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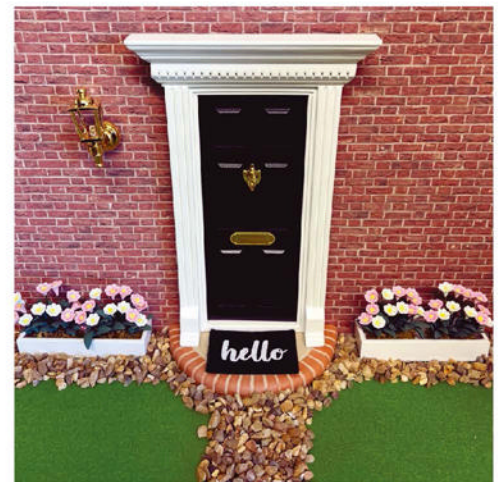
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Got a question for our dolls house experts?
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Welcome to the August edition!

This issue is all about summer and style!

Adding those seasonal finishing touches to your dolls houses will help keep your home right up to date with the changing seasons, plus keep your home evolving! We get things started with Sadie Brown's summer fruit salad on page 8 – perfect for your mini kitchen or dining table, with minimal materials needed!

On page 32 we continue Moi Ali's journey around the UK, describing the best mini stops to make – last month Moi started in Scotland and travelled down to the north of England, and this issue she takes on the rest of England and Wales! Lots of destinations to add to your 'must visit' list!

Elsewhere, new contributor Kim Finch continues detailing how she made her beautiful home named Tiny House – with last month showing how to make a beautiful stone wall with egg cartons (this has been a very popular post on our Instagram!), and this month she shows how she repurposed unused furniture. Don't miss next month where she provides a project on how she made the beams for the ceiling in her kitchen with tiny hooks!

Make sure you don't miss our Reader Project this month by Sophie O'Sullivan, where we showcase how Sophie adapted Moi Ali's 'Setting the table' project from the July 2022 issue to use for her own mini making – send us how you've used DHMS for your own makes and you could be featured in the magazine next!

We continue to bring you the best advice from industry experts Bea Broadwood from Petite Properties and Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel's 'mini tips', Moi Ali's Instagram Identities which puts an artist in the spotlight, plus did you know that by signing up to our email newsletter you can get even more fabulous mini content, like top tips on using fabric, making realistic food and creating tiny pottery from social media stars?! Turn to page 7 where I'll tell you more!

Finally, a massive thank you to this month's contributors; Sadie Brown, Moi Ali, Bea Broadwood, Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel, Kim Finch and Ann Evans.

Happy mini-making!

Joanne Garwell

Editor

Editor loves!

REALISTIC MAKES



08

With minimal materials

CHIC ADDITIONS



11

Stylish mini homes

SNEAK PEEK... INSIDE NEXT ISSUE!



Stay stylish

FANATASTIC GIVEAWAYS!

TURN TO PAGES 34, 38 & 68 TO SEE WHAT YOU COULD WIN!



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DollsHouse
MINIATURE SCENE

Exclusive Projects...

AUGUST 2023 ISSUE

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Tropical Sunset

Create a stunning piece of artwork – in mini!

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Insta Identities:

Norma Bennett, @makeminimini

Find out how this Instagrammer rediscovered for passion for miniatures and the joy of dolls houses as an adult.

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At home with the Broadwoods

Professional miniaturist Bea Broadwood focuses on the smallest of the popular dolls house scales, and with the help of her latest 1/144th scale dolls house kit, shows how one design can be transformed into two contrasting pieces.

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A good read

Moi Ali finds some summer reading – a pocket-sized history book on the Nostell dolls house and the many treasures within.

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Ruth's mini tips

Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel shares her top tips and advice from her years of experience.

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York Dolls House Show review

Moi Ali can't understand why it's taken her so long to visit the York show!

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Reader project

Sophie O'Sullivan shows how she used Moi Ali's 'Setting the table' project from the July 2022 issue for her own mini making!

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The Whole Kit & Caboodle

This issue Moi Ali's kit review is a deco-tastic!

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What's in the September issue?

A look at the content you won't want to miss including fascinating interviews, features and more!

**FANATASTIC
GIVEAWAYS!**

FOR A CHANCE TO WIN
SIMPLY VISIT

www.dollhouseandminiaturescene.co.uk

The closing date for all entries is
31st August 2023

GOOD LUCK! ★★

DOLLS HOUSE & MINIATURE SCENE

Collections and Features...



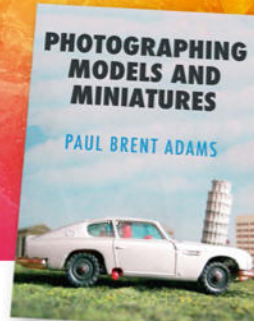
MORE THAN A MAGAZINE...

36 JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

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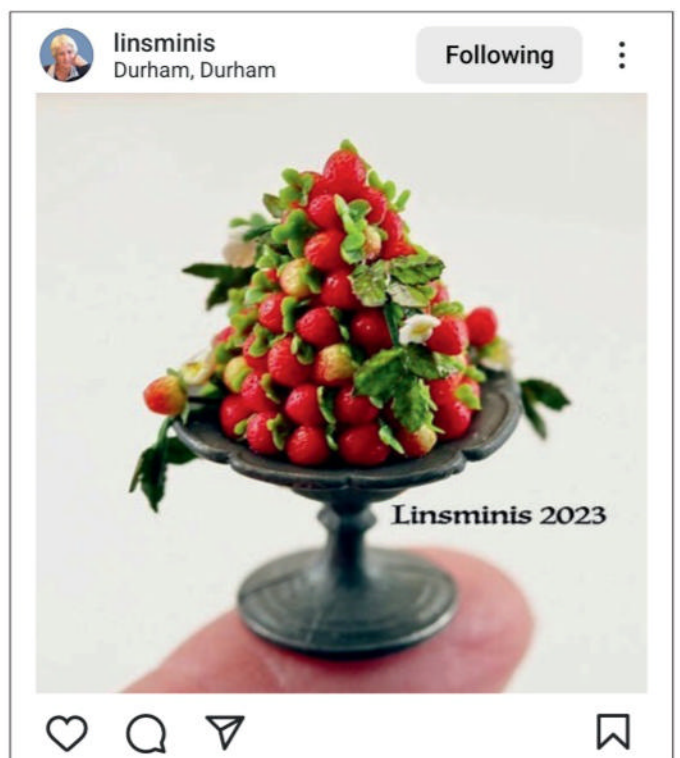
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SCAN ME



Caught on camera

Here at DHMS, the team have been amazed and inspired by these mini makes as seen on Instagram this month...



Discover more!

Introducing LTW Miniatures...



Anne-Marie Parkin, the miniature patchworker behind LTW Miniatures, combines her love of miniatures and her love of patchwork quilts to create 100s of 1/12th scale patchwork quilts, cushions and kits – and she has been creating these mini makes for over a decade. Using traditional quilting techniques, only smaller, Anne-Marie captures all the detail of a full-size creation in her pint-sized work.

For all of you lovely people who are signed up to our emails, you're in for SUCH a treat! In our August email, Anne-Marie provides you with her 6 top tips on working with fabric! Not signed up yet? Make sure you do so now and you'll receive more advice, top tips and interviews from those heating up social media right now!

"We promise you'll not want to hit delete when DHMS emails come through! Make sure you sign up now so you don't miss all the fantastic content lined up!"

Joanne
Editor

Sign up here
bit.ly/DHMSIGNUP



Summer fruit salad

The fruits of your labour needn't be difficult this summer!
Create this realistic fruit salad with just a few ingredients.

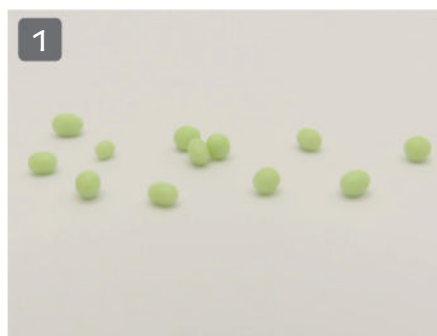
YOU WILL NEED

Materials required

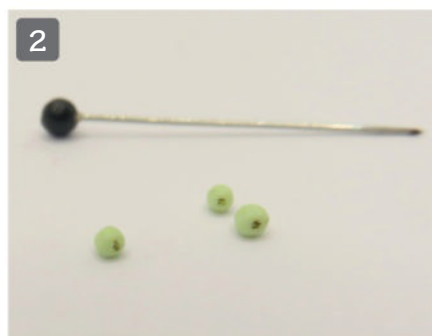
- Translucent, white, red and black polymer clay
- Spring green, lemon yellow, sunflower yellow, brown, red, orange, golden ochre and white pastels
- Gloss varnish
- 1/12th scale white ceramic plate or dish

Tools required

- Roller
- Small paintbrush
- Craft knife
- Needle tool or sewing pin



1 Mix translucent polymer clay with grated spring green and lemon yellow pastel to make a shade resembling green grapes. Bake a small piece to make sure you're happy with the colour before rolling into individual grapes.



2 Dip a needle tool or sewing pin into brown pastel and use it to make a small hole in the top of each grape.



3 Mix translucent clay with orange pastel, adding in a little sunflower yellow. Shape 3mm balls of the mixture into individual orange segments. Use a needle tool or sewing pin to score lines across each piece of fruit, adding a small amount of white pastel to resemble pith.



4 Mix red and orange grated pastel with translucent polymer clay. Roll a 1.1cm ball of the mixed clay into a 5cm tube. Fold into a heart shape.



5 Mix white clay with a little golden ochre pastel to create an off-white shade. Roll out the mixture before cutting a strip wide enough to wrap right the way around the outside of the heart shape.



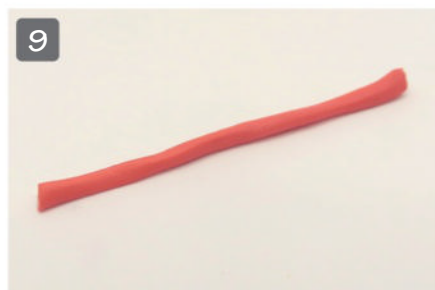
6 Create a slightly darker shade of the colour from step 4 and, again cutting out a length of clay, wrap around the outside of the heart, this time leaving a gap at the top.



7 Cut away tiny slices of the outer layer of clay, replacing them with pieces of off-white clay of the same size. Add a piece of off-white clay into the gap made in the previous step.



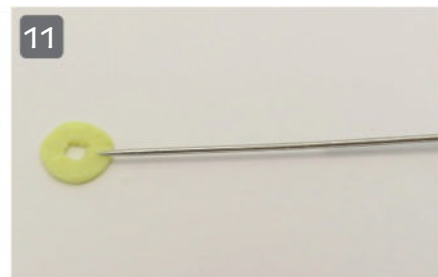
8 Cut a length of red clay, wrapping all the way around the edge.



9 Carefully reduce and stretch the clay down in size with your fingers until you have a cane 2mm in width at the widest point. Take your time over this step.



10 Roll eight very tiny balls of black clay, putting them together to form a blackberry. Repeat until you have as many blackberries as you need.



11 Mix translucent clay with lemon yellow pastel, adding a touch of sunflower yellow. Flatten a 3mm ball into a circle, using a needle tool or small ball tool to create a hole in the centre to form a pineapple ring. Use a needle tool to lightly score lines all the way around the circle to texture.



12 Bake all the fruit and allow to cool thoroughly. Use a craft knife to slice the pineapple ring into individual chunks.



13 Slice the strawberry cane and cut into smaller pieces.



14 Coat all the fruit with gloss varnish. Once dry, use craft glue to stick the fruit to your chosen serving plate or dish, preferably white as it really shows off the translucence of the individual fruit. 🏠

Brioche bread

Use your loaf to grab a slice of the action with this realistic quick make.

YOU WILL NEED

Materials required

- White and translucent polymer clay
- Yellow, brown, dark cadmium orange and golden ochre pastels
- Kitchen foil
- Gloss varnish
- Crushed seashells

Tools required

- Small paintbrush & craft knife
- Needle tool or sewing pin

Sadie's Top Tip

"Made from dark brown polymer clay, add tiny 'chocolate chips' to the loaf for a fun twist on the traditional brioche."



1 Made with egg, real brioche has a sunny golden yellow tinge. Recreate this in small scale by mixing two parts white polymer clay with one part translucent, adding grated yellow, golden ochre and dark cadmium orange pastel with a touch of brown.



2 Take a 1.3cm ball of the finished mixture and mould into a traditional loaf shape. Twist a length of kitchen foil into a thin rope and wrap around the bread just above the halfway mark, pressing into the clay slightly.



3 Mix grated dark cadmium orange pastel with brown and golden ochre, brushing liberally over the entire loaf. Remove the foil and brush the pastel mixture lightly over the indentation in the clay beneath.



4 Place the loaf in the freezer for a few minutes before carefully cutting two slices. Continue slicing into the bread, but this time ensure you don't cut all the way down to the bottom, creating the impression of sliced bread whilst keeping the loaf together.



5 Use a needle tool or sewing pin to carefully texture the loaf and the two slices.



6 Bake and allow to cool thoroughly before coating the loaf's golden crust with gloss varnish. Whilst the varnish is still wet and able to act as an adhesive, replicate sesame seeds by scattering crushed seashells across top of the crust on both the main loaf and the largest slice. 🏠



▲ Contemporary style

Sitting pretty

Sit down with Marloes of Mini Couch as we explore the fabric of small scale.

Up against the wall

Whether it's about comfort, style, cosy nights in front of the television, or making sure the kids don't spill ink across that plush fabric, the couch tells the story of any home. And for Marloes of Mini Couch, renowned for her exceptional contemporary styling, family is at the very heart of her creations. "I had this romantic idea when my daughter was born to make my own dolls house for her. A true gift from mother to daughter," she says, describing how, after designing

a moodboard, the period era miniatures she found repeatedly during the course of her extensive research didn't fit the contemporary feel she was looking for. Nor were they practical and sturdy. "I met a woman during my online search that had a 3D printer and laser cutter. So, I designed my own kitchen, beds etc and she made the parts for me to paint and finish. When it came to sofa upholstery, she could help me with the frame but that was it. I decided to watch a tutorial and give it a go."

