

DollHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

£4.99 March 2021 Issue 322

TOP TIPS,
PROJECTS,
INSPIRATION
& MORE!

EVERYTHING AMAZING IN THE MINI WORLD!



MINIATURE, BUT MIGHTY GRAND!

BUILDING PARADISE



EXCEPTIONAL ARTISANS



A GOLDEN AGE



UNFORGETTABLE BUILDS



PRACTICALLY PERFECT



PLUS

- WE DISCOVER BRAND NEW MINIATURISTS ● QUICK MAKES
- MAKE A MINI CAKE ● EXPERT ADVICE ● DETAILED PROJECTS
- YOUR CHANCE TO WIN ● READER PROJECTS ● INTERVIEWS

EASY TO FOLLOW STEP BY STEP PROJECTS FOR ALL SKILLS LEVELS



Stacey's Miniature Masonry



Everything you
need to
bring your Dolls
house to life...
Real Brick, Stone,
Slate & Marble,
Roofing, Cladding,
Flooring, Paving &
Building Materials

**Your fully
stocked
Miniature
Builders Yard**

Photo by kind permission
Sean Valentine

WWW.MINIATUREBRICKS.COM

SPEND £200 FREE DELIVERY WORLDWIDE



www.facebook.com/miniaturebricks



[Twitter.com/miniaturebricks](https://twitter.com/miniaturebricks)

01243 681240

MINIATUREBRICKS@GMAIL.COM

We offer products
in a range of scales
12th, 19th, 24th & 48th
Please email or call for a
price list

WELCOME

to the March edition!

We're thrilled to be able to introduce new miniaturists every issue and this edition is no exception. Want to see the ultimate in carpentry? Oh and in miniature scale? We thought so! This edition kicks off with a look at the undeniable talent of David Poole of Beith Miniatures who creates such wonderful pieces. Turn to page seven to marvel at David's skills.

If fashion is your thing don't miss our question and answer session with Patrizia Santi on page 28. Patrizia works with leather to create beautiful pieces worthy of catwalk fame. Sarah Jane Homes is another miniaturist whose work we are excited to share! SJ, as she's known to friends, focuses on modern miniature pieces including wonderful miniature geodes we all added to our wish lists! Check out her work from page 13.

Cindy Coons is a name you're not going to forget anytime soon. Be prepared to be amazed at her incredible dollhouse, packed full to the rafters of wonderful pieces each room is wonderfully presented. Find out more on page 18 where Cindy talks to contributor Moi Ali. Moi also interviews Melissa Sipma in this issue, creator of furniture used by miniaturists around the world. Melissa has also created an exclusive project just for readers of DHMS on page 58!

Not been able to get away recently? Why not immerse yourself in the sun-kissed magic of Cycladic architecture with Andreas Rousounelis on page 43.

Inspired to get making? Choose from an artist's scene, wedding cake, pub accessories or another part in our garden series! If you need some help don't forget to check out Bea Broadwood's top tips on page 52. The brains behind Petite Properties offers invaluable advice for your projects every issue! We've also brought back a free gift this issue in the form of free cut-outs – books! Happy making!

Happy crafting!

The DHMS team

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

Sadie Brown, Moi Ali, Candy Chappill, Bea Broadwood, Darren Scala, Melissa Sipma and Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel.



If you're reading the online version of this magazine, keep an eye out for these symbols, they will show you that there this bonus extra content you can view, watch or listen too!

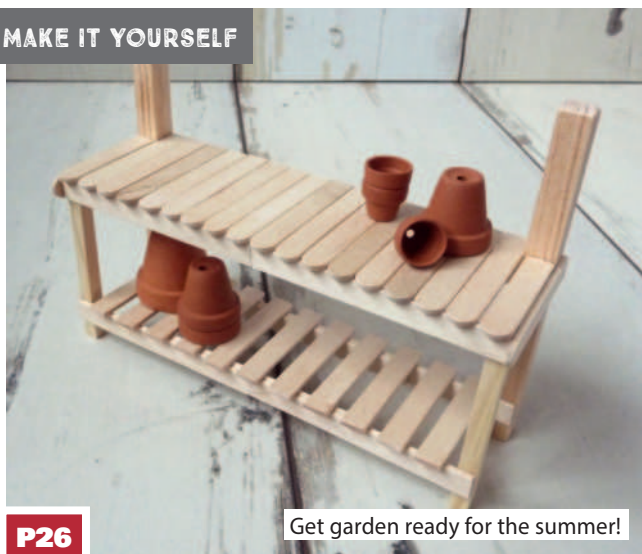
BE INSPIRED



P17

Musical-inspired makes!

MAKE IT YOURSELF



P26

Get garden ready for the summer!

THE FINISHING TOUCHES!



P48

Fully stock your pub scene!



Join us

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



Follow us

[@DHMSMagazine](https://twitter.com/DHMSMagazine)



Share your miniatures

[@Dolls_House_Minature_Scene](https://www.instagram.com/Dolls_House_Minature_Scene)



Let us inspire you

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

INSIDE YOUR MARCH 2021 ISSUE...



18



36



54

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

Regulars and Reviews...

- 06 The dollhouse whisperer** ▶ 
In his second article for DHMS, Darren Scala highlights how miniatures can bring people together.
- 17 Caught on camera**
Check out music in miniature by makers of all skills levels in our roundup of our favourite social posts!
- 41 The whole kit & caboodle**
Moi Ali explores the content of a kit containing pretty spring bulbs and offers you the chance to win!
- 52 At home with the Broadwoods**
Bea Broadwood of Petite Properties exclusively shares her expert advice, opinions and tips in response to questions asked by the modelling community.
- 63 What's in the April issue?**
A look at the content you won't want to miss including fascinating interviews, features and more

Exclusive Projects...

- 26 Gardener's delight**
The third in an eight-part series creating a greenhouse and accessories from Candy Chappill. This issue: creating a potting bench.
- 35 Quick make project: Vintage sign**
Knock up a vintage bread sign for practically no dough with this quick make project that can easily be adapted to suit your personal build.
- 36 Spring wedding cake** ▶ 
Let's get ready for a spring wedding with this miniature floral cake with pink roses and a beautiful swirly buttercream effect without using any special materials, just polymer clay.
- 38 Artistic licence**
After an inspiring visit to Rembrandt's house, Moi Ali's project is essential for any gallery or hobby painter's scene.
- 48 The pub project** ▶ 
Fancy building your own boozer? In the third and final instalment Ruth details how to create the perfect finishing touches to your very own bar!
- 58 Shabby chic shelving**
Following on from her interview on page 38, enjoy this project by Melissa in the form of a shabby chic shelving unit explained in simple steps.

Turn to
PAGE 62
for free cut-outs!
A delightful
selection of
old books!

Collections and Features...

- 07** **A golden age ▶**
Explore the work of exceptionally talented miniature woodworker David Poole and his exquisite carpentry skills. 
- 13** **We discover: Sarah Jane Holmes ▶**
Turn to page 13 to find out more about SJ, talented creator of modern miniature marvels. 
- 18** **Insta identities: Cin and the Mini City ▶**
Moi Ali chats with Cindy Coons from Connecticut whose beautiful dolls house is packed full of homely detail and will both delight and impress you. 
- 27** **Ask Moi**
Miniaturist Moi comes to a reader's rescue with her expert recommendation.
- 28** **We discover: Patrizia Santi**
Mix together style and talent and you'll get the sort of miniatures Patrizia Santi creates! We talked to the Italian miniaturist to find out more about these stunning mini makes, created with incredible craftsmanship.
- 31** **Going Dutch ▶**
Find out more about the star attraction at Rembrandt's home, a fully arcuate miniature version, the work of 'Mrs Dolls House' aka Rika van Nellestijn. 
- 43** **Building an island paradise ▶**
Immerse yourself in the sun-kissed magic of Cycladic architecture with Andreas Rousounelis. 
- 54** **The art of laser cut kits ▶**
Moi Ali talks to the talented Melissa Sipma, creator of kits used by miniaturists around the world. 
- 60** **Reader project: Steve Milson ▶**
Steve Milson shares the inspiration and detail behind his lockdown castle project. 
- 12** **Free blog content**
Visit the website for more exciting features, projectsinterviews and more!



HOW TO ENTER... ENTERING OUR GIVEAWAYS

FOR A CHANCE TO WIN IS SIMPLE, VISIT
www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk

The closing date for all entries is
31st March 2021. Good luck!

THE SUBS ZONE

LOVE MAKING
MINIATURES?

TURN TO PAGE 42
TO FIND OUT MORE!

5 reasons
to never miss
an issue!

REMINDE YOURSELF WHY
WE'RE THE BEST ON PAGE 24

18 TOP TIPS: PROJECTS, INSPIRATION & MORE!

43 BUILDING PARADISE

13 EXCEPTIONAL ARTISANS

28 PRACTICALLY PERFECT

07 A GOLDEN AGE

18 UNFORGETTABLE BUILDS

PLUS WE DISCOVER BRAND NEW MINIATURISTS • QUICK MAKES • MAKE A MINI CAKE • EXPERT ADVICE • DETAILED PROJECTS • YOUR CHANCE TO WIN • READER PROJECTS • INTERVIEWS

EASY TO FOLLOW STEP BY STEP PROJECTS FOR ALL SKILLS LEVELS



The Dollhouse Whisperer

Darren Scala



In his second piece for DHMS, Darren Scala highlights how miniatures can bring people together.

I'm a miniatures empath; Some may call me a dollhouse whisper. I'm able to guide, manage and calm collectors and their families once the important decision has been made to sell a treasured collection. I also connect collections with collectors to ensure that a prized assortment of miniatures find a "happy new home" where they can delight and be fully appreciated while honoring the memories the original owners.

Miniatures are so often misunderstood and dismissed as "toys" or mere "playthings" and sellers want to ensure that their estates are handled with the proper care and respect they deserve. Through the process of learning about the collectors and their collections, I find out about their specific passions, their favorite artists and where they made their discoveries. I ask questions and create an emotional connection while developing strong relationships with my clients, building

trust and providing comfort in knowing that their collections will end in the right hands.

A few years ago, I worked with the family of a miniature collector. I learned that the collector was born in Philadelphia, was the wife of a prominent businessman and that she spent over 50 years putting together her collection. I discovered that a portion

◀ Confectionery heaven



▼ Fine metal work

of her collection was gifted and exhibited in an East Coast museum and that it appeared on the cover of a miniatures magazine. It was terrific to meet with the granddaughter and great granddaughter to review the collection and talk about bringing it to market. They were excited to know that I would care for it as much for it as their grandmother did.

▼ Incredible leather work



The balance of the collection consisted of, among other objects, miniature metal, pottery, flowers, and a pair of oversized, hand-crafted, antique hardwood secretaries. Through research, I found the original gallery in New York City which handled the sale of the piece and discovered that it was quite a rare object. When I began the auction, I connected with a buyer who had been looking for a similar piece for a long time and was thrilled when she discovered one had existed. She was overjoyed as the winning bidder!

▼ A mini Easter



More recently I connected with a woman who was handling the estate of her sister who had passed several years ago. Her sister was an avid collector with a passion for food miniatures and had commissioned and purchased an extensive assortment of fine scaled polymer clay bakery and confectionary pieces. This included individual cakes and cookies as well as vignettes overflowing with scrumptious treasures created by artists like Mary Broaddus and Kim Saulter. My client expressed how delighted she was that her sister's collection would be treasured, cared for and loved as much as her sister loved them. I'm still working on finding new homes for this wonderful collection!

I do love the miniatures world but what I think I love most is how it can bring people together through a shared love of tiny objects and respect for the craft. 🏠



INFO

For more information about Darren visit:
www.dthomasfineminatures.com
where you can access webinars and more!

▼ Cooking up a treat





▲ Laying your cards on the table

A Golden Age

David Poole of Beith Miniatures introduces us to a fascinating era of furniture design.

Designs on the future

David Poole has carved out a reputation for miniature excellence, with a focus on the designs of the Georgian and Regency period. His furniture brings to life an age of exemplary craftsmanship, showcasing not only his own talent but also that of those who came before him. Creating balsawood models as a child and time spent building model aircraft during his twenties set David in excellent stead when his wife, Sarah's uncle, a cabinet maker and teacher, volunteered to help him pursue an interest in cabinet making in the mid-nineties. Teaching him the skills which [DHMS](#) ►



▲ Can you spot the individually crafted draughts?

