

American miniaturist

ISSUE 215, 2021



\$9.95 USD

INSPIRING MINIATURE ENTHUSIASTS TO CREATE

www.americanminiaturist.com



PROJECTS: ☆ CAMELLIA TREE ☆ CHRYSANTHEMUMS ☆ DRESS WATERING CAN ☆ FLOWER PLANTERS ☆ AND SO MUCH MORE



Hart's Desire Miniatures

Check out
our One Inch
Scale Items!

*Laser Cut Quarter inch (1:48) & 1:144th inch
House and Furniture Kits*

All house kits come complete with everything needed
to finish the interior & exterior of the house

*Newest House - Eliana's Vacation Home
with finishing options either log house or stone & siding*



14 - Quarter Inch House kits

Watch our You Tube Video at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Du97rQdGdFw



Four Styles of Furniture Kits- Victorian, Traditional,
Country, & Modern. Sold by room



Plus - Yard Items -
Gazebos, Wells,
Trellis...

15 - 1:144th inch House kits



Email: hartsds@aol.com Website: www.etsy.com/shop/hartsdesireminis
Free shipping use code FREESHIPAM

Real Good Toys

Heirloom Quality Dollhouses

Engineering the world's best miniature
homes for 47 years!



Many Choices! Sizes! Price levels! Years of Joy!

122 Gallison Hill Road, Montpelier, VT 05602
802-262-6018 on the web: www.RealGoodToys.com

Inspiration for the miniature enthusiast
...at your fingertips.



Find us on Facebook
@AmericanMiniaturist

Dollhouse Land

Artistry in Miniature by Laura Crain



*Artisan Painted Furniture
Garden & Floral Artist
Creations*

See you at:

Dallas Show



Good Sam Show



Chicago International 2022



27134A Paseo Espada • Suite 304 • San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
(949) 496-9841 • LauraCrain2@aol.com

Sinny's Mini Art

Lightning Fast Shipping - Original Design - New Item Everyday



A Dollhouse For Your Dollhouse

www.SinnyMiniArt.com

SMALL DETAILS

American Miniaturist Issue 215

American Miniaturist is published 12 times per year by Ashdown, Inc.

To reach us: (507) 634-3143
Toll Free: 1-866-606-6587

Or write to: PO Box 219
Kasson, MN 55944

Email:
info@americanminiaturist.com

Website:
www.americanminiaturist.com

Editor: Auralea Krieger
auralea@ashdown.co.uk

Publisher: Kelly Johnson
kelly@ashdown.co.uk

Advertising Sales Team
adsales@ashdownmagazines.com

Design: Auralea Krieger
Ad Design: Wendy Crosthwaite

On the cover: Jodi Hippler

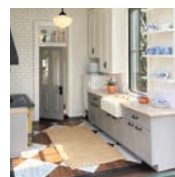
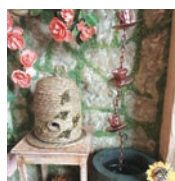
Subscription rates:
1 Year (12 issues) \$104.99 USA
Canada \$160.99 CAD, UK £103.99
Europe €125.99, ROW \$144.99
(US Funds)

American Miniaturist (USPS# 021-053 ISSN # 14778203) is published monthly at PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944. Subscription price is \$104.99. Periodicals postage paid at Kasson, MN, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address corrections to American Miniaturist, PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944

All material submitted to the magazine is accepted on the basis that the author grants the Publisher a non-exclusive worldwide license to distribute and sell the article in print and/or digital form. Copyright remains with the author.



C★O★N★T★E



PROJECTS

- 6 **Drying rack**
An old fashioned but charming way to dry your mini clothes by Karen Hirtz
- 10 **Gas meter**
Jodi Hippler shares how she used spare parts to make a gas meter
- 12 **Dollhouse roofing**
Creating a dollhouse roof with a few easy steps
- 24 **Spring showers**
Make an umbrella stand from a toilet roll tube by Sandra Harding
- 26 **Camellia tree**
The making of a 1:12 tree with many blooms by Jodi Hippler
- 28 **Get ready for the beach**
Some more great tips for easy beach projects in miniature
- 29 **Chrysanthemums**
Fill a 1:12 scale pot with mini chrysanthemums by Bonnie Lavish
- 30 **Mini watering can**
Every miniature garden needs a watering can by Kris Compas
- 41 **Cocktail dress**
Every gal needs a dress that shows her curves by Randall Castle
- 44 **Light up your dollhouse**
Learn more about adding electricity to your project with Carl R Sahlberg
- 73 **Newbie corner**
Auralea Krieger shares some building tips for those new to miniatures
- 80 **Easter decorations**
Make some little Easter egg bunnies with glitter ears

★ N ★ T ★ S ★

PROJECTS

- 81 Flower planters**
Make some mini wooden planters for spring flowers

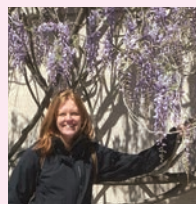
FEATURES

- 16 A little garden**
Jodi Hippler takes us on a garden tour through her Storybook Cottage
- 36 Miniature diorama**
Robina Patterson created a gardeners potting bench as a diorama
- 50 Artist showcase**
See some spring and Easter miniatures from mini top makers
- 54 Mini makeover**
Adam Koch's dollhouse journey will delight and fascinate you
- 62 Victorian illusions**
Become entranced by Erzsébet Bodzás as she takes on a new challenge
- 69 Seaside shanty**
Theresa Stater lovingly made a 1:48 scale piece titled *Sea Shanty*
- 76 Creative Space**
This month we visit the workspace of *AM* contributor, June Tooley
- 82 Two tea parties**
Two friends made their own Alice in Wonderland display in different ways
- 90 Loomis Village**
Kathy Opdycke recreated her father's retirement community in miniature

REGULARS

- 8** Mini Mail **78** Mini Scoop
95 Snippets

WELCOME



It's finally springtime! Funny, I look so forward to it as it approaches, but then I realize the amount of yard work I have ahead of me and how that will take away my mini time. But my favorite thing about spring is working on mini projects outside on warm days. Other than needing a few extra paper weights it's a nice change.

Taking time out to create miniatures is a great way to deal with anxiety and build self esteem. Just the same goes for many art forms. It's all about steering your focus towards one particular task. With anxiety, the mind over-thinks and can spiral so far out that it becomes difficult to bring it back to calm. When you are creating, you are staying in the moment, which is the best way to remain calm and content. I imagine many have been struggling over the past year and I hope that each issue of *AM* has helped to bring calm and focus into your life.

It's important to make time for your mind to rest and use your imagination for pleasant thoughts and creative ventures. Remember to be gentle with yourself and make the time to dream, imagine and create. Sometimes there is one project made by someone else that stirs your imagination. I hope you can find that in this issue or even a past issue of *AM* that is sitting up on your shelf. For me, it was Jodi's *Story Book Cottage*. I smiled when I first saw it and imagined walking through that magical mini garden. So get busy and turn your inspiration into a fun spring project!

Auralea Krieger, Editor
auralea@ashdown.co.uk

Drying rack

An old fashioned but charming way to dry your mini clothes

BY KAREN HIRTZ

This 1:12 drying rack is easier to make than you think. It will make a wonderful addition to a small laundry room or even add some lived in charm to the back porch.

1 Using 3/16" x 3/16" strip wood, cut 4 pieces that are 4-1/2" long; trim one end of each to a 45° angle.

2 Tape the 4 leg pieces together and drill a hole at the 2-1/4" half point.

3 Line up 2 legs so that the angles at the bottom are facing toward each other. Insert a toothpick or dowel through the holes in both legs. Note: Depending on your drill bit, you may



need to sand the toothpick or dowel so that it will fit. Trim the dowel so that it extends about 1/16" on either side of the leg. Repeat on the other leg.

4 Using the 1/4" x 1/8" strip wood, cut 2 pieces that are 3" long and 2 that are 2-5/8" long. Mark each leg 1/2" from the tip of the 45° angle. Lay the 2 sets of legs flat, spacing them so that there is 3" between the outer edges of the two sets. Note: I found it helpful

to tape the legs to the work surface so that they stayed parallel to each other.

5 Glue one of the 2-5/8" strips at the mark on the inner legs. Don't let glue ooze out. Clamp and let dry. Flip legs over, retape and then glue one of the 3" strips on the marks of the outer legs. Clamp and dry.

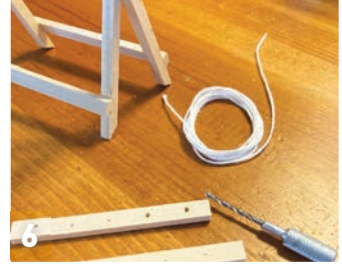
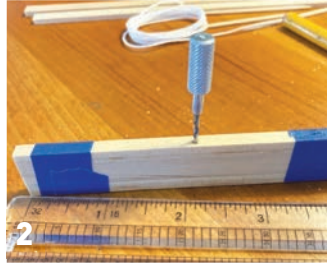
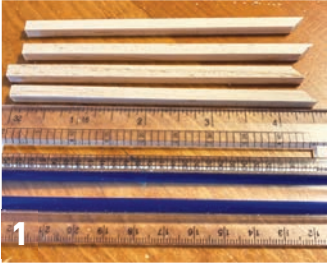
6 Mark the last 2 strips of wood with 5 dots that are 1/2" apart; drill holes at each dot.

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Wood: 3/16" x 3/16" x at least 20"
- Wood: 1/4" x 1/8" x at least 15"
- Crochet thread
- Toothpick or 1/16" dowel
- Hand drill: 1/16" bit
- White glue

PROJECT

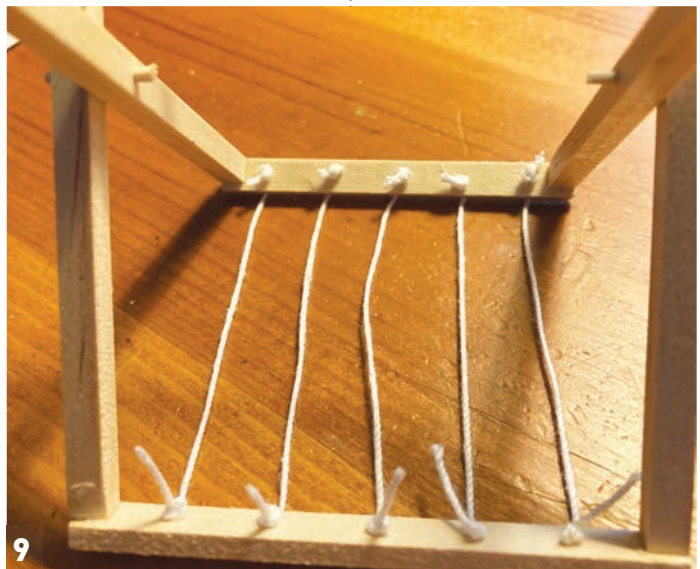
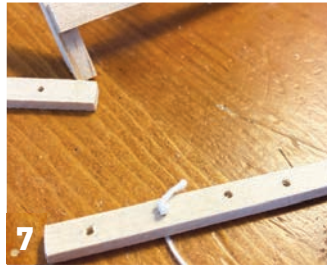


7 Cut 5 pieces of crochet thread to about 5" long. Starting with the 2-5/8" long piece, thread the cord through the holes. Tie each with a double knot.

8 Stand the rack up and glue the strip with the cords attached to the top of the inner legs of the rack and the other strip to the outer legs. Apply tape to secure while the glue dries.

9 Insert the cord into the other strip. Sit the rack upright where the top strips are about 3" apart. Pull the cords taut, tie double knots, and cut off excess. Put a bit of glue on each knot to secure.

Your rack is ready to use!



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 loved the article, "Wardrobes in Miniature" in *AM* issue 214. Erin Phoenix has a wonderful skill for making such tiny clothing. Jeff Winkle has such clever ideas of things to use to



emulate nature in his ongoing workshop project. Shelia Caramella seems to of had lots

Be our Star letter winner next issue

You could win this tray of cupcakes by Barbara Schuckman (<https://miniatures-by-barb.com/shop/>) just by sending in a letter with whatever is on your mind about miniatures or an issue of *AM*!



Thank you

I was so surprised to see my room box in the latest *American Miniaturist*. What a thrill! Thank you for including me in your lovely magazine. It was good to see Carl Sahlberg's article also. He is so helpful, kind and quick to help you solve problems. I'd like to order three more copies of the edition AM214 to send to my family!

Sheila from Greensburg, PA

of fun making her basement room box with the tiny version of herself. This was a fun issue for me, but they all are!

Kelly from Scottsdale, AZ

Highlight

I wanted to thank you. I just

had time yesterday afternoon to spend time looking through *American Miniaturist* issue 213. I was so impressed by the amount and quality of content. Wow! Very nice issue. I was impressed with both the features: A rosy





pink miniature collection with beautiful pictures of the many painted items and also the information about Diana Boyle and her mini journey. Diana and Miniature Lane is inspiring to say the least.

Then, the feature "Awesome Possum Powers" just captured my creative spirit. What a wonderful way to illustrate such a precious story. And how wonderful to see such an awesome story to share

with children. Immediately I sent the GETINTOUCH information to my daughter, Ann, and her friend Natalie who has a six year old daughter. Ann and Natalie have been friends for years and I know they would love every bit of the awesomeness.

Mary from Smithville, OH



Featured

I just received *American Miniaturist* issue 214 and saw the article on my sculpting. OH. MY. GOSH! It's absolutely stunning. I couldn't be more pleased. Again, thank you so much for this opportunity. I have some ideas for a few future articles. I'll put them together in the next few months and send them to you.

Kim from Bloomington, IN

Gas meter

Jodi shares how she used spare parts to make a gas meter

BY JODI HIPPLER

I wanted a gas meter for my "Story Book Cottage". My friend, Elizabeth made one from a dollar store lip gloss container, but as I hate to go shopping, I decided to look through my junk drawers. I came up with an old QuickBooks card reader. The size and shape were just right, so after pulling the green card slot part off, it was the perfect starting point.

I had some hollow plastic (Wilson) lollipop sticks which bent pretty easily after holding them over a candle flame for a

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- QuickBooks card reader
- Plastic (Wilson) lollipop sticks
- Spacer bead
- Metal wheel meant for a 1:48 wagon, a snap or a small button
- Corsage pin
- Nails
- Small drill
- Epoxy
- Flat gray spray primer
- White glue
- Burnt Sienna and Cocoa Bean paint



few seconds. There's a bit of a learning curve in terms of how long to hold them over the flame and how much pressure to use to bend them, but I was satisfied with my results. Sometimes you have to experiment and expect trail and error before you get great results. So never be discouraged if you fail at the start.

