

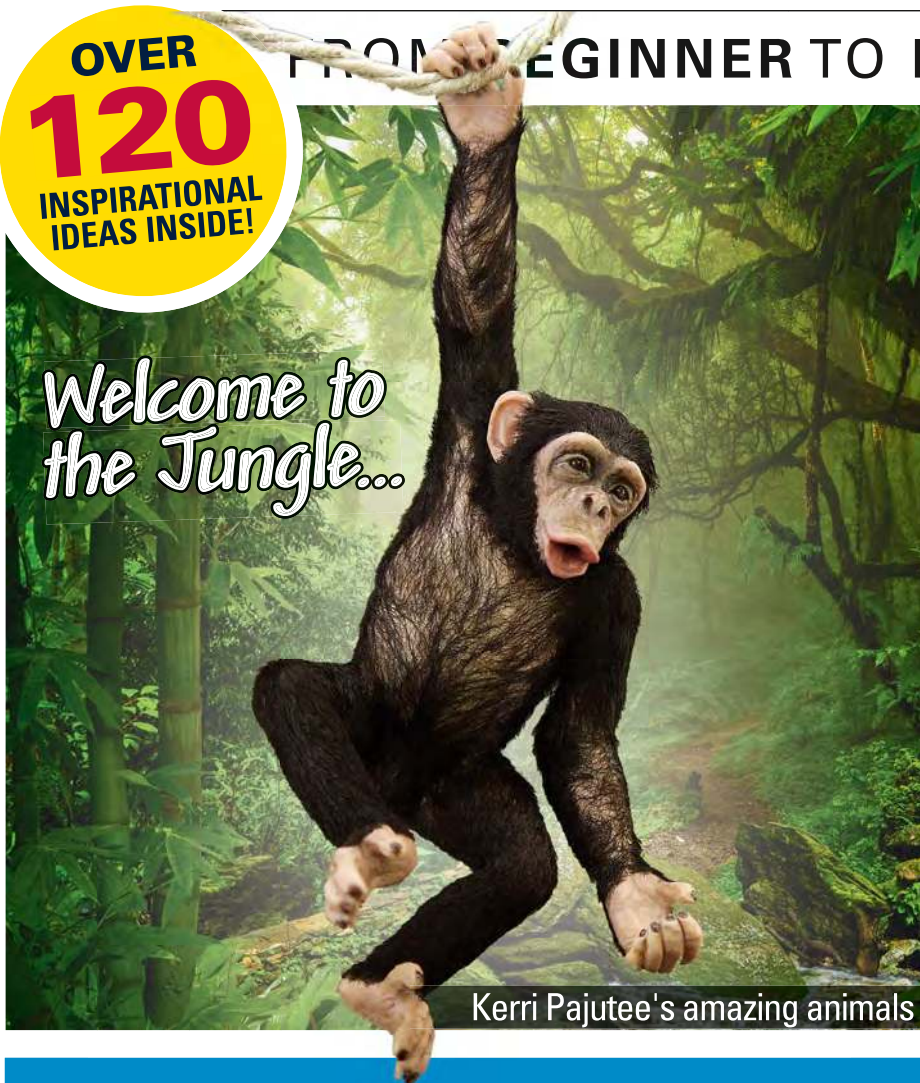
# DollHouse & MINIATURE SCENES

DIGITAL  
EDITION WITH  
BONUS FEATURES

OVER  
**120**  
INSPIRATIONAL  
IDEAS INSIDE!

FROM BEGINNER TO EXPERT MAKES

Welcome to  
the Jungle...



Kerri Pajutee's amazing animals

Film classics...



LASSIE

In miniature

Fashion a dress...



For a screen legend

1

AUDIO FILES

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EXCLUSIVE VIDEOS





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# WELCOME

## to the September issue

Inside this month's edition we go behind the scenes with some very illustrious, innovative and talented miniaturists, offering information, top tips and advice. First up there's inspiration to be found on page 8 as we shine the spotlight on nine artisans who theme their miniature makes on the silver screen.

That's followed by a profile feature on page 9 focussing on the works of Kristin Castenschiold, a miniaturist who bases her creations on scenes or characters from the world of film and television. Before starting work and immersing herself into the chosen character, Kristin watches and re-watches episodes or scenes to capture every level of detail imaginable. She cites her Jungle Book creations as her absolute favourite.

Our team of contributors will show you how to dress cinema's original golden girl, Judy Garland in her most memorable role, starring as Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, demonstrate how to apply fur to create her dog Toto, and make a working TV set for you to watch your favourite films on!

We've also got a not-to-be-missed York Dolls House & Miniatures Fair pre-show offer for you to take advantage of on page 25. If you're already a subscriber, take a look at your carrier sheet to see what you get. And finally can I please draw your attention to our Exact Editions; it does what it says on the tin: every edition from 2010 to 2019 for a very special price!

Enjoy the issue.



**Carl Golder**  
Editor

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**01778 391146**

**Fantastic  
giveaways on  
PAGES  
24, 37  
& 50**

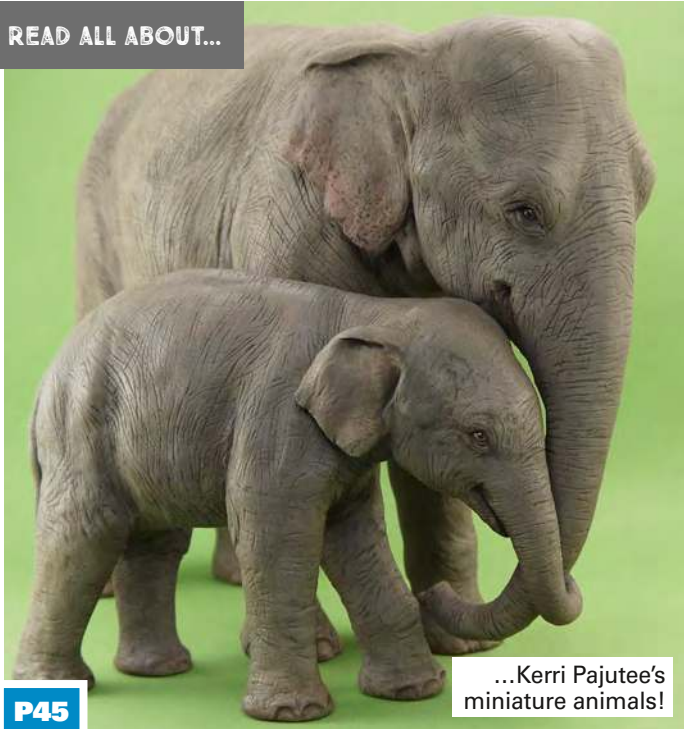


Online readers... Keep an eye out for these symbols

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

Moi Ali, Lynn Allingham, Jo Bevilacqua, Bea Broadwood, Sadie Brown, Kristin Castenschiold, Louise Goldsborough, John Harris, Jane Harrop, Diane Haylor, Dan Meek, Ryan Monahan, Kerri Pajutee, Alan Ronay, Mark Turpin, Kate Ünver, Gary White, Hazel Wyle and Deb Weissler

READ ALL ABOUT...



**P45**

...Kerri Pajutee's  
miniature animals!

WE SHOW YOU...



**P18**

...how to apply fur

### CARL'S FAVOURITE FIND ON INSTAGRAM

*"As I have mentioned above, Kristin Castenschiold uses her skills to create recognisable characters and scenes from films and tv shows, but whilst browsing through her Instagram account she also has a fondness of wild animals. Read all about her on page 9"*



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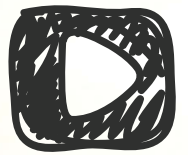


# DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

## EDITOR'S INTRO



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# INSIDE YOUR SEPTEMBER 2019 ISSUE...



**EXCLUSIVE GALLERY CONTENT  
FOR ONLINE READERS**



**EXCLUSIVE AUDIO CONTENT  
FOR ONLINE READERS**



**EXCLUSIVE VIDEO CONTENT  
FOR ONLINE READERS**

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## DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

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VISIT [WWW.DOLLSHOUSEANDMINIATURESCENE.CO.UK](http://WWW.DOLLSHOUSEANDMINIATURESCENE.CO.UK) FOR MORE GREAT FEATURES AND PROJECTS

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**TURN TO PAGE 60**



# The Miniature Scene

## Miniature news on the go...

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## CLUB & SOCIETY NEWS

### Gateshead Dolls House Show

Gateshead used to hold a well-attended dolls house fair but after the organisers retired, enthusiasts were left without an event. As is usually the case, they had to either rely on the internet or travel much further afield to satisfy their appetite for all things miniature. However, nothing beats the opportunity to be able to look at and touch items in front of you whilst sharing your



love of the world of dolls house with fellow enthusiasts.

Ros Embleton, a long-time miniaturist approached Heworth Grange School knowing they hold events there.

Together with Jill Conlon, from the school, they put on their first event on 9th June 2019, which was so well-received that they were asked by traders and visitors alike to make this an annual event. So, make a note in your diaries for 21st June 2020. But they need the help of all the traders and visitors alike to build on this year's success and make this a regular event in the area for many years to come.

If you are an artisan or trader and would like details of next year's show please contact Jill or Ros

✉ [jill.conlon@heworthgrange.org.uk](mailto:jill.conlon@heworthgrange.org.uk)

✉ [rosalind.embleton@heworthgrange.org.uk](mailto:rosalind.embleton@heworthgrange.org.uk)

### Gatwick Dolls House Club

Gatwick Dolls House Club's annual 'Have a go Day' will this year take place on Saturday 19th October 2019, at Horley Methodist Church, Victoria Road, Surrey, from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Visitors can choose to make a variety of items for a small fee with club members guiding them through the process. The 'prize-every-time' tombola is in aid of St Catherine's Hospice and there will be exhibit and sales tables by members, retailers and other clubs. Refreshments will be available all day with two public car parks 300 metres away.

Admission is £2.50 for adults (including entry in the door-prize raffle) and £1.00 for accompanied children.

For more details contact Barbara

✉ [barbara@hoyle-engineering.co.uk](mailto:barbara@hoyle-engineering.co.uk)



### A Call from Yorkshire Miniaturists Association

Yorkshire Miniaturists Association (YMA) is one of the longest running dolls house clubs in the country. It began in 1980 when Elizabeth Jackson wrote to International Dolls House News in search of fellow dolls house enthusiasts in the York area. A group made contact, including Doreen Jeffries from Bradford, who was keen to form an organised club. YMA held its inaugural meeting in June 1981 with Doreen as Chair, Elizabeth as Secretary, and around 30 members. They meet monthly on Saturday afternoons in central York and the range of activities remains as popular as ever with project sessions, outside speakers, free library outings, bring and buy sales, visits to members' collections, and a festive lunch every December.

YMA was present at the first ever Pudsey Fair and are regular visitors to the York Dolls House & Miniatures Fair. They enjoy showcasing their handiwork and share mutual knowledge and interest with the fair goers. Like many other groups, they find it is getting harder to attract new and younger members. Without leaving their homes, miniaturists and collectors can 'meet up' at any time on social media and get tuition on hundreds of projects from Youtube or Pinterest. But meeting together to create miniature treasures for their collections under the guidance of talented members is still an important aspect of the hobby. If you think so too and would like to join YMA on the first Saturday afternoon in the month please contact Elizabeth Jackson

✉ [ebjtoday@btinternet.com](mailto:ebjtoday@btinternet.com)

More club news  
can be found on  
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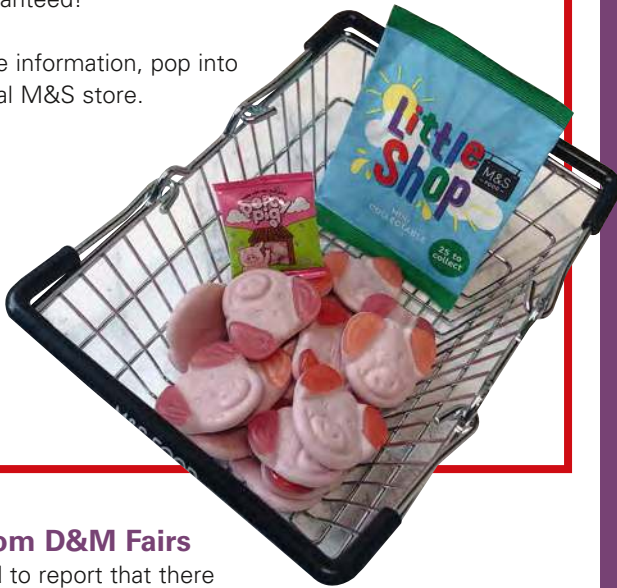
## Small Packages

High Street favourite Marks & Spencer have just launched Little Shop, the collecting campaign set to be the family activity of the summer. Everyone has an M&S Food favourite and they're becoming collectors' items as M&S Food brings Little Shop to the nations' families.

Little Shop comprises of 25 iconic M&S Food products, miniaturised into collectables for customers and their families to collect, play and swap, building their very own M&S Little Shops. The collectables campaign, is aimed at parents with kids from four to eight years old- with big kids warmly welcome too! The range includes mini Percy Pigs alongside mini M&S British strawberries and Our Best Ever Prawn Sandwich. Birthday party legend, the Colin the Caterpillar cake, is also celebrated in miniature!

Collecting is simple, every customer in M&S Food stores spending £20 or more on food will be offered a Little Shop collectable pack containing one of the 25 iconic minis. Alongside the food collectable, the pack includes a fun collector's card with facts about the product and a joke-lolz guaranteed!

For more information, pop into your local M&S store.



## News from D&M Fairs

We are sad to report that there will be no more Dolls House Fairs at the Inn On The Lake, Rochester, Kent. Due to the falling numbers of stallholders and the increase in online sales, Patricia and Sylvia Peacock feel that the time has come for the fair to close.

They would like to thank all the many stallholders and members of the public who have attended and supported the fair over the years.

## Tell us what you're doing!

*Is your club doing anything exciting, got a new project on the go, raising money for charity or tackling a project from Dolls House & Miniature Scene? Let us know your news by emailing [Carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:Carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk)*

- Send a letter (and photos) to Carl Golder, Dolls House & Miniature Scene, Warners Group Publications, West Street, Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9PH
- Keep in touch through our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/dollhouseandminiaturescene](https://www.facebook.com/dollhouseandminiaturescene)

**News copy deadline for the November issue 306 is 18th September 2019.**

## WE ASKED YOU...

We posted the following question on our Facebook page:

Are your dolls house ideas ever inspired by new locations or new buildings?

Star post and winner of this shabby chic table kit by Jane Harrop.

**Linda Paskin:**

*Visits to properties owned by The National Trust and English Heritage have given me inspiration on layout and decor for the rooms in my houses.*



**Anne Græsborg Pedersen:** *Last summer I revisited The Georgian House museum in Edinburgh, to find inspiration for my regency dolls house. It was very inspiring. I then re-read all of Jane Austen's novels, and then re-watched all of the film adaptations. It set my mind at work and I'm going to create a fictitious Danish town (with characters) set in 1805.*

**Lynne Spencer:** *The floor tiles in the toilets in my local Costa coffee shop!*

**Diana Posthuma:** *I like to find my inspiration in the gardens, houses, buildings and playgrounds that I visit. I see minis everywhere I go!!*

**Carol Fumeaux Porter:** *I love discovering unusual houses and cottages, the older and quirkier the better. They provide me with inspiration on how to decorate both a house and garden.*

**Melanie Lewis Flegat:** *I live in California, and I want to go to New Bedford, Massachusetts, to visit my friends dolls house shop 'Flip this Dollhouse'*

**Carl says...** *"That would be a very inspirational road trip!" If you ever get there, do let me know.*

**Donna Brecht:** *Everywhere I go I try to see everything around me to get inspiration and ideas!*

### Want to join in?

Join the conversation for a chance to win...

