

DollHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

DIGITAL
EDITION WITH
BONUS FEATURES

OVER
120
INSPIRATIONAL
IDEAS INSIDE!

FROM BEGINNER TO EXPERT MAKES



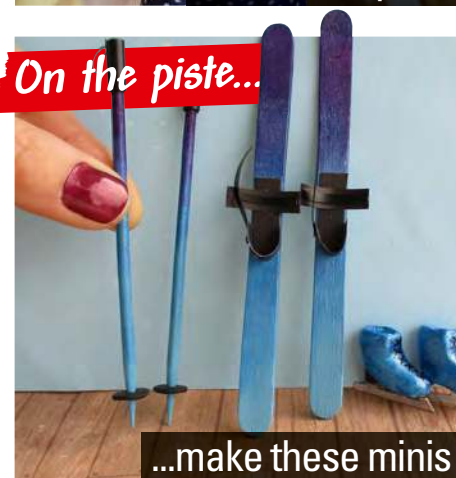
Try something
DIFFERENT

...with ideas for a new decade



Say hello to...

...Julie Campbell



On the piste...

...make these minis



Step back in time...

...the 1920s in miniature



Tiny detailing...

...in 1/48th scale



We talk to...

...Jon Trenchard

PLUS

- KIT REVIEWS ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ARTISAN INTERVIEWS
- THE DAILY MINI'S KATE ÜNVER ● GREAT GIVEAWAYS ● CLUB NEWS
- MINIATURE MAKES ● READER PROJECTS ● INSPIRING IMAGES

EASY TO FOLLOW STEP BY STEP PROJECTS TOP TIPS, IDEAS & MORE...



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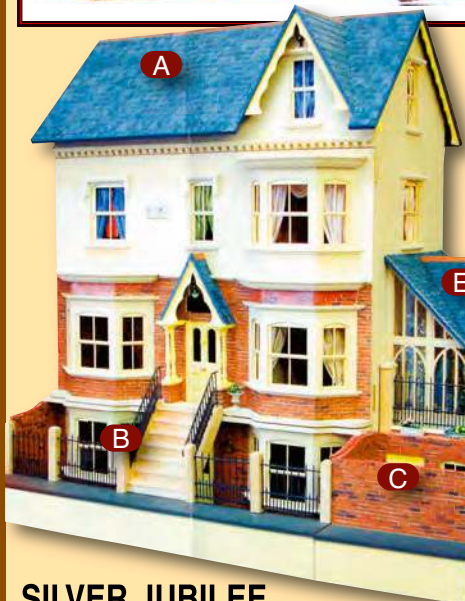


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We have recently acquired a number of Dolls house kits, some current, some no longer made. All are boxed with full instructions and we can supply more details and photos if requested. We are open to all offers on these so do your homework, work out a value and give us a call!

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BM/51 99p
74 x 99mm

DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

WELCOME TO THE
JANUARY ISSUE!

CLICK TO VIEW VIDEO



WELCOME to the January issue

Celebrate the new year in style with Dolls House & Miniature Scene as we take a look at twenty inspirational ideas for a brand new decade! If you're a fan of modern and contemporary miniatures and wanting to embrace 3D printing, looking for suggestions on colour, guidance on texture or how to expand your collection we'll show you how. Perhaps you're more of a traditionalist and looking to re-create a scene from history, we'll show you that too! Turn to page 8 for our 20 Mini Ideas for a Big 2020 feature!

We welcome in the new year with three new contributors; Julie Campbell (who many of you will be familiar with) will be sharing with us in 2020 the story behind her crafty life, this month writing about how she wiggled her first doll (you'll be amazed). We also introduce The Small Scale Fiddlers Club who reveal what they get up to when they meet up and Beate Klotz demonstrates what you can do with those left over pine needles from your Christmas tree.

And just in case you're wondering, we've got winter themed content in the form of a trip to Bekonscot Model Village in winter and projects showing you how to make items for a Nordic lodge and winter sporting goods.

Enjoy the issue.

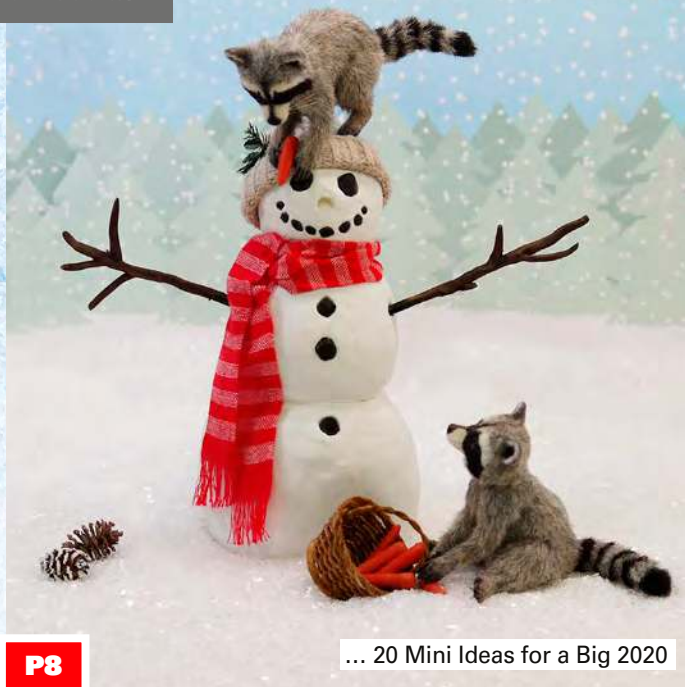


Carl Golder
Editor

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**FANTASTIC
GIVEAWAYS!**
ON PAGES 7 & 53

DISCOVER...



P8

... 20 Mini Ideas for a Big 2020

IN WINTER...



P54

...Bekonscot Model Village

One of my New Year's resolutions is to be more aware of my plastic purchases. Discover what our Facebook readers are trying to be more conscious of on page 7.



If you're reading the online version of this magazine...
Keep an eye out for these symbols

A huge thank you to this month's contributors...

Moi Ali, Lillia Bass, Dene Bebbington, Raphael Bortholuzzi, Bea Broadwood, Sadie Brown, Katie Buckhalter, Julie Campbell, Vonelle Chapman, Shan Dawson, Terri Davis, Ann Evans, Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel, Faith Guynes, Ken Hamilton, Jane Harrop, Susie Kearley, Beate Koentz, Marie Knight, Silvia Leiner, Kerri Pajutee, Nancy Quinby, Georgina Ritson, Karin Smead, Julia Sensiba, Mike Thomas, Jon Trenchard, Rob Tysall, Kate Ünver and Deb Weissler

CARL'S FAVOURITE FIND ON INSTAGRAM

How can you not love a miniature version of DHMS magazine? These mini mags were made by Kate Ünver, and promoted on her DailyMini Insta feed to help promote our Exact Editions campaign.

More information about Exact Editions can be found on page 42.



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Let us inspire you

[www.pinterest.com/
dhmsmagazine](http://www.pinterest.com/dhmsmagazine)

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Say hello to the Small Scale Fiddlers Club



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FOR ONLINE READERS**



**EXCLUSIVE AUDIO CONTENT
FOR ONLINE READERS**



**EXCLUSIVE VIDEO CONTENT
FOR ONLINE READERS**

HOW TO ENTER...

ENTERING OUR GIVEAWAYS

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The closing date for all entries is
31st January 2020. Good luck!

VISIT WWW.DOLLHOUSEANDMINIATURESCENE.CO.UK FOR MORE GREAT FEATURES AND PROJECTS

The Miniature SCENE

✉ Carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk

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🐦 www.twitter.com/dhmsmagazine

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 contacting us via the above:

Alternatively, send a letter (and photos) to Carl Golder, Dolls House & Miniature Scene, Warners Group Publications, West Street, Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9PH

News copy deadline for the March issue (No. 310) is 22nd January 2020



ROLLIN' ROD

He's probably more famous for belting out tracks like 'Downtown Train' and 'Handbags and Gladbags' but Sir Rod Stewart has recently been in the news revealing details of his extensive model railway which has taken him 26 years to complete. Built in his attic in Los Angeles, Rod the Mod started to construct the set in 1993 with the landscape based on 1940s America featuring a whole host of skyscrapers and various pieces of skyline. Rod also came to the rescue of the Market

Deeping Model Railway Club in Lincolnshire, who earlier this year saw their club display destroyed after a group of vandals broke into a locked venue. A fundraising page was set up to help repair and re-construct the display, with Rod generously donating £10,000 to the cause. Well done Rod!



Market Deeping's 'Woodcroft'



YORK
Dolls House & Miniatures Fair
YORK RACECOURSE, YORK LEA
10th November 2019

A huge thank you...
...to everyone who supported the Charity Stand at York Dolls House & Miniatures Fair in November. £2575.67 was raised on the day and with the help of Barclays Bank, that now takes the total raised for Breast Cancer Now (Merger of Breast Cancer Care & Breast Cancer Now) to £40,684.70. The fundraising team are delighted and want to thank everyone for their continued support. The team will return in June when any donations of miniatures, dolls house DIY and books will be gratefully received.

WRAP UP FOR WINTER

For hints, tips, information, free miniature and crochet patterns head on over to Buttercup Miniatures.

For regular updates via their email subscription service, head on over to:

👉 <http://store.buttercupminiatures.co.uk/newsblog/>



Just one of the free patterns available

Inspired by Egypt

It's always nice to receive letters and emails from the DHMS readers sharing with us their latest projects. Angela Kinnunen writes...

"After living in Egypt for two years, I fell in love with the people, food and culture, it was all very beautiful and so inspiring. On my return to the UK I decided to make a pair of beds, screens and chair based on traditional Egyptian symbols, all in 1/12th scale. I will be adding to the collection in 2020."



Turn to
PAGE 38
for this month's
Reader Project

THE PUFFIN HAS MIGRATED TO DENMARK

Caroline Mansell has sold 'Puffin Design' to Jan Kaas and Margit Nielsen from Denmark. Caroline and partner Richard would like to thank all of their customers for their support and friendship. "We will be continuing with Crab Pot Models and upcycling dolls houses and furniture and doing one off makes. You can't get rid of us that easily!" said Caroline.

Jan and Margit are a couple in their sixties where after many busy years in many executive positions decided five years ago to wind down from the hustle and bustle and take an active interest in all things craft. "We have been developing a small home-based business, teaching dyslexic children to read on a one to one basis, at the same time on the look-out for something else to get our teeth into. Seeing Puffin Design come up for sale was too good an offer to refuse. We are now looking forward to working with Caroline's beautiful designs, and serving all present and new customers. The Mansells have promised to help out with any challenges in the beginning, we are very grateful of that. On a longer term we have some ideas about adding letter materials to the collection, and that way connecting the teaching more closely to the craftsmanship." Jan.



Jan, Margit and Caroline

For more information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/PuffinDesigns/>

WE ASKED YOU...

WE POSTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTION ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:

We're counting down to 2020 and we want to know what mini related resolutions are you setting for the new year?



Debbie Catlin:

My resolution is to finish at least one of the seven projects I have on the go! I'm not optimistic.

Caroline Mansell:

Learn five new skills in the miniature world.

Vicki Graham:

Hopefully receiving lights for my big house. So learning about wiring and making new dazzling chandeliers.

Elaine Hearnshaw:

To enter the magazine competitions instead of wishing I'd got round to it.

Donna Price:

My resolution is to get better in my creations and to get more recognised in my art of making 1/12th scales clothes.

Hazel Wyle:

Make some of the ideas that are zooming around in my head.

Maria Rowe:

To finish three started doll houses/room boxes before starting an unopened project or ordering items for a new one. Perhaps less time on Etsy and Pinterest looking for ideas when I already have enough for five lifetimes!!

Pat N John:

We will retire in 2020 so the many work in progress pieces will be finished to sell or display. We can't wait to finish our personal stash, Fantasy Castle, high street of many vintage shops, refresh my witches house, then build a pyramid for all my Egyptian goodies I've been storing!

Jane Harrop has been making miniatures for 25 years and teaching miniature making for 21 years. Visit her website to see more of her kits in 1/12th, 1/24th and 1/48th scales.

www.janeharrop.co.uk

Star post and winner of this Penguin kit by Jane Harrop

EXACT EDITIONS

Introducing Exact Editions, the new subscriber service from Dolls House & Miniature Scene.

If you're looking for ideas, inspiration, projects or something to read whilst enjoying a brew Exact Editions is ideal. Featuring ten years worth of content, it's accessible via PC, tablet or smartphone for only £9.99 a quarter! It's user friendly and can be read offline too.

More information can be found via:

www.dhmsmag.uk/exacteditions



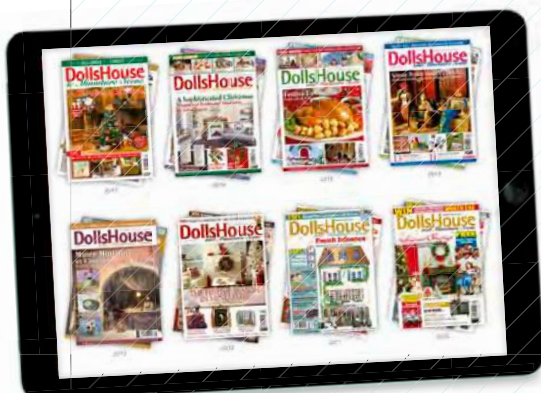
Valentine flower shop in a metal bucket made by Helen Heinen

South Australian Miniature Enthusiasts...

...are already planning their 35th Festival of Miniatures & Dollhouses on 8th and 9th August 2020, so get those flights booked now! Considering it was in a new venue and the weather very wet and cold, last year's event was very successful with traders from all over Australia & New Zealand.

For more information visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/South-Australian-Miniature-Enthusiasts-Inc-193192117393132/>





20 Mini Ideas for a BIG 2020

New Year, new start! Break those New Year's resolutions to finish those half completed projects, and try something different with these 20 inspirational ideas for a brand new decade.



1

A room to aspire to!
Vonelle Chapman brings
contemporary style to life
in miniature

1 Modern miniatures

Contemporary miniatures have cemented their place at the heart of the small scale scene in recent years, their increasing popularity ensuring that no dolls house now has to go without being bang on trend. There's something enduringly fascinating about seeing our own world in miniature, whether that's through the gleaming marble countertops of a stylish kitchen or sumptuous soft furnishings, like those seen in the beautiful rooms designed and created by Vonelle Chapman of Lavenderbelle Miniatures. Vonelle's high end miniature rooms are inspirational and wouldn't look out of place gracing the pages of the top celebrity magazines in an 'at home' spread.

2 Miniature photography

Social media means that, in recent years, a camera has become a must have accessory for miniaturists. This doesn't mean you need to be the world's biggest expert in photography to be able to create beautiful content. Steph Wallace's camping scene shows us how a simple idea involving a few handmade miniatures and an image of the moon cut from card or paper can not only be incredibly effective but can also become an all-time favourite image!



Steph Wallace shines a (moon)light on
miniature photography!

3 Miniaturise your skill set

Think about the other hobbies you enjoy, or skills you've gained through your life away from miniatures and explore how you can miniaturise them! Whether those skills involve sewing, knitting, papercraft, or even gardening, there's always a miniature to be discovered!

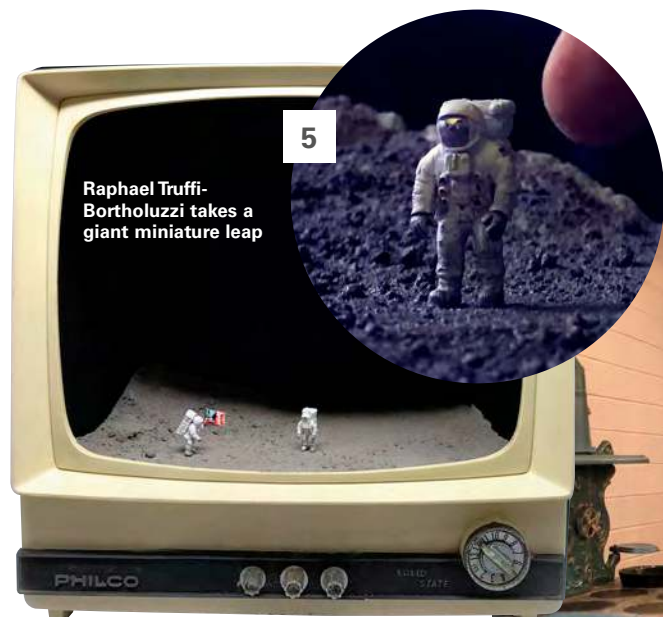


4

▲ Mark three quarters of a century
since VE Day with Jane Harrop's kits

4 VE Day, 75th anniversary

2020 marks 75 years since VE Day and just like the 50th anniversary a quarter of a century ago in 1995, the Early May Bank Holiday has been moved from Monday the 4th of May to Friday the 8th. This begins a weekend of commemorative events including traditional street parties and bells ringing out at churches up and down the country. In addition, Battle's O'er, a specially composed air, will be played by thousands of pipers throughout the world at 3.00pm on the Friday, marking the exact moment Winston Churchill made the formal announcement that World War II had ended. The air will also be played by pipers stood on the highest peaks of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The 1940s are always a popular theme amongst miniaturists and there really is no better year than 2020 to pay our own small scale tributes to those for whom war became an everyday reality. If you don't know where to begin, then Jane Harrop offers a wonderful selection of 1940s and wartime inspired kits which include a very special gas mask and documents project.

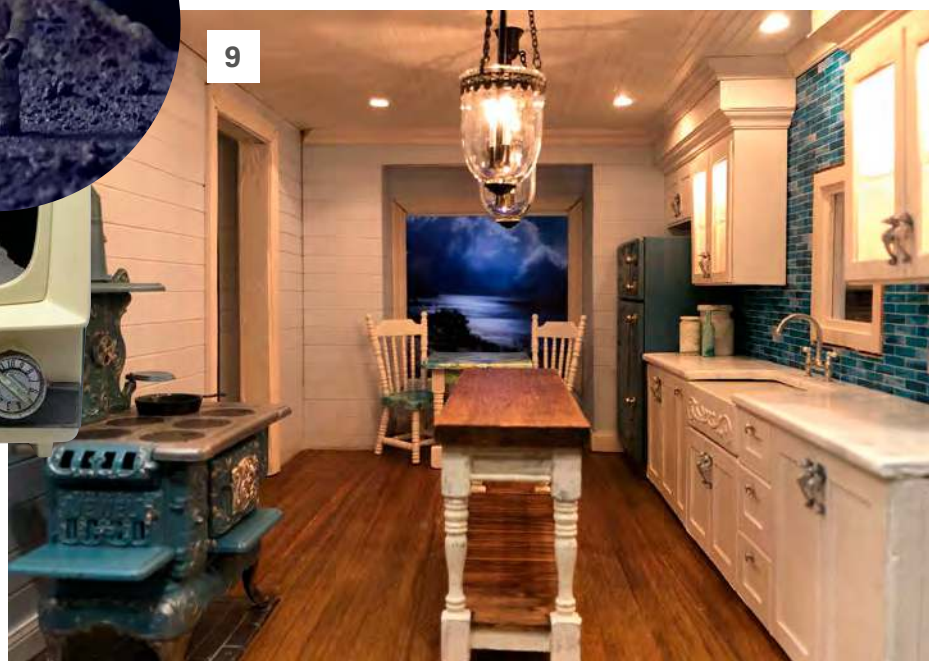


5 Moon landing and special events in our history

Special events or celebrations from our history are a wonderful place to search for inspiration, as Raphael Truffi-Bortholuzzi demonstrates with his fabulous moon landing diorama. Created for last year's 50th anniversary, Raphael decided he wanted to put together a unique piece, providing a real talking point. "The first task was how to find a retro TV from the right decade," he explains. "I was lucky enough to find one in an antique store, along with astronaut models that look good in 1/72nd scale." One of the most challenging aspects of the project was creating the moonscape itself. Using photographs found online as a reference point, Raphael managed to perfectly replicate the lunar landscape using concrete dust and small stones, the combination producing an amazing result which Raphael says symbolised a big step for humanity, but this time in small scale!



