modern technology like the 3D printer, which is quickly growing in popularity with miniaturists, is simply one of the power tools of the 21st century and has an extreme-



Left: The desk showing all the amazing details inside.

ly valid place in the world of miniatures. "They give me the opportunity to have more time for doing what I love the most. There is still a lot of creativity behind every piece and all of them are unique pieces of art."

Erzsébet's piano, with the working lid, quite literally provides the key to miniature perfection. Looking at her tiny piano keys you'd easily believe they were much more complex to create than the reality behind their amazing design. "They look like individual keys, but they are really not," she tells me. The white keys are

Right: Erzsébet has found herself opening the doors to exciting challenges.

made using two partially cut strips of paper which, when brought together and stuck to their wooden base perfectly resemble the genuine article. The black keys are also extremely well thought out, and Erzsébet has ensured they're accurately raised above the level of the other keys through the use of thick card which was cut before being painted.

Among her most recently completed pieces lies an exquisitely crafted vitrine, a display cabinet with an ornate handle and featuring a drawer in the base. The shelves are filled to the rafters, overflowing with a selection of beautiful hand-crafted books which alone took Erzsébet a full day to complete.

With a folder crammed full of pictures to inspire further new Victorian designs, Erzsébet would love to have the time to create all her ideas and in her immediate future there are certainly plenty of things just waiting to unfold on her worktable, including a selection of sideboards, a vanity table and a cradle. "I choose the most challenging ones just to push my boundaries. I still have

to find ways to make better hardware for the pieces and I have to gain experiences with upholstery, too." she muses, leaving you wondering just where there could possibly be room for improvement in these already

accomplished works.

However, these gems are simply the precursor to Erzsébet's ambition of bringing small scale to a wider audience through the medium of what she describes as her big dream of creating 3D





Above: Victorian splendor.



paintings, a project she's already started work on and which must see her creative space busier than ever. "My secret wish is to give miniature art to those who are not interested in dollhouses or room boxes but could appreciate quality mixed media artworks."

Taking into account just how far Erzsébet has come with her Victorian furniture in a relatively short period of time, it seems doubtful that she will have any problems making that wish come true!

Lay a fancy floor

Use this innovative method to save time and supplies

BY KATE ANDREWS



MEET THE MAKER: Kate Andrews

"I'm a 38 year old mummy to a lovely 15-month-old little girl from Birmingham, England. I was inspired to get my old dollhouse out and renovate it for y daughter. This 1:12 scale floor was one of my first projects and tutorials."

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Coffee stirrers
- Paint or wood stain
- Paint brushes
- White or wood glue
- card stock
- Paper
- Cutting knife
- Ruler
- Weight to lay on floor while drying

I've been working on a fancy wooden floor for the lounge in my house. I wanted to create an interesting pattern without needing to cut seven thousand coffee stirrers!

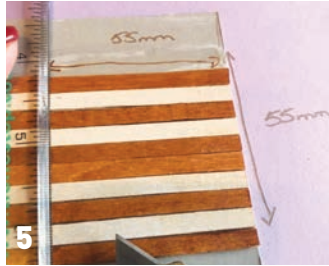
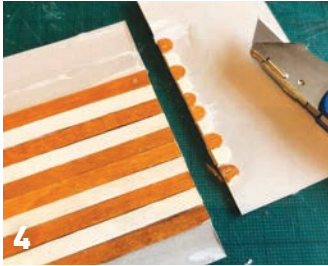
I started by pre-painting a stack of coffee stirrers in two colors. They can be any colors you want as long as there's at least a slight shade difference to make the pattern stand out.

Once I'd painted and the stirrers were dry, I stuck these down onto card stock using white glue following the pattern.

3 Keep the stirrers nicely in line with each other, using 10 stirrers I alternated the colors making sure the center two (stirrers 5 and 6) are matching colors. Carry on building 10 stirrer blocks until you feel you have enough (each block covers approximately 4 inches square so you can roughly work out how many you will need. Always make a couple of spares. Allow to dry, you can put some weight on them if you wish while they dry.

4 Once dry, use a sharp blade and ruler to remove the ends from each





block of stirrers. This way you saved yourself 9 cuts!

5 This is the most important bit; you are making squares so the need to be as accurate as possible. Start by measuring the edge you just trimmed and then marking and cutting the next line.

6 Once cut, you now have a square. Place a ruler corner to corner and score with your blade.

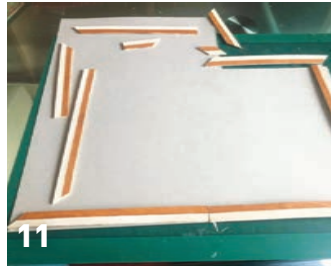
7 Turn the square around and score corner to corner again (you can now see four triangles). I found it easier to score both lines then cut them in to stop the card separating and making the triangles uneven.

8 Cut through the scored lines giving you four separate triangles. Repeat the process on the left-over block. You should get two squares (8 triangles) per block of stirrers.

9 Once separated, you can see the different directions of the stirrers

10 Grouped together you can now see the pattern. Cut all the required pieces and place in two separate piles, one for each direction of stirrer, this just makes it quicker when you lay the floor.

11 Next, I mapped out the room, I like to make my floor removable, but you can glue straight



down if you prefer. I edged the room with left over stirrers and mitred the corners, this possibly took me longer than the rest of the project did in total.

12 Glue and secure the edges into place.

13 Using white glue, I built the pattern into the frame I'd created. It's worth having a plan first to see where it sits so your happy with any filling areas you may have at the end.

14 Completed base pattern. I weighed this down and allowed to dry.

15 To finish, I took the remaining triangles I had making sure I used the

correct ones to keep the pattern. I measured and glued the filler pieces into place. I weighed the whole floor down with books and allowed to dry overnight, mostly as mine on card and it easily warps, if done

straight into the house you'd probably not need to weight it down!

My finished floor has not been sealed yet. I am still trying to decide on a high shine or a matt varnish.



The key to the past

Discover the key to the past with this intriguing diary

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!"



Adding small details like this cute little diary will give your miniature scene something extra special!

1 Create the diary pages by cutting six pieces of thick paper, each measuring 3cm by 1.9cm and folding them in half. Thick watercolor paper is ideal. To create the title for the book's front cover, simply write or print the word 'Diary' using very tiny lettering. Make a mug of tea and allow to go cold before using the tea bag to add an 'aged' effect to each of the pages and the title.

2 Once the pages have dried thoroughly, use a glue stick to stick them all together to form a solid book.

3 Cut a piece of card in your chosen color, textured/leather effect if you can find it, to fit all the way around the glued pages of the book, creating the cover. In

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Tea bag and a cold cup of tea
- Thick watercolor paper
- Leather effect card
- Polymer clay - Ecru
- Metallic gold acrylic paint
- Matte varnish
- Glue stick
- All-purpose glue
- Sculpey Bake & Bond
- Needle tool or sewing pin
- Scissors
- Cutting knife
- Small brush

addition, cut a small strip of card measuring 2cm by 3mm. Glue the cover into place around the pages and stick the strip around the 'open' side of the book half-way up.

4 Make the diary lock by first rolling a 2mm ball of ecru polymer clay and flattening it to roughly 1mm in thickness with a fingernail. Use a needle tool or sewing pin to create the shape of the keyhole in the center.

5 Now to create the key, which comprises



three components. Take a 1.5mm ball of Ecru colored clay, flattening to around 1mm in thickness with a fingernail before using a needle tool or sewing pin to make a hole in the center.

This is the bow of the key (the bit you hold to turn the key!). Roll out a tube of clay to just under 1mm in diameter, cutting a 5mm length to form the stem. Stick the stem to the bow with a little Sculpey Bake & Bond.

To make the bit (the piece at the end of the key!), roll out a tiny piece of clay to under 1mm in thickness and cut out a tiny very oblong.

Next, cut a slant at either

end of the oblong, creating a shape which resembles the bottom half of a triangle. Make a tiny cut half-way along the shortest side before sticking the other side to the stem to complete the key. Bake the lock and key and allow the clay to cool.

Paint them both with

metallic gold acrylic paint. Once dry, coat with matte varnish.

6 Use all-purpose glue to stick the lock to the top of the front cover, positioning it at the end of the strip of card placed around the 'open' side of the book so it appears to be attached to it. Glue the key below this. Finally, stick the title to the cover using a glue stick.

Have fun making lots of diaries. You can even use scrapbook papers and fabrics with colorful designs.



A little lace and sewing shop

One Dutch miniaturist has found a sanctuary in her miniature world

BY DEB WEISSLER

Miniaturist Marike Noordhoek-Struijs loves her miniature world and never imagined that this hobby, this addiction as she calls it, would give her so much pleasure. She calls it her safe haven, a sanctuary where having things that are important and precious to her and where she is free to create whatever comes to mind. “Throughout my doll-

house journey, especially on Instagram, I got to know so many people with the same passion for miniatures,” Marike enthuses. “I’ve made friends all over the world. To see the creations made by all my dollhouse friends is something I enjoy seeing every day. It has enriched my world.”

For a half decade Marike has immersed herself in a beautiful world filled with

miniature collecting and decorating. Less a DIY builder and more an interior designer and decorator, she prefers buying beautiful pieces from those who are experts in the world of fine craftsmanship.

It all began in 2014 when she discovered some dollhouse furniture that

Below left: A little table full of treasures. **Below:** The front facade of the shop.





belonged to her late mother. The vintage pieces in 1:16 scale dated from the 1930s and Marike, who couldn't recall having seen them before, was intrigued. Not long after, she bought her first dollhouse in 1:12 scale. It was the start of a grand obsession and like many of us she couldn't stop at just one!

"When I buy a new dollhouse I almost immediately know how I want to decorate and furnish it. Although I get inspirations from the photos of other miniaturists on Instagram, over the years I have developed my own style. Being retired, I can devote as much time as I want to on my hobby."

Marike's latest project is Dolls House Emporium's "Magpie's" kit she has turned into a lace and sewing shop with living quarters upstairs.