▼ Hitting the right note!



Inspired by history

It wasn't until around a decade or so later when David founded Beith Miniatures, the name now synonymous with his work. David and Sarah are familiar faces at miniatures shows and like so many of us are hoping to return to the Miniatura and Kensington shows this year. Despite being the 'name' behind

the talent, it's clear from talking to David that Beith Miniatures is very much a partnership with Sarah, and never more so than when sourcing historical inspiration for new pieces, all of which are based on full size counterparts. Both books and visits to stately homes have seen the couple discover pieces which hold that instant draw, demanding they be replicated in 1/12th scale. One such piece was the Polish draughts and backgammon board which David says he and Sarah fell in love with during a trip to a stately home. David's handmade draught pieces leave you in no doubt of his commitment to even the smallest detail. "Sometimes the process is the other way 'round. We decide we want a particular piece of furniture, say a desk, in the house and then search through books, catalogues, magazines and of course the internet until we see one that we like," says David. "In all cases the first piece made goes into our dolls' house so everything I make has to fit in with our, or more specifically Sarah's, vision of the interior of the house."

lay behind this centuries old craft, David was also in the process of building a dolls' house for Sarah, something which came in very handy once space in their by then very well furnished home began to find itself at a premium. "Fortunately as I was running out of ideas and space for the full sized furniture the dollshouse project had reached the stage of needing furnishing," recalls David, who in addition to skills he was taught by his uncle-in-law, also attended courses by John Davenport, David Hurley and Geoff Wonnacott, some of the top names in miniature woodwork he can now count himself amongst. "I didn't find it too difficult moving over to small scale. I'd designed small intricate scientific instruments for many years so thinking and designing to scale comes naturally."

The first free standing miniature David created for Sarah's dollshouse was a kitchen dresser which has stood the test of time to remain in the house to this day. "Although a more utilitarian piece than most of my later furniture I was still able to try out techniques such as jointing and moulding. My first 'posh' piece was a writing table which still sits in the dollshouse hallway."

"The piano is not so unusual, but it wins on the complexity stakes. The keys are all individually made and if you look closely at a keyboard you will see that the white keys are not symmetric and not all the same!"

It is the elegant simplicity of 18th and early 19th century furniture which David believes gives the craftspeople of

the era their edge, the refined sophistication drawing him to the style. "The designers of that period seemed to be able to make something beautiful without over complicating it," he says. "I also like the

colour and grain of mahogany which was the favoured wood of the period. Of course, Edwardian furniture is also very elegant but that is partly because they drew on Regency period furniture for their inspiration."

The key to good design

However, aesthetic simplicity doesn't equate to simplicity of construction.

David's finest pieces include a square piano and 'Rudd's Dressing Table', the metamorphic dressing table made for the infamous 18th century Courtesan, Margaret Caroline Rudd. From the extensive research involved, to the actual construction of the pieces themselves, it took David around a full year to create each of these miniature replicas.



▲ This beautiful music stand is one of David's earliest designs



▲ Mrs Rudd's Dressing Table



▲ Enjoying the finer things in life with David's cheese & wine kit!



► Life before technology! The perfect place to write a letter

Whilst exactly how he created the square piano's keys remains a closely guarded secret, he does admit that the piece just pips Margaret Rudd's dressing table to the post when it comes to the most unusual or complex design he has ever worked on. "The piano is not so unusual, but it wins on the complexity stakes. The keys are all individually made and if you look closely at a keyboard you will see that the white keys are not symmetric and not all the same," says David. "It also has a Venetian Swell mechanism over the soundboard and strings operated by a knee lever under the piano. It is closed by gravity alone and

in 1/12th scale the shutters of the swell mechanism are very thin and light. This means a surprisingly delicate mechanism is required." It is though, of no surprise that David cites this beautiful piano as one of the high points of his career to date.

The right dimension

As we've already gathered, choosing a piece to replicate in miniature is only a starting point as David begins the process of bringing the design down to size. If he doesn't have the measurements of the full-size counterpart to work from and is working solely from images, or perhaps drawings which pre-date photography, then this isn't always straightforward. "I have to find dimensions that I can estimate, for example the height of a desk, and scale all the other dimensions to that. Not so simple if the photo is taken 



▼ Stepping up to the miniature challenge





was told that finishing could take as long as the construction, it's what gives the furniture its final look. I'm aiming for a smooth surface with a sheen, not a bright shine."

Stepping up

Once the prototype is complete and having made a series of notes as he worked, David ploughs on in pursuit of the perfect design. One of the most recent pieces to leave David's studio is an interesting piece which provided him with plenty of complexities. A library stool which transforms to become a set of steps, it's also a design which he believes wouldn't pass muster for today's health and safety standards! "Deciding we wanted one, it took a long time to find a real example of one. Having designed and made it in miniature I can understand why!" David admits. He also concludes that its fundamental flaw is essentially what probably made it seem like an ingenious idea in the first

from an angle." David then carefully examines the fine details of the piece, deciding if any given element should be replicated precisely, pondering potential alterations or additions. He suggests a motif for example for added interest. "I don't start out intending to make exact copies, I want the final piece to look right, to be in the style of the period and to be pleasing to the eye."

Only once David is happy with the overall design does he commit to building a prototype. Rich mahogany, so beloved of the late Georgian and Regency era thought of as cabinet makers' Golden Age, is David's wood of choice. "I only use a limited number of woods. Antique mahogany for the main carcasses, boxwood or sycamore for stringing, and a few other veneers for inlaid motifs. I like mahogany for its colour, grain and reflective properties when finished. It's also fairly easy to work with although its grain can present problems. This is probably why it was so popular in the Regency period." Prior to fitting the piece together and adding those important touches such as handles and hinges, the finishing element of a piece is hugely time intensive, involving filling the course grain of the mahogany and much lacquering and sanding. As David talks, it becomes clear just how important this is and any temptation to rush this part of the process would be ill advised. "When I was learning I

▲ Far removed from the modern office!



▲ Not easy to achieve, this serpentine front sideboard shows David's exceptional skill

▼ The Canterbury on the left was originally designed for storing sheet music.



instance, the steps stored within its confines. "The restrictions on its size, because it's a stool, and the requirement for everything to fit in the seat's body actually mean it's not terribly good as a set of steps. The individual steps have to be very narrow, shallow and unevenly spaced. This is true of the original, not just the miniature."

David's portfolio offers an insight into the designs of an era which may be very different to our own but have as much to offer the homes of today as they did during preceding centuries. His work continues to play a huge part in turning a golden age of design into a golden age of miniatures for the 21st century. 🏠



INFO

For further information about David's work contact Beith Miniatures by email: miniatures@beith.plus.com

DELPH MINIATURES

Specialist U.K. Makers and Retailers
of 1/12th Modern Miniatures
direct to the public since 1991.



WE MAKE OUR
MINIATURES WITH
PASSION,
JUST FOR YOU!

P.S.
THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING DELPH
THROUGHOUT THE LAST
YEAR TOGETHER WE'LL
CARRY ON MINI-ING!



BUY DIRECT from
www.delphminiatures.co.uk
E-mail : info@delphminiatures.co.uk
Tel: 01274 882391

Berkshire Dollhouse & Model Co.

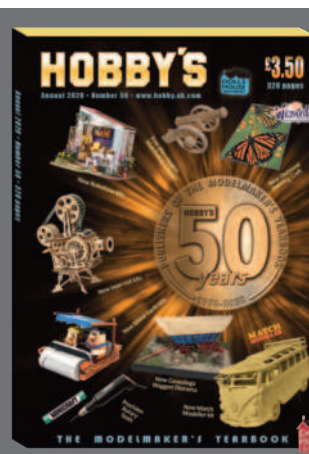


We have an extensive range
of 1:12th and 1:24th scale
dolls houses, furniture and
accessories including many
exclusive, handcrafted
items. We stock a huge
range of DIY, lighting, tools,
humbrol paints, fimo and
reference books.

COME AND VISIT US AT OUR SHOP

Opening times: 10 - 5pm Mon-Sat & 10 - 4pm Sun

The Old Firestation, 9 Wargrave Road
Twyford, Berks RG10 9NY Tel: 01189 343700
www.berkshiredollhousecompany.co.uk



HOBBY'S

ANNUAL 2020 • ISSUE NO. 50
£3.50 P&P FREE • 324 PAGES

58 pages of Doll House products,
everything possible for the Doll House
hobbyist, dolls, lighting, furniture,
house plans, kits and pre-built.

Our range includes Airfix, a full range of
Crafts, Mould Making and Casting, a huge
range of Tools, Boats and Ship models, Hobby
books, Glues, Building Plans and a massive
range of Model making supplies.

Hobby's Knights Hill Square,
London SE27 0HH

020 8761 4244 mail@hobby.uk.com
Visit: www.hobby.uk.com

THE MODELMAKER'S YEARBOOK

Miniatura®

Important Announcement

Spring 2021 Show Cancelled

Due to the Covid-19 situation we have decided to put the
good health of all our customers first and cancel the Spring
event. We hope that being sensible now will give us the best
chance to run a show in the Autumn. So if all goes well we
will see you at:

**NEXT
EVENT**

Autumn Miniatura
Stoneleigh Park NAEC
2nd & 3rd October 2021

Support independent craftspeople
Visit Miniatura Online!

You'll find thousands of miniatures at:

www.miniatura.co.uk

Dedicated Search Engine

Exclusive Articles

Picture Profiles

Exhibitor Links



MGM Fairs

We have taken the decision to cancel all shows till
June 2021, hoping the new vaccines will make a
difference by then.

Please check out our website www.mgmfairs.co.uk
or go to our Facebook page, to find out
more about our fairs later in the year.

Gail Tucker

Fair Organiser

enquiries@mgmfairs.co.uk

DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

BRAND IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A MAGAZINE

www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk

Email-newsletter, live links, videos and picture galleries in our digital publications
plus social media

For more information on bespoke advertising opportunities please contact Hayley Comey on
01778 392445 or email hayleyc@warnersgroup.co.uk

Want more great miniatures content?



INSPIRATION
TOP TRENDS AND IDEAS

Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel



TIPS & TRICKS
LEARN FROM THE BEST

Candy Chappill



STEP BY STEPS
EASY TO FOLLOW



TECHNIQUES
BOOST YOUR SKILLS

Kati Kainulainen



PROJECTS
FOR YOU TO MAKE

Carol Clarke



INTERVIEWS
EXPERT ADVICE

Bera Broadwood

Visit
craftmag.co/dollsblog

AND IF THAT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH...

Make sure you sign up to our email newsletter where we bring you even more miniatures content, complete with alerts for new blogs and competitions, plus reader offers and discounts!

Just click on the email option and sign up... so easy!

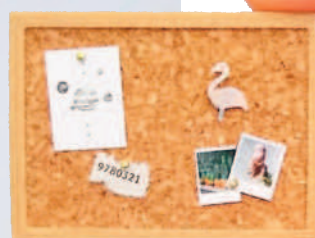
www.craftmag.co/signup



We discover:

SARAH JANE HOLMES

Sarah Jane, or SJ to most, is originally from the UK's beautiful Lake District but now resides in the city of Nottingham with her partner Jamie and labrador Murphy. Read on to find out how SJ came to be such a talented creator of modern miniature marvels. [Read more](#)





“I absolutely love making miniatures as it allows me to use a whole set of skills I've learned - the only limit is imagination.”



How long have you been making miniatures?

I first started dabbling in making small things about 18 months ago and started selling miniatures on Etsy in April 2020. I worked as a footwear designer for seven years, which taught me a lot about CAD, materials and product construction. I needed to move back to doing something more hands-on, as that's when I'm happiest. After being inspired by Instagram worthy dollshouses, I've taken the plunge. I absolutely love making miniatures as it allows me to use a whole set of skills I've learned - the only limit is imagination.

What got you first interested in making miniatures?

When I was about eight years old I made a miniature stage with lights and microphone stands out of cardboard and foil for my imaginary band. I've always found movie sets and stop motion animation fascinating, especially the 'sketch models' which are miniature versions of sets to use as design concepts. They're so intricate (and cute!) - I could study them for hours. After stumbling upon an Instagram account for a modern dollhouse I had a kind of 'light bulb moment' and have been hooked since.