Over five hundred sofas and just four short years later, it's hard to believe Marloes' first five attempts ended up in the bin. "Number six went against the wall," she smiles. It was at this point she sourced some real velvet and began working with a different glue, quickly finding her irritation at those initial attempts ebbing away. "I loved it. The feel of the fabrics, matching the patterns, seeing a stack of wood planks and a piece of cloth just come to life. I made another one for my dolls house friend. Then another one ➡

for my neighbour's kid. Covid just hit and I noticed it was kind of helping me not to go crazy being in lockdown. So, every night when my daughter goes to sleep, I go and make my sofas." Marloes describes sourcing new material as a treasure hunt and has even been gifted wonderful Italian and German fabrics by visiting friends. "There's just something for me about moulding those rigid fabrics like Gobelin into smooth, modern seating. I've used real silk of €100 per metre, but I also like to re-upholster old vintage frames. Mid-century modern, Art Deco, retro or really contemporary are my favourite styles. The design concepts and the way our lifestyle in those eras shaped our way of living at home fascinate me. We've always expressed ourselves in the way we look on the outside but similarly in the way we furnish our house."

A rich colour palette

Research is a continual journey, and something Marloes clearly thrives on. Not only does she keep up to date with current trends by following several top designers on social media, but through visiting design expos and textile museums. "If I see something I like, it becomes a concept in my mind and I start developing an idea - how I could make it my own; the Mini Couch way. Usually, a room layout always pops up in my head with a design, so I make sets for publicity photos. But let's be honest, also for fun." Marloes also enjoys collecting pieces by fellow artisans to add to her set designs. "Sometimes I think I spend more shopping for items than I will ever earn," she laughs.

In recent years, the period miniatures Marloes discovered during her initial research have taken a back seat, with contemporary miniatures seeing an exponential growth. This was, in part, thanks to the large number of people who, just like Marloes, discovered the artform during lockdown. Much of this contemporary furniture is often based around a neutral colour palette, reflecting many real homes. However, style trends are currently seeing a huge resurgence in colour, an area where Marloes' often vibrant designs were already one step ahead. "I basically make what I love. And I love colour," she says. "I get inspired by the shapes I see and try to be bold with that. Do the unexpected. I think that is the fun of miniature creation. We can make whatever we want and express ourselves however we want. Live out our wildest furniture dreams. I do take custom orders from time to time, but my best work comes from me getting inspired by shape or fabric."



Art Deco inspired sectional sofa



For any/all: That 70s vibe



Sea views



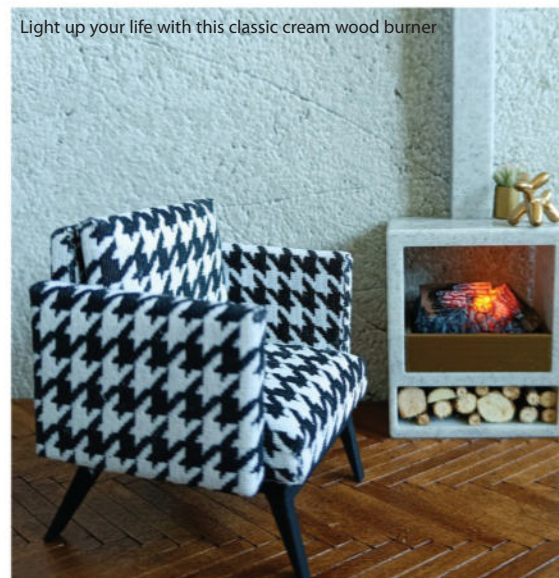
Brilliant Baroque



Mid-century modern design



Dutch canal house print sofa



Light up your life with this classic cream wood burner



This beautiful sofa is upholstered using French silk



'Jungle Fever' sofa



Perfect for the leafy suburbs



The luxury of velvet

“I think that is the fun of miniature creation. We can make whatever we want and express ourselves however we want”

Finding focus

The Mini Couch portfolio has expanded beyond the world of sofas, featuring fabulous handcrafted pieces ranging from contemporary side tables to a mid-century modern inspired cabinet with rattan doors. Marloes has also recently acquired a 3D printer, a piece of technology which is literally revolutionising our ability to create before our very eyes. “I underestimated it royally. What a steep technical learning curve. I am not a very patient person by nature,” she admits, explaining that quick results and 3D printing do not go together. “I’ve been obsessively watching tutorials, reading articles, and trying settings over and over again. Designing comes quite naturally I’ve learned, even though I have never attempted anything creative until three years ago!”

Citing sewing, drawing and painting as not her forte, it took the world of miniature art to spark what Marloes describes as her “apparently present creativity”. Nowhere is this more evident than in the exciting gyrofocus fireplaces and wood burners, which are rapidly making both her and Mini Couch a name. “I’ve always wanted a real, life-size gyrofocus fireplace. I always imagined I would own one in my ‘when I grow up house’. And trust me, I have tried. Doesn’t fit unless we skip the dining table, and my husband wasn’t thrilled with that plan,” laughs Marloes. Having previously asked several of her miniature contacts to print a gyrofocus fireplace for her, none of the designs matched the one she could see in her mind’s eye. But having her own 3D printer changed all that, enabling Marloes to take on the challenge herself. “I’ve done about 50 tests in all kinds of shapes and print settings. Drove me crazy but finally I got it. It takes 24 hours to print the parts



Art Deco style with a city view



Digitally printed velvet is definitely the way forward



Say it with flowers. Marloes' floral sectional sofa



Marloes' pink gyrofocus fireplace

Cabinet and bench, both with 3D printed frame



Marloes' self-described eclectic style

and the painting takes around six hours per fireplace with two days drying between every coat of enamel. I am so proud of them. A few more are coming and I am working on new designs. I also want to start making lamps, credenzas and tables." It is that extraordinary ability to design and build anything from the world around us in small scale which makes this now much more accessible technology all the more exciting. The battery-operated flickering log fires Marloes uses to illustrate the potential of her fireplaces are available from London based Etsy store, 'artorione' and truly look as though they were made for her designs.

Talking to Marloes, you quickly realise she is unlikely to ever take her talent and success for granted, describing the opening of her Etsy store as an experiment which she had no idea would go on to prove so popular. "I truly never imagined how much joy Mini Couch would bring to me and my buyers. I've met amazing people all over the world, from Japan to the Philippines to the US and Britain and so on, and heard truly incredible stories about their lives. Every sofa is a little piece of my heart that I am glad to send to its new loving mini home. I also donate some of my work to a charity that builds dolls houses for sick and poor children." And with a mother like Marloes, it seems almost certain that her young family too will inherit that same thrill of creativity, meaning that the couch will remain the heart of the miniature home for a long time to come. 🏠



We're green with envy!

INFO

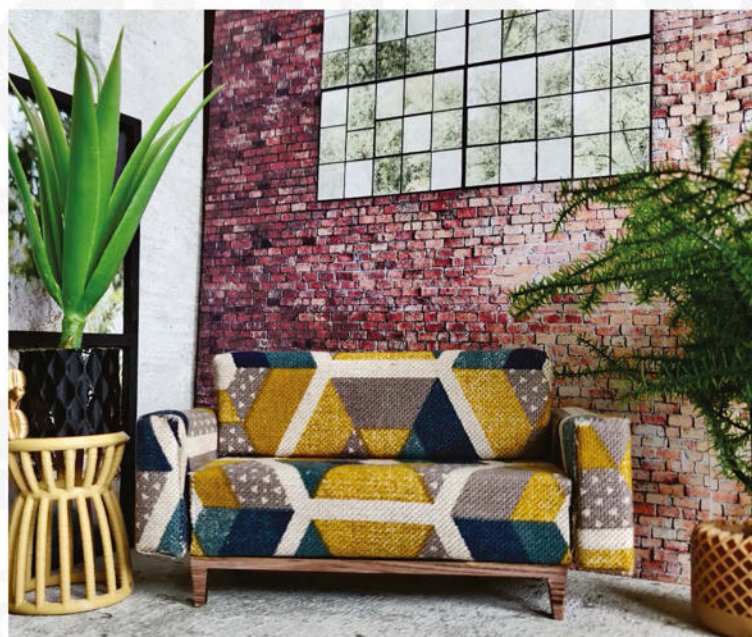
For more information visit:



www.minicouch.etsy.com

Sitting pretty





Instagram identities:

@MAKEMINEMINI

New Zealand born Norma Bennett has a lifetime passion for miniatures. Although she was introduced to minis as a child, it was as an adult before she rediscovered the joy of dolls houses...



Modest comfort

New Zealand born Norma Bennett is a retired legal secretary with a lifetime passion for miniatures. Norma, who has lived in Sydney for 25 years, explains how she rediscovered the joy of dolls houses: "My father made me a very simple 1/48th scale single level dollhouse when I was a child, but I didn't think about miniatures as an adult until the mid-1980s, when I came across a 'how to' dolls house book in a book shop. Shortly after that, I found the Venus and Martin Dodge book of plans for houses and furniture and I was intrigued enough to try making one of my own."

Unfortunately, the Tudor-style farmhouse Norma attempted wasn't very successful, as she explained: "I used plywood of a thickness I could manage to cut, but it was too thin for the structure! I've since trashed the house, but the furniture was much more successful and I still have it in a house today." Norma put miniatures on the back burner until around 2008, when she discovered English dolls house magazines for sale in a local newsagent: "This reignited my interest, as I realised how much progress there'd been in availability of all things mini, including DIY tutorials, so I successfully set about making a new 1/16th house, a townhouse this time so that it had a smaller footprint."

Norma continued: "What really set my passion alight, though, was a magazine article in 2009 about a French house. Then I discovered miniature blogs, and spent two full days blog-hopping finding a new world of miniatures beyond anything I'd ever imagined." She was hooked! Add Pinterest to the mix, bringing fingertip access to dolls house decor inspiration, and Norma was in her element. She told me: "While life's complications have often meant that



miniatures have had to take a back seat sometimes, my interest hasn't wavered. I have more ideas for future projects running around in my head than I could ever accomplish in one lifetime!"

Norma's first major work back then was her Parisian apartment project, but: "working outside the 'traditional Victorian' miniature world presented challenges, especially finding the right style of furniture and accessories in those earlier days." The only solution was to get creative! Norma played with wood, paint, paper and fabric

to produce what she couldn't find: "I was transported to a happy place, blending layers of custom paints to get just the right complex colour finish, playing with washes and glazes to get the perfect patina. Technology has now brought the wondrous opportunity to achieve fabrics and papers just as I want them, by creating and printing my own. My happy place just got happier!"

Norma told me about her collection: "I have the 1/16th townhouse (perhaps more correctly it's a multi-roombox, because it doesn't have a front and probably never



will!) that's furnished as I imagine a house may have been in the 1920s. On the wall in the scullery is a tiny calendar I created, which has the date March 1922 circled. This is when my grandparents migrated from England to New Zealand."

Additionally, she's also working on two projects, the scratch-built Parisian apartment (which isn't quite finished yet, as Norma has decided to add an attic), and a cottage based on an altered kit, the Arthur

by Greenleaf: "I bought the Arthur kit many years ago, but didn't do anything with it as I always wanted to alter it but felt I didn't have the necessary building skills to pull it off. It went into storage and just stayed there, largely forgotten."

The Paris building has a brocante on the ground floor and two living levels above. Its double depth creates greater realism, but also poses challenges. Norma said that furnishing and decorating this apartment

has been a very slow: "Life has interrupted many times, but also a lot of my mini time is spent making furniture and accessories for other people. I'm trying to limit that and concentrate on making for myself. The thing is though that when I get 'in the groove' and just want to paint and upholster one piece after another, I end up with way more pieces than I'll ever use myself. I can get lost for days creating custom colours and finishes to achieve just the right vintage patina on a piece of furniture, or walls and floors. It has been said that I spend more time trying to achieve an aged and slightly soiled look in my miniature world (I prefer to think of it as faded elegance) than I do keeping my real world spick and span!"

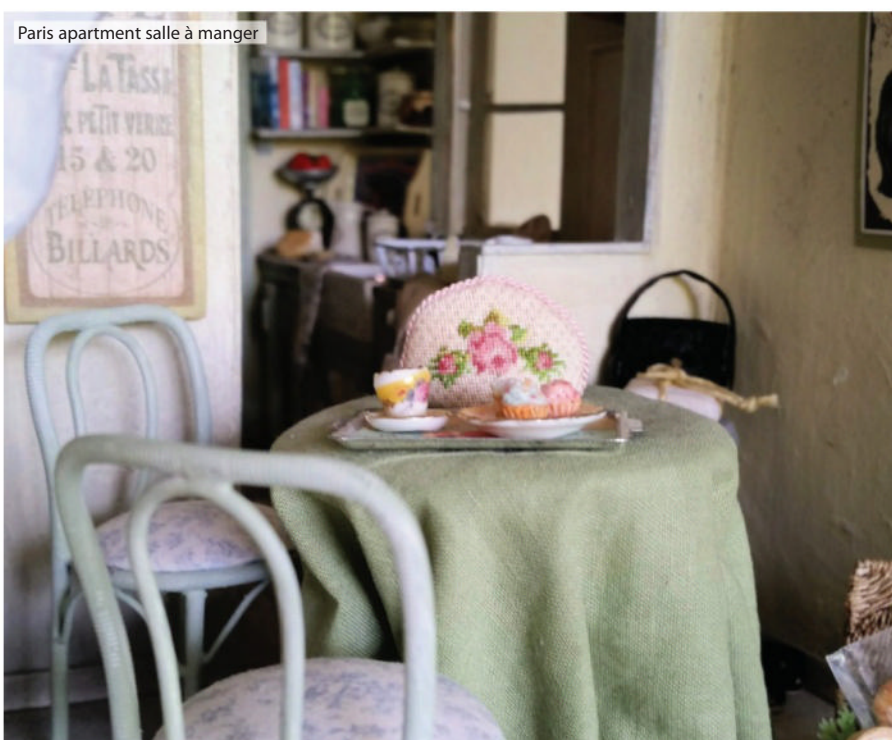
Norma continued: "I'm no computer whizz, but I can create a full sheet in the right scale from images of scraps of vintage/antique wallpapers and fabrics on the internet. I print them out, creating the perfect fabric for a



Do come in



Brocante vignette



Paris apartment salle à manger



More French fancies

piece of furniture or paper for a room. Being able to make my own upholstery fabrics, wallpapers and custom paint colours allows me to reproduce an accurately detailed room filled with interesting accessories, full of ambiance. Every detail matters – the patina of the paintwork, aged wallpaper, scuffed floors... It would probably be simpler to go for clean modern rooms, but for me it wouldn't be any fun at all! My brain just loves detail. I can't really get stuck into a project until I have a clear idea of location, who 'lives' there, their character and quirks, and why they are there. There's quite a back story for my Parisian apartment, which I published on my blog."

