

# Dollshouse & MINIATURE SCENE

DIGITAL EDITION WITH BONUS FEATURES

OVER  
**100**  
INSPIRATIONAL  
IDEAS INSIDE!

FROM BEGINNER TO EXPERT MAKES



## A Miniature Marvel...

...Read all about an inspirational piece of history



VE Day

A celebration in miniature



Life in the hive

Bee prepared to be inspired



We show you how

Make a rustic summer cake



Across the pond

Colours in miniature

**PLUS**

- MINIATURE MAKES ● INSPIRING IMAGES ● GREAT GIVEAWAYS
- BOOK & KIT REVIEWS ● HELPFUL TIPS AND READER PROJECTS
- EXPERT ADVICE FROM YOUR FAVOURITE ARTISANS ● CLUB NEWS

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







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# DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

**WELCOME TO THE  
MAY ISSUE!**

**CLICK TO VIEW VIDEO**





# WELCOME to the May issue

Inside this month's edition we take a detailed look at miniature weddings, with bespoke artboxes handmade by Lisa Swerling. Each artbox that Lisa creates contains a sparkling parallel world based on the material that she is provided with, whether it be photographs, props or general background information. Lisa customises each bride and groom according to their own attributes, including hair, gender, age and can also recreate the wedding attire and chosen colour schemes. Turn to page 9 to read the full story.

Continuing with the theme of weddings, Maive Ferrando makes a welcome return to the magazine as she demonstrates how to make a majestic and semi-naked summer cake using polymer clay in just a few simple steps. Turn to page 14 to get creative. Of course there's inspiration for you too with our wedding themed gallery on page 8 and a selection of quick make wedding accessories from Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel over on page 16.

Read all about Nostell, (page 23) a dolls house created by Susannah Henshaw in the 1730s. The dolls house served as the muse for the full scale mansion that she and husband Rowland Winn were building at the same time. During the early part of this year the miniature version saw teams of highly skilled experts renovate everything from carpets and curtains to silverware and accessories. I was fortunate enough to visit and spoke to head curator Simon McCormack about this tiny treasure.

Stay safe and enjoy the issue.



*Carl*  
Carl Golder  
Editor

**FANTASTIC  
GIVEAWAYS!**  
ON PAGES  
7 & 12

✉ [Carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:Carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk)  
☎ 01778 391146



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

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

Moi Ali, Dene Bebbington, Keith Bougord, Bea Broadwood, Sadie Brown, Julia Cissell, Maive Ferrando, Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel, Paula Gilhooley, Jane Harrop, Yana Ivanyuk, Kati Kainulainen, Emma Martinot, Simon McCormack, Marilyn Powell, Erika Pitera, Ruth Stewart, Theresa Thompson, Kate Ünver, Sandra Vickery and Janny Warnaar

READ ALL ABOUT IT...



P23

...A miniature marvel

BUSY BEES...

...Discover a hive of miniature activity



P47

## CARL'S FAVOURITE FIND ON INSTAGRAM

"Lisa Swerling's Glass Cathedrals are a series of hundreds of miniature worlds in boxes. Her dioramas express big ideas with tiny helpers and in this photograph she achieves a perfect sense of scale with a windbreak the size of a house!"



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@Dolls\_House\_Minature\_Scene



Let us inspire you

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

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A tiny teaser of what we've got lined up in our June issue



EXCLUSIVE GALLERY CONTENT  
FOR ONLINE READERS



EXCLUSIVE AUDIO CONTENT  
FOR ONLINE READERS



EXCLUSIVE VIDEO CONTENT  
FOR ONLINE READERS

## HOW TO ENTER...

## ENTERING OUR GIVEAWAYS

FOR A CHANCE TO WIN IS SIMPLE, VISIT  
[WWW.DOLLHOUSEANDMINIATURESCENE.CO.UK](http://WWW.DOLLHOUSEANDMINIATURESCENE.CO.UK)

The closing date for all entries is  
30th May 2020. Good luck!



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## Exclusive Projects...

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Working with polymer clay we show you how to make a stunning summer fruits cake

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**Not yet a subscriber?**

**REMIND YOURSELF WHY WE'RE THE BEST ON PAGE 52**

## THE SUBS ZONE

**EVERY ISSUE SINCE JANUARY 2010**

EXACT EDITIONS



**TURN TO PAGE 44**

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**DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE**  
FROM BEGINNER TO EXPERT MAKES!

OVER 100 INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS INSIDE!



**A Miniature Marvel...**  
Read all about an inspirational piece of history



**A celebration in miniature**

**Life in the hive**

Bee prepared to: Bee inspired

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# The Miniature SCENE

✉ [Carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:Carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk)

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📷 [www.instagram.com/dolls\\_house\\_miniature\\_scene/](https://www.instagram.com/dolls_house_miniature_scene/)

🐦 [www.twitter.com/dhmsmagazine](https://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 June issue (No. 314) is 20th May 2020**

## Nostell Dolls House

Saturday 7th March 2020 saw the opening of The Nostell Dolls House at Nostell Priory in Yorkshire.

Only a handful of dolls houses have survived from the 18th Century and Nostell's is the only one still in its original family home. An intricately crafted masterpiece with a unique connection to its life-sized surroundings, this is a grand mansion in perfect miniature.

At nearly 300 years old, Nostell's dolls house is a remarkable piece of history, with investigations by National Trust advisers confirming that almost all the interior decoration is original. In 2019, Nostell launched a fundraising appeal to undertake vital conservation work on the dolls house and thanks to generous donations from donors and the public, the team raised over £100,000 to bring this unique treasure back to life.



Curator Simon McCormack (left) and Carl Golder

Turn to  
page 23  
to read the  
full story

## Hurrah for Stix2

Stix2 have fully committed to eco friendly biodegradable plastic products and are excited to introduce their new Eco Friendly Range. The plastic bags in which products are now supplied now contain BDP, an organic biodegradation-enhancing ingredient that is added into the plastic during manufacturing. Once the treated products enter landfills, soils and oceans it attracts microbes to consume the plastic over time.

Find out more at:

🖱 [www.stix2.co.uk](http://www.stix2.co.uk)



## LATEST NEWS

### Share your news!

Calling all miniaturists and miniature enthusiasts! Share your miniature news with the readers of Dolls House & Miniature Scene magazine. Are you a member of a dolls house or miniaturists club? Is your club doing anything exciting? Have you got a new club project on the go or are you tackling a project from the magazine? Maybe there's a product that you have just discovered that's blown you away? Let us know your news and thoughts and we'll share it in print with the readers of DHMS!

Send an email with any accompanying photos to:

✉ [Carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:Carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk)

## Dolls House & Miniatures Fair

We have been actively monitoring and following advice about the Coronavirus over the past weeks and after careful consideration, Warners Shows have decided to cancel the *The York Dolls House Fair*, due to take place on 7th June 2020.

Warners Shows pride themselves on delivering outstanding events to the hobby, and whilst this decision hasn't been reached lightly, it is the right one for the health and safety of all involved.

We know that cancellation of the event will be disappointing for the

many visitors and exhibitors and we hope to see them at our next event due to take place on 22nd November 2020.

Thank you to all the exhibitors and visitors for their continued support for the show during these exceptional circumstances. We will shortly be making contact with everyone who is involved in the show to organise transfers / refunds. Please bear with us during this time.

To keep up to date with the latest show information please ensure you have signed up to our e-newsletters via

🖱 [www.hobbies-and-crafts.co.uk](http://www.hobbies-and-crafts.co.uk)

# HOT OFF THE PRESS



*Nuppuzine 2 - Working with Fairytales* is the second volume from Finnish publication house, Nuppu. This time, Nuppuzine looks at a whole host of lovely little projects, perfect for miniaturists.

Following the cut outs, patterns and instructions, (all designed by Maria Malmstrom) you can make gorgeous soft furnishings for your 1/12th scale dolls house including patterned peony covers for a sofa or chair, cushions and rugs. There are also patterns for storage items too. In between all of the projects, there are lots of different fairytale worlds to read and explore too.

Make sure you pick up next month's edition where we'll be reviewing the book in more detail, plus, we've got copies to give away!

## Blogs to watch

Regular readers of DHMS will remember Sadie Brown's recent interview with Brae Oktober, the Chicago based miniaturist who was bitten by the miniatures blog after a renovation project for her cousin. Brae's recent projects which she has blogged about include stitched pillows for her Etsy shop, the modification of a shop kit and the celebration of Groundhog Day. Definitely worth book marking!

Visit the blog:

[www.otterine.com/blog/](http://www.otterine.com/blog/)



Sticking with blogs from overseas, check out Pixie Hill by Nichola Battilana. Nichola blogs at least twice a week and includes various projects including top tips on how to finish a scene, along with answering questions and queries from her followers. One of her most recent blogs and videos looks at how to needlefelt a bumble bee in three different sizes.

Visit the blog:

[www.blog.pixiehill.com](http://www.blog.pixiehill.com)



## WE ASKED YOU...

WE POSTED THE FOLLOWING QUESTION ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:

Like our ancestors, do you see your miniature house (1/12th, 1/24th, 1/48th) as a muse/mood board for your own house?



**Sue Blalock:** I have a medieval cottage and a castle room box, both decorated in a fantasy style. So, it's more 'dream home if I lived in Middle Earth' rather than a reflection of my actual living space.

Star post and winner of this garden cart kit by Jane Harrop

**Pat Philbrick:** My hubby is building a 1/12th scale of our home but I'm going to date it as 8th May 1945, VE Day, because he loves the 40s era. Still looking for info about the period.

**Marilyn Ormson:** Each house has its own story and time in history but I have discovered that I am unable to make an untidy house however hard I try. My own house is very clean and tidy and it seems my 1/12th world is too.

**Janice Rodger:** No way! I couldn't afford to furnish my real house like my miniatures!

**Stephanie Gibson:** No. It is to build my dream Art Deco house and fill it with Macintosh style and all the other beautiful furniture of the era. If only I could afford the real thing!

**Cath Bell:** If mine were a muse/mood board for my real life home, I would need to live in a Tardis... No way does my own home have enough rooms for all my ideas!

**Sue Murton:** I hope my dolls houses are not like my home, there's so much crammed into them I wouldn't be able to move.

**Linda La Page:** My dolls house is the Addams Family house. Nothing like my home in the suburbs.

**Carol Furneaux Porter:** My houses represent the ideas in my mind of past present and future, nothing like my own house, my dolls houses are fantasy, fun, joy, pleasure, escapism, learning, history plus so much more.

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](http://www.janeharrop.co.uk)

## EXACT EDITIONS

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

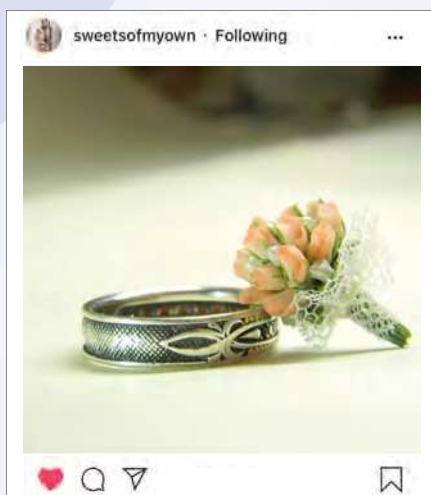
If you're looking for ideas, inspiration, projects or something to read whilst enjoying a brew Exact Editions is ideal. Featuring ten years worth of content, it's accessible via PC, tablet or smartphone for only £9.99 a quarter! It's user friendly and can be read offline too.

More information can be found via: [www.dhmsmag.uk/exacteditions](http://www.dhmsmag.uk/exacteditions)



# 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 using the hashtag #miniaturewedding and want to share with you these magnificent miniatures.

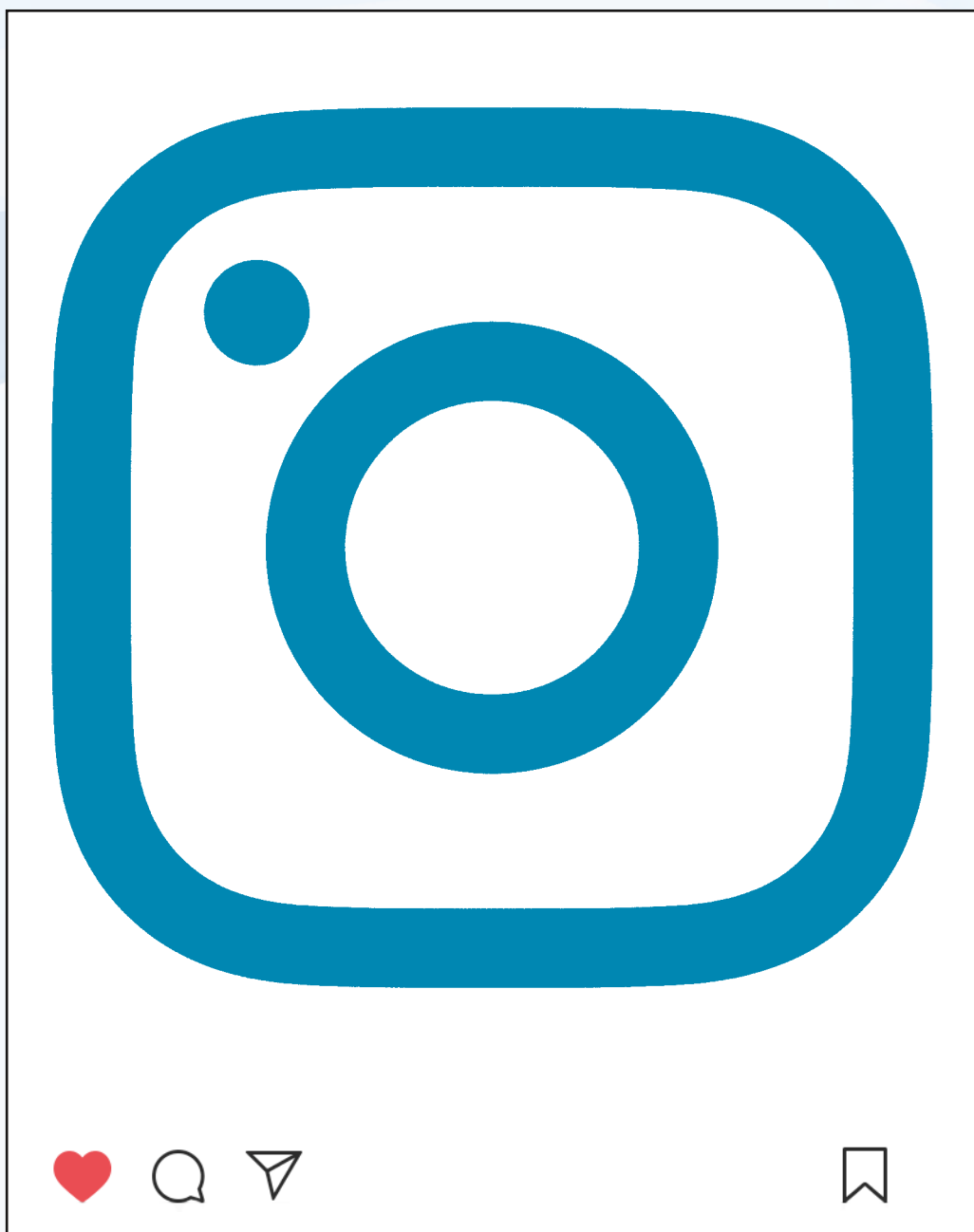


Follow our page for more inspiration: [@Dolls\\_House\\_Miniature\\_Scene](#)

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](#)



# Weddings in a Box

We're used to seeing dolls houses and dioramas with miniature people in them. They may be suitably attired occupants of a grand house, soldiers or people of some other occupation. Artist **Lisa Swerling** has taken the idea in a more personal direction with her wedding artboxes.