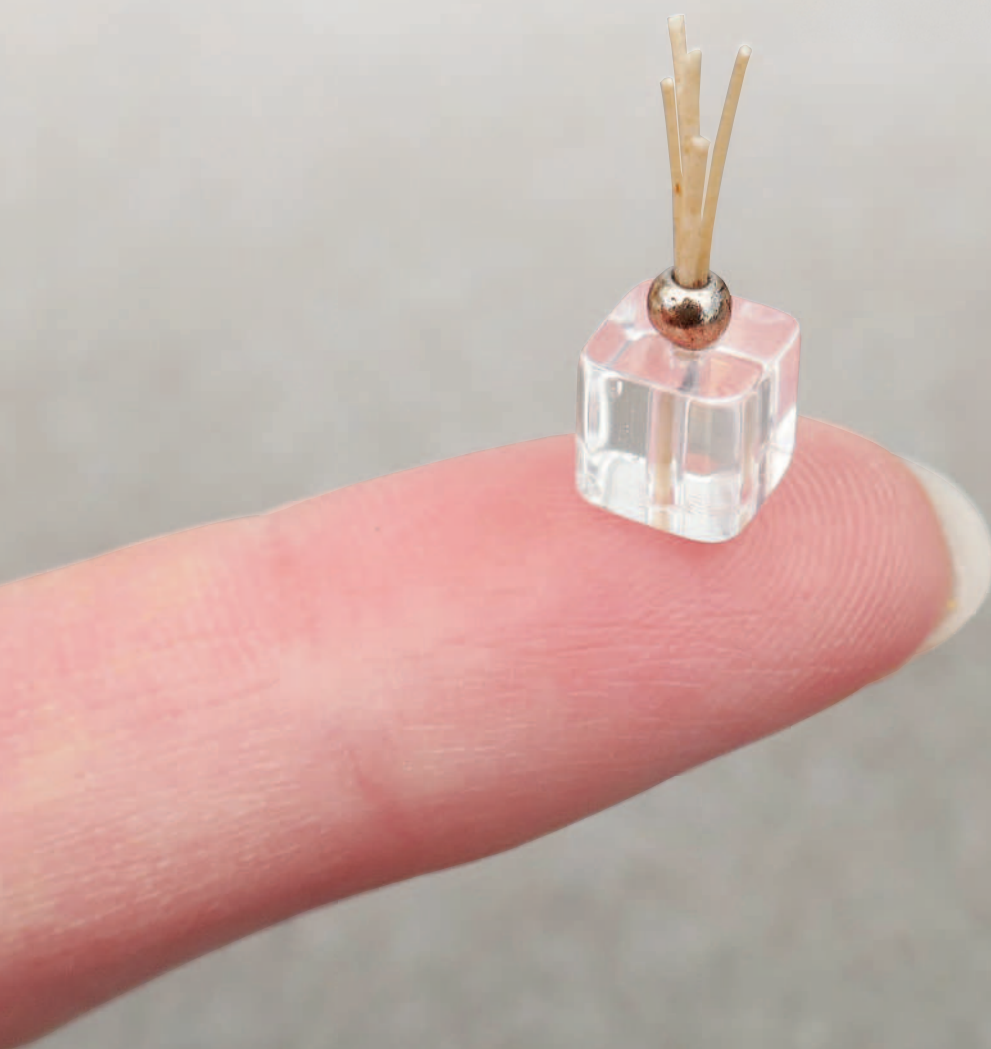
“A dollhouse feels like a really fun way to express creativity through interior design without the commitment of actually renovating a house.”

What sort of miniatures do you make and why these in particular?

My favourite scale to work with is 1/12th scale, it's small enough that everything looks adorable but not so small that details get lost. I make contemporary furniture and home accessories and try to create things that I'd ideally like in my real house. A dollhouse feels like a really fun way to express creativity through interior design without the commitment of actually renovating a house.

Where do you get your inspiration from?

I get my inspiration from real-life interiors and social media platforms, there are so many wonderful ideas out there and I love to reimagine them on a small scale. Sometimes inspiration comes from a nice material or component and I go from there. [▶](#)



Tell us how you go about creating your work?

I normally start with a rough sketch for proof of concept and to work out the basic dimensions if it's a piece of furniture, or draw up paper patterns if it's textile based. I can then start the process of trial and error, tweaking and altering, until I am happy with the desired outcome. I often start something and end up with ten different ideas for how I could finish it, so have to reign myself in a bit. If I'm making something more organic (for example using polymer clay) I just dive straight in and try it out.

Do you have a favourite material to work with such as wood etc?

Picking a favourite is hard but that is exactly why I love making miniatures. One day I may prefer textiles so I'll make a rug, another I might create a tiny painting or build some furniture. Often it's the combination of different materials that I find incredibly satisfying.

Do you have a favourite project?

I make tiny ornamental 'geodes' out of polymer clay, they're my favourite because they're just so fun, plus I can go wild with colour & glitter!

Where do you make your miniatures?

Do you have a dedicated craft room?

The spare bedroom in our house is a dedicated craft room, this is where I do the majority of my work, although I have to do all my spray painting in the garden shed.

Do you have a top tip you would like to share with the readers?

Be creative! I have found that a lot of things that you might consider to be household rubbish can be turned into other things, for example toothpaste lids make excellent miniature plant pots!

What do you do with the miniatures you make?

I sell the majority of items I make through my Etsy shop. Some items I've found to be far too time consuming to sell, so keep those for any mini photoshoots I might be doing. 🏠



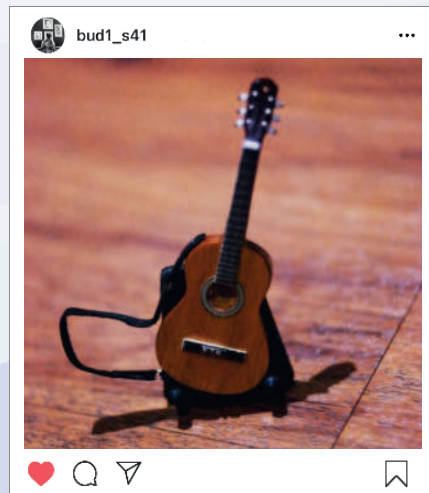
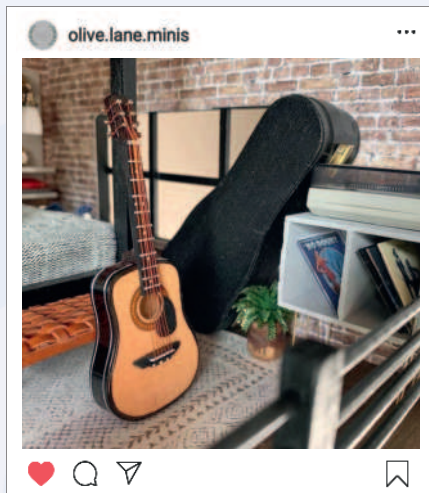
INFO

To view more of SJ's work visit:

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/SJMakesUK

Caught @n Camera

The DHMS team have been scrolling through their Instagram feeds to keep an eye on all going on in the miniature world across the globe. This month we thought we'd marvel at some of the incredible miniature musical themed scenes and instruments out there!



Follow our page for more inspiration @Dolls_House_Minature_Scene

If you would like us to notice your work, don't forget to tag us or add the hashtag #dollhouseandminiaturescene



Instagram Identities:

CINDY COONS OF CIN AND THE MINI CITY



Cindy Coons

This month
Moi Ali chats with
Instagram sensation
and miniaturist
Cindy Coons from
Connecticut, USA.



Queen Anne dollhouse exterior

Cindy Coons told me about the day that changed her life, some two decades ago. "Not far from where we live was the cutest little dollhouse shop. Every time we passed by I would say to my husband Ray 'I really want to go in there one day.'" Finally, that 'one day' arrived. Cindy picks up the story again. "Ray's brother Grant and his wife came to visit. One afternoon we passed the cute little dollhouse shop and I repeated my wish. As we were driving back home, Grant pulled into the parking lot in front of the shop, announcing 'C'mon, you always wanted to go inside. Let's go!' My life has never been the same!"

Having examined almost everything in the store, she fell in love with a pink Queen Anne Victorian-style dolls house at the front of

the shop. "I called Ray over to show him. She wasn't decorated yet, but looking around, it seemed you could buy everything you'd need to finish her. I had never seen anything like it! Ray just laughed at me and asked what I was going to do with a dollhouse." Cindy left the store empty-handed.

This is where the romance starts. "That Christmas, after we had opened all our gifts, Ray went down to the basement and brought up two very large boxes. They were very long, but only about three feet wide and six to eight inches high. I had no idea what he was up to. He then handed me a box and said 'You'll need these.' The box was heavy and it rattled. What the heck? It was a box of tools! And the other boxes? They were filled with

wood... and the instructions to build the beautiful Queen Anne in the dollhouse shop! What?!? I wanted the dollhouse, not the kit! He replied that it would mean so much more to me if I built it myself. He was so right."

With her busy work schedule, 'The Queen' (as Cindy refers to her) took three years to build, including the electrification. Every room has an independent electrical supply thanks to Ray. Cindy then went about making a few additions. "I added a rooftop greenhouse to hold my growing collection of flowers, and then a patio with a café table and chairs."

For Christmas a few years ago, Ray bought Cindy a large drawing table for The Queen. "There are four buttons you can program to raise and lower it to different heights. This



▲ Queen Anne front door

lets me bring the rooftop down to a more reasonable level to work on, rather than teetering on a step ladder to get to the top of her! The first button brings the first floor to the level I can work on, the second button for the second floor, and so on." Ray sounds so thoughtful. Hang on to him, Cindy!

The Queen continued to grow. Ray added two rooms, attached beneath the platform, for a wine cellar and laundry room. "My laundry room is called Paris, because it sounds so much more fun to say I'm going to Paris than to say I'm going to go do laundry!" exclaimed Cindy.

As with a real house, The Queen is an ongoing project. "Rooms get updated over time," explained Cindy. "She's already on her fourth kitchen! None of the others were quite right. I finally had one custom made. It suits her perfectly. After all, it is the heart of the home."

I am touched by how Cindy refers to the dolls house as if it were a real person.

Cindy was drawn to the beautifully crafted flowers she saw at shows, and so her collection of flowers began and has "grown so large I had no choice but to start gardening! The landscaping in front of The Queen includes stone flower beds filled with brilliant flowers and ivy. There are flowering plants, shrubbery, bushes and gorgeous





potted floral plants. Beautiful flowers border the stone path leading from the front porch to the arbor and onwards to the trellis-enclosed gardens. There is a waterfall, with succulents and flowers flowing into the koi pond at the bottom."

Luxury closet

The Queen, while it may be the centrepiece, is not the only structure in Cindy's miniature collection. "As with every girl," she told me, "my love of shoes and bags has always created a storage issue. Well, in miniature it's not any better. I've yet to find a closet in a dollhouse! The only way to deal with this was to build a luxury closet, a closet worthy of holding all my precious bags and shoes. It's large enough to hold a few of my favorite jewellery pieces too... at least until I build a jewellery shop! I designed and built my closet as if I were building my very own luxury closet! It would be totally unrealistic, but oh, so fabulous! I did all the electrical wiring – after a few classes from Ray! Each component is individually lit to let every designer bag, 



Grand piano



Family photos



every pair of designer shoes, shine brightly. Even the wine fridge is electrified and glows a lovely shade of blue!”

Despite all this talent, Cindy has absolutely no training in miniatures or art. “Which just goes to show that anyone, literally anyone, can create miniatures,” she said.

▲ Bathroom

► Nursery

▼ Games room bar



1 Twelfth Street Salon & Spa

Cindy's salon and spa is amazing. She explained: "It has seen more activity during the Covid-19 pandemic than ever before! Whenever I post pics of it on Instagram, I am flooded with requests for appointments! Hair coloring and cuts, manicures and pedicures, professionally applied make-up, facials, massages, aromatherapy... we do it all! It's not a traditional build. I was going for contemporary chic, so I didn't use traditional building materials. Shiny sheets of black and white acrylic accomplished just the look I was going for. It's such a fun build, I would certainly visit this salon!"

A love of interior design is what motivates Cindy. "I see something I connect with, and the next thing I'm doing is thinking how I can make it in miniature. My work crosses many different styles. The Queen is very eclectic. She has rooms that can be considered Victorian and others that are much more contemporary. My salon and spa is ultra-modern, sophisticated and sleek. My luxury closet is a very romantic space. Shades of dusty rose filled with flowers and all things feminine."

