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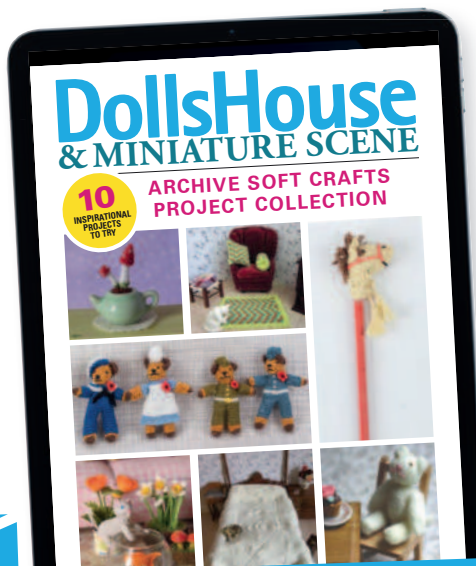
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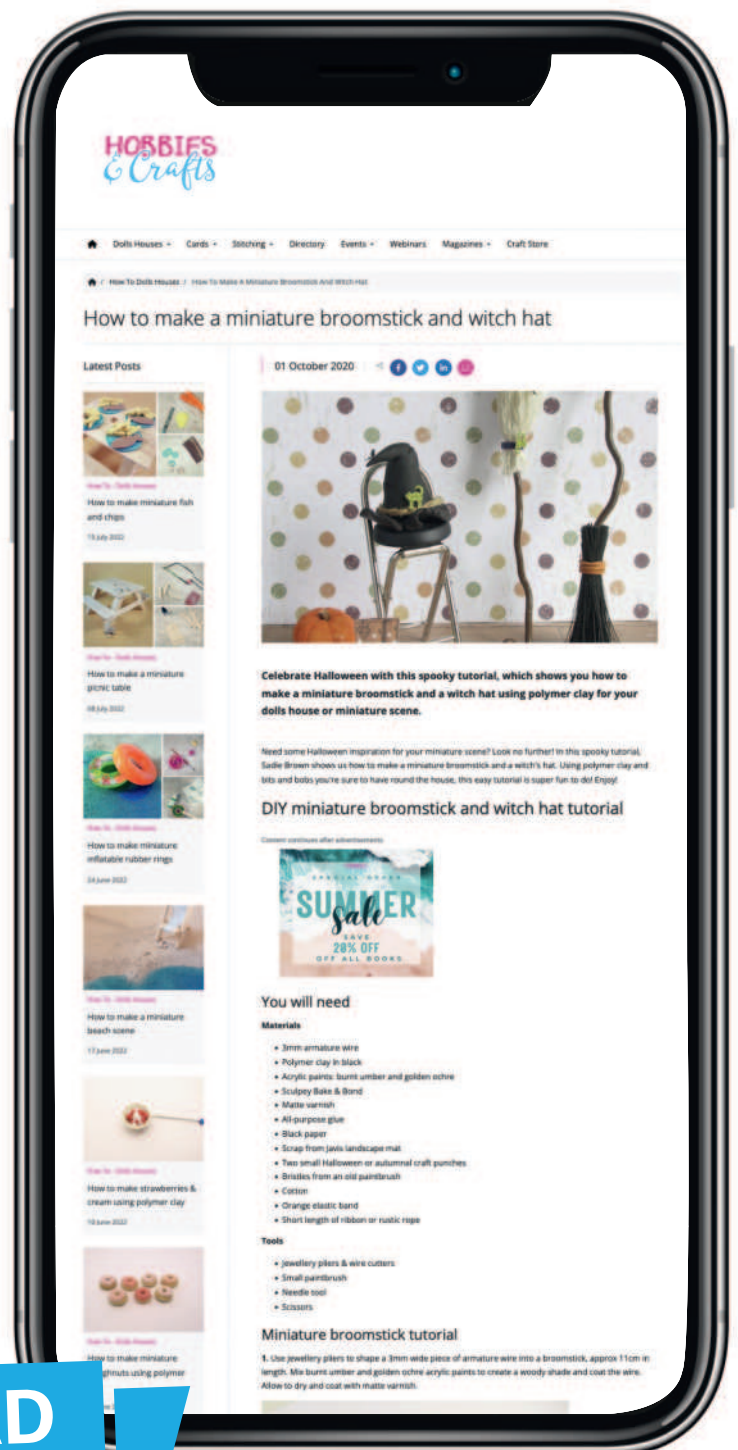
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WELCOME

to the September edition!

With the new season comes new colours, textures, food... and updating miniature scenes to suit! Maive Ferrando has a delightful pear pie project for you to create your very own delicious dessert, and Sadie Brown speaks to some wonderful artisans in not one but two autumnal features which show how artisans update their dolls houses to suit the season; adding different food items, shades of orange, red and yellow in floral displays and more. So many wonderful ideas and inspiration for the upcoming season.

Moi Ali completes her mini series, Six of the Best, taking a look back at her work over the years with a conclusion that looks at those that didn't quite make the cut! Also, we have another conclusion this issue as Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel completes her staycation caravan, which she launched with the Jubilee celebrations! If you missed any of these previous issues and you'd like to have the complete set, you can head to our website and purchase all the back issues you need!

Each issue we aim to provide you with an abundance of inspiration, top tips from industry experts and fascinating features for you to delve into – enjoy!

Happy mini making!

Joanne Garwell

Editor

**A massive thank you to
this month's contributors...**

Sadie Brown, Bea Broadwood,
Maive Ferrando, Moi Ali &
Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel



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HOW TO ENTER

GIVEAWAYS

FOR A CHANCE
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www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk

The closing date for all entries is
30th September 2022. Good luck!

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CONTINUE TO GET YOUR MINIATURE FIX OVER ON THE WEBSITE

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TO FIND OUT MORE!

DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE





The colours of autumn

Making room for autumn

Make room for autumn in your life and become inspired by Kristine Hanna's seasonal dining room.

Opening the box

It's easy to think of autumn as the time of year when light nights and warm weather begin to fade, leaving the door to winter slightly ajar. But it's also the time of year when nature's tapestry sews some of its finest work. The burnished golds, oranges and reds of autumn are ripe for miniature pickings, as Kristine Hanna perfectly demonstrates with her

seasonal roombox, titled 'Autumn Gathering'. With its beautiful floral displays, colourful artwork and views to the garden beyond, Kristine's dining room is a shining example of everything magical about the new season. "This is my most used roombox," she says.

"It's the one I reach for that I always know will work for me, like that outfit you know you'll feel and look good in every time. Originally it

was meant to be an extension onto another larger roombox, but it wasn't as practical a pairing as I had hoped. Together the two roomboxes combined were 40 inches wide and was too large to keep them together. Instead of closing up the shared roombox opening with a new wall, I decided to add a set of double doors. I like that I can still get a camera lens or my hand in with a door."



▲ A room with a view



▲ Raise a glass to miniature art

Inside the bubble

Known for her exceptional miniature photography, autumn allows Kristine's skills to flourish, discovering new ways to create that perfect image. I was especially intrigued to discover that Kristine used bubble wrap, something most of us can easily lay our hands on, to aid the lighting effects for the dining room. "My favourite time of the year to take miniature photos is during the spring and summer months," she admits. "The sun filters into my craft room a bit softer during the day and sets later at night. During the fall and winter however, I have to get a bit creative! The sun is much more direct into my craft room, and I have to find ways to allow the light to come in but also soften it. Two 'hacks' that I've found help me are to either use bubble wrap, or a cheap transparent shower curtain. For this scene I used bubble



Are you sitting comfortably?



Bespaq cabinet

wrap and it did a great job of allowing a lot of light to hit the scene without over-exposing it." As long as you don't spend so long popping all those bubbles that the light disappears entirely, this is a fabulous, yet simple tip which holds the potential to revolutionise your miniature photography!

The dining room is another fabulous collaboration with Hobby Builders Supply and Miniatures.com, but Kristine's starting point for the room was the wonderful floral designs by the talented Michelle Currie of Tiny Naturals Gift Shop, who was responsible for creating the bespoke table centrepiece. "A few years back she had made these gorgeous fall wreaths and planters for the exterior of my bungalow dolls house, and I knew her artistic touch would bring colour and flair to the room. One of my big wish list items was to have a long table to fit six chairs, so we decided on an elongated vase and a mix of short florals." Michelle's beautiful flowers also helped Kristine to solve a problem with the mantelpiece. "It was too bare, and the decorations just weren't sitting on it right," she tells me. "I pivoted and started to layer flowers and foliage on top and it became a focal point for the room. I love how it turned out! From there I picked the art and furniture stain to best compliment the colour of the flowers. I went with brass for my hardware and accessories. Brass can be a bit more traditional, but it also added so much warmth to a fall day."

The rich floral display above the fireplace adds colour, pulling everything together perfectly, but the scene incorporates many other equally stunning elements, [PH](#)



Creating atmosphere with natural light



Get wrapped up in autumn!
Using bubble wrap to create fabulous lighting effects

including the scratch-built dining table. "It was great because I could customize the size to fit the chairs and space. And the fireplace was also a scratch-built item. Originally, I had made it for a Christmas scene in a previous roombox, but it had a simple paper insert instead of stone or brick inside the hearth. This time I tore out the paper insert and used egg cartons to create a brick effect. The texture looks just like real mini bricks!"

Scene setting

That autumnal feel extends beyond the dining room windows, which incidentally were also created by Kristine herself, with the aid of a laser cutter. The view, trees heavy with autumn colour, delivers an extra dimension to the overall scene. I asked Kristine if she felt adding those extra layers helps to give a project that sense of authenticity. "I'm always trying to fit in windows in my scenes and roomboxes. They add so much realism and extra light within a scene. It's easy for a diorama to feel flat but when you create that extra layer of space through the windows it really helps bring it to life." Kristine goes on to explain how, in addition, she uses lighting to create depth. "I also like how I am able to focus the light on different parts of the room. For example, I wanted to show off the little bench and painting in the back and having the light cascade against the wall there draws your eye over. The autumn backdrop I used is a favourite of mine. It's a photo of several trees right at the peak of changing colour. I printed it on engineering paper at a local print store, which is what engineers use to print their blueprints on. It's a bit thinner than a poster but is less costly."

Seasonal touches to be discovered throughout the dining room, including the tiny handmade napkins and an eye-catching glass pumpkin which takes pride of place on the sideboard beside a bowl of freshly harvested counterparts. "Some of the smaller accessories really stand out for me in the scene," says Kristine. "The brass candle sticks made their debut here and I love their mid-century sort of style. I also used my favourite miniature wine glasses, plastic dishes and water glasses. When the light comes in through the windows and hits these pieces the table sparkles!" Autumn is definitely a time for adding sparkle to our lives and when confronted with the slightly bluish tinge of the roombox's LED spotlights, Kristine wasn't to be beaten. She explains on her hugely detailed blog how she used a yellow marker pen to transform them into a cosy warm white, ready to light up the new season. [▶](#)



- ▲ Seasonal florals
- ◀ Let there be light

“This is my most used roombox... It's the one I reach for that I always know will work for me, like that outfit you know you'll feel and look good in every time”



▲ Autumnal style

Gathering ideas

Time doesn't stop for Kristine, however, who has recently been kept busy with her biggest project to date. "I have been working away on a new custom dolls house kit," she reveals. "It's a transitional style house with nine rooms." Transitional style combines elements of traditional and modern design, an area in which, as reflected by the autumn dining room, Kristine already excels. "This is my

largest build yet and I'm enjoying decorating and staging the interior and exterior space. I'm also drawing up plans for a new bakery to show off my collection of miniature pastries. Now I just need to find the space to keep all these projects!"

Space is something which may well be at a premium for Kristine in the coming months as she prepares for her own 'Autumn Gathering'. "When I think of autumn, I think of spending time with my family. We always travel and see each other at my cottage to

celebrate Thanksgiving. The leaves change colour and it's a beautiful time of year here in Ontario." Whether you find yourself in the city or the wilds of the open countryside this month, autumn can be found all around us, bursting with colour and ready to become our muse for one of the most inspirational times of year in small scale. 🏠



INFO

To discover much more about Kristine's work, visit:
[Website: www.paperdollminiatures.com](http://www.paperdollminiatures.com)

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← Project from the September 2013 issue by Kate Kelsall

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Foraged fibres



Find out how dandelions and bindweed are transformed into exquisite miniature baskets and other vessels.

Many years ago, basket-weaving was regarded as a good form of therapy for people suffering from mental health issues and looking back, the NHS was really quite pioneering in using a meditative craft to calm the mind. Nowadays, the artform of basket weaving has seen a real resurgence – not so much as therapy, although it is incredibly

therapeutic – but as a way to create an interior design statement.