Wedding artboxes designed and made by Lisa Swerling

Lisa Swerling, who studied art at the Central Saint Martins college in London, got into making wedding art boxes by accident, "I've been making glass cathedrals - what I call my miniature worlds in boxes - for more

than 15 years. It all started when I was given a tiny architect figurine. The little guy was in a triumphant pose with his arms upraised - except he had lost both arms above his elbows. His vulnerability and resilience

touched me. I felt sorry for him and kept him around."

She continues, "About a year or two later, on a whim, I put him in a plain wooden box. He was instantly transformed, no longer to be pitied. He owned the space. I knew something interesting and wonderful had happened with the combination of figure and box. And so 'Glass Cathedrals' was born."

The idea evolved to the bespoke wedding art boxes that are special to each married couple, "I captured my own ideas and thoughts in the boxes - minimalist scenes, sparkling, like little three dimensional poems. Then a few years later I started making customised artworks capturing people's memories and events in boxes, where I adapted the little figures (model railway figurines) to resemble the actual people. It was a natural progression from that, to recreating wedding scenes as sparkling memory boxes, my first was about seven or eight years ago." 







Lisa makes special memories for special people



## Fun in a box

The boxes are made by a local carpenter and come in two sizes: small (300mm x 200mm x 80mm) and medium (450mm x 300mm x 130mm). Miniature people are made to the same scale of HO 1:87. Swerling has fun with small items to be replicated in an artbox, "It's most fun when I can use something that is very

small in our real world and make something epic of it in the scene. For example I can literally make a hair accessory from a single piece of glitter and a headdress from a sequin."

Lisa's miniatures are adapted from ordinary model railway figures into brides, grooms and wedding guests. "So my trick is to change the hair, the dress, and add the

accessories like tiny bouquets or veils. I'll use whatever bits and bobs are around the studio – obviously paint, glitter, clay but also tape, paper, bits of thread. My favourite tool is my very, very thin paintbrushes, painting the little people always takes much longer than I expect", she says.



Caught in the romance of winter





An artbox background is usually a photograph of where the bride and groom were married and Lisa encourages her customers to add details to make their artbox unique and vivid. She often ends up embellishing the boxes by adding dogs, wedding canopies overflowing with flowers, corsages and golden slippers.

It strikes me that wedding artboxes are a niche market in the miniature world and Lisa agrees, "A few artists use the model railway figurines in their art and many artists are inspired by boxes, but I don't know of anyone who has put them together like me. And in particular I don't know of anyone who is making wedding boxes – as far as I know I'm the only one. It's an odd career direction to be sure. But capturing people's most meaningful and tender moments is really what gives my art its purpose, and that true emotion shines through."

### A special reminder

The wedding art boxes are a novel reminder of a couple's big day in addition to the usual photographs and video. Swerling is making the most of that novelty, "my market is growing but that's because I am very proactive in showing and selling my work at art fairs in London and the US, and through

"An artbox background is usually a photo of where the happy couple got married, and embellished with flowers or objects close to them."

galleries. I am focusing a lot of energy on wedding boxes in 2020, doing retail shows like Wedding Salon in Los Angeles, and who knows if that will increase their popularity? It's an odd product, not part of a conventional wedding list!"

Unconventional though this wedding gift is, the artbox scenes are usually nothing out of the ordinary, but Swerling occasionally gets an unusual request. "Of the thousands of Glass Cathedrals I've made, two requests that stand

out are one to recreate a drunken human pyramid, with all the figures in 'black-tie', and the other was to capture a game of S.P.U.D. – a group of cousins all running away from a tennis ball being thrown high up in the air. Each captured, and immortalised, a split second in time. The capacity of the box to hold a moment in time like that partly explains why the boxes draw you in and transport you to another time and place", she says.

This kind of artbox developed by Swerling adds a third dimension to nuptial moments frozen in time, and showcases another one of the wide artistic possibilities of miniature worlds. 🏠



### INFORMATION

To see more of Lisa's work visit:

🔗 [www.weddingartboxes.com](http://www.weddingartboxes.com)

🔗 [www.instagram.com/glasscathedrals](https://www.instagram.com/glasscathedrals)

ALL PHOTOS BY PHOTOS BY LISA SWERLING



# The Whole Kit & Caboodle:

THE STREETS AHEAD GALLERY BY DOLLS HOUSE EMPORIUM



▲ All of the pre-assembled panels

This lovely little shop could be a perfect wedding dress boutique, just the ticket for the bride selecting a dress for her spring wedding. Imagine it full of pretty white gowns, satin shoes, and delicate tiaras and a whole host of bridal accessories.

Sold by the Dolls House Emporium (DHE), the Streets Ahead gallery is a really trouble-free build. It comes with pre-assembled front and side panels, and the little wooden pegs are a great help when assembling. DHE sell

all manner of dolls house kits in 1/24th and 1/12th scale, but I especially love the smaller buildings like this because they take up little space, are quick and easy to build, and competitively priced too.

Including time for painting and decorating, the kit can be completed in a weekend. It comes with all the glazing (including a glazed roof that lets in a great deal of natural light) and even door handles. All you'll need is glue and your choice of paint.

If a wedding gown shop doesn't float your boat, this little building would lend itself well to an orangery, a picture gallery or a small café. 🏠

▲ Finished and (almost) ready for business

## THE FACTS

**Buy from:** 📍 [www.dollshouse.com](http://www.dollshouse.com)

**Cost:** £110

**Comes with:** Glazing, doors and door handles, and windows

### Additional materials needed:

Glue and paint

**Specialist tools needed:** None

**Time:** A weekend, including painting and decorating

**Experience:** Beginner

**Top tip:** Decorate the interior before assembly

# GIVEAWAY!

## WORTH OVER £100!

Turn to page 4 to find out how to enter!

One lucky reader will win this lovely Dolls House Emporium Kit



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# Summer Fruits Rustic Cake

The DHMS team love a fresh and fruity cake in the summer; and naked cakes are so versatile they can be as great in a picnic in the park or at a wedding. Even a miniature one!



## YOU WILL NEED

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Polymer clay in: white, translucent yellow, translucent red, dark blue, olive green and scrap clay
- FIMO liquid (or other liquid polymer clay)
- Soft pastels in earth tones
- Acrylic paints
- FIMO gloss
- Toothbrush
- Paint brushes
- Flat-sided silicone sculpting tool
- Needle tool, dotting tool and pointy tool
- Blades and craft knife
- Toothpicks
- Talcum powder
- Round cutters: 2.5cm and 2cm
- Pasta machine (or acrylic rolling pin)
- Tile to bake polymer clay on (or other oven-proof surface, e.g. metal lid)



**1** To make the layers of sponge, mix a small amount of yellow with a larger piece of white clay to obtain a pale-yellow colour. Mix this with translucent clay to make the sponge look moister. Roll the clay through the thickest setting of your pasta machine and cut out three circles using the 2.5cm cutter and another three using the 2cm cutter. Then use a toothbrush to add texture.



**2** Dust some beige soft pastels on the sponges using a fluffy brush. If your clay is too soft, then bake them first and apply the colour afterward with either acrylic paints or soft pastels using a damp brush. Part-bake for ten minutes.



**3** Once the layers of sponge are baked and cool, stack them together placing a smaller circle of scrap clay in between the layers using FIMO liquid as a bonding agent. Part-bake for 15-20 minutes.





**4** After letting the cake cool down, apply more colour using warm brown acrylic paints. If you added enough colour with soft pastels, this won't be necessary. Let dry completely.



**5** Make a thick mixture using white polymer clay and FIMO liquid and use it to fill in the gaps between the layers of sponge.



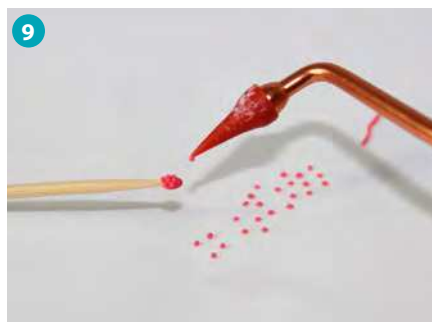
**6** Scrape the excess cream away with a soft flat tool. Alternatively, you can use a toothpick or a plastic card. I don't recommend using metal tools, as these can scrape the soft pastels or paint away. Part-bake for 10 minutes.



**7** To make the blueberries, stretch a piece of dark blue clay into and cut lots of tiny pieces. Roll them into balls and use a needle to create a dip in the centre, then to flick the edges of the opening.



**8** Gently sprinkle some talcum powder over the blueberries and with a light hand, move them about with a soft brush until they are completely coated in the powder. Part-bake for 10 minutes.



**9** To make the raspberries, stick a small ball of translucent red clay on the end of a toothpick and then cover it in lots of tiny balls of the same clay. Make as many as you need and part-bake. Wait until they are completely cool to dry brush a little white paint on them (you can do this with your finger) and remove them off the toothpick.



**10** To make the strawberries, stick a small piece of sponge mix on the end of a toothpick. Using a needle, poke tiny holes to create the illusion of seeds. Make some more and part-bake for 10 minutes. Paint the cool strawberries using acrylic paints in brilliant red and carmine on the tip, blending it down into the red. Let dry completely before removing them from the toothpicks.

### Maive's Top Tip!

*"Sculpt your cake on a tile and leave the bottom layer on the tile after baking. This way, you'll be able to build the cake and add the frosting without it moving. If it does come away, apply a small amount of FIMO liquid on the bottom, stick it back on the tile and bake."*



**11** Place a small dome of olive-green clay on the top of the cake, bonding with a little FIMO liquid. Apply more liquid clay for fruit placement and bake for 20 minutes.



**12** To create the strawberry tops, take some olive-green clay and use a dotting tool to crush the clay until you obtain tiny leaf-like pieces. Stick these to the strawberries using a little FIMO Liquid.



**13** To make some leaves, roll small pieces of olive-green clay into balls and then into tear drops by rolling only one side of them. Flatten them and use a needle to trace the lines on the leaves. Add them to the cake bonding them with a little FIMO Liquid and bake one last time for 30 minutes. Allow to cool and glaze the raspberries and strawberries. You can add a thin layer of varnish on the sponge as well. 🏠



### INFORMATION

If you're passionate about making miniature food, check out our web shop, full of lots of inspirational titles.

🔗 [www.hobbies-and-crafts.co.uk/hobbies-and-crafts-store/dolls-house-miniature-scene/](http://www.hobbies-and-crafts.co.uk/hobbies-and-crafts-store/dolls-house-miniature-scene/)

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



# Flowers for the Garden Wedding

Taking my cue from the soft shades of this bride's bouquet, these wedding flowers are in shades of white and pale yellow, with a touch of pale pink. The groom's button hole, bridesmaid's bouquet, and flower girl's halo await on the arbour's bench, and my bride and dog-of-honour will soon join the groom and minister for a lovely outdoor ceremony in the garden.

## YOU WILL NEED

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Fine tulle w/wo flocking, 100mm wide
- Fine white paper-covered florist wire
- Tiny wedding bells (bridal favours)
- Flocked artificial stamens
- Artificial baby's breath
- Green chenille stem
- Lycopodium
- Narrow ribbon(s)
- White thread
- Light twine
- Tiny ribbon roses
- Lightweight cardstock or scrapbook paper
- Plain white paper
- Silver foiled board (light cardstock)
- Red ultra-fine Sharpie marker
- Acrylic paint - your choice of colours (optional)
- Coloured pencils
- White glue

### TOOLS REQUIRED

- Sewing needle
- Steel ruler
- Wooden cocktail stick (to apply glue)
- 6mm Diameter dowel
- 6mm Hole punch
- Flower-shaped paper punch(es)
- Ball stylus
- Scissors & wire cutters
- Fine paintbrush
- Wax adhesive
- Tacky adhesive putty

## JUST MARRIED HEART

Pattern at 100%



## Ruth's Top Tip!

*"The easiest way to attach the can's bottom disk to the cylinder is to feed the cylinder back onto the dowel, extending a bit off the end. Smear a small bit of glue on the inside edge of the cylinder. Hold the string tightly at the disk and guide it into the cylinder. You want the disk just inside the cylinder, so support it where that is true and tug on the string a bit to raise it where it needs to raise."*







### 1 JUST MARRIED HEART

Photocopy the heart template onto light cardstock and cut it out and write 'Just Married' on it. Form the chenille stem into a heart shape and glue it around the outer edge. Punch paper flowers, shade some of them with coloured pencils, and use the ball stylus to cup them slightly. Glue these flowers, two clipped stamen ends, and a ribbon rose onto the chenille stem heart. Attach the heart to the centre back of the car using tacky adhesive putty.