2 For the regulator (the round thing), I used a spacer bead, a pot metal wheel and a corsage pin.

3 I also used spacer beads as fittings where the pipes connect to the meter, wall and to the ground. For the spigots, which I think is an emergency shut off valve, I used



more spacer beads and nails. I drilled holes into the pipes so that they would line up correctly.

4 I used epoxy adhesive to adhere all of these parts. For the meter display panel, and to cover over the QuickBooks embossing on the meter body, I used left-over frame matting that was cut from my Cricut cutting machine.

5 After I had all of the parts glued together, I sprayed the entire thing with flat gray spray primer. I remember it was really cold in my garage, so I sat with the paint can between my thighs until it was warmer. Then I quickly sprayed and brought the paint board



with the meter into the house to dry.

6 To finish up, I found a photo of an old gas meter face plate and resized it to fit my meter frame. After the meter was painted and dry, I glued it to the front, then filled in the 'glass' area with Glossy Accents Varnish.

7 Once that was dry, I aged it with washes of Burnt Sienna and Cocoa Bean to make it look like it has been there for awhile.

Take a look in your junk drawers. I bet there are all sorts of little things you can use to make your own meter. Have fun with it!

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!

Dollhouse roofing

Creating a roof in a few easy steps

Having developed a very realistic brick and stone finishing system for dollhouse exterior walls, we at Bromley Crafts quickly realized that we needed to turn our attention to producing realistic roof tile effects too.

We looked at the products available and weighed up their advantages and disadvantages before producing our own roof tile finishes.

There are numerous considerations when finishing a dollhouse roof including your budget, time and the quality of the finished effect required. The cheapest option is probably tile effect wallpaper which is quick and easy to apply, but doesn't look very realistic.

At the other end of the scale you could choose real slate tiles which do look very realistic, but are rather expensive. Fitting real slate tiles can be fairly difficult and time consuming too as they are not easy to cut and they have to be fixed one at a time. Also the finished roof can end up being very heavy, which may be a problem, if the dollhouse need to be moved.

So we developed two different roof tile systems, which are reasonably priced, easy to apply and give realistic results.

Stencil roof tile effect

This method is based on the same principle as our realistic brick and stone wall effects. We produce roof tile stencil designs in 1:12 and 1:24 scales and a dark grey/slate compound to produce the slate tile effect (you can also use the red compound to create a terra-cotta tile effect). Using this method it is not possible to produce overlapping tiles, yet the finished effect



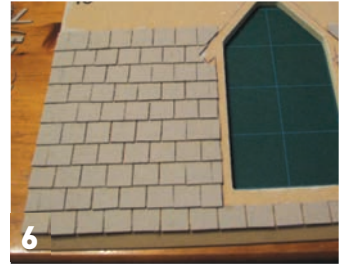
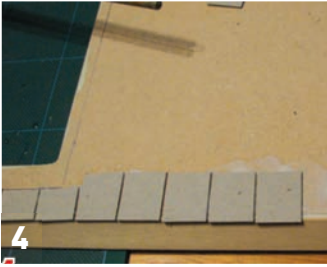
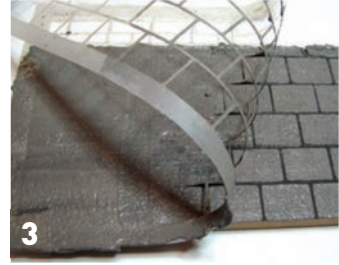
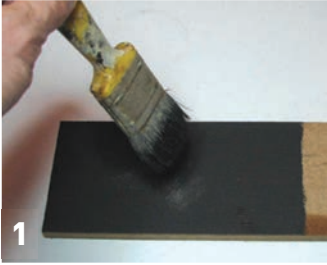
does actually look very realistic and it is fairly quick to apply. The application method is as follows.

- 1 Paint the roof with a dark background color using matt emulsion paint – this color will show in-between the tiles.
- 2 Position the roof tile stencil on the roof and apply the compound over the stencil using a pallet knife. Keep the layer even.
- 3 Next, remove the stencil to reveal the roof tile effect. The finish can be shaded using acrylic paints

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Matt emulsion paint
- Paint brush
- Stencil
- Compound
- Pallet knife
- Clear matt varnish
- Fibre board shingles
- Craft glue
- Acrylic paint



before finally sealing with a clear matt varnish.

Individual roof tiles

Some miniaturists prefer their roof tiles to overlap, so we developed individual shingles made from a compressed fibre board material. These are light-weight and easy to cut using scissors or a cutting knife.

4 Starting at the bottom edge of the roof, glue the shingles into position one row at a time.

5 As you work up the roof area the shingles should be staggered and overlapped as shown in the above photos.

6 Ridge shingles can be created by bending and shaping the shingles before gluing into position. One advantage of using individual shingles is that you can easily add character and authenticity by varying the alignment of the shingles if required.

7 Once applied, the shingles should be painted and shaded to create the desired finished tile color. We usually use a matt emulsion paint to produce a base shingles color and then add shading using acrylic paints before finally sealing with a clear matt varnish.

Weathering and distressing

8 A shingles roof often consists of many different colors resulting from different colored shingles,



damp, moss, lichen and lots more besides. These effects can easily be re-created if desired using acrylic paints, prior to sealing with a clear matt varnish. Study shingle roofs in the real world for

ideas and practice reproducing the required effects.

Finishing touches

9 Other products can be used to add finishing touches to your dollhouse roof and provide added authenticity such as lead flashing. Self adhesive lead strips can easily be cut to shape and fitted around dormers and chimneys etc. You can purchase guttering and drainpipes and all

fittings individually supplied ready to fit. The ultimate finishing touch! To top off your roof, add chimneys and chimney pots in terracotta. There are a range of sizes and styles.

You can use brick and stone stencils to apply brick and stone effects for chimneys, dormers and walls. Do some research and discover the best method for you.

Become an *American Miniaturist* contributor



Tell us your story

Do you love making miniatures and/or miniature scenes? Do you have an interesting life story connected to the art of miniatures? If so, then we want to hear from you! Send in your story (no more than 750 words, please!) and some photos to be considered for publication.



Keep us in the loop

Are you a member of a miniature group, charity, or show? Or do you know of an upcoming event or mini-terrific news story? Keep us in the loop by sharing it with us!

Teach us

If you have a passion for teaching miniatures, or dollhouse tips, tricks, and techniques, then we'd love to hear from you.

How to submit

We want to hear from all miniaturists, and those who have a passion for this wonderful art form. Do you want to be a part of our next fun, fresh, and fabulous issue? Email your ideas, contributions, and questions to auralea@ashdown.co.uk.

We look forward to you joining the *American Miniaturist* team!
www.americanminiaturist.com



From top to bottom: Eva Perendreu, Denise Morales, and Veronique Lux

ETSY

SHOP DIRECTORY



ETSY SHOP DIRECTORY

- | | |
|--|--|
| 
Allyson's Minis
Handcrafted in Three Scales
AllysonsMinis.etsy.com | 
Alma Artistry
Miniature Ooak dolls
etsy.com/shop/AlmaArtistryStudio |
| 
Auralea Miniatures
Unique handpainted miniatures
www.etsy.com/shop/Auralea | 
Betsy Little Sew and Sew
Handcrafted Miniature Sewing Machine
etsy.com/shop/BetsyLittleSewandSew |
| 
Dandy Minis
Bespoke Handmade Miniatures
DandyMinis.etsy.com | 
Hortia's Miniatures
Quality miniatures at reasonable prices
etsy.com/shop/HortiasMiniatures |
| 
Lorraine's Miniatures
The largest dollhouse flower shop
lorrainesminiatures.etsy.com | 
Lorraine's Miniatures
1:12 miniature crocheted clothes
lorrainesminiatures.etsy.com |
| 
Green Gypsies
Unique mini home decor pieces
etsy.com/shop/GreenGypsies | 
Miniatures by Emily
Handmade food, plants & more
etsy.com/shop/MiniaturesbyEmily |
| 
Miniature Miniatures
Super-cute, easy, inexpensive kits
etsy.com/shop/MiniatureMiniatures | 
Carol's Miniatures
1:12th Scale period furnishings
etsy.com/uk/shop/CarolsMiniatures |
| 
Toolbox Toys
Pillows and snoring furniture
ToolboxToys.etsy.com | 
Jellyfish
1:48 Later cut kits, lace & 1:12 kits
etsy.com/uk/shop/Jellyfish |

please let these Etsy shops know you found them here!

For more miniatures from great online shops, see our
Etsy Directory
on pages 98-99.

If you have your own Etsy shop and would like to be included in the directory, please contact the advertising team:
adsales@ashdownmagazines.com
or by phone at 507-993-8416

Lighting Bug Ltd.™



Elegantly Simple... to Simply Elegant
www.lightingbugltd.com



dollhouse miniatures

FINE MINIATURE ART FOR THE DEVOTED COLLECTOR

www.dhminiatures.com

miniature art dolls

by *Auralea Krieger*



Follow me on instagram: @auraleakrieger
Email: auraleakrieger@gmail.com

A little garden full of happiness

Jodi Hippler takes us on a garden tour through her charming Storybook Cottage

Jodi put everything she had into this 1:12 scale kit bash and it certainly shows. With so much detail and overflowing beauty you can understand why she is in love with her *Storybook Cottage*! Jodi takes us on a tour around the exterior of this charming cottage and shares how she went above and beyond while kit bashing a Greenleaf kit and made it in to an original work of art.

My little cottage was truly an inspired project from start to end. I woke up from a dream one morning, and in the dream I had already figured out how to bump out the living room wall and the kitchen bay window. I also knew how I would lower the floor to make a functional second story.

While I was creating this project it seemed as if someone else was channeling all

the ideas to me and I was the builder. It was sort of like an instinctual creative process. I love when that happens!

I have one regret with this project and that is not properly wiring it for 12V

lighting. That means when I finish up the final details in the bedroom and living rooms, I will be installing all battery lights. I tend to have a short attention span, meaning I have a hard time completing



Right: The front door to the *Storybook Cottage*.

A front view of the charming cottage.



a project before I am already working on another one. But the inspiration to go back and finish this cottage was reawakened after I was asked to share it with *AM*, so thank you *American Miniaturist*!

In terms of the outside, my vision was originally to create an overflowing garden in a very compact space. I was curious about how many flowers and fun garden features I could fit into the space and was pleasantly surprised. I'd love a real life large garden,

but don't have a green thumb or a strong back. Thankfully, creating a garden to wander through in miniature is just as satisfying for me.

Stonework

First, I had to decide on a size. My parents gifted me a cute side table when they moved, so I limited my landscape board to a size that would fit nicely on that. It doesn't leave as much space as I wanted but because I don't live in a mansion, I always have to figure

out how to maximize my living space for dollhouses. Because of the limited space, I didn't force in a lawn, but instead, made a stone path that wrapped around the cottage.

First, I painted in the areas on the wood base that would be the path. Then I added some edging to the path with 1/4" wide liner 'stones'. The 'stones' were cut from packaging that came with a Yankee Candle. I preferred that texture to the standard egg carton texture.



save the excess because I didn't want to risk gouging my wood floors if I happened to miss some while cleaning up, so I dumped the board out on my gravel walkway in the back yard. After a little aging, using chalk pastels, then planting some rogue weeds and moss here and there, I think it turned out nice.

I wanted the facade of the house to have many textures and colors, so I applied stucco to the areas where I wanted stone. Then, I applied the same material used for stone

Left: A closer look at the exterior stonework on the cottage.

I noted the area needed for the fencing and planters, then filled in the pathway with the pavers that were made from the same Yankee Candle cardboard packaging.

I didn't want to grout the stone, because I wanted a more natural look. Luckily, I had some Bachmann brand gravel in my landscaping drawer for a long time, but never had the chance to use it. I experimented a little, then found that running a light bead of Elmer's glue in the grout lines, then sprinkling the gravel on worked well. I lightly patted the gravel down then, once dry, I rubbed my finger across it to remove the loose gravel. I didn't try to



along the foundation, the stairwell and the walls with double windows.

I traced all the stone facade grout lines in glue, then sprinkled on some 'moss'. I had to lay the house down on its side for the application so that the 'moss' wouldn't fall off before the glue took hold. Once a side was finished, I sat it upright and gently brushed away the excess, gathered all the loose moss and moved on to another side. It was an impactful effect for the look of the cottage and also made it look more realistic.

Roofing

I got various feedback and great advice on how to handle the copper roof and how to approach the weathered effect. After letting the information soak in for a while, I got started. I knew I wanted the dormer roofs to look like copper, so I started by adding an under layer of Burnt Sienna acrylic paint to them. Then I used a Krylon Copper Leafing Pen to paint over the Burnt Sienna, and pre-painted sticks of 1/8" quarter round and 1/16" x 1/8" basswood for the edges and ridges. It seemed to look better and better the more layers I added. Then I added a verdigris effect, which is a bright bluish-green patina that forms on copper or brass.



Above: A look at the original cottage and the altered one.

Fencing

I tried my best with this project to use supplies and materials that I had already purchased and hadn't used before. I had some laser cut fencing in my stash for a couple years and this was finally was the opportunity to put it to good use. I didn't want a high fence to block the garden, so I cut it in half and framed it with 1/8" x 1/16" basswood and painted it with acrylic.

Flowers

After the exterior fences were finished, I affixed the rose arbor. My grapevine tree trunks did not want to play nice and get in their pots without lifting the arbor up off the ground. To solve this problem, I cut them off just above the height of the pots and made rose tree trunks from air dry clay.

They looked okay, but I could have done a much



Every vantage point of this little cottage is breathtaking.

better job if I didn't have to work over the top of the fence and around the back of the arbor. But as usual, problems are really just opportunities in disguise. This gave me a chance to have a little fun with camouflage.

In addition to the planters

and window boxes, I wanted an extensive container garden with all sorts of creative pots and decorative items.

Of course, I had to plant the flowers in the inside fence planters before I could get them installed on the landscape base. I used up a good

deal of the flowers, including purple coneflower, cosmos, daylilies and ground cover. Once the planters were finished, I was able to attach all three fence sections.

I kept a count of the number of flower stems I made from kits and it's a



little insane. With a variety of 25 different miniature flowers the grand total of flowers made were 734!

Using a couple teapots that were too large for 1:12 scale, I covered them in glue, then in a fine ground cover to make topiaries out of them. I glued them to the top of some grapevine and added another Squeeze Me bush below. Now the rose tree will share a pot with the teapot topiary!