Above: The doll above was made by Debbie Dixon-Paver.



With six generous size rooms, this two story structure offers a variety of possibilities, including a separate addition off to one side if desired. Marike always dreamed of having a sewing shop when her attention was drawn to an Etsy storefront featuring beautiful lace. I ordered some things and my Lace and Sewing Shop was born."

Although Marike painted much of the furniture herself, most of the items on display were bought. Content to collect and decorate, she utilized her skills in interior design as she combined pieces from all over the world.

“Although Marike painted much of the furniture herself, most of the items on display were bought.”

“The gorgeous Edwardian Lady, Catherine, was made by Debbie Dixon-Paver; the mannequin with the pink dress was made by Gabi Heine, as well as the boxes with garments. The Vintage-style



Above: Every corner of the shop is filled with beautiful miniature lace and floral accents.



perfume and lace counter, the lace dresser, the shabby chic fabric and lace cabinet dresser, the vintage-style shop counter and shabby-chic chair are all made by Gina Conley.

The wall decoration and some of the lovely miniatures came from Antonella Nardi. Lots of the beautiful sewing items were made

by Sigrid Kursirek and the elegant round couch made by Eileen Carr I found in England.”

The result is a warm, inviting and elegant boutique tastefully arranged and filled with everything a sewing enthusiast could desire. Her pieces are artfully and realistically displayed such that there's plenty of inventory to browse through but floor space enough for mini patrons to walk around.

Marike has now turned her attention to finishing the apartment above the shop. The entire project has taken her almost a year. She looks

Below: The two corners of the lace and sewing shop.



Right: This hutch is filled to the brim with all sorts of lace.

back on that time a bit wistfully. “Now that it’s almost finished, I feel a little bit sad, because it occupied my mind the entire year. The invitation to feature my shop in *American Miniaturist* is a dream come true. It’s one of my most treasured projects and I’m very grateful and happy that so many people will have a chance to see it.”

“Now that it’s almost finished, I feel a little bit sad, because it occupied my mind the entire year.”

In addition to dollhouses, Marike enjoys decorating room boxes and glass domes. In 2017 she attended a workshop given in the Netherlands by Dana Burton, where attendees created a Steampunk Lady. Marike made a small vignette inside a glass dome to house her. Marike has even turned an old radio interior into a living room.

Her biggest challenge is lighting, but fortunately her supportive husband steps in to assist. When she threw the lighting switch for the very first time and saw her



dream of a sewing shop come to life, it was truly a dream come true. Now that her dollhouse room is filling up fast, Marike says she is going to concentrate on room boxes and domes to conserve space for even more projects.



A perfect artist's studio in miniature

Morgen Bearse shares her recently finished painter's studio titled, Elle Peint

BY PAM NORTH

Morgen Bearse has collected miniatures since she was a child, finding common objects and tiny treasures to incorporate into shadow boxes. Her long-held dream of owning her own dollhouse finally came true 5 years ago when her husband presented her with one on Mother's Day.

Now living northwest of Boston, she currently is a stay-at-home-mom after several years of working as a floral designer. She always has been drawn to making smaller ver-

sions of items. As a florist she sometimes made miniature arrangements from fresh flowers as jokes for her coworkers.

With no formal training other than watching YouTube tutorials, Morgen has not let that stand in the way of her enjoyment in crafting miniatures, and, in the process, learning about tools and techniques. "Toothpicks are essential!" she exclaimed. "They are great for spreading glue, acting as a long skinny finger to hold something down or move around tiny pieces, and

they are cheap. My second favorite tool is my utility knife; I use it for cutting everything. I'm a very frugal person, and I really enjoy the challenge of making things myself with the supplies I already have. I can get lost for hours when I'm creating, and I am still learning," she explained. "Thankfully, my three kids and my husband help keep me grounded in reality.

Below left: A vase of flowers adds a nice punch of color in the studio. **Below:** A closer look at a chair that holds the brushes.





Above: The front facade of the 1:12 scale artist's studio.

“My larger projects are inspired by my dreams of who I would like to be (an adventurer, an entrepreneur, a full time artist, etc.),” she continued. “My smaller projects usually are more fanciful. For those, I usually find inspiration from an object. I’m working on a little garden in a lantern that was inspired by an urn I had sitting in my stash. One day I woke up and knew exactly what I wanted to do with it.”





Above: So many little details were created for this desk scene.

Morgen's latest piece, *Elle Peint* (French for She Paints), is a perfect 1:12 scale microcosm of an artist's studio, and it won first prize in the Hobby Builders Supply/miniatures.com 2019 Creatin' Contest. "My husband and I are fans of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, an American period comedy-drama web television series. A few episodes of the second season were set in an artist's studio in Paris.

I remember thinking how amazing it would have been to be a painter in Paris in the early 1900s, and that's when I knew that I wanted to use





that theme for my project. Making that vision come to life became my mission, and I created the piece to prove to myself that I could do it.”

The project started with the contest’s basic kit, Serendipity Shed, and evolved from there. Extremely frugal, Morgen would rather build or alter something than buy it, so *Elle Peint* is nearly all her own work, with about 90% hand-made and 10% purchased, the latter being altered for the effects she wanted.

Materials used were: wood, Plexiglas, mat board, paint, glue, metal, and paper. The floor is hand-cut walnut laid in a herringbone pattern. “I started by cutting each piece

‘She used her Cricut Maker to make all the doors and windows.’

of thin walnut to be 1.5” long, and then sanded them slightly to make sure the ends were smooth. Using a jig I made out of one of my son’s Lego blocks, I glued the wood at 90-degree angles on a piece of MDF (medium density fiberboard) for the floor. To prevent any warping of the walnut pieces, I would press the floor under another piece of MDF and a few heavy weights until the glue was dry.”

“After all the full-size pieces were glued down, I needed to go back and cut

Above: A beautiful photograph of the studio with light cascading through the terrace door.

customized pieces to fill in around the edges. When all of the glue was dry, I sanded the entire piece, being careful to sand with the grain of the wood, which was somewhat tricky. After sanding and dust clean-up, I added a coat of Polycrylic to bring out the color of the wood and seal it. I waited 24 hours before using the floor just to be sure it was fully dry.”

She used her Cricut Maker to make all the doors and windows. She wanted to keep them as close to the original kit as possible, but needed them to be taller, so after

taking a lot of measurements she created templates on her computer and used the Cricut to cut them out of mat board. She also used the Cricut to make the banisters for the balconies and the wood frames for the canvases.

The hardest part about making the miniature scene was designing the front facade. “While building the front, I learned quickly that I’m not that great at making things square! Thankfully, the stonework helped cover up a multitude of sins. The only thing about the front that I would change is the removable panel that opens up the artist’s studio. I didn’t consider ease of removal when designing it, and I now have an idea of what I would do differently. The idea for the interior aesthetic of the piece morphed slightly over time, but overall it turned out pretty close to how I had envisioned it.”

One of her favorite parts about the piece is the chair littered with paint and painting supplies. “I found a picture of a chair that Picasso had used for the same purpose, and I loved how much life it had. I knew I had to create the same thing for my studio. It also was fun making the tiny art supplies and paintings.”

Miniatures have become a passion for her. “Watch-



ing people get pulled into a miniature scene or dollhouse is probably my favorite thing. It brings out a childlike sense of wonder in people. The future of miniatures is exciting. With the internet, social media, and sites like YouTube, more and more artists can share their work, making

Above: A still life work of art is in the making on the easel.

miniatures more accessible and mainstream. People seem to be captivated by miniatures. There are so many new avenues through which to experience miniatures, such as tutorials on YouTube, ad agencies using miniatures for



advertisements, and the amazing cooks and bakers who use working miniature kitchens to actually cook/bake miniature foods on social media. I'm also excited to see how expanding technologies such as 3D printers, Cricut-type machines, and laser printers will further open up the world of miniatures."

Looking forward, Morgen is starting to plan her next big project for the Creatin' Contest 2020, as well as finishing up her current smaller project, the garden in a lantern. "I have a few things I'm working on, but I just need to narrow down my ideas first."

So far she has kept all of the miniatures she has made, preferring instead to display them herself. "I've played

with the idea of selling some things, but it would be hard to part with what feels like

little parts of my soul," she said, "however, I am exploring the idea."



Right: Morgen's work table where she makes her miniatures.

Lilac in a vase

Make these wonderfully realistic miniature lilacs

BY KUDRIAVTSEVA YEVHENIIA

In this tutorial, I use air dry polymer clay. Remember that after opening the package and mixing with the paints, the clay must be stored in a film and a closed box to avoid drying out. You can also use clay for baking, in this case, first bake the flowers separately. Then assemble the twig on a wire using polymer clay and Fimo Liquid (for example). Then bake again, fixing the twig in an upright position.