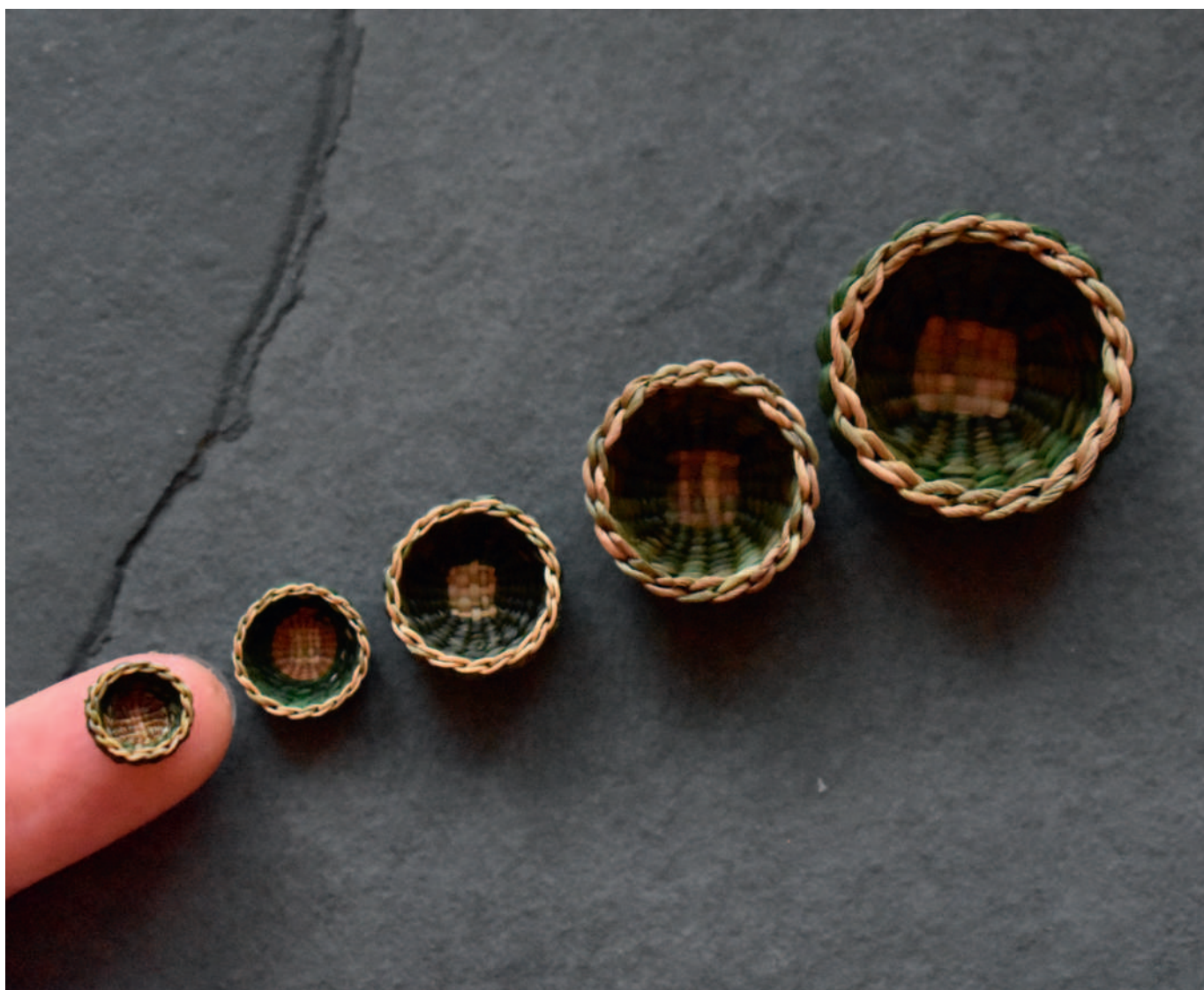
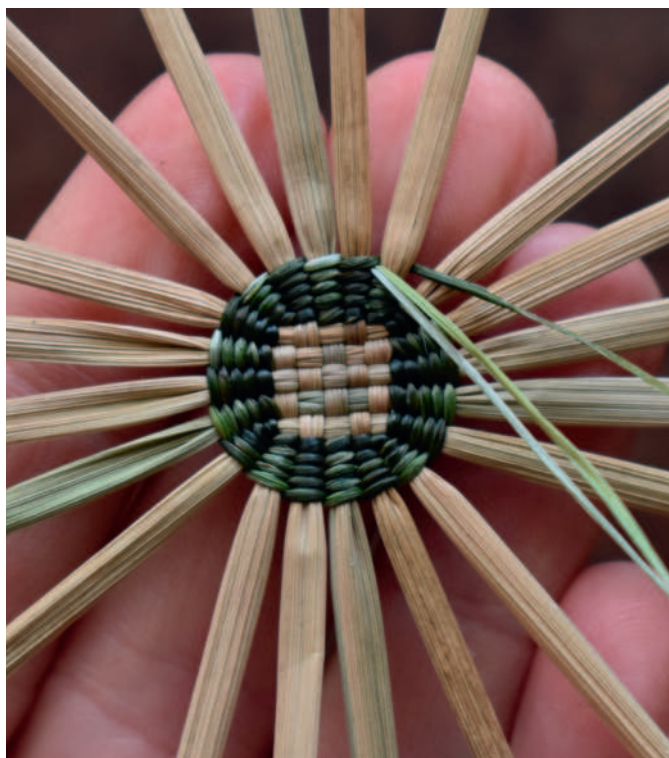
Self-taught basket weaver Suzie Grieve hails from a small town in the Lake District. She creates the most exquisite miniature baskets imaginable. I asked her how she got into this ancient craft: “My first experience weaving was whilst I was away travelling but of course,

only once I returned home to Cumbria could I really immerse myself in this beautifully meditative craft. Over the past five years I've been completely lost in this world of plants and their lovely fibres! I've always loved plants and learning about their magical ways.” ▶

“Over the past five years I've been completely lost in this world of plants and their lovely fibres! I've always loved plants and learning about their magical ways.”











Well, that certainly explains the weaving passion, but why miniature baskets? "One of the simple reasons I work in miniature, creating tiny miniature baskets, is the lack of space to grow or store massive amounts of materials. Every single leaf I weave into one of my baskets has had to be gathered, hung and dried. It's a slow process and a slow craft! Also, weaving smaller baskets means I can explore many different techniques, styles and types of baskets with what I have available to me and with the space I currently have! Mostly though, it's just my unexplainable love for miniatures, especially miniature crafts. I have to admit I have a slightly obsessive nature and until I make the world's smallest basket, I shall keep on weaving up tiny vessels!"

It all sounds idyllic, and I wondered if basket weaving really is therapeutic: "Yes! Weaving is extremely meditative," said Suzie. "The gathering is also therapeutic. Anything that forces you to wander round the forest on your own looking at plants can't be bad in my opinion! Every time I weave, I realise just how much calm a day of weaving brings me. The simple repetitive motions of the weaving somehow allow my mind to wander to the places it needs to go and problems that before were stressing me either feel sorted or help me be in a place where I can deal with them! Honestly, I'd probably be crazy without

the weaving. Well, crazier!"

With such beautiful creations, I wanted to know how Suzie learned the skills necessary to weave so expertly: "So far I have mostly just learnt by experimentation," she explained. "I have a couple of books but there's not a whole lot of information on the subject! I use a mixture of locally foraged vines, roots, branches, bark, stems and leaves. I get a lot of joy from turning plants that others often see as 'weeds,' such as brambles, dandelions and bindweed, into useful or beautiful little vessels and tiny baskets for the fairies! They are often overlooked or even disliked but their strength, flexibility, resilience and abundance make them awesome weavers! Although I don't have any favourite, dandelions have a special place in my heart. Gathered after they have flowered and seeded, the left-over stems dry to a shiny golden colour and always make me happy when I weave with them."

I asked Suzie how others might follow her lead and start creating tiny baskets and what advice she could offer: "Everybody's journey into a craft will be different, as we all want something different. Some people want to deepen their connection with the plants, some want to make practical baskets. Some people like structure and instruction and some people like to work things out on their own. There's no right way!"

She continued: "In general, a nice way to get started with plant fibres is by becoming familiar with your local flora. Many local wild and garden plants are amazing weavers, and even some common kitchen staples such as corn, rhubarb and leek have weavable fibres. Start by choosing one or two and learning how to make cordage with them. Making cordage is simple but it gets your fingers used to working with the different materials and helps you get a feel for them, their gathering process and their soaking times."

Suzie also advised turning to the internet: "These days you can find some awesome 'how to' tutorials on YouTube. So, if you're someone who learns by videos, it's a great resource. If not, get yourself a book or, if you can afford it, attend a local weaving course, it's great to be able to directly learn from others. But if that's not possible, have a go by yourself and experiment."

Lamenting that she's not weaving as much as usual at the moment, Suzie explained that this is because she is busy working on a book of her own: "I'm working on a foraged fibre weaving book, so if anybody's interested in learning about the beautiful, abundant and weavable plants that grow around them and the different ways in which to tangle them together, then keep an eye out for that!" We will, Suzie, we will. 🏠

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Caramel pear pies

Let's make cosy and delicious individual pear pies with caramel sauce that are perfect for beginners, or busy days, as they don't require lots of materials and will only take a couple of hours to make. If you'd like to make a whole pear pie too, why not try my tutorial in the September 2021 issue? I even show you how to make the baking dish!

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Translucent, white, ecru, yellow and caramel polymer clay
- FIMO Liquid
(or other translucent liquid polymer clay)
- Ecru and burnt umber acrylic paints
- FIMO gloss
(or other water-based varnish)

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Craft knife and needle tool
- Toothbrush and small paintbrush
- Sculpting tools in different shapes such as: embossing tools, silicone tools
- Ceramic dish
- Pasta machine (or acrylic rolling pin)



MAKE THE COOKED PEARS



1 Mix translucent clay with a very small amount of ecru and yellow. Mix thoroughly and roll into a strand. Cut four even pieces and shape into a tear drop by rolling one side of them.

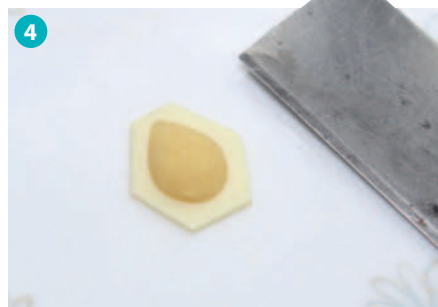


2 Take one piece and place it firmly on a ceramic dish. You can start shaping it with your fingers and finish with a flat chisel tool to define the edges.



3 Repeat with the other three pears and add texture with a toothbrush. At this point you can part-bake the pears so you can push them into the pastry without distorting the shape.

MAKE THE PASTRY



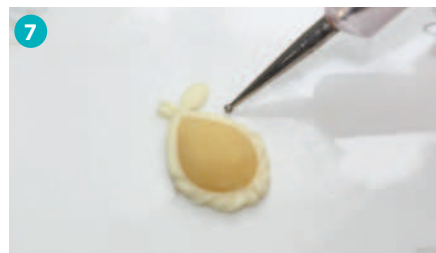
4 Mix white clay with a little yellow to obtain a pastel tint. If this looks too cold, add a bit of ecru. Add translucent into the mix, maybe about the same amount or less, and mix thoroughly. Put the clay through setting #5 or so of your pasta machine and cut out four rectangles to make the pastry cases. Once the pears are baked and cool, pop one on each rectangle and trim the clay around it.



5 Use a large silicone flat chisel tool to push the pastry clay into the pear without distorting the main shape. This is so that the pear looks encased in the pastry.



6 With a soft pointy tool or another pointy sculpting tool of your choice, sculpt some folds on the edge of the pastry.



7 Cut a small rectangular piece from the same pastry clay for the stalk and to make a leaf shape, then blend them to the pastry using a small embossing tool.



8 Add a little detail to the leaf using a needle tool and add texture to all the pastry using a toothbrush. Now you can bake.



9 Once cool, add a little colour to your baked pies using watered down acrylic paint in ecru. You can build up on the layers of colour according to how golden you want them to look. Then add an even smaller amount of burnt umber on the edges, adding more where you want it to look crispy.



10 If you'd like to present the pears on serving trays or plates with the caramel sauce, mix a speck of caramel polymer clay with FIMO liquid until you have a runny mix and drizzle it over the pears. Bake for at least 10 minutes. Let it cool and glaze with a glossy water-based varnish for a juicy look. 🍷

Maive's Top Tip!

"Some brands of polymer clay offer a 'caramel' colour, although you can create your own mix too. You can also mimic caramel by mixing soft pastels, oil pastels or oil paint directly onto translucent clay to which then add liquid polymer clay, or directly onto liquid polymer clay. Keep the amount of colouring agent below that of the liquid polymer clay to allow for the translucent effect to come through."

At Home with THE BROADWOODS



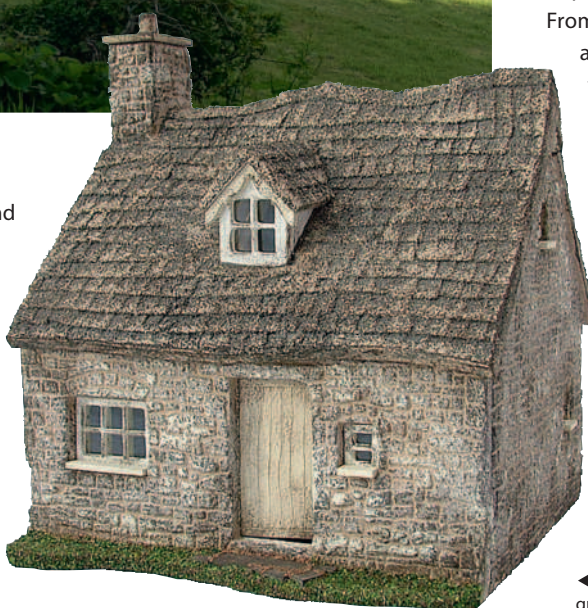
ARTS AND CRAFTS...

This month, professional miniaturist Bea Broadwood takes us away with her and shares her family's recent trip to the Dorset countryside, where she not only celebrated a 'significant' birthday, but also found a whole load of miniature inspiration and developed a new love for the Arts and Crafts period style too.



I am often asked where the inspiration comes from for the smaller scale kits that I design. The answer is simple... it's all around me. From where I live in rural Lincolnshire, to the beautiful places around the UK (and overseas) that I have visited; all have influenced the miniatures that I create. Over the years, holidays and day trips have sown the seeds for new ideas and new creations and this year our summer escape to deepest Dorset was certainly no exception!

My family and I have holidayed in the Isle of Purbeck more times than I care to remember and over the years visits there have inspired numerous PP kit designs.



Regular readers will already know that our most recent 1/48th scale Turrim Castle was loosely based on Corfe Castle, which stands majestically amid the rolling Purbeck countryside. So, with a 'big' birthday looming and with a choice of where I wanted to celebrate, it was no surprise that I decided to head back to those familiar Dorset hills. However, with my whole family joining me, I wanted to find somewhere that was not only a bit special, but also big enough to accommodate us all too!

A lucky find and a surprising interior

A few years ago, through social media, I discovered the Landmark Trust; a charity organisation that restores historic buildings and makes them available for self-catering breaks. Flicking through their portfolio of amazing period properties, we stumbled on Dunshay Manor. Set in sight of Corfe Castle and large enough to squeeze us all in, it was the perfect destination for our family celebration.

"From the moment we stepped out of our cars, we all knew we had arrived somewhere very special and with a love of architecture running through our family, we couldn't wait to explore." Tony.

From the outside, Dunshay Manor is an achingly ancient building constructed from mellow Purbeck stone. Originally built back in the late 16th century, however like many old properties it has been adapted, renovated and extended over the years into the building seen today. Despite its mullioned windows, buttresses and 17th century porch, the interior decor is a little unexpected. In honour of its last owner (who bequeathed it to the Landmark Trust), in recent years the manor has been given a sensitive Arts and Crafts refurbishment.

◀ PP's 1/48th Thimble Cottage is certainly not as grand as the manor house, but it was inspired by Dorset stone cottages found nearby



▲ An ancient 16th century room filled with beautiful Arts and Crafts furniture



▲ Bea's favourite part of the manor; the reading nook complete with panelling

Falling in love with Arts and Crafts

The Arts and Crafts period typically reflects furniture and interiors from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Furniture of this period is typically functional and uncomplicated; with simple, yet homely styling. Warm colours, myriad greens and textured rugs were common place. The look also embraced the use of natural materials combined with patterns and designs inspired by nature and the natural world.



▲ Muted greens and woollen patterned rugs were a particular theme throughout the house

Get the look:

- Dress your miniature space with simple, uncomplicated furniture
- Use a natural palette of colours, incorporating earthy tones
- Cover wooden floors with patterned rugs
- Use wall paper or material with designs inspired by the natural world

In the miniature world, recreations of this period have been (and still are) incredibly popular. But I'll be honest, historically I've never really been very enamoured by the Arts and Crafts style and so it came as quite a surprise just how homely and inviting Dunshay Manor's interior proved to be. Many of the room settings at Dunshay could be easily adapted and used in roomboxes or dolls houses in all scales. So as a result, a good part of my time there was spent wandering from room to room; smiling and

taking in all the little details! Safe to say that by the end of our stay, I don't think there was a part of the interior (or exterior) that I hadn't photographed, sketched or measured. Not only did I take hundreds of photos, but I also devoured all of the Landmark Trust's local history books that filled the cosy library nook too. It was inspirational bliss!



▲ Bea couldn't resist taking her trusty tape measure and work books to record every detail!