Cindy works full-time at Ethan Allen, an American furniture chain. "Most people assume I work as a designer, but I actually work in IT at the corporate headquarters!" Her miniature work is very much a hobby, although she does have an Etsy shop where she sells items from her collection and takes



▲ Salon interior

◀ Queen Anne at night

commissions for luxury closet pieces and custom gardens and landscaping.

Her work has inspired others. "I'm currently working with a client in the Middle East who is trying to replicate The Queen. She hired builders there to recreate my dollhouse for her, based on all of the photos on Instagram! The only problem was she didn't tell them it was 1/12th scale and they built her a Barbie sized house! Well, we're decorating it with 1/12th scale furniture regardless." 🏠

INFORMATION

To check out more of Cindy's work visit:

Instagram at @cinandtheminicity

Etsy: www.etsy.com/shop/CinsMiniCity



5 reasons to never



1. Great quick make projects using basic materials for maximum effect!



2. Marvel at real life made small!

PLUS

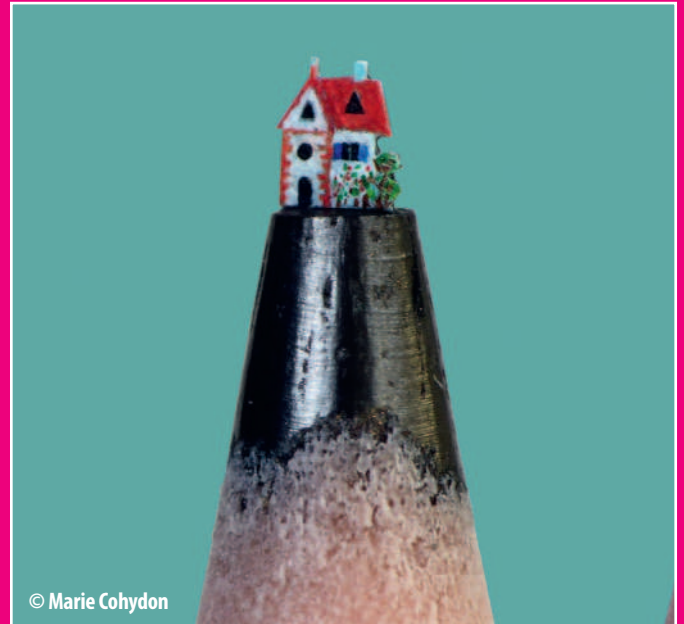
5. Explore miniatures through different eras



miss an issue! DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE



3. Learn from the best!



4. Discover new talent in every issue!

And here's 5 more great reasons!

- 1 No minimum term – cancel at anytime**
- 2 Choose the option that's right for you – digital or print**
- 3 Free delivery to your door or your device**
- 4 Savings on the shop price**
- 5 Get every issue before it hits the shop**

‘IT’S THE ONLY MINIATURES MAGAZINE YOU’LL EVER NEED!’

Go to **craftmag.co/5reasonsdhms**
to find the best option for you or call 01778 395162

Gardener's delight...

PART 3

In part three of this series, Candy Chappill shares how to create a potting bench for your greenhouse scenes.

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

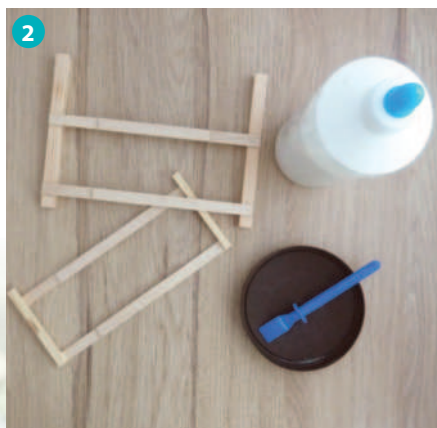
- 10x10mm wooden trim
- 6x6mm wooden trim
- Lolly sticks
- PVA glue

TOOLS REQUIRED

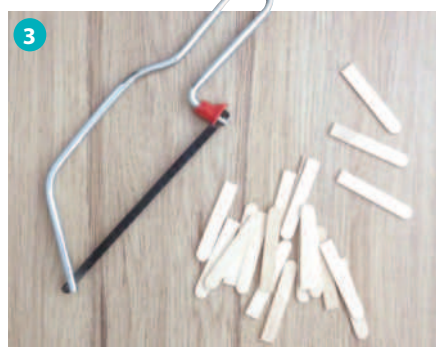
- Hand saw



1 To make the legs of your potting bench, cut two 12.5cm lengths from your larger wooden trim and two 7.5cm lengths from your smaller wooden trim.



2 Glue some lolly sticks together to make a 17cm length, you will need 4 of these. Once dry, attach them to your legs to make the front and back of your bench.



3 To make the top of your bench, cut some lolly sticks in half. This made mine, 5.5cm in length.



4 Using two of these halved lolly sticks, use them to glue your front and back together. This can be a little fiddly.



5 Once dry, use the rest of your halved lolly sticks to make the top of your bench. I also added a slatted shelf to the bottom of my bench. 🏡

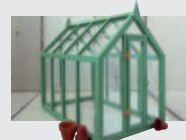
NEXT ISSUE...

Learn how to make these garden tools!



Missed the January and February editions?
Access printed and digital editions
via the website:

www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk

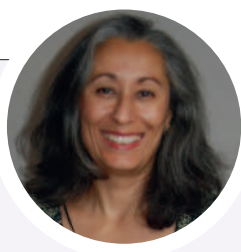


ASK MOI

Got a question you think Moi can help you with?

Why not send it over:

DHMSSocial@warnersgroup.co.uk



Dear Moi,

I'm a vintage ceramics enthusiast, and have a large collection of full-size pieces. However, finding retro vases in 12th scale is like finding a needle in a haystack! The market is saturated with lovely Victorian-style pieces. But I'm longing for some 1950s, '60s and '70s items to give my dolls' house a retro vibe! As your readers always say, I don't want to break the bank either! Ideas and suggestions please!

Lizzy by email



Dear Lizzy,

I've had a go at making retro vases myself, and I hope you'll give it a go too. I did a tutorial for my 1950s vases in the magazine a few years back, and my 1970s 'fat lava' vase tutorial appeared in the mag a couple of years ago. Just have a play with air drying clay and some poster paints, plus some clear nail varnish to create a glossy glaze. Alternatively, Sally Meekins makes some gorgeous retro miniatures such as 1950s 'Homemaker' pottery although it can be hard to get a hold of. Also consider printing your own decals. I've not tried it but apparently it's quite easy.

Moi



Why not join our 34,000 strong miniaturist community...

Keep it social!

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

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

[instagram.com/dolls_house_miniature_scene](https://www.instagram.com/dolls_house_miniature_scene)

twitter.com/dhmsmagazine

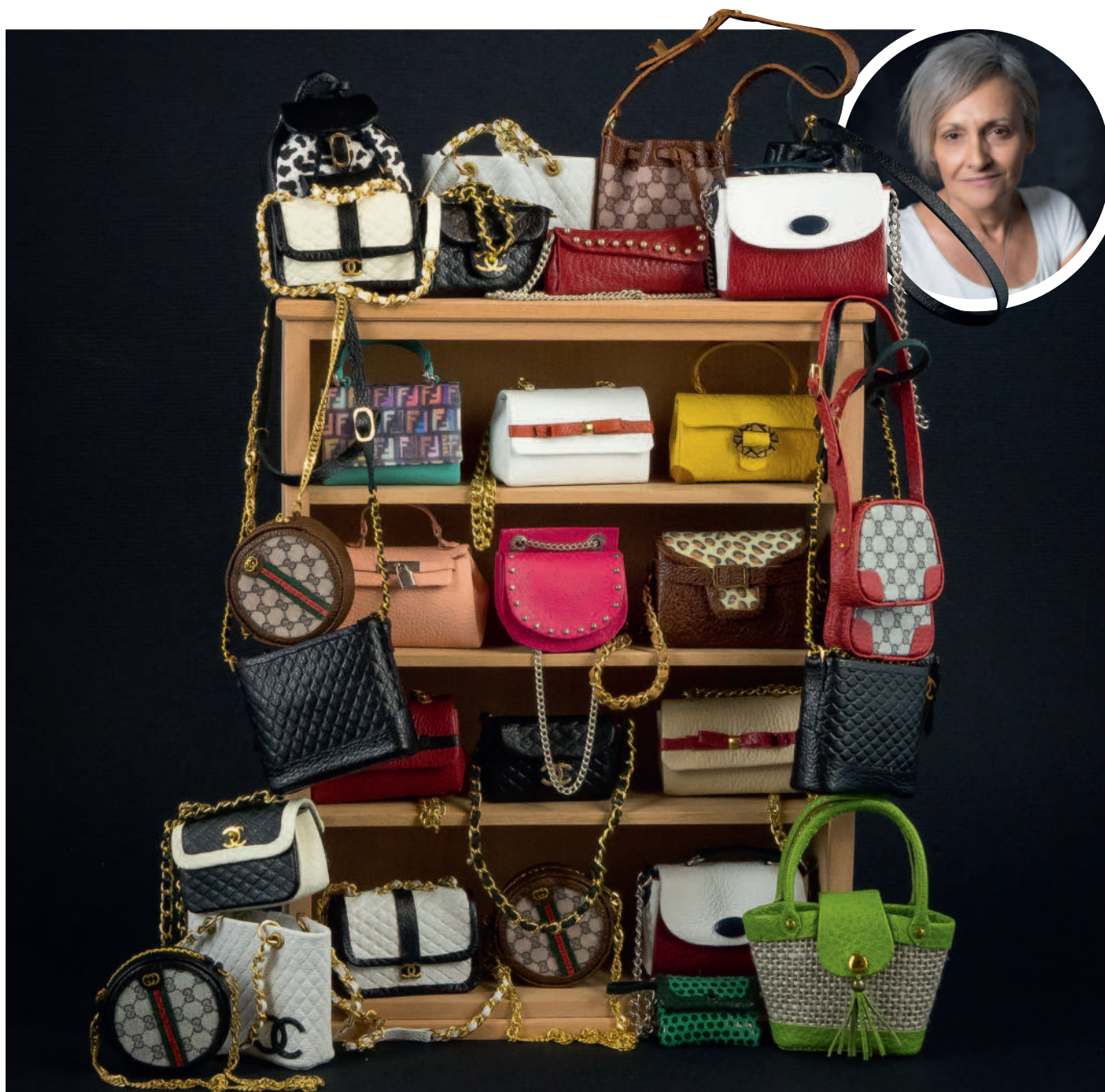
Stay up to date with our email newsletter

- Latest blogs
- Exclusive competitions
- Free downloads
- Discounts



www.craftmag.co/signup

Click on the email option
and sign up



We discover: PATRIZIA SANTI

Mix together style and talent and you'll get the sort of miniatures Patrizia Santi creates! We talked to the Italian miniaturist to find out more about these stunning mini makes.

How long have you been creating miniatures?

It's probably been two decades at least since I first approached the world of miniatures. At the beginning I started out making small room boxes and little corners mainly as gifts for friends and it basically grew to what it is today: my biggest passion!

What got you first interested in making miniatures?

I've always been fascinated by anything creative really, and by small cute things, and creating miniatures is very inspiring. You need to be able to work on many levels by having many skills and developing many more to adapt real size items to such small

scale. By making miniatures I get to create things that I love, I couldn't think about making something I am not interested in. It wouldn't turn out well without me being actually excited and loving what I'm doing so that's a deal breaker I'd say, but it's for the best because I only aim to create something at the best of my possibilities.

You're lucky to have found something to create that you love creating so much!

I started out by making little corners, room boxes and house furniture and I have seen that that's how many creators started out at the beginning. With time it evolved into many other things until I found the items that were meant to be for me, so to say. That's why I specialise in bags and shoes, because I genuinely love them and my previous knowledge of knowing how to work the leather has definitely come into handy. I've developed new techniques and skills to adapt such beautiful material to such tiny things.

Where do you get your inspiration from?

My number one rule is to love what I do and to get inspired by things I like, that's why along with designer bags I have developed my own line, the brand Patrizia Santi. I can actually create my own pieces exactly as I like them to be. At the end of every creation I try to be very objective in judging what I create and I persevere until I get to the desired results and only at that point I feel comfortable by sharing my creations on my social media for others to see. I think that details are crucial in this industry, that's why I must try my best to deliver to the best result possible, because collectors out there deserve it. Collectors are my biggest boost and they inspire me constantly to do better and always work on new exciting projects.