Carefully mix the clay with oil paints. Be sure to wrap the clay in polyethylene, so that the clay does not dry up. Color oil paints for flowers : lilac, royal blue,



Scale = 1:12

Materials:

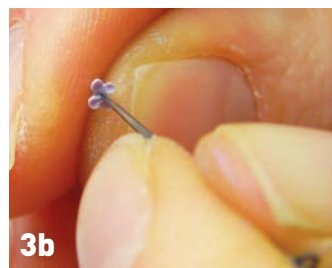
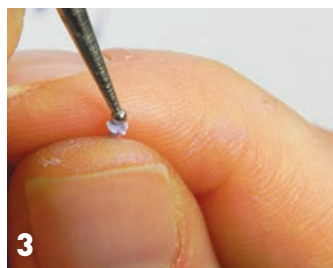
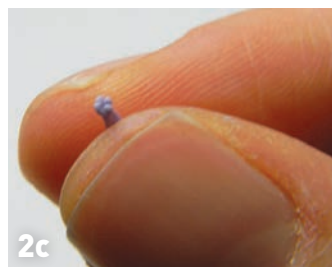
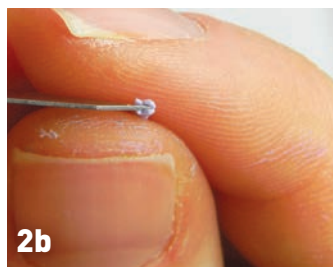
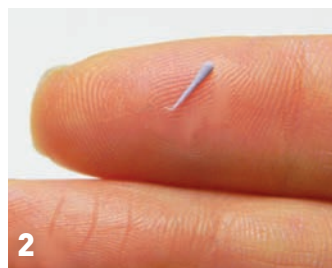
- Air dry polymer clay
- Oil paint
- Flat blade or knife
- Wire - 0.3mm
- Wire cutters
- Tacky Glue
- Stylus ball tool - small and medium
- Needle

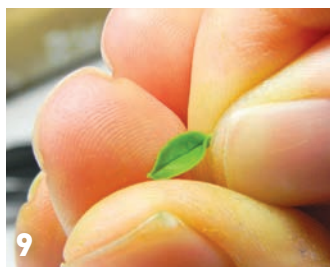
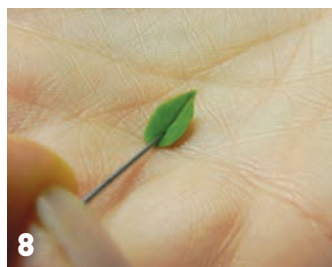
zinc white. For leaves: sap. For stem: Burnt Umber

2 To make the buds, roll out a tiny pea shape in the palm of your hand.

Turn the 'pea' into a drop shape. With a knife, cut the drop from the round side in half, without cutting to the end. And cut each half in half again.

PROJECT





3 For flowers, make a bud, then knead each petal. Then form the shape of the flower with a needle and make the middle.

4 After our lilac flowers are dry, we collect them

so they are in small branches and glue the flowers to the wire making them look as they do in the photo.

5 When the glue is completely dry, collect them in one branch.

6 Then proceed to tinting the flowers by painting them with a light violet. Using a very small brush, dry brush with paint to touch up the buds and the edges of all of the lilac petals. Keep painting until you are happy.

PROJECT



12a

7 Making leaves. Roll out a pea shape in the palm of your hand. Turn it into a drop shape and flatten it.

8 Make the veins on the leaves with a needle.

9 Create the shape of a leaf and make a petiole.

10 After the leaves dry, glue them to the wire

11 Connect the main branch with the leaves,



twisting the wires together.

12 Cling to the stem with brown clay, pre-apply glue to the wire.

Be sure to follow Kudriavtseva Yevheniia on instagram @FloralDecorMini.



12b

dollhouse miniatures

FINE MINIATURE ART FOR THE DEVOTED COLLECTOR

Don't miss the tutorials, tips, and techniques by top makers in the March/April 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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Hook the big one this Father's Day

This is one fisherman's tale that didn't get away and miniaturist Denise Morales shows you how

BY DEB WEISSLER

Ask any fisherman about the biggest fish he ever caught and he will weave amazing stories, real and imagined, where bragging rights are part of the territory," Denise laughs. "Telling and listening to tall fish tales of hooking the big one is part of the fun of this relaxing yet exciting outdoor sport." Then ask any fisherman what he desires most besides that trophy catch or perhaps his own boat, and he will tell you it's a genuine fish shack, a man cave devoted to all things fishy. Denise has served one up that's sure to please every rod and reeler out there!

America's coastline offers a variety of fishing locales, from the Atlantic's Intercoastal Waterway to the shallow waters of the Gulf Coast, the challenging Gulf Stream off the Carolina barrier islands to the rocky coastline of New England. Folks along the West Coast have their favorite fish-



ing holes too, and for those living along the shores of the Great Lakes, there's no better fishing anywhere. From big water to small ponds, it's time to cast a line.

In Texas, Corpus Christi is a popular fishing destina-

tion any time of the year, and in 2019 it was the site of the Society of American miniaturists annual birthday party. The theme for the Saturday event was building an Intercoastal Fishing Cabin set inside a shadow box that



included a sink and cabinet, shelving units, and window and door kits.

70 miniaturists from around the state and a handful of out-of-state visitors attended the party, and as parting gifts, each attendee was handed a tote bag filled with coastal gifts provided by member clubs to enhance that fishing theme, including fishing pole kits, a fish trophy and broom. Denise used the kit's components to create her own vision of an unpretentious fisherman's cave.

"I envisioned that this humble shack was cobbled together three generations ago and was still being used today, even though the floors, countertops, walls and décor showed serious signs of age and shabbiness," Denise explains. "When it was completed, I gave this box to my son for his 2019 high school graduation." A generational gift of sorts in miniature.

Humble shack it may be, but Denise filled the small space with enough things to keep any fisherman happy

for years! Using card-stock and kraft-board and Denise's beloved Cricut Maker, she fashioned wood planks for the walls, countertop, back splash tiles, coffee maker, single burner cooktop and microwave. But her creativity had just gotten started.

No door or window would be complete without screens to keeping the flying pests at bay. "I went to my local Dollar Store and bought food strainers made of plastic mesh. I painted two mesh triangles with silver paint, aged them



Right: A look at the right corner. with some weathering solution, and glued them to the wooden door. I even cut a few holes to give that tattered look I was seeking.”

No fishing shack decades old would be complete without years of accumulated dirt, grease and grime, so before Denise would rinse her dirty paint brushes, she would run it along the edges of the counter, windowsill, the back wall above the back splash, and around the sink to give the appearance of dirt and grime buildup over the years.

“I even added rust rings using the edges of the cups that were once parts from

inexpensive pens and pencils. Adding layer after layer of dirt and grime and rubbing a dirty paintbrush on the walls, floor and furniture was the most fun!” She even sprinkled sand on the floor and brushed it with matte Mod Podge to hold it in place.

Speaking of furniture, Denise was determined to fit a weathered white chair into her scene, but no matter where she placed it, it always seemed to be in the way. Then she placed it on top of a shelf in her wall unit and it all just seemed to come together. Wouldn't it make sense for a fisherman to need a chair at times and stow it out of the

way at others? And of course that chair would eventually become the repository of other essentials he just couldn't part with.

Denise's clever craftiness is evident throughout the box. Hair nets formed fishing nets around the crab trap. She transformed an unpainted pewter tackle box with metallic green nail polish and filled it with handmade lures, bobbers, reels, tools and bait packages. She screen-shot and printed out photos of crab and frog lures she then cut out with her Cricut Maker. Rustic wooden beads became floats for a casting net. Inexpensive black galoshes were



Above: Stunning detailing in the fisherman's tool box!

weathered with a pickling wash and white ink and fine sand was glued to the soles. A barrel holds a handmade Coleman lantern.

On the right hand wall, a wood panel board displays fishing lures and bobbers she made with air dry clay, painted with bright acrylic paints, and brushed with powdered pigments found in the scrapbook section of a craft store. 34 gauge wire became fishing hooks and silver beads were aged with alcohol inks to form fishing weights. You could study this vignette for hours and still find something new and fascinating!

Denise has been making miniatures since grade school and began collecting them

in high school. Her interest accelerated after graduate school. A social worker, wife, and mother of four, she has more time for her passion now that three of her four have graduated high school and are off pursuing their own dreams.

She has created dozens of vignettes over the years. "Because this is my hobby, I keep just about every box I have made. They are my memory boxes so that some items in each are associated in some way with travel souvenirs from trips, mementos from my children, or gifts from my miniature friends. I used to rely on decorating magazines for my inspirations too, but now I spend hours every day looking at decorating ideas on Pinterest. I try to limit my viewing upon



waking in the morning and right before bedtime."

Her website, roomboxes-bydenise.com showcases her many projects, and like her own on-line browsing, may serve up some inspirations for all of you! Right now we could all use some happy memories, so find a project that inspires you, hook onto it and don't let it get away!

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A new look at a famous classic

Bonnie L. Cross take us on a tour through her project, Fallingwater Reimagined

BY PAM NORTH

Bonnie L. Cross, is a talented hobbyist residing in the country near a very small town in northwest Pennsylvania. She makes a wide assortment of miniatures, mostly in 1:12 scale, and she prefers focusing on constructing unique and unusual buildings.

Her interest in all things small began when she herself

was small, in early elementary school, where she enjoyed duplicating her art projects in miniature. It was a passion that grew and remained a part of her, bringing delight into her adult life as well.

Now retired and widowed not long ago, she has come to a place in her life where can devote more time to her hobby, saying, “I have

plenty of mini time!” Family also is important to her. Her husband, Vince, had been a major source of support and encouragement for her, and he is greatly missed. “He was my biggest champion,” she said, “along with my son, Mike. Mike is my photographer. My sister, Sharon, and my three grandsons also are great fans of my art, and they





are very proud of me.”

Self-taught, with no formal training in crafting miniatures, she nevertheless has managed to assimilate necessary relevant skills and knowledge of the use of helpful tools, such as her Craftsman bolt-on power tool set that she swears she can’t live without, her Mighty Mite table saw, and her X-ACTO knives. She is fortunate to have a basement workroom

that her husband had built for her that is well-equipped with a desk, two workbenches, a table, and one wall with installed shelving for bins of assorted supplies. That comfortable space contributes to her being able to create impressive work.

One such project of Bonnie’s is her beautifully executed *Fallingwater Reimagined*. It is her interpretation of the famous home,

Fallingwater, designed in 1935 by renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959).

Located in the mountains of southwestern Pennsylvania (also known as the Laurel Highlands) in Mill Run, Pennsylvania, about 70 miles east of Pittsburgh, the house was designed as a private residence and weekend home for the family of Edgar J. Kaufmann, Sr., a Pittsburgh



department store owner. *Fallingwater* is one of Wright's most widely acclaimed works, and best exemplifies his philosophy of organic architecture – the harmonious union of art and nature. Wright designed the home to rise above the waterfall over which it is built.