What are Kerri Pajutee's raccoons up to?



▼ Marie Knight shows how creating a room with a view brings a scene to life

6 Let it snow

The changing seasons provide a constant source of inspiration, no matter whether we live amongst rolling hills or at the beating heart of the metropolis. The garden may seem cold and empty just now, but nature in winter still provides a host of miniature ideas. Kerri Pajutee's snowman is the centre of attention as her raccoons, each made with ball jointed head and posable arms, set to work. The most important question is, are they busy adding the finishing touches to the scene or is the real story here that of two pesky characters with a penchant for carrot soup, busy stealing their ingredients from the neighbourhood snowmen?

7 Big world, small world

Being a miniaturist doesn't have to be an expensive pastime. This year explore how you can incorporate items from the world around us into your miniature scenes. In this issue we show you how to turn lollipop sticks into fashionable skis, but there are many other everyday household items which can be put to excellent miniature use!

For Sadie's
ski project turn to
PAGE 58

8 A hint of mint

Steph Wallace's miniature fridge is definitely feeling smug, knowing it's right up there with the latest trends this spring. Make sure you're up to date by incorporating neo mint into your miniature scenes, one of this year's most fashionable colourways.



Feel smug and know you're on trend like this fridge from Steph Wallace

9 A room with a view

Adding an image behind our miniature windows is such a simple idea, yet it's something which instantly delivers a depth of realism to any room. The moonlight scene added by imaginative artisan, Marie Knight to one of her current projects is a prime example. You immediately find yourself drawn towards the cosy feel of the room, and even though its miniature residents are yet to move in, it's somewhere you would love to spend time. Maybe there's a favourite view that you wish you could see every day? Well, now you can! In fact, you can travel the world without leaving those four miniature walls with limitless possibilities to be had in raiding that old photo album or cutting out favourite pictures from a book, magazine or holiday brochure. [PH](#)

10 The texture effect

A great many miniaturists work with polymer clay but might not have tried the new leather effect Fimo. If that's you, now is the ideal moment to break open a packet. In a variety of different shades, ranging from dove grey to olive, saffron yellow and watermelon, there's something to inspire everyone!

11 Old miniatures, new ideas

Most of us have 'that drawer' or 'that cupboard', the place where we shove all those broken or unloved miniatures which we no longer want or think that maybe, just maybe, we might one day. Well, you'd be right, never underestimate the power of a shabby, broken piece of 1/12th scale furniture! Turn an old dresser into a shiny new sideboard or, proving that Joseph's Technicolor Dreamcoat has nothing on the determined miniaturist, try bringing together offcuts of old material, turning into them a fashionable rug.

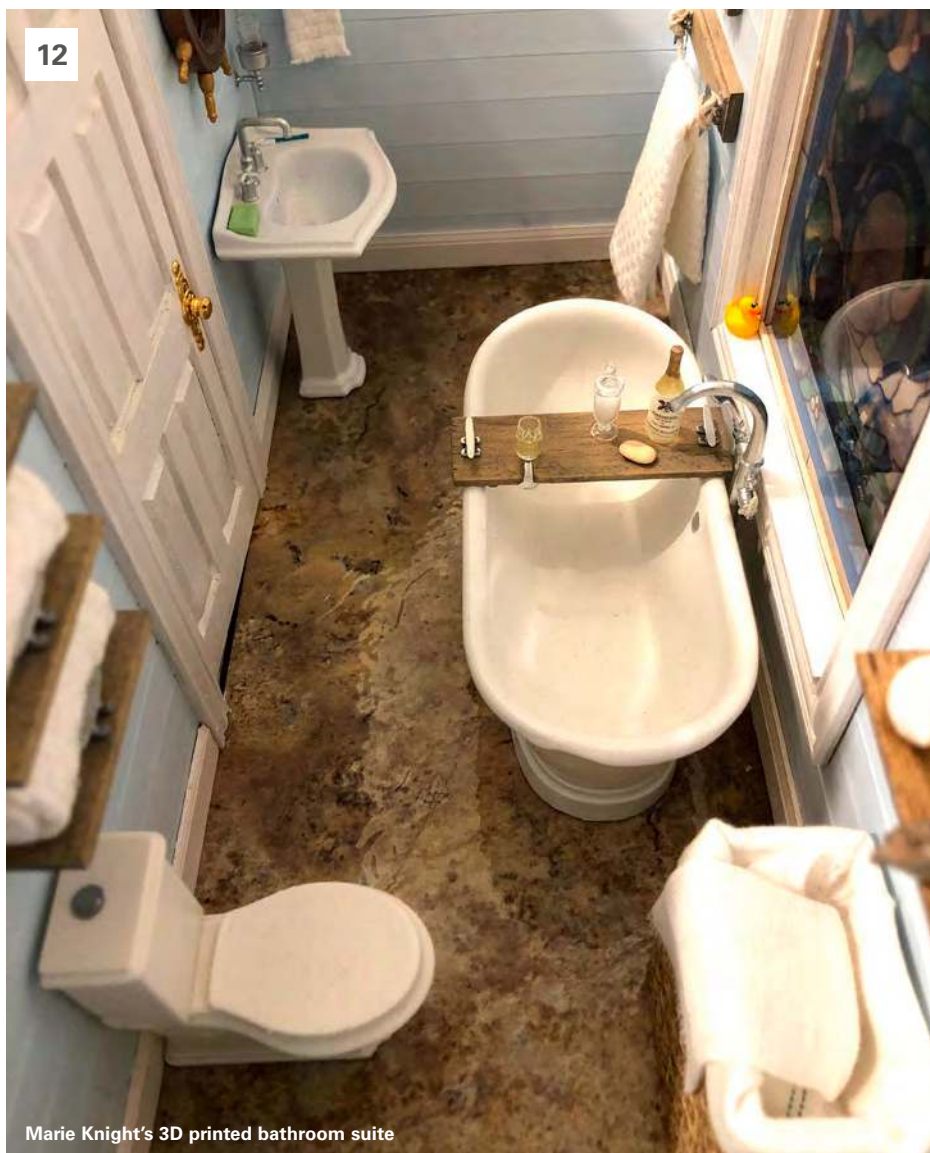
12 3D printing

An increasing number of artisans are creating miniatures using a 3D printer, and as an aspect of the industry which can only continue to grow, this is definitely going to be the year to challenge your design skills! Marie Knight is a huge fan and has used her 3D printer to evolve her recent projects, which have included making an eye-watering 1000 bottles for a miniature winery. In addition to this, however, she's also made a variety of other items, which include an entire bathroom suite and intricate seahorse handles for a kitchen cabinet.

13 A trendy fairytale

After winter comes spring, and the upcoming wedding season is going to see fairytale become the name of the game. This year sees the magic of our childhood dream dress heading back down the aisle, providing endless inspiration for the miniature dressmakers amongst

us as layers, lace and embroidery come back out of the sewing box. Terri Davis' beautiful miniature bride reminds us just how beautiful these dresses are, encouraging us to get out that needle and thread and set to work!



Marie Knight's 3D printed bathroom suite



▲ 'Temperance' by Terri Davis, gets ready for her big day



◀ Take a slice from new skill this year

14 Discover something new

Perhaps your miniature expertise lies with one particular skill, i.e. woodwork, costume design or polymer clay. Change it up this year by trying something outside your usual miniature skill set. Start small and aim big - in miniature!

15



This panda and her cub were a new project for expert artisan, Kerri Pajutee

15 A miniature surprise

Make 2020 the year to expect the unexpected. It's always fun to begin a new project, especially when it's something unusual or a piece you wouldn't necessarily expect to find in miniature, such as these utterly gorgeous pandas by Kerri Pajutee. Even the experts have to do their research though, and as a first time sculpt, discovering the skeletal structure of the panda, along with its mannerisms and pose was the essential starting point for Kerri. "After deciding on the pose, I set about creating an armature of aluminum foil, wire, and masking tape for both adult and cub. During the sculpture process, I added layers of BeeSputty polymer clay over the armature to build out the muscles, etc.," she says. "To assure a perfect fit, I made the little cub first and cured it in the oven. Next, I sculpted the mama bear so that her pose would snugly embrace her cub. This takes a bit of precision as the fit cannot end up being too tight in the end, after furring. Remember, the poses cannot be altered after the sculpt has cured in the oven." Once cured, Kerri painted and furred each sculpture using combed out wool yarn for their coats, applying it layer by layer with tweezers and craft glue. "After all the fibre was applied, I trimmed and shaped the coats with scissors. When both pieces were shaped and trimmed, I sprayed each with a non-yellowing artist fixative to set the coat and prevent shedding, then gently slipped the little cub into the arms of its mama bear."

16 Hit the road

In recent years, we've all come to the realisation that the high street isn't as popular as it once was, but new year is an excellent opportunity to find your local dolls house shop and show your support! And if you don't have one, or if it simply isn't possible for you to travel there right now, then make 2020 the year you enjoy discovering the many artisan miniatures stores online. Plus, DHMS will be bringing the best of the best from across the globe straight to you with a line up bursting with the finest miniature talent!

welcome him back to the magazine this month to share Lavender Lane, a beautiful 1/24th scale cottage. Based on a real building in Co. Galway, Ireland, Ken shows how incorporating a feature you perhaps wouldn't immediately think of during a build can add a depth of realism which will make you the envy of miniaturists everywhere! Ken added the sloping pavement because the real cottage is built on a hill, but if you take that thought and consider how it can be used in your own miniature construction then 2020 has the potential to prove hugely exciting. ▶

17 Depth of realism

Eagle eyed readers will recall Ken Hamilton Miniature Construction from our big interview with the man himself in July last year, and we're delighted to

SADIE SAYS...

"If procrastination was a New Year's Resolution, then keeping that promise after Twelfth Night might prove a lot easier. If that sounds familiar, and you're always pushing those new projects to the back of the to do list, then resolve to keep it simple and join me in deciding that wherever your mini adventures take you this year, you'll try at least one of these inspirational ideas!"

17



▲ Lavender Lane by Ken Hamilton

18 Time to get creative

In this issue we explore how Queen Mary's Dolls' House became a living time capsule of 1920s life. Why not recreate something with special meaning from your own life, past or present, in small scale and create your very own miniature time capsule?

Turn to
PAGE 18
to read about
the 1920s



19 Miniatures are everyone's cup of tea

Bringing small scale to an audience beyond the miniaturist community is something many artisans are passionate about, and wildlife miniaturist, Beth Freeman-Kane has come up with an ingenious design which would appeal equally to someone looking for a special piece for their kitchen as it would the ardent miniature collector. An underwater scene alive with ducklings and fish, everything is expertly recreated within a clear espresso cup and saucer. "This piece reflects a bit of surrealism," says Beth. "I just love the juxtaposition of a miniature



Kerri Pajutee's Persian cat wishes readers a Happy New Year!

scene combined with a regular sized everyday object." The ducklings, fish and even a crab were all hand sculpted from polymer clay and painted using acrylic paints. Beth then made the plants using just wire and paper, before mounting the ducklings and fish on nylon fibres, creating the water using poured clear resin.

20 Miaow

Just like this gorgeous ball of fluff handmade by Kerri Pajutee, ensure your miniature scenes aren't left out of the celebrations this New Year. We hope we've all inspired you to get creative this winter, but most importantly of all, have fun and a very happy 2020! 🏠

19

Swim towards new ideas! Beth Freeman-Kane's espresso cup is an underwater paradise



INFORMATION

For more information please visit:

Steph Wallace

🔗 www.mostlyminiature.com

Kerri Pajutee

🔗 www.kerripajutee.com

Marie Knight

🔗 www.instagram.com/marieknightminiatures

Ken Hamilton

🔗 www.kenhamilton-miniatureconstruction.com

Beth Freeman-Kane

🔗 www.facebook.com/BethMin

Vonelle Chapman

🔗 www.instagram.com/lavenderbelle_miniatures

Jane Harrop

🔗 www.janeharrop.co.uk

Raphael Truffi Bortholuzzi

🔗 www.grandmondo.com

Terri Davis

🔗 www.facebook.com/terriniidolls

DollHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

20 Mini Ideas for
the BIG 209

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Thrifty Florals

Funds a little low after Christmas? No worries, this thrifty project from brand-new contributor **Beate Klotz** who uses Christmas leftovers to create a miniature accessory, beautifully fresh and new.

Turn to
PAGE 32
to read about
a thrifty
miniaturist

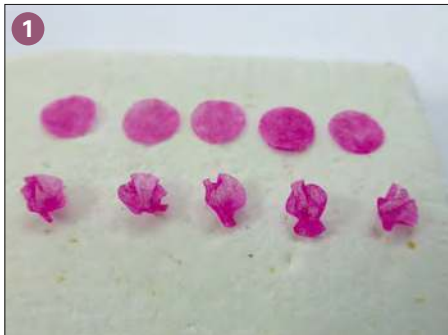
YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

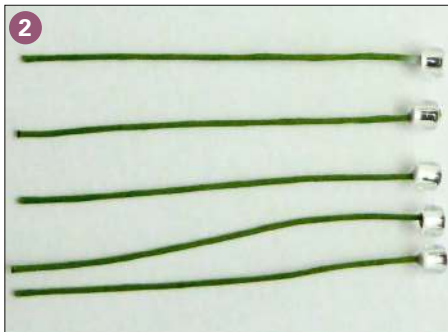
- Pine needles from Christmas tree painted with gloss or clear nail varnish
- Red, purple, pink or white tissue paper
- 28-gauge green florist wire
- 3mm beads (clear or to match tissue paper)
- Flower pot (approx. 20mm diameter)

TOOLS REQUIRED

- 5mm hole punch/paper punch
- Small ball tool or rounded toothpick
- Tweezers
- Flat eraser/mouse mat
- PVA glue
- Gloss varnish or clear nail varnish
- Florist moss or a bit of old fimo



1 Punch 50 circles from tissue paper. Place tissue paper circles on a flat eraser or mouse mat and use a ball tool or rounded cocktail stick to gently press the middle of each circle to make a little cup shape. Repeat on all circles to create ten petals for five flowers.



2 Cut five 40mm lengths of green florist wire and glue a 3mm bead to one end of the wire.



3 Use tweezers to pick up a cupped tissue paper circle, dip the bottom into glue and place on top of the bead. Carefully repeat this and glue the rest around the first one until the whole bead is covered. You may not need all ten. Set aside to dry standing up, either in florist moss or a bit of fimo. Repeat until you have five flowers.



4 Fill the flower pot with florist moss/clay or plasticine. Insert the first flower in the middle of the pot. Trim the lengths of the other flowers to stagger the heights and place around the middle flower as close as you can. Remove individual pine needles from the twigs and glue them around the bottom of the flower stalks. Use longer needles for the first row and shorter ones on top and keep adding until you no longer see the florist moss, clay or plasticine. 🏠

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JULIE CAMPBELL

Julie Campbell creates the most exquisite one of a kind figures and figurines in 1/12th scale. Having achieved IGMA artisan status in 2009, Julie joins the DHMS team to share her miniature journey, this month going right back to the beginning.

My miniature journey began in 1999 when my husband bought me a 1/12th scale dolls house kit for Christmas. As a child I had always loved anything tiny. If I could fit it into a matchbox or keep it in my pocket I was happy. That love stayed with me all my life so I was absolutely thrilled to own my own dolls house. I spent many happy hours putting it together and making small items for it but it wasn't until I bought a pile of miniature magazines at a car boot sale that I realised how big the hobby was!

I live in the North East of England and was very excited to learn there was a local dolls house fair (run by the Hobby House) where I came across all manner of wonderful miniatures, but best of all were the dolls. There were beautiful dolls there that I fell in love with but as a mum of three young children I just couldn't afford to buy them so I came home with just a handful of miniature accessories and big dreams!

Inspired by Jamie

I've always loved dolls and to me no dolls house was complete without a family living in it. I would look through my magazines and long for the beautiful dolls I saw handmade by wonderful artists. My favourites were made by Jan Clark and Jamie Carrington. I knew I couldn't afford to buy anything as lovely and really didn't like the more affordable porcelain dolls. I read that Jamie Carrington used something called polymer clay and set out to find out about this clay. Maybe I could try doll making myself?

A trip to the library led to my finding a book all about miniature dolls and how to make them from polymer clay, I was so excited to try this! I've always been artistic and love to sew and paint so it really seemed that this was something I could do. The book was wonderful, filled with drawings and patterns and step by step instructions. After a trip to the craft shop for pipe cleaners, polymer clay, glue paints and brushes I was ready and when the children went to school I sat at the kitchen table and began.



▲ Julie's work station



▲ The librarian

A funny transformation

I found it surprisingly easy to make a face. But it wasn't quite the face I had in mind.

The beautiful lady I tried to sculpt looked more like a grumpy old man! After the initial disappointment I decided to go with it and make an old man. I happily sculpted the rest of him. The hands were a bit tricky and my first pair had fingers like sausages!

He had bowed legs as I wasn't aware then that the clay would sag in the oven if not supported. I used a knitting needle to make holes in his limbs for assembling him.

I baked him in the oven at 130 degrees for twenty minutes and then following the instructions in my library book I used pipe cleaners and to join his body parts together. I wrapped yarn around to flesh him out. I had a little man in front of me!

I used acrylic paints to paint his features and was delighted when he looked back at me cheerfully.

Clothing made from scraps

His clothing was made from snippets of old material. I used a handkerchief for his shirt and some old school trousers my son had outgrown were cut up to make his trousers. I thought he was wonderful. I didn't have any doll hair so used a snippet of hair from our west highland terrier to wig him! I proudly showed my friend who wasn't quite as smitten with him as I was but nothing was going to stop me. I had a new obsession! Every day when the children were at school I would get out my clay and practice.

Little by little I improved. My first dolls were very naïve with big heads, and large flat painted on eyes. They did have a certain charm though and made everyone smile. Encouraged by friends and family I listed one for sale on eBay. I certainly wasn't an overnight success! My sister bought my first little doll as I think she felt rather sorry for me but I was determined to keep trying and soon I was selling my little people. My doll making journey had just begun but I had a long way to go. 🏠



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The Roar of Miniature TIME TRAVEL

A century on since the start of the 'roaring twenties', we explore the age of change in miniature.