Aging

I knew I wanted the *Storybook Cottage* to have a good amount of aging to give it character. How old is too old and when does 'weathered' become decrepit? As I was adding each layer of grime, wear and evidence of the elements, I kept asking myself that question. I didn't really know where the aging process would take me, so I just went with any idea that seemed like a good one in the moment.

I wanted to age the copper roofs, but how much and how? I didn't want a complete patina, but I wanted it well on it's way. I started by rubbing on Gilders Paste Wax in copper, then blended in some

Above: The making of tea time topiary in pots for the garden.

patina here and there.

You can also see that I added some fascia architectural detail using Germany Dresden stamps (stamped gold





Below: The windows are adorned with shelving for flower pots.

foil), and an apex decoration with a bee charm. I thought about how older shingle roofs accumulate moss over time, so I used more chalk to create some moss in certain areas. I mixed the green chalks I had with yellow, teal and brown to create varied green shades of green.

The entire exterior also got a good aging. I diluted FolkArt Home Decor Wax-Antique (which is dark brown) with clear wax to get a lighter shade. I used a brush and highlighted certain areas. There were places that looked a little too 'antique', so I went over those with the white wax to tone it down.

Accents

All around the cottage you can see that I added three dimensional stickers to add interest to the plain facades. This is such a simple way to add more personality and charm to a project.

My attempt at making tiny bees for the bee skep only resulted in my fingers becoming yellow and black with wire stuck to them. I wanted to get some amazing mini bees I saw on Etsy, but they were too expensive for my budget. I settled for ten nail charms for \$3. This way, I had enough to place a few of the bees on flowers as well.

I had a black wire hanging basket that I picked up at Auntie Em's in Arizona. I



Above: The front gate to the cottage is open and invites you in to enjoy the flowers.

painted it with copper leafing pen, lined the bottom with reindeer moss, squeezed in a Squeeze Me bush then planted some clematis flowers and leaves into it.

I had a little cottage kit that was intended to make a purse, but I thought it would make a great mailbox! I added a knob instead of a handle and also added a little working flag on the side. Then I used stucco and copper roofing to simulate the 1:12 scale cottage. I mounted it on a base to give it some detail. I just love to add cute little details like this to my miniatures. It makes me feel like a kid again!

Window leading

When I realized I had 18 windows, and 16 of them needed leading, I had to prepare myself for a long drawn out task. The screen printed plastic that came with the kit is cute, but I wanted something more realistic. So 16 windows x 2 sides equaled to 32 panes. Or should I say, *pains*? I didn't even count the number of lead strips I had to cut and attach.

Suffice to say, making the window leading was a very long process. They were not easy and I had several things go wrong. The first challenge, the one I discovered I was not very good at, was cutting the strips from lead golf tape. At first I tried using a straight edge and X-ACTO knife. I found the metal on metal friction was like nails on a chalkboard so I switched to using scissors.

The thinnest I could cut the strips was about 1/16". That was cutting the lead strip in half, then cutting each half in half, and then all four of those halves in half. My cuts, in spite of monumental effort, were not always straight. But instead of being hard on myself I was reminded that these sort of imperfections can bring charm and personality to a project.

Before adding the 'glaze' to

the leaded windows, I tested what I had on hand. The first product I used was Triple Thick, as recommended by the Glorious Twelfth blogsite leaded window tutorial. I left it on the window plastic for days, hoping it would clear as it dried, but it never did. The second product was Mod Podge. It also remained cloudy, but because of the way the texture stayed raised, it might make a nice effect if you were going for a frosted bumpy surface look. The last product I had on hand was regular top coat clear nail enamel as recommended in Casey's Mini's numerous leaded window tutorials. I must have a bad product, because not only did mine remain cloudy, it actually kind of melted the plastic. Faced with zero great results with the products I had on hand, I opted to use the Triple Thick method. My panes, after

several days, remain cloudy. I may or may not attempt to mitigate in the future.

And finally, I want to share something with you. Sometimes people in our lives don't understand miniatures. They don't understand how and why these tiny things become so precious and special to us. I have come to believe that you either get it and develop a passion for it, or you don't. And what happens to all of those precious things when we pass on? If you're lucky, you have friends in life to share the passion with and can pass on to them. But if not, your family might just see all you've carefully created and collected as a burden to bear when you're gone.

If you're really lucky, a family member will know just where to find the perfect person to pass on your miniature treasures and protect your collection.



Spring showers

Make an umbrella stand from a toilet roll cardboard tube

BY SANDRA HARDING

Scale = 1:12

Every dollhouse entry-way needs a decorative umbrella holder. Here is an inexpensive way to add one to your special dollhouse.

1 Cut the tube open and then cut a length of about 2" off one end (equivalent to 2 feet in our real world).

2 Wind it gently around your finger to keep it curled and decide on the width of the stand.

3 Cut to the desired length for your width and add glue to one side. Glue the sides together to form a tube (the stand). Hold in place until dry, or hold with little pegs or bulldog clips, or similar, until dry.

4 Glue one end of the tube onto thin card and when it's dry cut around it to form the base of the stand.

5 Choose your wallpaper design and cut it



to cover the stand. Glue a little trim around the top and bottom to hide any minor imperfections (that's my excuse anyway) and to make it more interesting. Let it all dry.

6 Paint the whole thing as you wish. I painted one in gold nail varnish, one in brown acrylic, rubbing off the raised bits to add interest, with a coat of clear nail varnish to add shine. One I left as original wallpaper

Materials:

- Cardboard toilet roll holder
- Wallpaper samples: anaglypta or raised patterns (I got my samples from B&Q over the years). Or any pretty or suitable paper that's thick enough to be glued
- Glue
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Colored nail varnish, or acrylic paint
- Clear nail varnish
- Little pegs or clips to hold cardboard while drying

and the 1:24 scale one was a brown wallpaper sample. I also painted the inside a little way down the stand, for those viewers who like to peep into things.





Everything used here came from my wallpaper stock that I had on hand and it was very easy to do. There are many scrap book papers that have a 3D embossed effect that would work as well.

Gina's picks from Instagram



Hello! I'm Gina Theesfield, a proud part of the Social Media team for AM. Like all of you, I am a miniature lover, so I'm thrilled to be highlighting some of the spectacular Instagram pages that catch my eye. You will be sure to be inspired by their miniature art.



Pint-sized world

Fantastic little pottery studio.

Libertybibertyminis

Perfectly done tiny cottage core decor.



Giuliasminiaturen

Incredibly highly detailed food in miniature.

Visit Gina on Instagram at [calico_garden](#)

Camellia tree

The making of a 1:12 tree with many blooms

BY JODI HIPPLER

I was able to figure out how to make an armature out of metal wire for the miniature Camellia tree I wanted. The wire that I purchased online came in a set of varying gauges. This was because I really wasn't sure until I actually was able to play with it how big a diameter I should use and how long I should make it.

I settled on a mixture of three wire strands that were 1mm, 1.5mm and 2mm. I made each length 36", essentially doubling the length of the 18" area I needed the tree to cover.

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Wire strands that were 1mm, 1.5mm and 2mm wire
- Wire cutters
- Miniature pot
- Hot glue
- Woodland Scenics Latex Rubber
- Paint brush
- Acrylic paint: Raw Sienna
- Satin glazing medium
- Ultra Matte Mod Podge
- Miniature flowers



2 Then, following a Luke Towan's instruction video, I folded the length in half leaving a twist at the middle for roots. (I had to size my measurements up from Luke's, naturally, because I am not working in HO train scale.)

3 To keep the roots in the pot, I positioned them in the pot and then added layer after layer of hot glue until it was completely affixed and stable. It really made a nice work stand!

4 I decided to try using Woodland Scenics



Latex Rubber to coat the wire tree armature, because it remains flexible once dry and painted.

I had a lot of areas of the house I wanted to conform the tree against, so having some flexibility was crucial.

I found the latex rubber as easy as applying thick paint and the odor not too bad. I applied three good coats and let them dry thoroughly in between. It dries semi-opaque and semi-clear with just a slight yellow tone.

5 Applying paint to the dried latex rubber was much easier than I expected and it adhered well. I used everyday acrylic craft paint to give an undertone in a color that was called Honeycomb.

6 Then, I applied a few washes of Raw Sienna so that it settled into the cracks and gave nice definition. I added a couple coats of the Raw Sienna floated in satin glazing medium for a little depth,



then sealed the entire tree in Ultra Matte Mod Podge. I wanted the sealer to remain flexible, as well.

7 I put the tree back in place and bent it to shape again before beginning to apply the Camellia flowers.

8 To apply them to the tree, I wrapped the wire ends around the tree so that I could later adjust them if and as needed.

9 Out of the one-hundred-forty-four stems, I reserved nine to make up a vase for inside. I also saved five to place into a miniature picking basket.

10 After I felt the tree was sufficiently covered,

I still had fourteen left. So how many Camellias does it take to cover a tree? Exactly one-hundred-sixteen!

And how many leaves did it take? Let's just say that I have four of the eleven sheets left!

11 Once the leaves and blooms were on, I filled the pot with some white glue and 'dirt', then fit the tree in place.

I am not sure what season my garden is in, or when it is supposed to bloom, but in my make believe world, it makes perfect sense. And the latex rubber was definitely the way to go! My branches bent and conformed with ease and with no sign of stress. Never be afraid to try new materials and products!

Get ready for the beach!
Here are some fun tips.



1 Beach balls are easy to make by painting wooden beads in bright primary colors.

2 Cut the finger tips off of different colored rubber gloves to make little swim hats.

3 Kites, windmills, photographer's boards, beach bags, surf boards and flip flops can also be made by following other projects in this issue.

4 Other ideas: Add flags, signs, notices and blackboards, a picnic, fishing nets, an ice cream kiosk, sunglasses, deck chairs and holiday makers and you have everything you need for a miniature holiday.

Have fun summer!

Chrysanthemums

Fill a 1:12 scale pot with mini chrysanthemums

BY BONNIE LAVISH

For each flower you will need, 5 sunshine punches, 1 small floret, and several leaves.

1 Place petals on mouse pad and push down in center with a ball stylus. Form graduated 'V' shapes from tight to almost flat. With a needle, make a hole in the center of each petal and small floret.

2 Cut wrapped wire into 1-1/2" pieces.

3 To prevent fraying, seal both ends of wire with Tacky Glue.

4 Slide tightest 'V' to top of wire.

5 Put a dot of glue on wire tip, and squeeze petal tightly to form center of flower. Allow this one to dry before proceeding.

6 Slide other petals onto the wire stem, tightest 'V' first (2). Put a tiny dot of glue on stem just under the flower center, and slide each petal up snugly to the first (3). Spin petal so the tips aren't directly under the tips above.

7 Repeat until all petals are glued in place. Slide green floret up stem and glue flat to bottom of flower.

8 Crimp the leaves down the center and along the vein with tweezers.

9 Squeeze out a little pile of tacky glue. Pick up leaf with tweezers and touch the tip of the leaf to the tacky glue. Attach leaf to stem (4). Two leaves should be opposing. Repeat until stem is filled with leaves about 1/8" to 1/4" apart.



10 Use two or three sunshine petals to make small buds. Touch leaf tips with a light wash of different shades of green for more interesting leaves.

11 Note that my steps were too narrow to fit a large pot, so I cut it in half with wire cutters. Glue to step and fill with Chrysanthemums.

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Sunshine, leaf, flower punch
- Ball stylus tool
- Needle
- Wire
- Wire cutters
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Tacky Glue
- Paint/paintbrush
- Flower pot

Mini watering can

Every miniature garden needs a watering can

BY KRIS COMPAS

This month I have a watering can to make from card stock. I am trying out a new thing this time, including centimeters, these are estimates as this project doesn't really need to be exact. I hope this helps out a bit.

I bought the below watering can from Home Depot. It was marked down so I couldn't resist. I love the shape. The miniature version will be a great addition to the miniature gardens and potting sheds that are being planned.

1 Cut about a 2" (5cm) length of the button/carpet thread. Apply a dab of Elmer's to your finger



and run the thread through the glue. This will stiffen the thread. Set aside for later.

2 Cut a piece of card stock about 1" x 3" (2.5cm x 7.5cm) and use Elmer's to glue this piece to another piece of card stock. Press well, smooth it out and set this aside for later. We need this double layer of card stock for the handle.

3 Trace the pattern out on card stock. Cut the body out. When cutting, cut on the line, don't leave any line on the card stock pattern piece.

4 To help glue this piece together we need to curve it first. Place the pattern piece on the edge

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- Card stock
- Button/carpet thread
- Large ball stylus tool
- 1/4" hole punch
- Circle template
- Cutting knife
- Toothpick
- Craft foam
- Q-tips
- Elmer's white or yellow glue
- Tacky Glue
- Metal ruler
- Alligator clips

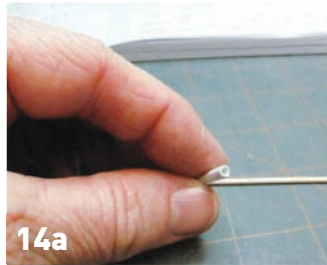
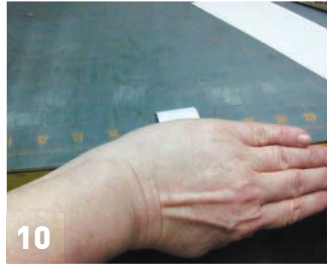
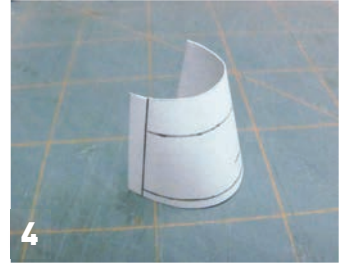
of your table, cover the pattern with the palm of your hand and pull the pattern through. It will curve.

5 Glue the body together, overlapping to the line. Use alligator clips to hold the body together if you have them. Let this dry.

Spout option 1

6 We have two options for the spout. One has a curve in it, that's the one we use the Q-tips for. These things have a rolled paper handle with cotton at each end. I am sure they are universal, just not called Q-tips.

PROJECT



7 The other spout is straight and we will roll card stock to make it.

8 This is the straight card stock spout. Cut a strip of card about 1-1/8" wide, we will trim to size later.

9 Run this strip over the edge of your table to get a tight curve started.

10 Run the card stock over the table edge a couple of times to get a tight curve.

11 Start wrapping the card stock around a toothpick, roll tightly.

12 Now, unroll a bit and apply glue to the card stock, roll up the card stock again. I wouldn't roll up more than twice around the toothpick. Be careful not to get any glue onto the toothpick. Trim the card stock close to the edge of the glue.

13 Give the whole thing a good roll back and

forth on your work table.