Tell us how you go about creating your work?

I check out a lot of fashion magazines, fashion photos taken on red carpets, TV shows or fashion showrooms looking for inspiration. I usually narrow down my choice thinking about how well that precise model would come out in such tiny scale, that's number my one rule. This doesn't mean that it has to be easy because it's never easy when you create something new, but there has to be a certain objective judgment that takes into consideration all the work of the trial phases to create the perfect shoe that I get to show in my store, and the effective outcome that may or may not be achieving the high level that I aim for. Once the shoe

model is decided I start to plan the project from the beginning, dividing it into phases and deciding the materials that I would be using, and then I proceed by replicating what I see for several times until I discover the perfect measurements, pattern etc. It could take several miniature fails until the right one that would be the definitive piece that will be shown and sold.

So you're an expert at working with leather now?

I actually like working with leather to create bags and shoes as it makes them look like the real deal, at least from the pictures! ▶





"I think that details are crucial in this industry, that's why I must try my best to deliver to best result possible because collectors out there deserve it. They are my biggest boost and they inspire me constantly to do better and always work on new exciting projects."



It's also a very particular material to work with and it really takes a lot of experience, therefore the fact that it is challenging makes it actually even more interesting. Regarding house furniture I like working with wood, it's the best to create items in shabby style as I like.

Where do you make your miniatures? Do you have a dedicated craft room?

I have a dedicated craft room, it's basically my garage converted to a laboratory divided up. There's a painting corner where I paint the sole of my heels for example, then there's a big table that I use to let materials set or heels dry, and then there's a corner where I have a desk surrounded by drawers full of little details that I use in my creations. I have the drawers all piled up because I like to have everything sorted and ready for use as I like my creative process to be smooth, enjoyable and therapeutic.

Do you have a top tip you would like to share with the readers?

Yes, one thing that I get asked a lot and constantly especially in the recent times is: "How can you see the detail in things that you're creating? Do you use any special glasses etc?" At the moment I'm using some glasses that I got off Amazon, they work great and are extremely affordable as well. You can find them by the name Levenhuk Zeno Vizor Head Magnifier and they also come with an LED light and interchangeable lenses.



So do you sell all the miniature you make?

I have made many miniatures during the years and at first it was something to keep me busy but it soon became therapeutic as well. I benefited a lot from getting creative and doing what I liked and thought you know, I might as well share it with friends and so I did by giving them miniatures as gifts. I then began to receive requests from actual customers and it became what it is today: a big part of my life. Creating brings me serenity and something I always say to the amazing people out there who support my work is "may these tiny creations bring you big joy into your life as they have done with mine". At the end of the day this brings a lot of people together, we share a passion, we share what is a big part of our lives and it has to be a positive experience, it must for me.

Do you have a favorite project?

I can say light heartedly that every single piece I have created I have loved because otherwise I wouldn't have made it in the first place, but projects that I have loved are definitely basically all custom items that I have made because they were new, maybe very different from what I would have picked myself and therefore different, challenging and very very exciting to make. 🏠



INFO

To view more of Patrizia's work visit

Instagram: [@patriziasantiminiatures](https://www.instagram.com/patriziasantiminiatures)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/patriziasantiminiatures

Website: www.patriziasantiminiatures.com

Going Dutch

Find out more about the star attraction at Rembrandt's home, a fully arcuate miniature version, the work of 'Mrs Dolls House', aka Rika van Nellestijn.

The Dutch old master Rembrandt van Rijn is one of the Netherlands' most famous artists. Tourists flock to the Amsterdam house, built in 1600, where he lived for two decades, to get a flavour of life in that city in the 17th century. Fascinating as the house is, the star attraction for the miniaturist is a magnificent 12th scale model of the house as it was in Rembrandt's time, which can be found at the entrance to the exhibition.

A seventeenth-century inventory was used as a guide to furnishing the full-size house. (The inventory, created when he defaulted on his huge mortgage in 1656, lists his furniture and decorative items, art and objects.) These full-size contents were miniaturised to go inside the dolls' house.

The little house was the brainchild of Rika van Nellestijn, who is known in Holland as 'Mrs Dolls House'. Rika is the Editor of the Dolls House Magazine Nederland and organiser of the famous DHNshow in Arnhem. She has been immersed in miniatures for forty years, having become interested in dolls' houses after first seeing the spectacular Pertone Oortman and Petronella Dunois cabinet houses in the Rijksmuseum – Oortman's dolls' house inspired the bestselling book, *The Miniaturist*.

The Rembrandt dolls' house is a kind of modern-day version of Oortman's 17th century miniature. It was created between 2015 and 2019 by a group of talented miniaturists including Aloyse Hoekstra, who made the rooms of the house. The house itself was made by furniture-makers De Wig in Arnhem.

For good reason the dolls' house necessarily uses a little artistic licence, as one of the museum staff explained: "The Rembrandthuis dolls' house is not painstakingly accurate: several rooms have been moved to new locations, expanded or contracted, and even turned to allow them to be seen from the front." The reason is that Dutch houses are very deep and it would be impossible to create an exact copy of the layout without many of the rooms being hidden behind others. Nevertheless, it is a stunning creation and the rooms themselves are historically accurate, even if they are not all in the exact place as in the real house.

The house is huge, at 150cm high, 92cm width and 42cm deep, and it contains eight rooms: the basement houses the kitchen and etching room; the first floor contains the entrance room and anteroom; the second floor has a large painting studio and art cabinet (a room containing artistic props and curiosities such as taxidermy, shells and minerals); and the third floor



▲ Rembrandt dolls house
Rika van Nellestijn © Dolls House Nederland



Kitchen



Etching room



Entrance hall



Anteroom with bed by Arjen Spinhoven



Art cabinet



has Rembrandt's son Titus's room, and students' painting studios. The typical Dutch windows and doors were specially made for the project to ensure historical accuracy.

Simone Kasbergen painted the house, including marbling the lovely little fireplaces. Kim Bensdorp made numerous miniature items to go in the art cabinet. Furniture was made by Bert Aarts, who is now retired, and Dutch architect Arjen Spinhoven. Readers will have seen Arjen's work featured in this magazine in the past, as he is among my favourite makers. Arjen makes historically correct miniatures using 21st century technology. His precision laser cut miniatures skilfully recreate the effect of hand-carved wood.

Arjen told me: "I even used the laser cutter for the engravings. That has enabled me



17th century Dutch Renaissance cabinet on stand by Arjen as a kit

to reproduce these beautiful pieces and sell them as kits, in order to help make my living as a miniaturist." Making the items for the museum took many years, and the contributors undertook the work without any fee, so for it to be commercially viable for Arjen, creating kits was the answer. "It was a challenge designing these antique pieces in such a way that they could be made up as kits," he explained, "but it does mean that people can make them at home and own museum quality pieces. In fact, the complete house can be made by people at home, as almost everything was documented in the Dolls House Netherland Magazine, which contained building guides. I know several people who made some of the rooms."

He continued: "For me working on this project was the start of becoming a 





serious miniaturist. My work was not that realistic before I was asked to work on the house, but I had to start making items that looked just like the real thing only smaller. It was a big challenge but it made me what I am today."

I asked Arjen how they managed to make such accurate reproductions. He explained:

"To make everything historically accurate we visited the museum a few times, and were allowed to take measurements and photographs, and were given advice by the experts at the museum."

If you are in Holland, if and when we ever emerge from Covid-19, you can see both

this amazing miniature, at the Museum Het Rembrandthuis, and also the Oortman and the Dunois cabinet houses at the nearby Rijksmuseum. [🏠](#)

▼ Arjen Spinhoven 17th century alcove bed kit



▲ Arjen Spinhoven bedbox



INFO

Visit this work at
Museum Het Rembrandthuis
Jodenbreestraat 4
1011 NK Amsterdam

Website: www.rembrandthuis.nl

Vintage sign

Knock up a vintage bread sign for practically no dough with this quick make project!

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- An off-cut of strip wood
- Gold letters or stickers
- Red and green paint
- Shoe polish

This sign is pure nostalgia and you can make it in no time at all for virtually nothing. Use it in a modern kitchen for a trendy vintage vibe, pop one inside or on the outside of your old-style grocery shop for an authentic period look, or put one in a modern-day antique shop as a quirky addition.

"I put mine in my messy shop stock room!"
Moi



The Hovis name was coined in 1890 in a competition, and the brand was popularised due to the flour and Hovis branded baking tins being sold to independent bakers. Those of us old enough will remember that iconic 'boy on the bike' Hovis TV ad filmed by Ridley Scott (of Alien fame) in 1973 in Shaftesbury, Dorset – although the ad was 'set' in the north of England!

1



1 Cut the wood strip to the correct size for your sign, then sand the edges with a slight chamfer if you wish.

2



2 Paint the wood roughly with red paint, paying particular attention to the edges of the sign. (Omit this and step 4 if you want a pristine sign.)

3



3 When the red paint is dry, overpaint it with green paint.

4



4 When the green paint is dry, lightly sand the edges so that the red paint shows through in places, giving it a distressed and weathered finish.

5



5 Polish up with a neutral shoe polish to protect the surface, enhance the colours and give a gentle sheen.

6



6 Stick the letters to the sign (if your letters are not already gold, paint them first). Hey presto – your sign is ready to hang! 🏠



Spring Wedding Cake

Let's get ready for a Spring wedding with this miniature floral cake with pink roses and a beautiful swirly buttercream effect without using any special materials, just polymer clay.

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Polymer clay - vanilla, scrap clay, white, pink and olive green.
- FIMO Liquid (or other liquid polymer clay)
- Nail caviar - Silver

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Small tile (or other oven-proof dish to make and bake the cake on)
- Round cutters (I used 2.5cm and 2cm but you can adjust this to your needs)
- Toothpick
- Small ball tool
- Blades
- Needle tool
- Fine ended tool
- Pasta machine or rolling pin
- Craft knife
- Paint brushes
- Acrylic paint - White and beige
- Water-based varnish





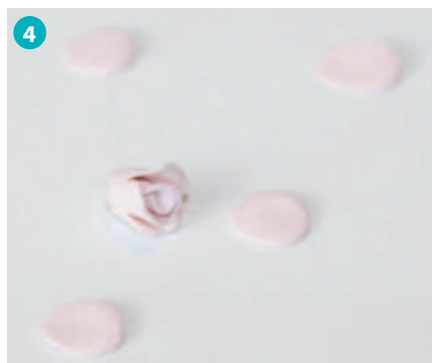
1 Roll out a sheet of scrap clay through the thickest setting of your pasta machine and cut out 9 circles in two different sizes; 5 measuring 2cm and 4 measuring 2.5cm. Cut an additional 2.5cm circle using vanilla clay (or another cake sponge colour) for the bottom of the cake. Stack them together making sure they are centred and secure and bake the cake for 15 minutes at 110° Celsius.



2 Once the cake is baked and cool, roll out a thin sheet of white clay (or another colour if you prefer) and cut strips to cover the cake with. Smooth down all the edges and using a ball tool, trace horizontal lines on the white clay to make it look like swirly buttercream. If your clay is a little hard, try brushing a little baby oil or clay softener. Bake again for 15 minutes. TIP: Once the cake is cool, you can wipe the buttercream with some acetone. This will dissolve the clay a little, giving you a smoother finish.



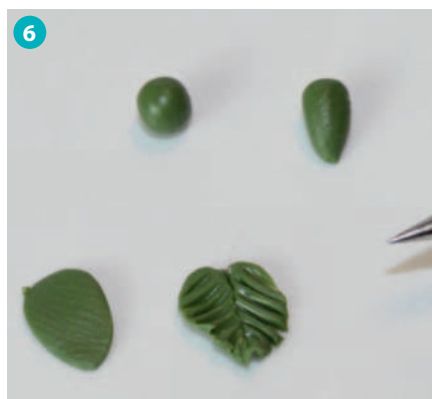
3 After letting the cake cool down, I painted it an off-white shade by mixing a little beige with white acrylic paint to make it look more like ivory, but you can skip this if you prefer it white. Apply a couple of coats and let dry completely.



4 In the meantime, take some polymer clay in at least two different pink colours, or another colour of your choice, roll them into strands and cut lots of pieces to make petals. Roll them into balls and flatten them. Use a blade to pick them up and gently roll the first petal into itself to create the core of the rose. Keep adding petals around it and use your fingers to pinch the edges.