The majesty of style

Described by Royal Collection Trust as an unrivalled archive of the artistic life of the period, it's astonishing to realise that next year marks a century since construction began on Queen Mary's Dolls' House. An idea originally conceived by Princess Marie Louise, Queen Mary's childhood friend and cousin of her husband, King George V as a gift from the nation, the house, designed by leading architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens remains the largest dolls' house in the world.

Completed in 1924, the house went on immediate public display as part of the famed British Empire Exhibition at Wembley Park. Here, it was seen by in

excess of 1.5 million visitors throughout its seven months on display before moving to a specially designed room at Windsor Castle where it has remained for the past ninety five years. The following quote by A. C. Benson from his 1924 work, "Everybody's Book of the Queen's Dolls' House", perfectly describes what came to pass as present day generations care for the house and visitors to Windsor Castle continue to be captivated by its contents on a daily basis. "It is built to outlast us all. To carry on into the future and different world this pattern of our own. It is a serious attempt to express our age and to show forth in dwarf proportions the limbs of our present world."

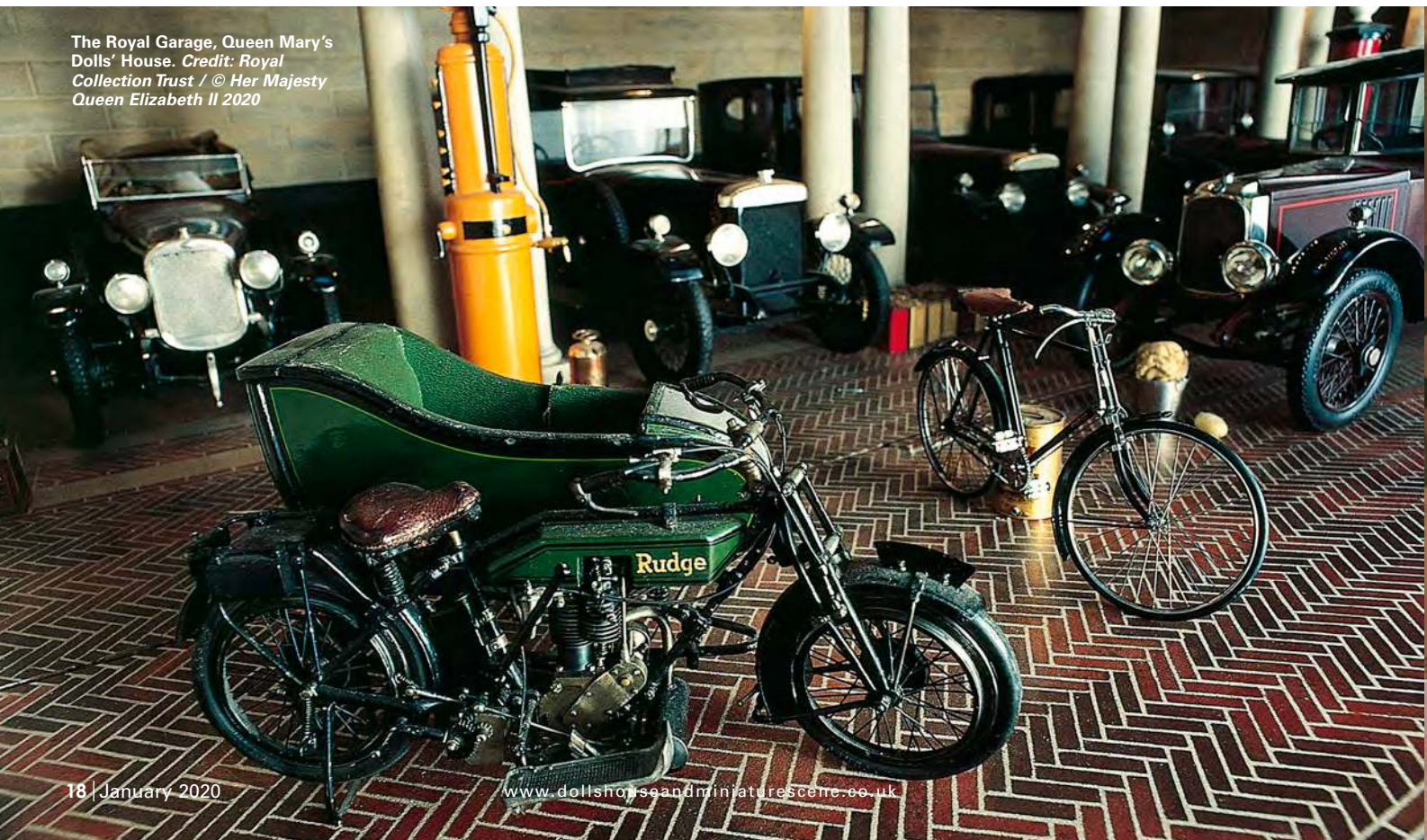
► Ethel

A working royal

Bursting with the finest 1920s talent it is a masterpiece of design, featuring the work of more than 1500 craftspeople, artists, writers and manufacturers, all of whom worked alongside Lutyens to create what would become a time capsule of 1920s design in 1/12th scale. Containing within its walls gems such as a working gramophone,



The Royal Garage, Queen Mary's Dolls' House. Credit: Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2020



a fully stocked wine cellar which would prove the envy of even the most ardent connoisseur, running hot and cold water and even functioning lifts, this is a dolls house which does much more than rely on simply looking good. It is an exceptional testament to the enviable skill behind the glamour and to the many talented contributors involved in its creation, from the palatial grandeur of the Royal Chambers, to the engaging warmth of the Queen's Sitting Room. The walls of the latter are decorated using the most beautiful chinoiserie-style silk, hand painted by the eminent illustrator, Edmund Dulac, whose first commission was to illustrate the collected works of the Brontë sisters.

The five-bay garage, located on the west side of the house, brings another element of the rapidly changing world of the early 20th century to small scale. The garage is an incredible record of the early car industry, and is filled with intricately detailed scale models, ranging from the majestic seven-seater 1923 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost limousine-landaulet in all its glory, to the Coventry based Rudge Whitworth Ltd motorcycle and sidecar for the more adventurous amongst us. With a bicycle which has fully operational brakes it's safe to say that no wheel was left unturned during the construction of Queen Mary's Dolls' House. It has become an incredibly important historical record for us

and, most importantly of all, for the many future generations who will continue to be enthralled by time, perfectly frozen within its walls.

Icons of fashion

Our 21st century artisans are equally adept at bringing the 'roaring twenties' to life as those for whom it was their home. Lilli Bass, with her background in costume design,



Peach



◀ Gwen

understands the necessity of getting those historical aspects just right when creating her dolls. Her '1920s glam' collection is an exercise in fine detail. 'Ethel' wears a pleated skirt which remained the only type of skirt consistently popular throughout the decade, adding a finishing touch to her outfit with a stylish cloche, which is French for bell, hat. Meanwhile, the dresses worn by both 'Peach' and 'Gwen' perfectly encapsulate the silhouette synonymous with the Twenties, whilst 'Matthew' is suited and booted in popular pinstripe.

Georgina Ritson's dolls are always icons of miniature style, her 'Evie' and 'Genevieve' breathing exceptional miniature life into a decade which brought a brief but glamorous interlude to a time when people were still recovering from war, with little knowledge that another would be on its way all too soon. ➡

The Queen's Sitting Room, Queen Mary's Dolls' House. Credit: Royal Collection Trust / © Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2020



Both dolls wear entirely different but instantly recognizable styles. 'Evie' dons a luxurious embroidered coat and hat, whilst 'Genevieve' makes an entrance in a flapper dress complete with feathers.

Taking stock

Nancy and AJ Quinby of Nantasy Fantasy are well known for their imagination and for creating a wide variety of miniatures which you'd be hard pushed to find elsewhere. These include, perhaps, one of the most unusual miniature finds inspired by the era, returning us to the roar of the car engine as their 1920s petrol pumps take centre stage. In addition to the more obvious iconic pieces such as clothes and Art Deco furniture, it's often items like this, which you wouldn't necessarily think of at first glance but, when added to a scene, really cement it firmly in the chosen time period.

The Wall Street crash of 1929, as stock market prices plunged and collapsed as never before, remains to this day the worst financial crash in history. Leading to the Great Depression, the crash would

▼ Roaring Twenties fashion, Genevieve



go on to economically define the coming decade. This leads us directly to another miniature from Nancy and AJ's portfolio which is very much of its time, their wonderful ticker tape machine. Originally invented in the 19th century by Edward Calahan, who found work as a telegrapher after leaving school aged just 11, it is the prolific inventor, Thomas Edison who is best remembered for his efforts in perfecting the machine. Undoubtedly one of the most important advancements of the early financial industry, the ticker tape telegraph machine provided stockbrokers with the Twitter of its day, printing almost real time information from the markets on a seemingly endless strip of paper. However, by the late 1920s, the sheer volume of activity on the stock market was starting to exceed the available technology of the machine. On what became known as Black Tuesday, the worst day of the crash, the ticker tape was running more than a little behind. This meant that the machines played their part in events as investors became increasingly panic stricken and unable to keep up to date.

▼ Nancy & AJ's station cart



The ticker tape machine was the financial internet of its day



The tracks of change

Equally evocative of an era which is now sadly on its way to slipping beyond the sight of our living memory, is Nancy and AJ's station cart, bursting with exquisitely handmade luggage, immediately immersing you in the past. It conjures up the sounds and smells of a busy station, steam trains chugging in and out of the platforms as the world began to change and evolve like never before, speeding up on its journey from 1920 to 2020, one hundred years later.

With many thanks to Royal Collection Trust.

Queen Mary's Dolls' House is included in general admission to Windsor Castle. For further information on visiting and booking visit:

www.rct.uk/visit/windsor-castle



INFORMATION

For further information on visiting and booking visit:

www.rct.uk/visit/windsor-castle

Discover much more about Queen Mary's Dolls' House and its contents at:

www.rct.uk/collection/themes/trails/queen-marys-dolls-house

Nancy & AJ Quinby

www.nantasy-fantasy.com

Lilli Bass

www.lillieslittles.com

▼ Perfectly dressed for winter weather! Evie by Georgina Ritson



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Art Deco Bath

With over 300 issues in the library, the DHMS team have been reading through the Exact Editions archive to find projects from well respected and popular artisans. **Pat Davies** looks at the bathrooms of the 1920s and shows us how to make a stunning and opulent bath, originally published in March 2014.

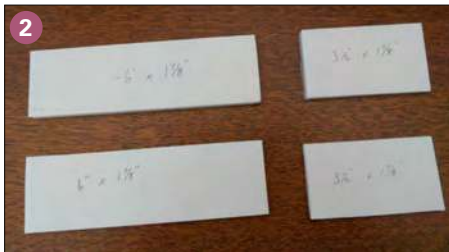
YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Glue
- Sharp craft knife
- Tweezers
- Ruler & pencil
- Old artist paint brush for applying glue
- Various papers and paints for decoration
- Core-board
- Polystyrene
- Bath & bath taps (upright pillar or shower taps on stand-pipes)
- Super Glue (optional)



1 Decide on the bath you will be using and measure the length and width. Then you can decide on the height. This is a roll-top bath 5-1/2" (140mm) x 2-3/4" (70mm).



2 Using the above measurements, cut two side panels and two end panels from the core-board

- **two side panels**
6" (153mm) x 1-7/8" (48mm)
- **two end panels**
3-1/2" (89mm) x 1-7/8" (48mm)



3 Using glue, join these four panels to form a box and leave to dry. At this point you may have to tidy the joins, just to smooth any ridges.



4 Measure the top and cut another panel to fit flush, but don't glue into position yet.



5 Lay the top panel on a flat surface and place the bath face down with more space at the tap end. Draw around the rim of the bath, remove the bath and draw another line about 10mm to 12mm inside the original. Cut out so you are left with a hole that the bath will fit into with the rim resting neatly on the top. You may have to tweak it a little to get the bath to fit flush. Mark the position of the taps and the receiving holes.



6 Cover the exterior of the box frame, starting with the top panel. Add a little silver coloured washer over the receiving holes for the taps to give it a finished look. If you're using pillar taps this can be placed into position and glued. If you have shower taps that are attached to standpipes you may have to shorten them before you thread them through the receiving holes. To give added strength glue a block of core-board underneath where the taps were to be fitted.



7 Glue the finished top into position making sure all edges are level. When the glue is completely set, carefully measure the front, back and two end panels, then cut out four panels using the black glossy card and glue into position. If desired you could now add embellishments of your own - contrasting motifs, maybe a smaller raised panel in the centre with a gold frame or perhaps cut the glossy card into tile shapes.



INFORMATION

Pat Davies of Lili-Anne Miniatures

www.lili-anne.co.uk

patlillianne@btinternet.com

01702 304919

EXACT EDITIONS

Turn to
PAGE 42
to find out
more

1920s Bathrooms

The decade before the 1920s & 30s was one of change, the spread of industrialisation was beginning to give hope to the many poor, still struggling to stay healthy and alive. There was beginning to be a glimmer of hope for better living conditions but the huge divide between the classes remained.

The shared privy still remained a common feature in the back yard but at least more abodes were beginning to experience the luxury of piped, clean water. Designated bathrooms were still a distant luxury.

Then came the outbreak of war. All the hopes and dreams of a better life that the masses were beginning to strive for must have been shattered almost over-night. By the time the war ended, jobs and living standards began to shoot ahead (although it still remained a tough time for the vast majority). There was a huge house building boom with the developers building estates with an extra room to be used and equipped as a bathroom.

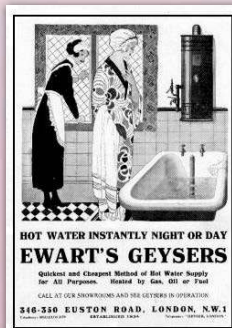
For the early part of the 20s, styles reminiscent of previous periods like mock-Tudor, Georgian and cottage styles were very popular. During the early part of the decade, fixtures were white and corresponding colours for the interior of the room tended to be on a pale pastel theme. As the end of the 20s approached and technology grew, so did

the ability to produce more vibrant colours. Interior designers began experimenting and producing lively colour combinations. The manufacturers of bathroom fittings, who up until now had only produced in white, were offering coloured fixtures ranging from pastels to a vibrant black.

The stand-alone, roll-top bath was being replaced with square-edged designs to fit better into corners. It also became popular to fit the bath into a purpose built recess with the bath sitting on a raised platform. If space permitted the W.C. would be concealed behind a jutting wall or in an alcove. The water would have been heated with the now popular and improved 'Geyser', Ewart's gas water heater (an earlier version of the 'Ascot' heater).

During the 20s there was also a surge of council homes being built. It's astonishing really how slow changing attitudes towards personal hygiene, cleanliness and waste disposal came about... until the explosion of change that took place during the 1920s & 30s. Although slow, things were certainly beginning to change. Landlords

were starting to offer their tenants clean piped water. It was also at around this time that the Co-operative was formed, enabling families to afford better diets and household necessities. All this of course encouraged better health, life was on the up... until the end of the 30s and WW2. 



MAKING THE NEWS

IN MARCH 2014...

Flight MH370 disappears over the South China sea.

Weapons found near China's Terracotta Army are believed to have been owned by the soldiers.





The Quartermaster:

CONTINENTAL INSPIRATION

Blow away the English winter blues and discover some distinctly European miniatures.



Traditional German style furnishings by Cinderella Mode in Miniatur

Think of Cinderella at this time of year and you're more likely to be thinking of pantomimes rather than miniatures. But German born Silvia Leiner whose miniature name is Cinderella Mode in Miniatur was right on the ball when she returned to the autumn Miniatura show after an eight-year break, bringing her German styled furniture in 1/48th scale with her. Silvia has been supplying collectors and miniaturists with handcrafted dressed and undressed miniature dolls, doll kits and everything necessary to dress dolls and drape and soft furnish a dolls house for the last 25 years.

Silvia has been hugely inspired by the world-famous dolls house maker, Moritz Gottschalk (1892-1931) after his original factory illustrations came to light and were published - much to the delight of dolls house lovers everywhere.

She has also found inspiration from the Jugendstil style of furniture that was

"My son, Robin loves Petite Properties and their furniture; so he talked me into making some ready-made items."

Silvia.



▲ Kitchen furniture in the German Jugendstil style by Cinderella Mode in Miniatur

popular in Germany from about 1895 to 1910. In contrast to the dark furniture styles of previous eras, this furniture was painted white, and at her home which is now Wales, after moving to the UK a little over three years ago from Stuttgart, Germany, she has some antique items in full size as well as her miniatures, such as an 1894 kitchen dresser which belonged to her family in Stuttgart.

"Whilst watching a recent episode of Antiques Roadshow, someone brought a Jugendstil jug for valuation. It made me aware that Jugendstil is entirely German and not known in the UK. So, it really is something new here. I hope people will like it!"

Whitewitch Miniatures

From Germany we head across to France to meet Julia Sensiba of Whitewitch Miniatures. Julia is half American and half British but has been living in rural Brittany

for the past 15 years. She first got into miniatures when she lived in Virginia, USA where she came across a room box in 1/12th scale. Her sister went into raptures over it, so Julia made her one - then made her boss one. This led to her discovering that there were miniaturist shows all over America and in turn, opened up a whole new world for her.

She was astounded at what people could make, and when two good friends introduced her to smaller scales with 1/48th kits she realised that in order to have these tiny things you had to make the furniture yourself.

▼ **Julia of Whitewitch Miniatures turns her ornate little box into miniature rooms**



"I went on-line to discover where you could buy really fine wood," said Julia. "I taught myself to make miniatures from all sorts of materials: wood, metal, Fimo, clay, even walnut shells. Also, when you're making tiny miniatures you notice odd things, which you collect and hoard, just in case!"

It was whilst living in England, in a house called Whitewitch House, that she took the name for her miniatures. She and her partner, Tom Staley, then moved to Brittany where Tom would help with ideas and

"I actually prefer 1/144th because it takes more skill and more patience - I like to be tested!"
Silvia.



▲ **Whitewitch Miniatures - Whitewitch Miniatures Southern Belle House Kit in 1/48th scale**

by cutting wood. Sadly, Julia's miniatures were put on hold for a number of years as her beloved partner's health deteriorated, leading tragically to his death in 2018.

Julia took up her hobby again in 2019 and has been working on various 1/144th projects such as a Southern Belle house kit and tiny dolls in 1/48th scale, in Scarlet O'Hara style. The dolls heads are made from Fimo and their bodies from cake wire. She's also a collector of antique boxes, which she often turns into tiny rooms.

Seaside Miniatures

Still on the French theme, Mike and Alison Thomas of Seaside Miniatures were so inspired by the magnificent French style architecture they saw on their regular visits to Normandy, France, they decided they just had to create a French Chateau.