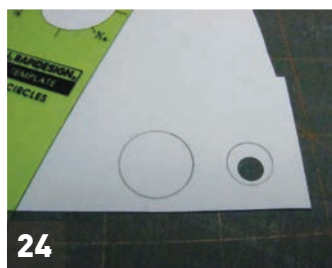
14 Slip off the tube. Cut a sharp angle on one end using your scissors. You can hold it up to the body of the watering can to get the angle you want.

15 Now, cut the top angle to the length you want your spout to be.

Spout option 2

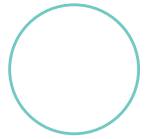
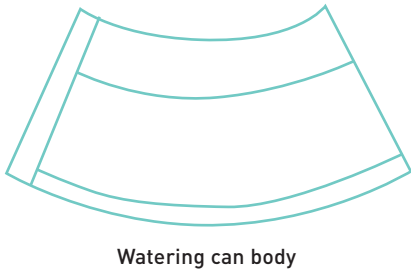
16 The next type of spout uses Q-tips. So get them handy.

PROJECT



17 Use your knife, scissors or wire cutters to cut one end off at a sharp angle. Again, you can hold this up to the watering can body to judge the angle.

Pattern:



Bottom 11/16"



Top 7/16"

18 Measure 1-1/8" (28mm) from that cut and make a mark on the handle of the Q-tip.

19 Bend the handle a bit between your forefinger and thumb. Now cut at the mark you made.

20 Remember the little bit of button/carpet thread you stiffened with glue? We are going to use it now. Fold the thread in half and cut at the halfway mark. Save one piece for later use.

21 Take the extra piece and fold it in half. Use Elmer's to glue the fold to the spout about 3/8" (9mm) from the bottom of the spout, somewhere in that area. Be sure to glue the thread on the side of the spout that will face the body.

Watering can

22 Punch a 1/4" hole into the corner of your card stock.

23 Use a circle template to draw a 7/16" circle around the hole you just punched. Offset the circle so that the hole is not centered.

24 Now draw a 1 1/16" circle. Or you can use the patterns that I provided shown above.

25 Cut out the large circle. Remove the clips from the dry watering can body.

26 Apply Elmer's to the bottom of the body and set it onto the circle. Let this dry. You may have to trim, but don't do that until the bottom is dry.

27 Cut out the circle with the offset hole in it.

28 Lay the circle onto the craft foam or something similar. Use a ball stylus tool to shape the large portion of the circle.

29 Rub the stylus tool over the card to create a rounded shape. Press hard, this is the top and we want it to have a rounded shape. The seam on the body is the 'center back'.

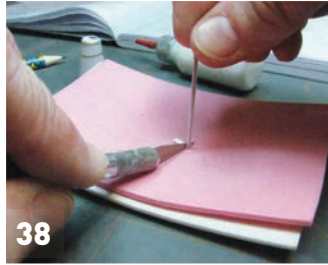
30 Glue the top onto the body by gluing the large rounded part first, opposite the center back. There will be a little extra to trim at the center back. I tried many sizes of circles, trying to avoid the trimming, I couldn't get it.

31 Cut the little extra off or just cut the circle open and overlap the extra. Continue to glue the top onto the top of the body.

32 Get the piece of double layer of card stock that you set aside earlier. Cut a strip 3/32" wide.

33 Using tacky or Elmer's glue a length of button/carpet thread down the center. Set aside, this is the handle.

PROJECT



34 Use tacky or Elmer's glue to thread around the bottom seam. Glue the thread around the body on the lines.

35 Run the card stock handle through your

fingers to help make the paper curve.

36 With a sharp blade in your knife, cut a small horizontal slot in the body at the bottom 'X' wide enough for the handle to go





46

through. Wiggle the blade a little to open the slot a bit.

37 Cut the length of the handle to 2-1/8" (54mm).

38 Bend 1/4" (7mm) at one end of the handle. Bend 1/8" (3mm) at the other end of the handle.

39 When you bent the 1/8" end of the handle the card stock probably came apart. We are going to take advantage of this. Cut off the bottom layer of the card stock to the 1/8" crease. If this doesn't come apart, sand it thinner.

40 Run the handle through your fingers to help make the curve.

41 Apply glue into the bottom slot and insert the bottom of the handle in, just into the body of the watering can.

42 Apply glue to the center front at the top

seam and bend the handle over and glue the tip to the top seam.

43 Cut a single layer of card stock the same width as the handle, 1/2" (14mm) long. Apply glue to the top 'X' on the center back seam, above the thread. Glue one end of the 1/2" long piece to the body. Gently bend the piece and glue the other end to the handle.

44 Glue the bottom of the spout to the line on the center front of the watering can. Let dry.

45 When the spout is dry, really dry, trim the thread and glue the ends of the thread to the body of the watering can.



46 I put my cans on toothpicks to paint them. I use the sticky wax that miniature sites sell to stick accessories to miniature furniture. I scrape out a ball the size of a pea and stick it on a toothpick. This works well to paint small projects.

47 I recommend using a thick paint for the first coat. I like using Delta's Perm Enamel, I use white as a primer. This covers all of the little bumps and covers the thread like I want it to, so it doesn't look like

I use acrylic craft paint to finish them. Then I apply a coat of Perm Enamel Gloss Glaze for shine, 2 coats.

48 Of course you can paint them in metal colored paints, age them, ding them up a bit. All sorts of effect can be used to make them your own.

Kris sells a selection of her 1:12 scale furniture kits through Miniatures.com.

Miniature diorama for a green thumb

Robina Patterson created a gardeners potting bench as a diorama to display in her home

BY PAM NORTH

Robina Patterson, a resident of British Columbia, initially was focused on making small outdoor gardens in pots on her deck. After about five years of that endeavor, she became frustrated with the plants' lack of uniformity in scale, and items being damaged by the sun. She still wanted to make a personal birthday garden for a friend, however, so she began searching for specific items that would be unique to her friend's interests.

“At age 50 and retired, she bought her first dollhouse three years ago.”

It was in that process that she stumbled across online shops featuring dollhouse miniatures, leading her to blogs and social media posts of people making and using miniatures in exciting ways

that she had never considered.

Then she discovered several people making contemporary miniature houses, and that was when she was hooked. At age 50 and retired, she bought her first dollhouse three years ago. From there she started a page on Instagram, attended several large shows, and The Guild School in Castine,

Maine in 2019. While she now works mainly on indoor scenes, she also creates outdoor and gardening scenes.

She had no formal training in the miniature field, so she is basically self-taught.

“I came to miniatures very green and knowing very little,” she explained. “It

Below: A closer look at top of the potting bench.





has been a huge learning curve! I like to take life-size things and recreate them in miniature. I love design, and miniatures give me an opportunity to create rooms that in real-life might not be possible or realistic or practical. For me the biggest difficulty involved with working in miniature is being able to

get good magnification, and resources for learning. I wish there were more opportunities to learn online.” She finds inspiration from various sources: other makers, Pinterest, the world around her, and she belongs to the Miniature Club of B.C., of which she has been treasurer for almost three years.



Above: A view of the diorama showing both side of this unique miniature piece.

She has a supportive family when it comes to her interest, making it easy to combine home life with working in miniature. “It only is hard when I would rather spend my time making miniatures than doing housework,” she joked. “I have a hard time finding a balance sometimes!” She is fortunate to have a small room in her house in which to work. “I think it would be



Above: Shepherd Miniatures made the 1:12 scale Crocs (shoes).

correctly described as a den. It was originally our office, with my husband using one side, but I slowly have pushed him out, and now I use the space exclusively.”

One of her recent pieces is *The Potting Bench* in 1:12 scale. With its detailed spectrum of tools, plants, and assorted other garden items, it is a perfect microcosm of that perfect refuge for a gardener. She came up with the idea for it when she saw someone use an old door on Pinterest as the back of a potting bench. She liked the concept, and with her love of gardening, she wanted to recreate it in

miniature. She then saw that someone had put a miniature scene under a cloche (a small, translucent, protective dome), and she adopted that idea for displaying her potting bench. The project evolved from several kits that she had

★ GETINTOUCH:

Shepherd Miniatures

Chris & Hannah

Instagram: @shepherdminiatures

Facebook: @shepherdminiatures

Web: www.shepherdminiatures.com

purchased and combined for the scene.

The potting bench was made from a miniature door, and the bench was cut from wood; both were made by her. The paviors (paving stones) were purchased. The grass, used mainly for scenery in model making, was purchased, and she designed the brick/grass base upon which the house rests. She painted and aged several of the items in the scene, and she also used dried cilantro to mimic moss/grass between the paviors.

There were other artists whose work was included in



the piece: Yevheniia Kudriavtseva made the beautiful blue flowers in the hanging basket; the mini Crocs clogs were purchased; the stack of drawers beside the bench on the ground were made by Meghan Boo and the chickadee on the top of the door was made by Barbara Ann Meyer.

The idea for the piece evolved in process, as she explained. “I started with just the bench, then collected some things over time. It wasn’t until I finally sat down and finished the bench that I formed the rest of the scene around it. Designing the bench part from a picture, with no plans, probably was the most challenging. I love the bench itself, but I also am quite pleased with how the brick and grass base turned out. That part really was fun.”

She has no plans to sell it, preferring to keep it on display in her home. “I feel that minis can be shown in many forms, and they can be displayed throughout one’s house.” She so far does not sell her pieces widely, only occasionally at a dollhouse show or to an interested collector.

Robina still is an avid gardener in real life, although minis have taken over some of her gardening time. She loves creating small vignettes and using them for display; it is a



Above: The beautiful blue hanging flowers were made by Yevheniia Kudriavtseva.

way to showcase one of the things she enjoys doing in her non-mini life.

She is optimistic about the future of miniatures. “I think miniatures are here to stay. There is a magic to them that brings joy to so many, and with the number of people now sharing them on social media, I think the interest is

★ GETINTOUCH:

FloralDecorMini

Yevheniia Kudriavtseva

Moscow, Russia

Phone: +79859719397

Web: [http://www.etsy.com/shop/](http://www.etsy.com/shop/floraldecormini)

floraldecormini

Instagram: @floraldecormini

growing even more.”

Looking forward to what’s next for her and her creations, she shared her intentions: “I want to finish the current house on which



I am working. It has taken many hours, and it is filled with things I love. Then I may make a series of room boxes. After that, I will be trying to get to and make my long list of imagined projects!"

Above: Another of Robina's projects is this 1:12 scale greenhouse inside an old lantern.



Cocktail dress

Every gal needs a dress that shows her curves

BY RANDALL CASTLE

HeyO, Randall here! My human is sorta new to this mini world so every day they are learning a new trade. This month they've been experimenting and gathering tips on doll dressing. My studio mate, Lark, is new in town and she really digs fashion so our human is going to share how to make a form fitted dress this month.

I will be using a 1:12 scale TBLeague doll for the pattern. They are squishy and shapely. I am using a stretch jersey sort of fabric that doesn't fray easily. These dolls have a rubber texture so they can be difficult to get tight clothing on. You have to be patient. Lark, however, has smooth plastic arms and legs and is a little easier to dress because

only her torso is made from rubber. She has a HENG Toy body with a head from another company.

1 Lay the doll you are dressing on a folded piece of fabric.

2 You don't really need to trace with a pencil so you can ignore that in

the photos. Make a real tiny snip in the neck center then again horizontally on each side. Real tiny!

3 Cut down the center for the cleavage. I took a little away at time and kept trying it on the doll to be safe. Unless you want a plunging neckline, then go for it!

Materials:

Scale = 1:12

- Stretch jersey material
- Scissors
- Pins
- Thread/needle
- Sewing machine(optional)
- Doll



WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,
providing you various content:
brand new books, trending movies,
fresh magazines, hot games,
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price
Cheap constant access to piping hot media
Protect your downloadings from Big brother
Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages
Brand new content
One site



We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>

PROJECT



4 Drape the fabric on the doll inside out and pin the two corners. Then begin to pin it up the sides of the hips and waist.

5 I made a little fold at the breasts. Then pinned

them under on the sides. Only do this if your doll is large breasted.

6 You can sew tack by hand and then use a sewing machine or sew all the way by hand. Follow

along the sides of the body but leave a little room for the hem once you turn it inside out.

7 Okay here is a tip for you. Start and end the knots about 1/4" from the



10 Trim the excess fabric to about 1/8" from the stitch line.

11 Turn inside out and slip on the doll. Pretty cool huh? She's looking fine.

My human hooked you up, right? Come on over to [@randall_castle](#) on Instagram and get to know me and my crew. We would dig it if you joined in on our daily adventures. Looking forward to seeing you there.

ends of the fabric, because you're going to trim it later to be sure it's even before it goes through the sewing machine. Make pencil marks for the sleeves ends. I made mine about 1/8" beyond the doll's wrist joint.

8 Cut away some of the extra fabric and slide it off the doll. This way you won't cut away and stitches. Keep it inside out. Cut the sleeves to you mark and cut the bottom even.

9 Run through the sewing machine being sure to reverse the machine at the ends of the fabric so it won't come apart when stretched. If you sewed by hand, sew from the edge of the fabric to the knots you made.



Light up your dollhouse

Carol shares how you to get started

BY CARL R SAHLBERG



MEET THE MAKER: Carl R Sahlberg

"I became aware that I had a talent in creating electrical components that made wiring a dollhouse easier than what was presently available. I found my niche and very much enjoy sharing my talents with others through classes or in custom wiring their dollhouse."



I started my last article by telling you how easy it is to electrify one's dollhouse and that the challenge is not wiring but learning how to run and conceal all the wires. What do you do with all of those wires? Before we get to answering that question, we need to ask: How do I get started? There isn't a single, simple answer to that question.

Keep in mind that there is no one right procedure to follow and each project you begin may need a different approach. It always has amazed me that almost every dollhouse wiring book starts with running flat tape-wire around each room at one inch above the floor (for a 1:12 scale). That isn't wrong but there are other options. If one is going to add wall outlets in every room, that is the simplest way to add outlets; but then I am getting ahead of myself. We need to learn how to get started from the very beginning.

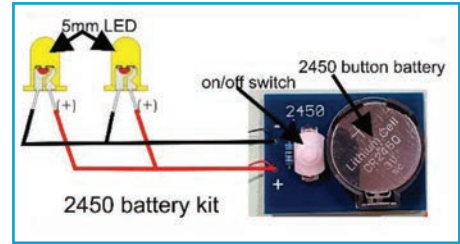
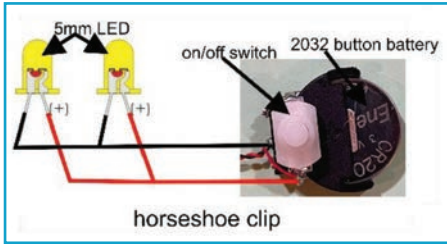
Left: A favorite photo of Carl's, found on the internet.