Norma likes to make hard work for herself! With the Greenleaf 'Arthur' kit, the first thing she did was move the stairs – which meant a rearrangement of the upstairs walls. She also changed all the windows and the door, discarded the veranda, added a fireplace and chimney, plastered the walls (smooth inside and rough outside), made 'slate' tiles for the roof and added guttering, downpipes and drains. She also added a paved patio at the front and narrow gravel pathways down both sides.

//

I don't usually concentrate so much on the outside... but I've really enjoyed the challenges, such as using an airbrush to get the patina and weathering I want on the old plaster walls.

//

Norma is a maker, creating or embellishing her own pieces, but she's also a collector: "I have a fabulous collection of accessories by talented miniaturists from around the world. We might be physically isolated down here at the bottom of the globe but with the benefit of the internet and international travel I'm very fortunate to



Potting shed paraphernalia



Powder and perfume



Vintage hat stands in the brocante



Time for tea



have acquired many wonderful pieces over the years. A very special treat was to attend the SIMP show in Paris a few years ago, and to meet and to purchase work from several miniaturists whom I've admired from afar for a long time. I was also lucky enough to meet others during our travels as far away and Russia and Denmark that same year. It's a great thrill to look into my mini rooms and be reminded of special people and faraway places. Quite a lot of pieces in my collection have been swaps or gifts and this generosity of spirit in the miniature world is one of its most endearing features." So true, Norma – so true! 🏡



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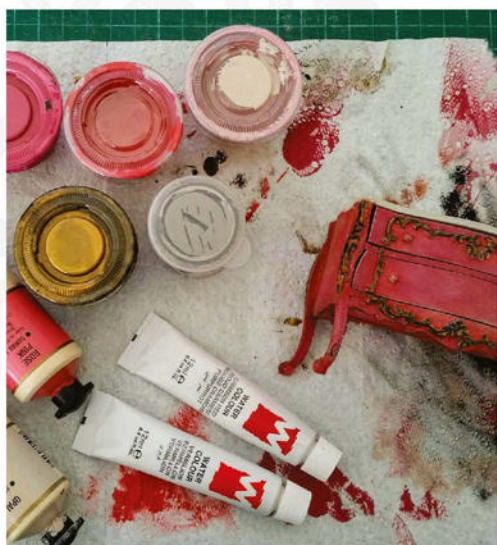
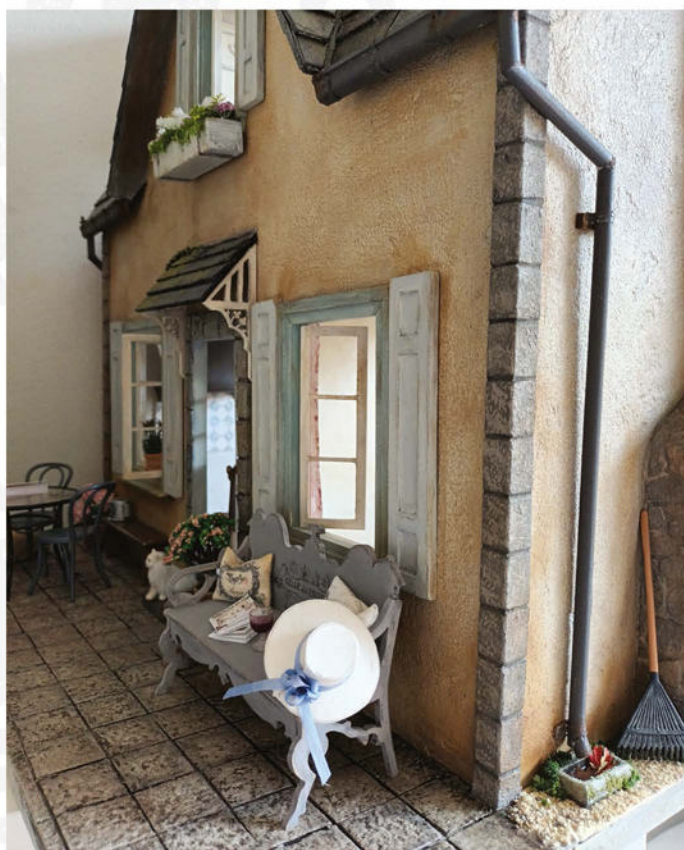
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At Home with THE BROADWOODS



ONE KIT, TWO WAYS!

This month, professional miniaturist Bea Broadwood once again focuses on the smallest of the popular dolls house scales. With the help of her very latest 1/144th scale dolls house kit, she shows how one design can be transformed into two completely contrasting display pieces.

► Le Manoir Des Saisons in 1/144th



As miniaturists, I think it is in our DNA to like tiny things. Of all the popular dolls house scales, 1/144th is by far the tiniest, but that doesn't make it the most popular. Often also referred to as 'micro scale', 1/144th dolls houses are frequently seen as miniature accessories for 1/12th scale houses; giving rise to the term 'a dolls house for a dolls house'. Indeed, a multitude of PP's popular 1/144th shabby chic dolls houses now grace 1/12th scale nurseries and toy shops all over the world. But I think these teeny tiny creations can be so much more than that!



A recap of the maths bit...

Before I go any further, I'll just pause and recap on the maths behind the scale. 1/144th translates to; 1ft in real life = 1/12 of an inch in the dolls house world. Or for those of you who prefer to work in metric measurements; (approximately) 30cm = 2.2mm

Ok, so as we've already established, working in this scale means working on some pretty small miniatures, but if you are running out of display space, this scale is ideal! The advancement of technology and the arrival of both laser cutters and

◀ PP's 1/148th Marshalswick House adapted for N gauge model railway layouts

3D printers have created somewhat of a boom for this often-neglected dolls house scale. 1/144th also has a close cousin in the model railway world (1/148th), meaning that outdoor accessories and landscaping items are readily and cheaply available online.

"Many miniaturists are a little scared to work in the smaller scales. But honestly, once you get into the swing of it, it's not hard at all. All you need is a good set of tweezers, a good light and a fine tip glue applicator, then you're good to go!" Bea.

Town house or rural idyll?

Back in 2012, we launched our very first 1/144th dolls house kit and over the years since, we have steadily added to our range. Over the last few years, we have taken inspiration from architecture across the channel and released a flurry of shabby chic town houses and shops. Le Manoir Des Saisons (The Manor of the Seasons) is the fifth addition to our micro Dolls House Collection.

Inspired by elegant French architecture, this brand-new design can be finished to represent either a sophisticated town house or a romantic rural idyll.



▲ Love shabby chic? Then an elegant display plinth could be the ideal finishing touch

When working in 1/144th there are obvious limits to the type of exterior finishes that can be applied due to size. However, I prefer to think of this as one of the

advantages of working in this scale.

In other words... when it comes to bringing a micro kit to life; keep it SIMPLE! There is no need to use complicated techniques. Applying simplistic paint effects or brick papers can achieve some really fast, effective and fabulous results.

Once I had finished designing our new French manor house, I decided it would be fun to take our new kit and finish it in two completely different styles. For the town house version of Le Manoir Des Saisons, I simply painted the exterior. I chose a limited colour palette consisting of only three colours; pale green, off white and medium grey. I applied the paint to the exterior using a small cosmetic sponge, which helped to add a very subtle texture to the finished surface. I used soft grey/brown eye shadow to gently distress both the house and the base.

For the rural version, I stuck a matt finish brick paper onto the exterior using PVA adhesive. Applying a faux brick finish, completely changes the look and feel of a house and the benefit of using a matt paper is that it can be easily and quickly distressed too. To distress mine, I sparingly rubbed a little dirty brown eye shadow onto the brick paper and external details. The result; instant weathering!

▼ Cosmetic sponges are great for adding subtle texture



▲ Cosmetic sponges are great for adding subtle texture

It's all about the base!

Along with 'Le Manoir Des Saisons', we have also released two very different new display bases to choose from; both of which have been specially designed or adapted for our new little manor house. Our new display plinth is an elegant option and I used the same colour palette on this base as I have on the house, in order to marry the two individual kits together.

Alternatively, if you fancy creating a little garden scene for your manor, why not have a go at landscaping our tiny Topiary Garden Base? It takes up no more space than a drinks coaster and is incredibly easy to bring to life. I used leftover dregs of landscaping scatter and made assorted topiary bushes and trees from air dry clay. Of course, you don't have to buy a kit base, you could always make your own from foam core board or thick card!

▼ The Topiary Garden in 1/144th



Make super simple tiny topiary!

1/144th tiny topiary is so easy to make and is the perfect finishing touch for any formal miniature garden...

Conical trees



YOU WILL NEED

Materials required

- Air dry clay (any colour will do)
- Fine dry sand
- Thin wire
- PVA adhesive
- Dark green paint
- Cold melt glue gun (optional)

1 Mould tiny pieces of the clay into the required shape*.

2 When dry, paint with PVA adhesive.

3 Sprinkle dry sand over the wet adhesive, until all the clay is covered. Leave to dry.

4 Apply two coats of dark green paint. Allow the paint to dry between coats.

5 If you want to add super fine flower scatter, sprinkle the scatter over the topiary whilst the second coat of paint is still tacky.

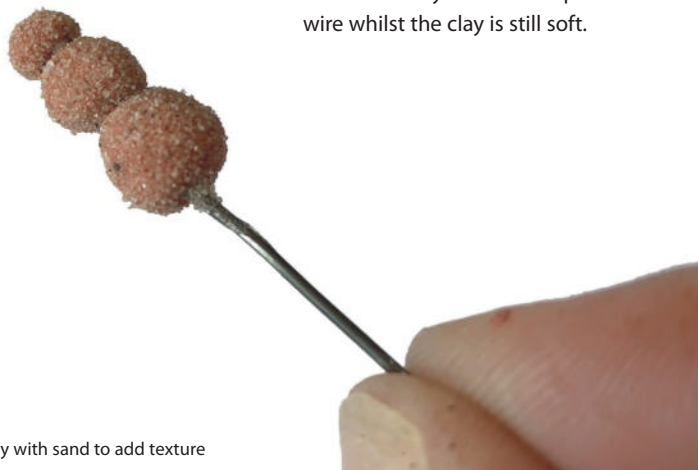
6 Stick into position in your formal garden using a cold melt glue gun.

Sculptured topiary bushes



*To make ball-shaped topiary trees, stick three clay balls onto a piece of wire whilst the clay is still soft.

Cover the dry clay with sand to add texture



So there you have it, one kit... two ways.

Yes 1/144th dolls houses make great accessories for larger 1/12th houses, but they also look fantastic displayed as a standalone miniature in their own right. The beauty of working in this delicate scale is that one little kit will provide you with so many fun 'crafting hours'.

Whether you like to work on a lap tray or maybe you take your miniature making outdoors, working in 1/144th means that you don't need armfuls of materials or tools. Off cuts, dregs and leftovers will do! But be warned... landscaping in this teeny scale is just as addictive as its quarter scale cousin! So, if the sun shines this August, why not escape to somewhere cool and have a go at some teeny-tiny gardening instead. 🏡

MISSED LAST ISSUE?

Don't worry! Head to our website and you'll find our previous issue www.dollhouseandminiaturescene.co.uk



INFO

Website



www.petite-properties.com

Online shop



www.petitepropertiesltd.com

Telephone number



01526 320 958

Mini homes

A dolls house for a dolls house fits in almost anywhere, so we can easily indulge our mini dreams. I've long admired the elegant, old brick townhouses that line a tree-shaded street in my home town. Yet, another intriguing and very different style is the hooded gable Alpine chalet, with its ancient house-over-barn design, all sheltered by an ample overhanging roof. There's an old saying, "When in doubt, do both", so I did! These diminutive renditions, though only half as deep as their real-life counterparts, will delight the children in my Edwardian day nursery.



Photos by Stephen Lesbirel

YOU WILL NEED

Materials required

- Matt board
- Lightweight card
- Clear stiff acetate
- Round wooden cocktail sticks
- HO 2x6 and 6x6 stripwood (or additional cocktail sticks)
- Suede-textured paper
- Finely corrugated card
- Shiny silver card
- Grass-cloth paper
- Tiny green pom-poms
- Green felt
- Brown, black and grey scrap paper
- White, brick, light grey, charcoal, cream, brown and beige acrylic paint
- Gold and brown ultra-fine tipped Sharpie pens
- White gel pen & white glue

Tools required

- Knife and steel ruler
- Ball stylus
- Emery board
- Scallop-edged scissors
- Painter's tape

TOWNHOUSE

1 Cut two 1-3/16in (30mm) by 3in (76mm) side walls, a 1-1/4in (32mm) by 1-3/4in (44mm) roof, and a 5/16in (8mm) by 1-5/8in (41mm) basement back wall from matt board. Cut the three floors and the front from matt board, and the bay projection with its attached roof portion from card following the template. Score and fold the bay. Paint the main roof, bay roof and the roof portion at the top of the front wall charcoal, the basement portion of the front, bay, sides, and back grey, and the central portion of the front, the bay, and the side walls brick. Cut the window openings with a sharp knife.

2 Paint the inside of the walls and bay and the floors cream. Cut slightly larger 'glass' for the window over the door and to span the three bay windows on each level from clear acetate. Score and fold the acetate pieces to fit inside the folded bay. Mark a window centre cross piece with a white gel pen on the acetate for each window. Let it dry. Edge glue the acetate behind the openings. Paint a small piece of card brick and cut a narrow strip from it with scallop-edged scissors. Cut it in pieces and glue it over the windows as fancy outside brick trim.



3 Cut a 1/4in (6mm) by 5/8in (16mm) door from scrap paper. Emboss door panels. Mark the brass kickplate at the bottom and dot on a knob with the gold Sharpie pen. Glue the door to the front (see the template). Add scallop-edged trim above the door. Glue 13/16in (21mm) long grey painted cocktail stick pillars to the front on either side of the door. Cut two 1/8in (3mm) by 1/2in (13mm) overdoor matt board pieces, glue them together and paint them grey. Trim the top edge with a grey painted HO strip. Glue this overdoor trim to the front over the door and onto the pillar tops.