### 2 HOOD/BONNET STREAMERS

Make a multi-loop bow by forming a 32mm wide figure of eight with six loops at each side, leaving the ribbon ends long (the length of the nose of your car from the centre front to the inside of the side windows, mine is 114mm). Wrap white florist wire around the centre of the loops, twist it tightly at the back, clip the wire ends to 25mm, and fan the loops, tugging them towards the centre. Cut a 25mm x 127mm piece of fine tulle, fold it in half lengthwise, and gather the long, cut edges, hand sewing them together with matching thread. Sew the gathered edge around and into the base of the bow. Twist the bow's wire ends around the hood ornament of the car. Attach the ribbon ends inside the car doors with a speck of wax adhesive.

### 3 TIN CANS

Cut a 10mm x 25mm strip of silver board. Run the strip lengthwise over your thumbnail to curl it end-to-end, shiny-side-out. Emboss ridges with a stylus to transform the strip into a can! Optionally, 'label' some strips with romantic symbols (e.g. hearts, Xs and Os, arrows) using

a red marker and allow to dry. Wrap the strip tightly around the dowel and glue the overlap shut, forming a cylinder. Punch a disk in the silver Bristol board and pierce a hole in the centre. Thread the needle with light twine, knot the end, bring the needle through the hole from the back, and slide the knot against the disk. Glue the inside edges of the cylinder's end to the back of the disk. Make several cans with varying length twine, tie them together, and attach them to the underside of the back of the car with tacky putty.

### 4 DOG OF HONOUR'S COLLAR

Sew three small ribbon loops in the centre of a 250mm length of narrow ribbon. Glue two or three very short lycopodium sprigs at the base of these ribbon loops. Glue cut stamens tips and a ribbon rose in the centre. Tie the ribbon around the dog's neck so the 'corsage' portion is at the side. Make a double knot and trim the ribbon ends short.

### 5 BRIDESMAID'S BOUQUET

Clip the stems of the baby's breath flowers to about 25mm. Bind them together tightly with thread and tie a double knot. Tip some of the blooms with your choice of paint colour. Glue in a few stamens tips and lycopodium sprigs. Tie narrow ribbon at the base of the bouquet, leaving the ribbon tails long.

### 6 FLOWER GIRL'S DAISY HALO

Fold a 140mm length of florist wire in half and twist it loosely together. Form this twist into a circle, threading the ends through the fold and twist them into the circle. Tie narrow ribbon over the join to form streamers down the back. Glue a few tiny lycopodium tips





around the halo and a stamens end at the back. Shade some plain paper with your choice of coloured pencil(s), and punch a few daisies. Cup them with the ball stylus and glue them around the halo.

### 7 GROOM'S BUTTONHOLE

Cluster two short pieces of lycopodium with a snipped stamen tip and a ribbon rose. Wrap the stems together tightly with white thread and tie a double knot. Clip the thread ends short and the stems to a uniform length. A slightly larger cluster makes a lovely corsage for the bride's mother!

### 8 ARBOUR SWAG

Cut a length of tulle twice the height of your arbour plus twice its width. (It's never a bad idea to cut long and trim to length when



you are done!) Twist florist wire around the centre of the tulle and attach this twist to the centre top of the arbour. Attach the tulle in the same way to the top of the arbour's side posts, puffing the tulle between these top arbour points.

### 9 WEDDING BELLS AND SIDE TIES

Tie two wedding bells to the centre top of the arbour, using light twine or ribbon. Glue on sprigs of lycopodium and other



floral accents, if desired. Tie the tulle to the side posts again halfway down, puffing a bit above the ties and arranging the tulle below the ties to mimic gravity. Trim the tulle even with the bottom of the arbour's side posts. 🏠



### INFORMATION

All photos by Stephen Lesbirel



Resident miniaturist Moi Ali answers your questions. If you have a query send an email to [carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk](mailto:carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk)

**Hi Moi,**

My husband bought me a dolls house and it's been sitting in the garage for ages. I took it out and cleaned it up but it'll need an immense amount of fixing and will take me a long time, but I now have the tools, skills and knowhow to do it. I'd like to find out if it is built from a plan or scratch built. It looks American to me. So I hope you or the readers of DHMS might know more about it.

Initially I thought two people may have built it as the parts are meticulous; other bits are very slap dash! I now believe it was all made by one person. It has been through the wars and somebody did a botch fix. Somebody lovingly made it and spent an awful lot of time doing so. It's sad that it ended up in the state it's in but I will fix it with care. I love trying to solve puzzles and I hope readers can help!

**Hazel, Clackmananshire**

**Dear Hazel,**

*Lovely to hear from you. Unfortunately, I can't tell you much if anything about your lovely find, but I am sure that there's a reader out there who may be able to help! If I hear anything, I will pass it on.*

**Moi**

*Readers! If you can help Hazel with her query, please get in touch!*





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## MGM Fairs

Following the developments of the Coronavirus outbreak and the recent government guidelines, it is with regret that I am cancelling all our Dollhouse and Miniature shows until the end of August 2020.

We hope to resume fairs with the Stafford Dolls House Fair on the 6th September, subject to any further recommendations and changes imposed by the government.

For more information please check our website at [www.mgmfairs.co.uk](http://www.mgmfairs.co.uk)

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### Summer Show

**NEW DATES**

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David Ward Miniaturist



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Tube: High St Kensington

#### Information & tickets

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# A-Z of Miniatures Crafts

## C FOR CROCHET

With crochet being more popular than ever, we're bringing you this treasure from the archives. **Lydia Murphy** takes us through the basic steps to get you crocheting (in miniature, of course!) with a delightful rug design to complement your dolls house décor.

### YOU WILL NEED

#### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- About 15 metres of variegated sock yarn or any #8 pearl cotton
- 1.75mm hook
- Finished size is approximately 75mm x 50mm

#### ABBREVIATIONS

Dc (U.K.) = Sc (U.S.)  
Sts = stitches  
Ch = chain



This is a fairly easy design for your 1/12th scale dolls' house and will work in any room simply by changing the colours. Use it beside a bed, in front of the fireplace, the kitchen sink or doorway.

Variegated pearl cotton adds nice colour changes but a solid colour would be pretty as well – colour changing sock yarns would also add an interesting

**Round 1** Ch 13... 3dc in 2nd chain from hook, dc in next 10 chains, 3dc in last chain... working on opposite side, dc in the bottom loop of the next 10 chains, working over the thread tail for each dc to add extra firmness to the last half of this round – place a marker here to mark the end of the round and place it at the end of each completed round.



**Round 1:** After working one side you can see the bottom loops of the chain. This is where you will work the last 10dc, working through the loop and the thread tail for each dc.



**Round 2:** Completed and the start of rnd 3. Increases are always spaced evenly at each end of your rug. The thread used as a marker at the end of each round can be seen at the bottom of the photo.

**Round 2** (2dc in next 3 dc, dc in next 10 sts) twice (32).

**Round 3** (Dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 3 times, dc in next 10 sts, (dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 3 times, dc in last 10 sts - (38).

**Round 4** (Dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 3 times, dc in next 10 sts, (dc in next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 3 times, dc in last 10 sts - (44).

**Round 5** Dc in each sc around (44).

**Round 6** (Dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next) 4 times, dc in next 10, (dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next) 4 times), dc in next 10 - (52).



**Round 10:** After working rnd 10, continue working a dc in the next 12 stitches. This will be the starting point of rnd 11 to be worked in the back loops.



**Round 11** is worked from this point on in the BACK loop of each dc around, ending with a slip stitch in the first dc.

**Round 7** (Dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next) 4 times, dc in next 10 dc, (dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next) 4 times, dc in next 10 dc - (60).

**Round 8** Dc in each st around - (60).

**Round 9** (Dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next) 5 times, dc in next 10 dc, (dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next) 5 times, dc in next 10 dc - (70).

**Round 10** Dc around – after you reach the marker showing the end of this round, dc in the next 12 dc – this will complete rnd 10 and be in position to start round 11.

**Round 11** Dc in the back loop of the next dc and in the back loop of every dc around. End with a slip stitch into the first dc. Cut thread leaving about a 15cm length. Draw thread through ch on hook, pull gently to close and sew thread tail into back of work to secure and conceal.

To finish your oval rug, place between two pieces of paper towel or clean cotton pressing cloth and press down – use a burst of steam if your iron has that feature – if not gently mist the piece with water and press. To ensure your rug stays flat you could place it under a heavy book and leave for a few hours. 🏠



### INFORMATION

For a FREE download of the full A-Z series, sign up to our email at:

📧 <https://www.hobbies-and-crafts.co.uk/>

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# SJR

STEPHEN J RANDALL

SILVERSMITH - JEWELLER - GOLDSMITH



A manufacturer of fine, authentic reproduction silverware in 1/12 scale. The miniatures range consists of ornately decorated solid sterling silver collectables of historic value, incorporating works of art in not only Regency style, but including some of the more unusual antiques found in the Georgian, Edwardian and Victorian Eras.

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Our miniatures range is available for purchase on Etsy.

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# A Grand House in Miniature

The tiny treasure house at Nostell has been beautifully redisplayed in a new permanent exhibition space, where visitors can see every tiny detail like never before. **Simon McCormack**, project curator gives us an insight into the intricacies of this tiny treasure and some exciting new discoveries.

## A grand house in perfect miniature

Nostell in West Yorkshire is one of the great treasure houses of the north. Commissioned by the Winn family to showcase their wealth and progress their social status, this 18th Century mansion was created by the best craftspeople of the day and filled with priceless objects. With now over 70,000 visitors exploring the mansion each year, the dolls house is a firm favourite in the collection and celebrated as one of the star items of the National Trust.

Known as 'baby houses', dolls houses weren't merely playthings for children in the 18th Century. Instead they belonged to elite owners, usually women, as an elaborate and costly statement of taste, and an educational tool in household management. The Nostell dolls house was most likely created by and for Susanna Henshaw, the wife of the fourth Baronet Rowland Winn and is a time capsule of a past world.

Nostell's mini mansion was made around 1735, around the same time Susanna and her husband were in the process of building the full-sized treasure house at Nostell that you can see today. It is very

possible this miniature mansion was a muse or moodboard; a vision of how Susanna imagined her new home to look. Whilst not a facsimile of the big house, there are many clear similarities to it and Nostell itself, making this a unique survival - it is the only 18th Century dolls house that the public can see in the home it was designed for.

Nostell's dolls house is also very special because it is arguably the most detailed and authentic example of its kind. Just as no expense was spared in the full-sized house, every item in the miniature version has been expertly crafted, from four poster beds to a complete hallmarked silver tea set. Whilst full-scale interiors have often been altered and redecorated over time, this tiny house is just as it was in the 18th Century. A grand mansion in perfect miniature, it gives us a rare window into not only the craftsmanship and fashions of the day, but also how a country house was run and lived in.

## A treasure in the spotlight

As this miniature mansion has been largely untouched for over 260 years, it was in need of vital conservation work to ensure that future generations can enjoy it.

From cleaning built-up dirt on the handcrafted wallpaper to removing residues from inappropriate cleaning materials from the tiny fireplaces, the tasks needed to preserve the dolls' house and its contents require specialist skills and tools.

In 2019 the team at Nostell launched a fundraising campaign to bring the dolls house back to life. Thanks to the generous donations from National Trust supporters, over £100,000 was raised to conserve, relocate, redisplay and conduct further research into the precious jewel box of 18th Century craftsmanship.

On Saturday 7th March 2020, Miniature Worlds opened, showcasing the dolls house redisplayed in a brand new permanent exhibition space. Beautifully illuminated with state-of-the-art lighting in a bespoke glass case, you can see every tiny detail, from the liveried footman and the miniature glass mouse to the hand-stitched curtains.

With the tiny treasure house the star of the show, the exhibition includes 3D digital animation, beautiful high resolution photography and documentary films exploring the wider history and conservation of this precious object. [PH](#)

The *Miniature Worlds* programme includes two new interactive spaces for visitors of all ages to get hands-on with history and unlock the stories of the dolls' house. The Housekeeper's Room, open Wednesday - Sunday, gives visitors a chance to learn what it takes to look after historic treasures, big and small and have a go with conservation tools and techniques. On Saturdays, visitors can let their imaginations run free in The Front Room. A space to relax, play and create, you'll find books, games and activities to escape into your own miniature world.

### Miniature marvels

The quality and detail this dolls' house sets it apart from the rest. In undertaking conservation of each of the tiny objects, the expert team uncovered levels of intricacy and craftsmanship that truly are exquisite, as well as some exciting new discoveries, which tell us more about how this object was used in everyday life.

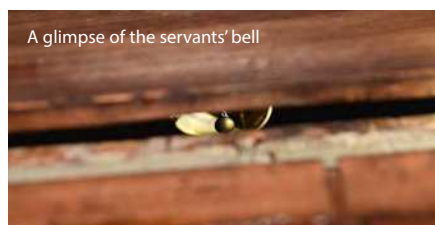
Here are the top tiny treasures in Nostell dolls' house:

#### 1 A working servants' bell

Previously residing on the second floor of the mansion where there were access limitations, the dolls house has now been relocated to the ground floor so that as many people as possible can see it up close and unlock its stories.

They say moving house is stressful... imagine the meticulous planning that went into relocating this 150kg mini mansion down two flights of stairs! As the team carefully carried the dolls' house across the hall, they heard a distinct ringing, like a bell going off somewhere. Conservators later found a tiny bell hidden in the attic, visible only by carefully prising open the back boards. The little chain on the bell showed that it originally linked to a bell-pull in one of the rooms.

This kind of working feature suggests that historic dolls houses were used to practise household management. Elite women would need to learn how to manage the domestic side of things, including keeping the servants in order, hence features like bells that rang, candle snuffers and fire tongs that worked, and doors that could be opened and closed in the Nostell dolls house.



A glimpse of the servants' bell



Some of the residents at Nostell

#### 2 A working spit in the kitchen

In the tiny kitchen hearth there is a spit jack mechanism: a set of cogs and pulleys with a hand crank and counterweight, which when wound and released would have slowly turned a spit, enabling a large roasting joint to cook evenly.

Intriguingly, the team discovered that underneath the hearth in the inaccessible and otherwise empty cellar a wooden chute indicating that this mechanism was indeed originally weighted and would have been fully operational, just as it would in a real-sized kitchen. There might also have been several tiny 'toy' roasting joints, but only one now remains.



▲ The tiny mechanism of the kitchen spit is made of many minute working parts.