5 After making several roses in different sizes, pick them up from the centre using a toothpick and arrange them on the cake bonding with FIMO Liquid. Then use the toothpick to further secure the roses to the cake. To make the centre piece, arrange the roses on a small base of green clay and then place it on the cake.



6 To make some leaves, take some olive-green clay and roll it into a strand. Cut lots of tiny pieces, roll them into tear drops and flatten them. Then using a needle, trace all the lines on the leaves.



7 Slide a blade underneath to pick them up and pinch them a little before arranging them on the cake. If you find this a little tricky, bake the cake with the roses first and then add the leaves.



8 After baking the cake one last time for at least 30 minutes and letting it cool down, glaze the cake with water-based varnish and before it dries, add some silver nail caviar. Once the glaze is dry apply another coat to seal in the decorations.



Artistic Licence

Inspired by her visit to Rembrandt's house, Moi Ali's artist scene project is an essential prop for any mini gallery or hobby painter's scene.

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Offcuts of stripwood, coffee stirrers or lolly sticks
- Glue
- Stain
- Paint
- A scrap of cloth

These artist's miniatures – easel, canvas and palettes

– can be used in so many different ways. You can, of course, recreate an artist's studio, but there are many other ways to make use of these sweet little accessories. Why not make a few easels, give them a nice rich mahogany finish, and display gold framed old masters as part of a picture gallery scene? Pop an easel in your little antique or junk shop. Make the canvases and place a few in your miniature craft room.

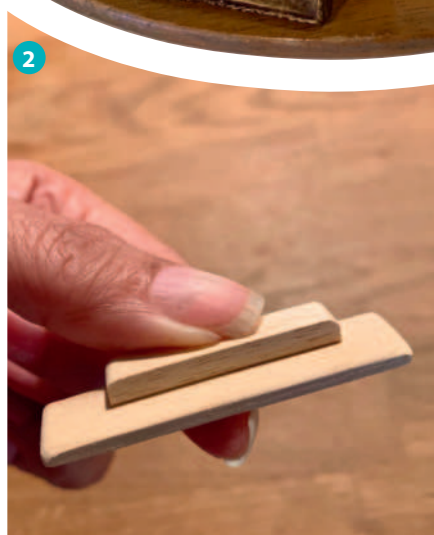
Easels come in many designs and sizes so my measurements are for guidance only and yours can be varied according to the wood offcuts available to you, and the size and design of easel that you'd prefer.



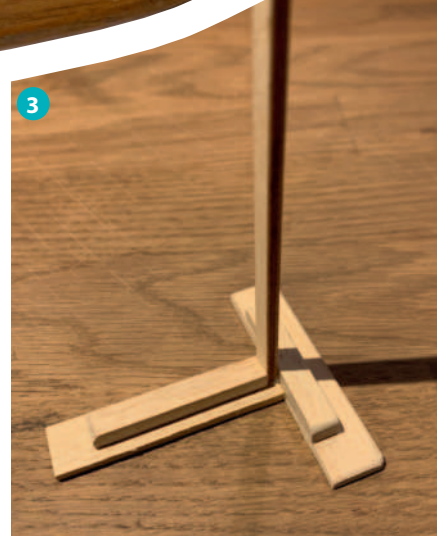
EASEL



1 Cut base pieces: front lower - 66x12mm; front upper - 35x5mm; back lower - 50x12mm; and back upper - 37x5mm. Use any thickness of stripwood around 3mm.



2 Glue the two front base pieces together as shown, having first rounded the front corners of the lower piece and the sides of the upper piece using sandpaper. Leave to dry.



3 Cut a front upright to 160x5mm. Slightly round off the top with sandpaper, then glue to the back of the pieces made in step 2, and the back lower and upper base pieces as shown. Leave to dry.



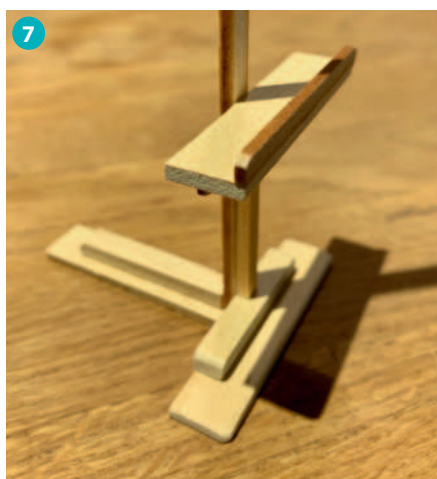
4 Cut two pieces of stripwood, one 40mm long and the other 45mm long. Glue the longer piece on top of the shorter piece to form a T shape. Leave to dry.



5 Cut the shelf to 50x12mm. Cut a front piece tp 50x3mm and round off the top front corners with sandpaper. Glue front piece to shelf.



6 Glue the T shape from step 4 to the easel as shown. Leave to dry.



7 Glue the shelf from step 5 to the top of the T shape.



8 Cut a piece of 5mm wide stripwood to 95mm long as a support, sand the ends to chamfer them for a better fit, then glue as shown.



9 Stain the easel and add paint smudges and splashes.

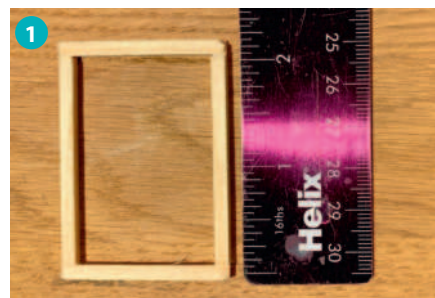
Moi says...

"Shorten the upright and hey presto, you have a desktop easel."

CANVAS



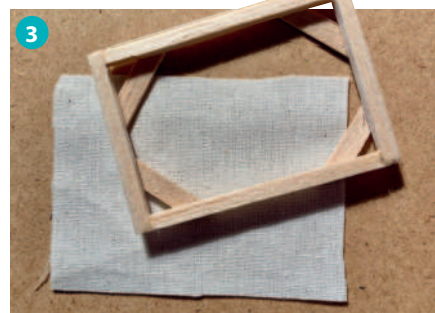
Leave your canvas blank, or start to paint a picture to give the illusion that the artists has just stepped outside the studio for a moment.



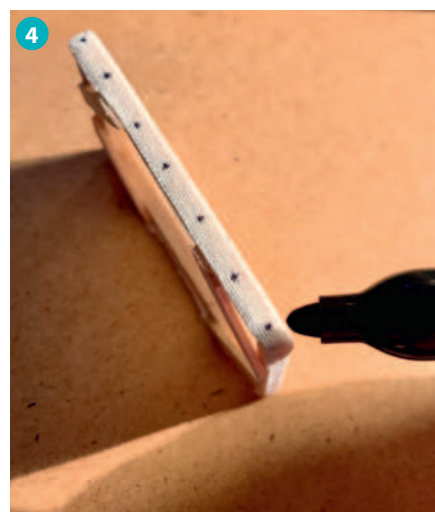
1 Use small square dowel and make a frame using simple butt joints and wood glue.



2 Cut four braces from coffee stirrers using a miter box and glue them to the corners of the frame. Leave to dry.



3 Cut off-white cotton fabric and cover the frame front and sides, using PVA glue to secure the fabric at the sides. Trim to size.



4 Use a black pen to create the effect of nails holding the canvas to the frame. ▶

PALETTE



Every artist's essential prop! If your paint isn't thick enough to form a raised blob, mix in some PVA glue before adding paint to palette.



1 Mark out palette shapes on your sheet wood then cut using a fret saw or craft knife if the wood is soft enough.



2 Sand the edges, stain the palettes then blob on paint in different colours, making sure it is thick so it sits proud on the palette.



3 When the paint is dry, coat it with PVA. Don't panic when it turns everything white - it will dry clear and glossy, giving the paint the appearance of still being wet.

RAG



For the finishing touch, no artist scene would be complete without a dirty rag covered in splashes of colour..



1 Cut a square of cotton and smear paint on it.



2 Soak the cloth in a mix of 50:50 water/PVA glue.



3 Remove cloth from water and form into a draped rag shape, then leave to dry.



4 Hang the rag on your easel, work table or wherever you want to place it in your scene. 🏠

Turn to page 43 to read all about Moi's visit to Rembrandt's house!



The Whole Kit & Caboodle:

TULIPS FROM AMSTERDAM

As spring bulbs burst into life, Moi Ali reviews a blooming marvellous kit!



Kit packaging



Finished garden planters



Finished cut flowers

How did that Max Bygraves song go? When its spring again, I'll bring again, tulips from Amsterdam... Younger readers are now scratching their heads wondering what on earth? While the older ones won't be able to get the cheesy tune out of their heads for the rest of the week!

You don't have to live in Amsterdam to enjoy the tulip. It's a real harbinger of spring, bringing a riot of colour to our gardens in March – so why not add a few petty bi-colour tulips to your miniature garden too?

Georgie Steeds of the Miniature Garden makes these lovely tulips, part of her large range of paper flower kits which includes trees, climbing plants, vegetables plus indoor plants, garden blooms and cut flower kits. – as well as pots, planters and other containers. Find something for any season. Some of the kits also come in 24th scale. The tulips are quick and easy to make, perfect for a beginner. Each kit comes with enough to make five stems and the tulips can go in a border as a flowering bulb, or be popped in a pretty vase as a cut flower. 🏠

THE FACTS

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

Cost: £3.10 for five stems

Comes with: Stems, punched petals and leaves for you to cut out

Additional materials needed: Tacky glue plus a red felt tip pen and yellow paint

Specialist tools needed: A ball tool and eraser to cup the petals

Time: A couple of hours

Experience: Beginner

Top tip: Pop the stems in 'oasis' foam to hold them when applying the yellow centres and while the paint dries.

READER GIVEAWAY!

Would you like to win two tulip kits from The Miniature Garden?

One lucky reader will win these kits in our exclusive giveaway.

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

Competition closes 31st March 2021. Good luck!

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

LOVE MAKING MINIATURES?

Imagine...

...having hundreds of
amazing projects and over ten years of
top tips from Dolls House & Miniature
Scene magazine at your fingertips!
And all of this for less than 11p a day!



PLUS

- Fully searchable library
- Never miss a new issue
- Instant access - anytime, anywhere
- No risk, no commitment - cancel at anytime

Sign up today for only £9.99 a quarter at

www.dhmsmag.uk/EXACTEDITIONS

Building an Island Paradise

Immerse yourself in the sun-kissed magic of Cycladic architecture with Andreas Rousounelis.



Capturing the atmosphere in 1/24 scale



▼ Framing the perfect image



A rich history

The studio of self-taught artisan, Andreas Rousounelis is a conveyor belt of riveting miniature design. Heavily influenced by the stories and heritage of his native Greece, many of Andreas' recent works depict the distinctive cubic architecture of the picturesque Cyclades, the wreath of Greek islands surrounding the sacred island of Delos, birthplace of Artemis and Apollo, rising from the shimmering blue waters of the Aegean. Stone buildings typified by their sun-kissed whitewashed exteriors and contrasting bright blue paintwork, it's easy to see why Andreas admits these sunshine dioramas have become his favourite creations. This evocative style of architecture has also become the increasingly popular subject of sought-after commission pieces, Andreas' most recent Cycladic house a replica of a real property on Naxos, the largest of the Cyclades. "What attracts me most to Cycladic architecture is the simplicity, the bright colours

and the nostalgia it radiates," says Andreas. The Cyclades are the perfect environment for anyone hoping to find themselves swept away by the waves of history and legend, the past seeping from every corner of these beautiful islands which count the familiar holiday destinations, Mykonos and Santorini amongst them. Only a small number of the islands are inhabited, and the Cyclades are alive with archaeological significance, commanding around five thousand years of art history dating back to the Bronze Age. A Cycladic beaker dating from between circa 3200 and 2700 BC reached \$10,000 in auction at Christie's last year. The Cyclades are also a haven for the natural world, home to in excess of two hundred species of fish and the planet's rarest seal, the endangered Mediterranean monk seal.