In later articles, I will show you different approaches to completing your wiring of different types of projects.

Let's start small

I want to illuminate a 144th scale house or kitchen cabinets or those Christmas villages. For the most part all we need to do is to have one or two LEDs inside the project to light it up. You certainly do not need a large power supply so I might suggest a simple coin battery with a couple of 3mm or 5mm, pure white LEDs attached. You can purchase a simple kit online or one of my 2032 or 2450 battery kits (<https://cr2s.com/>). This is as simple as it gets.

Those button batteries are 3 volts: The same voltage that any LED uses; so, you can connect any sized LED and connect it to the button battery. Simply connect all the red wire leads together and all the black wire leads together. Then push the on/off switch and the LEDs will light. You just need to determine where to



place the battery unit and what size and color LED you want to use. Each button battery can light up to 10 LEDs. The 2450 battery, being larger, will last about three times longer than the 2032 battery.

1:48 scale or small cabinets

The quarter scale project will probably require LEDs same as the smaller projects; so, you may want to use those button battery kits here too. As the size of your projects increase, you, most likely will be adding more lights and other features such as a fireplace. That will require more power

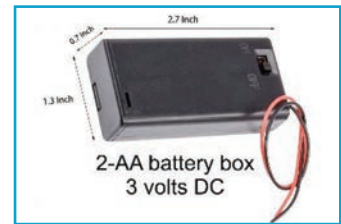
er and the button battery may not provide enough.

In other words, you will be replacing the button battery frequently. The next option is to increase the size of your battery. A double "A" battery box for your power source would be your next step. Once again, the problem is not in lighting your project but in determining how to conceal or place the power supply and conceal the wiring from the LEDs. The China cabinet is has a single 1/8" LED ribbon which is made to be connected to a 12-volt DC supply but I could have

wired individual LEDs and used the 2450 battery. I would have mounted the battery kit to the back of the cabinet and drilled a small hole at the top to pass the wires inside for connecting the LEDs to.

1:24 and 1:12 scale

This half-scale dollhouse changes what we will be using to supply electricity



Above: China cabinet in 1:12 scale and the China cabinet with lights installed.

to the house. Any of your larger projects will be treated about the same and that calls for a 12 volt power source. In the past we only had 12 volt AC transformers to work with but today we need to think about using a 12 volt DC power supply.

Direct Current (DC) is safer than Alternating Current (AC) and allows one to add a lot of new features such as LEDs and remote controls. DC will work with any and all of the lights and special features you have used in the past. In fact all of your incandescent lights will last longer simply from changing to a DC power supply. Wiring your dollhouse becomes easier too as we can color code the wiring using just two colors; one red and one black. We will get more into color coding in our next issue. For now, we need to select our power supply.

Selecting a power supply

Note: If your present display works just fine and you don't intend to change anything, I don't suggest changing the transformer for a new DC power supply but if you are planning to start a new wiring project, or rewiring an old project, please start by purchasing



a new DC power supply. It will make that much of a difference!

Selecting the correct power supply is even simpler than it was choosing a transformer. Because all 12 volt DC power supplies put

out a constant 12 volts and most have a built in circuit protection, it makes choosing the correct size power supply very easy. I sell a one amp, a two amp and a six amp power supply. All three put out a constant 12 volts. The only difference is that the 6 amp has a lot more to put out.

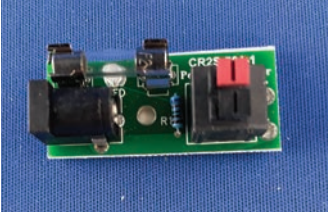
Think of it as turning on the water spigot to your garden hose. The volume of water we get out of the hose is determined by how much we turn the water spicket on. The volume of water would be equivalent to the different amperage power supplies. So, a one amp power supply does not have as much volume (amperage) or available pressure (voltage) as a



Above: 2 amp supply.



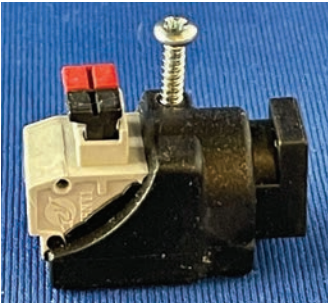
Above: 6 amp power supply.



Above: Power connector with fuse.



Above: Power connector with on/off switch.



Above: Mini power connector.

six amp unit. Another nice feature is you can always purchase the six amp power supply (largest one) and it will work just as well lighting only one light bulb as in lighting the maximum load of a six amp unit of 150 bulbs. Know that you can always start your project with a one amp power supply (smallest one) and because of its internal circuit protection system, you can keep adding more lights until

the power supply is unable to light any more. The unit simply goes into a hick-up mode and all your lights will start flashing on and off. That does not hurt anything at all. All you would need to do is disconnect the one amp power supply and move up to the two amp unit. You do not have to count how many lights you plan on installing, just have a general idea the total number you might install. That is why I have my power supplies marked with the potential maximum number of lights the power supply can provide power for.

The one amp, on average, can handle 26 flame-tip bulbs; the two amp can handle 52; and the 6 amp can handle 155 bulbs. That is all you need to know. For most display boxes, a one amp power supply is all you need. I recommend the two amp for most dollhouses but if it is a large dollhouse or you are planning on putting a lot of lights and new features in, you might choose the six amp unit.

Along with the power supply you will need something that will make the connection between the plug on the end of the power supply to the dollhouse or display unit. I call that a 'power connec-

tor'. Cir-kit Concepts calls their connector a 'junction splice'. All three connectors shown to the left are basically the same. The mini has a jack on the left side which will accept the plug from the power supply; and a simple wire connector on the right side. The other two have a fuse inline with the jack and wire connector. To add one additional feature I added an on/off toggle switch to the other. I generally recommend adding a fuse in line with the power source and before the dollhouse or display.

Because of the circuit protection built-in to a lot of today's power supplies, it is not as important to have a fuse, especially in smaller projects. I still recommend having a fuse for all dollhouses, especially if you are using a 6-amp power supply. It simply protects both the dollhouse and the power supply.

In our next issue, we will choose our power supply and power connector, connect it to our project and decide how we need to run our wiring.

For more information be sure to check out my website at www.cr2s.com and then click on "Video Tutorials" on the menu line.

ROADTRIP DIRECTORY

STAR BUSINESS • THE TOY BOX • FLORIDA • USA



The Toy Box is located in the lovely area of Historic Cocoa Village where you can enjoy an old world shopping experience in Cocoa, Florida. We have row after row of dollhouses which line the top shelves of the shop to delight children of all ages from 2 to 102. We offer a full line of dollhouse miniatures and accessories in 1 inch scale and also carry selection of 1/2, 1/4 and 1:44th scale. You can also find a variety of electrical supplies and lamps from Houseworks to LED plus landscape material and a variety of material for your building needs. We are a full service shop where we do builds and repairs. Free estimates offered.



The Toy Box
419 Brevard Ave,
Historical Cocoa Village, FL
Phone: 321-632-2411
Email: toybox@cfl.rr.com
Hours: Tue-Sat 10-5
www.thetoyboxstore.com

ARIZONA • USA



**The Mini Time Machine
Museum of Miniatures**
4455 E. Camp Lowell Drive
Tucson, AZ 85712
(520) 881-0606
Open Tuesday-Saturday 9am-4pm
www.theminimachinemuseum.org

ILLINOIS • USA



Tom Thumb Hobby & Crafts
6001 W. Gross Point Rd.
Niles, IL 60714
Phone: 847-869-9575
Email: tomthumb6001@gmail.com
www.tomthumbcrafts.com

INDIANA • USA



**Museum of Miniature Houses
and Other Collections, Inc.**
111 East Main Street
Carmel, IN 46032
Phone: 317-575-9466
Hours: Wed-Sat 11-4, Sun 1-4
www.museumofminiatures.org

KENTUCKY • USA



KSB Miniatures Collection
215 Sutton Street
Maysville, Kentucky
(606) 564-5865
Tuesday - Saturday 10-3:30
www.ksbminiaturescollection.com

MARYLAND • USA



**Forever Friends
Dollhouses and Miniatures**
2105 Bishops Castle Drive
Olney, MD 20832
Phone: 301-774-3037
Hours: Call first for hours.
www.foreverfriendsminis.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE • USA



Earth and Tree Miniatures
276 State Route 101
Amherst NH 03031
603-673-8707
Mon - Sat 10 - 5 Sun 12 - 5 Open 7 days
www.earthntree.com

ROADTRIP DIRECTORY

NEW JERSEY • USA



Karen's Dollhouse Shop

14 Main Street

Clinton, NJ 08809

Phone: 908-766-3777

Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday 10am-4pm

Closed Sundays & Mondays

www.karensdollhouse.com

OHIO • USA



Ms. Peggie's Place

5063 Cass Street,

San Diego, CA 92109

Phone: 858-483-2621

Hours: Wed 12-7pm/Th-Fr 12-5pm

Sat 10am-5pm/Sun 12-5pm

www.mspeggiesplace.com

OHIO • USA



The Miniature Cellar

12652 West Geauga Plaza

Chesterland, OH 44024

Phone: 440-729-6464

Email: minicellar@sbcglobal.net

Hours: Tue-Sat 10-5

www.miniaturecellar.com

Get your Museum on the Map!

Make arrangements now to add your miniature museum to our Road Trip Directory.

- affordable
- easy—we'll walk you through the steps
- great exposure
- perfect timing to capture summer travelers

Email or call our Advertising Team today—only 3 spots available.

adsales@ashdownmagazines.com (507) 993-8416



Join in on the roadtrip!

Now you can list your museum or business in our state-to-state directory!



Call 1-507-993-8416 or
email adsales@ashdownmagazines.com
to add your business to the map today.

■ Some of our upcoming showcases are: summer, Halloween, Christmas, and mini kits. If you would like to be considered in these top miniature artist showcases, email auralea@dashdown.co.uk with images and the showcase you are interested in.

ARTIST

THIS MONTH WE CELEBRATE



LAURA CRAIN

CALIFORNIA

Handmade flowers spilling out from a wheelbarrow. This piece is 1:12 scale.



GETINTOUCH:

Dollhouse Land

Laura Crain

Phone: 949-496-9841

Email: lauracrain2@aol.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Dollhouse-Land



YEVHENIIA KUDRIAVTSEVA

RUSSIA

Spring flowers in bloom.



GETINTOUCH:

FloralDecorMini

Yevheniia Kudriavtseva

Moscow, Russia

Phone: +79859719397

Web: <http://www.etsy.com/shop/floraldecormini>

Instagram: @floraldecormini

SHOWCASE

SPRING AND EASTER MINIATURES FROM TOP MAKERS



ROXANNE FERN
NEW YORK
Easter baskets and fun Easter plates!



ELIZABETH HJORT
MINNESOTA
Tiny Easter treats with
Wonderful details!



GETINTOUCH:

Elizabitzies
Detailed Petite Pastries & more...
[Etsy: Elizabitzies.etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/Elizabitzies)





LOREDANA TONETTI

ITALY

This artist is a master at making eggs in every variety you can think of as you can see in these beautiful 1:12 scale displays.





we
love
this!



ELISE GILLESPIE

ARIZONA

An Easter hutch full of miniature treasures.



A successful mini makeover

*Youth is not always wasted on the young.
Adam Koch's journey will delight and fascinate you*

BY JOAN MCKENZIE

Adam Koch realized his devoted enthusiasm for the miniature art form during one of his most vivid childhood recollections. While on a family trip with his parents to the Art Institute of Chicago where, for the first time, he gazed upon the famous 'Thorne Rooms' as well as 'Colleen Moore's Fairy Castle' at the 'Museum of Science and Industry'. He found himself to be completely mesmerized by the

extraordinary workmanship in those beautiful little worlds and has been captivated by all things miniature ever since.

Below left: Miniature artist Adam Koch. **Below:** The finished vintage dollhouse Adam saved. **Right:** The modern living room in the stylish dollhouse.





After viewing Adam's account on Instagram, @dollhousetherapy, I was struck by the level of detail he employed while sharing the star subject of this feature, *Spring Run*. He initially bought the 1:12 miniature house from a neighbor when they were downsizing. His personal challenge to

bring this 1970's disheveled miniature house to 'Thorne Rooms' quality was clearly in his mind, whether consciously or subconsciously and he has achieved this effort beautifully. It's not an exaggeration to note that my jaw dropped while looking at the stunning details that he employed every step of the way.

Adam has always been inspired by the idea of old houses getting restored and revitalized, whether real or miniature. Then he discovered that there were many old dollhouses out there that needed help. So he naturally made the connection and decided to experience what it would be like to rehabilitate one himself.

Right: The stylish kitchen in the *Spring Run* dollhouse.

Spring Run is actually the name of a beautiful, wooded fishing club in Ohio that Adam's father belonged to, many years ago. The serenity of the green color scheme that he chose for this dollhouse would match perfectly with the shaded fishing stream there. And so the dollhouse was appropriately named, *Spring Run*.

Once Adam acquired the original dollhouse from his neighbor, he learned that her father, Joseph Coglianò, had made the initial structure in the 1970's and though it was never completed, had been lovingly enjoyed by the family for decades. Restoring an old dollhouse can be much more difficult and time consuming than building a new dollhouse.

Adam ended up taking the bright yellow house apart completely, and then sanded, resurfaced and in some cases reshaped each wall piece. He documented the process on Instagram to illustrate each step along the way, which is what first caught my attention on social media and made it clear that he was an extraordinary miniaturist.

Adam's day job is as a set designer for theater in Brooklyn, New York. His studio





has designed productions all around the world. Making miniature set models is a central component of their work. (adamkochassociates.com). In his spare time he passionately builds both new dollhouses, while also restoring and renovating old dollhouses.

His mother is delighted with her son's passion and talent, but she is not surprised. She has seen Adam's love of miniature worlds grow for many years. Adam believes that his mother is probably relieved that this has become a worthwhile pursuit as well as part of a well-rounded and happy life.

Adam has always loved beautiful houses. For a short while, as a young man, he considered becoming an architect, but his passion for the theater led him towards

applying that interest in instinct to the stage. His love for architecture and historic homes has found a conduit in miniature form. In this way, he can always bring his house fantasies to life, albeit in smaller scale.

‘He was able to make his own custom windows that were exactly the right style and shape to honor the original house.’

When his beloved father passed away in 2017, Adam experienced a flood of emotions, but one calling that remained prevalent was to reconnect with his childhood, and the precious time he had spent with his father. When

Above: The stylish office upstairs has a good amount of light from the window as well as the doors with transom windows.