### ③ Intricate fixtures and fittings

Another superb feature of our dolls' house is the extent to which fixtures and fittings are made with the same materials and to the same standard as the real-life versions. This includes the doors which have fully working handles and latches and look as if they also originally had working locks (we are still trying to locate the keys!). All of the doors are made with the same individually carved and assembled pieces of panelling as a real door and have their original polish finishes. It is items such as these which speak not only of the quality of this dolls house but also how these elaborate artefacts were not simply made for show but to explain to aspiring homeowners in how not only to furnish but also to run an orderly and 'polite' household. This training would have included topics such as how to present a house to important guests, how to keep the servants in order, what rooms should be used at given times of the day and social rituals such as taking tea.



The kitchen is fully stocked with a tiny set of silverware

### ④ Beautiful beds

A dolls house with this level of intricacy would be preserve of only the wealthiest in society, as a variety of master craftspeople would have been employed to create the miniature pieces and at no inconsiderable cost. At so many levels it is a true reflection in miniature of a grand 18th Century mansion, many of which readers will no doubt have visited and seen showy 'state' beds, made more as a statement of wealth and taste than simply for sleeping in. Just as in a real sized 18th Century mansion the Nostell dolls house boasts no fewer than three such beds all of which have all the components of full-sized versions and would have required expert carvers and upholsters to work together.

The grand beds are configured and made (with bed frames, canvas supports for mattresses, mattresses, bolsters and pillows, coverlets, curtains and valances) just as a big bed is made, down to the exquisite 'lace' or braid trims and carved headboards. This is in contrast to many historic dolls house beds where crude frames and bases are hidden behind showy pieces of fabric. ▶



The four poster beds are constructed just as a life-sized bed would be

"These are some of the smallest objects we have ever worked on and we have marvelled at the tiny stitches used to create, embroider or quilt the myriad of textiles in the house. The needlework is of a very high standard as are the materials.

We have a long and illustrious history of fine needlework in this country and it is reflected in this dolls house!"

*National Trust Textile Conservation Studio Manager Maria Jordan*

## 5 Exquisite clothing in the latest fashions

Each doll is beautifully dressed in intricately crafted clothing. The techniques used on the dolls house textiles reflect those on real-sized objects, from the gathering of a cuff to roll seams on an apron, from lace making for the caps and trimmings on bodices to the embroidery on dresses. The only difference is the scale of stitching - it is very small! Despite their size, the dolls still have plenty of petticoats and undergarments - the lady of the house has three petticoats under her skirt! These elaborately dressed dolls serve as a hugely significant record of past dress history.



National Trust

► Each dress is meticulously crafted



## 6 Handpainted wallpaper

The Nostell dolls house is just like a real 18th Century house including architectural design and layout, so just as in a real-sized country house, the level of opulence increases as you ascend floors, with basic decoration in the more functional the ground floor rooms and no expense spared in the first floor show rooms. The miniature drawing room is the star of the show, with the most extravagant craftsmanship including a highly ornate doorframe with parcel-gilt decoration and hand-painted wallpaper.

The walls are decorated with copperplate engravings of exotic natural imagery.

The individual images of trees and flowers have been meticulously hand-coloured,

cut-out and glued on to the wall

to build up an elaborate

montage. The level of detail

is extraordinary, with even

tiny bees no larger than

2mm wide individually

cut out and coloured.

This is a supreme example

of the kind of hand craft

activity deemed suitable at

the time for elite females

and a way for them to

practice commissioning

grand interior designs

in miniature.



## 7 Chintz chairs

It's clear that dolls houses such as the one at Nostell were the work of both professional craftspeople and the women who owned them, providing a space for creative self-expression in what was otherwise a very







◀▲ Just look at the detailing!

constrained lifestyle. A discovery beneath a set of chintz chairs in the dolls house supports the theory that Susanna Henshaw's miniature world was passed down to her daughter-in-law Sabine D'Hervart, who may well have used and added her own stamp to the mini mansion in the 1760s. The chairs are

made from ivory, perhaps imitating 'fancy' (imitation lacquer) furniture, and originally had chintz covers to match the curtains and bed, just as in Nostell's State Apartment. The underside of the chairs contain a cut-up ticket from a 1768 concert at York by famous violinist Gaetano Pugnani (1731-98).

This appears to be a later repair and is one of several later interventions in the dolls' house from beyond Susanna's life time. It touches such as this which greatly personalise these objects which- although beautiful- are usually made by anonymous hands.

▼ The hand-painted wallpaper in the drawing room showcases the intricate detail of this miniature mansion







Just some of the many pieces of silverware in the kitchen

## 8 Silverware

One of the few types of dolls house object which generally do have a clear provenance is silverware. In the case of the Nostell dolls' house we have, made by David Clayton one of the pre-eminent makers of miniature silverware of the time. Unlike many other makers Clayton specialised solely in toy silverware rather than the real thing. Miniature silver items are some of the oldest known such 'toys' and their history goes back at least to the 16th Century, if not before. The word 'toy' means a miniature version of the real sized thing. Because the silver trade was highly regulated in Britain all of these items had to be hallmarked just like real sized silver and unlike textiles or furniture which did not have makers marks as a standard feature either in 'toy' or real sized versions.

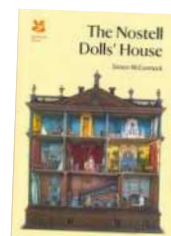


See every tiny detail up close in the new Miniature Worlds exhibition at Nostell



## INFORMATION

Visit Miniature Worlds at Nostell until 1st November 2020 to see each of these intricate details up close and unlock the stories of this tiny 18th Century treasure house. Please note at the time of print, the house, café and shop at Nostell are closed to due the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Before you plan your visit please check the website: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nostell](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nostell) for re-opening arrangements. In the meantime, you can both whet your appetite and support the National Trust by ordering your copy of Simon McCormack's *The Nostell Dolls' House*, available online via: [shop.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://shop.nationaltrust.org.uk).



Images courtesy of Kev Blake and Robert Thrift



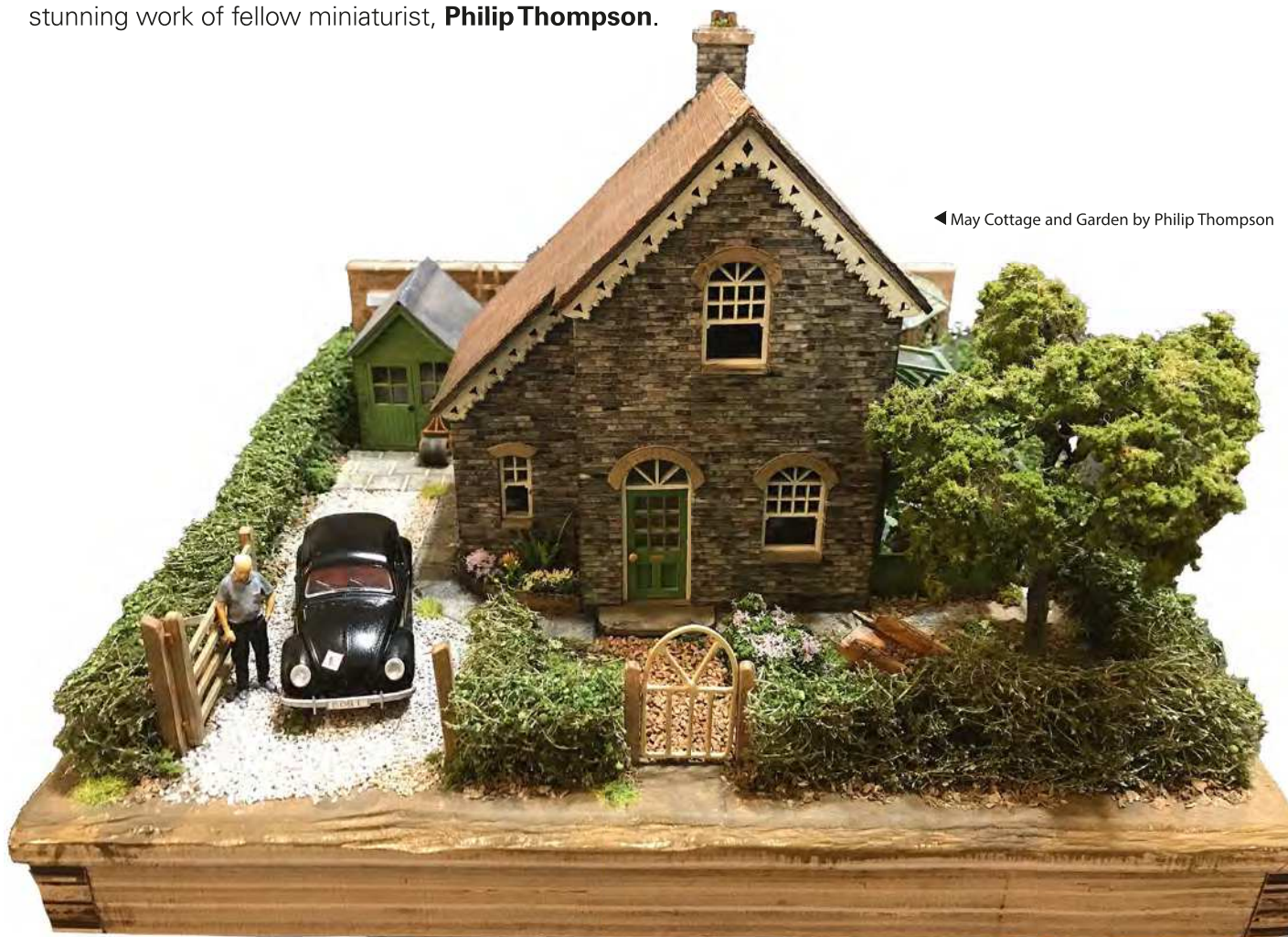


FEATURE  
by Bea Broadwood



# At Home with THE BROADWOODS

This month, professional model maker Bea Broadwood, hands over her monthly feature to share the stunning work of fellow miniaturist, **Philip Thompson**.



◀ May Cottage and Garden by Philip Thompson

## Darling buds of May

This time last year, we launched our May Cottage kit as part of our 'Calendar Cottages Collection' and now, as we once again welcome in the wonderful month of May, I thought it would be the perfect opportunity to share a stunning diorama that recently caught my eye online.

Philip Thompson is a keen member of *Petite Properties' Modelling Community* (on Facebook) and over recent weeks he has kindly shared the build progress of his latest quarter scale diorama. Members and I have not only enjoyed watching Philip's cottage garden base come to life, but we have also been inspired by some of the tips and

techniques that he has shared. Along the way, we've also been introduced to Philip's unusual modelling buddy, who is always at hand to help. I hope you will enjoy finding out more about this beautifully detailed diorama and I hope Philip's work will inspire you to have a go yourself too!

## An unexpected find

"I've been making 1/12th scale houses and miniatures for over twenty five years. Quite by accident, I stumbled across the *Petite Properties* website and quickly realised that there was a big following of 1/48th scale. It crossed my mind that I could carry on enjoying building even though I had no more

room for any further 1/12th scale projects.

My daughter and granddaughter attended the Miniatura fair a year or so ago and they brought back Pumpkin Cottage from the *Petite Properties* stand for me to have a go at building. It was a joy to build and I was well and truly hooked. May Cottage, my second 1/48th, was a surprise gift for Christmas 2019. My birthday is in May hence their choice of kit.

I loved the included lean to greenhouse and this gave me an extra challenge to make some contents for it. I decided to make the base to incorporate features from the various gardens and back yards I'd played in as a child. I'm a self confessed nostalgic." ➡





▲ Meet Bob... Philip's 1/48th scale modelling buddy!

### Introducing Bob

"During the planning I decided that I needed a visual aid to keep my eye in at this scale. So, a little stick man was quickly made who in real life would be about 5'9" tall. He stands on my work mat and carries out quality control. Has to be said, I have a bit of a silly streak in me and I named him Bob and introduced him to the folk on the Petite Properties Facebook forum. It would seem I'm not the only one on there with a silly streak as Bob has become quite the celebrity."



Getting started on the base

### Creating the base

"I cut a plywood base to about one foot square. To me, this size constraint helped in planning what and where features could be added. I made a back wall from plywood with a brick paper finish. Great to kick a ball against. I then cut some half inch square pieces of 1mm wood to represent concrete slabs for the paths and yard. Set out the lawns using various types of scatter material and made a driveway using mini chippings to produce a parking place. The drive gate I made from wood and the house gate from soldered together bits of copper wire."

The hedge on three sides of the base was made following a YouTube video I saw using rubberised horse hair or sometimes coconut fibre sheet. This was easy to cut and with the addition of some green scatter produced the most realistic hedge I'd seen to date."

### Philip's Top Tip!

*"Use a glue gun to fix the completed hedging securely in place!"*

### Green fingers

"The greenhouse was a joy. I wanted it crammed full and a bit unkempt. The Petite Properties potting bench and chair was a good foil to build on. I printed out some grow bag covers, stuffed them with balsa wood and fitted them up with tomato plants in full fruit. Turned some plant pots on my little lathe and filled them with compost and plants. A printed compost bag and seed packets, a hose pipe and a few garden tools gave me the exact look I wanted. For a bit of added realism, I hacked the greenhouse kit and added an open top window vent."

*"Philip Thompson has created a stunning 1/48th scale scene that is not only steeped in nostalgia, but also includes a staggering level of detail too!"*

*Bea*

Experimenting with rubberised horsehair







▲ Inside the greenhouse

### Spending a penny

"The outside loo was also a joy. It was to be fitted to the house wall so shared the same brick paper as that on the house. This project was the first on which I had ever used brick paper. I was sceptical but I needn't have been, it looks very nice indeed and I would use again. Sometime later I did change the brick paper on the loo to match that on the back wall as I wanted to free up space for a driveway.

The toilet was again a Petite Properties kit to which I added a loo roll and loo brush turned on my lathe and some wire to represent the various water pipes. The floor was thin wood scribed to be paving."



▲ The toilet, complete with loo roll!

### Pottering about

"This was an experience. I wanted to bring back the happy days I spent as a child in my granddad's wood working shed. The finished article evoked all those sights sounds and smells that I so enjoyed back then.

Based on the Petite Properties potting shed kit, I made a bench with vice and a little wall cupboard on the end. Made a few tools and added more from various white metal kits. The theme was based around somebody in the shed making a dolls house. A few pots of paint turned on my lathe and a scattering of paint spills on the bench and chair brought the project to life."