[www.facebook.com/dollhouseandminiaturescene](https://www.facebook.com/dollhouseandminiaturescene)

*Jane Harrop has been making miniatures for 25 years and teaching miniature making for 21. Many of her projects have never been presented as a kit for sale to the public, so Jane and Bob are taking a trip down memory lane in 2019 and re-creating some of them for everyone to enjoy. Some will be limited edition, others a permanent feature on her website.*

[www.janeharrop.co.uk](http://www.janeharrop.co.uk) to find out more!

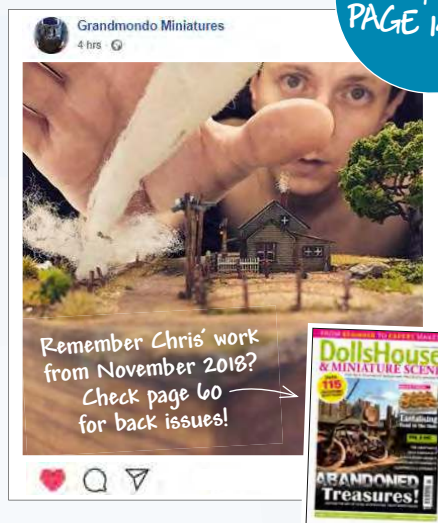
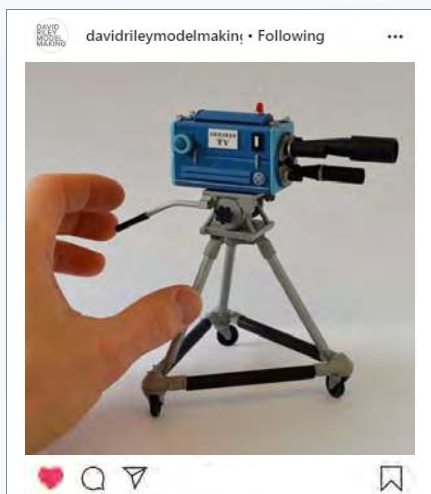
Turn to  
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to read all about  
the story behind  
the artist



# Caught @n Camera

When it comes to inspiration, social media is an important tool especially with a watching world-wide audience. The DHMS team have been scrolling through their Instagram feeds and want to share with you these TV & Film inspired miniatures.

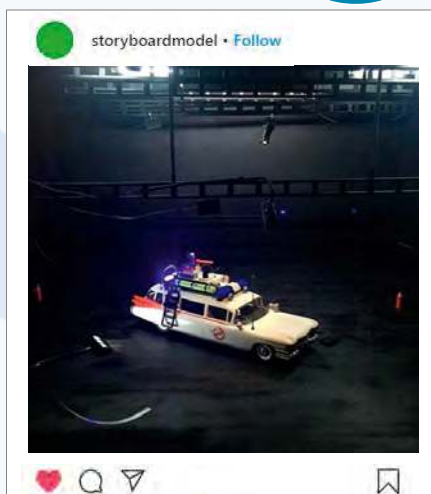
Find Wizard of Oz inspired projects on **PAGE 14 & 18**



See more on Ryan's work on **PAGE 32**



See Alan's project on **PAGE 28**



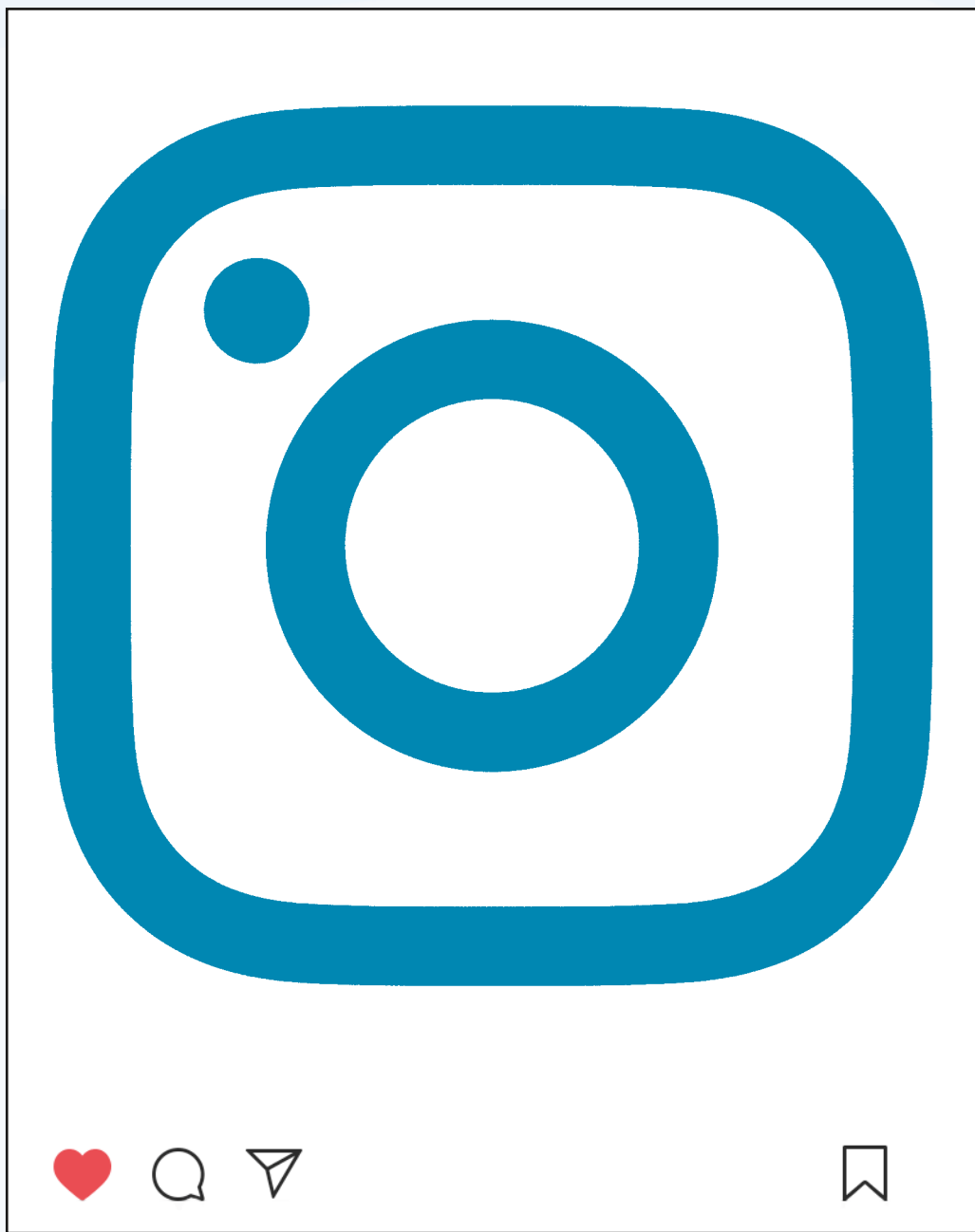
Read all about Kerri on **PAGE 45**

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# The Hollywood Effect

From Hollywood history to modern classics in the making, **Kristin Castenschiold** talks about how she recreates animals and scenes from the world of film and television.



## Classic tales

To see familiar things from the world around us in miniature never fails to engage and excite an audience, but when those miniatures are inspired by some of our favourite stories found within film and television it's even more of a thrill!

Kristin Castenschiold of Heartfelt Canines grew up with a love of animal stories, and was a huge fan of Disney classics such as *Lady and the Tramp*, *The Lion King* and *The Jungle Book*. However, it was *Lassie*, the collie whose adventures have captivated generation after generation, which stole Kristin's heart and became her most beloved Hollywood animal. She has fond memories of watching the reruns on television every day!

"I love creating miniature animals and I thought it would be a fun project to re-create some of my favourite animals in 1/12th scale. I began with the two classics, *Lassie* and *Rin-Tin-Tin* and set up just one scene with them as a tribute. Since then I have become interested in not only creating the animal but also telling a story with them. This often involves creating not just one animal but sometimes a whole cast. Now, when I choose an animal to create, I will watch the movie and select scenes I think would be fun to create in miniature form. Not only am I thinking about creating the animals, but I have to also consider story, photography, lighting and props as well. A lot goes in to each miniature project, but I have so much fun creating them and that is what keeps it both interesting and challenging."

## Jungle adventurer

With both *Game of Thrones* direwolves and Toto from the 1939 classic *The Wizard of Oz* to be discovered amongst her repertoire, Kristin's work spans the decades up to the present day. With so many beautifully crafted scenes to her name, Kristin cites her *Jungle Book* inspired creations as her absolute favourite, the seeds of her original inspiration for the scene being sown as she sat watching the latest movie in the cinema. "I was blown away by the story, characters and just the beauty of each scene," she says. "I told my husband at the end of the movie, I can't wait to create that one. The cast was incredibly fun to create and the scenes were even more challenging to set up but I was so happy with the end result." That final result took Kristin many months of effort to achieve, working hard to build up her vast array of characters in between commission work

Several new claims to the Iron Throne from Kristin's worktable



The cast of Disney classic, *Lady and the Tramp* assemble in small scale



and also in addition to continuing to build up her inventory for upcoming miniatures shows. "Once they were all ready I would re-watch the movie and select the scenes I wished to create," she says. "Typically, it would take me several days of setting up miniature scenes and photographing them before I was happy with the story I had told."

Sometimes I create a whole cast, and will select scenes based on the story that would be fun to create in miniature form, keeping the job both interesting and challenging. Kristin.

Kristin's cast of characters based on Oscar nominated family favourite *Babe* are also an utter joy to behold with Arthur Hoggett, Duchess the cat, Ferdinand the duck, Maa the elderly ewe, and the horse all making an appearance, along with, of course, Rex and Fly the border collies. Adapted from models acquired by Kristin at yard sales and flea markets, they've each been remodeled and given new eyes and tails before that all-important addition of the fur or feather coat. The way Kristin tells a story through her photographs on social media site Instagram bears echoes of all those wonderful live action animations so many of us grew up with in an age before computers did all the work! *Babe* is heavily featured in more than twenty recreated scenes, each one carefully put together and beautifully crafted.





Here Kristin uses her 'fierce' tiger to recreate scenes inspired by both *The Jungle Book* and by *Life of Pi*, the 2012 film based on Yann Martel's novel



Speaking of action, it is without a shadow of doubt, the 'action scenes' amongst Kristin's work, which will really stand out as exceptional to the fellow artisan, who is, by now, probably staring at the page, screaming 'how did she do that?' when looking at the complexity of the tiger's animated pose. "The tiger for both *Jungle Book* and *Life of Pi* was a difficult character to portray because he could be both sweet and fierce," muses Kristin, going on to explain that she created two tigers from modified plastic figures to ensure she could achieve just the right look and expression needed for the different scenes. "It adds even more work but sometimes you need the extra poses to get across the story." 





## A web of delight

Known throughout the miniature scene for her beautiful small scale dogs, the work Kristin has undertaken inspired by film and television has led her to create some of her most unusual animals to date.

These include two barn spiders she made for a scene depicting Charlotte's Web, the story of friendship between Wilbur the pig and Charlotte the spider. "In order to actually show Charlotte I had to create a couple spiders to be used in the story," Kristin explains. "I had to create a larger version of her and creatively photograph her with Wilbur so you could see both pig and spider. A lot of my stories have sold to collectors as sets which makes me very happy that all the animals stay together as they were meant to be."

Kristin has a list of varied dog and animal stories she is itching to tackle. "Alas, with a six month old in the house I have to chip away slowly" says Kristin, pointing out that being a new mum provides its challenges for even the dedicated miniaturist. "With the remake of the Lion King coming out this summer that one is high on my priorities list as is A Dog's Way Home. I previously did 'A Dog's Purpose' because Bruce Cameron is a favourite author of mine and it's such a great story with some beautiful dogs to showcase."

Kristin adores putting these scenes together as they combine many of her great loves, animals, art and creativity and photography. Kristin is a great storyteller, and her scenes always captivate their audience as Heartfelt Canines continues to amass a following on social media. Whilst these carefully crafted miniatures are essentially about recreating familiar and much loved scenes from movies, it's impossible not to acknowledge the wealth of imagination which Kristin pours into each piece, bringing every story to life with an astonishing amount of detail. "Creating customs and the same breeds over and over can get repetitive and uninspiring but this to me really keeps it fun. I also love the fact these stories engage people of all ages and hopefully draws them in to the exciting world of miniatures," she says, ending our chat with a wonderful piece of advice every miniaturist should heed as they look to new challenges.

"Many people think of miniatures for just dolls houses or railroads but really there is so much you can do with them, you just have to get creative!" 🏠



Charlotte and Wilbur pose for a selfie



Lassie is ready for next miniature journey



Make Toto!  
Turn to  
PAGE 18



Dress Dorothy.  
Make your very  
own Dorothy on  
PAGE 14



Toto from The Wizard of Oz



### INFORMATION

To see more of Kristin's work visit her Instagram page:

📷 [Heartfelt Canines](#)



# DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

## THE HOLLYWOOD EFFECT

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# Dressing Dorothy

In the autumn of 1939, a young Judy Garland starred as Dorothy in the film, 'The Wizard of Oz', considered to be one of the greatest films in the history of cinema. The film was released first in the USA in September 1939 but the UK release was not until November that same year. There are so many lovely costumes to choose from in this iconic musical, but the most well-known is of course, Dorothy's, with her pretty gingham pinafore dress.

## YOU WILL NEED

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Young lady doll with full or longer length legs and arms
- Red shoes
- Red glitter
- PVA glue and acrylic gloss varnish for shoes.
- Red sewing thread (optional)
- Scrap of white lace trim for socks
- Fine white cotton for drawers, petticoat, upper bodice & sleeves. Approx 10" x 10" (25.4cm x 25.4cm)
- Narrow white lace for trim. Approx 1 yard
- Mini blue cotton gingham for main dress. Approx 12" x 8" (30cm x 20cm)
- Two tiny white beads or buttons for dress straps
- Narrow blue silk ribbon for hair bows (optional)
- Mini basket and scrap of fabric to cover basket
- Edge sealer like fraycheck/fraystop etc
- Good quality fabric glue
- Completed Toto project from page 18

 All materials used in this project are widely available from any good arts and crafts shop.

## Louise says...

"Try to find the smallest and finest gingham fabric you can, so as not to overwhelm such a small scale doll. Pure cotton or silk will drape so much better, so avoid poly-cottons if at all possible."