"Our stay at Dunshay Manor was utterly magical and totally inspiring. When it came to an end, I literally had to be dragged out as I just didn't want to leave!" *Bea*

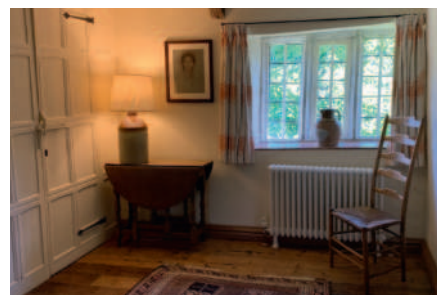
A true busman's holiday...!

I have been visiting the Isle of Purbeck since I was a child, yet I don't think that I will ever fail to be inspired by its landscape and architecture. Now, as a 50th birthday present, Dunshay Manor has given me a new found love and appreciation for all things Arts and Crafts. So I know with utmost certainty, that in the near future my work bench will be filled with new quarter scale kit designs; all directly inspired by my busman's holiday in this very special house. So, if you too are captivated by the Arts and Crafts period and fancy having a go at recreating one in miniature, do watch this space... as you just

know there's going to be plenty of smaller scale versions from PP on the way!



▲ Every room felt cosy, inviting and so inspiring!



▲ Arts and Crafts furniture filled the house

And finally...

If you would like to find out more about Dunshay Manor, or any of the other period properties that the Landmark Trust care for, you can visit www.landmarktrust.org.uk for further information... and if you ever get the opportunity to visit on a free open day or to stay there yourself; I just know that you will end up falling as head over heels in love with it as we did!

Bea Broadwood 🏠



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MARC LA FONTIJN AKA THE HOUSE OF ELIOTT

A two-part feature with scenes inspired by history, books and the movies.



Retired bank worker Marc La Fontijn from Antwerp, Belgium, is the man behind one of the most captivating Instagram accounts I have seen. His scenes are glamorous, opulent and occasionally a little naughty. His design sense and great humour shine throughout his work.

I asked Marc how he got into miniatures: "I've always been a creative person and love interior design. I've designed lampshades, ceramics, painting... I was always fascinated by dolls houses for the decorative aspect, then in 2018 I was watching a Victorian show on the BBC and in one of the sets I saw a

dolls house. That gave me the push to start making one of my own. I bought a 1/24th scale Fantasy Villa from Woodcroft to test if I could pull it off." In just three months, Marc's renamed Blue Manor was finished.

He continued: "I then bought a 1/12th scale Exmouth House, which became



The House of Elliott. It is a reflection of myself and it was a very personal and autobiographical project. I am a gay man and I use a wheelchair so, of course, there had to be a wheelchair in the house." Marc's personal touch can be seen in all of his minis. He loves books, Marlene Dietrich, eclectic interiors, gold and turquoise, Victorian style, Rococo, 1920s, Art Deco, shabby chic furniture... and all of these passions blend into a perfect miniature mix. He's also a cat lover, and you may spot the occasional kitty in his scenes. One of his cats kindly donated some hair for the cobwebs in his Great Expectations scene (you'll have to wait for Part 2 to see that!).

When House of Elliott was finished, Marc decided that a series of smaller projects should come next. Since then he has concentrated on roomboxes and dioramas. My personal favourite is Marlene Dietrich's



▲ Marlene's dressing room roombox inside

Dressing room, which is so evocative of this iconic actress. He told me: "As a life-long fan of Marlene, I know a lot about her. The roombox is filled with lots of accurate details, including her famous swan coat."

"I did a lot of research to make a perfect 1/12th scale copy of the real coat, which can be seen in the Museum of Film and Television in Berlin. My diorama includes exact copies of Dietrich's jewellery, made by the Dutch miniature artist Sun Lemmens of Nalladris." I especially love the diamante spangled dress beneath the elegant coat, which Marc made himself. The whole scene screams glamour, glamour, glamour!

◀ Dressing room for a star

▼ Entrance to Marlene's dressing room





Agatha Christie's Harrogate hotel room

Yes, Marlene's dressing room exudes theatrical glamour. There are gilt-framed photos of her and other Hollywood stars, and incredible details such as the bottle of Chanel No 5, the red lipstick and the used ashtray on the dressing table and the lit dressing mirror with letters, photos and memorabilia. I love how amongst the floral tributes outside the dressing room is a bouquet with a tag proclaiming 'With love to Marlene from Marc' – nice touch! Even signage of the type found backstage in a theatre has been replicated to add authenticity.

It is very clear that Marc's roomboxes always tell a story. Take his 'Agatha Christie's Murder in the House of Elliott' scene, which is set in the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate, Yorkshire (which I have stayed in myself!). The real-life story is that in 1926, Agatha's husband asked her for a divorce as he had fallen in love with someone else. The couple argued and later that evening Agatha disappeared. The following morning, her car was spotted above a chalk quarry with clothes inside: suicide was feared. There was a huge police hunt and a newspaper offered a big reward. She was eventually found ten days later at the Old Swan Hotel, yet her autobiography makes no reference to her disappearance. Agatha was diagnosed



▲ Agatha Christie suite

as suffering from loss of memory. Some believed she had a nervous breakdown.

In Marc's diorama, there is a little fantasy of his own taking place, which is thankfully less melodramatic than the real story. Marc's scene suggests that she vanished to complete two fictional novels, 'Murder in the House of Elliott' and 'Elliott's Revenge'. Marc's

recreation of her hotel room is very accurate, with tiny Agatha Christie hand-made books, including the two fictional novels and murder weapons that inspired the books. He's certainly captured the quaint cosiness of a provincial Yorkshire hotel room of the era, but heaven knows what real-life turmoil went on there. ➡



Poolside posing



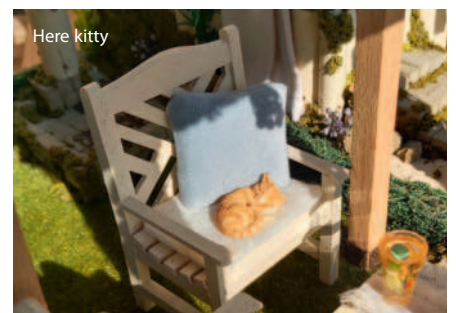
Koi Carp pond

Eclectic is the word that typifies Marc's approach to miniatures: his range of subject matters is vast. Take 'Poolside', a scene that could not be further removed from Agatha Christie's 1920s Harrogate hideaway! Set in a luxurious garden with a jacuzzi and koi pond, Poolside depicts friends enjoying poolside pleasures with oysters and champagne. This scene features life-like 'Tbleague' dolls, and I particularly like one of the bather's gold lamé Speedos!

France features in a number of Marc's scenes, as we will see next month in my follow-up article where we look at an opulent Marie Antoinette scene, and another (this time French) theatrical creation. One of my favourites, though, is his Madame de Pompadour's boudoir, in which Marc made almost everything himself: "I used a lot of foamboard, trims and resin ornaments to create a colour scheme inspired by peacock feathers: blue, green and purple. Instead of wallpaper I used silk. The well known dress Mme de Pompadour wears in the painting has been recreated in miniature and hand-made by Irada Kosolapova."



Poolside



Here kitty

If glamour, glamour, glamour was the watchword for Marlene's dressing room, then gold, gold, gold is the theme for Mme de Pompadour's boudoir. The chief mistress of King Louis XV, she wielded considerable power and influence in his court. Marc's recreation of her boudoir is glitzy and opulent, with gold curtains, gold framed portraits, giltwood furniture and glittering gold and crystal wall sconces. These dazzle against the regal purple backdrop in a very theatrical recreation.

If you are in the mood for more gold, more glamour, and more French fancies, join me next month for more of Marc's scenes inspired by France but also by period British fiction such as Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll. 🏠

▼ Madame de Pompadour



The outside of Le Boudoir de Madame de Pompadour



Le Boudoir de Madame de Pompadour



FEATURE by *Sadie Brown*

Acres of imagination

Heralding the arrival of harvesttime, we visit Little Autumn Acres farm store with Robina Patterson.



Little Autumn Acres

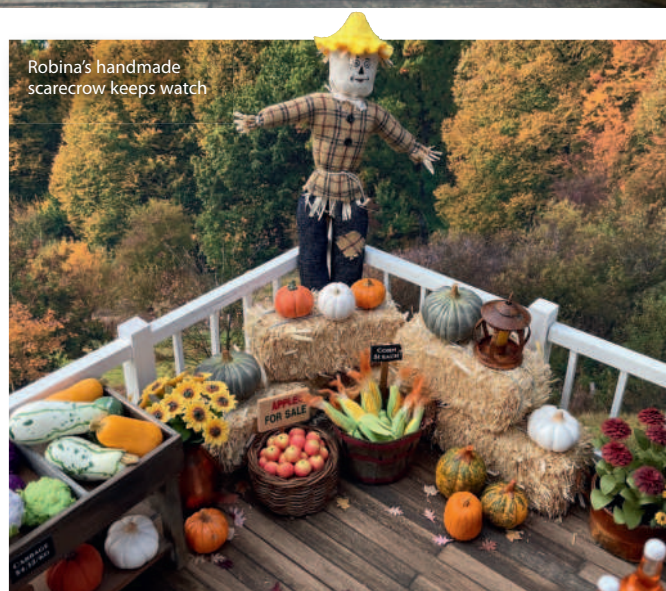


The pick of the crop!

A star attraction

When Little Autumn Acres first opened its doors last year, the 1/12th scale farm shop reached a vast audience of over one and a half million people after going viral on social media, much to the delight of talented artisan, Robina Patterson. "It was quite a surprise to see that one of my Instagram reels eventually hit 1.6 million views!" she recalls. "It was a good feeling to see that many people interested in something built in miniature, but also surprising as I would not have thought for a second it was that scene that would have done it." [Patterson](#)

▼ Fresh seasonal produce



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▼ Bee inspired!



▲ Robina's carefully crafted wooden beams

◀ The well-stocked deck area

An exciting collaboration with Hobby Builders Supply and Miniatures.com, who initially approached Robina to enquire if she would like to design an autumnal scene, the base for Little Autumn Acres comes courtesy of their charming Lisa Country Cottage kit. "I love the fall, and one of my favourite things to do during that time is to visit farmers markets. My husband's family have a cabin on a lake about a five hour drive from where we live, and on the way is a place called Horstings Farm Market. We stop pretty much every time we go to the cabin. In the fall it comes alive with varieties of squash and pumpkins, more than you can imagine. I wanted to create that in mini, and Little Autumn Acres was born."

Brick by brick

The base for the main construction may be the Lisa Country Cottage, but Robina's unique twist goes well beyond simply converting the kit into a retail space. Removing the attic level from the equation, Robina created the beautiful rustic wooden beams which give the store that light, airy feel, entirely by hand. She also added a large decking area to the exterior, expanding that all important 'square



▲ Little Autumn Acres at Christmas

last coat of paint. It was time consuming. I added drawers that opened and some faux drawers, along with basket type crates."

Busy as a bee

The completed shop features some fabulous pieces by a variety of amazing artisans, including a selection of very special candles made by Robina herself. "In addition to veggies I wanted the farm shop to contain some non-food items. For me, bee products are a good fit. In addition to honey and some books on bee products I made, I wanted beeswax candles. I came up with a method that used real beeswax." Special mention must also go to the scarecrow Robina designed for the project. Keeping watch over the large outdoor retail area, he adds a burst of character to the scene, showcasing Robina's wide range of skills.

Many of the vegetables Robina references were created by someone she describes as a very skilled member of her miniatures club, Anita Rayner of Anita Rayner Mini. With a wide variety of fruit and vegetables, including all the everyday staples, the pumpkin, in all its colourful guises appears throughout Little Autumn Acres. "I have yet to attempt clay, so I was thrilled when Anita agreed to do it for me. I think my order kept her busy all summer."

Changing seasons

Robina is also very clear when it comes to her favourite aspect of the build. "I think for me it was the finished décor," she concludes. "Being able to decorate the side deck with hay bales, pumpkins, plants and a scarecrow I made was really fun. My favourite part of a build is styling it!" Reflecting the changing seasons, the farm shop took on a festive vibe last December; pumpkins replaced by holly, pine cones and plaid blankets for that cosy Christmas gift. "So, an odd thing about me and my build is that I rarely keep something together," admits Robina. "One of my biggest joys is the planning and creating of something. I don't usually feel the need to keep something. Partly I am limited on space, and by changing a build I get to plan and create all over again." With plans afoot for the farm shop to transform into a spring garden centre, there is little doubt that, when combined with Robina's boundless energy and keen eye for fine detailing, there are acres of design ideas still waiting to hit the shelves. 🏡



INFO

For more information please visit:

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"My favourite part of a build is styling it!"

footage' for any retail outlet. However, it is Robina's feature wall, constructed from 22 hours of hard work and more than 650 brick slips, which wins the award for exceptional dedication to miniature art! Made from genuine brick, Robina sourced the brick slips from Stacey's Mini Masonry. "I wanted a focal point as a shopper came into the shop," she explains, "So I decided to go with a feature brick wall. I love the look after having discovered brick slips are my go-to."

The fine detail begins before you even get through the Dutch door, which features a fully functioning latch! But when it came to styling the all-important interior, Robina took inspiration from the farm shops she's visited and set to work creating her ideal retail space, incorporating a realistic and easy to sweep concrete effect floor. "I built the angled display stands for the veggies from crates that I purchased. I also included some crates placed onto the brick wall to act as shelves. This gave me more display space and I made a shelf that runs around

two of the walls for farm store decor. The beams were a way to add more character to the shop and give me a nice way to add spotlights that looked attractive."

When it comes to the most complex aspect of the build, it may surprise many to learn that it was actually the eye-catching central display unit which takes the prize, and not the hours spent creating that stunning brick wall. Built entirely from scratch, the unit is full of rustic charm, not to mention stocked with fresh home baked bread, pumpkin pies, and a plentiful supply of apple and pear cider. "I had seen a photo of a life-sized one that sat in a grocery store. I wanted it for the farm shop. I liked the idea of something the shop owners would move out during the day and bring back in at night," says Robina, who, in the mark of a gifted miniaturist, fitted tiny casters to the base of the unit. "I also wanted it to have a worn, well used look and that required five layers in total. Stain, crackle medium, one colour of paint, more crackle medium and then one

The fairy house

Reader Alison Curtis from Norfolk used architecture around her as inspiration for her creations, like this one made especially for her granddaughter.



16th Century timber framed Hamblyn house front view



Alison's Fairy House front view



Squirrel on the Roof

My inspiration for this rustic dwelling was local, timber frame architecture. Recently relocated to the countryside, I am also pleased to find not only inspiration but natural materials such as feather, twig, leaf and pine cone to work with. A baby lives in the Fairy House and she sits at the window. Otherwise, the occupants don't do much. Activity isn't uppermost in their minds!

The roof is made of twigs, leaves, and artificial moss adds colour. I also used a few craft flowers and an ornamental squirrel to vary the effect. Floor, walls and roof are lined with cardboard. Twigs and lolly sticks painted orange were used for window frames. Feathers, artificial flowers, green pompoms, wood chips, pine cones and plastic foliage embellish the exterior.