Taking lots of photographs of different elements of various beautiful French buildings on their travels they have created a limited edition of a 1/48th kit that consists of three floors, ten rooms and a grand central curved staircase leading to the first floor. Access is gained from the front centre removal panel, side panels and roof. The exterior has authentic French features, such as the windows, rails, steps and chimney stacks.

"Although it's quarter scale," said Mike, "because it's a grand ten room chateau it's quite a big model, measuring around 1ft x 1ft x 1ft. We've made it so you can easily access all the rooms, as they are each the full depth of the building."

He and Alison launched their Chateau at the Kensington Show and on-line on

1st December. They are also researching, designing and making the furnishings as an option for customers, including wallpaper and flooring which Mike designs and draws, also fireplaces, wood panelling, hand-made lights, table lamps and chandeliers. "The chandeliers will light up and the fires will flicker in the fireplaces," added Mike. "We're aiming to bring the whole package out. People like to see new products, and while we don't usually have limited runs, because of the time factor in making the chateaus we will have a limited run in this case." 🏠

▼ **Seaside Miniatures French Chateau**



INFORMATION

🔗 www.cinderellaminiatures.com

🔗 www.seasideminatures.co.uk

Photos by Rob Tysall



Jon Trenchard

We chat to miniatures and National Trust enthusiast, **Jon Trenchard** about his majestic build, and after 30 years, is still under construction!

Jon Trenchard with Hordle Castle



▲ Where it all began for Jon, Lindisfarne Castle

DHMS: Hi Jon, let's go right back to the beginning. Please tell the readers how this amazing project began?

Jon: Ok so, it all began when was I a boy, visiting historic houses, the majority being National Trust properties. But my memory of which properties I visited is all a bit hazy, so I have asked the fount of all knowledge... my Mum! Apparently, the first National Trust property I visited was Lindisfarne Castle aged only nine

months old, and where the family first gained NT membership. "We should have got Life Membership there and then," she sighs. "Next," she says as if it were only yesterday, "was Caernarfon Castle aged 18 months, although you fell asleep in the car and never actually did the tour." Strangely I don't remember those two, but the list that Mum proceeds to reel off makes it quite clear why I got the castle/stately home bug: Sizergh, Muncaster, Dunstanborough, Rockingham, Beaumaris, Conwy, Dunrobin, and Warwick Castles; Hardwick Hall, Waddesdon Manor, Hughendon, Clivedon, Buckland Abbey... all before I was 12. I loved to imagine the interiors of the ruined castles and began to draw my own floor plans fitting together libraries, kitchens and gatehouses with portcullises into a new design.



▲ The detailing is captured in the stunning stained glass windows



▲ Worship the strawberry!

DHMS: And how frequent were your visits to these National Trust properties? Do you have a favourite?

Jon: We explored historic houses in the Northamptonshire area where I grew up. It was on family holidays that we visited the majority of NT properties. As a teenager I became fascinated with the interior decor as well as the crenelated exteriors. We were visiting at least four houses every holiday, and this has continued into adulthood with a further 50 ticked off the list, not including those belonging to English Heritage and in private ownership. I have many favourite rooms and features in each house, but I really love houses which retain some of their medieval to Jacobean architecture, like Knole, Baddesley Clinton or Ightham Mote, and ones which are a jumble of eras like Fellbrigg in Norfolk. The really ancient parts of country houses are just brimming for me with the mysterious intrigues and secret stories of past lives.

DHMS: Are any of your family interested in miniatures?

Jon: Yes, my Dad made model railways (OO gauge around the garden) and my brother followed in his footsteps and now he has a large track around his garden that the children can ride on. My Mum however liked dolls houses, and made miniature FIMO food, and it was her who first took me to dolls house fairs, where I started collecting furniture and accessories for imagined historic rooms, even as a child.



▲ Ightham Mote, Kent

DHMS: Were you interested in miniatures at the time? What were you making at the time?

Jon: I made bits and bobs for my Mum's dolls houses whilst growing up - a music stand from cocktail sticks, a leather satchel, a toy jack in the box and merry-go-round, along with paper 'willow pattern' plates drawn with a fine blue pen (no wonder I am so short-sighted!) - but I also made a "nest" for some toy animals I had, with rooms and furniture inside it made from papier mache, card and the odd match box.

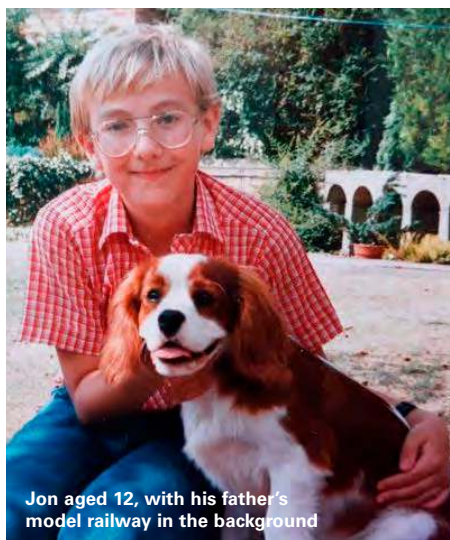
DHMS: How many visits to NT properties did you make before you made your first piece?

Jon: After the 15 or so castles and historic houses Mum can remember me visiting as a boy, I decided when I was

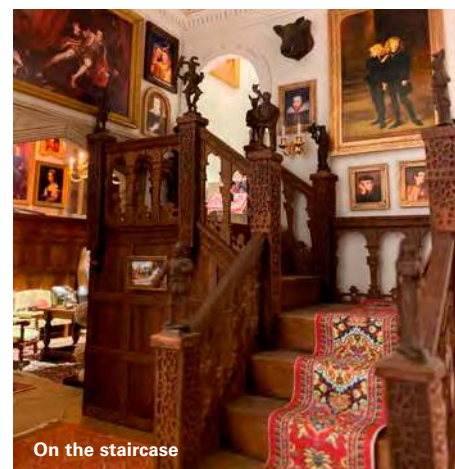
12 years old that I wanted to become an actor. This meant that sadly I could probably never afford a real stately home! So I naturally decided I wanted a miniature one. I used to trawl through NT guide books and pictures in reference books of historic houses and realised that, chronologically, I should start with The Great Hall. My Dad helped me cut out the walls and floor from plywood according to my design, and I began to add panelling that I had bought from a fair with flagstones and a fireplace made from an old cereal box. ▶▶▶

“ My Dad made fantastic model railways and as a teenager I became fascinated with interior décor.”

Jon



Jon aged 12, with his father's model railway in the background



On the staircase



▲ Jon keeps watch

▼ Artefacts



Spot the troll!



DHMS: Which room was next to be built?

Jon: Well actually, apart from yet more visits to NT houses, that was as far as the castle got for a long time. After Uni, the Great Hall ended up in my brother's shed for many years, languishing unloved, the walls damp and mouldy with no roof, with its panelling gradually decaying, just like a real ruin. When I finally got a place of my own about a decade ago, the Hall came to live with me and I once again got the bug and started repairing it - mending the panelling, damp-proof painting the walls, and eventually adding a hammer beam roof, a screen, and heraldic windows. Since then the Great Hall has been joined by other rooms, firstly a tapestry room (a kind of entrance hall off the screens passage), then a chapel and an attic nursery in the tower above...

DHMS: Some of the rooms were built a few years ago, have you re-visited any of them and 'tinkered' with them?

Jon: Of course! I tend to begin a room with great zeal and then fail to put the finishing touches on before moving on with even greater zeal to another. So this year has been about trying to rectify that and go back and 'finish,' as much as possible before I move on to the next rooms. I have also learnt new techniques since I started so I often update old rooms accordingly.

DHMS: And how many rooms are there in total?

Jon: So far there are eight rooms - Great Hall, tapestry room, chapel, attic nursery, the Turkish bathroom, a Shakespeare-themed staircase with a secret chamber for the Crown Jewels, a cellar with about 70 aging bottles, and a half-timbered passageway which will eventually lead to the kitchen... Oh, and there is also a 1/12th scale Dutch baby house with a further nine rooms I've made in 1/144th scale inside that.

DHMS: Our favourite room is the Turkish bathroom, tell us where you sourced the tiles from?

Jon: I'm glad you like it! I had bought a few postcards of Iznik tiles from the V&A, and really wanted a room to house them. However, it's not very common to have such a room in an English country house (although there is apparently a Turkish



room at Sledmere House in Yorkshire). When I also found postcards of beautiful blue and orange tiles on a trip to the Pergamum Museum in Berlin, I thought, the castle needs a bathroom, why not make it Turkish? So I researched Iznik and Islamic tile designs online, [P3](#)

▼ ► Iznik tiles.





collecting any copyright free images that I could rescale and print out to use. The big challenge (and fun part) was arranging my Iznik tile collection to fit the room, before scoring them to resemble individual tiles and then sticking them in place. There will be an anteroom to the Turkish Bathroom too, which I want to be more geometric in design, so I recently visited many Moorish palaces in Andalucia and took an obscene number of my own photos for inspiration for that.

DHMS: Where do you buy your materials from? Do you visit any shows or exhibitions? Do you have any favourite artisans?

Jon: Inspired by Caroline Hamilton's 'Decorative Dolls Houses' as a boy, I have always liked making things in miniature out of recycled material and odds and ends. The 'Jacobean' staircase and screen in the Great Hall are made of coffee stirrers, cocktail sticks, an old wooden fan, and pewter figures from museum shops (doctored with FIMO and then painted to be Shakespearean characters on the stair newel posts). But I have grown to really love the versatility of cardboard in particular: almost the entire chapel is made from card, recycled transparent packaging (for the stained-glass windows) and pencils (for gothic pillars): cutting out the tiny cereal packet holly, ivy, oak and vine leaves for the capitals took forever! However, I bought a lot of the furniture and

accessories on trips abroad (like an 18th century aristocrat's Grand Tour), online, and from the Kensington Dolls House Festival and Miniatura. The State Bed is always the most expensive item in country houses, so I commissioned an Elizabethan four poster from the extremely talented Barbara Moore at Pear Tree Miniatures. I am obviously a huge fan of John Hodgson too, not just for his gilt furniture but also his own stately homes and castle displayed at Hever Castle, which were a huge inspiration for me. And my vast admiration for Mulvany and Rogers is only surpassed by my disappointment that Hordle Castle will never be in their league! However, I am pleased to say that Hordle, such as it is, will be exhibited at Miniatura for the first time this coming March as Miniatura was so helpful in attracting media attention for the project. So book your tickets and come and see it for real if you want to, and give me some tips for further improvement!

DHMS: Is Hordle Castle close to completion?

Jon: Oh no! As well as the kitchen, I plan on adding a drawing room, a long gallery, a billiard room, library, dining room, closet and two bedchambers: I already have furniture waiting in boxes ready for each room. And then there are the gardens to consider. I have heard it said that a miniature is never really finished: just like a real house, more can always be added, refurbished or taken away. I just hope I

▲ Aged to perfection

can bequeath a complete Hordle Castle to the National Trust in my will before I die, just like a real stately home...

DHMS: Were there any miniature disasters whilst building?

Jon: Working in cheap recycled materials, nothing is ever a real disaster because you can make it all again for next to nothing. However, I am forever kicking myself when I finish, say, a stone wall, only to find a far more realistic method someone has used for stone walls on YouTube. My perfectionism is reluctantly coming to terms with the fact that Hordle will inevitably be a hodge-podge of different materials and methods as I learn more and more about modelling over the years.

DHMS: What's your next stage in miniature adventures?

Jon: I am actually creating a miniature version of the set of *The Comedy About A Bank Robbery*, the show I have been working on as an actor on UK tour and in the West End for the last year. After that I need to try carving stone walls from insulation board.

DHMS: Do you have any resolutions for 2020?

Jon: It's the same resolution every year: to finish what I have started.

Miniatura®

Hordle Castle will be appearing at spring Miniatura in March 2020. Event organiser Andy Hopwood posed the following questions to Jon:

Andy: How easy is it to transport the piece?

Jon: So far, apart from getting the ruined hall to my current address, I've never transported it! However, I always knew that I was unlikely to have a room big enough for the finished castle, so I decided early on to make it like a giant jigsaw: unlike traditional dolls houses where you open one door and see inside every room at once, in Hordle each room comes apart from the rest to reveal inside. This should make transporting it easier, but I will still have to pack up all the furnishings inside separately.

Andy: Has this project changed the way you look at packaging? Do you shop differently to buy certain things because he knows it'll work well as building materials?

Jon: I'm sure all miniaturists would say that the hobby changes the way you look at everyday objects: imagining what size this would be in 1/12th, or imagining how to make a mini version of that. So yes, absolutely, if I order flat pack furniture, I'm secretly hoping the corrugated card will be tall and wide enough for a new castle wall, and I have been known to choose cereal based on the quality and shade of grey of the packet, even when I only want toast! The trouble is, when I see usable packaging I store it all up for as yet uncreated rooms, hence the castle's name, Hordle (as well as it being the name of a town in Dorset inhabited by the first recorded Trenchard in England).

Andy: And finally... does it change the way you look at the real world?

Jon: Definitely! For example, I find myself looking at paving stones thinking, those look just like tea-stained cereal packet, and sometimes I could almost fool myself that a real stone wall was made of eggbox, painted and grouted of course! 🏠



▲ A safe place to store the crowns

INFORMATION

To see more of Jon's work visit:

🖱️ <http://miniaturecastle.blogspot.com>

Jon and Hordle Castle will be appearing at spring Miniatura in March.

For opening times, exhibitor details and ticket information visit:

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NEW EXCITING PROJECTS TO MAKE AND LOVE

PLUS: A SPECIAL EXCLUSIVE TO MAKE A MINIATURE

Welcome to the most spring festive issue of the year!

Inside this month's newsletter we've got an EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER from our friend at Fantastic Platforms, details about the latest shows/events, our top brand picks and information about subscription offers - so you've got no excuse not to pick up your issue (online, in shops or digitally).

I WANT THIS ISSUE!

COMING UP THIS ISSUE:

GET MY COPY!

HERE'S A SNEAKY PEEK...

This edition, we're all loved up when it comes to toys and romance - my two chosen themes for February, coupled with tons of inspiration and step by step to make your heart flutter. PLUS now introducing our Fresh Featherstone mail digital issue, where you can learn to make the iconic hotel from start to finish.

Readers! We want YOUR questions to help shape our 2020 issue. Scroll down to find

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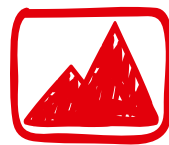
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DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

Artisan Interview

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ACROSS THE POND


FIRST AND LAST NAME:

Faith Guynes

CITY/STATE OF RESIDENCE:

Bull Shoals, Arkansas, USA

HOW DID YOU GET INTO MINIATURE MAKING?

I wanted to explore another hobby after I quit painting and decided to try my hand at miniatures. I love how miniature making encompasses so many skills, and there is always something new to learn.

WHAT SCALE DO YOU SPECIALISE IN? WHY ARE YOU SO FOND OF THIS SCALE?

I first started working in 1/48th scale because I didn't have any space to store larger pieces. I love this scale because it's challenging, and I'm able to afford unique materials when needed.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE OF MINIATURE MAKING?

It ranges quite a bit depending on my mood. Most of my pieces are mid-century or movie-inspired, but on gloomy days those minis can get a little dark.

WHO ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE 'THRIFTY' MINIATURISTS?

Definitely Lydia Ricci. Her miniatures are a wonder to look at and fill me with nostalgia.

See what's new and on trend in the miniature world as **Kate Ünver** of The Daily Mini shares with us her favourite artisans. This month, **Faith Guynes** who creates the most amazing dioramas, furniture and accessories in 1/48th scale, at the same watching what she spends on materials. You can connect with Kate via Twitter: **@thedailymini** or via her website: **www.thedailymini.com**



Modern Dream in 1/48th scale. All of my favourite mid-century designs, made with laser cut wood. Each piece is based on real vintage furniture!

Q: WHAT IS THE DAILYMINI

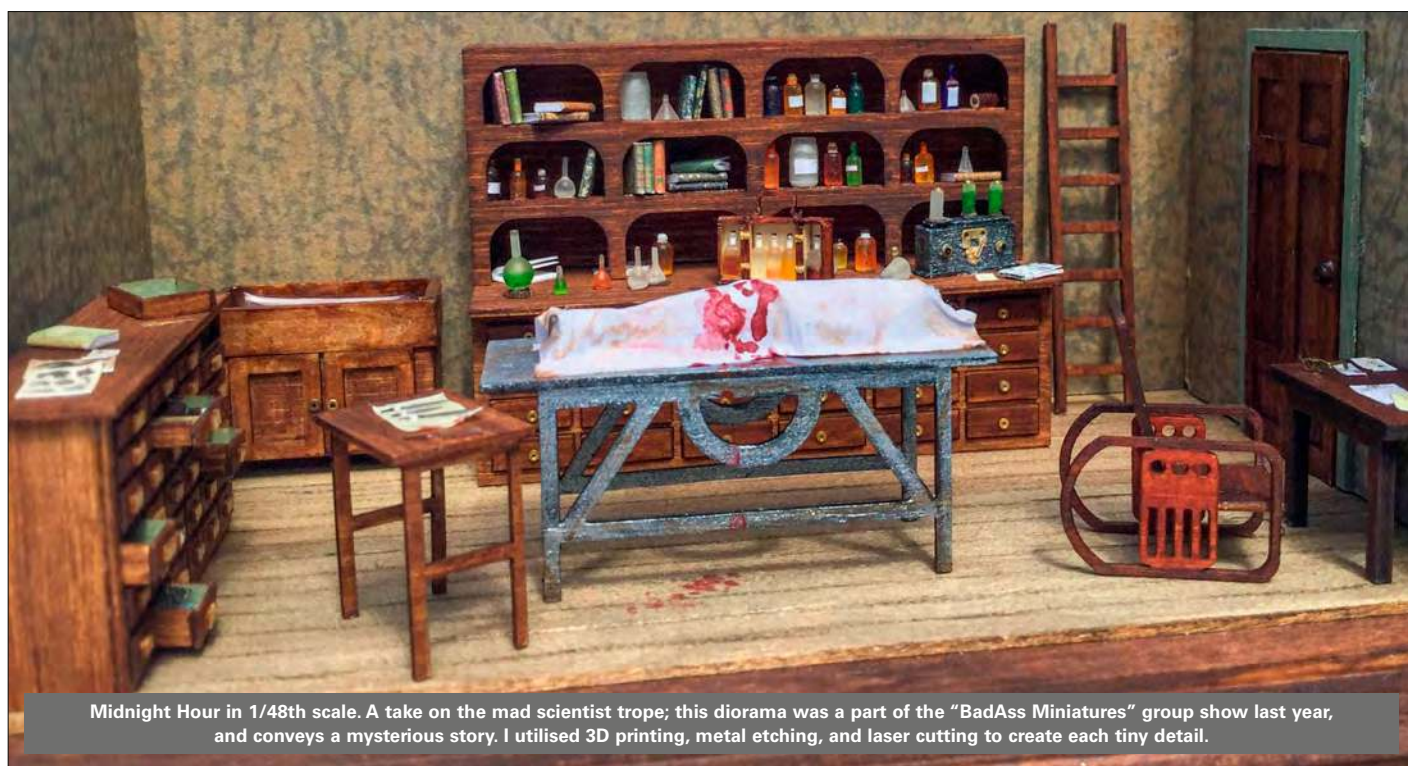
A: It's a digitally curated space that showcases internationally renowned artists and designers working in small scale
Follow along on **@dailymini!**



Record player in 1/48th scale. Made with laser cut wood and inspired by musical solitude



Lounge in 1/144th scale. One of the first miniatures I made in my new house. It reflects a nice clean start. Made from laser cut paper



Midnight Hour in 1/48th scale. A take on the mad scientist trope; this diorama was a part of the "BadAss Miniatures" group show last year, and conveys a mysterious story. I utilised 3D printing, metal etching, and laser cutting to create each tiny detail.