Ruth's Top Tip

"The moistened tip of a cocktail stick makes it easier to pick up and place tiny pieces."

4 Glue white painted HO strip cornice/floor supports where shown on the interior of the side walls. Glue suede paper drapery strips beside and above the windows, concealing the acetate edges. Cut the mantel pieces from matt board. Glue a mantel shelf atop each mantel and a contrast colour behind the opening. Glue these assemblies to the walls a floor thickness above the floor supports. Glue a 1/4in (6mm) square silver card mirror above each mantel. Glue suede paper area rugs onto the floors.

Ruth's Top Tip

"Don't forget the inside door, as I did! I added it from the back, guiding it into place with a cocktail stick."

5 Glue the back basement wall between the sides against the floor supports. Glue the lower floor onto its supports and the back basement wall. Glue the two upper floors onto their supports. Glue the front against the sides and floor edges. Glue the bay's side roof tabs to the inside of the top of the bay sides. Glue the edges of the bay against the front wall opening, the floor edges, and the roof portion of the front.

6 Paint an 8in (203mm) length of HO stripwood grey and from it cut masonry trim strips to span the front, including the bay window projection. Glue these to the front. Cut the 1/2in (13mm) wide by 3/8in (10mm) high stairs from corrugated card. Cut two stair side extended triangles from matt board and glue the stairs between their slants. Glue a card top step onto the side extensions of the stairs.



Paint this assembly grey and glue it to the front wall centred on the door.

7 Cut two 1/4in (6mm) by 3/8in (10mm) chimney pieces from matt board, glue them together and paint them brick colour. Glue the roof onto the top of the walls. Glue the chimney onto the roof centred on the mantels below. Remove excess glue with a cocktail stick tip and touch up the paint on the finished structure.



Ruth's Top Tip

"A speck of paint on the tip of a cocktail stick works well for tiny corrections.."

8 Cut the 1-3/4in (44mm) square base from matt board and green felt. Glue the felt to the matt board and the house to the centre back. Although you wouldn't normally landscape a dolls house, I couldn't resist a bit of trim. Glue green mini pompom(s) at the base of the bay window projection or beside the stairs as small shrubs. 🌱



CHALET (SEE THE CUTTING LIST)

9 Cut the barn floor, front, and sides from matt board and paint the walls cream outside, beige inside. Cut out the windows. Cut the door and two 1/4in (6mm) high by 5/16in (8mm) wide window covers from brown scrap paper. Emboss vertical boards and mark strap hinges. Emboss a line 1/16in (2mm) from the edge of the longer side, fold it and glue this overhang at the side edge of each window, hinging outward. Glue the door beside one window. Glue beige-painted grass-cloth to the floor. Cut 3/32in (2mm) high corner quoins and lintels from grey scrap paper. Cut 1/16in (2mm) casings from brown scrap paper. Glue the lintels and casings around the windows and door. Glue the floor between the sides. Glue the front against the edges of the floor and sides. Glue the quoins wrapping the corners.

10 Cut a 3/16in (5mm) by 1in (25mm) stairs from corrugated card and paint them brown. Cut the wood store pattern from card, paint it cream and define log ends with a brown Sharpie pen. Score and fold the wood store. Glue the stairs to its slant and a strip of brown scrap paper along the edge of the stairs. Glue this assembly to the front, even with the right-hand side.

11 Cut the front and sides from matt board. Cut out the windows. Paint the walls cream. Cut the extended floor and railing pieces from matt board and paint them brown. Cut out the stairwell opening. Cut casings, a door and a long timber strip from brown scrap paper. Cut acetate window 'glass' and edge glue it to the inside of the walls. Make another staircase as before. Add the door, casings, and randomly-



spaced vertical timber strips. Glue the front to the edges of the sides. Glue the stairs against the front wall, with the bottom 1/2in (13mm) from the right side. Glue this assembly atop the floor, with the back edges even and equal side overhangs. Glue the railings against the floor edges and the floor onto the barn.

12 Cut the upper floor, railing, railing trim pieces and front wall from matt board. Cut out the stairwell opening and the window. Paint the wall and trim pieces cream and the floor and railing brown. Prepare the door, window and timber strips as for the main level. Glue the trims against the railing ends. Glue vertical timber strips to the walls and paint them on the railing trims. Glue this railing against the edge of the floor. Glue the front wall to the floor at the back edge of the stairwell. Glue this level onto the lower structure.



13 Cut the roof from matt board. Score and fold the roof in half and glue the gable hood to the edges of the front. Trial-fit the roof on the walls. Snip the top of the front wall if needed for a tighter fit. Glue grass-cloth paper overhanging the assembled roof as thatch. Paint it beige. Glue the roof onto the upper floor and front wall, even with the back edge.

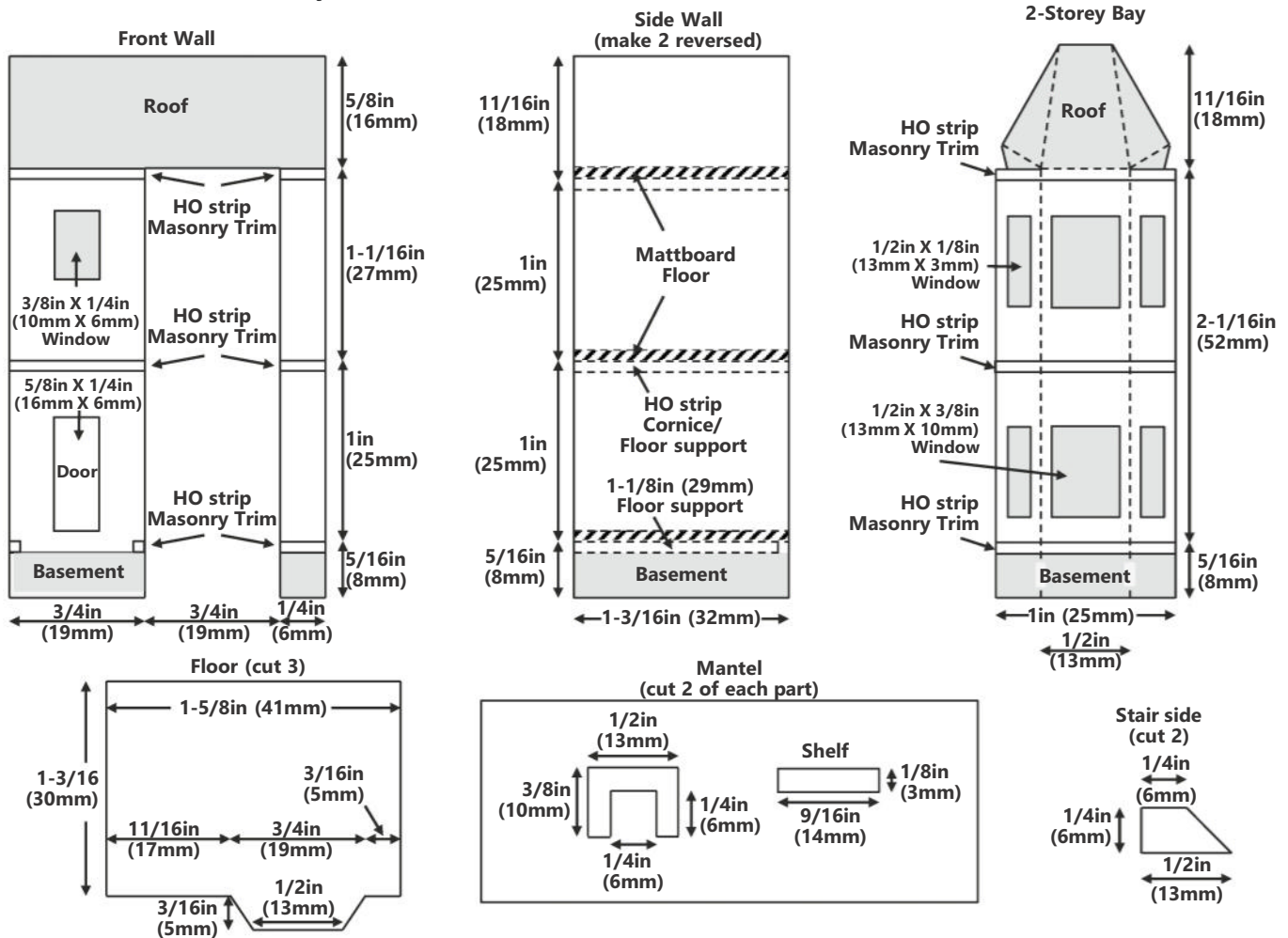
14 Cut the matt board base and a same size piece of felt. Glue the felt to the base. Cut and glue four brown painted square HO pillar strips vertically under the main floor's front railing, against the wood store, as supports. Glue the structure to the back right corner. Glue a beige scrapbook paper piece to the felt as a side path to the barn door and house stairs. Add pom-pom shrubs behind the path.

MICRO CHALET MATTBOARD CUTTING LIST

Description	Qty	Imperial	Metric	Notes (also see template)
base	1	1-3/4in x 3-1/4in	44mm x 83mm	Glue green felt atop
roof	1	1-1/2in x 5in	38mm x 127mm	Score ridge and fold in half
gable hood	1	1/2in x 1in	13mm x 25mm	Right-angle triangle
barn floor	1	1-3/16in x 2-3/8in	30mm x 60mm	Glue on grass-cloth, paint beige
barn front	1	3/4in x 2-1/2in	19mm x 64mm	Add wood store and stairs
barn side	2	3/4in x 1-3/16in	19mm x 30mm	Cut windows as shown
main level floor	1	1-1/2in x 3in	38mm x 76mm	Cut-out for top of stairs
main level front	1	11/16in x 2-1/2in	17mm x 64mm	Add door and stairs
main level side	2	11/16in x 1-3/16in	17mm x 30mm	Cut windows as shown
main level front railing	1	3/16in x 3-1/8in	5mm x 79mm	Edge glue to floor
main level side railing	2	3/16in x 1-1/2in	5mm x 38mm	Butt against front railing
upper level floor	1	1-1/2in x 2-1/2in	38mm x 64mm	Cut-out for top of stairs
upper level front	1	1-1/4in x 2-1/2in	32mm x 64mm	Right-angle triangle
upper level front railing	1	3/16in x 2in	5mm x 51mm	Edge glue to floor centre
upper level railing trim	1	3/16in x 3/16in	5mm x 5mm	Cut diagonally, add to railing ends

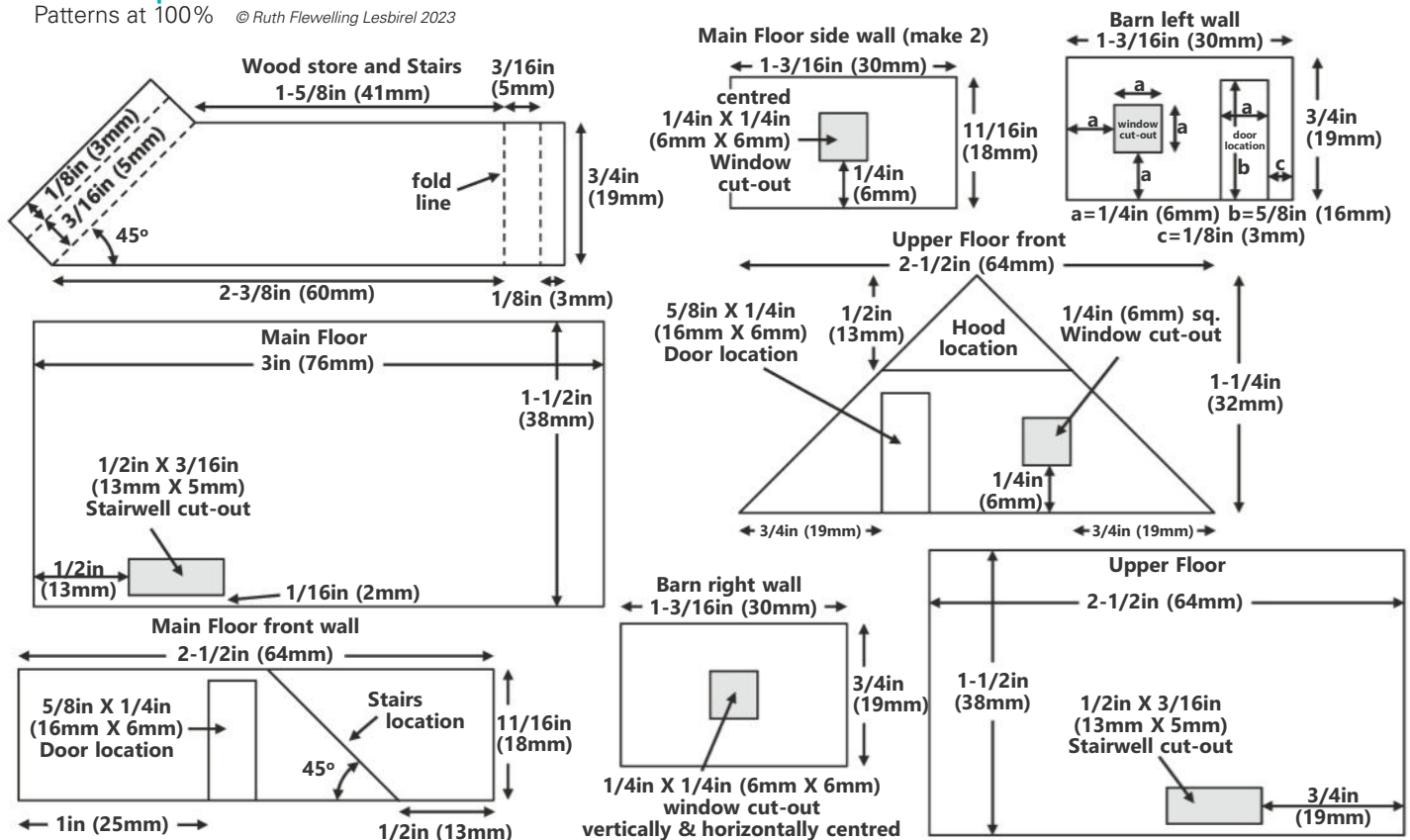
Townhouse Template

Patterns at 100% © Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel 2023



Chalet Template

Patterns at 100% © Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel 2023



Special *staycation* Part 2

Not going abroad this year or are you venturing to the UK? We have plenty ideas to keep you entertained! Following last month's part 1, Moi started with Scotland and headed through the north of England. This month, she heads further south venturing around the rest of England and also Wales.