Completed with a guest house and service wing in 1939, *Fallingwater* was constructed of native sandstone and other materials quarried from the property, and built by local craftsman from Fayette County. Today, *Fallingwater* is open to the public as a museum and surrounded by 5,100 acres of natural land known as the Bear Run Nature Reserve.

It was a visit to that landmark structure that sparked Bonnie's interest, inspiring

her to try to build her own interpretation of the iconic home. *Fallingwater Reimagined* became her entry in

the Hobby Builders Supply/miniatures.com 26th annual

Below: There is a mulled wine warmer attached to the fireplace.





Creatin' Contest in 2019, winning her an Honorable Mention. Nicely captured is the contemporary yet organic feel of the original home, with its stone floors and walls, rich wood accents, and bonded-with-nature atmosphere, all put together in Bonnie's own unique perspective, which perfectly captures its light, airy essence.

Bonnie started with the contest's basic kit, Serendipity Shed #72019, a required component of each entry. It was a compact, enclosed structure in raw form to which she added the necessary materials for completion, mostly wood and stones made of plaster. The slate flooring was ac-

“It was a visit to that landmark structure that sparked Bonnie's interest, inspiring her to try to build her own interpretation of the iconic home.”

complished by tearing paper egg cartons into various-sized pieces, which then were glued to the floor, dried, and painted in various muted tones of acrylic paint. Grouting of thick gray paint was applied. After it was dry, two coats of Mod Podge were applied. It was all her own work. About half of the furnishings

Above: The master bedroom and bath with a view down the stairs.

were bought and used as is, or reconfigured to suit her needs.

“I made this piece because of my fascination with the full-size *Fallingwater*,” was her explanation for her endeavor. “As always with my projects, it morphed over time, but it did come out as I had envisioned it, with just a few small adjustments here and there. The biggest difficulty involved was making the piece realistic. My favorite parts about it were the creek, rock walls, and waterfalls below the house, as they were the most fun to create, and I love how it turned out.” She plans on keeping the piece, but said if she ever were



to sell it, she would have to ask at least \$2,500.

The enjoyment that miniatures has brought into Bonnie's life is something that she wishes others to similarly experience in the future. "I wish more young people would become involved; we need to ensure the future of our hobby. It would be a tragedy for this to become a lost art. What I love most about miniatures is the whole process of making them from start to finish. I enjoy creating and collecting them. In fact, I live and breathe them,

as ridiculous as that sounds to most people, but what else can I say? I find inspiration in everything around me. That challenge of undertaking the task of replicating a full-size piece into a believable miniature is what I embrace. I also hope people enjoy viewing my work as much as I do building it!"

Next on the agenda for Bonnie is an abandoned stone cabin, built using red/orange stones from Oklahoma, and, of course, those future Creatin' Contests beckon each year.



Privacy screen

Dress up your miniature room with a stylish screen

BY KAREN HRITZ

Make a stylish and decorative privacy screen for your miniature room.

1 Saw the fan blades to free them from the connecting rivet. Using a small pair of sharp scissors, carefully snip the clear thread that connects the fan blades.

2 For each screen panel, you will need 3 of the fan blades.

3 Trim one edge of 2 fan blades a scant 1/8" from the edge of the holes. Trim the third blade a scant 1/8" from both edges.

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Wooden fan
- Saw
- Scissors
- 1/8" x 1/16" x 24" strip wood – 3 pieces
- White glue
- Paint or stain
- Paint brush
- Twill tape
- Clamps



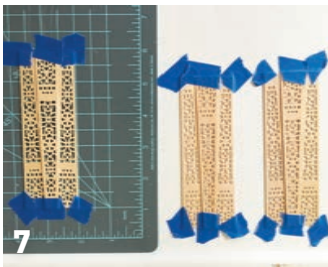
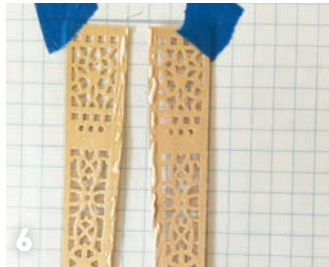
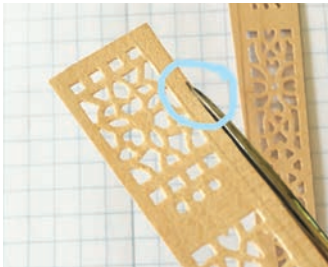
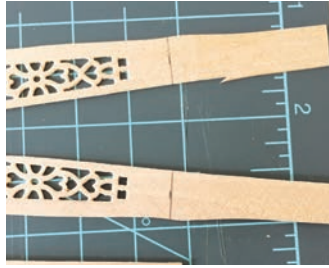
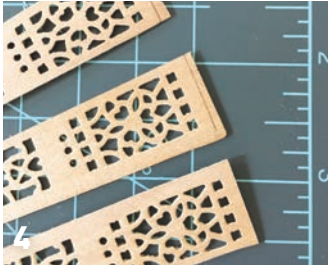
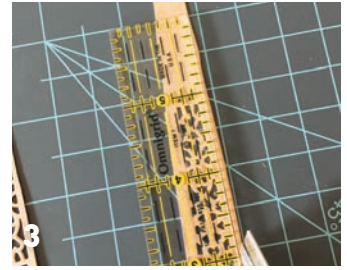
4 Trim the wide ends of the 3 blades 1/8" from the holes. Trim the narrow ends of the 3 blades 3/8" from the holes

5 Lay out the 3 blades as shown. The trimmed long edges should be parallel to each other and just far apart enough that the wide end of the third blade just fits between the narrow ends of the outer blades.

Secure with tape. **NOTE:** The middle blade will overlap the outer blades at the top and about two-thirds of the length of the blade. In the circled area I marked a spot where the outer blades showed through the holes. In the circled area of the next photo, I have trimmed this off.

6 Run a thin bead of glue on the inner edges of

PROJECT



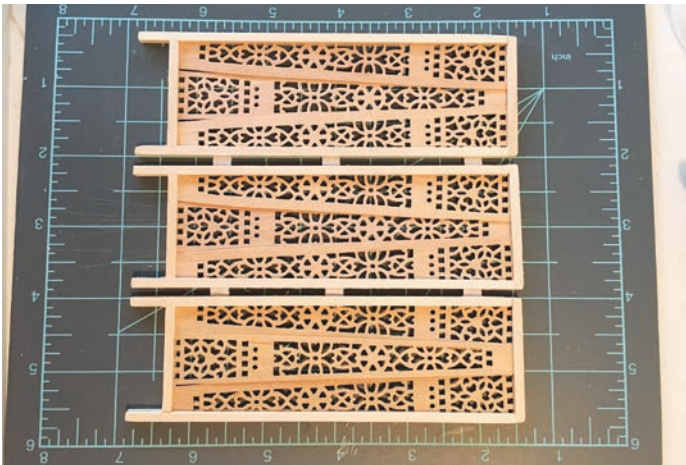
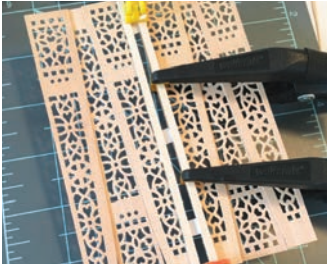
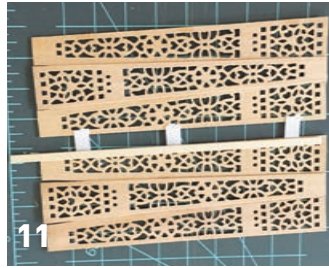
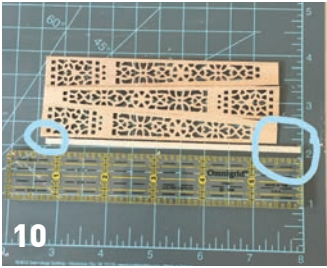
the outer blades. Position the center blade on top and secure with tape. Blue tape is great because it holds but pulls back up easily.

7 Repeat the earlier steps for additional panels.

8 Position 2 panels about 1/8" apart and secure with tape. Cut 3 pieces of twill tape about 3/8" long and glue as shown.

9 Repeat step 8 with the third panel.

10 Cut the frame for each panel from 1/8" x 1/16" x 24" strip wood. The long pieces of trim are cut 3/8" longer than the panels. You will need 4 long pieces for each panel to use front and back.



11 Glue a long frame piece on the edge of the panels. Flip the piece over and glue another trim piece to each long edge. Secure with clamps.

12 Cut 2 pieces of trim the width of the panel and glue at the top edge of the panel. Cut 2 more

pieces of trim to fit between the frame at the bottom edge of panel. Glue and secure with clamps. Repeat for each panel.

13 Sand frame; prime and paint.

Place the screen in your scene and enjoy!

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!

Sisterly love through minis

This Hummingbird Cottage dollhouse was an amazing estate sale find and now gets a second life

BY JOAN MCKENZIE

Some of us are born with a lot of imagination, and we find ways to create what we cannot afford, especially as children. The following is a true story about my younger sister who has agreed to this interview to share her lovely little dollhouse and her history with miniatures.

When Jean Ricci was a little girl, she was fascinated with all things small. As a five-year-old she attended Kindergarten and was fortunate enough to have a very young teacher named Miss

‘When Jean Ricci was a little girl, she was fascinated with all things small.’

Kumakawa. This teacher asked the children to bring to school an empty matchbox container. In the mid 1950’s milk was served in small glass containers with a round cardboard pull top. The teacher also asked each child to bring in as many of the cardboard pull tops from milk bottles

as possible.

The following day Jean came home with a huge grin on her face as she showed our mom how she had painted the matchbox a shiny red color, and the wheels (milk bottle tops) were painted black with silver spokes. They made a pull-handle from spare cardboard which was painted black as well. Inside

Below left: Jean Ricci, the owner of this beautiful miniature cottage. **Below:** The front of the Franklin Mint *Hummingbird Cottage* has lots of charm.