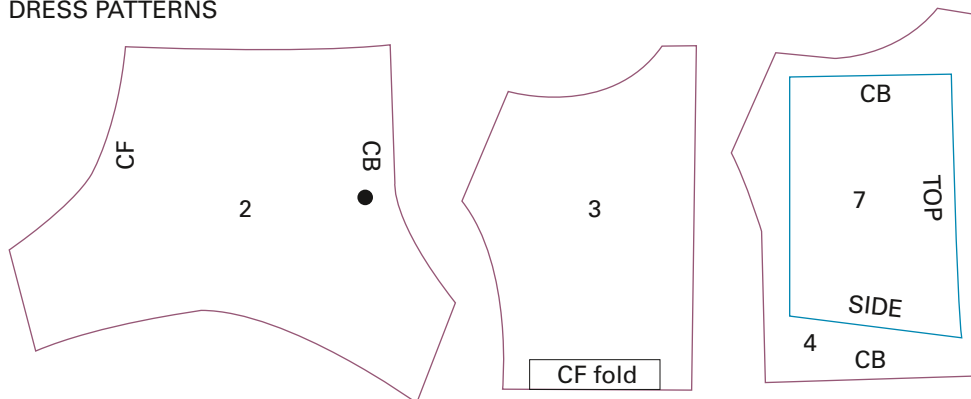


## PREPARATION

Read through all of the instructions before starting. Trace the pattern pieces and make up the garment in kitchen paper first before cutting your fabric. Once you are happy with the fit, cut the patterns out from the relevant fabric and seal all edges to stop fraying. There is a seam allowance of three 16ths of an inch (5mm) included on all pieces unless otherwise stated. Clip all curves and press seams open unless otherwise advised.



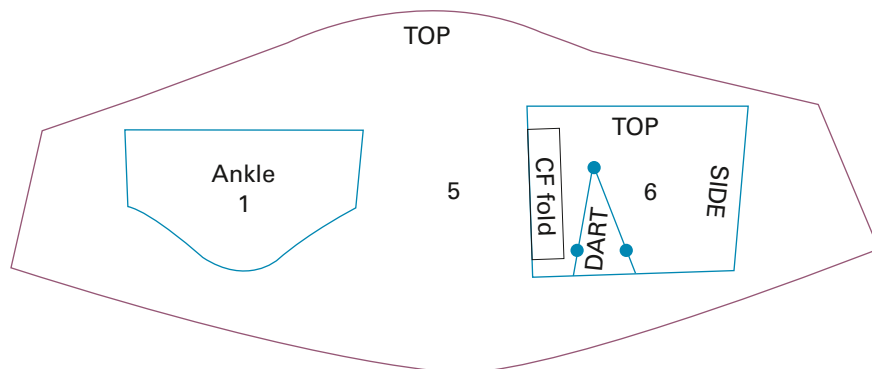
## DRESS PATTERNS



### PATTERN KEY

1. Sock guide. Cut 2.
2. Drawers Cut 2.  
(Adjust this pattern to the length you need for your doll)
3. Upper bodice front. Cut 1 on fold.
4. Upper bodice back. Cut 2.
5. Sleeve. Cut 2.
6. Main dress bodice front. Cut 1 on fold.
7. Main dress bodice back. Cut 2.

## SHOES AND SOCKS



Patterns shown at 100%

© Angelique Miniatures 2019. These patterns may be used for personal use only. Dolls dressed from these patterns may not be sold. These patterns/instructions may not be reproduced and sold.

**1** Following the line of the shoe, paint a thin layer of PVA glue over the tops and heels your doll's shoes. Before the glue dries, sprinkle fine red glitter into the glue and lightly press it in with the tip of your finger. Tap or blow the excess glitter away and allow the glue to dry thoroughly. Once dry, paint a thin layer of clear acrylic varnish over the glitter and allow it to dry thoroughly before proceeding. Check that the sock guide will fit the curve of your doll's shoes and adjust if necessary. Cut two socks from your scrap of lace, using the finished edge of the lace for the top of the socks as shown. Carefully glue the front of the sock to the front of your doll's leg and allow it to dry before proceeding.



**3** Once dry, the edge of the shoe can be further defined by carefully gluing some matching thread in place (optional).



**5** Stitch the centre front seam and press open. Stitch the centre back seam to the dot (checking that the drawers will go over doll's hips) and press open.



**2** Carefully glue the rest of the sock around your doll's ankle, trimming to meet at the centre back. Push the lower edge of the sock as neatly as possible to meet the upper edge of the shoe.

## DRAWERS



**4** Cut the drawers in fine white cotton. Turn under tiny hems on the leg edges and either stitch or glue narrow lace over them or leave them plain.



**6** Stitch the crotch seam. **DH MS**





**7** Turn. Dress onto your doll. Stitch the back opening closed. Run a gathering thread around the waist and secure the thread tightly.

### PETTICOAT



**8** Cut the petticoat in fine white cotton approx 9" x 2" (22.8cm x 50cm) long (to end just above the knee once hemmed and trimmed). Turn up the hem and stitch or glue lace in place. Stitch the centre back seam.



**9** Run a gathering thread around the top edge. Dress onto your doll, pull up the gathers tightly and fasten off. Spread out the gathers evenly.

### DRESS UPPER BODICE



**10** Cut the upper bodice and sleeve pieces from fine white cotton. Set the sleeves aside till later. Stitch the upper bodice backs to the upper bodice front at the shoulder seams.



**11** Turn under a tiny hem on the neck edge. Stitch the centre back seam.



**12** Run a tiny gathering stitch around the neck edge.



**13** Turn and dress the upper bodice onto your doll and pull up the neck gathers to give a snug fit. Spread out the gathers evenly. Gather up the lower edge and pull up tightly. Secure to your doll with a few stitches or a little glue.

### SKIRT



**14** Cut the dress skirt from your blue gingham, approx 10" (25.4cm) wide and long enough to cover the petticoat once hemmed. Turn under a hem on the lower edge. (At this point, some lace trim can be added to the right side to add interest, if desired).

Stitch the centre back seam, press and turn. Run a gathering thread around the top edge. Dress onto your doll, pull up the gathers tightly and fasten off. Spread out the gathers evenly.

### DRESS WAISTBAND AND STRAPS



**15** Cut a waistband and shoulder straps as follows from your gingham:

**Waistband:** approx ½" (12mm) wide and long enough to easily go around your doll's waist.

**Shoulder straps:** approx 3" (76mm) x approx ½" (12mm) (this will make both straps). Fold in and glue the long edges on each oblong. Shape each end of the shoulder strap piece and stitch in place a tiny bead as shown. Set aside till later.

### LOWER BODICE AND SLEEVES



**16** Cut the lower bodice pieces from blue gingham. Stitch the darts in the bodice front.

Stitch the bodice backs to the bodice front at the side seams and turn under a hem on the top edge only.

### SLEEVES

**17** Carefully position the lower bodice around your doll and glue in place over the upper bodice and skirt. Pull the lower bodice quite tight and secure neatly at the centre back with tiny slip stitches, trimming any excess if necessary.

**18** Glue the waistband in place around your doll's waist, meeting neatly at the centre back and trim away any excess.





**19** Take the white sleeves you cut earlier and turn under a hem on the lower edges. Add some lace trim, stitch the under arm seam, press and turn.



**20** Run a tiny gathering stitch around the top edge of each sleeve and dress onto your doll.

Pull up the gathers, tucking the raw edges under. Stitch the sleeves to the upper and lower bodice with tiny invisible stitches.



**21** Run a tiny gathering stitch around the lower edges of each sleeve and pull up tightly, spreading out the gathers evenly. Cut the shoulder strap section in half and position the pointed end onto the waistband at the front of the dress, each side of the centre front. Carefully glue in place over the shoulders. Secure the ends inside the lower bodice back, trimming away any excess if necessary. 🏠

Turn to  
**PAGE 18**  
to make Toto!



#### INFORMATION

This Dorothy doll is for sale. If you are interested in purchasing her please contact Angelique Miniatures for details.

✉ [lbird77329@gmail.com](mailto:lbird77329@gmail.com)

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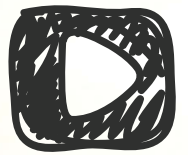


# DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

## DRESSING DOROTHY



CLICK TO VIEW VIDEO







# And Here's Toto!

As if Toto wasn't cute enough, now you can make your very own pocket sized furry friend and take him off on little adventures with you. This project teaches you the handy technique of applying fur, it's tricky, but once mastered you will be using it time and time again, have fun.

## YOU WILL NEED

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 1/12th scale dolls house picnic hamper/basket
- Polymer clay in Sahara and translucent white
- Acrylic paint in dark brown, black, pink and white
- Natural felting fibres in brown
- Small piece of material in your choice of colour and pattern
- Tacky PVA glue
- Strong craft glue
- Clear gloss liquid

### TOOLS REQUIRED

- Pokey tool
- Small and large embossing tools
- Small fine paintbrush (new or used)
- Fine scissors
- Ruler
- Completed Dorothy project from page 14



All materials used in this project are widely available from any good arts and crafts shop.

Turn to  
**PAGE 14**  
to make Dorothy



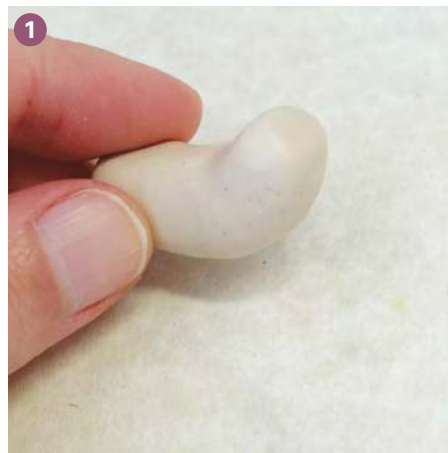
## Lynn's Top Tips!

"Before you get started and before diving into this project, gather some photographic reference of a Cairn Terrier dog, this will help guide you when shaping and forming your piece."

"Applying small pieces of felting fibre to a 3D object to create fur is no easy task. Take your time and apply the fibres in small patches and build the layers up gradually. This technique can take a lot of practice so don't be disheartened if it doesn't turn out perfect first time."

"It is important to use a good glue when applying felting fibres. I use a good quality tacky PVA, it dries slowly, getting tackier as it does so, this makes it easy to work at a slow pace. This glue also dries completely clear making it perfect for this technique."

### BODY



**1** Using a piece of Sahara clay, shape in a rough body shape, approx. 3.5cm in length. Keep the body very simple as it will later be positioned into the basket with only a little on show.

### FRONT LEGS



**2** Take Sahara clay and shape into two simple front legs, approx. 1.5cm in length, use photographic reference to gauge size and proportion in relation to the body. In turn, attach both legs to the previously made body, use the side of a pokey tool to lightly blend the clay at the top of the legs into the top of the body. Bake as recommended.

## HEAD AND NECK



**3** Using photographic reference, take Sahara clay and shape into a simple dogs head and neck. Be sure to shape a chin and to make the neck long, this will be trimmed later on. Use a small embossing tool to apply fine detail to the face, create a small nose and light indentations for the mouth. Use the embossing tool to make two eye sockets then create two eyes and set in place.

## EARS



**4** Make the ears from a little bit of translucent white clay and shape into two triangular pointed ears, approx. 4mm - 5mm in height. Use a large embossing tool to shape each ear and lightly pinch the top.



**5** Take both ears and attach them to the dogs head using the same technique as in step 2. Take the previously baked body and legs and slowly trim and attach the head to the top of the dogs body. Be careful not to over handle the clay and distort your head. Once happy with how the dog looks, bake for a further 20 mins as recommended.

## PAINTED DETAIL



**6** Use acrylic paints and a fine brush to apply fine details to the dog's face. Create a black nose, brown eyes, and a little pink to the inner ears, as pictured. Roughly paint around each eye and the nose in black, there is no need to be neat with this, as it will later be covered in fur. Leave to dry.

## FUR



**7** Take natural felting fibres in brown and cut into tiny 2mm - 3mm strands. Apply a generous coating of tacky PVA glue to the body of the dog then delicately apply small clumps of the felting fibres to the body; being sure to apply the strands in a downwards direction. Leave to completely dry.



**8** Repeat step 7, this time covering the front legs and paws. Leave to completely dry. Use a very fine pair of scissors to lightly trim the fur, giving the body and legs definition.



**9** Again, using the same technique as in step 7, apply fur to the head, neck and face. Be sure to apply the strands in direction to the contours of the head and face as much as possible, in order to give the fur a natural looking appearance. Leave to dry then trim excess fur. At this stage, assess the entire piece, if it still needs a little work, simply continue to apply and trim fur until you achieve a look you are happy with.



**10** Use a fine brush to apply a little clear gloss liquid to the dogs eyes and nose. Leave to dry completely.

## FINISHING



**11** Take the completed dog and glue into the hamper so that it appears to be holding onto the side and peering out. Leave to dry completely. Take a small piece of material and cut into a 10cm x 5cm rectangle. Take the fabric and create a draped blanket to cover the back of the dog and fill the hamper. Toto is now ready for his next adventure! 🏠



## INFORMATION

1/12th scale basket or hamper available from:

🌐 [www.dollhouse.com](http://www.dollhouse.com)

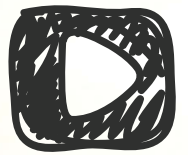


# DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

## AND HERE'S TOTO!



CLICK TO VIEW VIDEO





Mole, Mr. Badger, Mr. Toad and Ratty inside Toad Hole

# Toad of Toad Hall

Meet highly talented amateur miniaturist **Hazel Wyle**, as Moi Ali found out all about one of her marvellous movie-inspired creations.

The very first film adaptation of British novelist Kenneth Grahame's children's classic, *The Wind in the Willows*, was released by Disney in 1949. Since then, *Toad of Toad Hall* has been a regular on the small screen and at cinemas. Hazel Wyle, who lives in Clackmannanshire in Scotland, is a *Wind in the Willows* fan, but I was especially intrigued to find out why she decided to miniaturise her favourite fictional characters...

"It's a long story," she explained. "It was a miniature tree house that sparked the idea. I made it at a weekend workshop held at Vanessa's (who runs Vanessa's Dolls). The tutor was Sue Simpson. It wasn't really 'my thing' but I thought I would learn a lot. I certainly did and 'my thing' it very much became! The tree house has a small cave-type thing under it and I thought it needed a little

rowing boat. The boat now has rollicks and oars, but I never got around to painting it. Remiss of me!"

## Inspiration

The boat made Hazel think about the TV series *Wind in the Willows* and of the character Ratty, who had a boat, "I thought it might be fun to create the four main characters and to pop them in the tree house. It turns out Badger actually lived in a tree house, not the others!"

Hazel looked for pictures for inspiration, but in the end she and husband Gordon decided to buy the whole series on DVD: "We binge watched the series, then every so often we'd pause so I could take pictures of the heads from the front and sides. I printed them out so I could refer to them later. However, the series was filmed in a kind of sepia colour, so

deciding on colours for the characters was tricky." Unbelievably, Hazel has little figure-modelling experience: "I just did my own thing. I didn't follow tutorials or refer to books. It was a case of try it and see. The only character dolls I have made are very ugly men - plus Santa Claus and a couple of elves."

For a beginner, her creatures are so professional. Hazel attended some of Angie Scarr's polymer clay workshops and gained skills there, putting them into play for these Fimo characters. A metal armature forms the framework.

The bodies are padded and the clothes made from real fabric. "I had considered adding fur," Hazel told me, "but that would have taken away from what I was trying to replicate. The animals in the TV series were made from latex. If I added fur, the look would change completely."

Was it tricky? "Not really," Hazel replied. "I didn't have any real disasters either. One of Badger's claws got knocked off, but that was soon remedied by sticking it back on with liquid Fimo and re-baking."