Throughout the interior small plastic clips are fixed for the purpose of suspending lights. The bed is simply of sponge and cardboard beautified with bed covers made of artificial flower petals. The shelf is a cardboard and lolly stick construction and walls are covered with patterned and washable adhesive Fablon.

In the lounge stands a sponge sofa. The cardboard top of the coffee table is supported on a piece of wood and a chunk underneath the window represents a treasure box. The mat of lace is butterfly shaped.

The kitchen floor is covered with adhesive paper. Small stickers decorate the walls, and cardboard and lolly sticks were used for the construction of unit and shelves. Red pompoms represent a garland of berries.

► Alison's Fairy House back view



▼ Alison's Fairy House three quarter view



The cardboard stairs linking the ground floor and first are not perfect. In fact, they were hardest of all to make!

The Fairy House is a present for my granddaughter and stands with three ornamental fairy dolls keeping watch, on top of a bookshelf. Plans for another miniature masterpiece are underway! 🏠

Written by Patricia Lesley Stammers

▼ 16th Century timber framed Hamblyn house rear view



Suffragette city

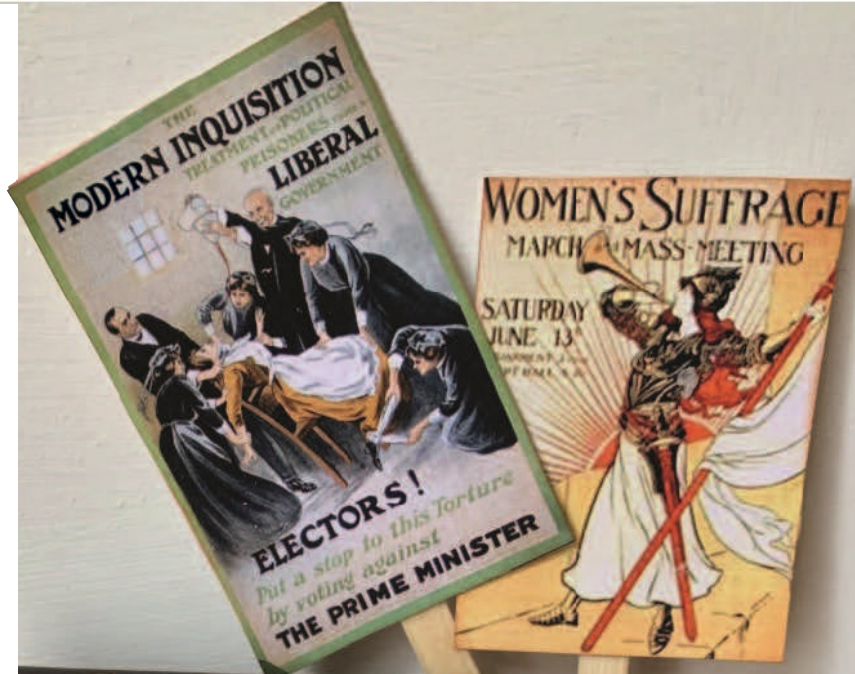
A miniature to celebrate votes for women.

PDF NEWSPAPERS and MAGAZINES: WWW.XSAVA.XYZ

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Case/trunk
- Suffragist memorabilia, reduced in size to 1/12th
- White calico
- Purple and green permanent markers
- Glue
- Sewing thread
- Coffee stirrers
- Diamantes
- Thin card
- Spray gloss varnish
- Green, white or purple felt
- Clingfilm
- Green, white and purple ribbon
- Thin metal (e.g. from a disposable cake tray)
- Assorted items (e.g. photos, leaflets, shoes, gloves, parasols)





1 Cut a piece of polystyrene from old packaging to raise the bottom of the case (so you don't have to fill it with items that will not be seen). Glue in place.



2 Cut a small rectangle of white calico to make the flag/banner. Colour a strip on the left-hand long edge of the calico in purple, and repeat in green for the right-hand edge.



3 Fray one short end of the flag then wet the fabric in a solution of 50/50 water/PVA glue. Drape and fold the flag into the final shape you want it to be, then leave it to dry.

Moi says...

"Today we take the vote for granted, but it was a hard-fought-for right – especially for women. Suffragist groups aimed to achieve the right to vote for women through constitutional, peaceful means such as public meetings and petitions.

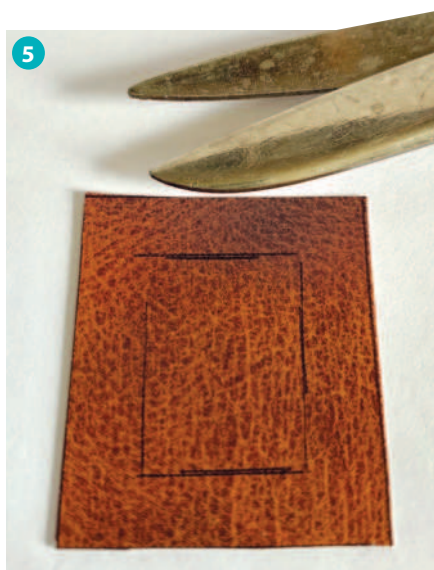
In 1897, regional societies with no political party allegiances united to form the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) led by Millicent Fawcett.

In 1903, Emmeline Pankhurst founded the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union). The Suffragette motto was 'Deeds not words'. The Suffragette colours were purple, which represented dignity, white symbolised purity, and green stood for hope. Suffragist jewellery was very fashionable, featuring purple amethysts, green peridot and white pearls or diamonds.

This project honours those women. It uses a ready-made trunk, but if you wish to make your own, follow the instructions in last month's feature."



4 Place the flag in the trunk and trim the back to fit neatly.



5 Cut a small card rectangle and draw a smaller rectangle inside. The smaller rectangle needs to be the right size to fit inside the trunk.



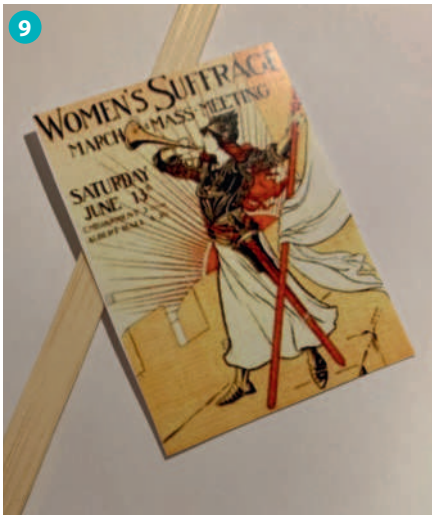
6 On the rectangle, snip as shown from the outside to the inner rectangle (four snips in total, two on each side). Fold along the inner rectangle lines.



7 Glue the flaps created by snipping to form a box. [PSD](#)



8 Raise the inside base of the box using thick card to make it shallower. Fill the box with memorabilia.



9 Make placards by gluing posters to thin card, then gluing coffee stirrers to the back.



10 Make a Suffragist necklace by colouring a string of diamantes in purple and green.



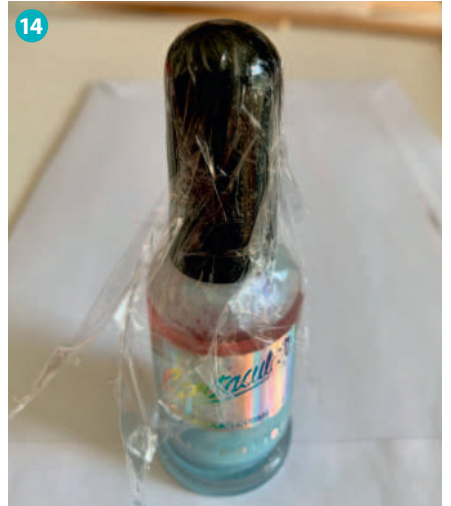
11 Make the 'enamel' sign by cutting around an image and ensuring there is a small margin of paper left all around.



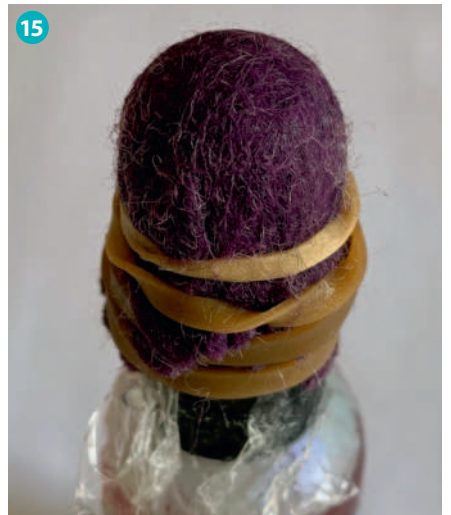
12 Glue the image to card then trim to the correct size.



13 Apply several coats of high gloss shine or varnish to create an enamel effect.



14 Find a bottle with a small, domed lid. Cover the lid with clingfilm to stop your hat from sticking.



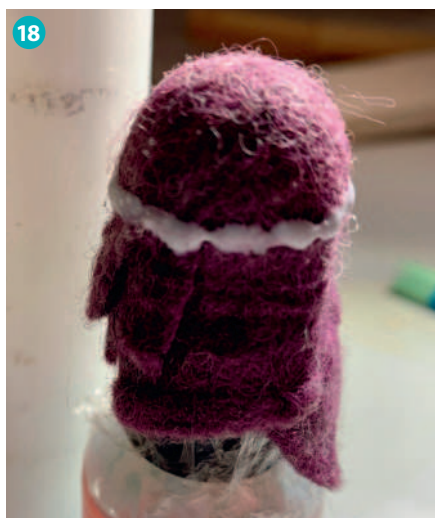
15 Cut a square of felt around 5.5cm square. Wet it, stretch it over the domed lid and secure with an elastic band. Apply heat from a hair dryer, then set aside overnight to dry thoroughly.



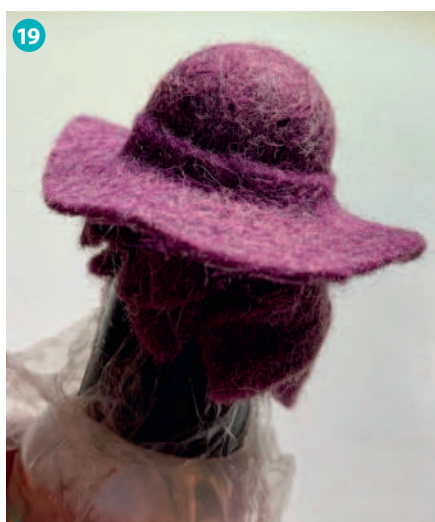
16 Cut a circle of felt for the brim.



17 Cut a central hole (not too big, as you can always make it bigger if necessary).



18 Run a line of glue where you want the brim.



19 While it's still on the bottle top, slide the felt circle over the hat and onto the glue line.



20 Trim the hat when dry using sharp scissors to remove excess felt below the brim. Decorate the hat with ribbons and diamantes in Suffragette colours.



21 Make a medal by colouring a piece of thin white ribbon using felt tip pens.



22 Punch a circle of thin metal (such as from a disposable baking tray) and emboss a design. Glue the medal to ribbon.



23 Add a ribbon to a circular logo to create a rosette. Cut a notch into the ribbon.

24 Place the smaller box inside the trunk and arrange the memorabilia and other items in and around the trunk, using glue to hold items in place if you wish. 🏠

Moi's Top Tip!

"You might find that when wetted, the colour from the permanent marker pens leaches into the white middle stripe of the calico (my purple leached and turned the white a delicate shade of pink.) You might be able to avoid this by using a hot iron to help 'set' the colours before wetting the fabric. In my case I simply painted over the white panel again using acrylic and it worked perfectly."

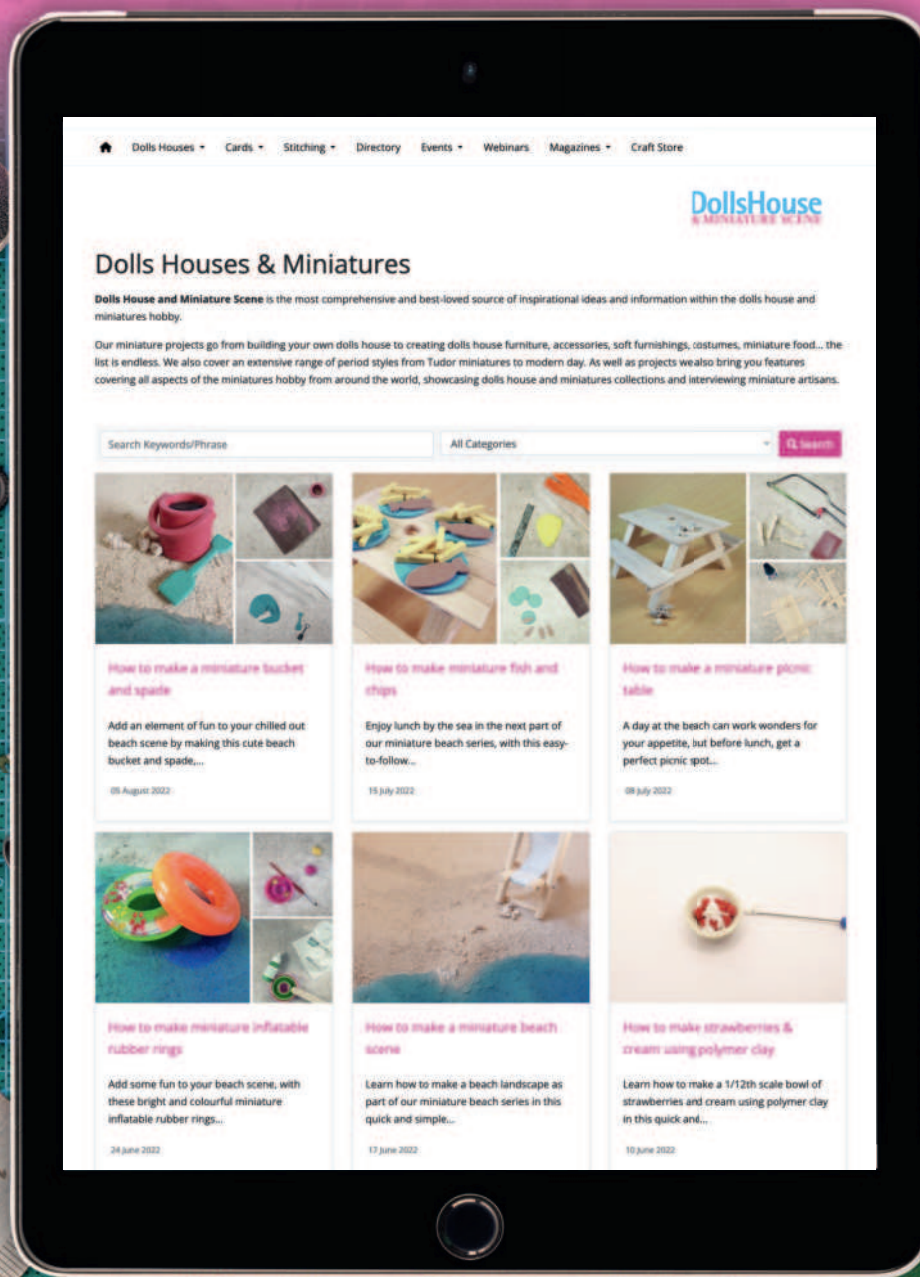
IDEAS FOR FILLED TRUNKS AND CASES

The world is your oyster when it comes to filled trunks so let your imagination run riot. Here are some ideas to get your creative juices flowing...