◀ Philip's finished hedge in situ



Rear view of the garden

### Lights & L plates

"The whole build to date has gone very well. Not that I'm a clever clogs, I just got lucky and relied on my imagination to steer the project through. I don't think I'd do anything differently if I were to start again from scratch. I didn't particularly enjoy doing the wiring and lighting, but I made that worse by wanting to light not only the house but the out buildings as well. Having said that, it all looks glorious after dark with all the lights on. The best part of the build was the shed. I love it to bits and I hope my late granddad looks down and approves. I'm sure he does."

"So, what a joy, I love it and keep adding bits, a gazebo a washing line some planters and a hose pipe soon to be followed by my collection of Petite Properties garden tool kits. Mustn't forget the Tamiya kit (1/48th scale) VW Beetle parked on the drive. Bob was excited as he wants to learn to drive. Next project? Well, inside we go. May Cottage is painted and wall papered inside, but needs furniture and stuff to make it a home. I may be some time!" 🏠

### INFORMATION

If you love PP's smaller scale kits, why not join in the fun on their Petite Properties' Modelling Community page

🔗 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1990112437711026/>

🌐 [www.petite-properties.com](http://www.petite-properties.com)

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# Dollshouse & MINIATURE SCENE

At Home with  
the Broadwoods

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# ACROSS THE POND

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 we're introduced **Julia Cissell** who makes miniature insects and flowers.

You can connect with Kate via Twitter: **@thedailymini** or via her website: **www.thedailymini.com**



**NAME:**  
Julia Cissell

**CITY/STATE OF RESIDENCE**  
Bartlett, Tennessee

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

My earliest memories started with me making tiny accessories for my Barbie dolls, things like hair clips made from thin copper wires my dad had laying around, and dresses handcrafted for them from scraps that fell from my mum's sewing machine. The more proportionate and intricate it looked to me, the more fulfilled by it I was.

#### BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR PROCESS WHEN CREATING A MINIATURE INSECT OR FLOWER

What really got my miniature-making gears turning was when I first found out about the cane technique used in polymer clay art. For the wings for mini butterflies, the initial diameter of the cane is about the same width of an actual sized butterfly wing or less. Once constructed, the cane is stretched out to become anywhere from 1mm up to 5mm. I cut segments from the reduced cane, bake them in the oven to make the clay become firm plastic, and then each thinly carved piece off the end of the cane is a miniature butterfly wing.

1/12th Scale ram's horn snail.  
Highlighting proportion and delicate details are key elements for Julia



1/12th Scale bouquet of spring flowers and zebra swallowtail butterfly



1/12th Scale monarch butterfly (underside)



**Q: WHAT IS THE DAILY MINI**

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

1/12th Scale purple spotted swallowtail butterfly on pink rose



1/12th Scale monarch butterfly (upper side)



1/12th Scale glasswing butterfly. Julie has made thousands of miniature butterflies over the years, and is still learning something new with each one she makes



### HOW DO BUTTERFLIES AND FLOWERS INSPIRE YOU?

I would say the main thing that inspires me is that I love to express the intricate beauty I see in them by designing my versions of them in miniature. I consider the importance of their proportion, textures, and degree of translucency. They are not meant to look 100% real, but my initial focus with my art is to convey the delicate beauty I see in what my pieces represent by highlighting certain key features. Representing them in miniature, for me, has a way of accentuating the beauty of what intricate and pristine beings they are.

### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO CREATE ONE, SINGLE MINIATURE?

I think the quickest miniatures I've made are cellophane-wrapped sweets that take 25 seconds to make. As for the longest I have spent making something in miniature... in 2008, I spent over 500 hours making a miniature scene of a young little fairy who trips and spills her bag of butterfly-attracting fairy dust all over herself (it's her duty to sprinkle this dust on the flowers). The scene is called "Tickled to Tears by Butterflies."

### WHAT IS SOMETHING (MOST) PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU?

My choice of perspective is what is at the root of it all for me. A lot of people tell me I have extreme patience to do what I do, but for me there is no matter of patience, just honest passion for studying cause and effect through experimenting. I don't get frustrated if something doesn't come out as I may predict, because my mindset with it isn't based around a scale of success and failure, but just being intrigued to see what happens and getting to apply what I learn to future design possibilities. I really enjoy making the miniatures I already have the design plan for, but nothing compares to the fun I get from figuring out how to do something new! I feel that making miniatures provides the perfect creative outlet for me in that way—because it requires resourcefulness in considering non-traditional materials for making them, and coming up with techniques and tools I could design for allowing what I envision to come to life. 🏠



### INFORMATION

To see more of Julia's work visit:

🌐 [www.adoremini.etsy.com](https://www.adoremini.etsy.com)





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# Making History

This month, we mark 75 years since VE Day and meet some of the characters at the heart of the war effort through the work of doll artisan, **Teresa Thompson**.

This month marks three quarters of a century since the end of the Second World War in Europe and VE Day. For the many men and women who remember that momentous day, it will seem like merely the blink of an eye as they join the many street parties, commemorative events and celebrations up and down the country during the special Bank Holiday Weekend between the 8th and 10th of May.

Miniaturists have always found themselves drawn to our past, whether the favoured era of choice is Medieval, Tudor, Victorian or the 1940s, and Teresa Thompson of Costume Cavalcade is no different. With a keen eye for authenticity, her work generously spans the centuries in 1/12th scale, opening a vibrant window on history through her skill as an extremely talented doll artisan and a highly accomplished miniature costume designer who prides herself on the wealth of detail which can be provided through the historical accuracy she creates. Her dolls truly reflect the eras which inspired them, with a range of characters offering a glimpse into the occupations and most importantly, the people who found themselves at the very core of the war effort.

## On the home front

This includes the many important roles in our cities, towns and villages, such as that of the ARP Warden. Teresa's fantastic Air Raid Warden, complete with his steel helmet, represents the large numbers of men and women who served in this incredibly important position within the beating heart of our communities throughout the Second World War. Walking the dark streets of Britain during the blackout, they ensured the bright lights of home we now take for granted were carefully shielded from any approaching enemy by blackout curtains but also undertook many other tasks in addition to this. These ranged from the more standard elements such as checking gas masks and ensuring people made it safely to air raid shelters, but as they could also become involved in firefighting and search and rescue



▲ Army Officer, Nicholas

in the aftermath of a raid, this wasn't a role which came without its risks.

The duties of an ARP Warden could also be found to include the more unusual, such as one instance when a warden was asked to aid the search for someone who had apparently parachuted in. The warden in question was late actress and writer, Barbara Nixon, who tells the story in her book, *Raiders Overhead: A Diary of the London Blitz*, first published in 1943. One in six ARP Wardens were women, and Nixon, who initially began in a part time role was



# VE DAY

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

## 8 - 10 MAY 2020

amongst the first women to take up a position as a full-time warden.

From 1941, women were called up to begin work in many jobs which had previously been considered a male domain. These jobs, which included everything from shipbuilding to engineering were all vital to the War Effort and without these hardworking women things would have looked very different. Even Queen Elizabeth II, the then Princess Elizabeth trained in the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service as a mechanic and military truck driver. Significantly, to this day our reigning monarch remains the only female member of the royal family who has served in the military.

## A growing army

Teresa Thompson shows us some of the vital roles women played in the War through several of her dolls, including Beryl, a formidable Land Army girl, who is seen photographed alongside Eric, a soldier, Nicholas, an Army Officer, and Douglas, an airman, their costumes all beautifully crafted. The iconic Land Girls are also brought to life in 1/12th scale with Iris, dressed in dungarees and a headscarf as she joins the ranks of many thousands from rural and urban backgrounds alike who showed their strength after either volunteering or being conscripted to become part of the Women's Land Army. They worked hard ensuring our farming and agriculture industries continued to thrive and vitally to make certain that



Eric, Beryl,  
Nicholas and  
Douglas



◀ Glenda and an  
Air Raid Warden

Britain produced enough home grown food to replace the sheer volume that had been imported prior to the outbreak of war. It wasn't all harvesting crops and traditional farm work however, with Land Girls also working in other areas such as The Women's Timber Corps, where they were known as 'Lumber Jills'!



▼ Wartime First Aid kit by Jane Harrop





## A wartime wedding

Teresa also shows us there was still room for romance during World War Two, even if sometimes it could only be fleeting. Marrying Army Officer, Nicholas, Muriel's 1940s wedding dress perfectly captures the essence of a time when many beautiful dresses were lovingly crafted using parachute silk, creating stunning garments. In addition, these could often be parachutes which had helped their fiancées to safety and so proved all the more special to the happy couple, in addition to having their own historical significance.

As is embodied throughout Teresa's work, recreating elements from a specific era in history is something which fascinates miniature artisans, and the selection of wartime themed miniatures available are as diverse as they are exciting. Jane Harrop's



◀ Keith's Bougourd's RAF Sector Clock

wartime first aid kit proves to be no exception. Filled with everything the ardent first aider of the day could have needed it immediately brings that sense of realism to any World War Two scene. Keith Bougourd, hugely

admired as one of our most exceptional miniature clock makers, has created something incredibly special and a piece which is possibly unique in small scale, with his working RAF Sector Clock. The Sector Clock was initially introduced during World War One, coming into its own during the Battle of Britain as it helped operations rooms to track aircraft, and to quite literally help plot the course of victory. [DHM](#)



Land Girl, Iris and her young charge, Shirley!



Nicholas and Muriel's wartime wedding







Freda, Gertrude, Colin and Sheila

### Meeting a hero

That victory finally arrived in Europe on May the 8th 1945, with huge numbers of people pouring on to the streets, including the then Princess Elizabeth and her younger sister, Princess Margaret, who had been given permission to join the celebrations amongst the crowds.

Teresa's dolls also reflect the people who would have been part of those huge crowds on that momentous day. These wonderfully constructed characters include Freda, the busy housewife wearing her apron and headscarf, who will have fought to feed and clothe her family when faced with the realities of rationing, and Norman

in his flat cap who, along with young Pamela and Brian, find themselves lucky enough to meet someone very important from Teresa's portfolio. Her Chelsea Pensioner stands resplendent in the scarlet coat and shako cap we all know so well, wearing his miniature medals with pride and it seems fitting that he is the final character we meet on our journey.

Pamela and Brian will also no doubt represent more than a few readers out there who have their own memories and recollections of VE Day as we gather across the country this month to share in remembering that day in May 1945. Celebrating the 75 years of brand new dawns we've enjoyed in the intervening three quarters of a century, all thanks to the efforts and sacrifices made by those for whom days of war were etched into the history books as a very real part of their own daily lives. 🏠



Standing with history. Norman, Pamela and Brian meet a Chelsea Pensioner



#### INFORMATION

Teresa Thompson

🔗 [www.costumecavalcade.co.uk](http://www.costumecavalcade.co.uk)

Keith Bougourd

🔗 [www.small-time.com](http://www.small-time.com)

Jane Harrop

🔗 [www.janeharrop.co.uk](http://www.janeharrop.co.uk)

# DollHouse

## & MINIATURE SCENE

Making History

**CLICK & SWIPE TO VIEW IMAGES**





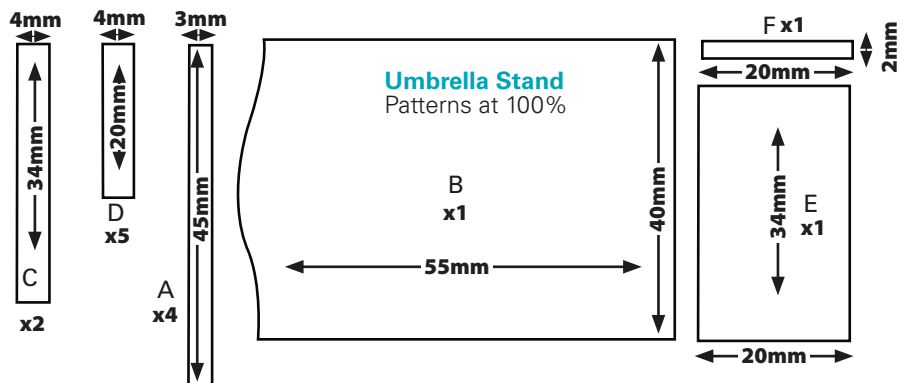
# 1940s Umbrella Stand

With over 300 issues in the library, the DHMS team have been reading through the Exact Edition archive, the new subscriber service from DHMS, providing a wealth of inspiration, ideas and projects. This month James Parker shows us how to make an umbrella stand. This simple project for a 1940s umbrella stand is ideal for illustrating how to use a right angle jig. The stand is in 1/12th scale and will sit quite nicely in your dolls house hallway.