Piano in 1/48th scale. One of my favourite pieces that I made as a gift for my grandmother who loves to play the piano. I was inspired by a single antique photograph and handmade this piece from scrap wood, paper, and wire



Guitar in 1/48th scale. I tested the limits of 1/48th scale with this guitar and tried to make it as realistic as possible. Created with laser cut wood and watch parts



Photo Booth in 1/48th scale. Inspired by retro elements and the atomic age, this piece tested my patience but turned out better than I hoped. It's made from laser-cut wood.



Did someone roll a five or an eight?



1/144th scale dolls house in progress



Mid-century display case



1/48th scale gothic table

WHAT'S ONE TRICK OF THE TRADE YOU'D RECOMMEND TO MINIATURISTS?

Nail art has a great source of materials when working in tiny scales; that, and never underestimate what you can make with just paper.

WHERE DO YOU LOOK FOR INSPIRATION?

I explore other artists' work and hoard interior design books for inspiration.

WHAT IS THE FIRST PROJECT YOU'LL WORK ON IN 2020?

Probably an art deco furniture piece because it'll be the 20s again. 🏠



INFORMATION

To see more of Faith's work visit:

🌐 www.instagram.com/faith_icus

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At Home with THE BROADWOODS



As we step into the new year, professional miniaturist, **Bea Broadwood** refuses to be consumed by the gloom of winter and instead she shares a little bit of summer... in miniature of course!

Holding onto summer

Well here we are, right at the beginning of a shiny new year; all full of promise and new possibilities. Hooray! However, for those of us in the Northern hemisphere, January is cold and bleak and as an avid gardener it's the one month of the year that I don't venture outside into my own (full size) cottage garden. To be honest, the short days and freezing weather makes me more inclined to nest in front of the fire, rather than don my wellies and brave the chill outside.

So instead of daydreaming about spring blooms and trees in full leaf, I have just the tonic. Why not bring summer indoors and have a go at creating your very own quarter scale Knot garden; complete with elegant topiary and gravel filled paths?

To the manor born

As I mentioned in December's column, my personal highlight of 2019 was working on our 1/48th scale Stragglethorpe Manor kit. It was so much fun to design sagging timbers and create its undulating roof line, but I have to confess, it was the manor's base that I found the most enthralling.

Inspired by Elizabethan architecture, I knew from the start that I wanted to display my Stragglethorpe Manor in an appropriate setting. Ideally, I wanted to design a landscaped base that would connect with the character of the house and era. After a little bit of historical research, I stumbled on the perfect solution; a knot garden.

WHAT IS A KNOT GARDEN?

A knot garden is a formal garden design which emerged in Elizabethan times. Traditionally in a knot garden, symmetrical borders are laid out in intricate designs, which are often filled with aromatic plants and culinary herbs.



▼ Stragglethorpe Manor's Knot garden makes the perfect project for dark winter evenings

Bringing the outdoors in

From the outset my plan was to keep the landscaping within the walls of my miniature garden formal, contrasted by over grown and relaxed foliage outside the boundary, to help to frame the knot garden within.

At the beginning of the design process, I listed the key elements that I wanted to include within knot garden. Then came the (fun) job of working out just how these features could be recreated in quarter scale within the final landscaped setting.

Symmetrical borders

The intertwined, symmetrical borders featured in knot gardens were my starting point for the garden's design and bringing the hedging to life turned out to be incredibly simple! I first liberally painted the base structure of the hedging pattern with PVA adhesive and then sprinkled a fine landscaping scatter over the top. The style of hedging can be altered by the colour of the scatter you use. I used a 'medium green' to represent classic box hedging.



▼ Box clever!

Feature topiary

A key element of any knot garden is elegant topiary features and to create mine I used air dry clay. I moulded the clay into the required shapes (cones and balls) and then left them to dry over night. Once covered in PVA adhesive they too were covered in various landscaping scatters and left to dry. I fixed them into position within the knot garden using a cold melt glue gun.

▼ Tiny topiary; before...

Bed's Top Tip!

"I brought my raised beds to life using twigs from my garden to create a focal point. Simply snip suitable twigs then leave them in a warm place for a couple of days to dry out completely before use."

50(ish) shades of green

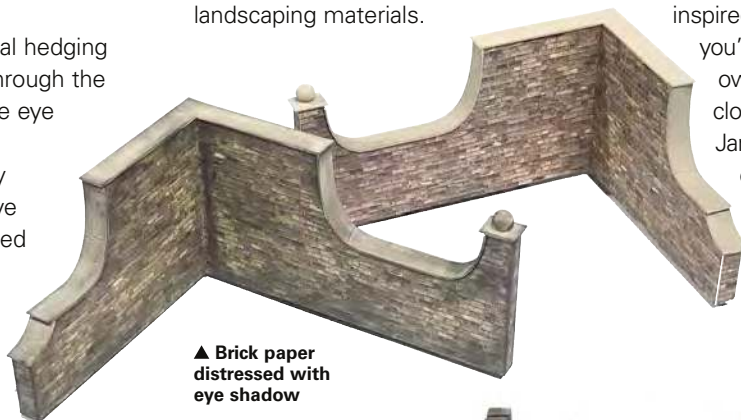
Once the overall shape of the knot garden had been created and the key elements had been added, I began to think about the foliage that I wanted to use. I decided on a very neutral colour palette, focusing on a selection of summer foliage, offset with just a splash of red to highlight the varying shades of green. Of course you could choose to replicate a different season and this could be easily done simply by selecting an alternate colour palette of landscaping materials.

▲ ... and after!

Gravel paths

The raised border and formal hedging created natural pathways through the garden, all of which lead the eye towards the manor itself.

I liberally painted the empty pathways with PVA adhesive and whilst still wet I sprinkled a combination of extra fine stone chippings and dry sand over the top, to create instant miniature gravel paths.



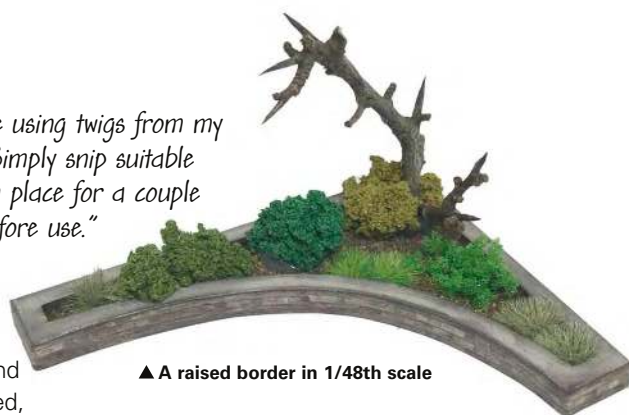
▲ Brick paper distressed with eye shadow



▲ Gravel paths under construction

Retaining walls

Regular readers will already know that my trusty eye shadow is never far away and when working on this project was no exception! I used brick paper to cover the knot garden's retaining walls and distressed the paper using a dark brown eye shadow rubbed gently over the surface. (For further tips on working with brick paper, see AHWTB in the August 2019 issue)



▲ A raised border in 1/48th scale

No wellies required...

Overall, I was thrilled with the end result (although Mo was not thrilled with the mess I created in the process) and I think that Stragglethorpe Manor looks so at home in its new setting. I also have to confess that I think the Knot garden has turned out to be my favourite landscaping project to date. So, if the new year has inspired you to take on a new project and you're missing spending time in your own full-size garden... why not stay close to the warmth of the fire this January, enjoy the left over Christmas chocolates and garden in miniature instead? (No wellies required!) 🏠



INFORMATION

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◀ The finished garden... what's knot to love?



Made by You: Little Miss Muffet

SHAN DAWSON

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 instructions in a kit form. We thought that it would be nice to give the readers the spotlight that they deserve and share with you their finished projects.



▲ Decorative canes
◀ Shan Dawson with Little Miss Muffet
▼ Pick your poison

I've always been creative and enjoyed various arts and crafts throughout my life. I'm lucky to have a studio at home where I have been creating miniatures in 1/12th scale for about a year and a half. This room box is the second one I've created based on the origins of nursery rhymes. Whilst researching the backgrounds of "Ten in the Bed" I came across lots of theories about other nursery rhymes. One theory is that little Miss Muffet was written by Dr Thomas Muffet, an English physician in the 16th century, for his stepdaughter and that fired up my imagination. Dr Muffet is best known for his study of insects, spiders, and their medicinal properties. I imagined a study full of medical equipment and specimens with his step daughter Patience sneaking in there to eat her curds and whey in peace and getting a bit of a surprise.

Dr. Muffet is a Tudor

I decided to give this room box a Tudor feel, as Dr Muffet lived in the 16th century, and did a lot of research into what all the elements in his laboratory would look like. I trained and worked as a draftsman when I was younger, which was an immense help when drawing out and designing my room boxes. My husband helps too as he is a trained mechanical fitter and gives me advice on any manufacturing difficulties I come across and I've invested quite a lot in my studio equipment. I now have a little wood turning lathe, which I used to turn the front legs on the chair. I also got a disc and belt sander for my birthday and for Christmas, I received a Dremel with a workstation as previously I really struggled when trying to drilling holes.





Concocting a potion



Dr. Muffet's spectacles

Dr. Muffet's spectacles

I studied for a degree in Contemporary Decorative Crafts at Lincoln University. Although I only managed to do a year and a half of the three year course due to ill health, the skills I developed are still very handy. I really enjoyed making Dr Muffet's spectacles, they even work at magnifying things if you look really closely. The lenses are made by casting clear resin in the little holes of an empty tablet blister pack and the two halves of the frames were carefully cut out with a jewellery saw then riveted together.

The paperwork that is scattered around were drawn and written by hand with a very fine pen.

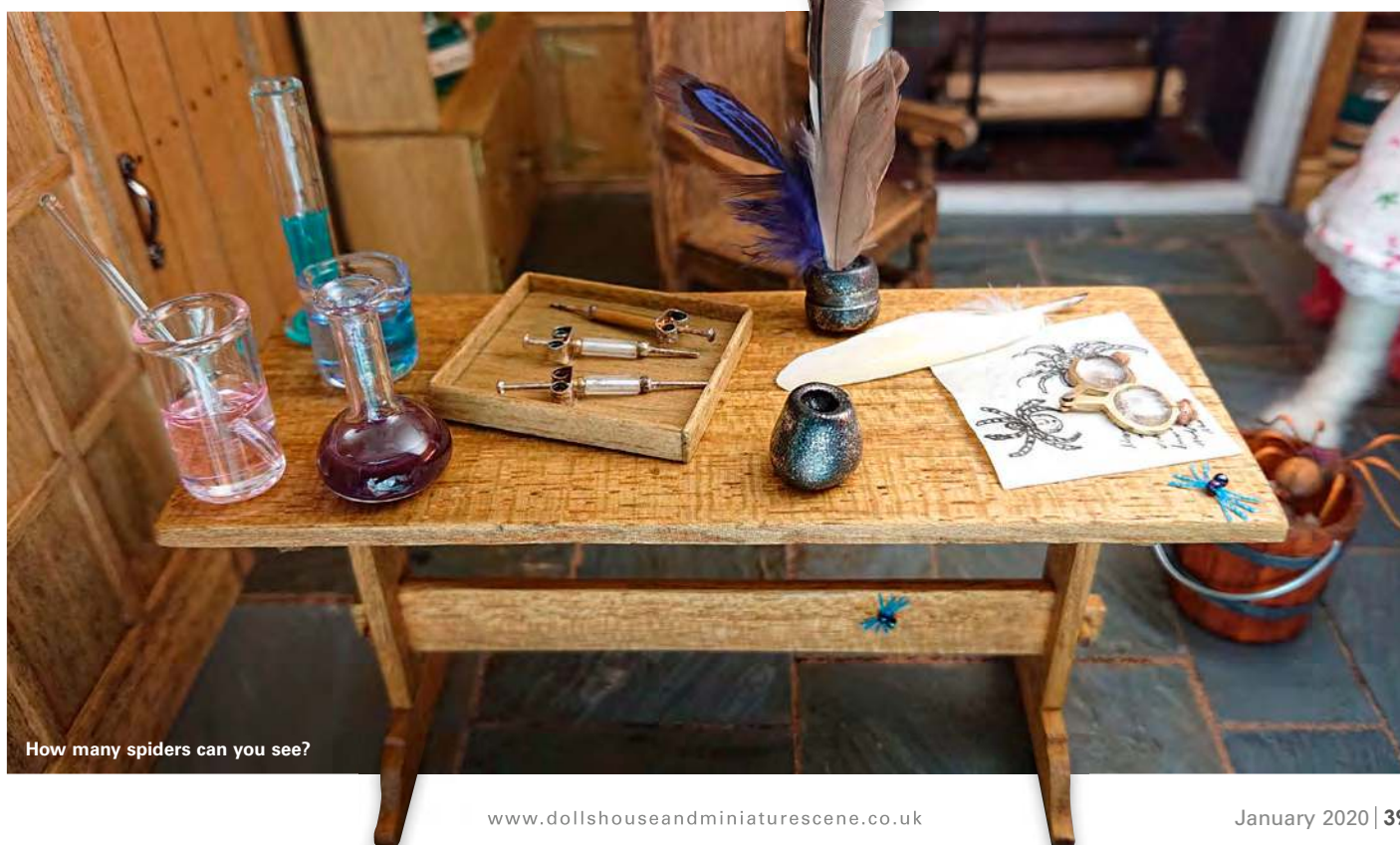
My friends wanted to read what was written but the words are just scribbles. Little Miss Muffet is needle felted with a wire armature underneath, her bowl of curds and whey is hung from her hand with fishing line. The most arduous part was the wall panelling, I had to have lots of tea breaks to get through that bit. [P&P](#)

Don't forget the spiders

I use lots of materials in my projects such as various woods, polymer clay (Fimo), beads, resins, fabrics and felt. I try to make everything I can from scratch but I can't work with glass so I had to buy all the glassware. Although I did fill them with coloured resin, which was quite tricky, and make the labels for them. The little spiders are made from seed beads and embroidery threads. The big spider (right) has a polymer clay body with wire legs and flocked with velvet flocking powder, normally used for nail art.



Mind your toes



How many spiders can you see?

Up next

I think of myself as a miniaturist now, as it has become my passion. I've suffered with mental health difficulties for most of my life and my hobby is an excellent distraction from unwanted thoughts and keeps me going through the dark times. Since finishing Little Miss Muffet I've completed a diorama featuring Humpty Dumpty (one of the theories is that it was a nickname for someone who was drunk). It shows him about to fall of a brick wall into the front garden of his house, which happens to be next door to the Kings Arms public house. Currently I'm working on 'The Mad Hatters Tea Party', which is going to be more of a diorama as well. I'm really excited about letting my imagination run riot! 

Shan Dawson, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire

I think of myself as a miniaturist now, as it has become my passion. I've suffered with mental health difficulties for most of my life and my hobby is an excellent distraction from unwanted thoughts and keeps me going through the dark times. Since finishing Little Miss Muffet I've completed a diorama featuring Humpty Dumpty (one of the theories is that it was a nickname for someone who was drunk). It shows him about to fall of a brick wall into the front garden of his house, which happens to be next door to the Kings Arms public house. Currently I'm working on 'The Mad Hatters Tea Party', which is going to be more of a diorama as well. I'm really excited about letting my imagination run riot!

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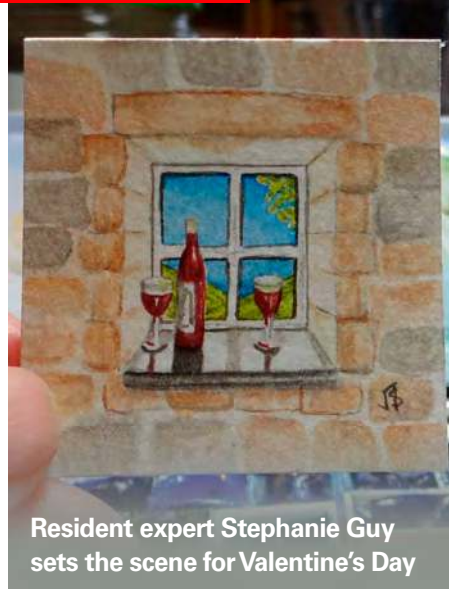
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PAINT THIS



Resident expert Stephanie Guy sets the scene for Valentine's Day

THE SCENT OF ROMANCE



Gosia Suchodolska shares the secrets of miniature floristry

GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES



Read all about the origin of these 19th century trinket boxes

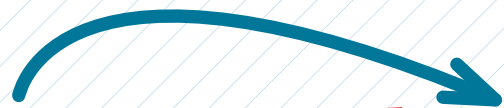
FLYING HIGH



We go for dinner with Brae Oktober at The Aero Squadron Lounge

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Retro Table

Use this affordable and easy technique to create Moi Ali's retro pedestal dining table and coffee table, inspired by 1950s modernist furniture.

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Chrome-effect plastic wine glasses
- Wooden dowel
- Self-adhesive aluminium tape
- Circle of Perspex or wood
- Paint (or sticky-back plastic if using wood)

Moi says...

"For the base I bought a set of eight glasses from the Pound Shop, making this a cheap project!"



1 Remove the foot from a wine glass and set to one side.



2 Cut a piece of dowel (approximately 2½" - 3" for a dining table and just under 2" for a coffee table).



3 Cover the dowel with aluminium tape. If using a clear perspex table top, ensure that the top of the dowel is covered too.

Moi says...

"If making a dining table, ensure that the top is approximately 3" - 4" diameter. A coffee table can be smaller, at around 2" or 3" across."



4 Use a tiny spot of glue to stick one end of the dowel to the wine glass foot and the other to the Perspex. If using a wooden top, paint it first, or better still, use sticky back plastic in white (or orange for an even more retro look!). 🏠

AN APOLOGY

In the Christmas drinks project last month 'Scenic Water' should have read 'Solid Water'. Apologies for any confusion.

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Library in Croft House

Afternoon at Croft House

Robert Off's walk down memory lane brings hope to those who lost so much.

A study of light

It's late afternoon, the setting sun streams into Croft House, illuminating the spaces within and the gardens without. The library is a peaceful respite after a long day and one is tempted to linger just a little longer as the sunlight casts its spell upon the room.