- A WWII trunk: gas mask, army uniform, medals, wartime newspapers, letters from the trenches, wartime ration books and posters
- A toy or nursery chest: teddies and dolls, board games, a crochet cot blanket, rattle, baby's bottle, children's books
- A foodie case: wine or champagne bottles and glasses, cheese and biscuits, posh chocolates in a fancy box, a gingham cloth and napkins, cutlery, fruit
- Wedding chest: a lace veil spilling over the side, a little tiara, wedding photos, confetti, ivory-coloured shoes, a string of pearls, sexy corset, horseshoe, 'just married' sign, tiny dried roses
- Christmas trunk: boxes of baubles, crackers, rolls of wrapping paper, mistletoe, Christmas lights, tinsel, Santa hat, wrapped gifts, rolls of ribbon, Christmas sheet music

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Six of the Best:

and six of the rest...

Over the last six months Moi Ali has brought you six favourite miniatures from her personal collection. Deciding on six was a challenge, so this month she shares six that got away – scenes that didn't make it into the final cut, but are still worth showcasing.

▼ The whole roombox



A box of old mags



Gas mask in a box



Old toys in the attic

Let's start with one of my earliest makes, a little scene contained in a shadow box I bought from IKEA. It was inspired by a magazine project I'd seen many years ago, which I fancied trying for myself. It's not a great work of art, but it has a place in my heart as something I was very proud of at the time. Over the years I've added to it, piling in more and more bits and pieces that simply don't have a home anymore – just like a real loft or attic! [PH](#)



My antique shop serves a similar purpose in that it houses eclectic items I love, which simply have nowhere else to go: French street signs, Dutch biscuit moulds, a stereoscope, a croquet set, a saxophone, a copper kettle, a box of vintage Meccano magazines, odd bits of furniture, assorted books, paintings, ceramics and other items. What I love most about it is that if I need something for a new miniature scene, chances are that I'll find something suitable in my antique shop. I made tiny Millers antiques reference books, as they can usually be spotted in most antique shops.

The antique shop was kit-built from a kit that was exceptionally easy to put together using the prefabricated walls on a base. My Gothic roombox also started life as a kit. Made by Dolls House Direct, it came with lovely features such as the massive fireplace, and optional extras like the gorgeous ceiling detail. I couldn't decide on flooring so I did a quick paint job and created a dramatic diamond design.

The tapestry sofa was a horrible cheap import, but I painted over the brown varnish and re-upholstered it with a piece of petit point style fabric salvaged from a vintage handbag. The fireside faux fur rug is an offcut of shearling my cousin (who is in the shoe trade) gave me, and I shaped it with scissors into a pelt. Ancestral portraits were cut from magazines and framed in plaster frames painted and distressed. The gothic bookcase was a plaster one made by Sue Cook, which I painted and gilded, before adding plaster books by Alison Davies (which I also had to paint).



Sue Cook roombox



Moi made the books

Talking of Sue Cook, the amazing miniaturist famous for her authentic 1/12th and 1/24th scale plaster ornaments such as ceiling roses, door pediments and fireplaces in a wide range of architectural styles... She showcases her work in period room settings, and was selling off one such roombox many years ago at Miniatura. I was lucky enough to snap up this Victorian roombox. Unusually it has a rear window, which is a really lovely feature.

It came electrified with really nice quality light fittings, but the décor was tired and needs refreshing. That's one to add to the to do list. The furniture in my

Sue Cook roombox is just stuff I have lying about. I will properly furnish it after I've decided on a new decorative scheme. I'm thinking something dark and typical of the Victorian era, with rich bottle green velvet and mahogany.

And now for something completely different... my scratch-built Route 66 diner which was inspired by my own road trip some years ago. I started in Chicago at the world class miniature Thorne Rooms (definitely worth a visit if you are ever in Chicago) and ended at Santa Monica, California at the (sadly now closed) Angels Attic dolls house museum. [PS](#)

Diner delights



▲ Scratch built juke box

This was my first attempt at designing and building a complete miniature myself. It was a steep learning curve but a lot of fun too. I made the diner stools from bolts and gaming pieces. The red fridge was made from a block of wood and a biro clip. The food was an early attempt at polymer clay. I made the juke box from foamboard and sticky back plastic. The light box was a keyring from the Pound Shop and it really lights up! The project required ingenuity and ideas – and ended up being a DHMS project!

And finally, to the last of my half-dozen runners-up: my Christmas dining room. This roombox was purchased from miniature legend Carol Black, from whom I also bought two other roomboxes. She had used it in the 1980s and 1990s at fairs to display the work she was selling. It was now surplus to requirements and I snapped it up on eBay for just £20. The fireplace had been removed so I replaced it with one I already had. This was challenging, as mine was a bit too big and I had to prise off the skirting boards and re-fit them after a few adjustments. I bought an overmantle from Alison Davies, and painted it to match the fireplace (which I had also repainted). I added a brick effect in the fireplace opening and fitted a Glow-well fire.

The dining table and chairs are cheap imports so I repainted the chairs and added a tartan seat cushion (using an old tartan hankie) and I made a table cloth from the rest of the hankie. The sideboard from Dolls House Emporium started life in my Wedgwood roombox, hence the Wedgwood medallions on it. The wall plates are by Victoria Fasken and the still life paintings either side are genuine miniatures by a real artist (whose name I've forgotten) purchased on eBay. The large portraits are cut from postcards. The lovely needlepoint rug under the table came from eBay and adds a real splash of festive colour. I stitched the needlepoint stocking from a Nicola Mascall kit. The Christmas tree was from Valerie Claire.

I toyed with showing you my WWII backyard, my farmhouse kitchen, my huge Charles Rennie Mackintosh house or my Arts and Crafts conservatory. Then I considered my greenhouse, my garden room, my folly or my cheese shop. Perhaps my pub, my beach café, or my Anglesey Victoria House... I could go on! Instead, I have included a few images of those to whet your appetite for another time – six of the best, then six of the rest, and perhaps six of the next! 🏠

► Right: Festive fireplace
► Far right: Oh Christmas tree



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An abundance of hobbies

Reader Daphne Clark combined a wonderful amount of hobbies into creating her dolls house, including knitting, tapestry and lace work.

I have been asked many times, 'Why do you have a dolls house?' The answer is, I enjoy doing many crafts and wanted a hobby that combined them all. My house has ten rooms and is made from a kit. It has a slate roof and fancy lead flashing. I have decorated it in the Victorian style because they loved clutter so for the rest of my life, I can keep making items for it. They also loved lace and I am a bobbin lace maker and have made many pieces of lace including a tablecloth, parasol and cradle canopy. I love knitting so in my house I have knitted curtains, shawls, dresses and my gentleman's combinations. Through sewing I have made clothes for my people, 14 pairs of curtains and a patchwork bed cover



► Front



which was very fiddly. In tapestry I have made numerous chair seats, carpets and the stair carpet. People often ask how long it had taken

to make different items. I recorded each time I worked on it and after 400 hours I stopped recording... so the answer to that question is,





Parlour



Kitchen



Study



Music room



Bathroom



Bedroom

a long time! So you can see how combining several hobbies into one made sense.

Some people I have chatted to at fairs have remarked how expensive it is to furnish a dolls house. I get great pleasure in doing mine 'on the cheap.' My stair rods are cocktail sticks painted gold with little brass beads on each end. My kitchen floor is grey cardboard painted with different colour markings and cut into pieces to make a stone floor. The gramophone in the music room was part of a pencil sharpener which

I painted. The slippers in the bedroom were originally earrings. The carpet under the bed is a tablemat and the small carpet in the bedroom was made from lampshade fringe. The parquet floors were made from a bag of pieces of wood I purchased at a car boot sale for 50p. Do you have a box for bits that might come in useful? I do. I have enjoyed making a number of furniture items from kits, or purchased cheap items which I have sanded down and re-painted, and in the case of chairs made new tapestry seats.

Most of the food I made at a class I attended.

I only have the butler's pantry to finish, then I am looking forward to making the garden. I am already drying tealeaves for the soil and looking for the right colour cardboard to make the crazy paving path. Coffee sticks are being collected to make my garden seat to sit in the garden. I already have my nanny complete with pram and children. I now need to change my interior designer's hat to a landscape gardener's one and start planning for the planting! 🌱

Ruth's MINITIPS

Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel continues her top tips and advice for what has worked (or not worked!) for her throughout her years of experience. This month, she looks at where you can find miniature inspiration if a specialist store isn't something you can get to easily.

Photos by Stephen Lesbirel

When you don't have a miniatures shop handy, you have to become resourceful! And that can be both challenging and fun. I often call myself the frugal miniaturist, since sometimes other stores can provide just what I need for my projects, in larger quantities and at better prices than a specialty shop can. I often borrow from other crafts for my supplies or find unusual miniature uses for everyday items, without sacrificing realism in the results.

I've mentioned before that I love a Model Train Shop for items like HO scale stripwood as well as brass, copper, and aluminium strips and tubing, all in various widths and thicknesses. These products have a myriad of uses in furniture making, even in making realistic plumbing. They also stock trees, shrubs and ground covers that work well in outdoor scenes. My model train shop is located in a distant Canadian city but will kindly post an order to me when I call them.

A little less obvious though are many of the shops found on most high streets. I often say that the scrapbooking hobby and quilting are a miniaturist's best friends when searching out miniature making materials! A scrapbooking shop not only has 12x 12in or smaller individual sheets of every weight, colour, pattern, and finish of paper, but lots of stickers too. I generally only need one sheet of paper for my projects, often with lots left over for future ones. But I have bought three or four when using them for

wallpaper or siding. The usual weight of scrapbook paper is quite sturdy and can be scored, folded, and glued to become anything from a photo album to flowers, hat boxes to wood stoves, tissue box holders to desk blotters, counters to wallpaper.



▲ Various paper uses

I've used a ridged black paper for tire treads, ridged white for wainscoting and ridged red for siding. Metallic papers are great for buckets and feed trays in a farm scene, 'stainless steel' appliances, and more. Metallic red made a nice 'painted tin' roof for my chicken coop.

Lighter papers have great uses too, from wallpaper to lampshades and black scrapbook paper made the roofing shingles in my She Shed and the stove and chalk board in the pub below. Lacey paper edgings come in handy for mini doilies, shelf trim, and tablecloth edgings.



▲ She Shed with scrapbook paper siding and roofing

Scrapbooking shops also have stickers (I love stickers!), the bicycle in the pub scene, the Cheers sign, and even the wall clock are examples of the use of large stickers, and other large ones could be used as outdoor shop signs. I've also used tiny rose stickers on cards, books, and wallpaper borders, 3D pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns in a Halloween scene, along with orange crystals in its border, and crystal and brass bling for

everything from frog and cat eyes to antique book covers to garden cart wheel hubs. Shiny origami papers can simulate leather for lovely book covers too. All of these came from a scrapbooking shop and really enhanced the projects.



▲ Pub incorporating stickers



▲ Halloween roombox featuring crystal stickers and jack-o-lanterns

A quilting or fabric shop not only has endless choices of pretty patterned fabric for clothing, curtains, and upholstery but also for wallpaper. Additionally, brass or other curtain rings can steady a rounded bottle top for an ice bucket or planter. Fabric paints let you create your own unique patterns for fabric projects and buttons have endless possibilities. Ribbons from very narrow to extra wide in satin, organza, and velvet, floss, yarn, thread, even twine can be found here too, for dress and hat bands, wedding trims, upholstery cording, flower stamens, tassels, and more. Similarly, there's lace, cotton seam bindings, and edgings for window valances, upholstery trims, clothing additions, and bedding upgrades. Though quilting cottons are the most versatile fabric choice, choose cotton batiste for nice lingerie and baby clothes, velvets for plush carpets, and light silks for draperies. A fabric shop often also has needlepoint canvas for baskets and cradles or for 'cane' chair seats, and cross-stitch cloth for bathmats or old-time speaker covers. Sequin pins make good hinges and there's a huge variety of buttons! I keep a good supply in my stash, as I mentioned last month. The pineapple symbol of hospitality that I have over my dolls house front door began life as a button! A good fabric shop will also sell

spray starch, which is really useful for setting pleats in drapes or getting the 'hang' right in a tablecloth, quilt, or bedspread.



▲ Edwardian Day nursery featuring fabric wallpaper



▲ Ice bucket with curtain ring, French knot mat, Greek key mat, TV, and hi-fi all with cross stitch fabric, needlepoint canvas cradle and cane chair seat

Beyond these obvious sources, other shops can supply interesting and useful materials too.

Take the ubiquitous corner hardware or building supply store. Here I've bought copper plumbing end caps in various sizes which I've used for copper pots, combined with brass strip handles. They have brass, copper, black steel and aluminium wire. Painted brown, wire can make anything from deer antlers to grapevine wreaths. Brass cup hooks made the umbrella holders in a recent hall stand and small wooden screw caps can be painted for cupcakes and muffins. Tiny picture hanging screw-eyes hold curtain rods in place on window casings or four poster beds, hang ceiling fixtures, can be spread for coat hanger hooks, or they can even become components in table lamps.

Often found in rolls like tape, wood veneers in various widths come in oak, pine, mahogany, and exotic woods and make great furniture additions, when glued and weighted until dry. Of course, there are all kinds of stain markers, as well as small cans of paint, stain and varnish. A single floor tile can be cut to finish an entire kitchen floor, used as-is in the nursery scene above, or provide an ample outdoor patio. Copper sheeting is great to roof a cupola

or bay window too. Of course, there are lots of glues found in any hardware store. And sandpaper! Yes, it smooths wood and comes in various grits and colours, but it makes great bricks, roofing shingles, paving stones and basement walls too. There is white plastic covered wire in the electrical department, which I used to make the scrolled back for this vanity chair.



▲ Copper end cap pot, and wire uses in vanity chair, rocking deer, grapevine wreaths

Try a local Pound Shop or Dollar Store for thin terry washcloths, which make lovely chenille bedspreads. I've used tiny print gift wrap as wallpaper in my dolls house as well as nice ribbons which I found there too. A double-ended ball stylus from my Dollar Store is still in use after many years and a bag of tiny pom-poms made the stuffed toys in the nursery scene above. They often sell Bristol board in every possible colour, meant for school projects, and drinking straws – I recycle cut lengths for drinking glasses. I even found this swan and other trinkets there.