For more information about Exact Editions turn to **PAGE 44**



4



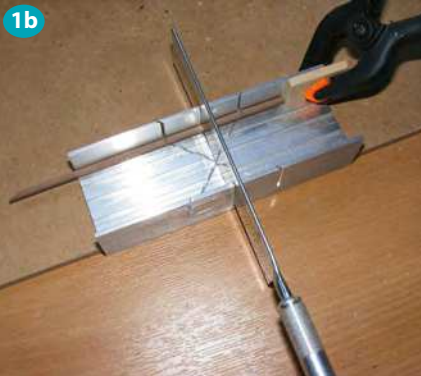
## YOU WILL NEED

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 76mm long x 25mm wide x 1.5mm thick piece of walnut
- 100mm long x 50mm wide x 2.5mm thick piece of walnut
- 254mm long x 3.96mm wide x 2.5mm thick piece of walnut
- 152mm long x 3mm square walnut
- Deluxe Materials Speed Bond PVA
- Stain and wax polish

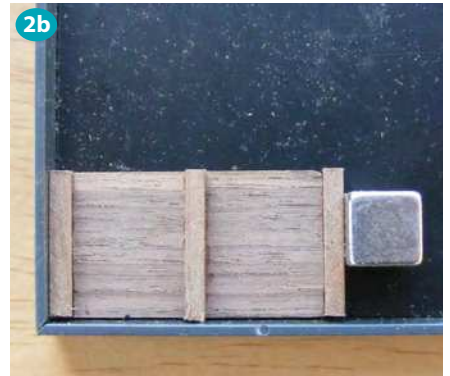
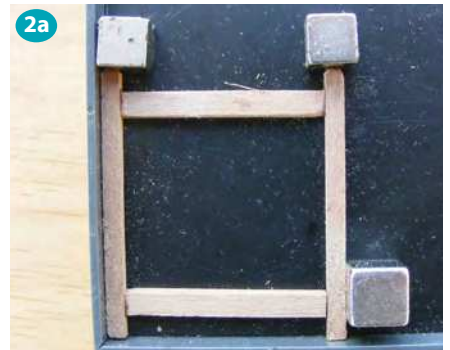
### TOOLS REQUIRED

- Right angled jig
- Hobby's E55700 sanding stick
- Hobby's 55603 flat needle file
- Hobby's X1084 25mm engineers square
- Hobby's 7015 fret saw
- Hobby's EM8728 spring clamps
- Hobby's E55666 mitre box and razor saw



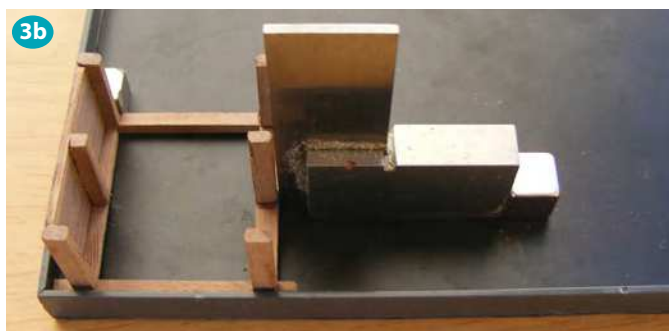
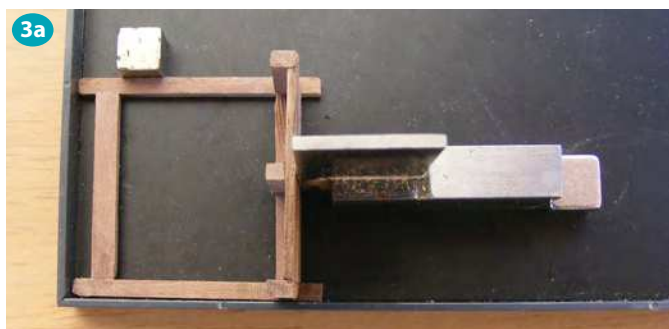
This project demonstrates how I have used the right angle jig to construct a small 1940s 1/12th scale umbrella stand.

**1** Cut out parts as per pattern. Using a fret saw cut out the shape of the back. **Photo 1a.** Using a razor saw and mitre box with a scrap piece of wood clamped to the side cut to size parts A, B, C, D and F. **Photo 1b.** With a flat needle file round off one end of each leg on all four sides.



**2** Using a right angle jig glue one part C (top rail) to the side of part A (leg) 1/8" (3mm) from the top of the rounded end. Glue part C (bottom rail) 4mm up from the bottom of the leg. Glue the second leg up to the rails. **Photo 2a** Using the right angle jig glue one part D (side rail) to each end of part E (base) flush with the sides. Glue part F (base centre spacers) in the centre of the base. **Photo 2b**





**3** Using the right angle jig and a small engineers square glue the base assembly to the bottom rail and leg sides. **Photo 3a.** Again using the right angle jig and engineers square glue the last three side rails one on each leg inline with the top rail and one to the centre of the top rail, checking that they are square. **Photo 3b.** Using three spring clamps glue the assembled unit to the part B (back) 4mm up from the base of the back. **Photo 3c.** Using the sanding stick in the tool kit, clean the stand of glue and smooth rough edges before staining or polishing. The stand is now complete. **Photo 4** 🏠



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**SAYHELLO**



# Small 1940s Bookcase

This sweet little bookcase is ideal for a child's bedroom, laden with toys, comics and school books. Paint it in a period colour to match your wallpaper, or add a dark stain as I have done, for a drab but authentic look. Make it larger for a living room or study. It also looks great in a schoolroom, or in a church with hymn books. Play around with the basic design to make the bookcase your own.

## YOU WILL NEED

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 2mm thick wood (Obeche and basswood have a nice grain)
- Sandpaper
- Glue
- Stain or paint

1

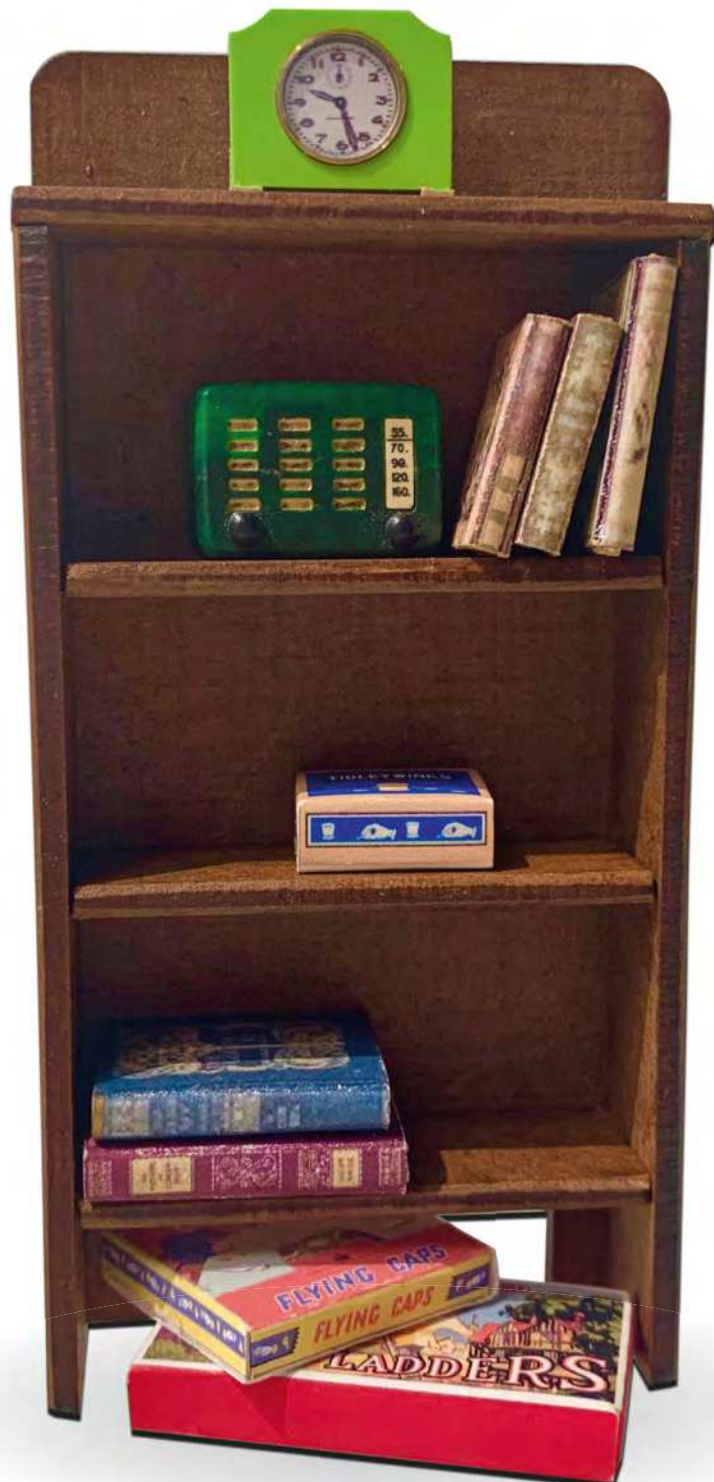


**1** Cut the back of the back of the bookcase on 2mm thick wood, measuring 75mm x 45mm. Once cut, round the two top corners using sandpaper.

2



**2** Cut three shelves each measuring 41mm x 12mm plus a top that is 45mm x 12mm. You will also need two sides each 75mm x 12mm. [PHOTO](#)





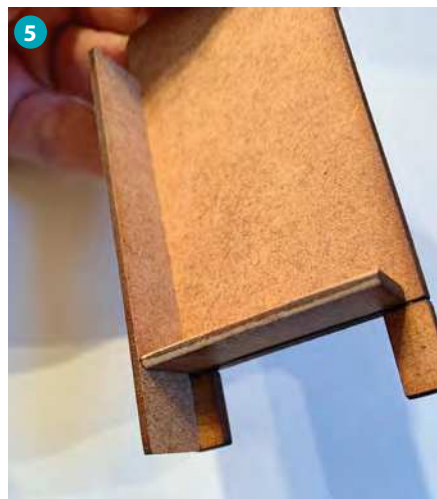
**3** Cut two back legs each 12mm x 6mm. Glue them to the bottom two corners of the bookcase back piece.

### Moi says...

"Stain your pieces before gluing although if you're painting instead, this is best done after assembly."



**4** Glue one of the sides onto the back piece, so that the bottom of the side piece is level with the bottom of the back leg. Use a right angle gluing jig to make sure everything is square.



**5** Glue a shelf along the bottom of the back piece, where the legs meet the back.



**6** Glue the other two shelves in place.



**7** Glue the other side in position. Then finally glue the top in position.

### 1940S FUNCTIONAL DESIGN CLASSICS

Functionals design in the 1940s wasn't just a fashion choice, it was a way of life during and after the Second World War where furniture was rationed and materials were in short supply. As so much man power and raw materials were needed to help in the war effort, furniture and other items were scarce, even with the introduction of the Utility Furniture Scheme (introduced in 1942, and ran until 1952) aimed at providing basic, standard items to those most in need.

The same might be said of 1940s designs in miniature, as while it is one of the more popular periods to recreate, it can be hard to source authentic items to fit a wartime home. Here are some of our top picks from the 1940s way of life into your miniature scene.

### UTILITY DROP-LEAF TABLE AND CHAIRS

Plainly finished and made of oak, the utility drop-leaf table was produced for the first Utility Furniture Scheme, which contained 20 basic items to furnish any home. Newlyweds and people who had lost their furniture in the bombings could apply to buy these items using a special docket. Kitchen chairs in this range were plain and unadorned with shorter backs than chairs before the war to save on wood. The miniature version of the table and chairs comes in a kit available from Jane Harrop.

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

Prices: Table Kit £7, chairs £10



### ENAMELWARE

Enamelware was a hugely popular, functional item for the home. Like many items it had to last throughout the war years and beyond the wear and tear of everyday life. Country Contrast has a range of miniature 1930s and 1940s enamelware which is hand-painted and specially aged and distressed to make it as realistic as possible. The range includes everything from the obligatory 1940s mop and bucket to cookware.

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

Prices: From 50p to £8.00



### INFORMATION

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



# Busy Little Bee

Fly along with Kati to make your own 1/12th scale bumblebee.

## YOU WILL NEED

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- White Pearl flower stamen (body)
- Black bead (head)
- Black thin wire (legs and antennas)
- Thin plastic bag (wings)
- PVA glue
- Scissors
- Yellow and black marker pens

## Kati's Top Tip!

*"Make a variety of insects by changing the size of the beads and the shape of the wings"*



**1** Cut an 80mm piece of black wire and fold it in half. Carefully turn the ends around a couple of times.

**2** To create the head and antennas, thread a small black bead onto the wire.



**3** Cut a 10mm length off the stamens and then push the stamen stem through the black bead.

**4** Twist the excess wire under the stamen in loops, these will be the legs, and cut to 3mm. Wrap a piece of wire under the bees neck to form two legs, one in both side and cut them in correct length.



**5** If you used white stamens, colour the stamen with yellow and black marker pens.

**6** Cut two oval-shaped wings (5mm) from thin plastic bag, and then glue in place. 🏠



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# Buzzing for Bees

Put a spring in your skep and mark this month's World Bee Day with a fun, imaginative twist on a decorative bee skep.

## YOU WILL NEED

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Ecrú polymer clay
- Acrylic paints in yellow ochre, burnt umber and cream
- Pastels in green, lemon yellow and brown
- Imm Gold tone jewellery wire
- Matte varnish
- Faux foliage
- All-purpose glue

### TOOLS REQUIRED

- Small brushes
- Needle tool
- Craft knife
- Jewellery wire cutters
- Tape measure



**1** Roll out two tubes of ecru polymer clay. One tube should measure 710mm in length and just under 4mm in diameter. The second should measure 530mm in length and 3mm in diameter.



**2** Begin forming the structure of the first bee skep by shaping one end of the 530mm tube into a circle. Keep going, adding additional circles, one on top of the other, each one slightly smaller than the last. This will create the graduated appearance of the bee skep. Repeat with the longer tube, creating a larger skep.



**3** Use a needle tool to make a small hole in the front of both skeps. Create the fun 'way in' to the larger skep by constructing a tiny skep from a 170mm length of clay, cutting a doorway. Roll a tube of clay 6mm in diameter and cut a slice 10mm in length, angled to fit snugly against the main skep and the entrance. Bake everything and allow to cool. Glue the tube to the front of the skep, with the tiny entrance on the other end. Mix yellow ochre acrylic paint with burnt umber and cream to create a light golden shade. Paint the smaller skep using this mixture and the larger skep with cream. Once dry, coat with matte varnish. Mix green grated pastel with lemon yellow and brown to create a mossy green tone and sprinkle a few patches over the skeps whilst the varnish is still tacky.



**4** Cut a short length of 1mm gold tone jewellery wire and mould into a heart shape. Glue a selection of different faux foliage and miniature leaves to both skeps to decorate before sticking the heart into position on top of the cream skep.



## INFORMATION

For more information please visit:

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# The Miniature Buzz

Bee prepared for World Bee Day (20th May) this month, discovering a hive of miniature activity.

## Nature's magicians

Able to move their wings an eye-watering 11,400 times every minute, the bee takes flight as one of nature's most talented magicians, whether that magic comes through the production of honey or as some of the most vital workers in amongst the farming and agricultural sector, their efforts in pollinating a third of the food we eat being worth some £690 million to the UK industry each year. However, there's a sting in the tale of this high value labour as these important, not to mention fascinating creatures continue to globally decline, with British bumblebees having receded hugely since the 1970s. The situation is even worse in eastern England, where 17 species of bee have now been lost to the point where they are considered extinct, and the survival of many more severely under threat. These are figures which really serve to demonstrate just how changes to habitat and climate hold many dangers for these incredibly important cogs in the wheel of nature. [Read more](#)



Honeybee Tea Set from Art of Mini





### DID YOU KNOW...

The bee predates humanity! In 2006 a bee which had been perfectly preserved in amber for a mind boggling one hundred million years was discovered in Burma.