Hazel is rightly delighted with the results, "I think they are better than I expected by a long way!"





▲ Mr. Badger

## Mr. Badger

Badger was made first: "He was the biggest of the four, so I thought that the others could be scaled to suit him. But how big to make him? Using a human scale wasn't entirely right so I just went for it! I have never made anything remotely like these and didn't know if I could, but decided I'd give it a go anyway. I expected it would take many attempts, but as soon as I made the first beginnings of Badger's head, I realised that I could do it."

"My first Badger was roughly the right shape, but he was too small. The next head was bigger, so I had to use tin foil inside to reduce the weight and large feet as a counterbalance! I discovered that the TV series models also had large feet for balance, but they also used magnets apparently. The head did seem huge compared to a doll-sized head, but I had to forget about comparing it to dolls house dolls."



▲ Stages in construction

## Mr. Toad

"I wasn't going to make him next, but Gordon said he thought he would be the most difficult one. He was a little more problematic; I think because he has more expressions and I had to try and make his expression cover a multitude. If I made him again, I'd make his skin more textured after adding the warts." Hazel took photos of Toad with Badger to see how they compared for size, "I find that if I take pictures, I see things that I don't notice during the process." Great tip, Hazel! 



▲ Mr. Toad



▲ Badger being tested for size in the tree house



▲ Big feet counterbalance a big head!





▲ Badger version two was much improved



▲ Toad takes shape



▲ Ratty is his fine jumper!



▲ Ratty's armature



▲ Hello Moley



▲ In the 'poop poop' car!

"Of course, Toad lives at Toad Hall," said Hazel. "I just so happened to have a room box that I made in one of Sue Simpson's classes. It was the perfect backdrop for them all. I tried to pose them like a photo I found from the TV series."

### Ratty & Mole

Ratty turned out to be the most difficult: "I didn't quite get his head shape right. I might try making another one. I do love his wee face though!" Mole was last to be created.

### Costumes & props

Everyone had to be dressed: "In the TV series the characters had so many costumes, especially Toad. I chose the outfits I thought I'd be able to replicate. Trying to find fabrics was difficult. Everything was always going to be a bit too thick, but Maria from Maria's Fabrics found some pieces in her collection that were perfect in colour and pattern. Toad's suit was wool and frayed like mad, but thanks to a lot of Fray Check, glue and sewing, I got there in the end! I even bought a whole cardigan from a charity shop in order to get a tiny piece to make Ratty's jumper."

The car was the finishing touch: "Gordon had bought me a model car at a fair and I'd planned to put people in it. Then it dawned on me that Toad loved his 'poop poop' cars. What's more, the characters fitted perfectly!"

### Final thoughts

Hazel might be an amateur, but that certainly doesn't stop her from being a perfectionist: "I might one day make them again, correcting any mistakes. I'm my own worst enemy!" If you're reading this, Hazel, I think they're just perfect exactly as they are! 🐸



# DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

## TOAD OF TOAD HALL

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# The Whole Kit & Caboodle

## HOGWARTS ROOM BOX BY DOLLS HOUSE DIRECT



The kit comes with lots of extras!

This wonderfully detailed kit by Dolls House Direct was inspired by the Harry Potter films. So aside from using it to re-create your favourite Harry Potter scene, it also doubles up as a fabulous medieval or even Gothic Revival room box. Now despite all the realistic detailing, it was actually a really easy build. Essentially, it's just three walls, an inner wall, ceiling and floor, so it couldn't be easier to assemble.

It's the authentic detailing that makes this kit impressive, as it comes with laser cut wood paneling, faux Gothic door, highly detailed window, carved fireplace and even a hearth, with scope for including bespoke touches.



inside the decorated room box

I very slightly remodelled my fireplace and window surround to suit my needs.

For the price, this is really great value and perfect for someone starting out in kit building. I've added a detailed ceiling panel and beams. It's not part of the standard kit, but it is designed specifically to accompany this kit and is available as

an add-on. Even better, this kit comes in 1/12th or 1/24th scale!

I have reviewed a Dolls House Direct kit before (The Arches) and what impresses me about their vast range is that there's something for everyone. So if this is not 'your thing' (though I have to say that it's right up my street!), do take a look at what else is on offer.

**Moi says...**

*Add a stone effect to the fireplace that comes with the kit, as I have done, using paper clay. It's best to do this prior to assembly. Use a diluted paint wash to create realistic-looking stone.*

**GIVEAWAY!**

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN A HOGWARTS ROOM BOX?

### THEN ENTER OUR PRIZE DRAW!

Dolls House Direct are kindly offering one lucky reader a kit. Enter online by 30th September 2019 at:

[www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk](http://www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk)

For full terms and conditions visit: [www.warnersgroup.co.uk/competitions-terms](http://www.warnersgroup.co.uk/competitions-terms)

### THE FACTS

**Buy from:** Dolls House Direct  
 [www.dollshousedirect.co.uk](http://www.dollshousedirect.co.uk)

**Cost:** 1/12th scale £59

**Comes with:** Panels, door, fireplace and window frames.

### Additional materials needed:

Acetate, glue and plus paint. An optional decorative ceiling and beams are also available.

**Time:** A half-day to build, plus a day to decorate.

**Experience:** Beginner

**Top tip:** Do a dry run before gluing parts in place.



# DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

## THE WHOLE KIT & CABOODLE

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# Hammer Time!

Combine gothic architecture with creepy horror movies to create an altar and candles, requiring very few tools to look hugely impressive.

## YOU WILL NEED

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- A block of timber
- Skirting board or architrave
- Decorative wooden mouldings with a pierced design
- Red and brown paint
- Goldfinger gilding wax
- Glue
- Thin white cotton fabric
- White paper
- Lace
- Transparent, white or cream polymer clay
- Brass candlesticks
- A short piece of wire (stiff fuse or jewellery)
- Black paint
- PVA glue

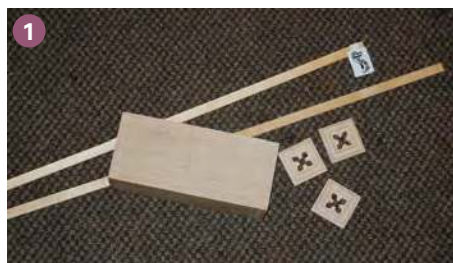
### TOOLS REQUIRED

- Scissors
- Hand saw
- Pencil
- Mitre
- Small embossing ball tool



All materials used in this project are widely available from any good arts and crafts shop.

## ALTAR



**1** Cut a block of timber to 18cm x 8cm, 6.5cm deep. Cut skirting or architrave to fit around the base of the altar on three sides, remembering to mitre the corners. Do not fit architrave/skirting to the back of the altar if it is going to be against a wall. Glue in place.



**2** Place your decorative wooden mouldings however you wish and use a pencil to draw around them. Remove the mouldings and paint the whole assembly brown, except the area that will be occupied by the mouldings. This should be painted red, although the mouldings themselves should be brown.



**3** When the paint has dried, glue the mouldings in place with the red background showing through the design. Use Goldfinger gilding wax to add a little gilding to highlight the mouldings.



**4** Cut white paper to the shape and size of an altar runner. Cut white fabric to the same dimensions, but allow a hem allowance of approximately 1.5cm along each length.



**5** Iron the hems around the paper, then glue in place. Carefully glue the finished fabric to the altar and trim the bottom with lace if you wish. Your completed altar runner can now be laid in place.

**Moi says...**

*"You'll need a pair of small brass candlesticks in a suitable scale."*

*Try charity shops or car boot sales, where they can often be picked up cheaply."*



## CANDLES



**1** Blend white or cream polymer clay with an equal amount of translucent clay. Divide in three, with two equal pieces (one for each candle) and a smaller ball, to use later to form drips in the 'wax'.



**2** Form two candle-shaped cylinders, just under 2cm high. They can be a bit irregular, as this will create a more realistic candle.



**3** Sit the candles on the candlesticks. Use a ball tool to create a depression in the top of each.



**4** Roll the smaller piece of clay into several small balls to form dripping wax. Attach to the candles in clusters for a melted wax effect. Use a ball tool to smooth to the body of the candle. Add wax drips on the base of the candlesticks. (If they fall off when baked, you can just glue them back on).

**5** Insert a small piece of wire into the middle of each candle to form a wick. It helps to hold the wire in tweezers when inserting. Bake according to the manufacturer's instructions. Once cooled, paint the wicks black and leave to dry.



**6** Drop PVA glue into the depression in the top of each candle. When dry, the shiny transparent PVA will look like melted wax. Paint PVA onto the drips too, to mimic molten wax.

### Moi's Top Tip!

"Use glow-in-the-dark polymer clay for spooky candles – perfect for a Halloween scene. Red candles are a good choice too, whether making a spooky scene or a horror altar."



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# What's on TV?



## YOU WILL NEED

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Digital photo keychain (38mm/1½")
- Matte board or heavy card
- Polymer clay in black
- Paint
- Paper clips
- Thin wire
- Glue stick

### TOOLS REQUIRED

- Craft knife
- Printer and photo paper
- Screwdriver

 All materials used in this project are widely available from any good arts and crafts shop.

Use the template provided along with an old digital photo keyring to create your very own working 1950s inspired TV in 1/12th scale.

## A BIT ABOUT ME...

**Hello Alan, whereabouts in the world are you?**

I am currently in Los Angeles, California.

**What scale do you prefer to work in?**

I prefer to work in 1/48th scale.

**Who/what inspires you?**

Walt Disney is a huge inspiration, and I always listen to music when I'm working.



**1** Plug in your digital photo keychain to your computer and load it up with your favourite photos according to the instructions on the device.



**2** Unscrew the cover and remove the pieces. We only need the screen inside that is attached to the motherboard and battery. Do not remove the screen from any soldered pieces.

## Alan says...

"Make sure that the keychain is charged. I used a 38mm/1½" screen size Coby DP-151 which I had lying around in a draw. Alternatively, they can be found online for under £10. Other brands are available that would work just as well, but might require some changes to the template to help them fit."





**3** Cut out the television template provided and stick onto matte board or a heavy card using your glue stick. If you are using a larger or smaller digital screen, you can photocopy or scan the template and scale it to fit your screen.



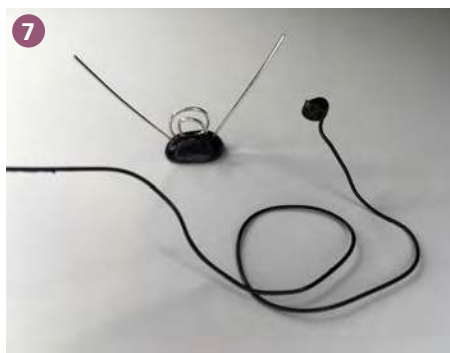
**4** Cut out all the pieces, including the screen where the digital frame will be located.



**5** Assemble the TV box, leaving off the top for now.



**6** Cut small pieces of heavy card to use as feet for the TV box.



**7** Use polymer clay to make a sphere. Cut off the top of the sphere to leave a round dome with a flat bottom. Use a paper clip to shape the aerial alternatively, three pieces of silver wire. Wind one piece to create the centre and leave two straight pieces for the sides. Make the power cable with a length of black wire attached to a piece of shaped polymer clay for the plug.



**8** Insert your digital keychain so it is snug inside the box. Activate the keychain so it plays on a loop then attach to the top of the TV panel. Attach to the unfinished set. 🏠



#### INFORMATION

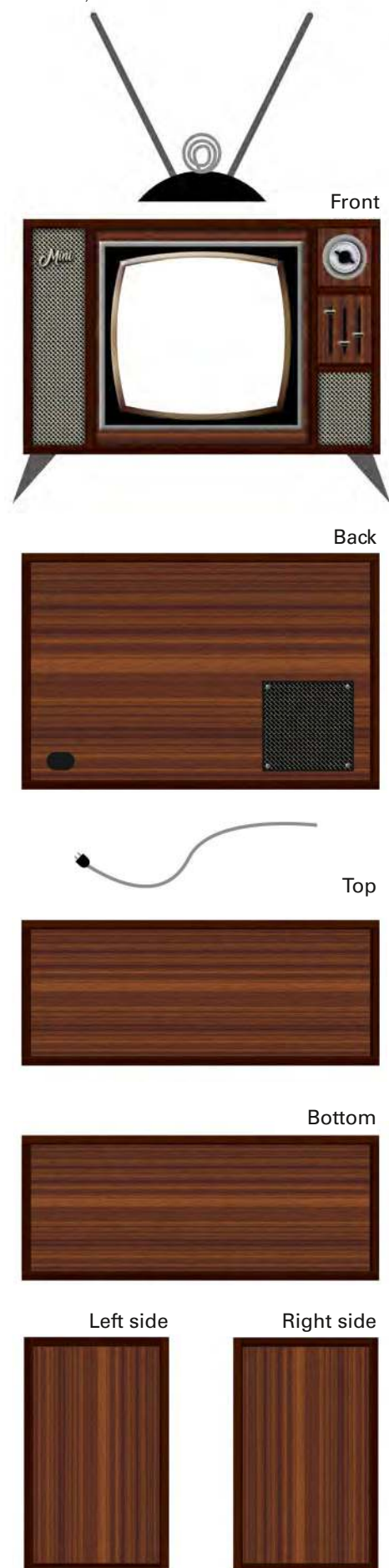
To see more of Alan's work take a look at his Instagram page:

📷 [Alan Ronay](#)

#### TELEVISION TEMPLATE

Patterns at 100%

© Alan Ronay 2018.







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## SHOPPING Guide

*\*All prices correct at time of going to press*

# TV & FILM

This month's miniature must haves  
are perfect for those looking for  
some action... not forgetting lights  
and camera of course!



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£3.00  
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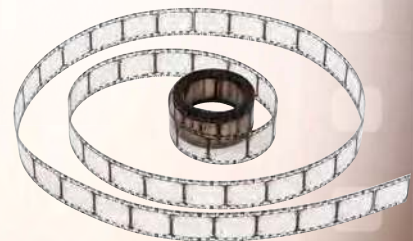
Assorted remote controls,  
£2.65  
[www.dollshousemania.co.uk](http://www.dollshousemania.co.uk)



Thor's hammer miniature prop,  
£20.00  
[www.etsy.com/uk/shop/KieronsCrafts](http://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/KieronsCrafts)



Girl with the Pearl Earring painting,  
£4.95  
[www.littlehouseatthepriory.co.uk](http://www.littlehouseatthepriory.co.uk)



Tim Holtz idea-ology film strip,  
£5.99  
[www.buddlycrafts.com](http://www.buddlycrafts.com)





# Lights, Camera, Action!

Get in on the movie action with this miniature clapperboard.



## YOU WILL NEED

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- ☐ Black acrylic paint
- ☐ Self-adhesive white labels
- ☐ Matte varnish
- ☐ Fine metallic silver marker pen
- ☐ Glue stick
- ☐ Super Glue
- ☐ 1.5mm thick wood or similar
- ☐ Thin black marker pen
- ☐ White paper

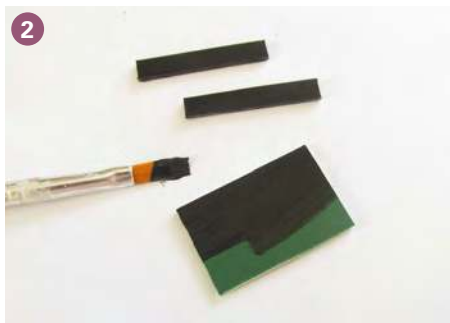
### TOOLS REQUIRED

- ☐ Small brush
- ☐ Craft knife
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Scissors

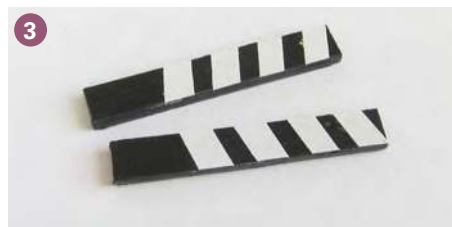
All materials used in this project are widely available from any good arts and crafts shop.