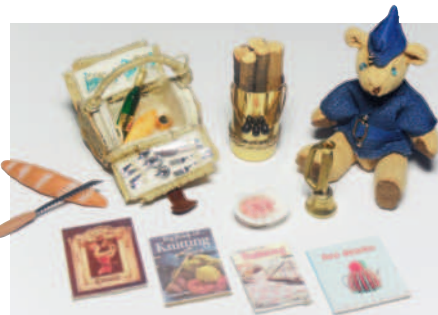


▲ Terry bedspread, gift wrap 'wallpaper', straws for drinking glasses, ball stylus and trinket

A wedding or florist shop often has just the right tiny flowers for dresses, hat boxes, hats and floral arrangements, netting for chicken wire, organza for sheer curtains, and ribbons of all sorts for all reasons, sometimes berries to use as apples, oranges, and plums. A stationery shop offers gel pens, Sharpie markers, sometimes plastic templates for a variety of shapes, as well as mechanical pencils, steel edged rulers, and even more card and papers for wallpaper. Pick up mustard seeds for furniture additions and tea and coffee for

staining or aging fabrics from a grocery store. A chemist will have nail varnish in colourless or endless shades for small painting or gloss jobs, as well as nail stickers, gauze (the fine cotton kind, not the cling bandage kind) to make burlap once it has been coffee-stained. They also have cotton swabs for quick glue and paint applicators, and cotton balls for stuffing toys, pillows, and even making the fluffy seat cushion on the vanity chair above. Also, wisps from cotton balls make realistic steam for a teacup or smoke for a fireplace or chimney. At a Christmas shop, I've found tiny presents, hunting horns and other small trims, as well as angels and Victorian ladies that became dolls in my dolls house.

Lastly, there are found items. The daybed frame in the nursery scene above was a holder for liquid soap and lotion and I'm always saving small bottle caps for flower pots and planters! Card from tights packaging, even cereal boxes, makes the bases for upholstered cushions. Seashells make wall art, ceiling or wall lightbulb shades, sink basins and candy dishes. Magazine clippings made the outdoor view through the pub door's window and gave the illusion of an adjacent room through the door of the nursery. Book cut-outs from magazines make realistic miniature book covers and coupon pictures add to grocery packaging as well. Clear silica, packaged with many products as a desiccant, made the ice in my ice bucket above. A brown hairnet with a few tiny shells and colourful bead floats, makes a realistic fishing net and grey painted netting makes chicken wire fencing. A gold-tone lipstick cover even made a firewood holder in my dolls house. Burnt out Christmas light string bulbs make wine bottles and a bit of the cutter strip from kitchen wrap makes a bread knife. Rocks and fine sand can be used in landscaping, small branches cut into 'logs' for the fireplace, and even deer moss and dried tiny flowers have miniature applications.



▲ Miniatures made from found items

So, if miniature shops are non-existent in your area, don't despair! Like inspiration itself, materials for miniature making are still all around you. 🏠

Completing the Jubilee caravan

PART 4

"It's been a lot of fun working on this little caravan and this month we finish it off with a compact W.C. and handy closet, wastebin, curtains, a clock, placemats, as well as a few more exterior and interior features. The cabinet across from the kitchenette completes the heart of the caravan and holds a four-shelf pantry, a useful work surface with cutlery tray and towel bar, and cupboard above for dishes and glassware" Ruth



YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Matt board
- Flooring paper
- 1/16in (1.6mm) and 3/32in (2.4mm) thick sheetwood
- HD scale 2x8 stripwood
- 1/12in micro-dowel (leevalley.com)
- 1/8in (3mm) square stripwood
- Six wooden knobs
- 3/8in (10mm) and 3/4in (19mm) diameter dowels
- 1/8in (3mm) yellow and orange flat-backed crystals
- Silvery metallic, yellow and black scrapbook paper
- Silver, white and black shiny Bristol board
- Sueded paper
- Felt
- Miniature toilet
- Chrysonbon Kit M-161 Bathroom Accessories (optional)
- Aluminium tubing
- Melon spacers or other beads
- Silvery eyelet
- Black brads
- Steel wire
- 7/8in (22mm) diameter rimmed button
- Black and white acrylic paint
- Black and silver fine Sharpie markers
- Wood stain & varnish
- White glue & superglue
- Double-sided tape

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Small saw and mitre-box
- Knife and steel ruler
- Needle tool
- Small hand drills
- Ball stylus
- Wire cutters & needle-nose pliers
- 1/2in (13mm) leaf paper punch



Photos by Stephen Lesbirel



Note: Refer to the templates and cutting list. Double-check the inside width of the caravan and adjust the W.C. base and main wall if needed, allowing a tiny space between it and the closet.

W.C. MODULE



1 Cut the module walls and base from matt board. Cut the flooring paper and double-sided tape it to the base. Glue the base against the main wall and the end wall against the base and the main wall. Cut the W.C. door and casings from sheetwood. Stain the door and casings. Cut two metallic scrapbook paper hinges and glue them to the outside of the door, 1 in (25mm) from the top and bottom. Drill the knob location. Varnish the door and casings twice. Superglue the black brads as doorknobs into the prepared hole. Glue the free ends of the hinges to the outside of the main wall. Glue the casings around the door on the outside, over the hinge ends. Glue the door strike diagonally across the inside top corner of the main wall, away from the hinges.

W.C. ADDITIONS



2 Cut the linen chest pieces from sheetwood and stain them. Glue the shelf supports to the linen chest sides and the back between the sides. Glue the shelves to sides on their supports and the top onto the sides and back. Varnish twice. Cut two rippled water plastic shelves and the square stripwood shelf rests. Stain and varnish the shelf rests twice. Glue the shelves atop them and glue them to the inside of the end wall. Cut, score, and fold the wastebin. Glue the tabs to the sides. Punch and emboss a scrapbook paper leaf soap dish.

W.C. FIXTURES



3 Use double-sided tape to secure white shiny card to the counter, wrapping the front edge. Curve the faucet from aluminium tubing and superglue the spacer bead taps to the sides. Drill the counter for the faucet and drain. Cut, emboss the fold lines, fold, and glue the vessel sink. Pierce the drain hole. Double-sided tape the sink to the counter, press an eyelet into its drain, and insert the faucet behind the sink. Glue this assembly onto its support on the end wall. Superglue the toilet to the module floor, against the inside of the main wall, at the edge of the floor.

CLOSET STRUCTURE



4 Cut the closet pieces from sheetwood and stain them. Drill the sides for the rod. Stain these pieces. Glue the shelf supports to the sides and the back between the two sides, aligning all top edges. Glue the shelves onto their supports and fit the rod into the prepared holes. Stand this unit upright. Glue the base between the sides, even with the front indentations for the kickplate. Glue the slant to the base and back, covering the space between them. Glue the top onto the back and sides.

CLOSET DOORS



5 Cut the four closet doors, stain them, and drill holes for the wooden knobs. Paint four wooden knobs and the kickplate black. Cut eight metallic paper hinges and glue half of each to the inside of the doors, 1/2 in (13mm) from the top and bottom. Glue the door strikes to the bottom of the shelves where the tops of the doors will meet. Glue the other half to the outside of the closet. Varnish the closet inside and outside twice. Glue the knobs into the prepared holes and the kickplate to the side indentations.

PANTRY STRUCTURE



6 Cut the pantry pieces from sheetwood. Drill the doors for knobs. Stain these wood pieces and paint the kickplate and two knobs black. Glue the base spacers and shelf supports to the inside of the sides. Glue the base against the back, the sides against the back and base, and the top onto the sides and back. ➡

PANTRY SHELVES AND DOORS



7 Cut the counter from matt board. Cut, score, and double-sided tape white shiny card to the counter, wrapping the front edge, and 1/4in (6mm) onto the underside. Glue the shelves and countertop onto their supports. Glue half of each hinge to the inside of the doors as before, except 1/4in (6mm) from the top and bottom of the small door. Glue the other half of these hinges onto the outside of the cabinet. Varnish twice. Glue the kickplate to the bottom front and the knobs in the prepared holes.

TILE PANEL



8 This tile panel is a smaller version of the one in the kitchenette module earlier: Cut and pencil-score the shiny white card tile pattern. Cut a 1/8in (3mm) wide strip of black shiny card and cut it into 1/8in (3mm) lengths. Glue the black squares at the abraded intersection points of the tile. Add black painted HO stripwood framing atop the edges, allowing for the shelf supports at the top.

TOWEL RODS AND CUTLERY TRAY



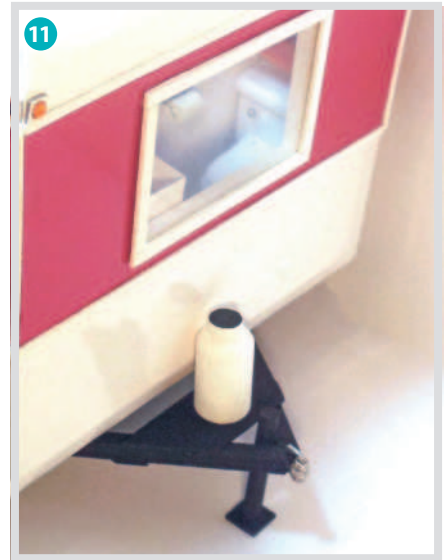
9 Bend 3/16in (5mm) ends of the steel wire with a 1-1/8in (29mm) straight section. Superglue the ends into two melon spacers. Glue the spacers to the tile panel. Glue the tile panel into the pantry. Make another rod for the W.C. Glue it above the tissue holder. Cut the cutlery tray and its divider insert from scrapbook paper. Score, fold, and glue the tabs to the outside of the tray. Score, fold, and glue the dividers to the tray's base. Set the tray on the pantry counter.

CURTAINS



10 Cut and accordion-fold the sueded paper into pleats. Cut the paper ties and glue them around the waist of each curtain. Paint micro-dowels with silver marker. Glue the top of two curtains against each micro-dowel, and glue these curtain rods to the top casing of each window. Make a short horizontally pleated shade for the W.C. with a bead pull.

PROPANE TANK, SIGNAL LIGHTS, AND REFLECTORS



11 Cut a 1-1/4in (32mm) length of the thicker dowel and 1/4in (6mm) length of the thinner dowel. Sand the top and bottom edges of the larger dowel rounded. Glue the smaller dowel to the top. Paint this tank white. Shade the top with black marker. Cut the tank's platform from sheetwood, paint it black, and glue the tank centred on the platform. Glue the platform, to the caravan's front projection, with the tank nearly against the caravan. Add two yellow and eight orange flat-backed crystals to their matt board pieces. Glue them to the wrap around bumper as signal lights and to the upper corners of the caravan as reflectors.

PLACEMATS, CLOCK, W.C. MAT AND TOWELS



12 Cut 1in (25mm) by 1-1/2in (38mm) pieces of scrapbook paper for placemats. Trim the corners diagonally 1/8in (3mm) from each point. Glue the clock face onto the button and the button to the side wall over the dinette. Cut a small mat and towels from felt. Fold a towel or two for the linen chest. Tip: A speck of glue between folds keeps towels from defying gravity when folded or on a rod.



INSTALL THE MODULES

13 The modules simply snug-fit together. I decided to take deeper diagonal cuts on the tabletop corners so my holiday-makers could be seated more easily. The first modules to place are those at the ends – the dinette and the W.C., then the adjacent closet. Finally, the kitchenette and pantry can be placed.

Missed parts 1, 2 and 3 to complete the caravan?

You can still get them from our website:

www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk



Completing the caravan cutting list:

Material	Description	Number	Imperial	Metric	Notes
Mattboard	W.C. module base	1	1-1/2" x 4-11/16"	38mm x 119mm	
	W.C. main wall	1	4-3/4" x 7"	121mm x 178mm	cut out for doorway *
	W.C. end wall	1	1-7/8" x 7"	48mm x 178mm	3/8" diagonal bottom cut out
	W.C. door strike	1	1/4" x 1/2"	6mm x 13mm	glue to inside top of doorway
	W.C. counter	1	1-7/8" x 1"	48mm x 25mm	slash rt. corner, cover w shiny card
	Pantry counter	1	1 x 1-3/16"	25mm x 30mm	cover with shiny card
	Corner reflector base	8	1/4" x 1/4"	6mm x 6mm	add orange flat-backed crystals
	Side signal light base	2	1/4" x 1/4"	6mm x 6mm	shade yellow, add yellow crystals
Paper	Flooring	1	1-1/2" x 4-11/16"	38mm x 119mm	double-side tape onto module base
1/16" (1.6mm) sheetwood	Closet back	1	1-5/8" x 6-9/16"	41mm x 167mm	align with top of sides
	Closet side	2	1-7/8" x 6-15/16"	48mm x 176mm	see template
	Closet top	1	1-3/4" x 1-7/8"	44mm x 48mm	
	Closet base	1	1-5/8" x 1-1/4"	41mm x 32mm	align with front indentations
	Closet slant	1	5/8" x 1-5/8"	16mm x 41mm	glue against base and back
	Closet shelf	4	1-5/8" x 1-3/4"	41mm x 44mm	
	Closet shelf support	8	1/8" x 1-5/8"	3mm x 41mm	or use HO 2x8 stripwood
	Closet upper door	2	7/8" x 3"	22mm x 76mm	drill 1/8" (3mm) from corner
	Closet lower door	2	7/8" x 2-3/4"	22mm x 70mm	drill 1/8" (3mm) from corner
	Closet kickplate	1	1/4" x 1-3/4"	6mm x 44mm	paint black
	Closet door strike	2	1/4" x 1/4"	6mm x 6mm	glue to shelf centre to stop doors
	Linen chest back	1	1-5/8" x 1-5/8"	41mm x 41mm	
	Linen chest side	2	11/16" x 1-3/4"	17mm x 44mm	align with top of back
	Linen chest top	1	11/16" x 1-3/4"	17mm x 44mm	
	Linen chest shelf	2	5/8" x 1-5/8"	16mm x 41mm	
	Linen chest shelf suppt	4	1/8" x 9/16"	3mm x 14mm	or use HO 2x8 stripwood
	Pantry back	1	1-3/16" x 5-5/16"	30mm x 135mm	
	Pantry side	2	1" x 5-5/16"	25mm x 135mm	cut out for kickplate
	Pantry top	1	1" x 1-5/16"	25mm x 33mm	
	Pantry base	1	3/4" x 1-3/16"	19mm x 30mm	
	Pantry base spacers	2	3/16" x 5/8"	5mm x 16mm	
	Pantry shelf	6	7/8" x 1-3/16"	22mm x 30mm	
	Pantry shelf support	12	1/8" x 3/4"	3mm x 19mm	or use HO 2x8 stripwood
	Pantry kickplate	1	1/4" x 1-5/16"	6mm x 33mm	paint black
	Pantry lower door	1	1-5/16" x 2-11/16"	33mm x 68mm	drill 1/8" (3mm) from corner
	Pantry upper door	1	1-1/8" x 1-5/16"	29mm x 33mm	drill 1/8" (3mm) from corner
	W.C. door side casing	2	3/16" x 6-3/8"	5mm x 162mm	
	W.C. door top casing	1	3/16" x 2-7/16"	5mm x 62mm	
3/32" (2.4mm) sheetwood	W.C. door, with	1	2" x 6-1/4"	51mm x 159mm	drill 3" (76mm) up and
	1/2" (13mm) hinges	2	1" (25mm) from top and bottom		7/32" (6mm) in, for the knob
1/8"(3mm) sq stripwood	W.C. counter rest	1	1-3/4"	44mm	left edge, top up 2-15/16" (75mm)
	W.C. shelf rest	2	7/8"	22mm	up 4-1/2" (114mm), 5-1/4" (133mm)
Silvery metallic scrap-book paper	W.C. door hinges	2	1/2" x 1/2"	13mm x 13mm	fold down the centre
	W.C. cabinet hinges	12	1/4" x 1/2"	6mm x 13mm	fold down the centre
Rippled water plastic	W.C. shelf	2	7/16" x 7/8"	11mm x 22mm	glue onto rests beside mirror
Silver shiny cardstock	W.C. mirror	1	3/4" x 2"	19mm x 51mm	glue to end wall above vessel sink
Felt	W.C. towel	3 or 4	3/4" x 1-1/2"	19mm x 38mm	approximate size
	W.C. mat	1	1" x 1-1/2"	25mm x 38mm	cut the corners diagonally