A mountain of dolls houses at the V&A



Elizabethan House Hever Castle & Gardens



Boulangerie Patisserie at the V&A.



Queen Mary's library

Starting in the capital, London, you will find a treat in store at the V&A Museum of Childhood (but note that this museum is in a totally different part of London to the V&A in Kensington). Here you will find dolls houses galore, as well as toys and games of yesteryear. The museum houses the United Kingdom's national collection of childhood-related objects, one of the finest in the world. As the museum offers free entry, this is a day out that won't break the bank! The museum has been closed for three years for refurbishment, but is due to reopen in July 2023 – but check that it has re-opened before you visit!

V&A Museum of Childhood
Cambridge Heath Road
London E2 9PA

Our next port of call is Kent, and Hever Castle (the childhood home of Anne Boleyn), reachable by train from Victoria and London Bridge stations. As well as the stunning castle, you can visit a unique collection of 1/12th scale model houses made by the talented John J. Hodgson, who recently sadly passed away. The models are part of a permanent display. Each house is an architecturally perfect copy of a house from a particular historic period, designed to illustrate the development of English country houses through the ages, from Tudor to Victorian times.

Another short train ride from London, you will find not one but two miniature attractions in Windsor. The jewel in the crown of all miniatures has to be the truly stunning Queen Mary's dolls house at Windsor Castle. It was created for Queen Mary, consort to King George V, by the renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens – with electricity, running water and functioning lifts. It is spectacular!

Windsor Castle
Windsor Castle
Castle Hill
Windsor
SL4 1PD

Tower Bridge at Legoland Windsor



Tower Bridge at Legoland Windsor



Legoland Coronation handout

Nearby is 'Miniland' at LEGOLAND Windsor. You might think Lego is for kids, but the level of detail and skill achieved in the Lego rendition of some of England's finest buildings, from village cottages to some of its biggest landmarks – such as Big Ben and Tower Bridge – is nothing short of jaw-dropping. It's not just England you will find in perfect miniature form. Check out the canals of Amsterdam and India's Taj Mahal, all created in perfect painstaking detail from little coloured plastic bricks!

LEGOLAND Windsor
Winkfield Rd
Windsor
SL4 4AY



Judges Lodgings Lancaster

Keep heading south to the attractive city of Lancaster, and Judges' Lodgings Museum, located within the city's oldest town house. The top floor houses the Museum of Childhood, and the collection of toys includes vintage and antique dolls houses. The 1/12th scale model of the Judges' Lodgings is a treat, and there are some delightful Victorian dolls houses, as well as more contemporary models from the 1950s and 1960s.

Judges' Lodgings Museum
Church Street
Lancaster
LA1 1YS

Bath Crescent at Babbacombe ©BNPS



Fire breathing dragon at Babbacombe



Right down at the bottom of England, we find ourselves in Devon for cream teas galore – and a wonderful, award-winning outdoor model village! Opened in 1963 on a four-acre site near Torquay, Babbacombe Model Village is set in beautiful miniature landscaped gardens. It has over 400 1/12th scale buildings and over 1,000 feet of model railway track. There are buildings of every type and era. Perhaps the 'oldest' is the scaled down Stonehenge, a perfect copy of the historic attraction on Salisbury Plain. There's also a castle, zoo, mini medieval mansion

house, village cricket scene, and even modern architecture, including a wind farm and a housing estate.

Babbacombe Model Village
Hampton Avenue
Torquay
Devon

EXCLUSIVE GIVEAWAY!

Win **FOUR** complimentary tickets to visit Babbacombe Model Village (one ticket for four people valid for a single visit any day until 31st December 2023. Check website for opening times. The prize has no cash value and there is no cash or prize alternative.) The prize also includes a pair of free tickets for Hever Castle and Gardens!

To enter, simply visit www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk and click on giveaways!

Competition closes 31st August 2023. Good luck!

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



Anglesey was neglected but now it shines



Restored to former glory at Anglesey

That's some of England's highlights covered, but let's not forget Wales. In Anglesey you can visit Anglesey Model Village, first opened in 1992. The original owners retired in 2015 and the site closed. For over three years the elements took their toll and it fell into disrepair. Fortunately, it was purchased by an enthusiastic couple who wanted to escape the rat race and run a tourist attraction in a tranquil area. They have comprehensively restored it to its former glory – and some!

Anglesey Model Village
Newborough
Llanfairpwllgwyll
Anglesey
LL61 6RS.

In the neighbouring county of Buckinghamshire is Bekonscot, the oldest miniature village in the world. Opened in the 1920s, it comprises seven little towns stuck in a charming 1930s time warp, spread over 1.5 acres of lovely gardens. From coal mines to castles, you will find more than 200 buildings.

Bekonscot
Warwick Road
Beaconsfield
HP9 2PL

Bourton-on-the-Water in the Cotswolds showcases typical charming local stone buildings in miniature (1/9th scale). There are many listed buildings in the full-size Cotswolds, but the miniature village as a whole is also Grade II listed! It even has its own model village within the model village!

Bourton-on-the-Water
Cheltenham
GL54 2AF

Moving now to Dorset and Wimborne, you can visit a 1/10th scale reproduction of the real town of Wimborne Minster as it was in the 1950s. Containing over 300 models, it has 100-plus shops – luggage shops, jewellers, wool shops, greengrocers, post office, gents' outfitters, shoe shops, drapers, bakeries, toy and sweet shops, chemists, cycle shops, car showroom, coke and coal merchant, hairdressers and barbers, watchmakers, opticians, a charming TV and radio shop with a Bush 'box' TV in the window, a branch of Woolworths ... plus pubs and banks. From the miniature public toilets comes the distinctive sound of flushing WCs! The red phone box emits a ringing sound. The organ can be heard playing in the Minster, where a wedding is taking place. Listen to the church bells chime on the hour.

16 King Street
Wimborne
Dorset
BH21 1DY 🏠

MISSED LAST ISSUE?

Did you miss Moi's tour around venues in Scotland and the north of England last month? Head to our website to purchase the July issue!

www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk



Join our *community*



Joanne Garwell, Editor

The ultimate guide to all things miniature, *Dolls House & Miniature Scene* offers incredible step-by-step projects, inspiring features and interviews with skilled miniaturists. Join our community to discover even more inspiration and top tips from experts in the industry. We can't wait for you to join us!



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DON'T MISS

brand-new subscriber-exclusive emails!

Our latest email featured a step-by-step project by Amy Christie (AKA @gramson_manor_miniatures on Instagram), showing you how to decoupage the top of a piece of vintage furniture to give it a little 'spruce' up!



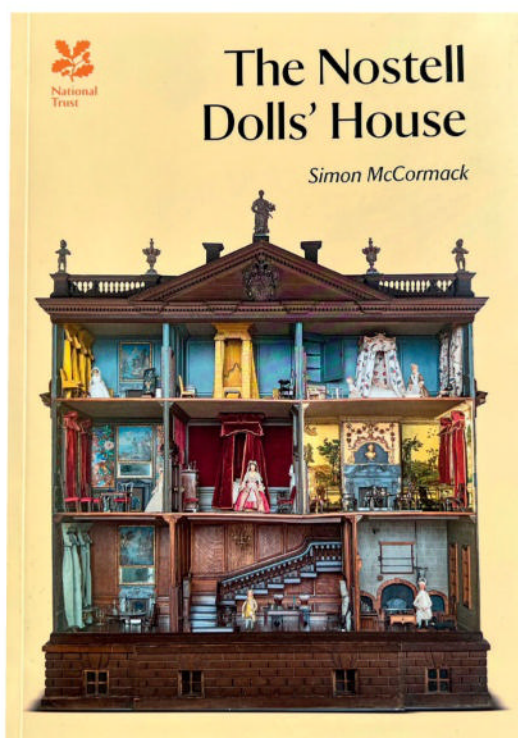
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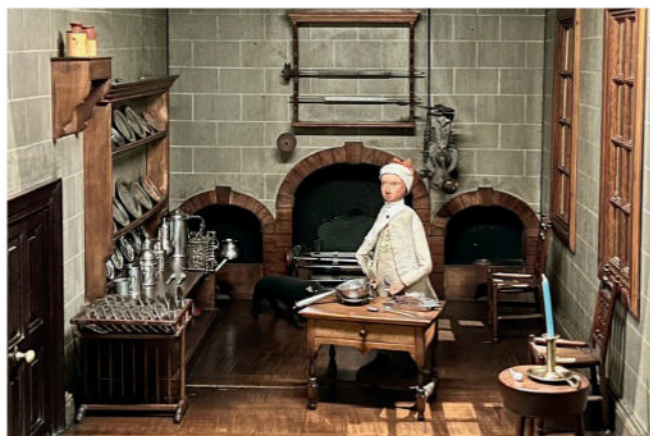
A good read

Moi Ali finds some summer reading that won't bust your baggage allowance!



► Nostell Kitchen

▼ Stunning interiors



If you read last month's issue, you will have the Nostell dolls house on your shortlist of places to see this summer. This lovely little book is the perfect accompaniment to your visit to this Yorkshire gem. It's a pocket sized history that you can read in advance of your trip, to get the historic information upfront

– but equally good, pick up a copy in the gift shop to read when you get home, as I did!

Despite its small size (it is just 48 pages long), the book itself is printed on silky smooth, quality paper. It contains beautiful photography throughout, showing the house and contents. Written by Simon McCormack, a National Trust curator at Nostell, it opens with a brief history of dolls houses, before moving on to outline the history of the

Nostell dolls house and the many treasures within. The book ends with the fascinating challenges of conserving such an important miniature marvel for future generations.

If you are unlucky enough not to be able to pay a visit to Nostell, this surely is the next best thing. And at just £6.50, it's this pocket-sized guide comes in at a pocket money price! Available from <https://shop.nationaltrust.org.uk/nostell-doll-s-house-book.html>

Did you Know?

The Nostell dolls house dates to around 1735 and is one of the best examples of its kind, containing nine elegant, fully furnished rooms arranged across three storeys.

Nostell
Doncaster Road
Nostell
Near Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF4 1QE

EXCLUSIVE GIVEAWAY!

ENTER OUR EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

to win a family pass (two adults and two children) to see the Nostell dolls house for yourself or any other National Trust venue during normal opening times – and get a free book on the dolls house as part of the prize!

To enter, simply visit www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk and click on giveaways

Competition closes 31st August 2023. Good luck!

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



▲ Josie's 'three little darlings'. 'Orchid' and 'Herrington' houses bookend the 'Dear Josie' shop

Making changes

Explore a world of Scandinavian contemporary style as we discover how miniature art kept the sun shining for artisan, Josie Rosell.

New challenges

When Swedish artisan Josie Rosell told her 18,000 followers on social media that she was literally pulling her hair whilst building a miniature staircase you know that not only are you safe in the knowledge that even our top miniaturists struggle with these fiddly aspects of creativity, but you also realise you're in great company. Fun and vibrant, Josie's enthusiasm for her craft

is infectious. She first came to miniature art after her beloved mother suffered what she describes as a devastating stroke in early 2020, changing their lives. She cites her newfound passion for smallscale as a cathartic lifeline during what was an emotional and challenging time. "It became a way for me to deal with the situation and it was very therapeutic," she tells me. "Being able to be creative, in my

personal depression, really helped me and I've been totally hooked ever since. Later the pandemic hit and my work as a nurse assistant was, during those years, horrible and I basically quit my job because I wanted to do something that made me happy inside, being my own boss, and take control over my own life. Life is too short not to enjoy it! 2020 was the start of a real life changer in so many ways." 

'Valentina Wood'. Josie's upside-down house



▲ Open for business

Topsy turvy

In just three years, Josie has built an astounding ten dolls houses and made countless accessories, many of which are now in collections scattered across the globe. She's also currently working on a smallscale replica of Petit Marche, a popular store in Stockholm filled with the aroma of the flowers and coffee on sale, and which features the added complication of a curved roof! There is one house which leaves you



▲ On display. The interior of Dear Josie Miniatures



▲ A good read

with a particularly lasting impression. 'Valentina Wood', with its upstairs open plan living space is almost as unrecognisable as the Ikea FLISAT kit. "In the beginning I made a number of FLISAT, every one with its unique style. Valentina Wood was my fifth house," says Josie, recalling her desire to combine huge floor to ceiling windows with the existing high roof space as the main influence behind her design. "None of my previous houses had that kind of detail and it was really fun making it."

Rather than using the back wall of the FLISAT kit, Josie created her own using 5mm foamboard, a material she found easy to work with, enabling her to easily incorporate the large windows within the design. "It turned out exactly what I wanted it to be, and the result was amazing!" The open plan upstairs living space might have proved the original inspiration for Valentina Wood, but that doesn't mean the stylish downstairs bedroom doesn't give it a run for its money! Complete with trendy feature headboard, checkerboard tiled floor, and a gorgeous bear sculpture supporting the small bedside table, this is a room which has jumped straight from the pages of a lifestyle blog. "I very much find inspiration from real-life homes, mostly from different interior design



'Herrington House' depicts quality Scandinavian architecture



Josie has more than earned her miniature stripes



Say it with flowers and blueberry cheesecake



This vintage style meat safe finds new life in the contemporary kitchen



▲ Cheers! The ultimate in contemporary storage

accounts on Instagram and other times I just see a vision in my head how I want it to look and I'll work from that. The bedroom of Valentina Wood was just like that. I wanted a down to earth kind of feeling with light wooden floors, white stone walls and black industrial windows, and the marvellous black and white forest wallpaper was such an eye catcher!"