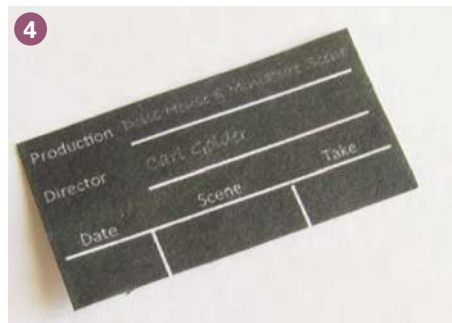
**1** Carefully cut three pieces of wood (or similar material), with one large piece measuring 3cm x 1.9cm and two smaller pieces each measuring 3cm x 4mm.



**2** Use a small paintbrush to carefully paint each of the three pieces with black acrylic paint. Allow to dry, then apply a second coat. Leave to dry once more and then paint a layer of matte varnish.



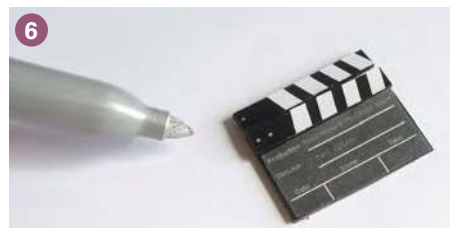
**3** Cut eight strips of white self-adhesive label, each 3mm wide. Place four strips diagonally across both of the 3cm x 4mm sticks. One stick should show the white strips pointing to the left and the other pointing to the right. Trim the ends with scissors.



**4** Use a thin black marker pen and paper to design the front of the slate. Draw a line for the name of the production, another for the director and three boxes at the bottom for the date, scene and take numbers. The whole thing should measure 3cm x 1.4cm.



**5** Use small dabs of Super Glue to stick the white stripes pointing right across the top front of the clapperboard. Use a glue stick to stick the 'slate' to the front.



**6** Apply Super Glue to the end of the second stick to the top of the first one so it points upwards, with the stripes pointing in the opposite direction. Use a fine metallic silver marker pen to add three dots to replicate the fixings on the two sticks. The only thing left to do is shout 'action!' on your very own miniature production!



## INFORMATION

To see more of Sadie's work visit

[www.homewardflight.etsy.com](http://www.homewardflight.etsy.com)

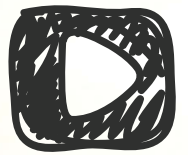


# DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

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# ACROSS POND



**FULL NAME:**  
Ryan Monahan

**FULL TIME OCCUPATION:**  
Artist

**CITY/STATE OF RESIDENCE:**  
Chicago, Illinois, USA

**WHAT'S YOUR MINIATURE SPECIALTY?**

I have a strong attraction to urban imagery. I love to try and recreate textures and objects that are found in city environments. I think most people would classify my artwork as dramatic and raw.

**HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO MINIATURE MAKING?**

I sort of fell into making miniatures. I was working full time as a graphic designer and would want to go home after sitting behind a computer all day and work with my hands. I was never a big collector myself, but I really enjoy creating things in various scales.

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TELEVISION-THEMED MINIATURE YOU'VE CREATED?**

My favourite would be Union Theater, a closed down auditorium from the 1970s/1980s. This piece is in the personal collection of a film director in New York City, which just adds to the story of the work! Union Theater was the stepping stone to my smaller series "Now Showing," which are small, limited-edition, theatre themed pieces I created as part of a long running series.

See what's new and on trend in the miniature world as **Kate Ünver** of the dailymini shares with us her favourite artisans. With one of our themes focussing on TV and film, Kate introduces us to **Ryan Monahan**, a miniaturist who specialises in urban and street themed minis. You can connect with Kate via Twitter: **@thedailymini** or via her website: **www.thedailymini.com**



**Video Villa, 2019.** This work was inspired by the late, great video rental stores of the 1980s and 1990s. It's built into a stack of actual VHS tapes

**Q: WHAT IS DAILYMINI?**

**A: It's a digitally curated space that showcases internationally renowned artists and designers working in small scale**  
Follow along on  **@dailymini!**





Union Theater, 2017. Created partially from found objects, including a garage door pull and some mirror wall-mounting hardware



House Stark castle closet door from the HBO series Game of Thrones. The bricks are carved MDF (medium-density fibreboard) that was painted with various layers to achieve the stone effect



The iconic purple apartment door from Friends. Most of the door hardware was created from various beads and jewellery hardware painted to look like brass





Maintenance shed door from Jurassic Park



Dr. Peter Venkman's office door from Ghostbusters. The textured glass in the door was achieved by using crimped foil behind the glass

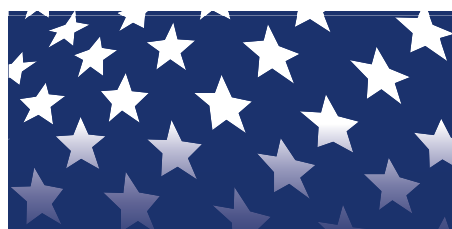


"Dante's Inferno Room" from Beetlejuice, paired with a concept sketch



#### INFORMATION

To see more of Ryan's work visit  
[RyanThomasMonahan.com](http://RyanThomasMonahan.com)  
 @What\_thehell



#### WHAT'S YOUR MINIATURE-MAKING PROCESS?

I'm a huge movie buff, so the first thing I do before I even begin working is put on a movie. Usually something I've seen hundreds of times; this way I don't really watch it, but more to just listen along.

#### TELL US A SECRET?

I collect the small metal marker flags you see in the ground around construction sites. They're often rusted from being outside and exposed to the elements. They're ideal for turning into rusted pipes, rusted naturally, and for free by sweet Mother Nature!

#### WHAT INSPIRES YOU? WHAT KEEPS YOU MAKING MINIATURES?

I think what keeps me going is always producing new ideas in my head. If I have an idea, it's usually all the inspiration I need to get going. I do, however, surround myself in my studio with toys, movies, and art, and all of those things bring me joy and inspiration.

#### WHAT'S YOUR ALL-TIME FAVOURITE TV SHOW AND FAVOURITE MOVIE?

I'm a product of the 1990s, so my heart will always belong to Perfect Strangers and Family Matters... and other classic situation comedies from the 1980s and 1990s. When it comes to movies, it's somewhat similar: my favourites are Jurassic Park, Ghostbusters, Back to the Future trilogy, and so on.

#### WHAT'S SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I suppose most people don't know I worked for a carnival service when I was in high school. I was the least weird one of the carnies (US slang for carnivals)... and that's saying something!

#### IF YOU WEREN'T CREATING MINIATURES, HOW WOULD YOU BE SPENDING YOUR TIME?

I really enjoy creating furniture and tools for my house, so I'd be spending my time woodworking, fabricating, and with other crafts.

#### A MINIATURE-MAKING QUOTE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

"I only made it that small because I couldn't build a life-sized theater in my basement."

Ryan Thomas Monahan 



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# At Home with THE BROADWOODS



This month, professional miniaturist **Bea Broadwood** takes a closer look at quarter scale interiors and shares her super simple technique for creating realistic floorboards.

Over the last few issues, I've been taking a closer look at the varying techniques and materials that can be used to create those all important finishing touches when working in the miniature world. Regular readers of this column will already know that when you are working in the smaller scales, it's not so much about creating a faithful replica of the full scale world, but instead an illusion of it. In short, it's all about faking it and this has always been my (personal) approach when it comes to 1/48th scale floorboards!

## Treading the boards

My daily work at Petite Properties is to design and develop new smaller scale dolls houses and an important part of that process is building (what I call) the master model. A master model is my example of how one of our house designs could be finished; something to inspire our customer's inspiration. Internally, I do like my master models to be a blank canvas, so I like to keep the internal decoration to a minimum; however floorboards are always a key feature.

“When I build our quarter scale master models, I always decorate the interior before I start the construction process. As from experience, trying to paint the interior of a house when it is already built is not only difficult, but also ends up like the decorating version of keyhole surgery!”  
*Bea.*

Before attempting to create quarter scale floorboards, I started by taking a close look at full size ones and after extensive research I found that there is no average

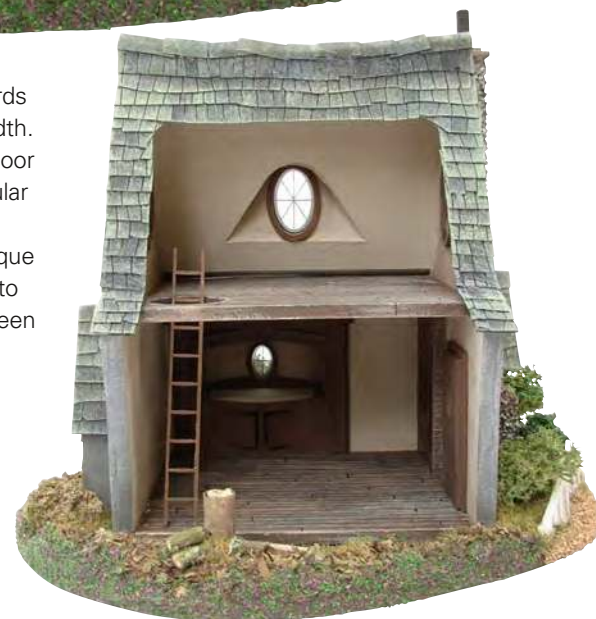
floorboard width. Instead, old floorboards vary wildly and are rarely the same width. So to create an effective period style floor I knew that I needed to replicate irregular boards. During the research process, I measured the gaps between old antique floorboards and after doing the maths to re-scale them; these tiny spaces between the boards equates to a mere 0.1mm!

## The mathematical bit

An approximate standard gap between 1/48th scale floorboards is only 0.1mm, so, following this research, I realised that if I did not want my boards to be out of scale, so I needed to devise a subtle method to create them. Over on the opposite page is my simple four step technique for painted floorboards.



Woodcutter's Cottage



The interior of Woodcutter's Cottage



# 1/48th Scale Floorboards

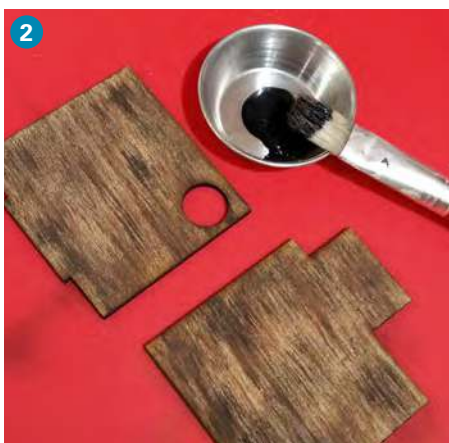
## YOU WILL NEED

- A selection of coarse bristle brushes
- Large water colour brush (to apply the varnish evenly and without streaks)
- Permanent black fibre tip pen (0.1)
- Engineer square or ruler
- Medium brown paint (\*Old Beams)
- Dark brown or soft black paint (\*Mucky Paint or \*Wood Stove)
- Varnish (matt, satin or gloss)

 All materials used in this project are widely available from any good arts and crafts shop.



**1** Using a dry bristle brush, apply a tiny amount of medium brown paint to the floor. Apply the paint in light strokes, always in the same direction. Set aside to dry.



**2** Using a new dry brush repeat the process using a darker brown or soft black paint.



**3** Seal the floor with varnish. Apply the varnish using brush strokes in the same direction as the paint, then leave to dry completely.



**4** Using a black permanent pen and a ruler, draw irregular lines onto the surface of the floor from 3mm to 5mm apart. Finally, draw random horizontal lines across the boards if required.

## Bea's Top Tip!

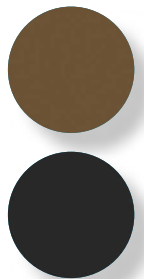
*"I always use a water based varnish, as it is quick to dry and brushes can be easily washed in hot soapy water."*

## Different colours... different effect

Varying the colours that you apply to your floor's surface will completely change the appearance and feel of the floorboards you in turn create. For example, when I created Woodcutter's Cottage I wanted a dusty, well worn finish so I first applied a cool dark brown and soft black (\*Mucky Paint and \*Wood Stove) and then finished the floor with a final sparse application of pale ivory paint (\*Wishy Washy Stone).

So whether you want to create a dusty period floor, or replicate rich warm Georgian boards, the technique is the same... simply play around with your colour combinations combined with the finish of your varnish and 'voila!' you'll be able to create a scale appropriate and realistic floor in only four steps!

So what are you waiting for? Why not have a go today! 



In next month's quarter scale feature Ann Evans talks to Veronica Norris.



## INFORMATION

 [www.petite-properties.com](http://www.petite-properties.com)  
 [info@petitepropertiesltd.com](mailto:info@petitepropertiesltd.com)  
 01526 328738

\*From the Petite Properties' paint range - alternatively you could use any matt finish paint



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# Miniatura<sup>®</sup> Preview

## The countdown is on to autumn Miniatura

Autumn Miniatura, to be held at the NEC, Birmingham on 5th & 6th October 2019 is only a few weeks away. In attendance will be a fantastic selection of artisans from around the globe, including an abundance of new talent displaying quality dolls houses and miniatures. Find everything you need for your dolls house, model or project all under one roof. Miniatura is an excellent chance to stock up on essential modelling items, find a bargain or treat yourself to some new accessories.

As well as the fabulous shopping you will have the opportunity to get some industry inside tips with one of their roundtable

workshops. These will cover the creative and practical elements of miniature modelling and are brilliant for visitors to learn some new skills and meet like-minded people.

Doors open at 10.00am and close at 5.00pm (4.00pm on Sunday). Ticket prices start from £5.50 and weekend tickets (Saturday and Sunday) can be purchased online via: [www.miniatura.co.uk](http://www.miniatura.co.uk) for only £14.00!

You can be confident of a good day out at Miniatura - it's where the miniature world meets.

**Here are just some of the artisans you can expect to see:**

## Criss Cross Miniatures

We moved house earlier this year which has involved setting up a new workshop. By the end of July it was in a useable state, so we were able to produce new items. So far we have an Arts and Crafts sofa based on one we saw in the Lake District and a lovely fantasy themed chair and footstool, for your weary elves and witches! There are more ideas in the pipeline, so watch this space! Maggie and David.

[www.crisscrossminiatures.webeden.co.uk](http://www.crisscrossminiatures.webeden.co.uk)  
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## Delph Miniatures

We always look forward to Miniatura, it's always a good time to chat with our customers and find out what they are looking for. In the run up to the show, we will be finishing off new items well in to the small hours as usual! If you'd like to plan your Delph shopping in advance you can now view our website on your phone or tablet, and if there's something specific you would like to buy at the show, please let us know a few weeks in advance and we will do our best to have it available! Margaret and Kath.