Welcome to Croft House, Robert Off's latest diorama, "Afternoon at Croft House"; a study of light.

"I have an almost religious attitude toward light," says Bob. "I think light is the essence of everything. It is made up of all the different colours in the spectrum and everything we see is the result of light's reflection off of every object, otherwise known as reflective colour. Nothing would exist or be seen without light and its reflection. Light is simply the essence of life to me."

Up until now, most of Bob's room boxes have been inspired by the works and lives of famous painters, authors, and photographers, who were themselves masters of light. Whether capturing an image on canvas, creating a scene in words, or capturing

an image on film, each of his dioramas highlighted the life of another. This room box is all about Bob.

"I made this box as a walk down memory lane with the sole intent of keeping it for my own collection and as a bit of me to pass down to my kids and grandkids. As with all my boxes, I include elements as emotional triggers designed to tap into the unconscious memories of the viewer. I hope these memories will also, in some way, mirror the creative genius of the people which inspired me to make the box in the first place.

As the contemporary artist, Tom Bacher has been quoted as saying, "Objects are emotions."

Bob wanted to recreate the intense afternoon sun as it pours into his library at home, illuminating his myriad books and art objects, creating beautiful shadows in its wake. "I chose the library as the setting because I have always lived surrounded by books. I was late appreciating them, as I am dyslexic, and it took me years of work to conquer my reading problems."

The library

Bob's built-in bookcase is filled with books; all 500 of them, painstakingly hand-crafted by artist Barbara Brear. On the desk is her reproduction of drawings by Leonardo da Vinci. Alongside it sits a miniature bronze sculpture of a rhinoceros that represents his love of this beast, strong, tough and unfortunately on the verge of extinction.

The Mallard duck by Beth Freeman Kane reminds Bob of the hours spent with his grandfather walking to a nearby pond to observe the wildlife. "The miniature globe by Keith Limousin reminds me of the endless hours spent playing with the world globe in my grandparents home. I would trace the journeys of Magellan and Cook as they circled the globe, while trying to imagine the sights they must of seen and the exciting experiences they must of had."

Jim Watts' barometer triggers another memory of Bob and his father spending fruitless hours searching for just the perfect full size stick barometer at a price his dad could afford. Although they never found one, Bob found the perfect miniature version years later. The nearby umbrella stand contains various canes and a miniature golf putter, in Bob's own home is a similar stand including an antique golf putter which belonged to his mother-in-

▼ The books have arrived, and are waiting to be placed on the shelves



law, an avid golfer. Lying on the rug is Karl Blinheim's patient Dalmatian.

"The dog represents my love of firehouses," Bob explains. "When I was a child, my father and grandfather would take me to firehouses to look at the fire engines and the fire-pole and talk with the firemen. I loved those visits. I even created a box of the living quarters of a firehouse, 'The Firemen's Roost'; now part of the Francis Mary Light Miniature Collection at The Midwest Miniatures Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan.

And let's not overlook the tiny red ball nearby. "Years ago I attended a lecture by a well known journalist of the day who described an interview she had with Henri Matisse, where she asked him to pose for a photo to accompany the article. Before he agreed to be photographed, he insisted that he find something red to put into his breast pocket. He found a red eyeglass case and told her, 'every picture should have a red accent as part of it.' I loved the thought and the effect a small hint of red has in any image. It makes the entire image pop. I use a red ball or some other small element of red in almost every box that I have ever done."

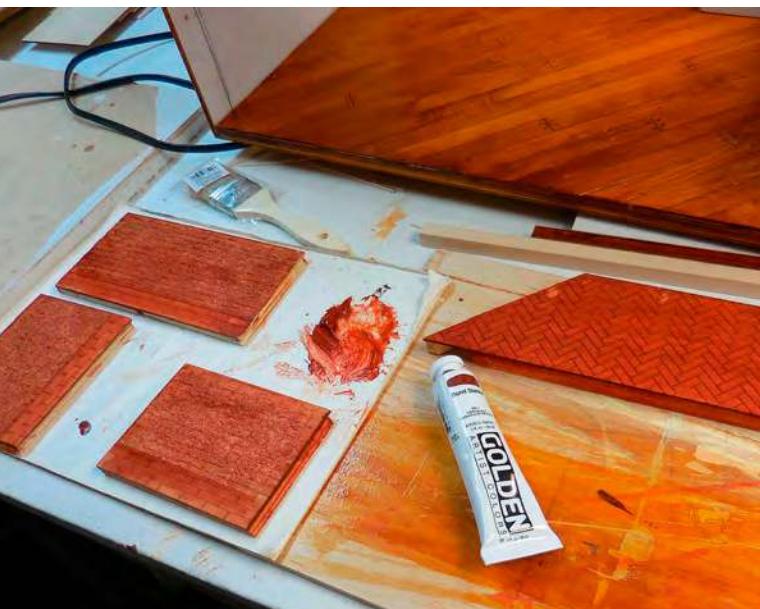
Through the library doors lies a hallway or inner room; an example of Bob's creative genius of forced perspective. However small or large the space may be, one's eye travels there and viewers wish, like Alice, to shrink down long enough to take a peek. 📺



Garden completed



Room in progress



▲ The brick terrace

"The painting reproduced in the inner room is an oil painting of my grandmother. It was painted by Louis Betts, a well-known Chicago painter in 1915. Grandmother is wearing her tennis dress and seated on a wicker chair, which sits on my own porch today. The inner room also contains a bowl of apples and a paring knife which were always on the hall table of my grandparent's home, along with an arrangement of fresh flowers from her garden." And who could overlook the garden?

The garden was created by IGMA Fellow and Board member Paula Gilhooley. Bob sent her the terrace and brick wall, in front of which Paula created the garden filled with a profusion of hollyhocks, roses, bleeding hearts, and ferns. The tall flowers provide a pop of colour seen through the bank of windows. Both the room and garden begs exploration, and that is exactly what one lucky miniature club had the privilege of doing this past June.



▲ Foyer centre

The Tempest

The tornado outbreak of late May 2019 spread over a wide swath of the American Midwest. Of the 300 tornadoes that formed over a two-week period, 18 touched down in one night in the state of Ohio. Small World Daytimers of Dayton, Ohio, an active miniature club, lost their meeting house and a number of club members lost their collections in the tempest.

Afterwards, members took the opportunity to reach out to Bob, whose prior invitation to visit and see his collection, was just what these active club members needed for solace. Along with his many room boxes, the club examined his collection of miniatures from many of the world's greatest artists. Refreshments, camaraderie, lunch on the porch overlooking the Ohio Valley, and Croft House's sunlit rooms and garden was just what was needed to blow away the dark clouds.

"For years I sold and leased commercial real estate. In order to be successful, I had to learn how to imagine what a finished space might look like and then verbally communicate that image to my clients. Today I do the same thing with my room boxes but I also have the opportunity to actually build the space out in miniature.

I am self-taught and when I started making boxes, I went to the local library and borrowed every book I could find on stage and film design. I later purchased books on colour and lighting by Robert Edmond Jones, "The Dramatic Imagination: Reflections and Speculations on the Art of the Theater," and "Light on the Subject, Stage Lighting for Directors and Actors and the Rest of Us" by David Hays."

Each new box is a learning experience and Bob will be the first to say he's a 'try it and see if it works kind of guy.' Personally we think he has it down to a tee! 🏠



The aftermath of the tornado



Dayton Club visit



INFORMATION

To see more of Robert's work visit:

www.miniaturerooms.com

FAIRS DIARY



7 June

Location: York

Venue: York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX

Organiser: Warners Dollhouse & Miniatures Fair



JANUARY

5 January

Location: Exeter - **NEW FAIR**

Venue: Westpoint Conference, Centre, Westpoint, Clyst St. Mary, Exeter, Devon, EX5 1DJ

Organiser: MGM Fairs.

12 January

Location: Stafford

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

Organiser: MGM Fairs. .

26 January

Location: London

Venue: The Tower Hotel, St Katherine's Way, London, E1W 1LD

Organiser: City of London Dollhouse Festival

FEBRUARY

16 February

Location: Porthcawl

Venue: The Grand Pavilion, The Esplanade, Porthcawl, Bridgend, CF36 3YW

Organiser: MGM Fairs.

23 February

Location: Maidstone - New Fair

Venue: Downswood Community Centre, Chiltern Close, Downswood, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 8XG

Organiser: MGM Fairs.

MARCH

8 March

Location: Cobham - Antique dolls, dollhouse & toys

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

Organiser: Wendy's World.

15 March

Location: Weston Super Mare - **NEW FAIR**

Venue: The Royal Hotel, South Parade, Weston Super Mare, Somerset, BS23 1JP

Organiser: MGM Fairs.

21-22 March

Location: Birmingham

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

Organiser: Miniatura Exhibitions

21 March

Location: Royal Wootton Bassett

Venue: The Memorial Hall, Station Road, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, SN4 8EN

Organiser: MGM Fairs.

29 March

Location: Lyndhurst - **NEW FAIR**

Venue: Lyndhurst Community Centre, Main car park, Lyndhurst, Hants, SO43 7NY

Organiser: MGM Fairs.

APRIL

4 April

Location: Market Harborough

Venue: The Jubilee Hall,, Congregational Hall, Bowden Lane, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7JD

Organiser: MGM Fairs.

18 April

Location: Leeds

Venue: Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawsons Corner, Pudsey, Leeds, LS28 5TA

Organiser: MGM Fairs.

MAY

15-16 May

Location: London

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

Organiser: Kensington Dollhouse Festival

16 May

Location: Gloucester

Venue: Churchdown Community, Association Centre, Parton Road, Churchdown, Gloucester, Glos., GL3 2JH

Organiser: MGM Fairs.

31 May

Location: Alderley Edge

Venue: Festival Hall, Talbot Road, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7HR

Organiser: MGM Fairs.

JUNE

7 June

Location: London - Antique dolls, dollhouse & toys

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

Organiser: Wendy's World.

14 June

Location: Weston Super Mare -

NEW FAIR

Venue: The Royal Hotel, South Parade, Weston Super Mare, Somerset, BS23 1JP

Organiser: MGM Fairs

28 June

Location: Tattershall

Venue: Tattershall Village Hall, 16 Lodge Road, Tattershall, Lincs., LN4 4LL

Organiser: MGM Fairs

28 June

Location: Cobham - Antique dolls, dollhouse & toys

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

Organiser: Wendy's World.

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See our advert on page 15

AUGUST

30 August

Location: Exeter - **NEW FAIR**

Venue: Westpoint Conference Centre, Westpoint, Clyst St Mary, Exeter, EX5 1DJ

Organiser: MGM Fairs



Cosy Fireside

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 1.6mm and 3.2mm-thick sheetwood
- 6mm square and 3mm by 10mm stripwood
- Black mattboard (from a framing shop)
- Brown scrapbook paper
- Foamcore
- 13mm brads
- Woodland Scenics boulders rock mould (C1232)
- Plaster of Paris
- Acrylic paint – charcoal, beige, grey, burgundy
- Black felt marker
- Silver Sharpie pen
- Small pattern fabric for carpet
- Wool felt – colours coordinating with carpet
- Fabric
- Thread
- Tiny pom-poms
- Brushed small patterned fabric
- 22 and 26-gauge brown paper-covered florist wire
- Narrow leather lacing (jewellery making supply)
- Fine string
- Perle cotton
- Clear plastic packaging (approx. 10x32x38mm)
- Clear seed beads – red, orange
- Yellow cellophane
- Black card
- Fiberfill batting
- Small branches
- Battery-operated miniature lights
- Flooring/wallpaper – rustic plank, slate
- Wood stain
- Super Glue
- White glue
- Double-sided photo mounts

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Knife and steel ruler
- Small saw and mitre-box
- Small hand-drills
- Sewing needle
- Ball stylus
- Emery board
- Clamps

There's nothing better in January than staying warm and cosy, so why not create a rustic ski lodge hearth scene that's perfect for warming up the soul during the cold winter nights this season.



CONSTRUCT THE MANTEL



1 Cut the mantel mattboard pieces and mark the edges with black marker. Make a small hole in the centre back, along the bottom edge, for wires. Glue the front to the ends at right angles and the firebox sides adjacent to the mantle opening. Glue the back inside the ends, against the firebox sides.

RAISED HEARTH



2 Cut the hearth mattboard pieces and mark the edges black. Cut slate paper large enough to wrap around the top and glue the edges underneath on all sides. Glue the hearth front to the ends at right angles and the top to the front and ends. Glue the wood box sides to the front and top, adjacent to the hearth opening and glue this assembly atop the base. Glue the back inside the ends, top, and base and the top centered end-to-end and even with the back. Glue the mantel box centered atop the raised hearth, even with the back.

MEASUREMENTS FOR MATTBORD PIECES

Mantel front	102mm x 152mm with 60mm square cutout centered along one long side
Mantel ends (2)	37mm x 102mm
Firebox sides (2)	35mm x 102mm
Mantel back	102mm x 149mm
Hearth front	32mm x 203mm with 25mm x 76mm cutout along the bottom, 13mm from the left
Hearth top	64mm x 210mm
Hearth ends (2)	32mm x 59mm
Wood box sides (2)	32mm x 57mm
Hearth back	32mm x 200mm
Hearth base	60mm x 203mm

Ruth's Top Tip!

"You can substitute cutouts from the rough side of a paper pulp egg carton or take-away drinks carrier for plaster stones."

MANTEL SHELF AND WOOD



3 Mitre square stripwood to fit the top of the fireplace box. Cut a 44mm x 178mm mantel shelf from thicker sheetwood. Stain and glue the stripwood together and the shelf on top, even with the back edge and centered end-to-end. Glue this to the top of the fireplace. Cut the branch into approximate firebox lengths.

STONE WORK



4 Mix plaster per the package instructions. Pour soapy water over the mould and let drain. Fill the stone areas with plaster and leave to set about a half hour. Pop the stones out of the mould, allow to dry and then paint them grey dappled beige. Repeat twice more, to make the number of stones needed. Glue the stones to the front and ends of the hearth and mantel.

EMBERS



5 Notch the plastic box at the lower edge of the centre back for wires. Streak the box in places with charcoal paint, leaving unpainted spaces between the streaks. Glue on red and orange beads to resemble glowing embers.

FIRE LOGS AND LIGHTS



6 Glue three or four logs atop the beads and dab charcoal paint 'scorched' areas on the logs. Glue fiberfill wisps of 'smoke' to some logs. Glue a few yellow cellophane flames to the logs and black card to the fireplace floor. Fit the wires through the hole in the back of the box, the mantel and back wall. Follow the instructions to attach the wires to their battery.

Ruth's Top Tip!

"You can use a steady burning set of clear lights or flickering LEDs."

CARPET



7 Create a carpet to your tastes. This scene uses a piece of fabric with a small quilt pattern. The rich jewel tones are just right for coordinating other accessories in this cozy scene. A tiny plaid, wooly weave, or a short pile faux fur scrap would work well in this setting too. For cotton fabric used here, mitre the corners and glue the edges under. Glue a slightly smaller piece of wool felt to the underside, covering the turned edges.

WALL



8 Cut a 356mm x 254mm foamcore wall. Cut the plank paper so it runs vertically on the wall, piecing as needed and overlapping all outside edges. Photo-mount the edges where they meet and the overlapping edges to the back. Glue this wall centrally to the hearth assembly. Pierce the mantel hole through the back wall for the wires.

CUSHIONS AND THROW



9 Cut two matching pillow sizes and, with right sides together, sew narrow seams on three sides. Clip the corners, turn right-side-out, and stuff with fiberfill. Sew the open end by hand. Embellish with punched paper snowflakes, tiny stickers, or the template deer silhouette oval. This scene features a 95mm square floor cushion, two 70mm x 40mm oblong cushions and two 44mm square cushions. To create the throw, hem a piece of wool fabric on two long sides, stitch across the ends 13mm from the cut edge and remove the threads back to the stitching as fringe. Drape this throw over a chair. **PM**



SKIS AND POLES



10 Cut two skis from thinner sheetwood, sand smooth, narrow the middle slightly and stand the tips in a small glass of water for a day or two. Gently bend the wet tips upward for the characteristic ski shape, clamp as shown and let dry. Paint the skis and then glue scrapbook paper to the footbed. Add leather bindings, highlighted with silver Sharpie. Cut two 102mm ski poles from thicker florist wire. Glue a leather lacing loop to each top and expose the wire tip at the bottom. Make two 13mm circles of finer florist wire. Needle weave and glue them to the pole with fine string, above the wire tip.

PEG RAIL



11 Cut the peg rail from flat stripwood. Stain the strip, drill four peg holes and superglue a brad into each hole, at a slight upwards angle. Glue the peg rail to the wall at one side of the mantel.



INFORMATION

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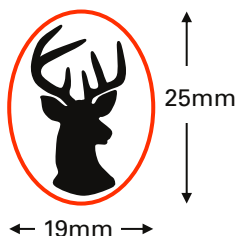
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SCARF, MITTENS, AND HAT

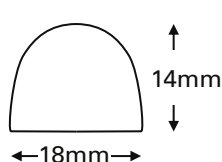


13 Cut a 16x178mm strip of felt for the scarf, four mitten shapes and two hat shapes. Glue a 102mm length of perle cotton string between two mitten shapes at each end. Glue the hat pairs together along rounded edges, with knotted perle cotton inside the opening and a pompom attached to the top. Hang these on the peg rail to finish. 🏠

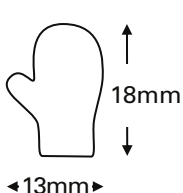
Deer silhouette



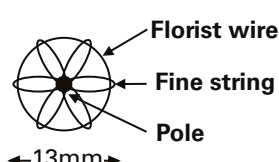
Hat



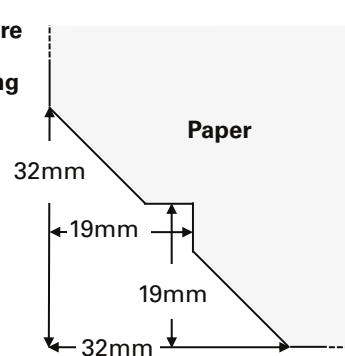
Mitten



Ski pole basket

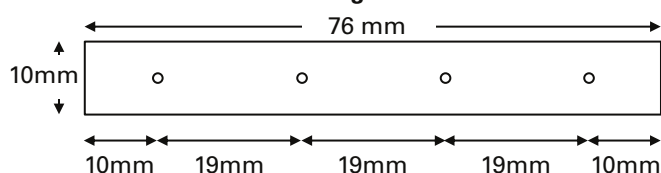


Wallpaper corner cutout



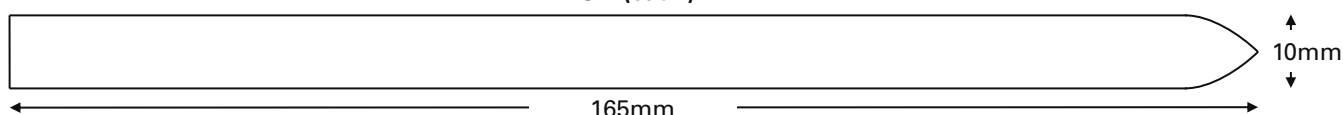
Stand pole in a styrofoam scrap and needle weave string to the ring against the foam. Glue wherever string touches pole or circle.