Stairway to frustration

Josie's collection also includes not one but two Greenleaf Orchid dolls houses. These have both been extensively remodelled from the kits original design. "The first one, 'The Orchid House' had a new ground base, the floor was lowered, and the front was extended with a new entrance. I removed the including stairs that came along with the kit and I closed that opening to get more space inside." It was whilst building the staircase for the second Orchid kit, which became her gorgeous miniature shop, 'Dear Josie', that her patience was severely tested. "My god, that staircase really put me over the edge of my non-existing patience. What a challenge it was! Math wasn't my best subject in school and it turned out that making a dolls house staircase is all about math. I made that staircase a hundred times before I was happy with it." The shop was designed as a showcase for the handcrafted miniatures sold through Josie's thriving Etsy store. "I think it's a cool and funny way to show what can be bought in a mini version of my shop." The store's online counterpart stocks a wide range of beautiful homeware, including a wine glass rack which fits below your miniature kitchen cupboards, something I've never seen before in smallscale. It's this sparky imagination which enabled Josie to make substantial alterations to a kit she was gifted by a British dolls house company. A traditional house given a contemporary makeover; 'Bianca Wood' again features floor to ceiling windows running the entire length of the gable. Josie also added the glass porch and balcony, alongside new windows and doors. "The whole house was finally covered with new wooden panel. You couldn't believe it was the same house. It turned out to be unique and one of a kind. It was huge and super heavy!"

A Swedish classic

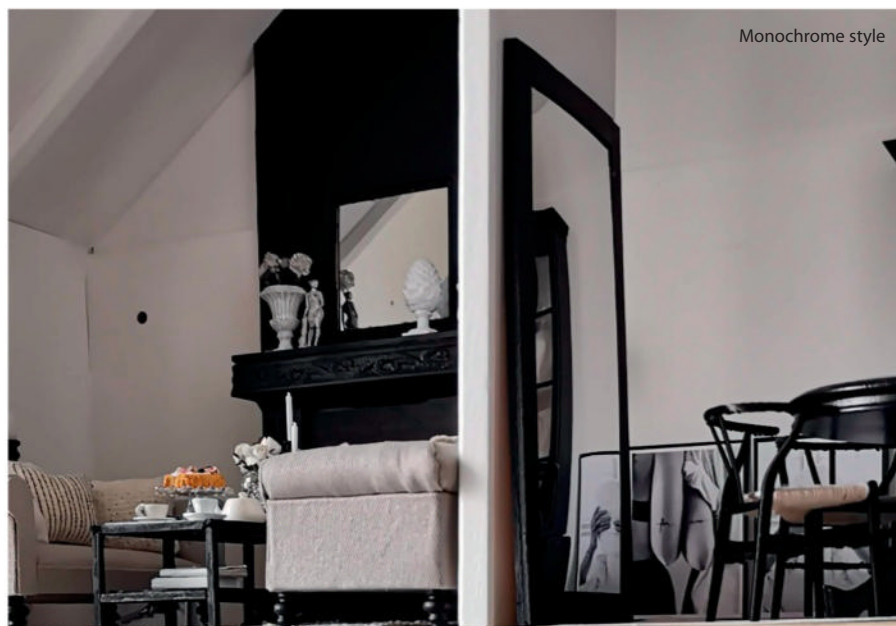
As the home of Lundby, one of the most famous dolls house brands, I was keen to discover if Sweden has a thriving miniature scene. Josie discusses online stores belonging to fellow Scandinavian miniaturists but [read more](#)



▲ 'Bianca Wood'



▲ Josie describes the 'Bianca Wood' kitchen as her favourite



Josie took this staircase step by step



Scaled down by Josie, this was originally a full-size wallpaper



▲ Anyone for coffee?



▲ You'd dig your heels in to make this luxurious dressing room your own



▲ Welcome to Josie's world



▲ Fall asleep in comfort

also points out an interesting new trend regarding Lundby's 1/18th scale. "It's more of a children's toy than for adult collectors as Lundby furniture and dolls are originally made of plastic" she explains, going on to say that she's recently noticed an increase in collectors requesting handcrafted pieces in 1/18th scale. "It shows that more adults have started with their own dolls houses and not just for their kids. I actually added the Lundby size to all of my item listings on Etsy, because of the changing demand from customers."

Josie's customers aren't the only ones looking to smaller scales to create their miniature worlds. Josie herself is, for the first time, diverging from the mainstream

1/12th scale as she hopes to make 'Fairfield House', a much smaller 1/24th scale kit, her summer project. "I've always said that if I ever made a 1/24th dolls house it would be that particular one, so I'm very excited about it! I have some ideas of course and it will definitely include some structural changes as well," she smiles. "My preferred scale right now is 1/12th scale because it's the only one I've been doing, but there's a possibility I'll change my mind once started. It's super tiny, takes up a smaller space, and it's a fun challenge making something you've never done before."

For those taking up a new smallscale challenge themselves this summer, especially those looking to begin creating their own

miniatures for the very first time, Josie has some excellent guidance. "Don't be scared of trying, start small with low expectations and go from there. Try not to compare yourself to others, use colours you like and try to find your personal style." She also points out that it's important to remember things don't always go right and some days nothing goes to plan. "Just leave it be and try again another day. You can't have your mojo every day and even the sun has its spots. You live and you learn, and every hiccup and mistake along the way are necessary for your development." These are words which will resonate in many aspects of our lives, and as Josie has proved, even when the sun has its dark spots in life, it still continues to shine. 🏠

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Repurposed and refinished rustic charm

New contributor Kim Finch continues her tour of her miniature home, Tiny House, this issue discussing how she came to repurpose unused furniture...



During the isolation of 2020's quarantine, I took a leap of faith and invested a modest sum of money into a vacant, pre-assembled Duracraft Cambridge dolls house, coupled with a miscellaneous assortment of mismatched mini furnishings. The inaugural photograph I snapped within my new Tiny House, as I named it, was a slightly blurred image of the kitchen. The focal point of the fuzzy photo was a charmingly miniscule, white draining board sink tucked behind a staircase that was rather too large for the cozy room.

This kitchen, small in stature but abundant with possibilities, was destined to serve as the heartbeat of my tiny home. It also marked my debut in the world of 1/12th scale crafting and furniture making. I dove in by eliminating the existing stock wallpaper, removing the stairs to the second floor, and concealing the resulting ceiling gap using a blend of card and spackle. Almost instantly, my compact kitchen appeared to double in size, presenting more room for a future much-dreamt-of pantry filled with all my family's favourite foods.

In my first act of miniature masonry, I adorned my kitchen walls with 'stone' using a simple painted egg carton technique, an aesthetic success that I shared in last month's July issue of Dolls House and Miniature Scene.

The particular piece that stole my heart was the tiny farmhouse draining board sink. I decided to refurbish it 





by using my hairdryer to gently melt the glue and separate the draining board from the sink base. I then painted the sink base a serene moss green, and upon drying, affixed petite golden knobs on the cabinet doors and drawers.

Centring the sink base under the kitchen window added a pleasing symmetry. I desired a way to display my assortment of pint-sized copperware, and the solution presented itself in the form of a miniature stained bedroom dresser. A quick sanding along with a lick of green paint, removal of the drawers and voila - it transformed into an open-faced cabinet. It was perfectly sized to match the sink's width and when aligned at a 90-degree angle on the floor, added an architectural interest.



With proper measuring, I crafted a countertop template using brown card. Using a utility knife, I carved the final design from a thin basswood sheet, sourced from my local hobby shop. After sanding the edges of the basswood countertop, it then received multiple layers of stain and varnish. Sitting back to admire my handiwork on my

first ever bespoke miniature, I was hit by a comic realization - I had overlooked the sinkhole! Taking it in my stride, I chuckled at this inevitable novice blunder in the dolls house world. With my countertop now sporting a suitable hole, I affixed the draining board sink using wood glue and secured the countertop to my repurposed

cabinets. So easy, so quick and so unique!

And with that, my advice is don't hesitate to think outside the dolls house! Repurposing and refinishing unused furniture not only provide an opportunity to save money but also sparks innovative and creative ways to transform your miniature abode into a cozy home. 🏠



Next month...

Make sure you check out DHMS next month, as Kim will be showing how she made the beams for the ceiling in her kitchen with tiny hooks through a step by step tutorial.

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Tropical sunset

YOU WILL NEED

Materials required

- Lemon yellow, crimson, purple lake acrylic inkpads
- Drawing gum (or masking fluid and ruling pen)
- A palette, old plate, piece of sellotape or plastic lid from your recycling
- Two pots of water
- 300gsm (or heavier) NOT surfaced watercolour paper

Tools required

- Size 2 small round watercolour brush



This painted artwork is easier to achieve than it looks, plus it doesn't require much in the way of materials!

1 Using your steel ruler and craft knife, cut out watercolour paper to a suitable size for your display. Mine is 55x25mm. If you're planning to frame your painting then I recommend adding at least 5mm all around the edges to allow for overlap – you can always trim this off later if your chosen frame does not require the extra allowance.

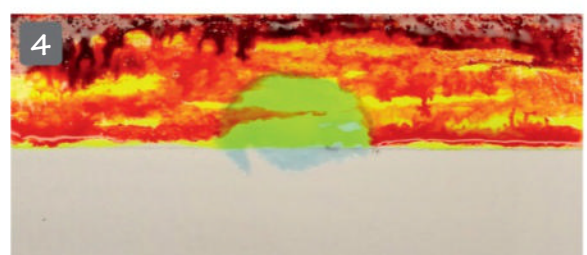
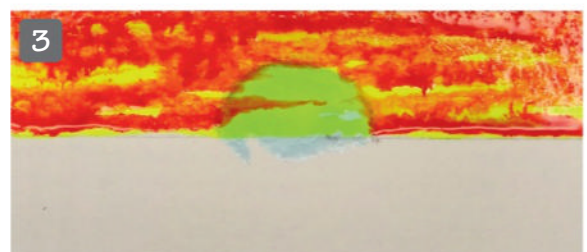
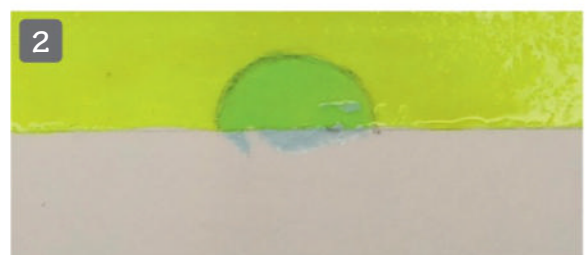
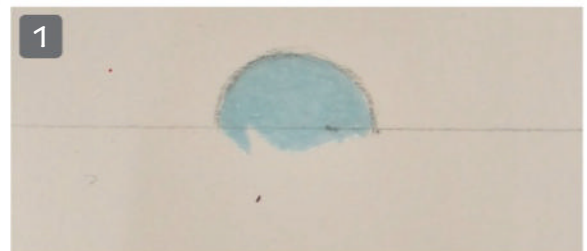
2 Begin by drawing the horizon, just 1 or 2mm above the centre of your paper. Next, it's important to make sure that the sun stays clean and bright, and we do this by preserving the white of the paper with drawing gum or masking fluid. If you're using Pebeo's drawing gum you can apply it with a small synthetic brush, washing your brush thoroughly clean water afterwards. If you're using masking fluid, you'll need to apply it with a cocktail stick as masking fluid ruins brushes. Make sure the edges of your sun are as smooth as possible. You might find it helpful to draw the sun first – I did. Whilst this is drying, give all of your ink bottles a really good shake.

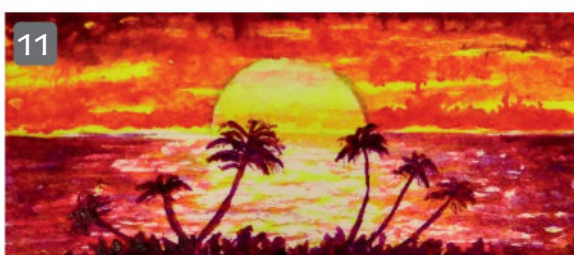
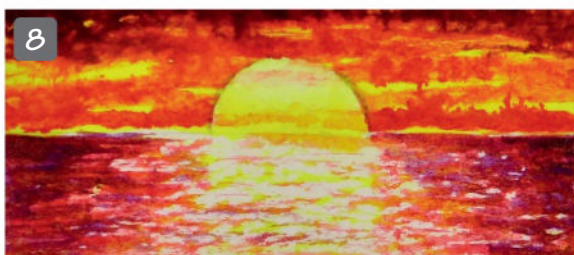
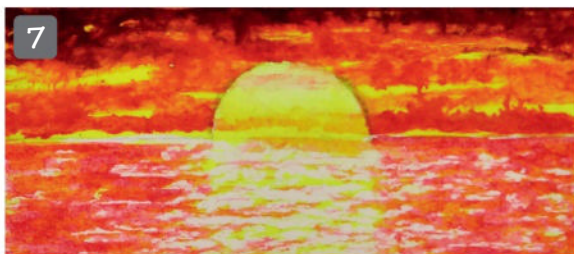
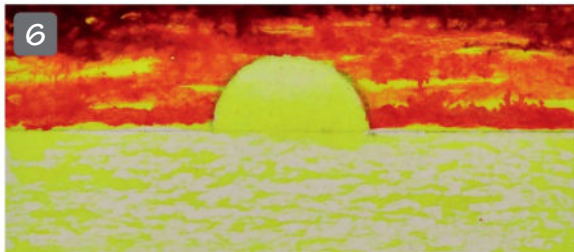
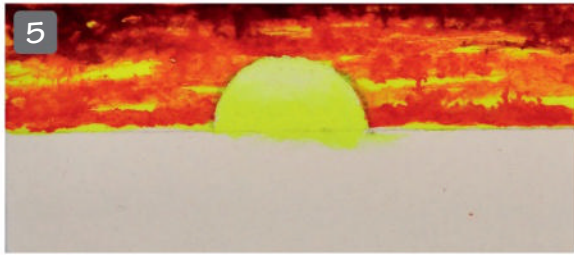
3 When the drawing gum is completely dry, apply a generous layer of yellow ink right across the sky with your round brush. You can paint right over the sun – you want to be able to see the wet ink shining, but not puddling. Clean your brush.

4 Whilst the yellow is still wet and shiny, dip the tip of your clean brush into the red ink and brush it gently across the sky at a very slight angle. Paint several almost horizontal stripes, varying the gap between each stripe. Don't be too careful about this, we don't want regimental stripes here. It's up to you how much red you add to your sky – I've put quite a lot of red in but you don't have to.