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## J & A Supplies

J & A Supplies make 1/12th scale hand-made doors and windows, brass curtain rails, fireplaces, brick slips, roof tiles and many more items including furniture. They also stock a wide range of wood planks and strips in obeche, mahogany, walnut, balsa and bass wood. Angie Warring.

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## Jane Harrop

I don't think anything beats the pleasure and surprise of opening a drawer or removing the lid from a model to reveal the contents inside. One of my particular favourites this croquet set kit, now made in 1/12th and 1/24th scales. Visit my stand at Miniatura to see my newest range of kits.

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## Jan Southerton - The Flower Lady

Most people are aware of the term downsizing when referring to full size housing, but when applied to the dolls house world it means much more or rather less! For years I have happily created 1/12th scale flowers and plants although some were a challenge. Then 1/24th scale became more popular and I was able to downsize fairly easily. Then oh boy 1/48th crashed into my life (I blame Bea Broadwood). Wonderful kits for cottages and garden items just crying out for floral decorations. I must admit something of a challenge but so far one I have coped with. Hopefully my stand at Miniatura will have a good selection of all.

[www.jantheflowerlady.co.uk](http://www.jantheflowerlady.co.uk)

[jantheflowerlady@gmail.com](mailto:jantheflowerlady@gmail.com)

01794323158



## Tarbena Miniatures

We always look forward to Miniatura, it's always a good time to chat with our customers and find out what they are looking for. In the run up to the show, we will be finishing off new items well in to the small hours as usual! If you'd like to plan your Delph shopping in advance you can now view our website on your phone or tablet, and if there's something specific you would like to buy at the show, please let us know a few weeks in advance and we will do our best to have it available! Margaret and Kath.

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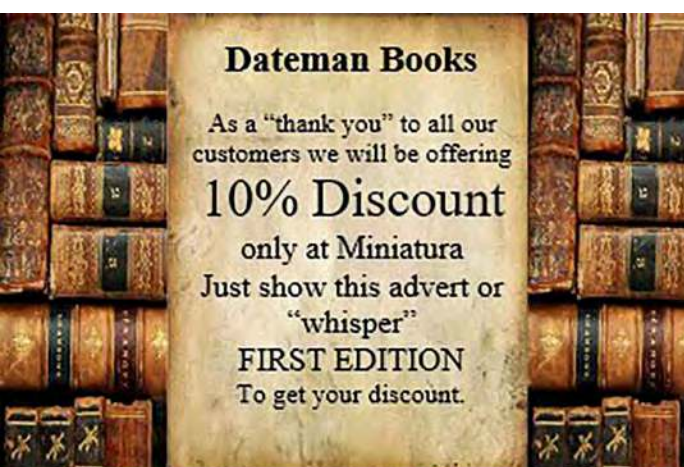
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# Made by You:

## A Useful Shop for Putting Things In

### JOHN HARRIS

We know how much hard work and dedication goes into dressing a doll, creating a room box or constructing a house, whether it be producing it from scratch or following the instructions. We thought it would be nice to give you the readers the spotlight you deserve and share your finished projects.

I am a retired project manager and live in the ancient market town of Wantage in Oxfordshire. My main interest for many years (and still is) was tinkering with my 1934 MG sports car and 1950s MG Saloon. However, one Christmas many years ago I was at a loss regarding what gift to get for my wife Doreen. At that time, Doreen's daughter had a dolls house (a serious hobby rather than a toy) and Doreen showed some interest, so I decided that's what I'd buy for her. I bought a three-storey dolls house kit that came with a basement and consisting what amounted to two shops. As the early part of my career included making things for Harwell's experimental scientists, I was well prepared and able! Little did I know how involved I would become with the hobby as well.

#### Our introduction to the hobby

Building this first house taught us both a lot about construction, decorating and me about wiring and electrics. This is when I became, as did my wife, hooked.

We visited various shops and shows in our area and were staggered at the range of exquisitely made miniature items of furniture and more. Meeting people selling all sorts of related products and materials was an eye-opener for folk new to the hobby. This really filled us with enthusiasm and we bought a few items to start, including a miniature sewing machine.

Doreen asked if I could make a table to put the sewing machine on, much like the desk she had for her full-size machine.



John Harris and his useful shop

I had a go with some 1/8th plywood and a couple of legs made from spare staircase spindles. It worked 'ok', but was very crude compared with what could be bought.

Visiting another show, we found a stand for Bromley Craft Products who, among other things, had a wide range of wood. I bought a selection to have another go at making furniture with a lot more success. Having now made almost a hundred pieces, getting better each time.

#### The barn project

Over the years we have gathered a few pieces of dolls house furniture, some made by me and as some very old stuff that my sisters had. Rather than have them hiding in boxes, I thought it would be nice to build something in which Doreen could display them. I liked the idea of a shop of some sort, especially a timber building. So, the idea of a converted barn type shop which offered new and second hand items for sale came about!

#### The start

Before deciding how it would look, I first collected together all the various windows and doors, a few left over from earlier projects and others that Doreen's daughter gave us. These included twelve and nine pane windows and a couple of bay windows, as well as a few doors which could be used. Having a few spare sets of stairs, I decided that I could create a two-storey building.

Laying the elements out gave me some idea of how big this beastie was going to be and how the items could be best used. Using the square section timber, I laid out the position of the windows and doors. Some were laid sideways and some vertical so that I could see how they could be modified to fit together. Similarly, the doors were modified so that they opened inwards.

Having worked out the layout I assembled the front sections side by side to determine the width of the building.





▲ All windows assembled

I used small screws to secure the sides of the frames to the horizontal sections for extra strength, as I wasn't quite sure whether they would be strong enough. As it turned out, these two halves were much lighter than I expected and with the windows assembled were a lot stronger, with the board cladding added making them even stronger.

### The main building

I turned my attention to the sides of the building. As I still had two more of the nine-pane windows, I decided to add side windows to both ends of the ground floor of the shop. Again, I made sure that the side windows aligned nicely with those at the front. I originally planned to have a

plain board back to the building to give it extra strength. However, having made the sides with all the horizontal members and diagonal bracing, I realised that the building would be a lot stronger than I imagined.

### The first floor

Having worked out how the stairs would come through the floor, I set about constructing the first floor. This was a simple framework to fit within the four walls having beams from front to back with a hole through which the stairs would emerge. Once completed, the floor was clamped into position. I had to play around for a bit to work out how the stairs would affect the upper floor and what space they would take up on the ground floor.



▲ The first floor being constructed

I decided to put a 90-degree turn part way up, minimising the space taken up on both floors. This exercise was carried out before I prepared the opening in the first floor.

As the stairs needed to be supported, I boxed in the first flight with a small panel at the side and made a square platform behind. I stood this in the corner and then positioned the other flight and decided to box in the area below. As this box covered a sizeable area, I put in a door on one side for a customer toilet. Both flights were furnished with hand rails, as was the upper floor aperture. Following the test assembly, I decided that room under the stairs was a little too small to do what I planned for it, so before final assembly and fitting into the building, I extended it. Once the stair assembly was complete, I covered the walls with brick-effect paper. The stair treads were tiled with some items I had left over from another project. This was the stage where it would have been prudent to consider some preparation for power and lighting but I, mistakenly, proceeded without doing so. More about this shortly!

### The under-stairs toilet

I bought a toilet and wash basin online and made a toilet roll holder and towel rail, using a mirror from a powder compact that my wife Doreen had finessed with. Fitting everything in was a bit of a challenge with having to reach from the front and the toilet door to position everything. Items were glued in place to prevent them moving about.



▲ Upstairs in the useful shop





◀ The finished shopfront

## Cladding the building

I painted all the windows and door frames before embarking upon cladding. As the building was constructed as a shed would be, I decided that overlapping planks would be appropriate, so I bought a few packs of thin good quality wood of the right-scale thickness and used my small modelling circular saw to slice them up. I declined to taper the planks across the width which is usually the case with this sort of cladding and was very satisfied with the result. Many sheets were used and more orders for wood were placed during the operation, however the result was well worth the effort.

## The roof

The next stage was the construction of the pitched roof. First a rectangular frame was positioned on top to match the main building frame. Once glued together and dried, the tape holding everything in place was removed and the roof boards added and secured, with the ends cladded to match the rest of the building. I added tile paper, before finally painting all internal wood to match the outside.

As I mentioned before, I didn't consider lighting but changed my mind after the construction was complete. I searched for some time to find simple 'industrial looking' lights without success, so I decided to try and make my own!

This wasn't easy but I managed to fabricate simple shallow conical shapes glued to screw in bulb holders. I decided to construct simple ducting for the wiring,

as one would see in any industrial building. I used a 3/16th square section to mill out a channel 1/8th wide and deep on one side. This was sufficient to contain all the wiring leading to the lights and a single socket outlet on each floor. I had to make the shade that was to go into the toilet area smaller so that it would pass over top of the toilet wall (this was the problem I encountered by not installing the lighting sooner – another lesson learned!).

You will see that there is a desk and cabinet with an old-fashioned till on, as well as some other items 'cluttering' the place. There is a reason for this!

The building was planned as a saleroom for all sorts of second hand furniture and anything new or used that can be sold. The seed boxes and planters and other items in view are for sale within this shop.

It was a way of displaying odd bits of furniture and such that I had made that were waiting to be placed into various dolls houses and projects.

## Afterthoughts

I enjoyed this project and love how, like many other projects, there is always something to work on – we are still completing the basement shops! The results I think are quite satisfactory, despite the challenges encountered. One thing remaining is a good name for the barn shop... 🏠

**John Harris, Oxfordshire, UK**

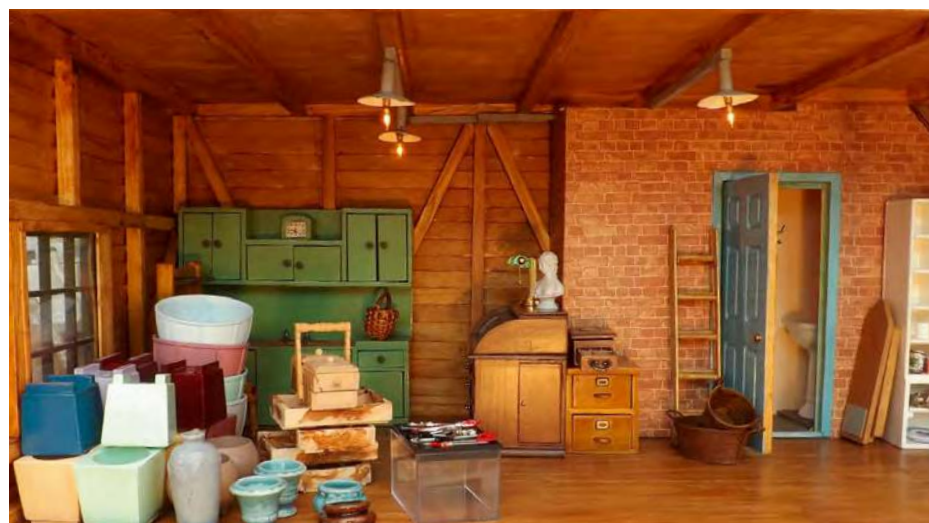


### INFORMATION

For more details on how to share your miniature project, please email:

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### ▼ Downstairs in the useful shop





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Mother and son. Kerri's stunning Asian elephants



# The Roar of Miniature Art

From Asian elephants to mountain gorillas, we go on safari with **Kerri Pajutee** as we discover how she created some very special miniature animals.

## The elephant in the room

Unsurprisingly scarce in 1/12th scale, I felt incredibly lucky to be amongst the first to see Kerri Pajutee's newly completed Asian elephants before they headed off to their forever home as part of an Indian themed diorama. Not an easy subject to recreate in miniature, let alone with such a lifelike appearance as achieved here, Kerri undertook hours of research before even beginning to design and build the armature which form the base for these beautiful animals. "The female elephant was to stand at 7½" at the highest part of her back, and both were to have entwined trunks," she explains. "The sculptures started with independent scale armatures of wire, cardboard, aluminum foil and masking tape. Polymer clay was then applied to the armature and smoothed over the shape using fingers and sculpting tools. To replicate the tiny skin wrinkles, I made a special carving tool of brass

tubing and bass guitar strings in order to cut and detail the clay hides.

After curing the pair in the oven, the sculptures were painted in heat set paints and UV resin eyes were set into each socket." The resulting effect is incredible, and Kerri perfectly recaptures the muscle beneath the elephants skin within her sculpt, creating the impression that this stunning elephant and her calf could walk towards you any second! In addition, both sculptures are cleverly designed so that they can be displayed on their own, but also together, with their trunks intertwined. A design element which really demonstrates just how much care and attention Kerri lavishes on her creations.

Kerri is undoubtedly well known as amongst the very finest in her field and her famous range of domestic miniature animals, including many cats, are possibly the first thing that immediately springs to mind for some when her work is

referenced, but she is also highly skilled at creating an array of exotic and wild animals. "I prefer the challenge and enjoy learning something new versus repetition of smaller domestic animals" she says. Amongst that something new category sits a very special big cat which really stands out, a black leopard which was a project inspired solely by Kerri's desire to try out some new jet black alpaca and silk fibre. "Typically, I've found that applying a sleek black coat can be challenging to replicate on any animal. The trick is to pick the correct natural 'black' colour and sheen, and thinly apply it in a manner seamless of glue lines. When working on applying darker fibre coats, I've found that tinting the glue with a dab or two of acrylic paint in the same colour as the fibre really helps to minimise the glue residue showing through. This big cat's resulting 'slick and luxurious' alpaca/silk coat is so soft to the touch." 



A rare white tiger and tiny cub



### Lions and tigers

Staying with the big cat theme, but taking it one step further if that's possible, are both Kerri's stunning lion and her white tiger and cub, the latter being commissioned to portray the protective bond between mother and daughter.

"The little cub sculpture was created in such a way as to be posed both nestled next to the mother's stomach with its little paws draped over her back legs, or placed between the front legs. Their unique white coats were achieved using natural alpaca fibre and flock, which was hand striped in deep chocolate-brown fabric inks."

White tigers are a pigmented variation of the familiar Bengal tiger, but both mum and dad need to carry the white fur gene, something which occurs only in around one in 10,000 cubs born, making them hugely special. The lion meanwhile, was an animal specially requested to be created with the likeness of Aslan, from 'The Chronicles of Narnia' books by C. S. Lewis in mind, something Kerri has managed to stunning effect. "In researching for this sculpture, I sought out a variety of male African lion photos as well as illustrated anatomy reference, but wanted the sculpture's facial expression to be interpreted as 'kind and wise', minus the real life 'battle scars' found on most of the lions in the wild," Kerri tells me. "The eyes were made using a process of paper, paint and UV resin. The applied fibre coat is natural camel hair in varying shades and lengths."

Black leopard



Aslan sees miniature art roar!



Turn to page 18 for our quick make guide to applying fur



## Joining the troop

Another selection of pieces which portray that instinctive bond so beautifully are Kerri's troop of mountain gorillas, including silverback male. Kerri was commissioned to create a male, female and youngster, with the smallest member of the family designed and sculpted so that he or she was able to sit on their mother's back or next to their proud father. "As you can see from the work in progress picture, the raw sculptures were created using a dark blended polymer clay," says Kerri as we discuss the process behind the amazing finished sculptures.

"I prefer to use a dark clay when sculpting as it helps me see shadows."