Adam was a child they made an unsophisticated but lovely dollhouse. He found a way of coping with this devastating loss by returning to his love of miniatures, which had remained dormant for several years. Driven by an intensely therapeutic resolve, he set to work building his first miniature house as an adult, thereby finding meditative peace while channeling his father.

Spring Run has an unusual floor plan featuring an ‘open on two sides’ design, which makes this house distinctively interesting, as the floor plan has access to twice as many rooms. It also has unusually high ceilings which allowed him to add classic transoms



above the doors which is an architectural element that he has always admired. Adam found the transformation process of this incredibly gorgeous dollhouse to be wonderfully satisfying. He was able to make his own custom windows that were exactly the right style and shape to honor the original house.

Adam's adult life is based in Brooklyn, New York, however since this pandemic

began, he returned to his family home in Ohio. Unlike his Brooklyn apartment, there is a large workshop space with plenty of room to have several dollhouse projects going at the same time. Adam believes that once you begin this art form, one dollhouse is never enough! He often is working on commissions for multiple dollhouses at one time. Recently his dollhouse

and renovation costs have ranged anywhere from \$1500.00 to \$10,000.00.

Whether in miniature or on stage, the ability to create a dream world for the mind to visit is one of life's simple pleasures. However, while working on set designs you may be called upon to design a world you would never want to visit. This miniature art form allows Adam to visualize and create his own personal aspirations of comfort and enjoyment.

Adam studied Fine Arts at the world-renowned Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania. His company creates primarily in 1:48 scale, as professionals for set design and model making. Constructing models as well as full scale scenery for the stage involves nearly every conceivable technique that exists. The projects that he takes on sometimes feel somewhat like farming.

There is pleasure while envisioning the final product, which has to be tempered by the time it will take for the seed to take root and steadily grow. Learning patience has been a humbling but worthwhile skill for Adam, but the end result has always been worth the time invested.

Adam believes that the future of miniatures is enormous. This pandemic has



DOLLHOUSE TOUR



Above: The 1:12 scale dollhouse shown in different stages as Adam gave it new life.



Above: A view from the back during the day as well as the two side with the lights on.

caused many people to 'go inward' for the time being, both literally and figuratively. He has noticed a growing interest in miniatures, as well as a new emerging community of actual miniature makers this past year.

He has also spoken with multiple manufacturers over

the past few months and they have confirmed that their miniature equipment sales have increased significantly.

Looking at the photographs of his astounding work should tell you that this is one brilliant artist to watch with admiration and pleasure, as this young man is just getting

started. I can say with certainty that for Adam, the best is yet to come!

★ GETINTOUCH:

Adam Koch / Dollhouse Therapy
Email: dollhousetherapy@gmail.com
Facebook: [facebook.com/dollhousetherapypage](https://www.facebook.com/dollhousetherapypage)
Instagram: [@dollhousetherapy](https://www.instagram.com/dollhousetherapy)

DOLLHOUSE TOUR



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!

A charming seaside shanty

Theresa Stater lovingly made a 1:48 scale Sea Shanty

BY PAM NORTH

Theresa Stater first became interested in miniatures in 1977. “I was a brand-new mother with a small baby,” she explained. “I loved reading, so I went to the public library for something new to read while my son napped. I found a book titled *The Collector’s Guide to Dollhouses and Dollhouse Miniatures*, by Marian Maeve O’Brien. I checked it out, read it cover to cover, and discovered a whole new world of which I could be a part.”

She is a retired accounts clerk for her high school district; her husband is a retired teacher. “My husband, Michael, started out just being my chauffeur to miniature shows and shops, but he now is a very active partner in our collecting.”

Theresa describes herself as being more of a collector than a crafter. “My biggest difficulty working with min-



iatures is that my skill level does not equal my desire to have the best quality of miniatures, so I do more collecting than crafting, although I have made a few

Above: The Sea Shanty is a 1:48 scale dollhouse.

items. My husband is more of the crafter, especially in woodworking. He has made



a large dollhouse and many furniture pieces for me. Our two sons, their wives, and our grandchildren enjoy seeing our work, although they are not participants in the hobby. My husband has been very supportive of my obsession, both financially and by building what I need as my collection has grown over the past 43 years.”

“It is not always easy

combining miniatures and our home life,” she continued. “Part of my collection is displayed in the living room, and the rest has taken over two bedrooms in the house. We find much of our inspiration for miniature-making in life. We make room boxes for holiday scenes, to highlight special themes and family memories. Although I did not

Above: The little house has a full kitchen but dining outside on a warm day is ideal.

make my dollhouses and room boxes, I have planned and decorated them. My husband often says that I can’t part with anything (and I must agree with him), but those pieces are often those which he made.”

When asked what she



Above: A full view showing the inside of the house.

loves most about miniatures, Theresa exclaimed, “Where to start? I love the hunt, searching for that special

treasure to complete a scene or an empty space in one of my dollhouses. I also love how miniatures encompass so many different interests. You can be a crafter using many skills like needlework,

painting, or sculpting, wood-working, interior designing; or you can be a collector, seeking out those artisan pieces that successfully complete a project on which you have lavished time and energy. Miniatures can be both a private pleasure and one that can be shared with others. We belong to a club in Kingsburg, California called Tiny Tinkers, which has held monthly meetings since 1988.”

“Miniatures can be both a private pleasure and one that can be shared with others.”

A recent piece Theresa created is her *Sea Shanty*, a 1:48 scale dollhouse. “There is a story behind *Sea Shanty*. This little house was a raffle prize for the Central Coast



Miniature Show in February 2011. I never had collected in 1:48 scale before, but I fell in love with the little house. I bought my ticket, but unfortunately I did not win.

“Miniatures have been my solace and my joy. I encourage everyone I meet to discover that fascinating world.”

“However, the winner was the daughter of one of our club members. The daughter gave it to her mother, who wasn’t interested in 1:48 scale, so she gave it to me as a birthday present in November, 2012. Since the majority of pieces in our large collection are 1:12 scale, I wanted to have another scale represented. One should be open to trying new scales. For many years I would only work/collect in 1:12 scale, but now I will be collecting dollhouses and furnishings in 1:16, 1:24, and 1:48 scales, each one bringing new and exciting opportunities for collecting and creating.”

The dollhouse and furniture were made from kits made by Karen Cary. “It already was assembled and painted, and I did the finishing touches it needed,

which included dolls, rugs, curtains, food, and a sandy beach. I made little rugs by cutting out pictures of mini carpets from a miniatures catalog. Curtains were bits of fine lace. Michael and I spent an afternoon in Pismo Beach, California, sifting through beach sand for rocks and small shells, which along with some of the sand, were used under the pier beneath the *Sea Shanty*. The small seahorses and starfish that

I glued onto the front were found at a coastal shell shop.”

There are special pieces by other artists whose work she included. One is a tiny scrimshaw carving of a ship, made from an old piano key, by Jon Olson. The dishes and foods (with the tiniest chocolate cake) were made by Janet Smith. The two dolls, Marian and Lucy, were custom-made for her by Rebecca Wright.

Below: A view of the tiny beach house from the side.



In contemplating the future of miniatures, Theresa had this to say, “The future has two sides. As the older collectors/craft people begin to retire, downsize, or pass away, I think there are fewer new collectors to replace them. Younger generations seem to prefer travel experiences and more minimalist lifestyles. They don’t want to devote the space, time, and funds needed for this hobby. However, the new crafts people are bringing novel methods of creating, such as 3D printing, and new concepts featuring contemporary designs in furnishings, art, and smaller scales.”

Theresa and her husband have many ideas to pursue. “We currently are working on a travel trailer, and several room boxes. Future projects include a lighthouse, and still more room boxes. We continue to add to our collection whenever we can, although the pandemic has restricted travels to shows and club meetings. Miniatures have been my solace and my joy. I encourage everyone I meet to discover that fascinating world. Sharing this hobby has brought Michael and me even closer as a couple, as we discovered new talents, and has brought us many new friends.”

Newbie corner

Building your own structure

BY AURALEA KRIEGER

If you are new to miniatures you probably have a million questions. Although there are loads of great tips and techniques in each *AM* article, I thought I would share a few as they come to mind.

Although there are a few kits out there that I must have, I also enjoy building my own structures from scratch. If you have something in mind that you want to make here are a few tips to get you started.

Draw out your plans on graph paper. I use a small grid where one square can equal 1". So for 1:12 scale that 1" equals 1'.

Gator board will not warp, but foam board may over time if there is moisture in the air or after you apply a lot of glue for your flooring. You could try doubling up your foam board with wood glue and weighing

it to dry with something firm and heavy and use a very thin layer of glue for your flooring.

Use a scroll saw to cut gator board! I severely damaged my rotator cuff using a utility knife for too long. I build a lot!

To attach the walls to the floor I use both wood glue and I push thin nails through as extra security. If you need a quick hold while the glue dries in tricky areas, add a dab of hot glue in the center (not on the wood glue) to secure (plus some blue tape) then walk away and let the wood glue dry.

My newest build is a timber cabin. To follow my progress visit me on Instagram @auraleakrieger.



American miniaturist

Receive your **FREE** subscriber gift with any print subscription!



1 YEAR GIFT

18 Piece Dinner Service Set

AM ON THE TABLET AND PHONE:

AM magazine is now available to read on your favorite device, including the iPad, iPhone, iPod touch, Samsung Galaxy Tab. Buy the latest issue anywhere in the world at a fraction of the cost of the paper edition.

Download your FREE App today. Simply search for 'American Miniaturist Magazine' in the Apple App store or Android Market.



www.dollhouse.live

American Miniaturist Gift Subscriptions make a GREAT present for the miniaturist in your life!



SAVE on the iMag & DHTV!

When you subscribe to the print version, you qualify for a special savings to the American Miniaturist iMag digital library.

With the iMag, read the current issue on your computer, plus all the available back issues of in the digital library.

Also, don't miss out on Dollhouse Classroom! It's like having a workshop in your home. You can watch programs anytime on your computer or mobile device at www.dollhouseclassroom.com

***All gifts subject to change.**

3 easy ways to subscribe

- Visit our website at:
www.AmericanMiniaturist.com
- Call the US office at 1-866-606-6587 or 507-634-3143
- By mail using the form on the right

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

A stunning new design and even more projects!



American Miniaturist is better than ever. With a stunning new design and even more projects, AM is the magazine every miniaturist is talking about.

- When you subscribe, 12 beautiful issues of American Miniaturist will be delivered straight to your door.
- PLUS for each print subscription, you will get our latest subscriber gift.
- FREE access to all available digital back issues at www.i-mag.co.uk - a \$45.99 value!

Digital Library Access

Enjoy unlimited access to the American Miniaturist digital library when you purchase a digital subscription to American Miniaturist or add this feature onto your print subscription order. Thousands of pages await you!

Dollhouse TV Access

Stuck at home and need something fun to do? Dollhouse.TV is filled with hours of inspirational projects and films, all online and easy to enjoy on your computer, tablet or phone. Purchase your membership today!

1 year subscription prices: US*: \$104.99 Canada (CAD): \$160.99 UK: £103.99 Europe: €125.99 Rest of World**: \$144.99

Save the postage, subscribe online at www.AmericanMiniaturist.com

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____ Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Please debit my Mastercard / Visa / Amex / Discover Expires ____/____/____ CVV2 ____

Card no.

☐ I do not wish to auto renew with the card listed above.

☐ Check enclosed payable to American Miniaturist

☐ I want to subscribe/renew to American Miniaturist!

☐ 1 year (\$104.99)
(US Funds Only)

☐ iMag 1 year (\$45.99)

☐ Dollhouse Classroom 1 year (\$59.99)

☐ Dollhouse Classroom 1 year with sub (\$35.99)

☐ This is a gift subscription From: _____

Return this form to:
American Miniaturist
PO Box 219, Kasson, MN 55944

Or call us today:
507-634-3143

*US Currency Rates for USA Subscribers

**US Currency Rates for ROW Subscribers

MY CREATIVE SPACE

June Tooley shared some of her amazing pieces in AM212. Now let's see where she creates.

How long have you been making miniatures? One year, although I made minis when I was a kid for Tucker, my toy mouse. It started as a hobby to get me through COVID, but it soon turned into a business that I thoroughly enjoy because I get to keep making what I love.

Where do you create? In my kitchen.

Do you always make your minis in the same place? Yes, although once a week I pack up my work in a big tote bag and go to work at my friend and fellow miniaturist Jackie Benham's house.



This month we visit the workspace of AM contributor, June Tooley.

What makes your space for mini making so special? It's in my favorite room in the house, the kitchen I started remodeling 15 years ago when I painted the walls bright orange-red!

I work standing at the island, a nice change from too much sitting, and the sink is behind me so I can wash my hands or paint brushes conveniently.

The ceiling has an overhead fluorescent light, so it's the best lighting in the house. I do cook, but let's just say I'd rather create than cook, so I prepare meals around the minis, rather than vice versa. At this stage in my life, it's just my cat Marley and me, and she doesn't care about cooking as long as there's food in her bowl.

I keep two of my favorite

miniature settings there where I can enjoy them, Mr. Potter's antique shop and Mad Granny's kitchen. She's Mad Granny because there is food all over her floor – in fact, I realize that most of my dollhouses and room boxes are like my real house – stuff usually all over the floor, a storage system I prefer to call 'floorage'.

I have some mementos of my family near me when I work. My mother collected three stacking antique glass cake stands and I keep my next pieces there. My sister gave me a rustic twig bench, which was one of the first minis I decorated with pillows, so it's doubly special.

At first I kept all my materials in shoeboxes on my long, cherry Shaker style table. When I found the storage units with

‘I have some mementos of my



a lot of drawers, I bought two. The secret to my success? I have everything in every color – tiny ribbon, lace, buttons, tassels, cord, tiny print fabrics, and I need an organized place to keep them. Now I use my table for cutting dollhouse wallpaper for decoupage.

Do you listen to music or the radio while you work? I listen to Pandora, usually the Randy Newman or Bob Seger stations.

Describe your workspace in five words. Cheerful, convenient, comfortable, organized, and inspiring.

What is the one thing that your workspace can't be missing? Aleene's Fast Grab Tacky Glue – nothing works better for me, whether I'm working with fabric or paper for decoupage. When my local



source stopped carrying it, I ordered twenty bottles online, yes, twenty, and they are waiting for me in the basement.

What or where would be your dream workspace? Honestly, it's almost perfect the way it is. My house is very small, so I store unfinished mini furniture and my photography light box in another room, I keep

finished work in a lidded plastic bin that slides under my bed, and I have a wrapping and shipping station in the basement (and no, I'm not going to take pictures of that!) Before I put new work away, I always leave it on the mantel in the bedroom for a few days, because I think it's very important for us to enjoy our work.

family near me when I work.”