5 Sunsets are darker at the top than at the bottom, so whilst all the ink is still wet, add some purple stripes across the very top of the sky. Bring in partial stripes in from each side, just towards the top. Wait for all the ink to dry thoroughly and then pick off the drawing gum. Be patient! You should now have a bright white sun in the sky.

6 The sun at sunset isn't white, so we need to paint it yellow. Wet the sun a little at the top with a damp brush, then paint the whole of the sun yellow with just one dip into the ink pot, starting at the horizon and working upwards. Because you wet the top of the sun and worked from the horizon upwards, your sun will be paler at the top than the bottom.





7 Next we'll work on the sea. Pop one or two drops of yellow ink onto your palette. Dry your brush, pick up some of the yellow from your palette, and using a horizontal motion, drag the belly of your brush across the page. Allow the brush to skim the surface of the paper, leaving yellow ink on the raised bumps of the paper while the dips remain white. Your palette doesn't have to be anything fancy. Mine is quite literally a piece of sellotape stuck to a scrap of paper.

8 Repeat the last step using the crimson ink. Be very sparing with the red in the centre of the sea, keeping the strong reflection of the sun mostly yellow.

9 Repeat again, this time with the dark purple ink. Build up the shadows in the sea by dragging ink in from each side. Be bold!

10 Moving on to the foreground, use the purple ink to draw in the structure of the palm trees. Roll the brush in ink on your palette to bring it to a neat point, then draw with the very tip of the point with plenty of dark ink.

11 Roll your brush in the purple ink again and this time, lay your brush against the paper at the bottom of the page and print one large leaf. Lift your brush off, change the angle slightly and print a second leaf, and a third, and so on. Continue in this way, making some leaves taller than others until you have filled the whole of the bottom edge of the paper. Notice how the ones at the far right and far left are not as tall as the ones in the middle. Finally, return to the tops of the palm trees and very gently, with the very tip of your brush and not much ink, add in the feathery fronds. 🌴

Stephanie top tips for painting with acrylic ink

- Always store your brushes flat, never resting on their points as this will damage them (either in or out of your water).
- Before changing colours, wash your brush in a series of two or three water pots, beginning in the dirtiest water pot and working towards the cleanest. You should find that this means that your clean water will stay clean for longer, you will need to change water less often and your colours will not get muddy.
- Like watercolour and gouache, inks can very easily form 'cauliflower' patterns if you add more water or more paint before the previous layer has dried. Cauliflowers can be very beautiful in art, especially in skies, so consider whether yours adds to your painting before deciding whether you want to remove it.
- If you make a mistake simply wait for it to dry and paint over it. If your ink won't cover the colour underneath you can paint over it with opaque white gesso and then try again. Once they are dry, acrylic inks do not rewet.
- Always replace the lids on your ink bottles as soon as you're finished using them.

For loads more miniature projects...

head to page 36 to find out how you can access our DigitalPlus!

Ruth's MINITIPS

Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel continues her top tips and advice for what has worked (and not worked!) throughout her years of experience. This month, Ruth provides her top tips on purchasing a dolls house.

Photos by Stephen Lesbirel

Above all else, choosing a dolls house is a matter of personal taste, but I'd like to offer a few things to think about when considering buying one. It is generally a pretty sizable investment, so a little forethought is warranted. What style? What size? Kit or assembled? Start small and work up or go for broke from the get-go? Front opening or open back? Modular or complete in one go? Should there be a basement? An attic? Where will the stairs be? Single storey or two, or three? What scale? There are so many questions, and what is right for one person, won't be for everyone!

When I was working in an office, I had a friend who was really excited by my introduction to miniatures and dolls houses. Consequently, she went out and bought a kit for a small tab and slot dolls house and

another kit for making all the furniture to fill it. It turned out that neither was the best of quality and worse, when she looked at the instruction sheets, she realized that she didn't have the time, patience, or sadly the eyesight to complete it. So, she gave it to me. This is a wonderful hobby but try to resist the desire to buy a house, especially in kit form, immediately. Even a small kit can be quite pricey and like buying a real home, it's best to think it through a bit.

A first consideration could be – where will I put this dolls house? A small flat may just not have that spare room. A cardboard box the approximate size of your mini dream home will soon let you know whether it's a good fit for you and your available space. Although a dolls house can be kept on the floor, to be worked on or even just appreciated, it needs to sit on a table or stand (does the budget stretch for another piece of furniture too?). And if it isn't front opening, this table needs to jut out into the room so that you can walk around it to view the outside and the inside.

An obvious solution to the space issue, as I've written before, is to 'scale down'. A half inch scale (1/24th), appears to take only a quarter the space, since it is half the height, half the length, and half the width of the more common 1/12th scale. Similarly, a quarter inch scale (1/48th) structure will fit in almost anywhere! The downside of these solutions however is their comparative rarity, so there is a limited range of available furniture and accessories to purchase. This is compounded further by the increased difficulty of making items from scratch – you need nimble fingers, good eyes, and perhaps more patience, though it is certainly possible and really rewarding to create in these smaller scales. You may decide however that a simpler structure in 1/12th scale or at

least one with a smaller footprint, is a better choice for you than a sprawling, complex house in a smaller scale.

Assuming you've settled on a 1/12th scale structure, there are still many things to consider. A turn-table is a really great idea for limited display space and makes it easy to work on a house from one side, but watch the wiring connection as you turn it. Battery lights have their uses but to me, I don't like reaching into a room to retrieve a fixture, turn it on and replace it in the room. I knock over too many things in the process! I like a battery light for an outdoor lamp post or a few very easily accessible fixtures in a roombox. Having said that, I have used a lot of the 10-light individually wired bulb sets that feed from a box holding two AA batteries. I use these mainly for roomboxes, where one set will light candles on a mantel and the rest go into the log arrangement in the fireplace. I also used them in my pub's wood stove, and to great advantage in my backyard castle. In all these cases, I can switch on the lights from the battery compartment outside the structure, eliminating the need to reach into the box and potentially cause some accidental damage. I congregated the battery boxes in a small wooden box by the castle door, which made them easy to access for switching on and off, and looked legitimate as an outdoor wood store for the castle.

I only have three dolls houses (yet), but several other structures which I have made over the years. These include nine plywood roomboxes and a plywood general store (which are all quite heavy) as well as several foamcore structures, from a pub to a church and a schoolhouse to a she shed, and even an illustration board ski lodge scene and a caravan. My church has unattached walls. ➡



▲ My scratch-built 1/24th scale house façade with some of its scratch-built furniture



▲ Castle wood box (lid up to show battery boxes inside)



▼ Storage boxes the size of shoeboxes

Being a necessity to a large structure, this is very convenient for storing it away when not on display. Oh yes, and my shoebox scenes. Not really shoeboxes! I came across what was termed 'video storage boxes' for vintage VHS tapes, DVDs, CDs, or even print photos; the boxes are made of sturdy card and are about the size of a shoebox. Mine are used for everything from movie room sets to whole little worlds, like my Bermuda scene. These boxes are also great for storing seasonal decorations – autumn, Christmas, spring, Halloween. They even have a convenient little label holder on one end and store just about anywhere.

Pitfalls – well, in my mind there are several to avoid. Much as tab and slot structures are easier to assemble, I won't be getting another one due to the difficulty in covering the slots in the finished dolls house. I plan to go back and fill the slots with wood filler and repaint, although these could be covered by an exterior finish, from clapboards to stonework embossed paper.

I also found that the tab and slot fit was not that tight, so I need extra interior mouldings.

Then there are dolls houses of more than one storey with no stairs! How do people get to that upper floor? Peach Cottage has its upper floor almost entirely in the roof. This definitely saves space, but makes the upper rooms hard to furnish realistically. There can't be an armoire in the bedroom for example, so where do they keep their clothes?

A small dolls house may also skimp on ceiling height. Even Magnolia Hall doesn't really have high enough ceilings to accommodate my gorgeous crystal chandelier. I solved this to some degree by placing a table under it, so my people wouldn't bump their heads. Some dolls houses have short front doorways. If less than 6-1/2in (165mm), as is often the case when a manufacturer is trying to maximize the height of a small dolls house, taller men would have to duck to avoid accidentally bumping their heads on them too.

We made the stand on which Magnolia Hall rests just a bit bigger than the footprint

of the house. In hindsight, had it been longer, my glasshouse and a few other outdoor features could have been displayed at the same level. Right now, these things reside on a cabinet top that in scale is nearly five dizzying feet below the front garden, with no means of reaching it. Do I see a stone staircase project in the future? Likely. For now, it's just a good thing that there is a closed gate at that side!

I've been guilty myself of making walls too thin to be realistic, but generally because I'm making the most of my available space. I would strongly recommend that even



▲ Magnolia Hall's low chandelier with table below



▲ Tab and slot sides on Peach Cottage



▲ Peach Cottage bedroom with no armoire or closet space



Cabinet top items and garden gate above

► Magnolia Hall's library with its tall and wide bookcase

if you think you would like to start small and later get a larger dolls house, don't go too small. You will quickly run out of space for a growing collection of furniture and accessories. Larger rooms with a good depth and ceiling height allow for tall case clocks, tall bookcases, armoires, China cabinets, over-mantels, chandelier ceiling fixtures, and so much more with ease.

Front opening dolls houses take care of the inevitable dust issue and look good both outside from all angles and inside when opened. They also save space, since you don't need to make provision to get to the back of them. If I were to define the ideal dolls house then (or at least for me), it might have a reasonably small footprint with good room depth, be front opening, be placed on a low table so it could have a basement – so many interesting spaces could be defined in that, have at least two storeys maybe three, not sacrifice ceiling height even in the top floor or in the staircases, and have room for a nice garden and additional outdoor structures. 🏡



Walls of history

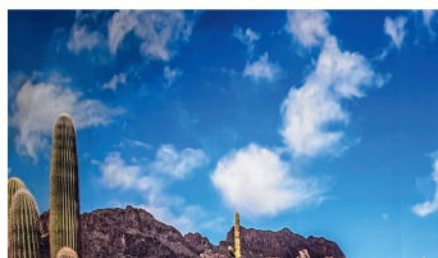
Kate Davenport Hilgenberg takes us on a trip to the American Southwest, exploring adobe architecture in smallscale.



Setting the scene

The art of texture

Before bricks and mortar, glass and steel, there was adobe architecture. Constructed from bricks cured by sunlight and using the most natural of materials, sand, earth and straw, these houses have stood the test of time beneath the vast open skies of the American Southwest to become one of our most ancient building methods. 'La Casita', Kate Davenport Hilgenberg's 1/12th scale Adobe house, is far removed from its kit origins, incorporating many traditional characteristics. "For 30 years, we have winter vacationed in Arizona and/or New Mexico. I always found the Pueblo style to be particularly beautiful, so when I saw this dolls house kit, I knew that I wanted to build it but with revisions," divulges Kate, who made several structural alterations. "The kit was designed to be enclosed with walls on all four sides and with an open roof. I opened up the rear wall and created a roof that could rest on the wood vigas, creating a rooftop deck or be removed to function as a ground level patio. With the material removed from the back wall, I was able to make the front patio seating, the corner walls for the patio/ roof deck and the partial interior wall."



▲ Ready for a night on the tiles!

◀ Adobe architecture in smallscale



The walls of an adobe house are designed to retain heat, but their use of organic materials also gives them an attractive and distinctive texture. Something which Kate has replicated to great effect, providing that ultra-realistic finish. "The wall texture was achieved by adding a sand additive to latex paint and painting it onto the surfaces," she explains. Kate has a keen eye for choosing the right materials, the 'terracotta' tiles found throughout the exterior and synonymous with desert homes due to their ability to reflect heat - another excellent purchase. The removable rooftop cum patio is inspired and whilst the tiles, made from high end card, might not reflect heat, they do radiate realism. The shading on each individual tile staggeringly true to life, you can almost hear the sound of heels cracking across the beautifully furnished outdoor living space on balmy summer evenings! 🏡



The inside view



▼ The removable rooftop leads a double life as a patio ▼





▲ Kate's kiva inspired fireplace

Contemporary styling

The oldest surviving adobe architecture in the United States also bears the weight of history as the oldest house in America. Located in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the historic property was built around 1646 and through the intervening centuries has seen many different guises. It's this sense of history which Kate combines perfectly with elements of contemporary style. "When designing this project, I approached it as I do all my projects and that is by asking myself if it were real and suddenly mine, how would I design it for my use. Inevitably that ends up being something with a nod to the history of the home but with a modern vibe," she concludes. A prime example are the internal and external kiva fireplaces, which with their characteristic beehive shape, are a traditional feature of adobe architecture. "The corner fireplaces were part of the kit, but I also revised those. I lifted them up off the ground onto raised hearths and in the interior, added built-in benches as part of the fireplace unit. Although not rounded like a traditional kiva fireplace, they do have a similar feel." Kate has also managed to incorporate some of those fabulous tiles within their design. "The small terracotta tiles on the fireplaces are just reduced images of the flooring, cut and glued into place."

Peppered with detail

Meanwhile, the true to life, wood flooring was created using iron on veneer edging made from sapele wood which, with its fine grain, is in keeping with the textured layers of the overall build. With the exception of the small patio tables and the wicker chairs, Kate created all the furniture and a large proportion of the individual pieces which turn the house into a home herself, demonstrating her exceptional talent. "My favourites have to be the patio sofa and chairs which I covered with a material used to wrap young tree trunks for protection and the little Mexican style punched tin wall sconces that I made from soda cans." However, even the occasional acquisition wasn't immune to a Southwestern makeover, ensuring maximum authenticity. "The peppers hanging from the exterior fireplace were purchased but since they were a bright cherry red, I painted them a proper dried pepper colour and added the frayed jute twine at the top to give a traditional ristra appearance."