Kerri's mountain gorillas may be family focused, but her delightful chimpanzees are having a swinging time and lots of fun with their miniature rope! A split second caught in time, the chimpanzees are seen in fantastic 'action' poses which make them all the more intriguing, not to mention packed with individual personality, just like the real thing! "They were to be made in playful poses and able to be staged hanging from a rope or vine," Kerri recalls. "The sculptures were fashioned using flesh coloured polymer clay over a sturdy wire and aluminum foil armature and cured in the oven." Again, Kerri added all those stunning fine details which bring all her work to life, such as the lips, eyelids and fingernails, using paints before adding the final coat of, in this case, brown-black alpaca fibre. 



**Mountain gorillas,  
including silverback male**





## A leap in time

Another animal Kerri has successfully caught 'in the moment', is her leaping ocelot, a commission which was to be found hanging from a brace of pheasants in pantry on an English estate as it pondered the merits of snaffling a couple! "First, I made the polymer clay pheasant sculpts and cured them in the oven. Next, I set out to sculpt the ocelot in a balanced pose with its forearms fitted over the hanging pheasants. The pieces were not to be permanently attached together. Suspending both pheasants and ocelot sculptures from wire, the pieces were cured in the oven together. Then when cooled, taken apart to dress. Next, the ocelot was painted in acrylics and a natural coat of applied powder-fine flock was set with glue. The spots were hand-painted using artist inks." Finally Kerri made the sparkling collar from woven gold thread which was inset with ruby red Swarovski Chatons.

Leaping ocelot



Having a swinging time!



A marker of just how highly sought after her work is, Kerri currently has two years of commissions bulking out the diary into the next decade, but beyond that, she is hoping for a change of pace. "I'll concentrate on sculpting what I am inspired to create in miniature versus having a 'to do' list looming over my head, the entire process from inspiration to final scissor clip is very time consuming" she says. "I still enjoy my time in the studio and sculpting miniature animals, but at age 60, let's just say I am no longer motivated to turn out multiple sculptures every month. It is possible I could make an exception to this if I am asked to make something exceptional." However, no longer being open for general commission work doesn't mean that all hope is lost when it comes to owning one of Kerri's stunning creations. In fact, far from it, as it is her intention to list the animals she is inspired to create in both her Etsy store and on eBay. With a portfolio including everything from the safari, to the feral pigeons of Trafalgar Square and many species in-between, we can't wait to see what she comes up with next when inspiration takes control of Kerri's worktable - the very best and most exciting is yet to come! 🏠



### INFORMATION

To see more of Kerri's work visit

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# JANE HARROP

Jane recounts the challenge of teaching smaller scale, new encounters with technology and new courses.

As part of my contract teaching adult education classes in miniatures, I was expected to be continually updating the knowledge and skills of my students. So, in September 2005 after eight years of teaching in 1/12th scale, I introduced 1/24th scale into the curriculum, giving them the choice of two scales to build and furnish an Irish cottage. Introducing the smaller scale turned out to be a good move, as at the start of the term I had forty students sign up for the course. We used plumber's hemp for 1/24th scale thatch and coconut fibre for 1/12th scale. If you've ever had a go at miniature thatching, you will know that it wasn't a project to be undertaken lightly!

The dolls house hobby was booming, so a local chap called Chris Taylor designed a website for me. I initially sold raw materials for making miniatures and gradually began to add pre-cut project kits from my books 'Toys and Games' and 'Finishing Touches'.

I'd spent a lot of time researching my 1/12th scale 'Wartime House' course when I'd taught it the previous year. I was lucky to have an elderly friend called Mrs Barton who owned some 1940s utility furniture, so I had first-hand knowledge



of the era and spot on full-sized measurements. I'd enjoyed writing my previous books so I contacted the Guild of Master Craftsmen, as my publishers had moved away from dolls house miniatures, to offer them a project book on an era that hadn't been covered before. In May 2006, I accepted a new book contract: 'Thirties & Forties Miniatures in 1/12th scale'. I was faced with several new challenges, as I needed to include period overseas furniture and accessories from the USA, as well as taking all the step by step photographs myself!

I still had the commitment of teaching my adult education classes whilst writing my book, so we spent two terms making doll house furniture and accessories, pretty random in content, but always using a variety of new materials and skills. We

◀ Shaker style furniture was included in Jane's classically designed course in 2007

learnt French polishing on a lovely mahogany box that Bob cut out for us and we added a musical movement. It was a more manageable course for me to teach with not having to work on a building structure each week. A 'Classically Designed' course followed and we studied the timeline of 'mostly' British history and made furniture and accessories from the different style eras in two scales. I say 'mostly' as I included some American 'Shaker' style furniture projects, as I admired their functional but stylish design.

I'd been asked for several years to offer a beginner's miniatures daytime adult education class, so in 2007 once I'd finished my book, I began teaching a new group of very enthusiastic miniaturists.

In September 2008 everyone in my two advanced classes had to convert to 1/24th scale to make an Edwardian house. I did lose one or two students because of this, only to have some of them join again on the next course, a 1/24th scale Provence house, because they'd missed the companionship of their class mates and my teaching! 🏠

The dolls house furniture and accessories course was more manageable for me to teach, with not having to work on a building structure each week. Jane.

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▲ Front view of Flor's Garden

# Flor's Garden

When Hurricane Sandy destroyed **Marisa Orellana's** home and her entire miniature collection, she turned to **Jo Bevilacqua** for help.

## Storm's fury

Marisa will never forget 29th October 2012. That's when Hurricane Sandy roared ashore, damaging or destroying 650,000 homes in 24 US states. Among them was Marisa's, who lost not only her

home but all her miniature treasures she had collected for more than a decade. Among them was a conservatory she had purchased from Jo Bevilacqua back in 2010 called Savanna. She started over again from zero.

Marisa loves everything about miniature gardens. Savanna had been the perfect addition to her handmade walled garden. Her love of gardens came from her grandmother Antonia and her mum, Flor. They were both avid gardeners who loved roses. Antonia had a green thumb and her garden was a riot of colours and fragrances. Marisa's mother followed suit, with roses indoors and out. Savannah was a reflection of that love.

When Marisa's mum passed away in 2014, she decided to commemorate these two special women by commissioning Jo





▲ The original Savannah lost to Hurricane Sandy



▲ Interior of the conservatory furnished with Jo's personal collection to show perspective. Note the cup and saucer chandelier!

to build another conservatory. She requested architectural elements of roses and angels, two of her mum's favourite things. She decided on a shabby chic romantic structure that she knew Jo could build with aplomb.

### Flor's Garden

Marisa says that "romanticism embodies strong emotions, spirituality, and creativity. It is also a celebration of beauty, nature, and imagination. For me, the romantic style was something more personal. It reflects the memories of two important people in my life and their love for gardening." She calls the conservatory Flor's Garden. "People find

conservatories romantic because they possess transparent walls, blending nature and gardens together from without and within," Jo adds. "Conservatories are most often associated with flowers, and flowers and romance go hand in hand."

When Jo created Savannah, using a Houseworks conservatory kit as the framework, she chose a lion theme, with plaster lion heads mounted on the door casings, lions on the lanterns out front, and lion statuary on the stone foundation steps. The floor was made from aged and weathered bricks, and the interior walls were painted bronze with aged copper appliques. At the time, this theme suited Marisa just fine. Now however,

she wanted a softer palette, with emphasis on roses rather than lions. An elegant room that would remind her of her mum.

Jo again turned to a Houseworks conservatory kit she kit bashed and wired. She and Marisa exchanged ideas about colours, architectural details, and the desired aged look for the walls, stone floor, and pathway. Marisa provided a pink and white chandelier made of teacups and pitcher she commissioned Marsha Hedrick to make, for the conservatory would be the perfect spot for morning or afternoon tea.

Jo also provided two bronze handles commissioned from Brazilian artist Sergio Macedo Netto. Otherwise the conservatory would arrive empty so Marisa could furnish and decorate it to her tastes. It is to be a gardener's conservatory, with a potting bench, a botanical table, butterfly and bird houses, bonsai, and orchids. And of course roses. Marisa, a social worker tending to terminally ill patients, finds miniatures are the perfect escape from often stressful days. She began collecting miniatures back in 2000 when she fell in love with a small potted daffodil she found at a craft store. 



Another interior shot showing the etched doors and glass panels

I believe that miniatures are heirloom pieces that should last a lifetime and be passed on from generation to generation.  
Jo.





▲ Architectural appliques in progress

She went in to buy wool to crochet a scarf and came out smitten with a brand new hobby. With roses in mind, Jo selected the muted tones of travertine marble panels set with black appliques and trimmed in gold. The columns are travertine marble with just a hint of rose pink veining to match the chandelier. Jo sent Marisa daily emails regarding her progress. "With each step, I gave Marisa choices regarding finishes, colours, and materials. I sent photos as I built, sending her pictures of choices she could select," says Jo.

### Flowers in bed

The transparent roof panels and trusses are topped off along the ridge with a metal scroll formed and soldered by Jo's husband, Andy, a talented miniature metal worker. Jo tackled the matching

metal trellises, creating two identical trellises was a huge challenge for someone not comfortable with soldering, but in the end both were declared matching successes. One of Jo's handmade morning glory vines is planted in one bed while Carol Wagner's pink rose vine graces the other. Angel appliques add drama to the planter facades. In each glass wall hangs a micro glass window hanging. The four hangings were laser engraved with roses, with chains and fasteners that allow the panels to be moved about at whim. Jo designed and laser cut rose decals for the French doors; then used frosted glass spray paint over the door panels. When the decals were removed, a frosted rose appeared on each door. Delicate yet substantial filigree lanterns bracket the doorway. Real pearl tiles serve as floor tiles.

"Once the conservatory was completed, Marisa wanted a base for the structure to sit upon so it could be covered with a protective dome," Jo points out.

"I selected six frames for her to choose from, and it was this frame that allowed for the addition of the patio and planting beds in front. I used pewter legs to match that elevated platform, allowing the electrical power cord to drop underneath, unseen. It also allowed the addition of floor outlets for future floor lamps inside."

The entire project took more than six months as Jo worked at her kitchen table, outdoors, and anywhere she could get good light for all the delicate details. But Marisa was a patient client, and despite a few mishaps with a broken door when the kit arrived, and a repair that challenged all of Jo's carpentry skills, the conservatory was finally ready for its new home.

"It will have a small garden surrounding it with flowers I have made myself and bought from some great artists," Marisa shares. It will be displayed in my living room under Plexiglas like a Wardian case so that everyone who visits can admire all the details."

It's clear Jo remains busy despite her recent retirement. Depending on finishes and materials plus labour, Jo's custom conservatories run approximately \$1800-\$2500. With several commissions and classes scheduled, plus her own full size garden, Jo's mini life is certainly in full bloom! 🏡



▲ The Angled view of the front shows the detail of the delicate lanterns

### INFORMATION

You can see more of Jo's work on her website 🌐 [www.spencersnook.com](http://www.spencersnook.com)



Turn to  
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for details

# FAIRS DIARY

## 10 November

**Location:** York

**Venue:** York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX

**Organiser:** Warners Dollhouse & Miniatures Fair



## SEPTEMBER

### 1 September

**Location:** Stafford - New Fair

**Venue:** Members Pavilion,  
County Showground,  
Weston Road, Stafford,  
Staffordshire, ST18 0BD

**Organiser:** MGM Fairs

### 8 September

**Location:** Cobham. Antique dolls,  
dollshouses & toys

**Venue:** Cobham Village Hall  
Lushington Drive, Cobham,  
Surrey, KT11 2LU

**Organiser:** Wendy's World

### 8 September

**Location:** Rivenhall End

**Venue:** The Rivenhall Hotel,  
Rivenhall End, Near Witham,  
Chelmsford, Essex, CM8 3HB

**Organiser:** Dolly's Daydreams

### 15 September

**Location:** Lincoln

**Venue:** Windmill Farm Hotel  
Runcorn Road, Off Whisby Road,  
Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN6 3QZ

**Organiser:** Dolly's Daydreams

### 22 September

**Location:** Weston-Super-Mare

**Venue:** Royal Hotel,  
South Parade, Weston Super Mare,  
Somerset, BS23 2AH

**Organiser:** Wendy's World

## OCTOBER

### 5-6 October

**Location:** Birmingham

**Venue:** National Exhibition Centre,  
Perimeter Road, Birmingham,  
West Midlands, B40 1NT

**Organiser:** Miniatura Exhibitions

### 12 October

**Location:** Thame

**Venue:** Thame Barns Centre  
Church Road, Thame,  
Oxfordshire, OX9 3AJ

**Organiser:** Vintage & Artisan  
Dolls House Fair

### 13 October

**Location:** Rayleigh

**Venue:** The Mill Arts &  
Events Centre, Bellingham Lane,  
Off High Street, Rayleigh,  
Essex, SS6 7ED

**Organiser:** Dolly's Daydreams

### 20 October

**Location:** South Wootton

**Venue:** Knights Hill Hotel & Spa,  
Knights Hill Village, South Wootton,  
King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 3HQ

**Organiser:** Dolly's Daydreams

### 26 October

**Location:** Holt

**Venue:** Holt Community Centre,  
Kerridge Way, Holt,  
Norfolk, NR25 6DN

**Organiser:** MGM Fairs

### 27 October

**Location:** Lyndhurst

**Venue:** Lyndhurst Community  
Centre, Main Car Park,  
High Street, Lyndhurst,  
Hampshire, SO43 7NY

**Organiser:** Wendy's World

### 27 October

**Location:** Newark

**Venue:** The Cedric Ford Pavilion  
Newark Showground, Lincoln  
Road, Winthorpe Newark-on-Trent,  
Nottinghamshire, NG24 2NY

**Organiser:** Dolly's Daydreams

## NOVEMBER

### 2 November

**Location:** Leeds

**Venue:** Pudsey Civic Hall,  
Dawson's Corner, Pudsey, Leeds,  
West Yorkshire, LS28 5TA

**Organiser:** MGM Fairs

### 17 November

**Location:** Solihull

**Venue:** Bentley Heath  
Community Centre,  
Widney Road, Bentley Heath,  
Solihull, B93 9BQ

**Organiser:** MGM Fairs

### 23 November

**Location:** Dedham

**Venue:** The Assembly Rooms,  
High Street, Dedham, CO7 6DE

**Organiser:** Dolly's Daydreams

### 30 November

**Location:** London

**Venue:** Kensington Town Hall,  
Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX

**Organiser:** Kensington  
Dollhouse Festival

## DECEMBER

### 1 December

**Location:** Basildon

**Venue:** Holiday Inn Basildon,  
Waterfront Walk, Festival Leisure  
Park, Basildon, SS14 3DG

**Organiser:** Dolly's Daydreams

## ORGANISERS DETAILS

### Dolly's Daydreams

**T:** 01945 870160

**Mob:** 07860 517048

**E:** dollysdaydreams@btinternet.com

**W:** www.dollysdaydreams.com

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### MGM Fairs

**E:** enquiries@mgmfairs.co.uk

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### Miniatura

**T:** 0121 783 9922

**Ticket Hotline:** 0844 581 1291

**W:** www.miniatura.co.uk

**See our advert on page 17**

### Warners Dolls House & Miniatures Fair

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**W:** www.yorkdollhousefair.co.uk

**See our advert on page 25**

### Wendy's World Fairs

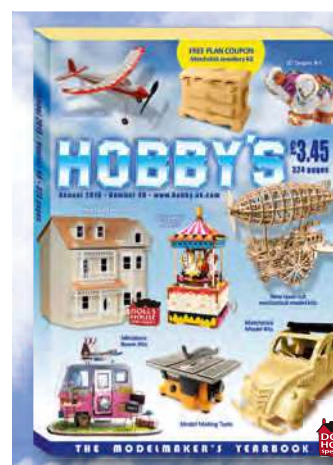
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**THE MODELMAKER'S YEARBOOK**





# An Artist Returns . . . Again!

You may remember our feature back in May about American miniaturist **Mark Turpin** and his marvellous makes. With his business surviving the recession and now thriving, we decided one chat wasn't enough and asked him back for a more in-depth discussion about his modern minis...