Peg Rail

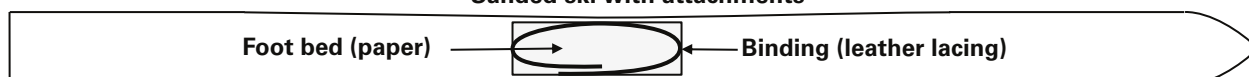


Patterns at 100%

Ski (cut 2)



Sanded ski with attachments



See
PAGE 58
for winter
sporting minis

The Whole Kit & Caboodle:

NEEDLEPOINT FOOTSTOOL BY JANET GRANGER



▲ The essentials

Be productive during the long, dark nights of winter by snuggling up in front of the fire with a little sewing project. A Janet Granger kit is just the ticket for a winter's evening. Stay in, keep warm and make an exquisite miniature for your tiny house.

This little 'Katrina' footstool is adorable, and the kit comes with absolutely everything you need, from the needle and silks to the charming little mahogany footstool base with teeny bun feet.



▲ A perfect scaled down footstool

THE FACTS

Buy from: Janet Granger
www.janetgranger.co.uk

Cost: £11.50

Comes with: Colour block chart and instructions, 32 count evenweave fabric, needle, thread and wooden footstool

Additional materials needed:
 None.

Tools needed: None

Time: A day

Experience: Confident beginner

Top tip: Use good lighting and a magnifier.

It'll look superb in your dolls house next to a fireside chair, staged with cosy accessories such as a pair of slippers, mug of cocoa and a good book - all essential for a cold night in!

Janet Granger has created over 300 miniature needlepoint embroidery kits,

including fire screens, bell pulls, bags, cushions, bolsters and rugs. She has 21 different footstool kits alone! In each kit you will find a full colour chart and instructions. This kit has very few stitches, as the red comes from the base fabric colour. This makes it a really quick make. 🏠

GIVEAWAY!

Turn to page 4 for more information

One lucky reader
 will win
 a Katrina
 footstool kit



Bekonscot Model Village

Model villages can be picturesque in the winter, with snow on the ground, or the winter sunshine casting long shadows across the lawns. Whatever the time of year, visiting a model village can be an enchanting experience, all year round.

The first snow of the season



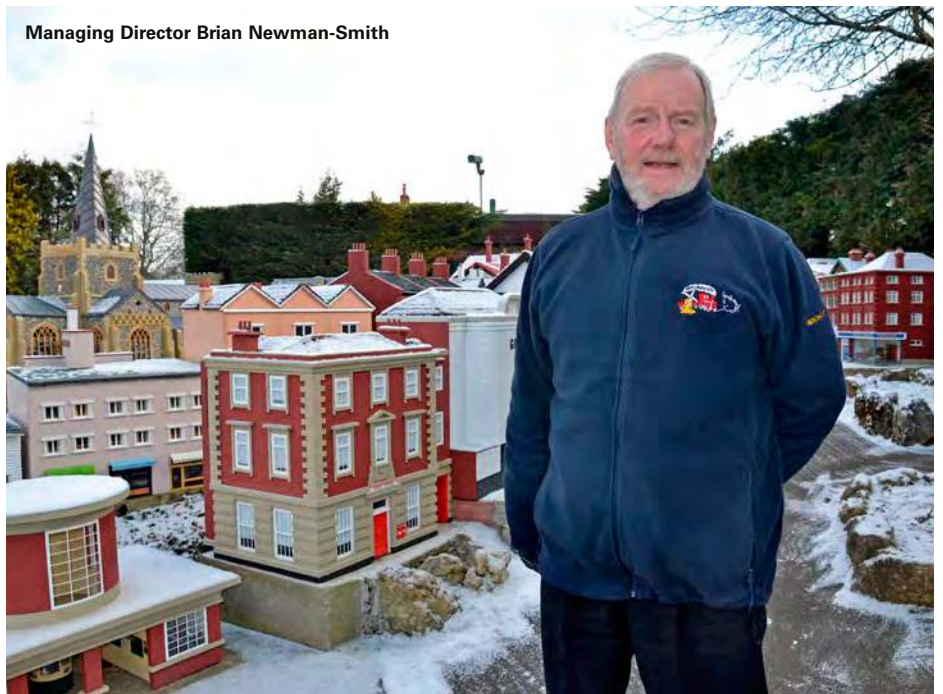
Bekonscot Model Village in Buckinghamshire is the oldest model village in the world. It opened in August 1929 and inspired the creation of many other model villages across the UK.

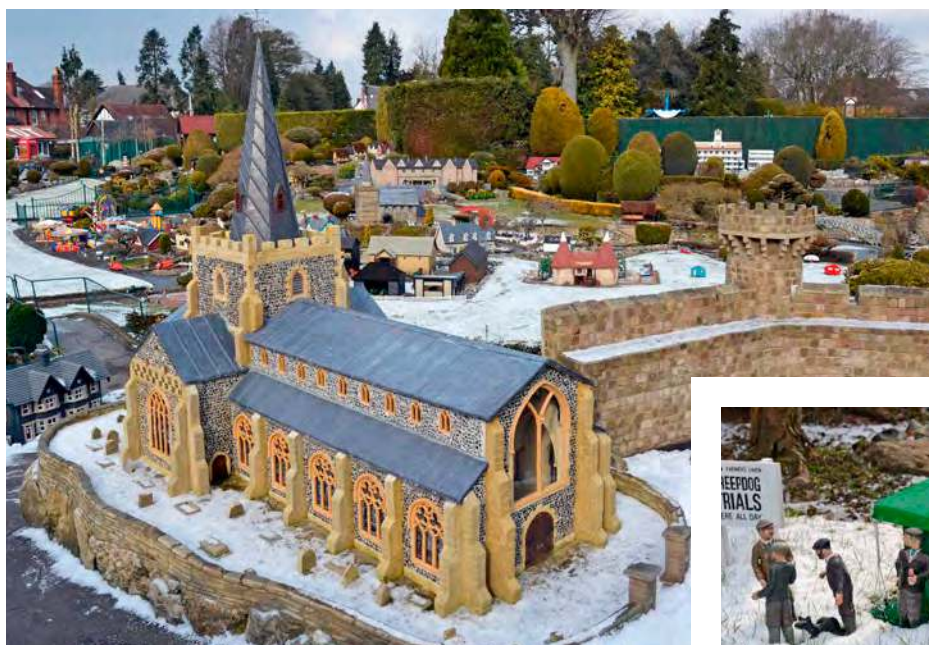
At one time there were about 50 model villages throughout the country - few of those survive today. Bekonscot, however, is as remarkable in the 21st century as it's ever been, and it remains a source of inspiration and fascination for children and adults alike. 170,000 thousand people visit Bekonscot Model Village every year.

The daily routine for staff involves a lot of model making, repairs, painting and gardening. There's a cafe, a shop, and a ride-along 7¼" gauge miniature railway, as well as the Gauge 1 model train track and locomotives that run through the miniature towns seven days a week.

The Managing Director, Brian Newman-Smith, told me about his experience of

Managing Director Brian Newman-Smith





working in this fantastic historic location: "It's a fun place to work and we have a great team," he explained. "They're all really committed to their jobs, and passionate about model making. In some of the displays we use ready-made dolls house items, but most things we make from scratch. Our biggest challenges are not to do with the models - we're quite good at that! The challenges are parking and weather - we don't always have enough parking during peak season, and adverse weather conditions can impact visitor numbers. We do a lot of maintenance over the winter. Our models are very durable. They're designed to be out in British weather, from the coldest snow storm to the hottest summer's day, and they stand up to the weather very well. The doors and windows need changing from time to time because they're made

▲ Picture postcard

► Sheepdog trials

from softwood. The roofs are made from roofing felt, which lasts very well. The figures are taken in and painted every year. We have model makers, engineers, gardeners, and a figure maker. We create different scenes from the 1930s, but it's the figures that really bring the scenes to life."

Sticking with tradition

In the village's depiction of a 1930s hunt, the fox is outsmarting the riders on horseback. Brian explained, "We used to get a letter or two every year from people who said they disagreed with us having a fox hunt in the village. We said, 'But that's what they did in the 1930s!'

Then one year, someone stole the fox - to prove a point I think. Last season we had a rethink and placed the fox on the back of the last horse."

The Gauge 1 model trains run all around the village, stopping at all the stations and then continuing down the track.

"The trains are quite high maintenance," said Brian. "They're all automatic and they operate between 9.30am and 5.45pm seven days a week, so things do inevitably break down, but we've got an engineering department, and they get any problems fixed quickly. If a train derailed it raises an alarm in the signal box, so we go and put it back on the track. ▶▶



"There's a limit to how much more we can build, because we're restricted by land, but we've created a new town and it opened last summer. We do a lot of research online when we're looking for ideas, to see what was around in the 1930s. The cable cars are out of action at the moment because they're in for repair," he continued. "Mechanical things wear out and need regular maintenance, whether it's new wheels or brushes, but we like to have lots of moving exhibits because movement attracts people's eyes to the scene.

We've got one of a lady cleaning her window, and another of a man holding a ladder, who kisses a woman, and the ladder starts to fall, then the paint goes all over the vicar. There's a lot of humour in our models. We've got a model kite flying near the tramway, the boats move on the water, and we have a miniature circus tent with moving figures. In the coalmine you can see the coal coming up a conveyor belt from the mine and being dropped into wagons. One of the workers is waving and has a little light on his helmet. People enjoy these things. Some children

can't resist taking a closer look, so we design the models to be touched and poked. Children get over the fence sometimes, but it's not a problem - normally the public are pretty good. For them it's exciting - we want people to get close to the models. The new town was designed years ago by staff members who put some ideas together to turn a plot of weed-infested ground into a new exhibit. We've only recently got around to implementing the plans, because we had so much maintenance to do on existing models, but it's looking good now it's finished. The funicular railway was one of the last items to be completed on the new town - a cable railway where the carriage climbs up a slope."

Maintenance crew

There are two full-time gardeners who keep the grass cut, trees and plants trimmed. When the weather's nice flowers are planted around the village which takes a week or two. "A few years ago we had a drought after all that planting, so there was an incredible amount of watering needed with a watering can, during a hosepipe ban. We have an irrigation system usually, but during the drought it broke down! We make enough money from visitor entrance fees to run the village and do the maintenance, so any profits over and above that are given as grants to charities. We are now a registered charity, which means we can benefit from gift aid too. Charities can write in and ask for a grant - it could be anything: local guides, St John's Ambulance, anything. The village has connections to Enid Blyton, because she used to live next door and she'd talk over the fence to Roland Callingham who created the village in 1929. Her connection is brought to life with a model of Enid and the Famous Five in her garden."

Brian showed me the models of Enid and her characters, and as we walked back through the village, I felt sure it would continue to bring pleasure to children of all ages for many years to come. What a wonderful way to remember its creator, Mr Callingham! 🏠



The Famous Five in Enid Blyton's Garden



Susie beside her favourite model - a college



INFORMATION

Bekonscot Model Village
Warwick Road, Beaconsfield
Buckinghamshire HP9 2PL

☎ 01494 672919

🌐 www.bekonscot.co.uk

DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

Bekonscroft Model Village

CLICK & SWIPE TO VIEW IMAGES



Caught @n Camera

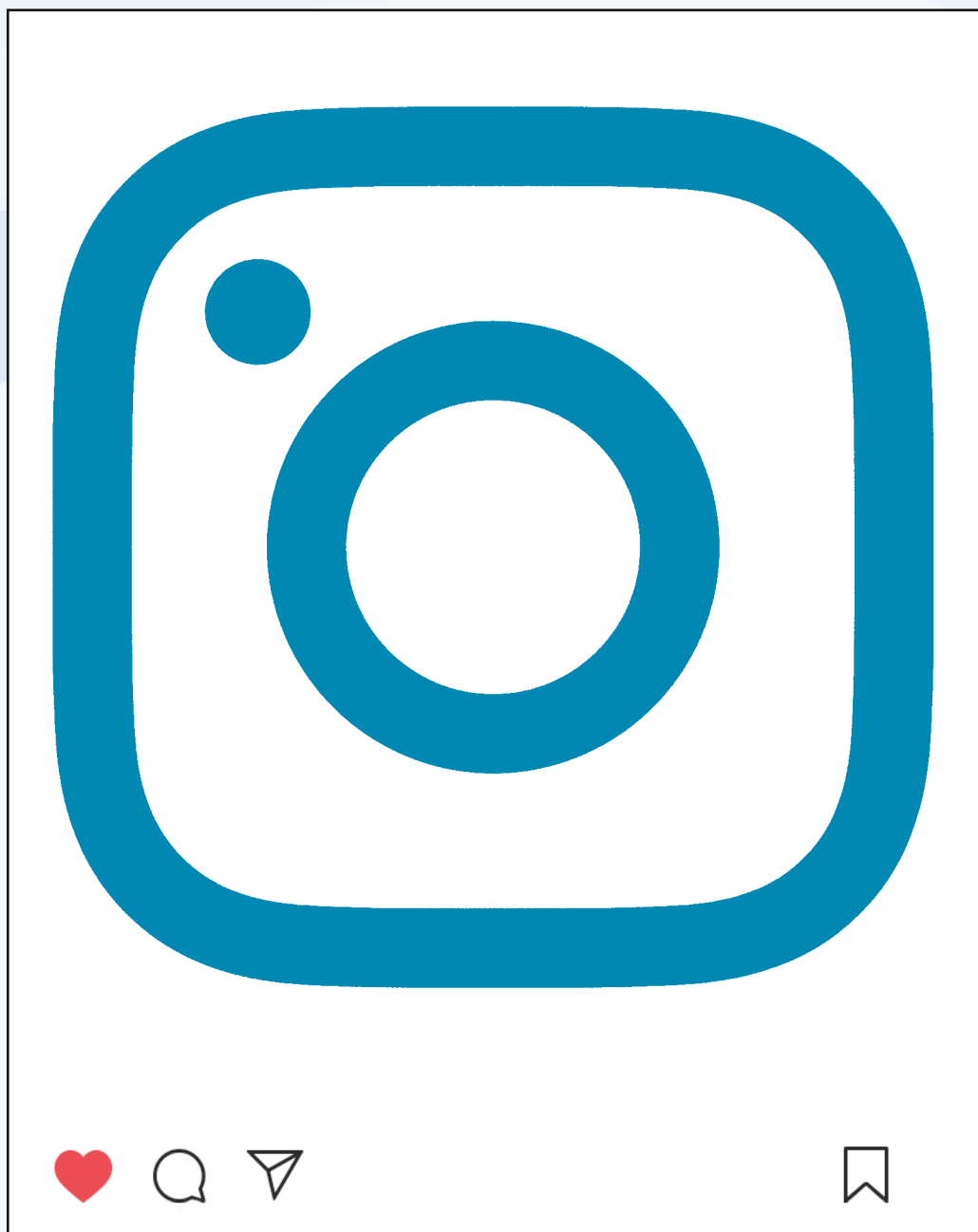
When it comes to inspiration, social media is an important tool especially with a watching world-wide audience. The DHMS team have been scrolling through their Instagram feeds and want to share with you these amazing wonderful winter themed miniatures.



Follow our page for more inspiration: [@Dolls_House_Miniature_Scene](#)
If you would like us to notice your work, don't forget to add the hashtag: [#dollshouseandminiaturescene](#)

Caught Camera

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE



Follow our page for more inspiration: [@Dolls_House_Minature_Scene](#)

If you would like us to notice your work, don't forget to add the hashtag: [#dollshouseandminiaturescene](#)



Winter Sports

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Wooden lollipop sticks
- Bamboo skewers
- Polymer clay in white, brown and black
- Sculpey Bake & Bond
- Acrylic paints in metallic blue, metallic silver, violet, white and burnt umber
- Black tape
- Black cotton
- White and black card
- Matte varnish
- All-purpose glue
- Thin tipped marker pen

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Craft knife
- Sandpaper
- Scissors
- Needle tool
- Ball tool
- Ruler
- Small brush
- Bowl of hot water

Make the most of the dark nights and channel your sporty side by skiing or skating into the new year and beyond with these fun projects.

SKIS & SKI POLES



1 Place some lollipop sticks in a bowl of hot water and allow to soak for around an hour. Always be very careful when working with hot water!



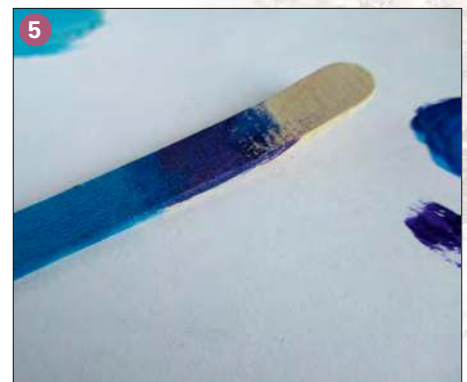
2 Remove the sticks from the bowl and, ensuring they're cool, bend the sticks upwards at one end so that each ski has a slight curve. At this point you can also use a fine grit sandpaper to give the sticks that slight egg-timer ski shape.



3 Take two bamboo skewers around 3mm in diameter and very carefully cut them to 10cm in length from the point end.



4 Mix metallic blue acrylic paint with white to create two lighter shades in addition to the original. Brush the lightest shade on one end of each ski and blend in the next, slightly deeper shade, followed by the original blue. Use the pad of your finger to blend each shade seamlessly with the next.



5 Mix metallic blue paint with violet paint and brush onto the skis, again blending it into the previous shade, followed finally by pure violet paint.



6 Repeat the process to paint the ski poles, matching the blended pattern with the skis. Allow to dry completely and coat both the skis and the poles with matte varnish.



7 Take two balls of black polymer clay, each roughly 5mm in diameter and flatten them into circles just over 1mm in thickness with a fingernail. Use a needle tool to create a hole large enough to fit the ski poles through in the centre of each circle of clay.



8 Bake the two circles and allow to cool before coating with matte varnish. Once dry, use all-purpose glue to stick them into position, around 1cm up each ski pole from the point.

DID YOU KNOW?

A single wooden ski thought to date from as far back as eight thousand years to between 6300-5000BC was discovered by archeologists at Lake Sindor, northeast of Moscow. Other skis have also been found in Sweden and Norway, dating back to 5100 and 4000BC respectively.



9 Cut a length of black tape measuring 1cm wide and long enough to wind around the ski pole several times. Wind the tape around the top of the non-pointed end to create the hand grip. Leave around 1cm unwound. Cut a short length of black cotton and form a loop, sticking to the unwound tape. Finish winding the tape around the top of the pole.



10 Cut two strips of black card, each measuring 22mm x 7mm and rounded at one end. Glue to the centre of each lollipop stick, with the curved end facing towards the flat end of the ski.