Only female honey bees can sting

There are four stages of development for a bee

Honey bees can recognise human faces

During its lifetime, a single bee produces only 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey

◀ A slice of mini art by Emma Martinot of Paris Miniatures

▼ Erika Pitera creates a buzz in the miniature kitchen

## Busy bees

At a time when we are rightly so concerned about the future of the worldwide bee population, it was an absolute delight to discover that they remain far from endangered on the miniature scene and worktables around the world are buzzing with a heartfelt flair for imagination, variety and skill. One prime example is the talented Emma Martinot, whose work many readers will already have found themselves captivated by under her successful Paris Miniatures brand. Emma delivers that aforementioned buzz to the miniature kitchen in spades with her bee inspired brioche, which has texturing so realistic and delicate you'd be forgiven for believing it was made from the real thing, rather than polymer clay!

Also bringing a fun new angle to what is essentially a classic staple of the miniature culinary scene is Erika Pitera of The Petite Provisions Co. Offering a burst of colour with her bright, sunny designs, Erika's iced cookies, in both honey bee and bee skep designs, will instantly bring a smile to anyone's face along with a splash of year round summer to the dolls house.



## Life in the hive

Danish artisan Hanna Maria Clement is an IGMA member who impressed those in high miniature places to be awarded an IGMA Scholarship in 2017. Exhibiting at the Dukkehus Festival in Denmark this month, Hanna describes herself as a devoted miniaturist. Indeed, her love for small scale shines through her work, and amongst her specialities are miniatures with a garden

theme, including the beautiful 1/12th scale beehives she has been creating for many years. Handmade from wood, one of Hanna's designs is inspired by hives used at a local fruit farm, but another replicates a hive she discovered in a manual which she was lucky enough to be able to acquire from The Danish Beekeeper Association. A stickler for detail, Hanna also coats her bee frames with genuine beeswax!



► A hive of activity by Hanna Maria Clement

## On the wing

Following on from last month's interview with IGMA Fellow, Fanni Sándor, she continues to astonish as an undoubted star of the miniature animal and insect world, with a pair of utterly spellbinding miniature bumblebees, exquisitely sculpted from polymer clay. After baking, Fanni creates mini magic by first coating them with acrylic paint before adding a coat of powder cut cotton thread to give the bumblebees their familiar fluffy appearance, an incredible achievement when you consider you could fit quite a number of these tiny insects on a single fingernail. With antenna which have been created using nylon fibre and legs created from thin wire, these fragile looking bumblebees, measuring mere millimetres, certainly belie their sturdy construction.

Marilyn Powell, who creates a wonderful variety of different miniatures, is another brilliantly imaginative artisan who has also turned her hand to the buzz of construction, creating a delightful traditional bee skep from jute string. The bee skep has a long history dating back to medieval times, and today, in addition to helping beekeepers gather a swarm, the delight of the skep is known to many of us as a decorative item, evocative of an idyllic countryside setting. In making her skep, Marilyn glued the string on to a bell shaped object, but suggests that you could also simply use a scrunched up piece of kitchen foil, which has been covered in cling film and removed once the glue has had time to dry thoroughly. Marilyn's bees are also made from the solidity of polymer clay, with tiny wings carefully hand cut from a plastic bag. She also made a stand for the skep using obeche wood, and as the key to ensuring pieces such as these match their real-life counterparts, also spent time giving it an authentic weather-beaten appearance. ▶

► Inside one of Hanna Maria's hives

▼ Spellbinding bees by Fanni Sándor





1/12th scale Honeybee Tea Set from Janny Warnaar's Art of Mini



### Painting & decorating

However, if you don't have anywhere to put a beehive or bee skep, or even just don't have the time to tackle a project completely from scratch right now but still feel excited by the prospect of being able to mark World Bee Day in miniature, then the 1/12th scale Honeybee Tea Set from Janny Warnaar's Art of Mini offers a truly ingenious place to start! Made from resin, each piece comes unpainted, allowing you to put on your own unique stamp on a tea set which, in fact, feels to be so much more. A skep covered in tiny bees and with a honey dipper handle, the teapot alone shows a wealth of imagination. The wax candles look like honeycomb and the selection of iced cupcakes and honey dippers are delightful, ensuring the set is a worthy addition to any scene. With ideas for painting limited only by the imagination, the potential for different looks are almost endless.

### Bee in the know

With World Bee Day on the 20th of this month, the 286th anniversary of the baptism of Anton Janša, famous beekeeping pioneer, this is an excellent time to 'bee' inspired



by the wonderful hive of activity setting the miniatures world abuzz, but did you know that the honey bee also works in 1/12th scale.... kind of! Throughout a honey bee's short life it's hard work creates just 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey. When you consider the amount of sheer effort that many bees put into just a single jar, it makes you feel you'll never look at this sweet treat in quite the same way again, appreciating both their hard work and the end product all the more! 🍯



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# FAIRS DIARY

## JUNE

### 6 June

**Location:** Rheda-Wiedenbruck, Germany

**Venue:** A2 Forum, Gutersloher Strasse 100, Rheda-Wiedenbruck, D-33378

**Organiser:** 1zu12

### 7 June

**Location:** London - Antique dolls, dollshouse & toys

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

**Organiser:** Wendy's World

### 28 June

**Location:** Cobham - Antique dolls, dollshouses and toys

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

**Organiser:** Wendy's World

## JULY

### 17 July

**Location:** London

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

**Organiser:** Kensington

**Dollhouse Festival**

## SEPTEMBER

### 6 September

**Location:** London - Antique dolls, dollshouses & toys

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

**Organiser:** Wendy's World

### 6 September

**Location:** Stafford

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

**Organiser:** MGM Fairs

### 12 September

**Location:** Broxburn

**Venue:** Strathbrook Community Centre, 189A West Main Street, Broxburn, West Lothian, EH52 5LH

**Organiser:** MGM Fairs

### 19 September

**Location:** Tiverton

**Venue:** Moorhayes Community Centre, Higher Moor Square Lea Road, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6TN

**Organiser:** MGM Fairs

## 26 September

**Location:** Birmingham

**Venue:** NAEC, Stoneleigh Park, Birmingham, ,

**Organiser:** Miniatura

## NOVEMBER

### 22 November

**Location:** York Dolls House & Miniatures Fair-Winter

**Venue:** York Racecourse, Knavesmire Road, York, Yorkshire, YO23 1EX

**Organiser:** Warners Dolls House & Miniatures Fair

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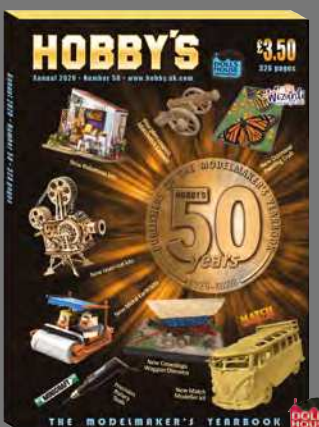
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# MINI MEETINGS

*Sandra Vickery from the Small Scale Fiddlers Club writes about how effective paper punches are for working with miniatures.*



Tina's paper punches

## Paper leaves

One of the things that never ceases to amaze me in miniature modelling is the variety of items that can be hand-crafted out of paper. Experienced modellers know paper is the miniaturist's best friend due to its versatility and ability to be cut, folded and manipulated into any shape. Add to this a clever but simple paint technique and the humble sheet of paper magically becomes any imaginable material from man-made to Mother Nature's.

Those readers following DHMS recent issues will recall that the Fiddlers are currently working on an allotment association project. This means we're busy making lots of fruit, flowers and vegetables to fill our plots and paper is a key material in our endeavours right now. And where there's organic produce to make out of paper, there's a need to dust off the mini leaf-shaped paper punches.



Beetroot leaves

## Punching for the job

All our members have one or two favourite punches but none more so than Tina who has the most impressive collection. If you want a shaped leaf for a particular plant, then Tina will have a punch that will do the job. She's a self-confessed online shopper who can't resist hunting down a new shape to add to her collection. But finding punches small enough to create miniature sized leaves is actually quite a challenge as many punches produce leaves too large for our miniature work. Tina recommends looking online and extending your searches to Europe or the USA, who tend to have a greater variety of shaped punches in the right size. Another thing to consider is what leaf shape you require. If you are looking for maple, oak and fern leaves etc there are many outlets for purchasing said mini punches on the market. Bear in mind though, if you are looking, for example, for a 'runner bean' leaf shaped punch, it's unlikely you'll find exactly that. Instead just get creative and find a standard leaf shape punch that's closest to the runner bean leaf and then make your own adaptations to the leaf produced. This can be as simple as snipping off pointy ends or adding a colour wash to your leaf.

## Nothing like the real thing

In our group workshops the Fiddlers have recently used the same shaped punch to make tomato plants, beetroots and potatoes. Although starting with the same basic shape leaf, we then customised them by trimming or adding veining and colouring to make a more realistic leaf suitable for each plant. Different plants also require you to

Rhubarb leaves



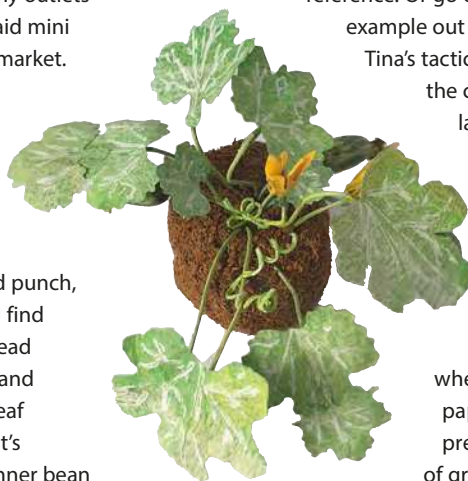
add finished leaves to wires in different formations so having a good quality photo of the real McCoy to hand is a useful reference. Or go one better and dig up an example out of the garden. This was

Tina's tactic when she was running the carrot workshop for us last year - nothing like the real thing to give you focus on the foliage!

Now I personally love punching out paper leaves - it makes the most satisfying sound

when you crunch through paper, particularly sheets pre-painted in a splodge of greens to give the texture of real leaves. Of course, there's

also the hand cut technique to try also. Ever tried to cut out rhubarb or marrow leaves by hand? The Fiddlers spent an enjoyable session doing just that in January. We even made the rhubarb sticks out of paper too that month. And once they were finished and 'planted' I bet no one would ever guess these cute little plants started out as plain white paper. It's simply magic. 🏠



Marrow leaves



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**Editor:** Carl Golder

Tel: 01778 391146

carl.golder@warnersgroup.co.uk

**Managing Editor:** Sally Stirling

Tel: 01778 392433

sally.stirling@warnersgroup.co.uk

**Advertising Sales:** Hayley Comey

Tel: 01778 392445

hayleyc@warnersgroup.co.uk

**Production Secretary:** Sue Woodgates

Tel: 01778 392062

production@warnersgroup.co.uk

**Design:** Ady Braddock

**Publisher:** Lucie Dawson

lucie.dawson@warnersgroup.co.uk

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Tel: 01778 391171

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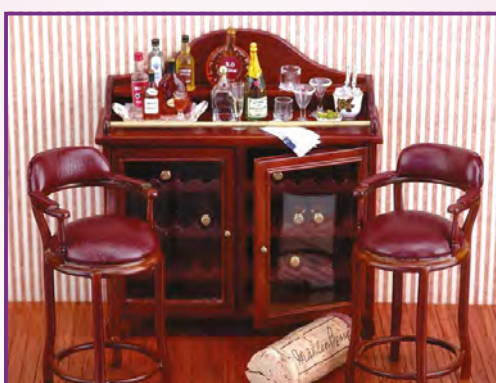


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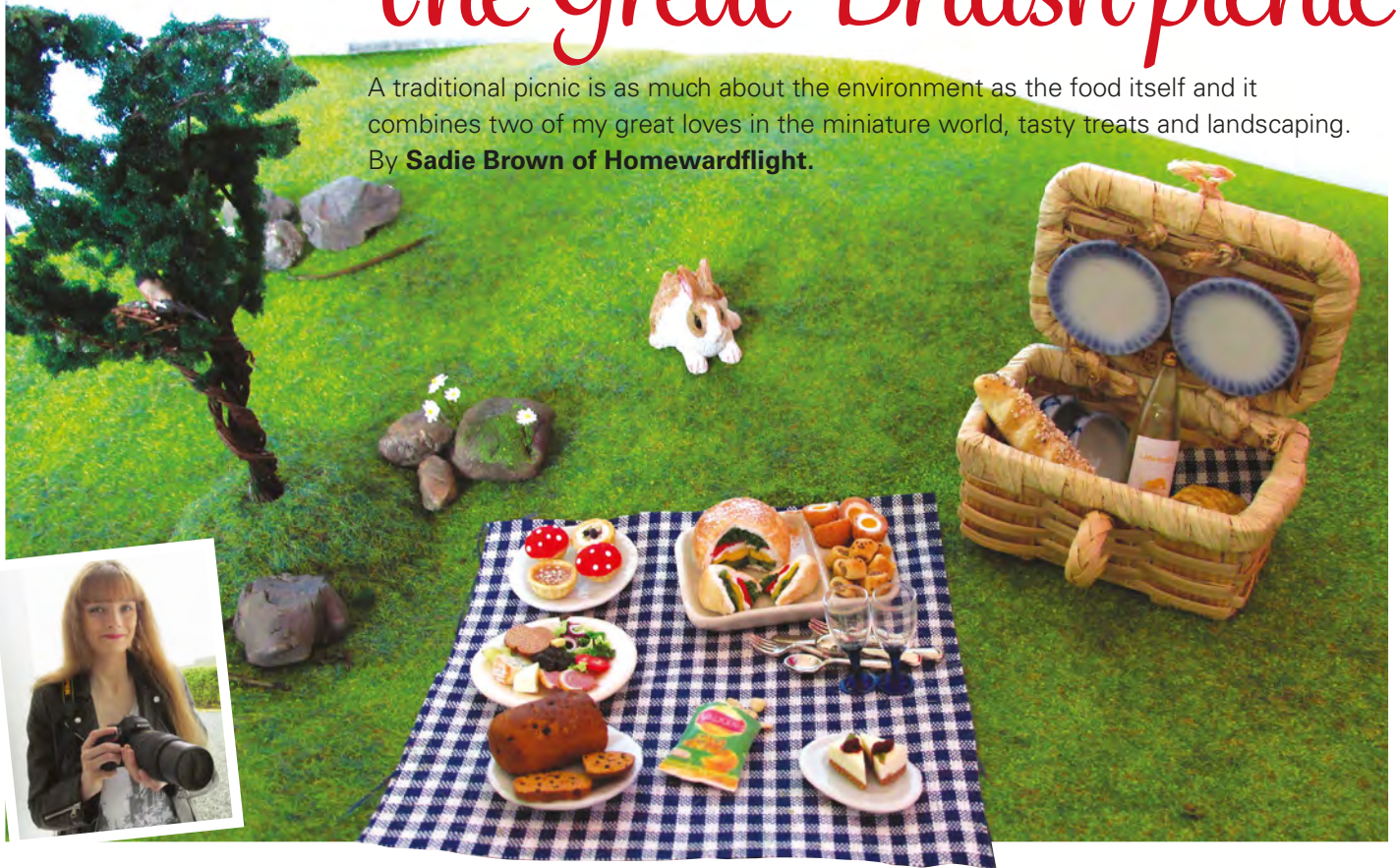
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# The Great British picnic

A traditional picnic is as much about the environment as the food itself and it combines two of my great loves in the miniature world, tasty treats and landscaping. By **Sadie Brown of Homewardflight**.