For Kate, the adobe house is an outlet for a passion that has always bubbled just beneath the surface, waiting to be let loose on the world of miniature art. "I've loved miniatures for as long as I can remember but I didn't really get into making them



▲ Kate's beautiful writing desk

until 12 years ago when my father passed away," she says, revealing how she initially decided to renovate the childhood dolls house built by her beloved dad with the aim of gifting it to her grandchildren. "It quickly became apparent that they were too young for that particular house so, with the help of my husband, I made them a house and all its contents and that was it. Since then, I have rehabbed my childhood dolls house, built and furnished eleven more houses, a glamping tent, a railroad depot and an airport terminal; in addition to four granddaughters, I have one grandson. And I don't see myself letting up anytime soon." However, La Casita remains an incredibly special build, and one which looks destined to remain within her own collection. At least for the foreseeable future. "I usually donate my finished houses to charity fundraising auctions once they are finished but I haven't yet been able to part with La Casita," she admits. Southwestern miniatures aren't something you see all that often in smallscale, but when you do, they instantly make an impact, proving exceptionally popular with audiences and collectors around the world. The wide range of Kate's projects demonstrate just how lucky we are to have an artisan of her calibre in our midst, her place as one of our most exciting visual storytellers secure. 🏠

INFO

For more information visit:



davenport1_12construction

The Quartermaster:

Welcome to Angela's Wonky Wonderland

You can count on Angela Kinnunen of Raptor to come up with something a bit out of the ordinary. And it's fair to say her latest miniatures have gone a bit wonky. But that's exactly how she likes it.

Photos by Rob Tysall and Angela Kinnunen



Not so long ago, Angela Kinnunen, who is originally from South Wales but now lives in Finland, was making instruments of horror – designing and creating such delights as an Iron Maiden, a witch's ducking stool and Marie Antoinette's guillotine.

She's also made a Child Catcher's wagon, a roombox depicting Nurse Ratched's treatment room from the novel and film, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. And, with the intention of appealing to men in miniatures she's been making Wild West items such as Prairie wagons, roomboxes of a Wild West Saloon, a general store, the jailhouse and an undertaker's complete with coffins.

"I had to do a lot of research and watch a lot of western movies," said Angela. "Clint Eastwood is practically my best friend!"

Balancing up the horror however, she's also recently made a Royal Carriage – as usual with all the working parts correctly engineered and working as they should.





And now some delightful Wonky Wonderland furniture - everything being in 1/48th scale.

Angela had been watching the film *Alice Through the Looking Glass* starring Johnny Depp as the Mad Hatter and Alan Rickman who was the voice of Absolem the caterpillar who she admires as an actor. Sadly he died in 2016 having finished working on this film.

"I've liked the story of *Alice in Wonderland* since I was a child. Although it's not so much the Alice character that I like, but characters such as the Cheshire Cat. Plus the story - the fantasy world that you enter down a rabbit hole. Can you imagine doing that! The idea of eating something and you get bigger, eat something else and you get smaller. I particularly liked the way sizes change - the miniaturist in me I suppose!"

So, watching the film, it occurred to Angela that she'd like to do something different, and this would definitely be different - and a bit crazy.

"There was a lot of trial and error making the wonky furniture," continued Angela.

"When you are making crazy furniture which doesn't fit, it is very difficult. I probably did at least four prototypes of everything before I was satisfied where usually it will be two. But I'm very pleased with how it's come out."

For her Wonky Wonderland theme, Angela made six or seven different pieces of Mad Hatter style furniture, including tables, chairs, a wardrobe, chest of drawers and a bed. They proved so popular that she completely sold out at the Tom Bishop Show in Chicago earlier this year. Then it was back to her workshop to create more pieces for the Kensington Dollhouse Show. Again, it was all quickly snapped up.

She never makes exactly the same thing twice though. "With the range of Wonky Furniture, I only have set colours and I stick with one colour per set. It might be blue, red or green - I never repeat the same colour scheme. A lot of people don't like

bright colours, so I've painted in browns and ambers. Doing each set in a different colour scheme means that everyone gets something unique. Everything is painted and decorated by hand, so each kit will look completely different. Even I am shocked at times!"

Angela's kits are made from a mixture of materials, depending on the kit - including MDF wood, mountboard, metal, paper, card, chain, beads. Plus, all the kits come with instructions on how they go together, using text and a photo, as people follow instructions in different ways.

Angela has discovered that when making misshapen furniture, it is very difficult to make it stand up. A chair for example usually has four legs all the same size. But with a misshapen style - how to make it stand up is a huge problem.

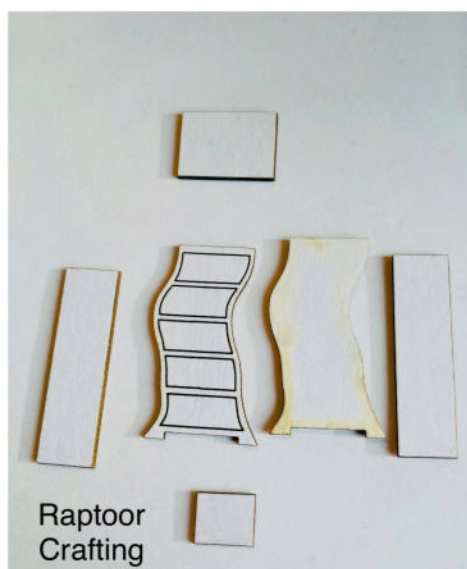
"You need to work out the dimensions of it all," said Angela. "It's a lot worse to make misshapen furniture than to make normal evenly shaped pieces. You're having to do trial and error all the time to get the balance right. The chest of drawers and the wardrobe are very misshapen and the hardest to get right."

"I've heard from some people who say that when they look at the wonky furniture it makes them feel seasick! To some they find that the furniture moves. It all adds to the fantasy and I take that as quite a compliment."

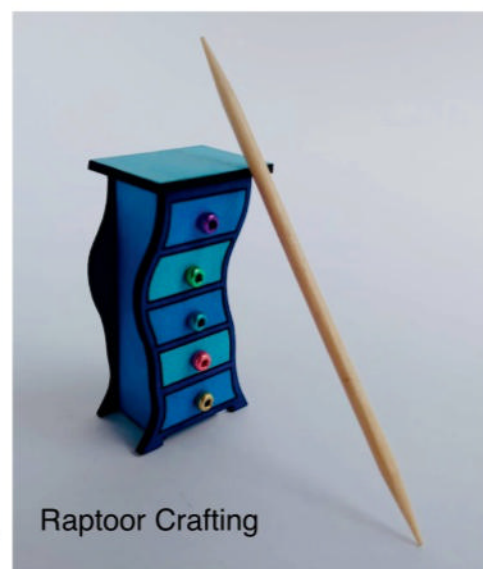
"I know one of my customers of Wonky Wonderland used the furniture in an 'Underwater mermaid' scene, because it looks like the ripples of the water are distorting the shapes. I really like that people are using their imaginations."







// I've heard from some people who say that when they look at the wonky furniture it makes them feel seasick! It all adds to the fantasy and I take that as quite a compliment. //



Angela's Summer Club

Angela says that the whole philosophy of Raptor is to share techniques, tips and hints with other people. And to this end she has created a Summer Club on Zoom which takes place every Sunday.

She runs two three-hour sessions, mornings for people in the UK and Europe, and later in the afternoon for the US and that side of the globe, as she now has

people from all over the world joining in.

"It's a Zoom social gathering," explains Angela. "I'll share how I've done something and other people will share their techniques and tips on this open forum. Online, people can upload their photographs too of what they're making. It's providing a place for miniaturists of all calibres to meet regularly on-line.

"My background is in human resources,

working in bringing people together, connecting people, so I'm carrying this on through Raptor. My main motivation is seeing people helping one another. I get a real sense of achievement in seeing people learning from each other and getting better at something.

"As many miniaturists are working away on their own, this Summer Club is proving really popular, so I might end up running it all year round!" 🏠

INFO For more information visit:

If you are interested in the virtual summer club, please feel free to contact Angela on Facebook. The group is Crafting Miniature Collectables:



https://www.facebook.com/groups/572029657353041/?ref=share_group_link



www.facebook.com/Raptorcrafting



Books by Michael R Miniatures



Coronation street party

Look what I've been missing!

Moi Ali can't understand why it's taken her so long to visit the York Fair!

Why oh why have I never visited the York Dolls House and Miniatures Fair until now? I'm a regular visitor to Miniatura, and an occasional visitor to the Kensington Dollhouse Festival (mainly because it's so far from my home in Scotland), but for some reason I have never visited the much closer York show, and now I could kick myself! I've been missing soooooo much!

I was unsure what to expect, but delighted at what I found. The fair is big – bigger than I had realised – and the venue is fabulous.

It's roomy, light and airy, with lots of space between the aisles (often an issue for those who need to use a wheelchair) and there's ample free parking.

But for me the real highlight was the fantastic range of exhibitors. I found old favourites, such as Jane Harrop, Valerie Claire and Robert Stubbs, as well as some traders that were new to me.

Two of my highlights were the Yorkshire Miniaturist Association and the Tuesday Mini Club charity stall in aid of Breast Cancer Now.

The Yorkshire Miniaturist Association had on display a splendid show project depicting a coronation street party. It was a joy to see! And as for the lovely ladies on the charity stall, they did a sterling job selling donated items for a very good cause. They have raised a grand total of well over £50,000 in the time they have been running the stall at various fairs.

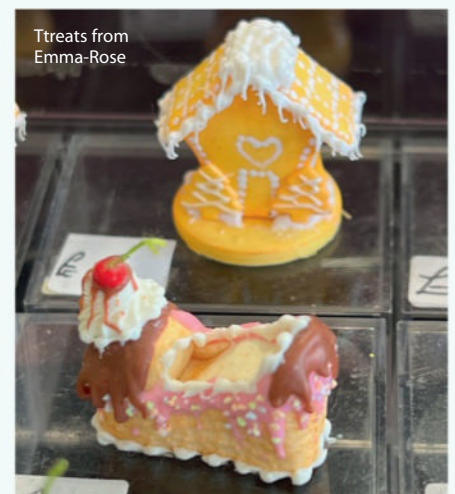
I was celebrating a significant landmark birthday less than a month after the fair, so I dragged hubby around and pointed to everything I fancied and he obligingly



Harry Potter items by Michael R Miniatures



Tiny ted



Treats from Emma-Rose



▲ Charity begins at home

▲ Dressed furniture

produced his credit card – it saved him having to think about what to buy me, and I was guaranteed some great pressies!

I succumbed to a few pre-loved treats at VicAnna Vintage, and I chose rather too many of Victoria Fasken's gorgeous hand-plated painted plates. She was (unusually) also selling a few pieces of handpainted wooden furniture that she'd previously used to display her work, and I managed to bag a table and bookcase for just £6 each. I feel

very lucky, as I adore Victoria's work.

The stalls were a feast for the eyes. I loved Laser Shrink Ray's teeny-weeny pieces in 1/144th scale, and Ella-Rose Miniatures' delicious-looking sweet treats. Michael R Miniatures' creations were totally different, with Harry Potter inspired offerings, and things with a witchy twist.

Quite a few stalls had 'dressed' furniture: dressing tables laden with perfumes and jewellery; tables groaning with a feast of

edible treats; desks drowning in piles of paperwork and envelopes; and wardrobes bursting with lovely feminine outfits. These dressed pieces are 'good to go' and ready to be placed in a scene. Excellent examples could be found on Dee Daw Designs' stand.

I left York a very happy bunny – with full shopping bags, a head full of ideas, and a belly full of cake from the lovely onsite café! I'm now ticking off the days until the November event! 🏠



◀ Far left: Michael R Miniatures stand

◀ Left: Exquisite goods from VicAnna Vintage

Date for your diary

The next York Dolls House and Miniatures Fair is Sunday 19th November 2023!

YORK
Dolls House & Miniatures Fair
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Place setting inspiration

Reader Sophie O'Sullivan found Moi Ali's 'Setting the table' project from the July 2022 issue so useful for her own mini making, and she kindly showed us her finished result!



Here at DHMS we love to see how readers use the projects within their own miniatures. Reader Sophie O'Sullivan used Moi Ali's project from the July 2022 for her own dolls house. Here's what Sophie said about her makes:

"I was at the time renovating my childhood dolls house. As a frequent reader of Dolls House & Miniature Scene magazine, I was looking through the monthly issue and saw some beautiful placemats. I was inspired by them and wanted to create my own version.

I printed the pattern that I had reduced to 1/12th scale size. I then glued it onto card and cut to shape. I used cello tape to give them a glossy touch, then placed them on my dolls house dining table!"

Thank you for sharing this with us Sophie! Has a project in DHMS inspired you? Have you adapted something to your own taste or to suit your own dolls house! Let us know!

Email joanne.garwell@warnersgroup.co.uk and you could find yourself in an upcoming issue! 🏠

INFO

To view more of Sophie's work:



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The Whole Kit & Caboodle:

FABULOUS FLOWERS

Moi Ali gets her trowel at the ready for a blooming lovely kit review.



Gardens are looking beautiful right now, so make sure the same can be said for your miniature garden too! Add a pop of colour with a small flower bed, trough, window box or planter.

When I'm feeling green fingered, I turn to Georgie Steeds of the Miniature Garden, where her wide range of paper flower kits leaves me spoilt for choice. She sells kits for everything from trees to climbing plants, and vegetables to indoor plants and cut flowers. As well as the popular 1/12th scale, Georgie also makes 1/24th scale kits featuring her exclusive designs.

The pansy kit is very quick and easy – yet the results are fantastic. It's the perfect kit for a beginner. At the other end of the scale is the gladioli kit. This was not complicated, but it was very time consuming. That said, it was worth every minute, as the blooms are showstoppers and so very realistic! The irises and shasta daisies are great fun to make. 🏡



THE FACTS

Buy from:
The Miniature Garden
(www.theminaturegardenkits.com)

Cost: Pansies (10 flowers) £3.80;
Irises (6 stems) £3.10;
Shasta daisy (5 stems) £4.95; and
Gladioli (4 stems) £7.45.

Additional materials needed:
Stems, petals and leaves

Additional materials needed:
Tacky glue, yellow paint, plus pots

Specialist tools needed: None

Time: Less than an hour for the pansies, a day for the gladioli

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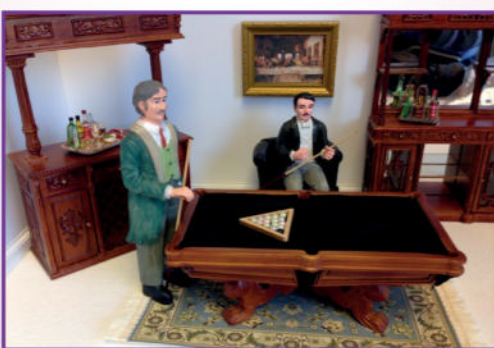
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