**Welcome back Mark. For those who missed the May issue, can you tell us a bit more about yourself?**

I am currently continuing the design and production work on the East Coast that I started in California in the 80s and 90s. After discovering miniatures, I built one house from a kit to gain experience and then decided to build my own designs from scratch. During high school and at university I was always building something. I studied Film Production at Chapman University in Orange, California and I completed an internship in the story department at Island Pictures in Hollywood. For a while, I thought it would be fun to pursue a career in modelmaking for movies; however, through my coursework I became much more interested in writing and less interested in production. After graduating, I landed a corporate job in Orange County. Over the years I continued building miniatures as a hobby and eventually full time for ten years, traveling cross country many times for numerous shows and deliveries. During a long hiatus, I returned to corporate work but continued drawing as a hobby. Several years ago, I started building again, which I hope to continue up to and during my retirement. For now, I build a few new houses each year, which become available on my website. My current project, Mayfair, is a storybook cottage inspired by the Charlie Chaplin Studios, which I used to drive past on the way to my internship in Hollywood. This is one example of how I try to make a personal connection with each project, which is something I encourage miniaturists and collectors to do. Attaching memories to miniatures is a great way to enjoy the hobby on a deeper more personal level.

**How long have you been a miniaturist and what first got you interested in the craft?**

There are many excellent miniatures shops and shows in California, so it was easy to stumble into the hobby. I have always loved architecture and architectural models and I was already aware of



Mark with Chateau des Songs, a 1/12th scale composite build

the standard 1/12th scale when John Zweifel sent his ambitious White House in Miniature replica on tour. I viewed it several times over the years, along with the other favourite miniature standards such as Colleen Moore's fairy tale castle in Chicago and Queen Mary's dolls house at Windsor Castle. Carole and Barry Kaye's Museum of Miniatures in Los Angeles was a short drive from my home down the coast and I visited regularly in the 90s. The museum bought monthly advertisements in the local senior's magazine where I was working at the time and there was a great deal of awareness of miniatures in the community, particularly among seniors. Carole Kaye elevated miniature art to a new level and

created opportunities and inspiration for numerous artists and collectors. I have always loved arts and crafts. My parents and siblings are very artistic as well, so I was surrounded by creativity growing up. As a child I had stacks of construction paper in every colour and building blocks and LEGO bricks were my favourite toys. My brother introduced me to architectural drawings and encouraged me to learn to draw houses by hand. Later I taught myself how to use AutoCAD LT to produce floor plans and elevations. I still use this program to draw my houses. My mother was also a collector of miniatures, and she loved to find miniatures while traveling and at local shops in California.



“Attaching memories to miniatures is a great way to enjoy the hobby on a deeper more personal level.”

*Mark.*

#### **What scale do you work in and do you only work in this scale?**

To date, my work has mostly been 1/12th, but I also build in 1/6th and 1/24th. I would definitely like to try and branch out into smaller scales like 1/48th! I have a project pending that would be 1/18th, but it is a commercial model, not a dolls house miniature.

#### **Do you require specialist tools or techniques when working with your miniatures?**

I do a lot of cutting by hand and I have a set of Dremel tools and accessories, along with a jigsaw and other standard power tools. When I was building very large houses, I used heavier equipment to do the bulk cutting, including large table and mitre saws. My favourite painting techniques involve sponge painting faux stone and other exterior finishes.

#### **Are there specific skills you need that you wouldn't necessarily require otherwise?**

Primarily visualisation, especially three dimensional. Geometry was my favourite class in school. Before I design on paper or on the computer, I have already designed it completely in my mind. One of the most exciting times of any project is when you first see the structure and rooms come to life in 3D.

#### **Who or what inspires you?**

I have travelled a lot and observed architecture everywhere I went. Watching construction of buildings fascinates me. I also spend a lot of time in the library, with its endless supply of books on architecture and design. And I am a musician, so many of my projects have been inspired by a song. Anything that moves me emotionally is a good starting point for a project. I think artists and miniaturists are sensitive to moods, which is part of what we are trying to convey through our miniature artwork. As with any art, we are expressing our feelings visually. Unlike 2D paintings, miniaturists create 3D spaces where we deposit our memories,

hopes and dreams. The investment of time and resources is so worthwhile, because we are building things that last. To visit someone's miniature creation is a unique honour, because you are catching a glimpse of their personality.

#### **What advice would you give to new miniaturists?**

Choose a project that moves you emotionally. Form a connection to a memory or experience that you can revisit as you work on your project and when it is finished. Starting with a kit is a great way to learn how to assemble a house and then you can personalise it to make it uniquely yours. Start with a small project, to build confidence and momentum. Take a class to learn new techniques. There are also many good books available and videos and so on. Show your work to friends and family who may not be aware of this medium. Teach children how to create with their

hands, as an alternative to only using digital technology. Buy from other miniaturists when you can, at shops, shows or online. Understand that it can take a long time to finish a project, but the time spent is really worthwhile.

#### **On average, how long can one project take to make?**

Most of my projects take a few months to complete, but sometimes years for the large houses. Watching the progress unfold each day creates momentum, as you watch the new house reveal itself where there was only empty space. 

“To visit someone's miniature creation is a unique honour, because you are catching a glimpse of their personality.”

*Mark.*



Sit back... in Limelight



What a view... in Limelight



All of the detail... in Limelight



On the stairs in Limelight



Inside Lurie Lane



### Why structures and buildings?

I like to build houses and structures because I am mostly interested in forms and spaces. Room boxes are fun too, but I prefer building exteriors. I particularly enjoy building structures that look different from every angle. Symmetry is always pleasing to the eye, and many of my favourite buildings are symmetrical. However, building something asymmetrical can be a real adventure and this is where modern and contemporary miniatures offer new opportunities. There is no way to get bored with miniatures, because there is always something new to try! History and architecture provide so many styles and to explore more than a few of them is a real learning experience.

### Do you have a specific period or era that you like to base your creations around?

My favourite traditional styles are Georgian and Colonial. I also like houses that have a classical or revival look, with columned

porticos, etc. Beyond these, I really like modern, post-modern and futuristic structures. Most of all I enjoy variety. Some of my favourite architects no doubt raised a few eyebrows with their new drawings, but consider the variety they brought to the world of design. And as much as I love viewing period rooms such as the Thorne Rooms and historic replicas created by master miniaturists, I prefer to build houses that are more stylistically free, such as revival or eclectic pieces and original designs. Anything is possible in miniature!

### Do you have a favourite project?

Lurie Lane is a personal favourite and my clients were looking for something bold. Then, Aqualina was the most fun and exciting to build. There was nothing else like it in miniature, to the pleasure of the new owner and the dismay of others. My client wanted a flight-of-fancy, and I was more than happy to oblige. We share this adventure together, and



it was great fun. Palisades is a new favourite, because you can see right through it from several angles, and it was fun to build.

### What's your next stage in miniature adventures?

I have a long list of projects I hope to build, and they are widely varied. Among other things, I would like to build another museum, as these seem to be great fun for the collectors to fill with miniature art and treasures. At the moment, one of my projects is a 1/24th scale performing arts centre and it is very large! I would also like to build a theatre space where the collector could enjoy creating changeable sets and lighting.

### Is there a certain character or scene that you would love to create but haven't managed to do?

Theatre set design really appeals to me and I think it would be fun to build some sets for the miniature stage, or film sets for a miniature sound stage with lighting. I thoroughly enjoyed the stagecraft class at Chapman University and would love to recreate some of those projects in miniature. 



### INFORMATION

 [www.markturpin.com](http://www.markturpin.com)

Find more on Pinterest:  [Mark Turpin](#)



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Find more info on **PAGE 60**



# DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

## AN ARTIST RETURNS... AGAIN!

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WHAT'S COOKING?



We welcome Maive Ferrando to the team,  
presenting a delicious cauldron cake

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK



Uncover haunted heritage at Ye Olde  
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Bring some autumn  
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THE WITCHES' LAIR



Magdalena Ladwik has always been fascinated by the haunted  
and mysterious, which her Halloween miniatures so aptly reflect

TRICK OR TREAT



We go across the pond to chat to  
Patricia Paul, an artisan who likes to add  
a dark twist to her miniatures

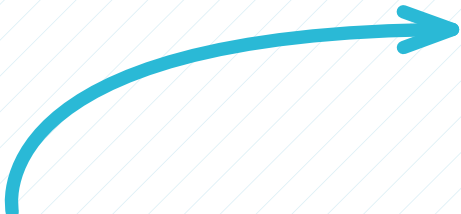
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### G. Loss Interiors

The first example of this that I saw was in a dolls house magazine, where someone had created an entire hospital inside a plaster cast! Inside were wards, a consulting room, storage and waiting rooms, an operating theatre, x-ray room, and even a plaster room! It was populated by nurses, doctors, patients and visitors, a truly inspiring sight.

Within our club there have been several examples of curious projects. I have seen a house inside a clock, a garden inside a lantern, and a bakery in a bread bin. My own attempts started with a book. The club project was to make a scene inside one of those faux cardboard 'books' used as keepsake boxes. To make it relevant, it was to be a scene depicting a favourite book. As a teacher, I enjoyed reading the books by Gervase Phinn, from his time as a Yorkshire Schools Inspector, so I chose a scene where he was trying to find a remote school in the Yorkshire Dales. The cardboard box was perfect, I painted a scene of fields, sheep and a distant village, on the inside. The 'box' section gave me enough room to put an autumn foliage tree (the story was set in September), a dry-stone wall and an open gate with a lamb peeping through. (OK, I know September is not traditionally lambing season, but I allowed some poetic licence!) Making the wall caused a few comments at the club meeting, "What on Earth are you doing?" was asked more than once by my friends, as I glued small pebbles together!

I joined the box and the front cover together by making a semi-circular base, to which I added the road, grass verges, a signpost and a fox. I made a model of the author, holding a map and scratching his head, and placed him in the centre.

# MINI MEETINGS

*As Diane Haylor from the Aylesbury Dolls House Club explains, one should never assume that a dolls house has to actually be a house!*

## G. Loss Interiors

A few years later, the club members were asked to make a scene in an unusual container. At the time, I was in my 'shop' phase, so when I came across an old tub (plastic) of paint, I felt inspired. I was able to cut away the front section and inside I added shelves, a counter, computer, paint pots from plastic tubes, and rolls of wallpaper, and hey presto! the interior design and decorating shop of Mr G. Loss!

## Gandalf is a giant!

Which brings me to a project we were given last year - a scene using a teacup and saucer. This was not as easy as I first thought. The first hurdle was to find the cup and saucer. Each shop I visited had only complete sets for sale, and those were either plain or in a modern design and I didn't want to buy a set of six when I only needed one! Eventually another club member came to the rescue, having found a shop that sold single cups, in different designs.

I decided to lay my cup on its side in the saucer, as the round shape immediately suggested "Hobbit Hole." As (of course) there would have to be a hobbit present, I thought he could sit on the handle. Hurdle number two was trying to make a round door that sat inside the rim of the cup. I hadn't appreciated the difficulty in gluing a mount card circle positioned so that it

was vertical! Eventually I got it in place, with much exasperated huffing and puffing, and a strand of ivy to cover the slight gap caused by my inaccurate cutting!

Next I built up a bank around the cup, with flowers and random greenery. I turned the cup handle into a mossy branch, but found that it was difficult to get my hobbit (by now he had become Bilbo Baggins) to sit nicely. In the end he perched quite precariously, but no-one will notice.

Hurdle number three was what to do with the saucer. My plan had been to have Gandalf, who was now waiting patiently to take his place, standing on the saucer, but because of the size of the doll, there wasn't enough room. The only solution was to add a rectangular card base under everything, make it a path through grass and have Gandalf walking along the path.

Over the years there have been other small scenes, such as a snow scene under a thimble display dome, a wedding memento box inside a round toiletries box, and I often use picture frames (with added foam board sides) as room boxes. I have a beautiful triangular sweet tin, with a picture of a Victorian shop on the front, just waiting to be used for the right project, and even this year's Christmas project is a scene inside a glass bauble.

However, I don't think anything will ever equal the plaster cast! 🏠



## INFORMATION

🌐 [www.facebook.com/aylesburydollshouseclub](https://www.facebook.com/aylesburydollshouseclub)



Gandalf and Bilbo



# Hobbies

Established way back in the 19th century, Hobbies have been supplying model makers and enthusiasts with a vast variety of quality model kits, accessories, tools, guides and more ever since. We caught up with manager Dan Meek to find out more about what happens behind the scenes at Hobbies...



**DHMS:** Hello Dan, thanks for taking some time to chat with us. What more can you tell readers about Hobbies?

**Dan:** We are an online retailer but also have a physical store in South Norfolk. Our offices are based in South Norfolk as well. We stock an extensive range of products, from plastic model kits to dolls houses. We believe model making is not just a pastime, but also an experience to share with friends, siblings, children and grandchildren. We put a lot of focus on our website and also take orders over the phone. We produce a yearly handbook for £3.50 as well, which shows most of the items we sell for those who are perhaps less internet savvy. Whatever your age or experience level, you'll be able to find something to pique your interest at Hobbies

**DHMS:** How long have you been trading? When did it all begin?

**Dan:** We have been trading since 1895 (so quite a long time!) and so we have over 120 years of experience supplying model makers, miniaturists, crafters and enthusiasts alike. We are basically a one stop shop for model makers, but have always stocked a large range of dolls houses

and accessories as well. There's actually a fascinating book on our history that you can purchase from our shop or online.

**DHMS:** How do you source your products?

**Dan:** We source our items from reputable traders in the UK.

**DHMS:** How many members of staff work at Hobbies?

**Dan:** There are about eight of us who work here.

**DHMS:** What would you say is your most popular product or range?

**Dan:** In terms of product ranges, then model boats and model kits have always been very popular. We do also have some really popular dolls house kits, from fantasy cabins and basic barns to Wild West cafes and even a Tudor bakery!

**DHMS:** Would you say you have any 'regular' customers?

**Dan:** We have hundreds, if not thousands of repeat customers and we also have something called the Hobbies Club,

which you can join to save money on orders and receive our yearly handbook free of charge!

**DHMS:** Have you ever received a strange or memorable order?

**Dan:** We don't tend to get strange orders as such, but we have supplied plenty of TV shows and film productions with materials, which is always exciting.

**DHMS:** And, finally, are you or your staff miniaturists?

**Dan:** We are not miniaturists per se, but having dealt with the product ranges and subsequent enquiries for so long, we have a pretty good idea on what we're talking about with most things miniature!

Thanks for chatting with us Dan 🏠



## INFORMATION

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