11 Cut two pieces of black card, 22mm x 7mm, without rounded ends. Glue them into position around the curved end of the flat pieces. Cut two pieces measuring 20mm x 5mm and curve them slightly, sticking them across the flat curved piece around a third of the way up from the straight end. Cut a strip of black tape used for the hand grips on the poles and double it over. To create the fastenings for the skis, cut four pieces from the doubled tape, two 20mm x 3mm and two 30mm x 3mm. Glue the 20mm x 3mm pieces across the card curved across each ski and the longer pieces to the right-hand sides of the card stood curved around the base.

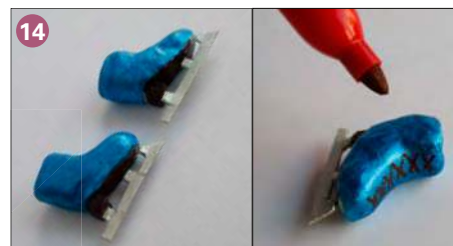
ICE SKATES



12 Mould the shape of the boots using white polymer clay. Although these aren't 'wearable' boots, it's always a good idea to gauge the correct size using a 1/12th scale doll where possible. If not, a 14mm ball of clay for each boot will work. Use a ball tool or the end of a brush to form a small hollow in the top of each boot.



13 Roll out some brown clay to 3mm in thickness and cut two small squares. Use Sculpey Bake & Bond to adhere each heel to the boots. Bake and allow to cool. Paint the soles of the boots with burnt umber acrylic paint and the boot itself with metallic blue paint.



14 Cut a blade for each ice skate from card, ensuring the 'tab' at the back meets with the heel. Paint with metallic silver acrylic paint or use a silver marker pen. Glue the blades to the base of each boot. Use a thin tipped marker pen to draw crosses for the laces down the front of both boots. Coat everything with matte varnish to finish before skating off into 2020! 🏂



INFORMATION

www.homewardflight.etsy.com

ALL TOOLS AND MATERIALS USED IN THIS PROJECT ARE WIDELY AVAILABLE FROM ANY GOOD ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOP.



Ave Maria Grotto

We don't naturally associate America with abbeys, but the country has several. Located in the city of Cullman, Alabama, the Benedictine St Bernard Abbey is home to the Ave Maria Grotto: a collection of 125 miniatures of well-known religious and fantasy buildings.



On a landscaped hillside sits Ave Maria Grotto

Named after Colonel Cullmann, the town was incorporated in 1874 and Americanised to Cullman. At the time only a few German families lived there, but that changed over the next twenty years when many German immigrants settled in the area. One of the incomers was Brother Joseph Zoetl from Bavaria. He was recruited as a monk at the abbey in 1892, and initially worked as a housekeeper for priests.

Relied on research

In 1911 and on top of his monastic observances, Zoetl began work on a power plant for the abbey; work which took 30 years to complete. To fill his spare time he bought religious statues to be housed in little hand made grottoes.

In 1932 he expanded the grotto to include miniature buildings. Most of them he'd never seen, so he relied on photographs with inspiration coming

from the Bible and his own imagination.

A couple of years later it had to be moved from gardens near the abbey to its current three acre site due to the number of sightseers it was attracting.

On a landscaped hillside

Stone and concrete was used to form the structures and Zoetl used whatever materials he could acquire, including broken plates, ceramic tiles and beads. The project continued over two decades until 1958 when the monk was 80 years old.

Walking through the grotto's forest trail is like taking a trip through history and geography to some of the world's religious sights. You can see the Basilica at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France, the Santa Maria de Montserrat Abbey in Spain, and the Church of the Visitation in Israel, to name a few. Many of these miniature churches and abbeys

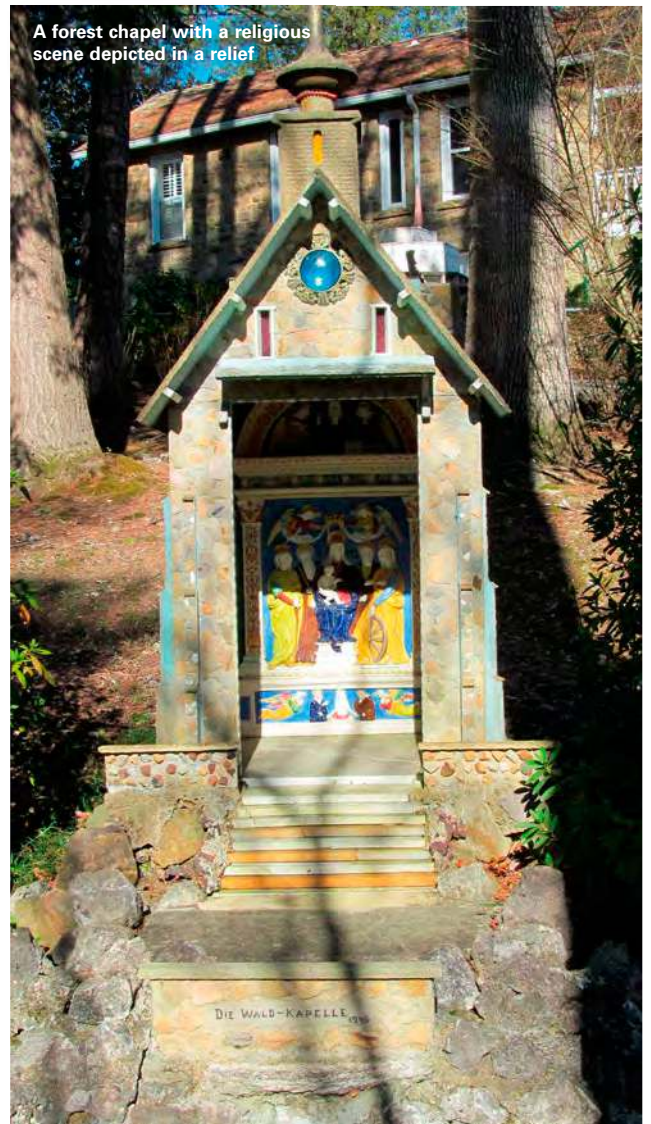
are built onto clumps of rocks, and some stand-alone while others are clustered together. Another replicated building of note is the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Fairy tales are honoured too - there's a Hansel and Gretel Temple of the Fairies complete with dragon.

The miniatures' level of detail varies according to the real building. Though Montserrat Abbey is a rather unremarkable edifice, the Basilica in Lourdes has several staircases and columns, pointed towers and ornamentation. Scale isn't consistent, this is especially notable in towers which may be over or under-sized relative to the original.

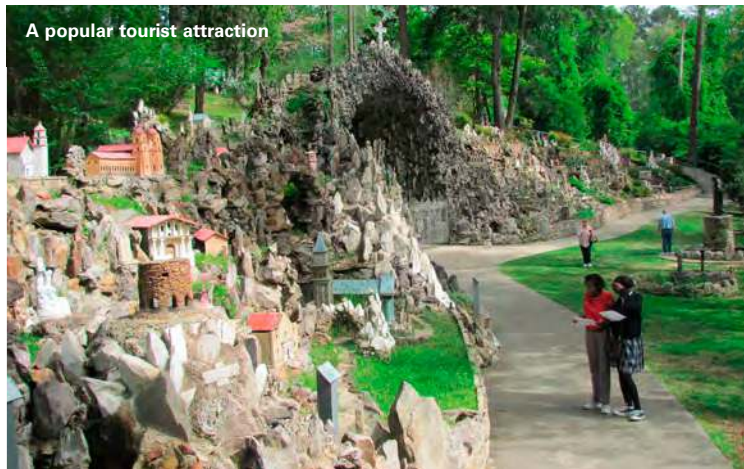
The Ave Maria Grotto is a unique and amazing achievement, almost a life's work that appeals not just to miniaturists. The grotto has significance in the state and nationally, having been added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.



The Leaning Tower of Pisa



A forest chapel with a religious scene depicted in a relief



A popular tourist attraction



Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Lourdes, France (public domain)



INFORMATION

For more information including opening times and ticket prices visit:

www.avemariagrotto.com/



DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

Ave Maria Grotto

CLICK & SWIPE TO VIEW IMAGES



MINI MEETINGS

Small Scale Fiddlers have been running as an independent miniature modelling club in Rugby for the last five years. Each year they use their twice-monthly meetings to work towards one large exhibit at spring Miniatura. In April 2019 the club entertained visitors with their "Tall Tales, Short Stories" project which was also featured in this very magazine! Visitors to their stand at Miniatura often quiz the club about where they get our ideas from, so this month Sandra Vickery shares a year in the life of a Small Scale Fiddler.



▲ On display at Miniatura



▲ On holiday in Japan

A year in the life of

Spring is always an exciting time for us as this is when we get to start on the current year's project. We meet up at our local pub in Clifton-On-Dunsmore in Rugby around the end of April to share ideas, once we've rested from the rush of spring Miniatura. The Fiddlers are a mix of experienced and novice modellers so coming up with something suitable for that one special project is not so difficult. In fact, we usually have two or three little gems to choose from which often means we must get another round in before making the final decision. Our 2019/2020 project will be called "The SSF Allotment Association" – no prizes for guessing what we will be making this year.

May and June

We shape our initial idea further and firm up a design for what the finished exhibit will look like. Sometimes our project is just a theme so members can make something to their own interpretation of that theme, like our "Holiday Destination" project in 2017 where everyone made a scene about their favourite country. That year, we experienced the delights of Morocco

and India, travelled to Norway, onto Japan and Peru before settling back at lovely Cornwall. This year's allotment project is fixed firmly back in the UK. Everyone will have either a full or half sized allotment plot to make that will eventually connect to make one 'association'. We are very excited about this one and can't wait to get started on it.

July through to January

The Fiddlers take it in turns to run a workshop on a subject related to the project. This is how we share ideas and learn new techniques from each other. You can't have an allotment plot without vegetables so that's where we have started with this year's allotment project, and we like to do our research too. So far we have made mini carrots, apples and tomatoes in grow-bags plus wooden crates and raised beds. In future editions of DHMS we will be talking about some of the other workshops we will be running for our allotment project and to keep you updated on how we are getting on.

February

We all get together and have a first practice of how everyone's efforts fit

together. This helps us to check we are on track - or more often, gives us a fright over how much we have left to do. It also helps us to plan the little finishing touches that we like to add to our stand each year.

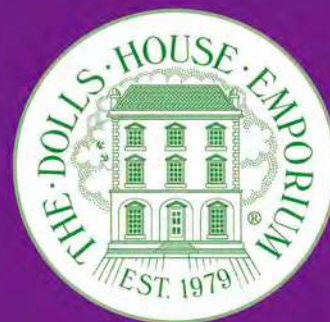
By the time March comes around, we are on the homeward straight. This is when the elusive 'Fiddler' is rarely seen out in public as all spare waking hours we are in our workshops frantically finishing off our pieces. We have a final practice of setting the entire scene up two weeks before the show. This most amazing evening is known as the "Grand Reveal" as its usually the first time we get to see each other's finished work and for everything to come together. There is much ooh-ing and ahh-ing and congratulating each other on another job well done - everyone is so proud. We know if the Fiddlers are happy then our Miniatura visitors will be too. And that makes starting on a new project each year all worthwhile. 🏠



INFORMATION

🌐 www.facebook.com/SmallScaleFiddlers

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Frozen Frosty

Learn how to make this cute snowman, complete with icicles. Perfect for those winter months around your dolls house. By **Candy Chappill**.

You will need:

Materials required

- ☐ Polystyrene balls
- ☐ Polymer clay
- ☐ Straw
- ☐ Black card
- ☐ Artificial snow
- ☐ Twigs

- ☐ Making waves by Deluxe Materials

Tools required

- ☐ Drill bit
- ☐ PVA glue
- ☐ Sand paper
- ☐ Skewer

- ☐ Sewing pins
- ☐ Making method
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Cellotape
- ☐ Scalpel
- ☐ Spatula



1 Attach two polystyrene balls together by drilling into both and securing a straw with some PVA glue. So your snowman stands up, sand the bottom with some sandpaper to create a flat spot.

2 Coat your snowman with PVA glue and sprinkle on some artificial snow. Skewer the bottom to make it easier to handle.

3 Using some polymer clay, mould some eyes, buttons and a nose, and place on some sewing pins.

4 Bake your elements as per manufacturers instructions. Once baked and cooled, apply to your snowman.

5 Using some black card, cut out a disc and black strip and assemble a hat. Again apply to a sewing pin. Using the sewing pin, carefully apply the hat to your snowman.

6 Using some twigs, select two fork shaped, and whittle the ends down to points using a scalpel. Insert into your snowman. For the icicles, apply Making Waves to your snowman's arms using a spatula. This can take a few layers to build up to the desired thickness. DM MS



Information

To see more of Candy's work visit:
www.candykims.co.uk



Ice Time

Writer **Debbie Marshall** creates a typical Canadian hockey scene.

Photography by H.J.Marshall.

Ice hockey is Canada's national sport. Although recently eclipsed in popularity by soccer, nearly 2,000,000 Canadian adults and children continue to play the game on a regular basis. Many participate in organised matches in the over 2,800 rinks spread across the country while thousands of Canadian children play casual games after school and on weekends. Urban children play street hockey, pulling their hockey sticks and nets onto the sidewalk whenever a car 'interrupts' play. However, those who live out in the country as I do are more likely to play pond hockey. Pond hockey is exactly what it sounds like - hockey played on the icy surface of a pond in the coldest days of winter.

For that reason, when DHMS editor Lucie Roper invited me to create a winter scene with a distinctly Canadian flavour, I quickly opted to create a pond hockey scene. It is based on my own happy memories of games played on the pond that borders my family's backyard in rural Alberta.

Aztec Imports

The Deluxe Materials products, room box, and all of the 1/12th scale 'props' in this story (with the exception of the blue jay, hockey sticks and puck) are all distributed by Aztec Imports. The company carries over 18,000 items beloved by miniaturists. Their catalogues can be downloaded at www.aztecimport.com and the products themselves can be ordered through retailers in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

Aztec Imports are also the new premier distributor for Deluxe Materials in the USA.



You will need:

- ☐ Room box
- ☐ Paint brushes
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ White paper and oil pastels
- ☐ Double-sided tape (optional)
- ☐ Sheet of balsa wood and balsa scraps
- ☐ Bare branch to resemble a tree
- ☐ Bird bath
- ☐ Winter bird (I used a blue jay)
- ☐ Two or three evergreen trees
- ☐ Park bench
- ☐ Two hockey sticks
- ☐ Two pairs of hockey skates
- ☐ Thermos
- ☐ Hockey puck (I used a thin slice of pencil eraser, blackened with marker)
- ☐ Fine hair spray



From Deluxe Materials

- ☐ Speed Bond
- ☐ Solid Water Kit
- ☐ Scenic Snow Kit
- ☐ Scenic Spray Glue
- ☐ Scenic Shovelled Snow
- ☐ Tacky Wax

- Decide how you would like to arrange the 'props' in your scene.
- Put your room box together, but leave the roof until your scene is finished.
- Prepare the bird bath and stick tree, as shown.
- Cut sheets of paper to fit the walls and ceiling, then using pastels, colour in the sheets to resemble a winter sky.
- Using white glue such as Speed Bond or double sided tape, line the walls and ceiling with your 'sky' paper.
- Draw the outline of a pond's edge on the floor of the room box, but don't have the pond running right to the sides.
- Cut out the balsa wood sheet to fit the entire floor of the box, with the exception of the 'pond' area. Glue it firmly in position.
- Glue the scraps of balsa to the floor of the box in those places where you want to create different elevations.
- Using the provided syringes, with Deluxe Materials Solid Water, mix two parts resin to one part hardener. Be careful not to cross-contaminate the syringes. You may need to prepare a few batches, depending on the size of your 'pond'. Always wear gloves when preparing this product.
- Pour the prepared 'water' into the pond area. Use a clean, dry paintbrush to spread the water. Allow two to three days for the 'ice' to set. It should be a shiny brown. If you prefer a different colour, add an oil-based colour to the 'water' during preparation.

- Using Tacky Wax, attach small bits of cling film to the places where you are planning to set your trees and bird bath.



- When the pond has set, spray it with Scenic Spray Glue. Lightly sprinkle on Scenic Snowflakes.

Do not overdo this though; you are trying to create the effect of snow along the edge of a pond. Spray the land area with Scenic Spray Glue. Sprinkle with Scenic Snowflakes. Allow to dry and repeat until you have achieved the desired effect. I recommend making several light layers.



- Remove the cling film from the places where you plan to place your trees and bird bath. Set these items in place, securing them with Tacky Wax, or a permanent adhesive such as Speed Bond. Spray around items and sprinkle Scenic Snowflakes. Allow to dry.
- Mix Shovelled Snowflakes (purchased in individual containers) with Scenic Bond (included in the Scenic Snow kit) to a plaster consistency and mold to create piled, heaped and drifted snow. A thinner mixture can be used to blend the drifts into the base.
- Shake on Icy Sparkles (included in the Scenic Snow kit) wherever you want a sparkly, icy effect. Spray the finished 'snow' with a light dusting of hairspray to seal.
- Place the park bench and remaining props. Use Tacky Wax to keep the hockey sticks, puck, and thermos in place. You could also pour a tiny amount of coloured Scenic Water into the cup of the thermos to simulate 'hot chocolate'.

Preparing the stick tree

- Observe how snow sticks to the bare branches of trees in the winter.
- Make a small hole in a scrap of balsa you have chosen as a base.
- Place a few dots of glue on the edges of the hole and insert the bottom of the 'stick tree'.
- Allow to dry.
- Using a clean, dry paintbrush, apply Scenic Bond to those areas of the tree where snow might collect.
- Sprinkle on Scenic Snowflakes.
- Allow to dry and add additional layers of Bond and Snowflakes until you get the desired effect.



Scenic Shovelled Snow

Here's a step by step guide of how you can create the most realistic looking snow scenes using this great product.



And here's how to use it in a looser form to give the impression of recently disturbed snow.

Preparing the winter bird bath

- Prepare your Solid Water - be sure to wear gloves when working with the product.
- Measure two parts resin to one part hardener using the syringes or measuring beaker (both provided).
- Using the spatula provided, mix thoroughly, but try to avoid stirring in bubbles or the end result will be streaky when it hardens. When creating realistic pond ice, streaks add a little realism.
- Pour the mixture carefully into the 'pond' and fill your bird bath about three-quarters full. Allow to harden for 2-3 days.
- Paint Scenic Bond on the edge and sides of the birdbath, wherever you think snow would most likely fall or drift.
- Shake Scenic Snowflakes onto the spots where you have applied the Bond.
- Be sure to lightly dust the 'ice' with the Snowflakes and blow off the excess.
- Add more Bond and Snowflakes as needed until you get the desired effect.
- Attach a winter bird to the bird bath using Tacky Wax.



Top Tip

Purchase two identical bird baths, one for winter and the other for spring/summer/fall. Fill the warm-weather bird bath half-full of Solid Water. Allow to harden. Using a clean paintbrush, paint waves onto the water using Deluxe Materials Making Waves. It will look white, but will harden to a clear finish. Use Tacky Wax to attach a few warm-weather birds to the edge of the bird bath.

INFORMATION

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