DOLLHOUSE TOUR



the wagon there were little clay bunnies with tiny cotton tails removed from a Q-tip. I remember being so impressed at how adorable the finished project was that I wished I could return to Kindergarten. I tried to make one on my own, but it was not as good as Jean's. I was always in awe of her creativity.

While we didn't have money for things that were not necessities, that didn't stop Jean from creating an entire grocery store, filled with cans and boxes of assorted foods and lined up on her shelves.





Above: The living room is decorated for the holidays.

There were weekly paper advertisements sent through the mail, and also added to the grocery bags indicating what products would be on sale the following week. These ads included color pictures of many varieties of canned and boxed food, which Jean would clip and glue to her clay cans and boxes for added realism. Some pictures came directly from cereal boxes. Most people who looked at

this miniature grocery store were quite impressed. I was a 7-year-old who kept going back and forth between being jealous of my own baby sister's creations, to being exceptionally proud of her talent.

On rainy days we would play board games and also with paper dolls. By 1966 there were 11 children in our family. Jean and I were two of the oldest who had multiple responsibilities at young ages toward cleaning, cooking and care giving for

the new babies. We learned everything possible about childcare through necessity, as our mother needed our help and support. We have been through good times and bad together, but the good outweighs everything else.

Jean had a few tiny treasures growing up that remain in her memory. One was a gift from her Godmother Lillian who gave her a miniature glow in the dark "Infant of Prague" statue. For her to be the only one in our large family to own



a tiny doll, that would light up when it was bedtime was like handing her a gold bar. She knew she had something special there, so she treasured that little sacred talisman for many years.

When Jean was a teenager our youngest sisters Peggy and Gerri were just little girls. They both asked for a dollhouse as their Christmas gift, but she knew that our mother would not be able to afford one. Jean was working full time but decided to put her skills to the test each night, creating something special for these two beloved little sisters.

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

She asked for no help from anyone else as she set to work creating a dollhouse from two milk crates stacked atop one another, using cardboard, clay and any other household items she could find. Spools of thread worked well for seats at a table. Just about everything she touched in her miniature stash of clippings,

Above: The master bedroom is charming and full of fun!

threads, yarn etc. was put to use. She cut holes for windows and made curtains that the children loved. The end result was a dollhouse that our two youngest sisters will never forget. I was so impressed!

Fast forward 40 years to 4 years ago when I had taken a Sunday drive to my favorite local miniature shop, Earth and Tree Miniatures, in New Hampshire. All the way from the highway I could see something in the window of that darling little shop that pulled

me in where I made a beeline to the house that I saw from the highway. It was part of an estate sale with multiple dollhouses. Someone's son was selling his Mom's beautifully artistic miniature treasures.

This little 4 room house was originally from the Franklin Mint collection and called *Hummingbird Cottage*. This was originally limited in number to 2500 count, introduced in the 1990's. I knew immediately that I wanted this little 4 room house and was stunned by how inexpensive it was being sold for by my favorite dollhouse shop. I brought it home, cleaned it up and started adding tiny furniture for the interior. It was in excellent shape.



About 6 months later Jean came to my home for a visit and saw the cottage for the first time in person, I could see how her eyes lit up when she looked at it.

Above: Lots of toys in this room for the grandchildren.

On that same day, she asked her daughter to come look at this dollhouse. I knew from that moment on that I wanted to fill this little house with tiny things that would mean something special to Jean and started a small list in my head about meaningful miniatures that had to be inside before I would give it to her.

Once that was decided, my first email for help was to one of my closest friends in the miniature world - Lynn Jowers from South Africa. Lynn has never failed to help me with custom orders. This time I wanted help recreating a wonderful unique bed that Jean







Left: Beautifully made bunk beds and dresser by Lynn Jowers.

end tables, a mirror and a bureau that complimented the bed perfectly. For the children's room she made bunk beds, a special dresser, a window seat, toy chest, a child's rocking chair, a pull toy horse and gorgeous bookshelves.

‘All of these items were handcrafted from cherry wood and finished with a patina that is as smooth as silk.’

All of these items were handcrafted from cherry wood and finished with a patina that is as smooth as silk. This took Lynn the better part of a year to complete

and her first husband had purchased from the Ethan Allen collection in the mid 70's. There was a headboard that included beautiful sliding doors where one might keep an alarm clock, books, tissues and/or mints. The sliding doors were made of small ornate dowels. From one photograph and a few measurements Lynn not only perfectly recreated that beautiful bed, but she added



along with her other orders. I was in no hurry to part with this charming house. I wanted to give it to my sister complete – so that she would want for nothing.

One of my favorite crochet artists made tiny blankets for the bunk beds. I chose dolls that looked the most like her 6 grandchildren to live in the house with one grandmother that Jean made during a Jeanne Rullie workshop at the IGMA Guild Show in September of 2018.

There are winding hidden staircases in the back of this house which make it seem larger than it is. The wallpaper adds charm all on its' own. I like to add real artwork to my walls, so I commissioned some paintings from Karry Johnson who always delights me.

I have asked Jean what she likes most about the miniature art form. Her first thought was that this miniature passion does not take up a lot of space in your home. She is able to create her own scenes with the tiny furniture she has and rearrange things so many different ways that the results are almost as dramatic as a face lift.

Today Jean is a very busy grandmother to 6 children under the age of 12, and mother to 4 of her own



‘There are winding hidden staircases in the back of this house which make it seem larger than it is.’

children who are all young adults. She is very active in her children’s and grandchildren’s lives. Two of her little grandsons come to her home frequently enough so that they have become entranced with her miniature *Hummingbird Cottage*. They are gentle little boys and know what cannot be touched so they never break anything. It’s a beautiful thing to witness.

Above: The front entrance to the cottage is simply magical.

The picture of Jean that’s included for this feature story is one where she is holding her most requested signature family recipe called “spinach pies”. If you look very carefully in her right hand, there is a tiny version of those spinach pies commission made by one of my favorite food artists named Minithaiss from Bosnia Herzegovina. Many artists contributed to making this Mini House perfect for my beloved sister. I would enjoy nothing more than to find the perfect little house for my other sisters and do it all over again!

The tale of two tea parties

Two friends made their own Alice in Wonderland display in different ways

BY MICHELL BRYANT

My friend Deri Terry and I were out shopping one day last summer when we spotted a white rabbit ornament. We both commented that we wanted to make a miniature tea party scene from Alice in Wonderland, we left without either of us purchasing the white rabbit. Over the next couple of days and weeks, we decided that we would indeed make the “Alice project”.

We came up with the idea, that we would both make a scene and not tell the other

person what or how we would do it. We thought it would be interesting to see how two friends that are so similar would interpret the same scene. We would only show each other the finished scenes. The only thing we knew about each others scene was I was making mine for a coffee table and Deri was making hers for a nursery table.

We decided that we would work together to make a few pieces. The first piece we made was a macaroon tower, see March issue of *American*

Miniaturist for that tutorial, using brads and polymer clay.

We talked or chatted daily but the rules were we could not discuss what we were doing. Deri is a lot better at this than I am, I am from the South and come from a long line of talkers, and she made me follow the rules. The second project we worked on was making the card soldiers, we used playing cards and molds for polymer clay, see

Below: The rabbit started as a Christmas ornament. The project shown from the back.





Above: The project shown from the front. **Right:** Michell hand-sculpted the caterpillar and the mushrooms.

the April Issue of *American Miniaturist*.

We each also ordered a miniature dormouse from the talented Bridget McCarty. In addition I ordered a three spout tea pot from Bridget as well. I decided that I wanted to make my Alice scene around an open book, as if Alice was walking out of her story and into Wonderland. I was able to purchase two beautiful Alice dolls made by Debbie Dixon.





Above: Alice before stepping outside through the tiny door.

I had my uncle, Lamon Small, help me make the base of my project, I had an old hard back book and he was able to attach it to a piece of plywood. He then cut a section of the pages out to create a space that Alice could walk out of the book. Then he used tin foil covered by masking tape to create a tree, he dipped paper towels in tacky glue and shaped to resemble bark.

I then was able to assemble the pieces of bark that he made. I glued in a page printed from the *Alice in Wonderland* book with my favorite quote on it. I then





started painted the paper towels to look more like bark. I continued working on the base, I glued a piece of black and white dollhouse flooring paper and added a one inch piece of grass border. I painted to cover of the book and added a metal medallion that I had painted gold.

I added some vines and paper butterflies. On the back cover, I glued a small door that I made out of polymer clay. The door knob is a Disney trading pin, that I painted and added polymer clay for a 3D effect.

For the back of the scene, I used polymer clay to create, mushrooms, flowers, the caterpillar, and a dodo bird. I added flocking to the caterpillar and used wire and flock-



‘For the back of the scene, I used polymer clay to create, mushrooms, flowers, the caterpillar, and a dodo bird’

ing to create smoke rings. I also added some feathers and flocking to the bird.

I was out shopping one day and saw the black and white pencils and cut those down to made two topiaries, using the pencil and purchased squeezable hedges. I also made a “Drink Me” bottle using realistic water and ink dye. The pink tassel on the key was made by Deri Terry.

Above: Pencils were used for the bushes and paper umbrellas for the umbrella birds.

To create the tea party scene I reupholstered some chairs I already had and added a few heart charms to some of the chairs. The Mad Hatter was a plastic toy that I painted and added flocking to. The “Unbirthday” cake was made with polymer clay.

The white rabbit, that was the original idea of our projects, was a Christmas ornament. I made some changes by using my Dremel to cut off the watch in his hand and added the oversized “I’m late” watch with a chain. I also added some chain to the rabbits vest.

The umbrella birds were

Right: A bird's eye view.

made by using a paper umbrella and polymer clay for face and feet. Flocking was then added. The flamingos had flocking added as well. Deri had purchased a pack of six flamingos and gifted me three of them. I purchased the Cheshire cat from Michael Robbins.

‘I made the floating tea pot by gluing wire to the spout of tea pot and adding hot glue to the inside of the cup. I then painted the wire and glue.’