► At home in 1/35 scale



Island life in
1/24 scale

Creating the dream

Despite the distinctive overall shape and style of the whitewashed buildings, there is an incredible wealth of individuality to be found in the characteristics of Cycladic architecture, something clearly demonstrated through Andreas' dioramas. In 1/24 and 1/35 scale, these are not only detailed works of art, but also tiny, often barely larger than a hand. Achieving the intricacy needed to build the depth of realism required in these scales is no mean feat, but it's something Andreas captures in fascinating detail. The external stairs which traditionally lead between the ground floor and the upstairs bedrooms are a wonderful design feature, even if they're something you definitely wouldn't consider when building a house in blustery Britain! Ornate railings, window shutters, colourful foliage and blue and white signs, reading 'Greek Art', 'Rooms' or 'To Let' all add that extra layer. Beginning with a series of sketches and calculations, Andreas brings a whole new meaning to the term 'wallpaper', replicating these solid whitewashed structures using paper and 5mm foam.

Leaving no stone unturned, almost literally, he also uses paper to perfectly recreate the iconic mosaic style cobbles which wind their way through the closely knitted streets of the Cyclades. An amazing effect which, with a little patience is surprisingly simple to achieve. "To create the stones on the ground I use paper as a base which I paint in the appropriate colours of the stones, and then with a thin brush and white paint I create the shapes of the stones." The aesthetics of both the twisting streets and the buildings themselves, with their small, shuttered windows, were designed in the long ago to inflict confusion and difficulty on unsuspecting pirates. 



1/35 scale house with intricate tiled roof

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,
providing you various content:
brand new books, trending movies,
fresh magazines, hot games,
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price
Cheap constant access to piping hot media
Protect your downloadings from Big brother
Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages
Brand new content
One site



AVXLIVE ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>



▲ Summer days by the pool

A lightbulb moment

Andreas' 1/24 scale patio scene includes the small corner of an illuminated swimming pool, the subtle ripple of water offering just a hint of the wider scene to the imagination. "I wanted to add the pool as something different," he explains. "I also created the

lighting with LED lights and added the water, which is a transparent resin." Andreas sources much of the lighting for his dioramas from the Modelling Centre in Athens, enabling him to incorporate that summer evening vibe within his Cycladic buildings. The Greek Art Gallery, also in 1/24th scale, is one of Andreas' most exciting dioramas, the outside lights drawings you towards the warm glow emanating from the upstairs window. Lighting is also a very topical issue on the Cyclades themselves, the islands only now seeing themselves connected to the electricity supply of the Greek mainland. A four phase project which initially began in 2017, the project will see the use of the diesel generators relied upon by the islands finally come to an end.

A window on the past

Away from Cycladic architecture, Andreas' other recent work has included the replica of a Barcelona wine bar, and two beautifully framed dioramas focusing on old shops, both of which ramp up the nostalgia dial. Andreas lavishes as much care and attention on the contents of the shop windows as he does

▼ Every window tells a story



▼ The glimmer of nostalgia





◀ Andreas' signature framed door dioramas

on the exteriors themselves. With its olive green façade, the window of his 1/24 scale antique shop features a custom built wooden display unit thoughtfully filled with a range of items. There's the obligatory candle stick and the most delightful 'mahogany' chest of drawers, whilst a painting and an old map, yellowed with age, add further interest. The upstairs window is just as intriguing, even more so for the fact we can only see half of it! An illuminated world hidden by drawn curtains, we are left to conjure with just who might live there! Even smaller at 1/35 scale, the second store is an old toy shop, a teddy bear and pull along duck sitting in the window alongside a pretty pink dress. "For the nostalgic windows, I'm usually inspired by real photos," says Andreas. "I like this image of abandonment, the atmosphere and the nostalgic mood they exude."

Andreas' work has also recently attracted the attention of the Dynamite Gallery in Trafalgar Street, Brighton, who have showcased several of his pieces, including his framed door dioramas. Featuring the glimpse of an abandoned exterior, often with a brightly coloured wooden front door, these are memorable pieces. With a creative eye on the past, Andreas can, in addition to 1/24 and 1/35 scales, also be found working with the even more challenging, and smaller 1/43 and 1/87. He is an exciting artisan with exceptional talent and a future as bright as the Cycladic buildings which have fast become some of his finest work. 🏠



INFO

To purchase pieces by Andreas visit:

www.etsy.com/shop/ANDREASROUSOUNELIS

Instagram: @rousounelis

STAMP INSURANCE SERVICES

LET US INSURE YOUR COLLECTION

Replacement value,
All Risks , No Excess

£35 p.a. PLUS ipt for £5,000 cover
Schemes for Clubs and Dealers
available

contact us for a quotation
CGI Services Ltd
29 Bowhay Lane EXETER EX4 1PE
mail@stampinsurance.co.uk
tel 01392 433 949
Authorised & Regulated by the
Financial Conduct Authority No.300573

The Silk Route

**NEW WEBSITE
NOW WITH ONLINE SHOPPING**

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS 1989-2010

Silk for Embroidery, Patchwork, Quilting, Dollmaking and Miniature Furnishings

A wide colour range including
Silk Brocade, Organzas & Dupion
Supplied in small amounts and by the metre
Silk theme and texture packs available

Cross Cottage (DMS), Cross Lane,
Frimley Green, Surrey. GU16 6LN
Tel (01252) 835781 www.thesilkroute.co.uk
Mail Order Only

www.tumdee-dollshouse-miniatures.co.uk

**Your personal 1:12 scale
dollshouse online shop**

Now with trade counter

T: 01536 485529

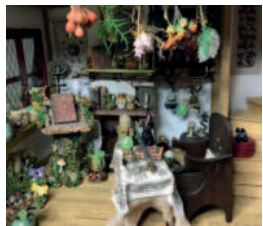
PAULINE'S MINI PACKAGES

**British hand-made 1/12th scale
dolls' house branded groceries
(from 1800 to present day),
newspapers, games, pharmacy
and many more categories.**

Contact details: Pauline 07811 115020
www.weaverthorpe-miniatures.co.uk
Find us on Ebay by searching 'w27dhm'





Pedlars Tray
Wyevale Garden Centre
Kings Acre Rd, Hereford, HR4 8BB
Burton.rosie@gmail.com

CRAFTY HOBBIES



**54 Cavendish St,
Barrow-in-Furness
Cumbria LA14 1PZ**

**Don't forget to visit our
NEW website for crafts,
doll's house and
model railway**

www.craftyhobbies.co.uk

J & A SUPPLIES

SUPPLIERS OF 1/12
hand-made doors, windows,
brass curtain rails, mouldings,
fireplaces, brick slips, roof tiles,
wall and floor coverings and many
more items including furniture.
Many items are hand-made
in our own workshop.



Wood planks and strips in obeche,
mahogany, walnut, balsa and bass wood.

ALL FURNITURE REDUCED

www.jandasupplies.co.uk
Tel: 01482 633115

**UNIQUE, ONE-OFFS FROM
PAN MINIATURES**

Exquisite, hand-crafted
miniatures, lovingly created from
the highest quality materials for
the discerning collector.

1/12 1/16 1/24 1/48 in stock.
Commissions undertaken.

E: nettynoodles@hotmail.com
T: 01746 762532
**See us on
Facebook and Etsy**
www.panminiatures.com



PART 3

Build your own bar scene!

YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- 1/4in (6mm) thick foamcore
- 1/8in x 1/4in (3mm x 6mm) and 1/4in (6mm) square stripwood
- 1-1/4in (32mm) Loew Cornell Woodsies circles or cut from sheetwood
- Four stair balusters for each stool (e.g. Houseworks #7202)
- Two spindles for each stool (e.g. Houseworks #12029)
- 1/16in (1.6mm) thick sheetwood
- 1/16in (1.6mm) diameter brass tubing
- Mattboard
- Two miniature brackets
- 2x6 model railroad stripwood
- Miniature dartboard
- Red adhesive-backed felt
- Black, blue, green and red scrapbook paper
- Gold shiny card
- White plastic covered wire
- Fine-gauge steel wire
- Marble effect paper
- Miniature brick paper
- Miniature wallpaper
- Full-size turned spindle or finial(s) to make 3-3/8in (86mm) height
- Set of 10 battery operated micro lightbulbs
- Yellow cellophane
- Orange/red seed beads
- Small tree branch
- Black felt marker & black Sharpie pen
- Clear mylar
- Small clear mylar packaging box
- Brass beads
- Brass ball-head pin
- Crown moulding
- Baseboard
- White gel pen
- Wood stains (dark oak, red mahogany)
- Satin varnish
- White glue, superglue & glue stick

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Circle cutter
- Small saw and mitre box
- Knife and steel ruler
- Needle files
- Emery board
- Small hand drills
- 1/8in hole punch
- Circles template
- Ball stylus
- 1-1/2in (38mm) diameter form (e.g. pill bottle)
- Grid paper
- Wooden cocktail stick

After making the pub bar and barstools in part 1 and the floors, wall and door in part 2, this pub is really starting to take shape! This month we complete the pub scene by adding a second wall for coat hooks and a cosy fireplace. We also add a high table and stools with backs for more patrons and finally, we add more food and drink, lots of accessories and trims and additional entertainment, making the pub a spot your miniature people will never want to leave!



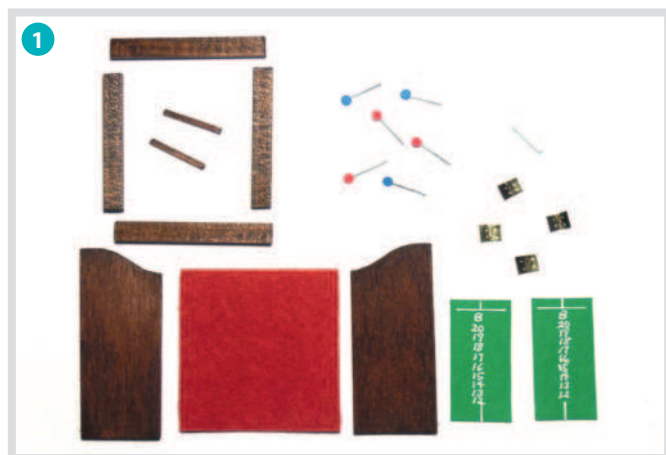
Photos by Stephen Lesbirel

FIREPLACE CUTTING LIST

Material	Description	Qty	Imperial	Metric	Notes
Mattboard	Hearth	1	1-7/8" x 4"	48mm x 102mm	snub off the front corners
	Firebox side	2	7/8" x 4-1/2"	22mm x 114mm	
	Chimney side	2	7/8" x 9-7/8"	22mm x 251mm	
	Chimney face	1	4" x 9-7/8"	102mm x 251mm	2-1/2" x 4-1/4"/64mm x 108mm firebox opening
	Stove front	1	1-5/8" x 2"	41mm x 51mm	1-1/8" x 1-1/2"/29mm x 38mm front window
	Stove back	1	1-5/8" x 2"	41mm x 51mm	3/8"/10mm square cut-out in middle lower edge
	Stove top / bottom	2	1-1/2" x 2-1/4"	38mm x 57mm	
	Stove end	2	1-1/4" x 1-5/8"	32mm x 41mm	7/8" x 1-1/8"/22mm x 29mm window
	Front window	1	1-3/8" x 1-3/4"	35mm x 44mm	
Clear mylar	Side window	2	1-1/8" x 1-3/8"	29mm x 35mm	
	Embers box (approx)	1	1/4" x 1-1/4" x 1-1/2"	6mm x 32mm x 38mm	
Foamcore	End wall	1	10-1/2" x floor width plus 1/4"	267mm x floor width plus 6mm	
Sheetwood	lintel	1	3/4" x 4"	19mm x 102mm	
	coat rack backplate*	1	13/16" x 2-5/8"	21mm x 67mm	
	over shelf*	1	7/8" x 3-1/8"	22mm x 79mm	
	under shelf*	1	13/16" x 3"	21mm x 76mm	
Black paper	menu board	1	2" x 3"	51mm x 76mm	

* adjust coat rack pieces for your bracket size

DART BOARD PIECES



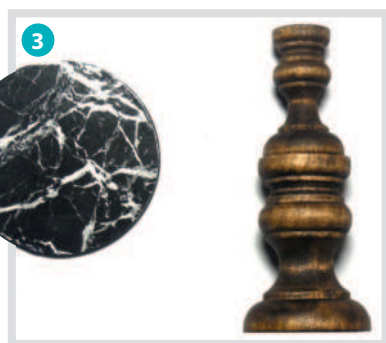
1 Cut a 2in (51mm) square of felt. Cut a 2in (51mm) of stripwood top and bottom and two 1-3/4in (44mm) stripwood sides. Cut the doors from sheetwood. Stain these wood pieces and two 3/4in (19mm) lengths of model railroad stripwood. Cut two green paper score slates. Mark them as shown with white gel pen. Cut six 1/2in (13mm) long wire darts, punch three red and three blue circle trims, and superglue them to the ends. Cut four gold shiny card hinges. Emboss the fold line and 'screws' with the ball stylus. Cut a 3/8in (10mm) length of white covered wire.