## Over the hills & far away!

Recreating nature in miniature is an experience to get lost in! Setting to work designing this spring scene I completely forgot that it was, in fact, still the middle of winter! The basis for the hilly country scene in which we're going to have our picnic is a landscape mat. The hills themselves are formed very simply with crushed brown paper positioned beneath the mat. I then gave the landscape mat a very liberal scattering of the wonderfully named hairy grass! In fact, I've completely fallen in love with the combination of the landscape mat and the hairy grass, the realistic effect is amazing! After positioning a bush where I wanted it in the scene, at the base of the hill, I piled up some hairy grass around it to give the impression of natural sloping grass.



Rocks and stones are always great fun to make! I have two methods for creating the stone effect and I've used both in the picnic scene. The base



for each one is exactly the same, sahara or ecrú coloured polymer clay which is then moulded into shape. If I'm going to add some flowers then I add a natural crevice or holes for them to 'grow' out of at this point. After that, if you're going to paint the stones with acrylic paints now is the time to bake them. If, however, you want to create the stone effect with pastels then mix grey and brown pastel and brush liberally over the stone, using a rough brush to add some texture here and there. On these I've also added some moss which is mixed brown, green and lemon yellow pastel scattered over some Sculpey Bake & Bond on the rock. There's even a bit of purple/fuchsia pink pastel mix in there too for a bit of added colour. After adding the moss they're ready for baking!

The painted rocks were painted with a mixture of white, black, raw umber and yellow ochre acrylic paints. It's the best of fun just messing about creating the right look and one thing about rocks - there's never a wrong way to do it!

Once baked, the polymer clay flowers were glued onto pieces of unwound 1/12<sup>th</sup> scale basket



painted with mixed light green and yellow acrylic paint before being glued into the rocks. Used sparingly a little bit of moss green lichen amongst the flowers can look great too.

Positioning the rocks around the base of the bush and one or two a short distance away adds to the feeling of a focal point in the landscape, in the same way that a room in a dolls house might have a fireplace. I also added a couple of rocks at the top of the hill. To make sure that they don't all roll back down again and crash into the picnic it's always a really good idea to add a little Tacky Wax to the underside.



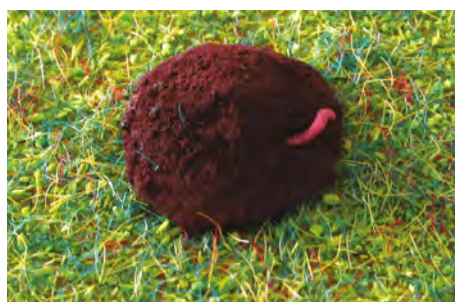


It's the tiny little details that always intrigue me, things like the flowers in the rocks or the small bullfinch attending her nest in the bush. Anyone who recalls the "Magic of Spring" garden log I made a few years ago from their online travels will remember the tiny nest hidden away amongst the foliage. Both the bird and her nest are created entirely from polymer clay, the fluffy down inside the nest is made from fibrous material (toy stuffing) which has been dipped in watery grey acrylic paint and, after drying, glue inside.

The fluffy down is always a must have detail for me since we had a duck's nest in the garden when I was a child and there are early morning memories of her leading thirteen newly hatched ducklings down to the water!



Another tiny detail is the mole hills! Again, sparked by lasting memories from childhood of excitedly looking out of the window every morning for mole hills in the fields are the two mole hills in our picnic scene. Once more created from polymer clay, they were made from a shaped piece of chocolate brown clay which I then textured in the same way you would some bread or a cake. Then I added a layer of Sculpey Bake & Bond before heaping some grated brown pastel on top. Even the tiny details have to have even tinier details within though, hence the wee worm you can just see amongst the earth on one of the mole hills! Basically, where miniatures are concerned the more detail the better.



Of course, picnics aren't all about the landscape – whether it's a glorious, sunny day, or it's so wet you're practically sitting in a puddle, the food is also quite important. A great way to bring together some of the traditional British food made during this series, such as the ploughmans lunch and the Bara Brith from issue 260, there also has to be a few new things

to take on the picnic as well. The toadstool cupcakes are made from polymer clay with the red and white icing painted on after baking with acrylic paint and the crisps are created from cream clay, flattened with the back of a fingernail and brushed on both sides with a grated golden pastel mixture. I cut the tiny 1/12<sup>th</sup> scale crisp packet open and used superglue to stick the baked crisps inside to give the impression of them tumbling out. I kept one or two loose crisps back to scatter around the packet on the picnic blanket too because, after all, picnics can be messy.



When I started out my full intention was to paint the picnic basket a lovely, rustic colour and make it look as though it had had the love and attention of a lifetime's use but I was



so taken with its natural colour once I tried a piece of the check material inside along with a few pieces of food that I decided against – it fitted in with the landscape I was creating so well just as it is! I made the label for the bottle of lemonade on the computer and printed it out – the lemon cakes in the photograph are some 1/12<sup>th</sup> scale versions I made a few years ago and which just lent themselves perfectly to being part of a brand of lemonade!

So, what else was pulled out of the picnic basket? Any self-respecting picnic needs a picnic loaf so, along with sausage rolls and scotch eggs here's a few final traditional British classics...▶





## Sausage rolls

**1** To make the sausage meat mix beige polymer clay with a bit of white along with grated grey and brown pastel. Roll the finished mixture into tubes measuring just under 2cm in length and just over 2mm in thickness.

**2** Mix some cream clay (white with a touch of sunflower yellow) and roll out to just a little bit less than 2mm in thickness before wrapping around the sausage meat, cutting away any excess.

**3** Roll the tube to a thickness of about 3mm and then slice into individual sausage rolls each measuring just under 4mm.

**4** Use a map pin to create a gap all the way around the sausage meat where it meets up with the pastry.



**5** Texture the sausage meat with a map pin.

**6** Mix grated golden ochre, dark orange cadmium and brown pastel, brushing over all the sausage rolls, giving them a lovely, golden finish.

**7** Use an old, rough textured brush to very lightly add a small amount of texture to the pastry on top of each roll before adding tiny balls of black clay (as tiny as you can manage, the ones I made were about a third of a millimetre in diameter) to each one. These are, of course, poppy seeds!

**8** After baking, finish by coating with matte varnish.



### You will need:

- ☐ Polymer clay: beige, white, sunflower yellow, black, red, sap green, sunflower yellow, lemon yellow, red, translucent, apple green, fuchsia pink and brown
- ☐ Pastels: grey, brown, golden ochre, dark orange cadmium, white, green, sunflower yellow and lemon yellow
- ☐ Map pin
- ☐ Small brushes
- ☐ Roller
- ☐ Craft Knife
- ☐ Matte varnish
- ☐ Kitchen foil
- ☐ Old butter knife
- ☐ Small stones for craft/floristry



## Scotch eggs

**1** Mix translucent clay with sunflower yellow pastel and roll into a tube measuring 5mm in diameter.

**2** Roll out some white clay to about 2mm in thickness and wrap around the yellow tube.

**3** Roll the whole thing to 4mm in diameter and cut a piece measuring 5mm in length for each egg.

**4** Mix beige clay with a pale pink clay (white mixed with just a touch of fuchsia), adding in a small amount of grey pastel to create the sausage meat. Take a piece measuring roughly



about 1½mm in thickness and wrap around the egg, pulling away too much excess at the top and bottom of the egg.

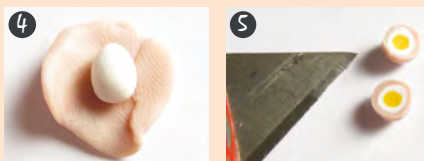
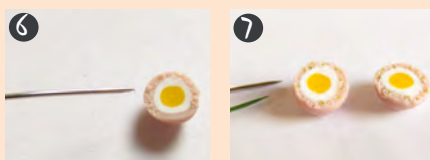
**5** Once you have a round egg shaped ball, place in the freezer for a few minutes before removing and slicing into two.

**6** Texture the surface of the sausage meat with a map pin, being careful to avoid overlapping into the egg itself.

**7** Take a little of the green used for the spinach leaves in the picnic loaf, roll out into the thinnest tube you can and take tiny little pieces, adding them to the sausage meat with a map pin before baking.

**8** Use an old butter knife to crush some tiny white craft/floristry stones into even tinier little pieces to create little breadcrumbs.

**9** Mix the crushed stones with grated dark orange cadmium pastel. Brush the outside of the scotch eggs with matte varnish and, while it's still wet, dip into the breadcrumb mixture to complete the look.





## Picnic loaf

- 1 Take a ball of plain white clay measuring about 1.5cm in diameter and shape into a round boule loaf.
- 2 Mix grated golden ochre, dark orange cadmium and brown pastel and brush liberally over the loaf, remembering to add shading here and there just like a real loaf.
- 3 Put the loaf into the freezer, allowing it to harden up for a minute or two before cutting a couple of slices from it.
- 4 Use a map pin to score a line all the way around the inside of each half of the loaf where you want the edge of the bread to be, a couple of millimetres is about right, then scoop out a good amount of clay from the inside of the scored lines. This is where the contents of the sandwich will go.
- 5 Texture the white bread round the edges with the map pin.
- 6 Starting off with some courgette (or zucchini if you're in the States!), mix translucent clay with

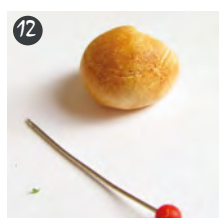
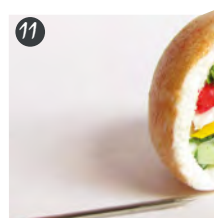
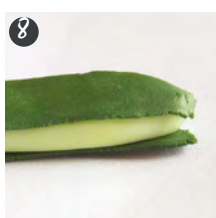
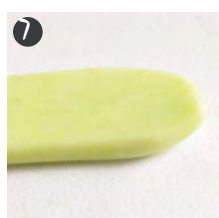
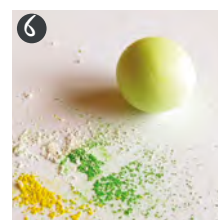
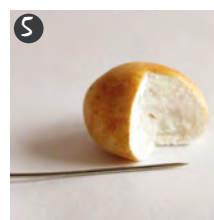
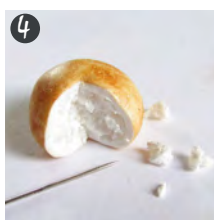
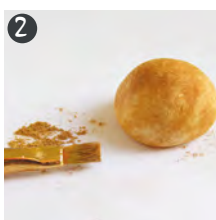
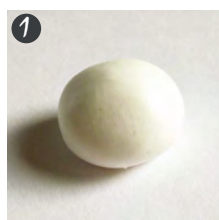


grated white, green and lemon yellow pastel. Don't colour the clay too deeply as the colour will alter naturally when baked. As always, it's a good idea to bake a test piece of clay to make sure that you're happy with the colour and that you feel it represents the flesh of a courgette.

- 7 Roll the translucent clay/pastel mixture out to 3mm in thickness.
- 8 Mix sapgreen clay with a touch of black and sunflower yellow to create the colour of the courgette skin. Roll the mixture out as thinly as possible and put a piece at either side of the translucent mix.
- 9 Gather together the other colours of clay needed for the roasted vegetables: plain white for the mozzarella, red mixed with just a touch of black for the red pepper, lemon mixed with an

equal amount of sunflower yellow for the yellow peppers and, finally, for the spinach leaves, mix sapgreen, black, apple green and brown clay.

- 10 Roll out the yellow, red and white clay, pulling off uneven small pieces. Cut uneven strips of the courgette as well. For the spinach leaves, take small pieces of the green mix clay, flatten with the back of a fingernail, peel off your work surface with a map pin and pile on top of one another.
- 11 Layer the items inside the scooped out bread in the order, from bottom to top, of: courgette, yellow pepper, mozzarella, red pepper and spinach leaves.
- 12 Using the map pin, very carefully score a line all the way around the outside of the loaf to create the appearance of the top having been cut off. Also make a matching scored line across the fluffy bread on the inside of the loaf.
- 13 Finally, before baking, use a piece of kitchen foil to add some texture to the top of the loaf and sprinkle with grated white pastel.



### Take a slice!

To make the picnic loaf slices, score a line round where you want to remove the bread and scoop or cut away. Texture and finish the top in the same way as the loaf itself but then bake the empty slice before adding a touch of Bake & Bond to the inside and loading with filling. Finally, return to the oven to bake the contents.



### Suppliers list

Bush, Jarvis landscape mat and Jarvis Hairy Grass "Spring mix" all from The Dolls House Emporium

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

Picnic basket, blanket, glasses, cutlery, ceramic plates and bowls, "bag of crisps" and rabbit from Tumdee Dollshouse Miniatures

[www.tumdee-dollshouse-miniatures.co.uk](http://www.tumdee-dollshouse-miniatures.co.uk)

### Information

Visit the new Homewardflight website

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