I made the directional sign from balsam wood and then painted it. I made the floating tea pot by gluing wire to the spout of tea pot and adding hot glue to the inside of the cup. I then painted the wire and glue.

This was such a fun project to make. If you are lucky enough to have a miniature friend, I would not recommend doing a secret project. It is very hard to not discuss what you are making, at least it is for me it was! Be sure to keep an eye out for my friend Deri's *Alice in Wonderland* project in a future issue.



A quatrefoil mirror

Join in on the digital revolution of cutting machines

BY SHERRILL NECESSARY



MEET THE MAKER: Sherrill Necessary

"I live in Oregon with my husband. In the 1970s, I furnished a dollhouse with my daughters, and in 2012 I started refurbishing it for my granddaughters. The world of miniatures lets me continue to apply all the skills I've picked up, including creativity and problem solving. It is also a nice escape from the day-to-day."



There is a digital revolution going on in the miniatures world. We are purchasing items made using new digital machines and we are even adding these machines to our own work spaces. We now have the option to precisely cut intricate designs, translate computer drawings to 3D custom objects and even design and cut a one-of-a-kind dollhouse kit.

Beginning with this issue, *American Miniaturist* is including projects for those of you who own these machines and for those of you who want to take the mystery out of using them.

Quatrefoil is the name for the shape with four 'leaves' indicated by circles placed around a single point. This shape is a classic in architecture and decorating. You can make your own quatrefoil mirror using any of the popular cutting machines like those by Silhouette and Cricut.

I'm using the Silhouette Studio software with a Cam-

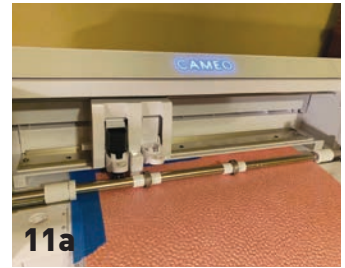
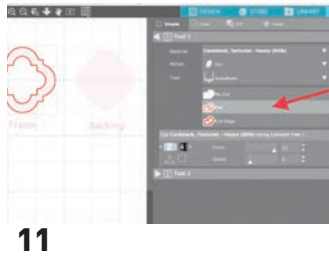
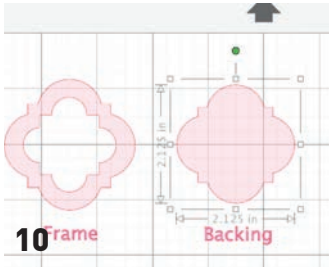
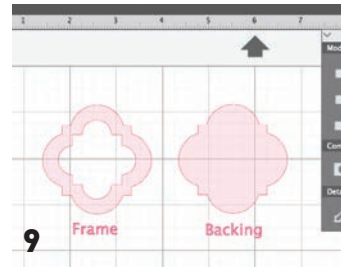
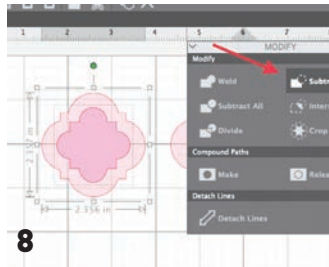
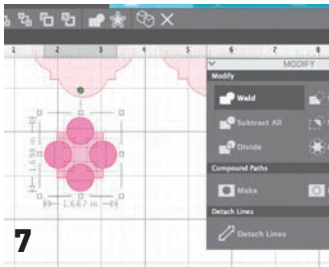
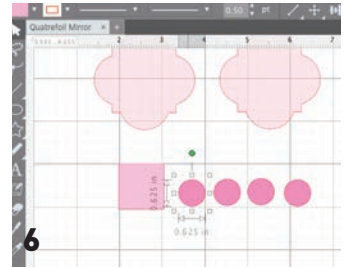
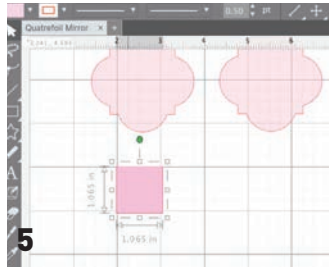
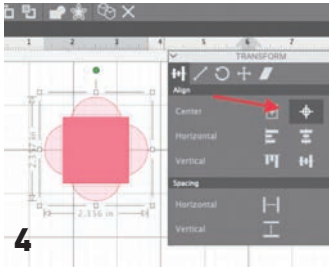
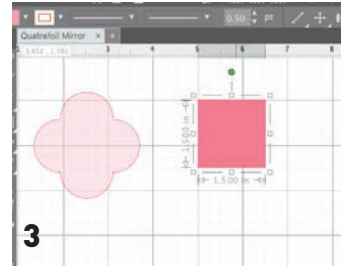
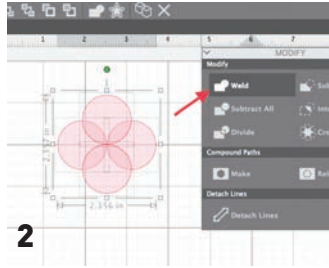
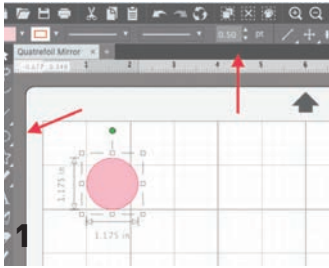
Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Die cut machine (Silhouette and Cricut)
- Card stock with a texture or small pattern
- Thin kraft board
- Plastic mirror sheet
- Craft glue
- Scissors
- Medium stylus

eo 4. There will be slight differences if you are using Cricut Design Space. This project uses your machine's basic drawing capabilities including Shapes, Weld and Center tools. Make sure you know where these tools are. If you are wondering if a die cut machine is for you, see how easy and effective this beginner project is.

1 Open your design program to a blank canvas. From the Left Side Panel, find Shapes and choose the oval or circle. Holding the shift key down, draw a circle 1 1/8" in diameter. Make the line .5 point. Choose the Arrow key and click on



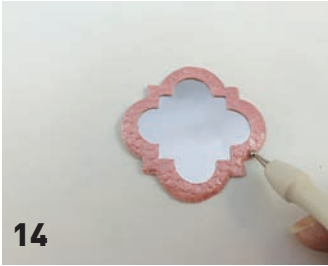
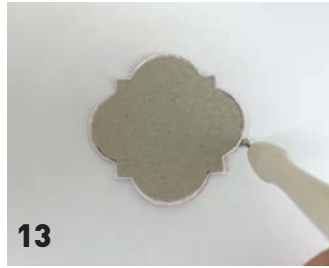
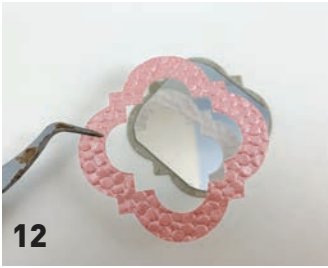
your circle. Copy it and then paste three more circles.

2 Arrange the circles around a single point. I adjusted the transparency in my color palette so you could see how they

overlap. Highlight all the circles, and from the Right Side Panel find the Weld tool. Mine is in the Modify menu. Click Weld. This makes the four circles into one quatrefoil shape.

3 Choose the rectangle or square shape and holding the shift key draw a square 1 1/2" on each side. Thicken the line to .5 point.

4 Find the Center tool. Mine is in the Transform



menu. Using the Arrow, place the square over the circles. Highlight both shapes. From the Transform menu, click on Center.

5 Weld the shapes to make the classic quatrefoil shape, then copy and paste to make another.

6 Make a smaller square (about $1 \frac{1}{16}$ ") and four circles, each $\frac{5}{8}$ ".

7 Center one circle on each side of the square, and Weld to make the inside shape of your mirror.

8 Place and Center the small (dark pink) shape on the larger (light pink) shape. From the Modify menu, Subtract (or Slice)

the smaller shape from the larger one to get a frame.

9 Now you have a frame and a backing.

10 Highlight the backing piece and hold the shift key to make it about $\frac{1}{8}$ " smaller.

11 From the Send (or Make it) tab, Cut the frame out of your patterned card stock. Cut the backing from a heavier material like thin chipboard.

12 Cut a piece of "non-glass mirror sheet" (it cuts with scissors) to sandwich between the frame and the backing. Glue the pieces together.

13 Bend the frame edges over the backing with a stylus or even your fingernail.

14 Turn the piece over and trace the outer edge with your stylus.

15 Congratulations! You have used the drawing tools to make a stylish mirror on a die cut machine. Try changing the sizes or use a rectangle instead of a square. Use it as a window frame. Experiment with this new skill to create other shapes.



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Paint tubes

Make a set of miniature acrylic paint tubes

BY RANDALL CASTLE

Scale = 1:12

My human made some cool paints for my studio.

You can add your own twist to this tutorial to make whatever brand you prefer. Or switch up the size of the tubes to your needs. I will let my human take this tutorial from here.

1 Create or find some acrylic paint labels and print them out to scale. If

you go to your preferred brands website you will see all the colors to choose from so you know what to name each tube.

2 Put wooden toothpicks in a pencil sharpener and shave off a little from the tip.

3 Rub the toothpick over some fine sandpaper to smooth it out.

Materials:

- Ink jet printer
- Printer paper
- Wood toothpicks
- Pencil sharpener
- Fine sandpaper
- Permanent black marker
- Cutting knife
- Small beads
- White glue
- Tweezers
- Scissors
- Small paint brush
- Paint

4 Color the tip black with a marker. If you want a silver tip then make it!

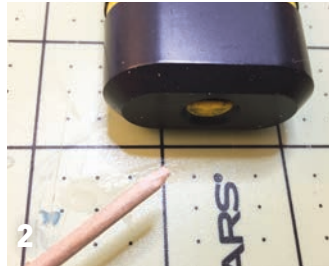
5 Glue a bead onto the top. I shaved a little off the wood to get my tubes a little smaller but you may not need to do this.

6 Cut out your labels and wrap them around a toothpick and glue them into tubes. You don't want it to stick to the toothpick you need to slide them off the toothpick and let them dry.