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 Make It Challenge

Take your best shot to duplicate this full size spring cake found at countryliving.com to a miniature version. 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 or Miniscoop!

This could be a fun club project or add some details to your existing projects!



Pizza giveaway contest

Allyson Morgan from Allyson's Minis (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/allysonsminis/>) is donating this 1:12 scale pizza to giveaway. Be sure to follow the contest directions on the right side of this page.



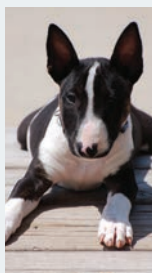
Above: Mini Make challenge from *AM* issue 214. A full scale galvanized vase with faux flowers from www.lakeside.com.



Above: Carol Ann, from New Jersey made this fabulous 1:12 scale replica!



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



WHERE'S ARTHUR CONTEST

Arthur was found on page 33 helping Sara Santosa showcase her ceiling light display in the **AM213** issue. We have randomly selected **Lyla** from **McGraw, NY** to be our winner for this month's Where's Arthur contest. We will be sending her a food mold by

Julia Henry from Whysper Fairy (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/whysperfairyy/>) 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. Be sure to follow the contest directions on the right side of this page.



Contest entry directions

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 **Thursday, April 22, 2021**. Good luck!

Recent winners

213 Highlights

Elizabeth from Pearland TX

Ivy giveaway

Jeanine from Clintonville, WI

Congratulations!

Please note

We are no longer using months to distinguish our issues, but are strictly using issue numbers.

If you are calling or emailing us asking about an issue, please be sure to use issue numbers and not months when querying.

215 Highlights contest



We would love to know what your favorite highlights were in this issue of *AM*. You could win this fabulous 1:48 gazebo from Gail Hart-Domiano at Hart's Desire Minis (<http://www.etsy.com/shop/hartsdesireminis>). All it takes is a written paragraph

for this random drawing! Be sure to follow the contest directions on the right side of this page.

Easter decorations

Make some little Easter egg bunnies

These little bunny eggs are perfect to place around the dollhouse or mini scene to celebrate spring and Easter. They are super easy to make in any scale!

1 Shape the polymer clay eggs by rolling a ball in your palm with your finger and slowly taper down the top to an egg shape.

2 Use a very thin wire for the ears, but use a slightly thicker wire for making the holes in the egg because polymer clay shrinks when it bakes.

3 Hold the egg gently and press in the ear holes.

4 Bake your eggs following the manufacturer's instructions. Let cool.

5 Draw on a little face with a fine tip marker. Or leave them plain.

6 Use round needle pliers to shape the ears. Test fit and snip shorter if needed.



7 Apply Super Glue to the wire tips and push in the ear holes. Let set.

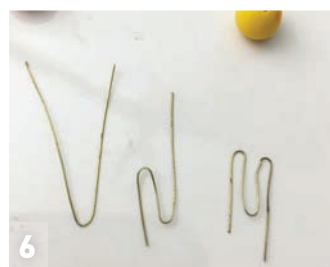
8 If you want some sparkle then brush some white glue on the ears evenly with no clumping. Use tweezers to hold the egg and dip in very fine glitter. Tap tweezers against glitter bottle to get any extra off. Let dry.

9 Display your mini masterpieces around the dollhouse or tuck them into a mini Easter basket!

Materials:

Scale = Any

- Polymer clay
- Thin wire and a wire slightly thicker
- Tile for baking
- Fine point marker
- Round needle pliers
- Wire cutters
- White glue
- Glitter



Flower planters

Make some mini wooden planters for spring flowers

For a quick, easy project that could be made during a club meeting, these planters can also be used as window-boxes, you can change the pot plants according to the seasons.

1 Cut all pieces to the correct sizes.

2 Cut the end pieces as the diagram below.

3 Glue each of the side pieces in to the ends.

4 Glue base to ends and side pieces.

Scale = 1:12

Materials:

- To make a 3" long planter
 - 6 (side pieces) – 1/8" x 1/8" x 3"
 - 2 (ends) – 1-1/8" x 5/8"
 - 1 (base) – 3" x 5/8"
- To make a 2-1/4" long planter
 - 6 (side pieces) – 1/8" x 1/8" x 2-1/4"
 - 2 (ends) – 1-1/8" x 5/8"
 - 1 (base) – 2-1/4" x 5/8"
- Wood cutter or small saw
- Wood glue
- Fine sandpaper

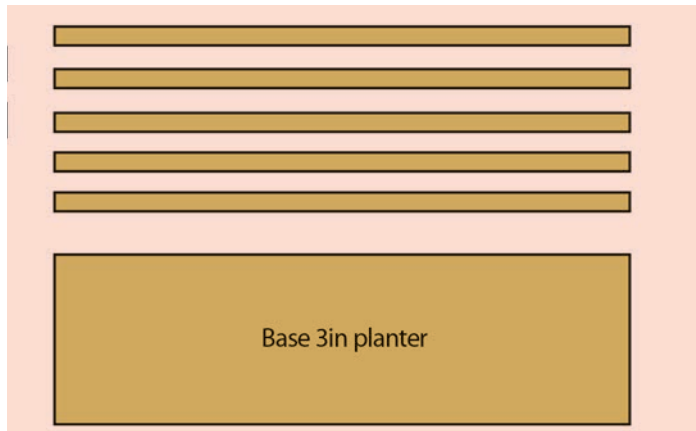
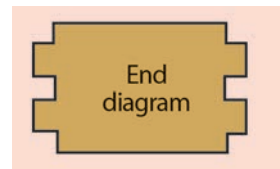


5 When glue is thoroughly dry – slightly round off the corners with fine sandpaper.



6 Paint with acrylic paints if you wish or leave them natural wood.

Pattern:



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 painting 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.



UPCOMING SHOWS, AUCTIONS & EXHIBITS

Due to the current pandemic, please be sure to double check with the show provider's website and social media pages for the latest up to date information.

APRIL 6 - DEC 31

MAYSVILLE, KY

Scaled to Perfection: Encore! April 6 to Dec. 31, 2021 Maysville, KY. KSB Miniatures Collection at KYGMC. Back by popular demand, the KSB Miniatures Collection is pleased to announce a repeat presentation of its widely acclaimed 2018-2019 exhibition of new miniatures, Scaled to Perfection. Catherine Palace on temporary display Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021. Details at www.ksbminiaturescollection.com

MAY 21-22

CLEVELAND, OH

Cleveland Dollhouse and Miniature Show will be held at the Holiday Inn, 780 Beta Drive, Mayfield Village, OH. Show hours are Friday 4 PM to 8 PM and Sat 9 AM to 3 PM. Classes are on Friday. For more information, please visit www.miniatureshows.com or contact tdminiatures@gmail.com or call 314-277-2601.

JULY 15 - 17

CHICAGO, IL

Chicago Spring Showcase of Miniatures will be held at Wyndam Garden Hotel 1725 E Algonquin, Schaumburg, IL. Show will be held from Thursday, 12 PM to 8 PM, Friday from 12 PM to 8 PM and Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM. Classes will also be offered. For more information, please visit www.miniatureshows.com or contact tdminiatures@gmail.com or call 314-277-2601.

AUGUST 6 - 7

NEW BRIGHTON, MN

Minnesota Dollhouse and Miniature Show will be held at the New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th Street NW, New Brighton, MN. Show hours are from Friday 4 PM to 8 PM and Sat 9 AM to 3 PM. Classes will be held on Friday. For more information, please visit www.miniatureshows.com or contact tdminiatures@gmail.com or call 314-277-2601.

AUG 20 - 21

ANN ARBOR, MI

Ann Arbor Dollhouse and Miniature Show will be held at the Wyndam Garden hotel 2900 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor. Strollers welcome. Show will be held on Fri 4 PM to 8 PM and Sat 9 AM to 3 PM. Classes are on Friday. For more information, please visit www.miniatureshows.com or contact tdminiatures@gmail.com or call 314-277-2601.

SEPT 17-18

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Indianapolis Dollhouse and Miniature Show will be held at the Cambria Hotel located at 18592 Carousel Lane, Westfield, IN. Show will be held from Friday 4 PM to 8 PM and Sat 9 AM to 3 PM. Classes on Friday. For more information, please visit www.miniatureshows.com or contact tdminiatures@gmail.com or call 314-277-2601.

MINI ADS

Dollhouse Inlays & Flooring
Small Wood STUDIOS
 (877) 464-6529
 10% off - Use code SMWAM

WWW.INLAYS.COM

sign up
for TIPS
& IDEAS

 **Sinny's Mini Art**

www.SinnyMiniArt.com
 The Tiny Version of My Amazing World



TEXAS TINY
 1:12 Cowboy/Western, Hispanic, American Indian
www.TexasTiny.com



By Barb



bybarb.com



dollhousealley.com
a miniature boutique

Shop our selection of hand-picked and unique 1:12 and 1:24 scale miniatures!

Visit us at shows up and down the East coast
 Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates



Real Good Toys
Heirloom Quality Dollhouses

Many Choices! Sizes! Price levels! Years of Joy!

122 Gallison Hill Road, Montpelier, VT 05602
 802-262-6018 www.RealGoodToys.com



PETITE PROVISIONS CO. WWW.PETITEPROVISIONSCO.COM

SMALL BATCH MINIATURES
HANDMADE IN THE USA

DELPH MINIATURES
 Specialist U.K. Makers & Retailers
 of Unusual 1/12th Modern Miniatures Since 1991.

Buy Direct from us, in Dollars from our secure
 Webshop: www.delphminiatures.co.uk

E-mail: info@delphminiatures.co.uk

  LIKE US ON facebook

DOLLHOUSE 

www.dollhouseworld.com



dollhouse
miniatures

FINE MINIATURE ART FOR THE DEVOTED COLLECTOR

www.dhminiatures.com

You could be here next issue...

Contact our Advertising
& Sales Team for more
information on ad
sizes & rates.

Call 507-993-8416
or email
adsales@ashdownmagazines.com

PAPER PUNCHES (not shown actual size)



MORE THAN 300
PAPER PUNCH
SHAPES -
to make petals and
leaves for flowers
and plants.
Some punches
exclusively
designed by
Ruth Hanke of
Hanky Panky.

Send for actual size punch shapes catalog for
\$2.00 U.S. / Foreign \$3.00
Complete color catalog \$4.00 U.S./Foreign \$7.50 pp.
Hanky Panky Crafts, 215 N Galbriath, Blue Earth
MN 56013
Phone: 507-526-3110 Fax: 507-526-5969
E-Mail: rhanke@bevcomm.net
Web: hankypankycrafts.com

New!



1/2" scale Patio Set: 1 Bench and
2 Chairs kit \$16.00 Completed \$32.00
Include \$4.00 for shipping

Plants, kits, and furniture in 1/144th, 1/120th,
1/4", 1/2" and 1" scales. Over 750 kits available.
Pricelist LSASE and include scale.

Susan Karatjas
810 Balmoral Court
Moon Township, PA 15108
www.sdkminiatures.com
724-388-2901



sdk miniatures LLC

storelistings

Visit these fine stores that carry American Miniaturist magazines for your
convenience. Please note: some of these stores are online only.

CALIFORNIA

Elegant Dollhouse
1120 Fulton Ave
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 484-0411

Miniature Cottage Shop

1260 Main St
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 772-7858

Ms. Peggie's Place

5063 Cass St
San Diego, CA 92109
(858) 483-2621

CONNECTICUT

**Time Machine Hobby,
LLC**
71 Hillard St
Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 646-0610

FLORIDA

Ron's Miniature Shop
751 W. Colonial Dr.
Orlando, FL 32804
(407) 841-9333

The Toy Box

419 Brevard Ave
Historic Cocoa Village, FL
32922
(321) 632-2411

ILLINOIS

**Tom Thumb Hobby
& Crafts**
6001 W. Gross Point Rd
Niles, IL 60714
(847) 869-9575

MICHIGAN

Wee Dollhouse Shop
140 South River Ave
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-4321

MISSOURI

Treasure Hill
4746 State Road J
Fulton, MO 65251
(573) 642-8802

MONTANA

Treasure Chest of Crafts
1612 Benton Ave
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 549-7992

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Earth & Tree
276 Rt 101
Amherst, NH 03031
(603) 673-8707

OHIO

Dolls and Minis
8068 Columbia Road
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
(440) 647-1519

WASHINGTON

Miniatures & More, LLC
610 5th Ave. S. Ste. D,
Edmonds, WA 98020
(425) 835-0541

CANADA

Craftables
15 Beechmont
Crescent,
Box 3333
Spruce Grove
AB, T7X 3A6

If you wish to carry our magazine in your shop please call us today. Your customers will appreciate this extra service.
Call us today for pricing: (507) 993-8416.

dollhouse.live

WHERE LITTLE THINGS MATTER

Subscribe for weekly updates, news
and special offers - all things miniature
www.dollhouse.live

**FIND US
ONLINE**

Loomis Village in miniature

Kathy Opdycke recreated her father's retirement community in miniature

BY KATHY OPDYCKE

I've been an ardent miniature hobbyist for the past six years. My interest was initially spiked when I viewed the miniature of the home in Richmond that was on a Christmas tour. I was intrigued by the replicas of her own antique home furnishings that the homeowner had found in Europe. It was an amazing miniature that I will never forget, and one that has inspired me since that time.

I have just stepped down from two consecutive two year terms as President of the

Virginia Miniature Enthusiasts club in Richmond, Virginia where I remain an active member.

My 99 year old father resides at Loomis Village, which is a seniors' retirement community in sleepy South Hadley, Massachusetts. He has his own cottage, and has been there for the past 15 years.

When the Loomis Communities purchased the property where Loomis Village now exists, there was a family owned Christmas tree farm on the property.

It was decided to keep the existing family home, a farmhouse which became the headquarters for senior staff and administrators of Loomis Village. It is now an icon within the community, and the first thing you see as you drives onto the property.

To honor my father's 100th birthday this April, I chose to capture the

Below: Kathy particularly likes the wooded areas that, in real life, allow multiple walking trails for the residents, and a refuge for the deer in the area.





Left: There is a small a fish pond in the garden.

of the farmhouse depicts stacked boxes that are dated, and which house the records of the residents from Loomis House, the original nursing home facility that was the predecessor of what now is Loomis Village, and where my great aunt resided for many years back in the 60's. In her demented state, Mamie would curse at the nursing staff in German, especially during a full moon.