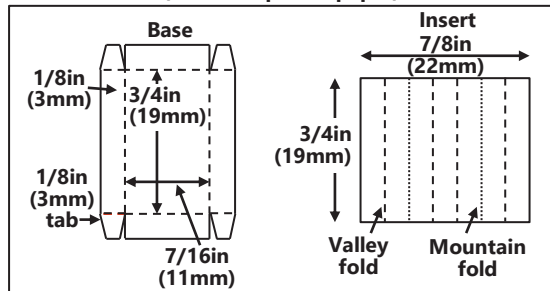
* 2-1/16" x 6-3/8" doorway, 1/2" from right-hand end

Jubilee Caravan Finishing Template

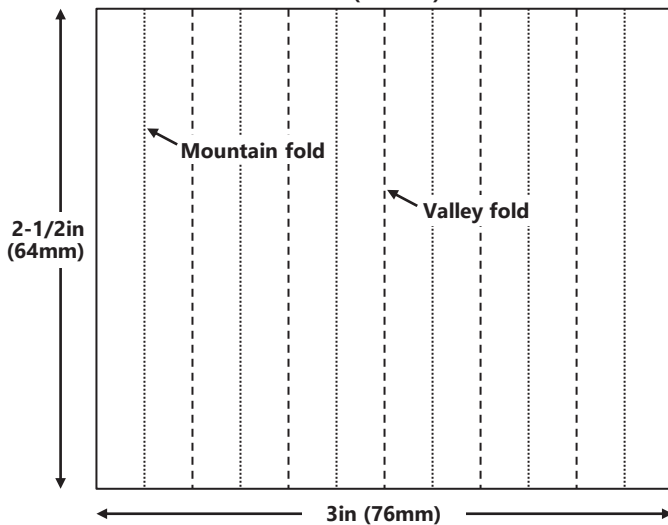
Part 4 Pattern at 100%

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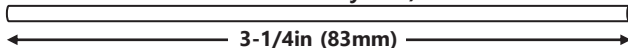
Cutlery Tray
(from scrapbook paper)



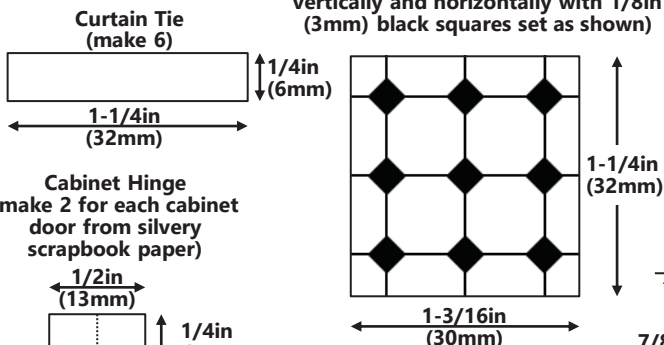
Curtains
(make 6)



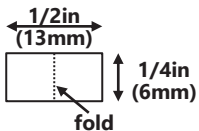
Curtain Rod
(1/12in (2mm) micro-dowel
from leevalley.com)



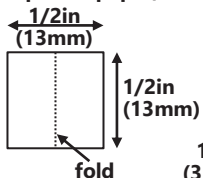
Tile Panel
(score lines 3/8in (10mm) apart
vertically and horizontally with 1/8in
(3mm) black squares set as shown)



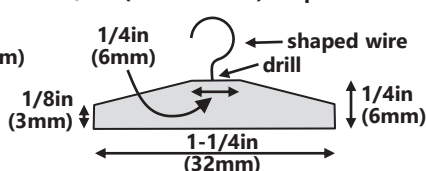
Cabinet Hinge
(make 2 for each cabinet
door from silvery
scrapbook paper)



Door Hinge
(make 2 from silvery
scrapbook paper)

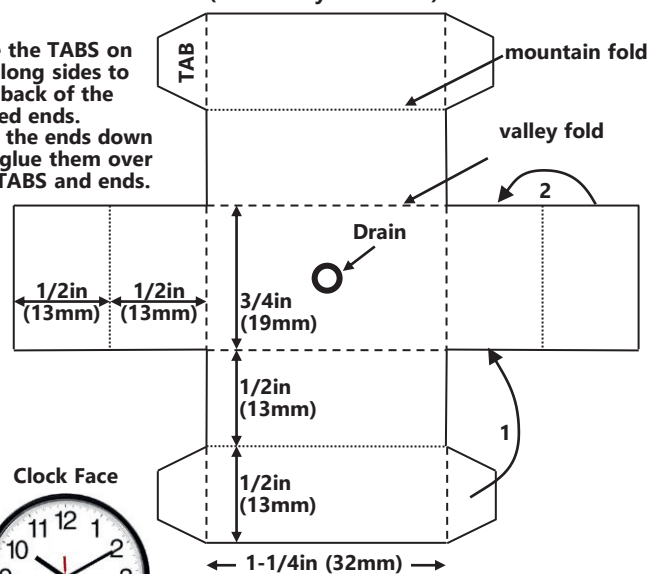


Hanger
Cut 1-1/4in (32mm) length of 1/8in x
1/4in (3mm x 6mm) stripwood

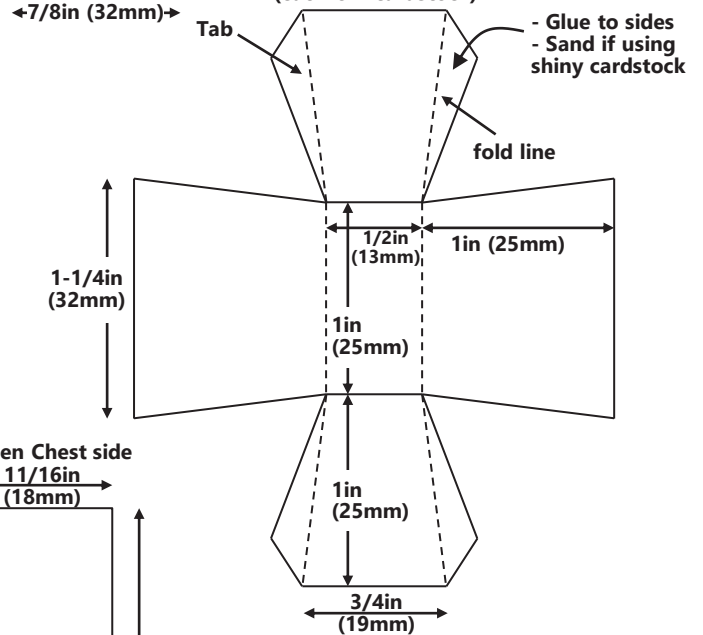


Vessel Sink
(from Shiny Cardstock)

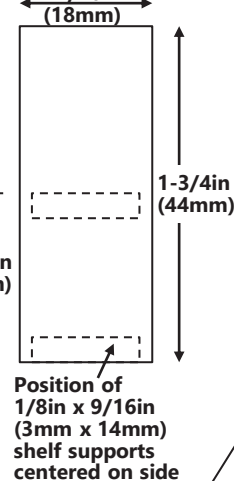
- 1 Glue the TABS on the long sides to the back of the raised ends.
- 2 Fold the ends down and glue them over the TABS and ends.



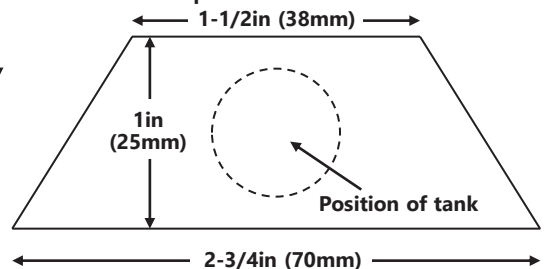
Wastebin
(cut from cardstock)



Linen Chest side



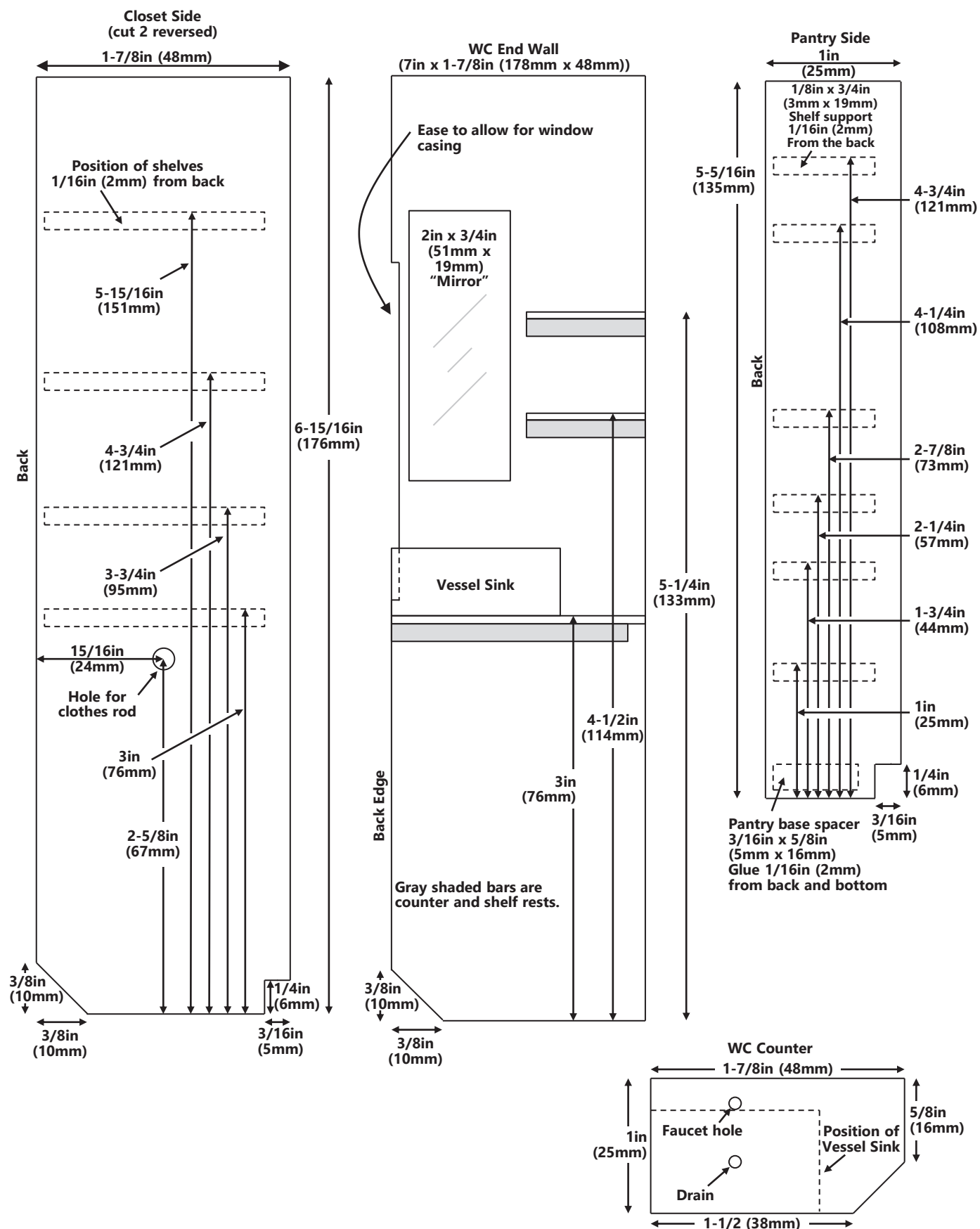
Propane Tank Platform



Jubilee Caravan Finishing Template

Part 4 Pattern at 100%

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Versatile barewood shop counter

Barewood dolls house furniture is wonderfully simple, affordable and understated but its real beauty is the versatility it offers to be stained, painted or adapted according to your personal taste. Carrie Yeo is a miniaturist from Arizona who is active on Instagram and TikTok and she continues her work with Minimum World to personalise a barewood shop counter (code BEF070 from Minimum World), which Carrie has stained and used as a feature in her rustic garden shop.

Carrie says...

"This counter is very versatile. I will be using it for my mini plant store, but have also styled it here as a men's clothing store. The possibilities are endless. I could definitely see it as a haberdashery, a candy store or an antique/jewellery store too!"



1 This piece can turn into a rustic, retro counter in no time!



2 I first stained it with a wood finish to get a natural and aged look.



3 Cover the entire piece in the wood stain.



4 To continue with the natural look, I added squares of a hessian fabric from a craft store to the empty panels. I think this helped to give it a vintage look.

TO COMPLETE THE COUNTER, THE FURNITURE IS COMPLEMENTED BY A WONDERFUL SELECTION OF MINIATURES AVAILABLE FROM MINIMUM WORLD:

You can see the grouted garden steps (CP070) in the corner of the photo. The company that makes these is Prestige Ceramics. The entire collection is handmade in the UK and is exclusively available through Minimum World. As well as garden steps, planters and chimneys, they make beautiful butlers sinks and ceramic accessories.



• small grouted step (CP070)



• bird box with birds (RP17445)



• server and basket (RP17896)



• barewood kitchen table (BA002)



• wooden crates (D7017)



• calathea houseplant (D4131)



• silver watering can (D4221)



• oblong ceramic planter with feet (CP013)



• houseplant in wicker basket (D7013)



• gold till (RP14625)



• 2x wicker baskets (MCB482)



• paper carrier bags (D1432)

• set of 4 gardening tools (MC6003)



INFO

To see more of Carrie's work, you can visit her [Instagram @dollhouse_makeovers](#)

The items featured are available at www.minimumworld.com

and inspiration from other customers' projects can be found on [Instagram @minimum_world_miniatures](#) or [Facebook @minimumworld](#)

Miniature unicorn cake tutorial using polymer clay

In this step-by-step tutorial Maive Ferrando shows you how to make a cute miniature unicorn cake for your dolls house or miniature scene using polymer clay from her book *Miniature Cake Creations*.

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Polymer clay in pastel pink, purple, mint (I used FIMO Effect), pastel yellow, white, black and scrap clay
- Liquid polymer clay (I used FIMO Liquid)
- Nail caviar
- Gold mica powder (or eyeshadow)
- Gloss varnish
- Pasta machine or rolling pin
- 3/4in (2cm) round cutter
- Flat tool
- Soft brush
- Silicone tapered sculpting tool
- Tweezers
- Small paintbrush
- Dotting tool
- Detail tool



1 Put some scrap clay through the thickest setting of your pasta machine and cut out six circles using a 3/4in (2cm) round cutter. Stack the circles together and part-bake, bonding them to a sculpting base with a little liquid polymer clay. This will allow the cake to stay put when you add the icing.



2 Once baked and cool, cover the cake in pastel pink (or white) buttercream mix, making it as smooth as you can with a flat tool.