7 Fill the paper tubes with glue at the tops by plac-



PROJECT



ing the Elmer's glue nozzle inside and slide in the wood with bead.

8 Use your tweezers to flatten the bottom of the tube. Be sure there is glue in the bottom so it sticks.

9 Once it is dry, snip off the extra paper at the bottom of the tube with scissors.

10 If needed, paint the bead to match the neck of the tube.

There you go! This is how Randall finally got some 1:12 scale paints for his artist studio!

My human has mad skills, I am one lucky dude! Hope that helps you out so your favorite little person can have a new set of paints.

Now come on over to Instagram @randall_castle and join in on my daily adventures and check out my cool studio. I've been painting for an art show yo! See ya soon!

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 winner!

Congratulations to Cathy from Seal Beach, CA for winning the Mini trunk challenge. She will be getting a finished trunk by Cats Paw, Pam Lembo, Email: melembo@snet.net, Phone: 203-775-4717.



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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 June issue, we challenge you to make this pink flamingo side table. This could be a fun club project or a way to add some summer fun to your existing projects. Have fun!



WHERE'S ARTHUR CONTEST

Arthur was found on page 82 snooping around Sherlock's office in the April issue (*AM*204). We have randomly selected **Vicki** from **Smith's Grove, KY** to be our winner for this month's Where's Arthur contest. We will be sending her a very special

prize from Hobby Builders Supply/miniaturess.com 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.

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, June 19, 2020**.

Good luck!

Recent winners

April Highlights

Rochelle from Wakefield, RI

Hat box giveaway

Janet from Greenville, TX

Congratulations!

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



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

June Highlights contest



We would love to know what your favorite highlights were in this issue of *AM*. You could win this 1:12 scale dress kit. It come with glasses and a hanger. All it takes is a written paragraph for this random drawing!

Send your entry to June 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.

Frame giveaway

We are donating this gold 1:12 scale frame (4" x 3 1/2"). Use it to frame art from our past Snippits page or your own art.



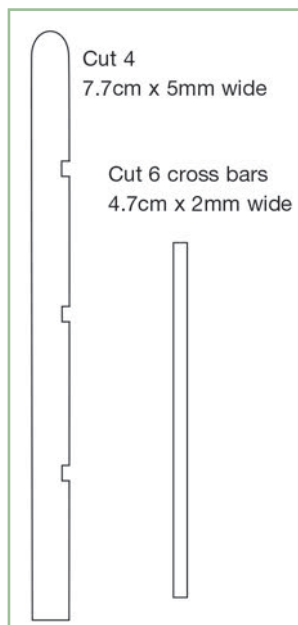
Wooden clothes horse

A fun way to get those tiny clothes dry

BY MARI MEREDITH

On cold winter days or when it's pouring with rain this traditional style of clothes horse is an absolute 'must have' for any housewife. It has been around for generations and as the family grew so could the size of the horse – just add another section and secure it with the strips of ribbon.

Pattern:



1 Cut four lengths 7.7cm long and mark out the slots for the cross bars 2mm on the four lengths as shown in the diagram, then cut six cross bars 4.7cm x 2mm and give them a light sanding.

2 Next, put a dab of glue into the slots on two of the legs then place in the cross bars make sure they are level, do the same for the other side leave to dry.

3 When dry, place the two sides together and with the ribbon cut to 25mm glue it onto the horse as shown. When dry turn it

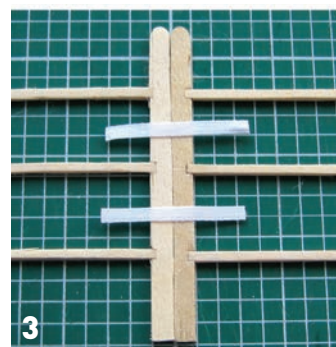
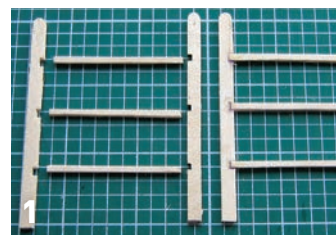
Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Small craft sticks
- White glue
- Narrow ribbon 2"
- Craft knife
- Scissors
- Fine sandpaper

over and close the horse and press it together on the ribbon.

4 Then fold the ends of the ribbon around the sides and stick down when dry trim of the ends.



Potted pothos

Create a bouquet of wrapped tulips

BY KATE SANTICHEN



MEET THE MAKER:
Kate Santichen

"I've been making minis since I got a dollhouse at age 12. I begged for my own wooden dollhouse for years, but my family kept saying I'd grow out of it! Little did they know! I am a media producer live and live in NY with my perfect 35-lb rescue mutt, Cooper Pierogi."



1



2

Plants make a scene feel warm, inviting and real. This pothos is a quick project. For variety, multiple sizes of heart punches could be used to show larger, older leaves and new growth.

1 Cut two pieces of wire about an inch in length. Paint green. Allow to dry.

2 Fill miniature flower pot with clay. Dip ends of wires into glue and 'plant' into pot so that they face away from each other and cascade down the sides. Cover surface with glue and fake dirt.

3 Punch green leaves with heart punch. Flip them over and place them on eraser. Shape by running a ball stylus around the edges, and fold in half to put



Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- 22 gauge floral wire
- Green acrylic paint
- White acrylic paint
- Craft glue
- Brown or beige acrylic paint
- Green craft paper
- Air dry clay
- Heart shaped punch
- Miniature flower pot
- Ball stylus
- eraser or sponge
- Ruler
- Fake dirt
- Fine paint brush

a crease down the center.

4 Glue leaves to the wires, staggering the direction each leaf is facing for a realistic look. Allow to dry.

5 Using a fine paint brush, add subtle white and light green streaks to the leaves. Dot a little beige or brown paint on the end of a leaf to create a browning leaf.

Visit Kate on Instagram @the_tiny_craftress to see more of her work.

Rustic clay mugs

Add some natural looking pottery to your scene

BY AURALEA KRIEGER

You don't have to have a mini potters wheel to make some realistic looking miniature mugs. Granted mine may be a little uneven, but for my elf tree house project that only adds to the charm.

1 Roll out a piece of polymer clay to about 1/16" thick. You can try a little more if you want a thicker piece of pottery.

2 Press out a circle with a circle cutter or something else like a bottle cap.

3 Lift it up with your razor and place it on your pencil eraser. I showed it on



the tile because I couldn't take the shot with free hand.

4 Gently press it all around with your fingers while holding the pencil with your other hand until it forms the pencil. Don't press too hard on the eraser part of the clay. Let it form naturally.

5 Cut off the extra clay with your razor by spinning the pencil around in your fingers while cutting. Pull off the extra.

6 Gently round out the edge all the way around by tapping it.

7 Use a small knitting needle to press a rim around the top of the mug while spinning the pencil in your fingers. Again, I only showed this on the tile because I had no free hand to take the photo. Do this step away from any surfaces.

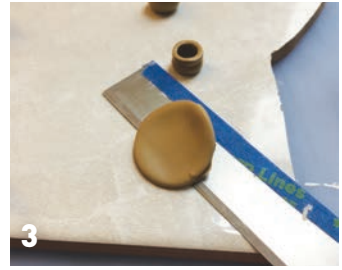
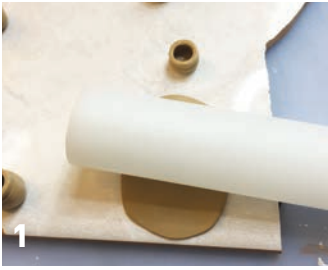
8 Gently wiggle it off of your pencil onto the ceramic baking tile.

Materials:

Scale = 1:12

- Polymer clay
- Pencil with eraser
- Clay roller
- Circle cutter
- Tile
- Tweezers
- Flat razor
- Small knitting needle
- Paint brush
- Acrylic paints
- High gloss varnish

PROJECT



9 I fiddled around with it to try and smooth the inside rim as well. I ran the knitting needle against the edge really carefully.

10 Bake for about 10 minutes. Let cool.

11 Roll out some clay to about 1/16" or thinner.

12 Cut strips to be the handle.

13 Press one end on the mug top and shave

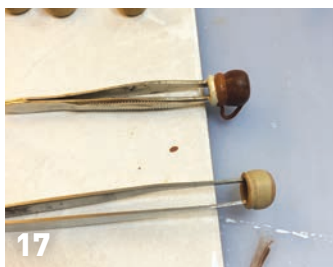
upwards to the top of the mug to get rid of extra. This helps the clay stick to the pre-cooked clay as well. Then push up and give the strip of clay a curve and use the knitting needle to press and shave off the extra at the base. This will take a little practice so don't get frustrated. Keep at it.

14 Bake it again for 15 minutes following the temperature suggested on the clay packaging.

15 Keep an eye on them you don't want anything to burn. When polymer burns toxins are released and they are harmful to breathe. Use a toaster oven not dedicated to food to be safe.

16 Once cool, paint the insides and let the paint dry.

17 Put tweezers inside and sort of push your pinky in between them to be sure they gently stay



open so the mug stays on the tweezer tips and paint your mugs. Use some reference photos to get the effect you want.

18 Finished up your mini mugs with some high gloss varnish to look like ceramic glaze.

You could leave the bottom of your mugs without glaze and add a tiny signature with a fine tip marker if you are making pottery as miniature art!

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.



fadedgeranium

Enjoy seeing some beautiful miniature patchwork quilts in 1:12 scale.

red_cottage_minis

Always fun to see what house kits she come up with next!

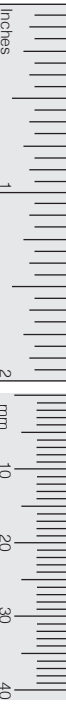


pipiturnerminiatures

This maker always creates miniatures with such grace and romance.

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Can labels and produce posters.