‘What I love most about miniatures is the expression of creativity that it allows me.’

farmhouse, also adding into the diorama scenery the hobbies of the residents, and attributes of life within the community. I will present the project to Loomis Village senior staff and residents, hopefully in April when it will be safe to travel to Massachusetts to visit my dad again. He is my biggest fan! Most of that is a parent's love and support, but at the same time he never dreamt that his daughter could create such unique pieces in miniature.

Walking trails, gardens,

bee hive houses for beekeepers, the familiar golf cart driven by the maintenance staff and cleaning crews to navigate the property, typical country stone walls, dense forest settings with deer hidden in the middle, and Max, my father's tabby cat who is perched on one of the stone walls.

A small patio just off of a farmhouse addition shows a rusty grill with hotdogs and hamburgers smoking inside the grill. Lush landscaping surrounds the farmhouse.

The third floor attic area

I used balsa wood for the house construction, a very soft pliable wood, and probably not the smartest to use, but it is easy to work with. The project sits on 3" x 12" x 36" pieces of Styrofoam glued together with wood strips underneath for additional support. I find that the Styrofoam is sturdy, and light when moving this project.

I engaged a carpenter to create a square wood molding to cover the sides, enhancing the finished appearance.

The interior, as well as



of lights on the interior and 5 strands for each of the outside lights, a total of 29 strands, which translates that 29 red wires need to be twisted together and 29 black wires need to be twisted together. And kept together! When peering inside each window, one sees lit up office scenes or comfortable sitting areas.

I would say that 80% of the diorama was handmade by me, including the house, light fixtures, the roof, the chimneys, wooden foot bridge, the bee houses, walkways, drive-ways, stone walls. Most of the landscaping (trees, bushes)

Right: The piece from the front.

the exterior light fixtures are LED lights of varying sizes and illuminations. They will last (almost) forever! The roof was made with strips of black adhesive stair treads, and between a whitewash stain and white crayon I was able to distress it. The chimneys were made out of Styrofoam.

Lighting is always difficult, especially with LED lights. If one wire is not connected properly it affects all the wiring. Let me be clear I love working with LED lights, and will continue to use them. Each LED strand of lights has 2 wires (red and black); “The Farmhouse” has 24 strands





were purchased as were the windows and shutters. The project took approximately six months.

Until this month, I have been working in what was a lovely guest room, using a 3' x 4' wood board as my workspace that was balanced on the end of the bed with 2 tables on each end for support.

I've just created a very large project, and basically I've outgrown my old space, not to mention it would be nice to have our guest room back. So my husband and I decided to convert an attic space into my new work studio. The painters are in there as I write this, and the room is almost complete. It's a fabulous, but very small

area, and it will serve me well allowing me more workable surface area, and shelves to display my miniatures and many cubbies for storage, books and magazines.

Many days in the late afternoon my husband will wonder what is for dinner, while I've been working on miniatures most of the day with no regard for the time. If you're as passionate about this hobby as I, you'll understand why many meals are forgotten.

I find inspiration to create miniatures everywhere! I see an image while I'm gardening, and I think to myself, 'oh, that would be darling in miniature' I fantasize about a home that I would like to live

Above: The LED lighting brings life to the project.

in, and can easily recreate that in miniature (at a fraction of the cost).

I've always wanted to be Mary Poppins, and one of my treasured creations is Mary Poppins descending from the clouds over a starry-lit London night, while Jane and Michael Banks peer out of the 2nd story of their home on Cherry Tree Lane. Miniature creations can be a vehicle by which to live your dreams.

I have hosted several workshops. One was on the use of LED lighting, and the participants were amazed at how easy LED lighting is to work with. Another was a work-

shop around using Styrofoam when creating dioramas. It's light, easy to work with, and can be carved to any shape.

I enjoy teaching workshops as it's an affirmation to myself of the vast amount that I have learned in the short six years that I have been working with miniatures. It's a great confidence booster.

What I love most about miniatures is the expression of creativity that it allows me. I've never considered myself an artist but that's clearly not the case. I lose myself in my work (e.g. no dinner at night), and the hours fly by when I'm immersed in a project. I consider it quiet solitude, almost a form of meditation. I see miniatures as the new trend. Miniatures have been around

for centuries and all over the world, adored by kings and queens and celebrities: Dr. Ruth, Rod Stewart (model trains). It's an art form that will never lose its appeal.

For my next creation,



Above: The gardener gets around in a handy golf cart.

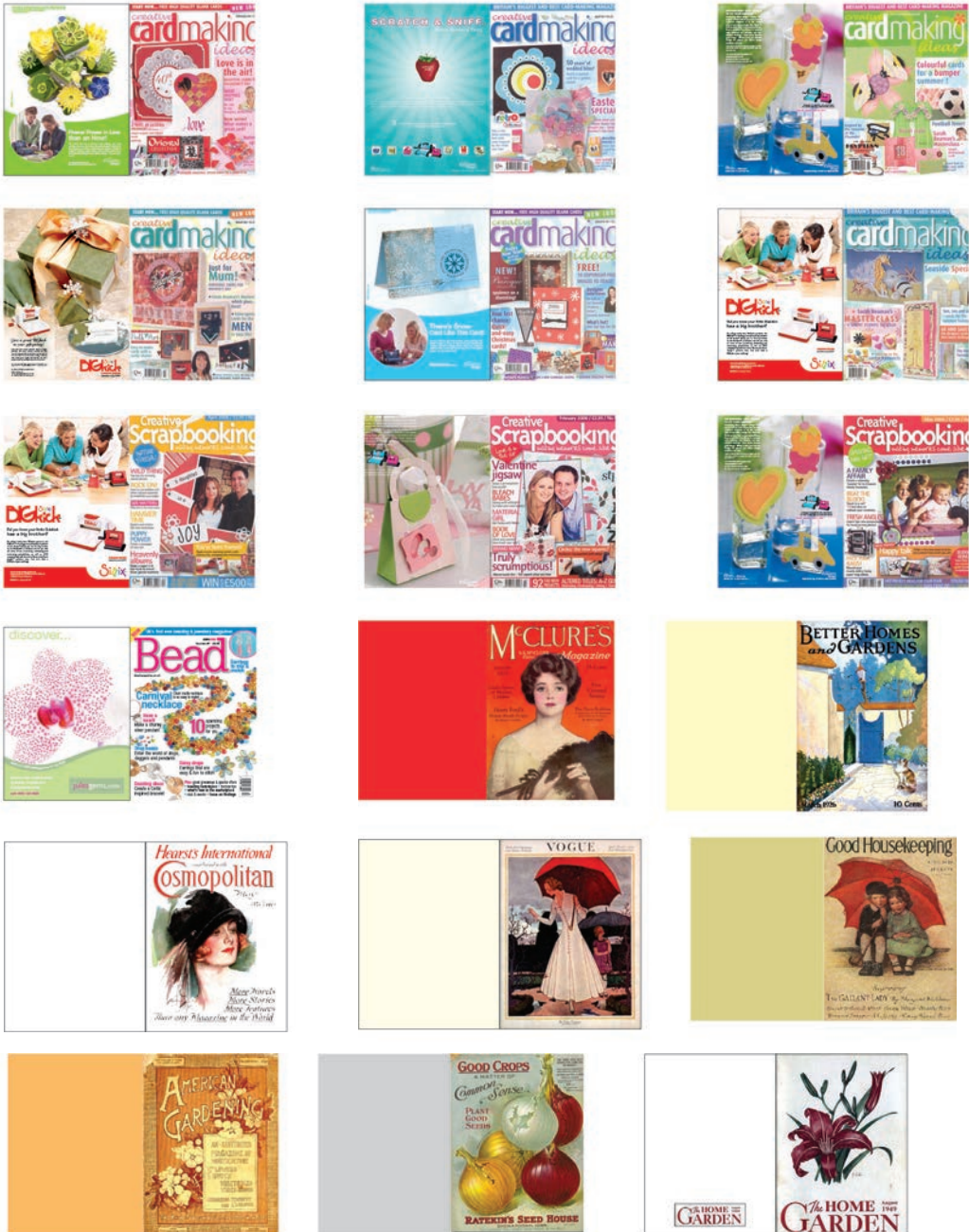
I'm in the very early stages of a recreation of an elaborate landscaped conservatory. Longwood Gardens in Delaware has been a great reference, as has the Kew Gardens in New York. This will be an interesting lesson in making flowers and trees. Ten years ago I never would have dreamt that today I would be an avid miniature hobbyist. I love it! There is no end to the ideas and creativity involved in miniatures.

If anyone reading this article has any reservations about embarking on the world of miniatures, I say jump right in. Take a piece of Styrofoam and carve it, paint it, and VIOLA....that's your first miniature.



Images may be cut out or copied for personal use only

Craft magazines, 1920s magazines and vintage gardening magazines.





BACK ISSUES

American miniaturist



Issue 214

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

- Doll Wiggig
- Mini Bread Box
- Privacy Screen
- Wiring by Carl

American miniaturist



Issue 213

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

- Bear Book Shelf
- Mini Tart Project
- Heart Placemats
- Chaise Lounge

American miniaturist



Issue 212

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

- Winter Sleigh Project
- Potting Bench
- Fun Welly Planters
- Holly Jolly Cottage

American miniaturist



Issue 211

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

- Shabby Chic Christmas
- 3D Portrait Art
- Sled Table Project
- Wall Cabinet Project

American miniaturist



Issue 209/210

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

- Halloween Projects
- Mini Book Making
- Rustic Ceiling Beams
- Kitchen Island Chairs

American miniaturist



Issue 207/208

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

- Pam's Tiny Trunks
- Kitchen Island
- Weathered Finishes
- Touches of Safari

American miniaturist



Issue 206

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

- Mac Flower Project
- Gumball Machine
- Create Fancy Floor
- Sew Summer Quilt

American miniaturist



Issue 205

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

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

American miniaturist



Issue 204

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

- Easter Dessert
- Window Blinds
- 1:24 Food Truck
- Kitchen Hutch

American miniaturist



Issue 203

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

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

American miniaturist



Issue 202

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

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

American miniaturist



Issue 201

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

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

American miniaturist



Issue 200

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

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

American miniaturist



Issue 199

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

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

American miniaturist



Issue 198

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

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

To order single and multiple back issues, please visit
www.americanminiaturist.com or call us toll-free at 1-866-606-6587.

Shipping will vary depending upon your location.

ETSY SHOP DIRECTORY



SallyanneCeramicsUSA

Quirky, handmade, miniature ceramics.
sallyanneceramicsUSA.etsy.com



Lorraine Bridal

1:12 miniature crochet clothes
lorrainebridal.etsy.com



The Petite Provisions Co.

Artisan handmade food & decor
petiteprovisionsco.etsy.com



Wicker Miniature

Wicker furniture & baskets in miniature
WickerMiniature.etsy.com



WhysperFairy

DIY dollhouse miniatures
WhysperFairy.etsy.com



MiniCousins Miniatures

Super-cute, easy, inexpensive Kits
MiniCousins.etsy.com



Carol's Miniatures

1:12th Scale period furnishings
CarolsMiniatures.etsy.com



DandyLion Miniatures

Bespoke Handmade Miniatures
DandyLionMiniatures.etsy.com



Bizzy Little Sew and Sew

Handcrafted Miniature Swimwear
BizzyLittleSewandSew.etsy.com



Green Gypsies

Unique mini home decor pieces
GreenGypsies.etsy.com



MiniaturesByEmy

Handmade food rugs plants & more
MiniaturesByEmy.etsy.com



FloralDecorMini

The largest dollhouse flower shop
floraldecormini.etsy.com



Allysons Minis

Handcrafted In Three Scales
AllysonsMinis.etsy.com



Aurearte Miniatures

Unique handpainted miniatures
Aurearte.etsy.com



Martins Miniature Marketplace

Craftsman furniture, garden pieces & accessories
martinsminiatures.etsy.com



BobbieJMinis

Miniature Clothing and other Enticements
BobbieJMinis.etsy.com

ETSY SHOP DIRECTORY



Natty Collection

Handmade Miniature Dollhouse
NattyCollection.etsy.com



Tooleys Tiny Pillows

Pillows and seating furniture
TooleysTinyPillows.etsy.com



Raggedy D's Miniatures

Collectible handcrafted dollhouse minis
RaggedyDsMiniatures.etsy.com



Elizabitzies

Detailed Petite Pastries & more...
Elizabitzies.etsy.com



Tinytown Miniatures

Magical handmade miniatures
TinytownMiniatures.etsy.com



Nasus Miniatures

Artisanal miniatures & jewelry
nasusminiatures.etsy.com



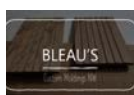
Cins Mini City

A modern take on minis,
commissions welcome!
CinsMiniCity.etsy.com



HartsDesireMinis

Quality miniatures at reasonable prices
HartsDesireMinis.etsy.com



BleausCustomWoodWork

Turning your imagination into reality!
BleausCustomWoodWork.etsy.com



Pagan Moon Miniatures

Witch and gothic miniatures
paganmoonminiatures.etsy.com



Frogmorton Studios

Original Miniature Castings and Kits
FrogmortonStudios.etsy.com



Alma Artistry

Miniature OOAK dolls
AlmaArtistryStudio.etsy.com



Minis By Mimi

Heidi Ott, Paulette Stinson Dolls
MinisByMimi.etsy.com

LIST YOUR ETSY SHOP

Feeling left out? Need more information about how you can get your Etsy Shop listed here? Contact our Sales Team at: adsales@ashdownmagazines.com or call: 1 (507) 993-8416 for all the details.



New Location!

14 Main Street, Clinton, NJ 08809

908.766.3777

www.KarensDollhouse.com

Look who's moving their dollhouse shop to this beautiful town!

It's Karen & Andrew Aird of Karen's Dollhouse Shop & Reutter Porcelain Distributor. Our current lease is expiring, and we're moving to a bigger location in the center of this beautiful and historical town of Clinton in the heart of Hunterdon County, NJ.

Photos: John Bohnel, Photographer



Book your next miniature outing to Karen and Andrew's new shop and enjoy taking in the sights of the picturesque community of Clinton, New Jersey. A perfect weekend get away!

Karen's Dollhouse Shop's New Location! 14 Main Street, Clinton, NJ 08809

Opening in May 2021. Please visit our website for more information!

www.KarensDollhouse.com • (908) 766-3777

Looking to sell or consign your dollhouse and miniature collection?

Karen's Dollhouse Shop buys and sells estates as well as consignment.

Karen & Andrew Aird, US Distributors • www.ReutterPorcelainUSA.com • Email: info@reutterporcelainusa.com



Beautiful New Products Available This Spring!

Reutter Porcelain is made with the finest quality and craftsmanship including 24 Karat gold used for decorative trim.