3 Use some gold nail caviar to decorate the bottom edge of the cake.



4 To make the unicorn horn, roll out two elongated teardrops of white clay.

Maive's Top Tip!

"Dip the dotting tool in a tiny bit of liquid polymer clay to pick up the nail caviar."



5 Twist them together. Once secure, you can either roll them gently on your work surface to stretch the horn and make it thinner or keep twisting it between your fingers as you stretch it – whichever feels more natural to you.

6



6 Trim the horn if necessary and dust it with gold mica powder (or eyeshadow) using a soft brush to give it a beautiful metallic shine (use another colour if you prefer).

7



7 To make the ears, roll two small balls of clay into teardrops and flatten them slightly.

8



8 Use a soft silicone tool with a tapered point to shape the ears. Part-bake the horn and ears for 10 minutes.

9



9 Once baked and cool, push the horn and ears into the buttercream and part-bake.

10



10 Once the cake is out of the oven and cool, mix some gloss varnish with the same mica powder used for the horn and paint the inside of the ears.



INFO

This project is from *Miniature Cake Creations* by Maive Ferrando, GMC Publications RRP £16.99. These delicious confections will satisfy your appetite for creativity as well as your appreciation of sugary things.

Get your copy here: bit.ly/DHMSBOOKSHOP

Maive's Top Tip!

"The buttercream needs to be firm for it to hold up the horn and ears while baking."

11



11 Brush a little liquid polymer clay on the part of the cake where you want the eyes to be and cut tiny pieces of black clay. Roll the pieces into thin strands and place the main eyeline first. Give it a little push so that it stays on the cake while you give it the final shape with a soft tapered tool. Once the main eyeline is in place, add another two small lashes on the ends and part-bake.

12



12 To make the rosette-like decorations, roll some purple clay into a strand and cut lots of small, even pieces. Roll them into balls, flatten them slightly and use a small dotting tool to trace a spiral on the clay. Then use the same dotting tool to soften the line and create a deeper groove.

13



13 To make the meringue kisses, roll pastel yellow clay into tiny balls and pinch the tops as you turn them. You can also roll the balls into teardrops with fine tops and then press the base down onto your work surface to flatten it.

14



14 To make the star-shaped decorations, roll pink clay into tiny balls and flatten them. Press a soft silicone tool with a tapered point around the sides to create the grooves and obtain the star shape.

15



15 To create the Sultane-style meringues or decorations, start from a small flattened ball of mint clay and poke a hole in the centre with a dotting tool. Use a fine-ended tool to trace lines from the base towards the hole. You may need to reshape the hollow again after this step.

16



16 Spread a thin layer of liquid polymer clay on the cake and add the decorations. Start from the front to get a neater finish, and move on to cover the top of the cake. You can draw an imaginary line (or a real one) on the cake so you have an idea of where you want the mane to be and keep the decorations within those lines. Bake one last time.

17



17 Once cool, glaze the decorations one bit at a time. Before the glaze dries, fill in any gaps with different coloured nail caviar or sprinkles. I filled in the Sultane meringues with pink nail caviar, which I think looks really cute. Once the glaze is dry, glaze it again to add an extra layer of protection on the decorations and glaze the horn and ears.

Finally, a fair!

Moi Ali has just been to the first fair in Scotland since 2019...



Pauline's Miniature Packages



▲ Art Deco by Criss Cross

◀ 1/144th scale house by Mount Miniature



Fredona's sand castle



Deco suite by Criss Cross

Little did I know, when I attended a local dolls house fair back in 2019, what fate had in store for the world. The word Covid was not in our lexicon, and the notions of face mask wearing, social distancing and constant hand-sanitising were equally unfamiliar. Then the world changed and in our own miniature bubble, fairs were cancelled across the globe. No Kensington, no Miniatura, not even Chicago...

So, I squealed with delight (I actually did!) when I heard not only that a fair was coming to Scotland, but that it would be taking place just down the road from my house at the end of June! Hooray! The event was run by MGM Fairs, who for more than two decades have run a plethora of fairs across the country – including the popular Pudsey Show, which will be on 6th November this year. Organiser Gail Tucker of MGM was

on hand to help, advise – and to sell her own magnificent creations (Gail is the lady behind Merry Gourmet Miniatures). Yes, I succumbed and bought a darling little gingerbread house from her. I could easily have spent a fortune as everything was so lovely.

It was not a big show, but there was definitely enough to make it a worthwhile visit and there was a great atmosphere. ➡

Stallholders included ABC Miniatures, Weaverthorpe Miniatures and the Dolls House Outlet. There were also pre-loved items for sale, and I picked up a pile of dolls house books for a couple of pounds each.

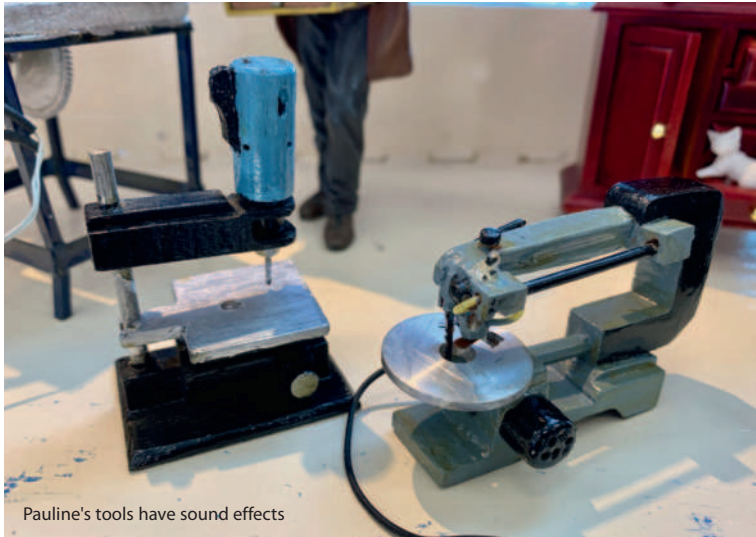
I was very taken with the items by Karen's Miniatures, where I bought a delightful hand-painted mirror for my 1930s house. Karen explained that it had been painted by her mum before she sadly developed

dementia. My own mum had that dreadful condition so the mirror will have a special meaning to me too. I also treated myself to some haberdashery items from Karen, and a lovely potted cheese plant.

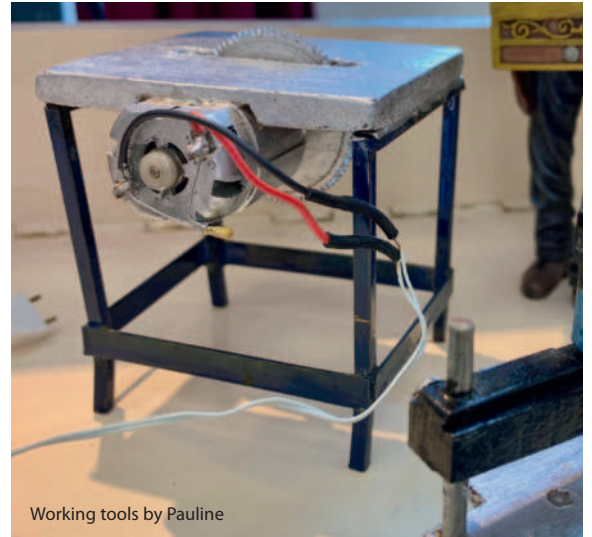
Also on hand were Ron and Lisa from Dream Homes – with Lisa kindly running the tea stall and husband Ron serving customers on their miniatures stand. I was, of course, among them, picking up not one,

but two 3D-printed resin mirrors. Ron has recently entered the world of 3D printing and has certainly made an impressive start. The mirrors are exquisite in their detail and he plans to extend the product line. They previously specialised in Jia Yi miniatures, but that company no longer exists and its demise prompted the couple's venture into 3D printing as an alternative source of quality miniatures.





Pauline's tools have sound effects



Working tools by Pauline



Moi bought a Dream Home mirror



Mount's shabby chateau



Pre-loved stall



▲ Sweeties by Fredona

◀ Pre-loved stall

The venue in Broxburn, an easy drive from Scotland's two major centres of population (Edinburgh and Glasgow), was a wise choice, and the ample free parking was another attraction – particularly as there was a national train strike on that day! I am praying that this will become a regular fixture in the calendar for years to come, being literally the only mini-fix available to those of us north of the border. 🏠

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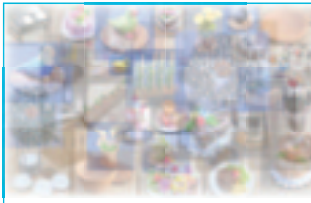
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The Whole Kit & Caboodle:

CHILD'S BLACKBOARD

Moi Ali goes back to school with this month's kit review.



▲ Chalking it up

Are your kids or grandchildren packing up their little satchels and heading back to the classroom after a long, lazy summer? As soon as I saw this Jane Harrop blackboard kit, it took me right back to my own schooldays in the late 1960s and 1970s! This little blackboard is for use by a child rather than the teacher, so it could easily find a home not only in a schoolroom, but also a nursery, or even a child's bedroom. Its charming vintage

appearance also allows it to fit into a modern interior as a piece of retro chic, perhaps painted in a pastel hue rather than stained.

Jane's carefully designed kits encompass Edwardian, Arts and Crafts, Art Deco, wartime/utility, the 1970s... pick an era and chances are that Jane will have a suitable kit. I selected the blackboard kit because the mere sight of it brought back memories of Miss Self and her crinkly thick stockings, the smell of polished parquet and carbolic

soap, and the din of the playground as the boys played British Bulldogs and the girls skipped to rhymes handed down through the generations. No harm in a bit of nostalgia!

This kit was a dream to put together and was assembled in no time. Jane also does a child's desk and stool kit, which comes with a small tabletop blackboard (at just £15). It's the perfect complement to this kit. Give one of them a go – you're guaranteed to be top of the class! 🏠

THE FACTS

Buy from: Jane Harrop
(www.janeharrop.co.uk)

Cost: £11

Comes with: Components for blackboard and 'chalk' and includes sandpaper and string

Additional materials needed:
Glue, black and white paint, dark wood stain

Specialist tools needed: None

Time: An hour

Experience: Complete beginner

Top tip: Write on the blackboard using a white gel pen for a chalkboard appearance.

READER GIVEAWAY!

Would you like to win your very own child's blackboard?

One lucky reader will win this Jane Harrop kit!

To enter, simply visit www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk

and click on giveaways!

Competition closes 30th September 2022. Good luck!

For more information regarding competitions visit www.warnersgroup.co.uk/competition-terms/

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**PRINT EDITION:
THURSDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER**

No. 340 Issue August 2022
dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk

Editor: Joanne Garwell
sally.stirling@warnersgroup.co.uk

Digital Content Manager: Sally Stirling
anna.lewin@warnersgroup.co.uk

Designer: Ady Braddock

Advertising Manager: Jayne Notley
Tel: +44 (0)1778 391189
jaynen@warnersgroup.co.uk

Production Secretary: Natalie Fraser
Tel: +44 (0)1778 391130
production@warnersgroup.co.uk

Accounts: creditcontrol@warnersgroup.co.uk

Digital & E-commerce

Marketing Executive: Emily Warner
emily.warner@warnersgroup.co.uk

Marketing Executive: Emmalee Higgins
emmalee.higgins@warnersgroup.co.uk

Publisher: Lucie Dawson
lucie.dawson@warnersgroup.co.uk

FOR ALL SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES

Tel: UK +44 (0)1778 392007

Web: bit.ly/subscribedhms

Email: subscriptions@warnersgroup.co.uk

Distribution & Circulation
Warners Group Publications Plc
Nikki Munton

Tel: +44 (0)1778 391171
nikkim@warnersgroup.co.uk

Printed by Warners Midlands plc



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Competitions in issue 340 are open 1st September– 30th September 2022.

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**DollsHouse
& MINIATURE SCENE**

Magazine established December 1992
ISSN 0967-4918

Next issue on sale 16th September

Dolls House & Miniature Scene magazine is published 12 times a year.



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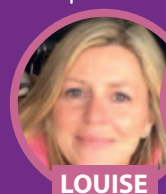
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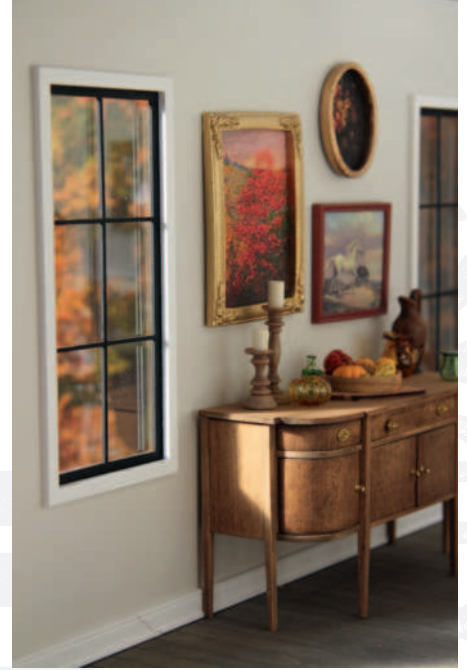
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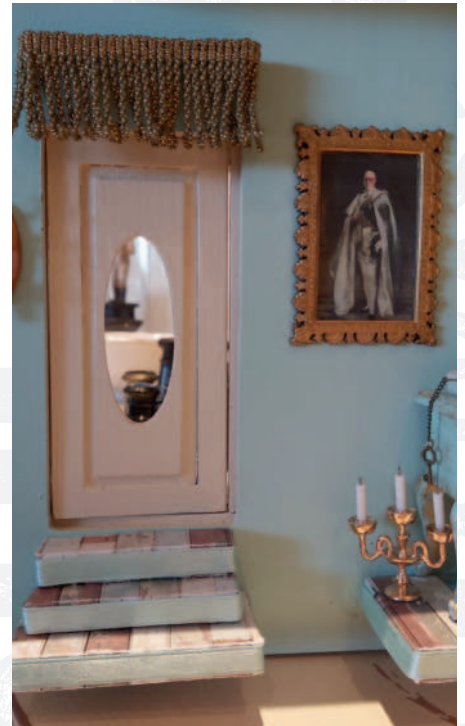


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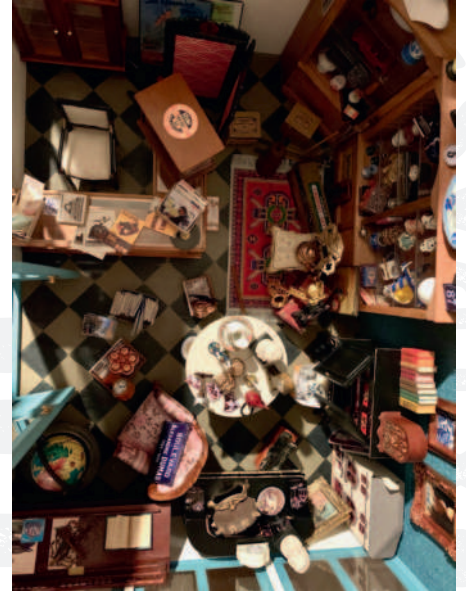
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