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

- Kitchen Hutch
- Flower Display
- Cookbook Room box
- Miniature Retreat

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Issue 204

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- Easter Dessert
- Window Blinds
- 1:24 Food Truck
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- Noah's Ark Toy
- Cane Bed Project
- Brick Chimney
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- Vintage Drug Store
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- Waterfall Bookcase
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- Bench Project
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- Newby Hall Exhibit
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Issue 197

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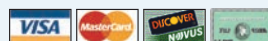
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UPCOMING SHOWS, AUCTIONS & EXHIBITS

JUNE 13

MOORESVILLE, NC

7th Annual Mooresville North Carolina Miniatures Show and Sale will be held June 13, 2020 from 10am - 4pm at the Hampton Inn and Suites, 119 Gallery Center Drive, Mooresville NC 28117. Contact Maria for more info including workshops at (704) 230-0569 or via email at MariaCanz01@aol.com

JUNE 14

ELMIRA, NY

The Third Annual Indoor Yard Sale will be held on June 14, 2020. Featuring Dollhouse Miniatures, Dolls and Teddy Bears at Low Yard Sales. The sale runs from 10am to 4pm at the National Soaring Museum, 51 Soaring Hill Drive--Harris Hill, Elmira, NY. Adults \$5.00, Students (7-18) \$3.00. Lunch Available. For further information contact Jean via email at info@soaringmuseum.org 607-734-3128 or Shirlee via email at atopdoll@npacc.net or by phone at 570-596-3563.

JUNE 25-28

LAKELAND, FL

Minatures Weekend present by the Lakeland Miniature Guild. Workshops run Thursday-Friday June 25-26th. Saturday June 27th. The Show and Sale runs 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 for more information on workshops at www.Lakelandminiatureguild.com

AUGUST 9

FOGELSVILLE, PA

Lehigh Valley Miniatures Club 43rd Annual Dollhouse & Miniatures Show and Sale will be held at The Hilton Garden Inn/Delta, Fogelsville, PA 18031. Exit 77A off I-78 onto Rt. 100 South. 10 am - 4 pm. \$5.00

Adults (4.50 with coupon), \$1.00 children under 12. Vendors selling miniature items of all kinds. Exhibits, door prizes, demos, make + take projects, free parking, food available. Free children's class at 1 pm. Show info: Karen Barone, 561-596-6855, kbarone0117@live.com Check our website: www.lehighvalleyminiatures.com for show information and discount coupon. Proceeds benefit charities and education.

SEPTEMBER 12-13

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO

Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys 40th Annual Fall Show and Sale on September 12-13, 2020 at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton Denver Tech Center, 7801 E Orchard Road, Greenwood Village, CO. 80111. Show runs from Saturday 10am - 5pm and Sunday 11am - 4pm. Pre-registered workshops held Wed, Sept 9 through Fri, Sept 11. Contact Marjorie Smelt: marjorie.smelt@gmail.com, (720) 206-5545.



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Summer quilt

Add some summer strawberries to your mini world

BY DEBBIE BOOTH

This quilt is made using a simplified quilt design known as a Rail Fence Pattern. It is extremely easy to make. If you've never tried sewing a little quilt this pattern is the one to try. Fabric strips are sewn together and then pressed. The section is then cut into squares and the squares are sewn together. It's a wonderful quilt pattern that I hope you will try.

One thing quilters like about this quilt pattern is that you can use scrap fabric to cut strips out of. The strips are sewn together usually light colored fabric, the medium colored fabric



strips, finishing up with darker fabric strips. Light to dark.

This quilt uses solids and prints. Remember to use smaller to medium size fabric designs when choosing fabric. I have a lot of fabric due to 40 years of collecting. I love beautiful fabric so for this one I wanted a strawberry theme.

1 Cut each fabric color into a 1" x 20" (approximately) strip totaling

TOPTIP:

When sewing use a consistent seam allowance. I use 1/4" seam allowance.

4 separate colored fabric strips.

2 Pin 2 strips together (see photo for color choice). Using 1/4" seam allowance sew these two strips together. Remove

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- 1/8 yard red cotton fabric with a tiny print
- 1/3 yard of yellow small print (will be used for strip and pillow backing)
- 1/8 yard of yellow and red fabric - strawberry print
- 1/8 yard of yellow with white or red tiny printed design
- Scissors
- Measuring tape
- Straight pins



pins and press strips flat. Trim threads.

3 Sew the third strip and follow the same process.

4 Sew the fourth strip and follow the same process. Trim threads and press this piece flat.

5 Once four strips are sewn together, measure across the width of the section. My section ended up being 3 1/2". Not to worry if

your section is a little off.

6 Measure across. This measurement will be the same measurement used measuring downward. This forms a square of fabric for the blocks. I measured down 3 1/2" and made a small mark on the side of the fabric with a pencil.

7 If the squares need to be trimmed and straightened now is the time. Place fabric squares

together. Decide if you prefer the darker lines towards the center. There should be one block with horizontal strips and one block with vertical strips.

8 This option shows the lighter colors centered. Top left square - horizontal. Top right square - vertical. Bottom left square - vertical. Bottom right square - horizontal

9 Pin the top left block to the top right block. Sew



together. Pin the bottom left block to the bottom right block. Sew together.

10 Press the two sections open and flat. Then carefully pin the top section to the bottom section, matching up the center seam. If pinned crooked, it will sew crooked. Sew two sections together. Remove pins and trim all threads.

11 Press the quilt front flat with an iron.

12 Cut a red strip of fabric 1" x 40" (it will be trimmed down).

13 Pin strip to left side of quilt. Sew strip to quilt. Trim excess length to match up with quilt front. Press outer strip open.

14 Repeat with the left side. Remove pins, trim threads and press seams open. Trim length. Now the center should be a bit more of a rectangle till top and bottom strips are sewn on.

15 Pin strip to the top of the quilt section. Sew the strip to the quilt section. Remove the pins, trim the threads. Then press the seam open.

16 Pin and sew the last strip on. Press the quilt flat with an iron. Trim any wonky corners. The quilt front should be square.

17 Place the quilt front face down onto cotton backing fabric. Pin the pieces together.

18 Now trim around the front of the quilt, matching the back piece to the front piece.

19 Sew around the quilt pieces, sewing the two pieces together leaving a 3" opening for turning. Remove the pins and trim the threads. Clip off the corners to reduce the fabric's bulk.

20 Turn the quilt right side out. Use a straight pin to work on the corners making the corners form a nice point.

21 Press with an iron so the quilt lays flat. Turn in the opening to 1/4" and pin it closed.

22 Top stitch around the quilt sewing the opening closed. Sew a seam inside the inner sashing as well, if desired.

Lay your quilt on a mini bed or hang on the wall to show your work!

Balance scale

Make a scale for your miniature market or shop

BY TONYA ALSEN



MEET THE MAKER:
Tonya Alsen

"I am a US Army Veteran with a home wood working business. My grandmother introduced me to miniatures at a young age. However, I have only been making mini's for 2 years. I often find myself trying to make things that I haven't seen yet in the mini world.

Balance scales are often found in labs, country markets, and even herb shops. You can add this adorable little feature in your area too by following along.

1 Cut a decorative toothpick to 1 3/4", saving the decorative end for the top of the scale.

2 Using cardboard or card stock, cut 5 different sizes of circles or squares.

3 Glue all 5 pieces together, from largest to smallest. Drill a hole in the middle of them.

Materials:

Scale = 1:12

- Cardboard
- Decorative toothpick
- Chain 114.3cm
- Jump rings
- Beads
- Bead spacers
- Bead cap
- Straight pin
- Metal jewelry connector
- Scissors
- Pliers
- Tin snips
- Drill bits
- Ruler
- Hot glue gun/hot glue sticks
- Super Glue
- White glue

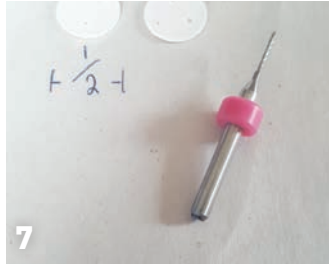
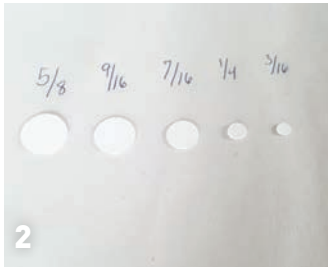
4 Add Super Glue to the hole and insert the toothpick with the décor side up.

5 Cut a strip of cardboard or card stock to 1 1/4" x 1/8". This will be the top for the balance.

6 Use a drill bit to gently drill holes into each side of the strip. These holes will hold the chains.



PROJECT



7 Cut out 2 circles measuring $1/2$ " each. Using the drill bit, punch 3 holes in each.

8 Cut 6 pieces of chain, all 1 " long.

9 Using a jump ring, connect a piece of chain to one of the holes.

10 Once all 3 pieces of chain are connected to a hole, connect the tops of them with one jump ring.

11 Use the one jump ring to also connect it to the top.

12 Use Super Glue to glue the top to the toothpick, leaving the décor end showing. Paint in the color desired.

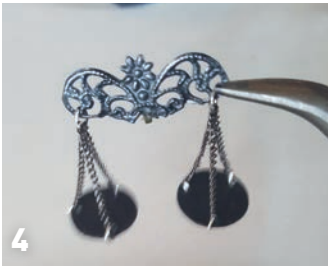
13 Using pliers, pinch off the ball from the straight pin.

14 Fill the underside of a bead cap with hot glue.

15 Set the bead cap right side up onto a tile or ceramic plate. Quickly add the straight pin. Let it cure, holding the pin straight up.

16 Once the pin will stay standing on its own, run white glue along the pin. Add beads and bead spacers for Décor.

17 To make the beam, carefully cut a design out of the metal jewelry connector using tin snips.



Leaving the center between the two chains with a point that will fit into the beads.

18 Using the same method as steps 7, 8, and 9, connect the chains.

19 Use Super Glue to glue the center point of the beam into the bead.

Display your scale with or without items on the pans in your mini shop.



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!

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