ASSEMBLE THE DARTBOARD CABINET



2 Glue the stripwood sides between the top and bottom. Glue this square onto the felt. Glue the score slates to each door, a small piece of model railroad stripwood under each end of their strips, and superglue three darts behind each strip. Glue the strips at the bottom of the slates. Glue the 'hinges' on each door and a door against each side. Glue the free end of the hinges onto the case stripwood. Glue the dartboard into the case, then varnish. Peel the backing and stick the cabinet to the wall with the top edge 6-1/2in (165mm) from the floor.

PUB TABLE



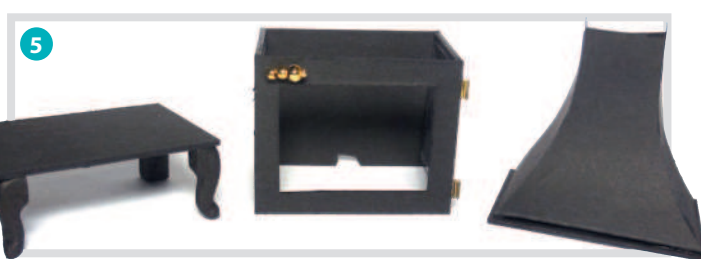
3 Stain and varnish the finial. Cut two 2in (51mm) diameter mattboard tops and a same size piece of marble effect paper. Glue the two tops together and glue stick the paper onto the mattboard. Mark the edge with the Sharpie pen. Glue the top centred on the finial.

COAT RACK



4 Cut and stain the two sheetwood shelf pieces. Cut and stain the backplate for the hooks and glue a stained bracket at each end. Glue the larger shelf piece centred on the smaller one, with the back edges even. Weight this shelf until it is dry. Glue the shelf centred atop the brackets, with the back edges even. Varnish the shelf assembly. Superglue the hooks across the backplate.

WOOD STOVE



5 Cut the wood stove pieces from mattboard and the stovepipe pieces from black scrapbook paper. Cut four 3/4in (19mm) legs from square stripwood. Optionally, file two into cabriole legs. Paint the legs and mattboard black with felt marker. Glue the legs under the base. Glue clear mylar inside the mattboard front and sides. Superglue bead door hardware to the front and its edge. Glue the sides inside the front and back. Glue the stovepipe's side tabs inside the front and the three bottom tabs onto the stove's top.

ADJACENT WALL WITH BASEBOARD AND CORNICE



6 Stain and varnish two baseboards and two crown mouldings. Cut and glue one baseboard to fit either side of the door and between the porch spindles on the back wall, and to mitre at the edge opposite the door. Cut a foamcore end wall and spot glue wallpaper to it as for the back wall ➡

(see last month's instructions) to within 4in of the outside edge. Make a 3/8in (10mm) hole, centred 1-3/4in (44mm) above the bottom and 2in (51mm) from the outside edge. Glue the coat rack to the wall about 5-1/2in (140mm) above the bottom. Glue the wall against the floor and back wall. Mitre crown moulding and baseboard to meet in the corner and fit between the corner and 4in (102mm) from the outside edge of the new wall.

MAKE THE FIRE



7 Feed all the bulbs through the hole in the wall, one at a time. Paint the mylar box streaky black with felt marker. Make a hole in the back for bulb wires. Glue on bead 'embers'. Tape four bulbs together and fan them out, inside the box. Tape the remaining bulbs together and wrap the cluster in taped yellow cellophane. Glue branch lengths around these bulbs. Superglue the log assembly onto the mylar box. Set this assembly on the stove base and glue the stove box onto the base. Glue the top on the stove.

FIREBOX, CHIMNEY AND LINTEL



8 Cut the firebox and chimney pieces from mattboard. Paper the firebox area on the new wall with brick paper. Glue the chimney sides and firebox sides to the back edges of the face. Paper the chimney face, sides, and firebox sides with brick paper. Cut a sheetwood lintel and stain it oak. Age it with extra stain and the Sharpie pen.

COMPLETE FIREPLACE



9 Glue the lintel to the chimney overlapping the firebox by 1/4in (6mm). Cut and cover a mattboard hearth. Glue the hearth to the floor, even with the outside edge. Glue the stove atop the hearth against the back of the firebox. Pull the bulb wires taut and tape them to the back of the new wall. Glue the chimney assembly against the wall, atop the hearth.

CHALKBOARD SPECIALS



10 Print food specials in white ink on black scrapbook paper and your pub's name at the top. Frame the paper with stained, mitred, and varnished stripwood. Spot glue this chalkboard above the mantel. Optionally, punch and print ale pump signs. Hang them around each pump with thread, with the labels facing the 'customer'.

BACKED STOOLS



11 Soak two 1/4in (6mm) by 2-1/4in (57mm) pieces of mattboard for each stool. Shape them in nested pairs around the pill bottle and hold in place with rubber bands until dry, then stain. Glue the pairs and any separated layers. Stain two spindles and 1-1/2 cocktail sticks for each stool. Cut these uprights to 1-1/4in (32mm). Make three leg assemblies and seats (see part 1 in the January issue). Drill the seats and the lower edge of the mattboard curves to receive the spindles and cocktail stick tips. Glue the uprights into the curve and then onto each seat. Glue the seats onto the leg assemblies. Now you can varnish.

FINISHING TOUCHES

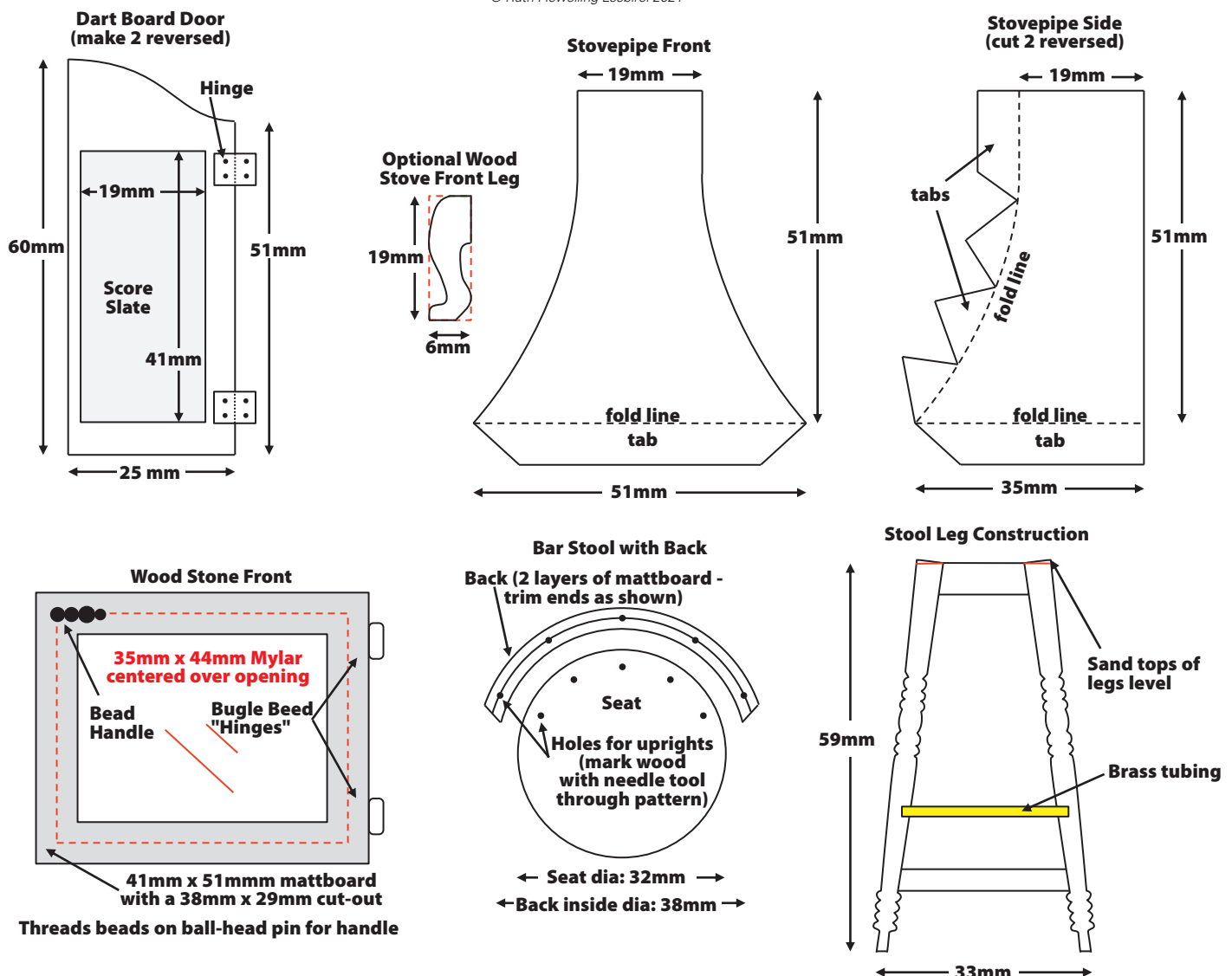


12 The clock, 'cheers' sign, and bicycle are stickers, the barometer an inexpensive miniature, and the dominoes and tea towels are from kits. The 'Pub Quiz Night' sign has acorn stickers. Nuts are mustard seeds in a miniature candy dish. A scrapbook paper coffee cup has a wisp of fibrefill steam. The towel rod is bent brass tubing in beads superglued to stained stripwood. A paper napkin stack is spot-glued 3/8in (10mm) paper squares, ice in buckets is clear silica in bottle tops, sandwiches are peel and stick felt, and soft drink cans are on 'ice' in a wash basin. 🏠

PUB TEMPLATE PART 3

Patterns at 100%

© Ruth Flewelling Lesbirel 2021



At Home with THE BROADWOODS



DESIGN DECISIONS...

This month, professional model maker Bea Broadwood continues to explore the fascinating world of smaller scale dioramas. Helped by members of the PP Modelling Community, she takes a closer look at important key design decisions that will help you transform your miniature scene; alongside the creation of a variety of trees - using simple modelling techniques and inexpensive 'everyday' craft materials.

Can't see the woods for the trees?

Creating miniature diorama settings is incredibly addictive and rewarding. Last month, I explored how smaller scale base structures can easily be created from a range of budget friendly materials. Working from the ground... up, this month trees and shrubs take centre stage; as these key features can really bring a landscaped base to life. Once again aided by some fantastic questions fielded by members of PP's modelling community, I thought it would be fun to share some simple 'cheats' and top tips that I hope will help and inspire you to take the plunge and create your very own miniature diorama, in any scale.

Bea.

"I have constructed my base and added loads of surface texture to it which I am really happy with, but now I've come to a halt as I'm not sure how to get started."
Brenda

Bea: Choosing the season you wish to replicate in your scene is an excellent starting point and from that one key decision you can start to build up the overall look that you are trying to achieve. Knowing the season you want to create will enable you to finalise the colour palette of the various landscaping materials that would be ideal to use.

Before starting any miniature setting, I have a good rummage through my stash of landscaping materials and collect together the ones that I feel might work. Seeing the materials together (normally strewn all over my workbench) helps me to group colours and textures that work naturally together... it also enables me to see the ones that don't and they go back in the store cupboard!

"Using a palette of muted warm natural colours immediately gives an autumnal feel to a miniature setting, where as strong vibrant greens and yellow splashes work together to shout spring." *Bea.*

"Do you have any advice on which style of miniature trees and shrubs I should use for different miniature settings?" *Alice*

▼ The leafless wire tree on Woodnook Cottage's base help to create an autumnal feel



▼ Hedgerow Cottage's base is set in the first bloom of summer



This is a really good question Alice and I feel it depends on two key factors; the season you have chosen to create and also the type/style of setting too. One look at a full-scale tree and most people could have a fairly accurate guess at the time of year and in the miniature world it's no different. For example, when I created the base for my Woodnook Cottage I wanted an autumnal feel, so the trees that I included were almost leafless and bare. Whereas, I wanted my Hedgerow Cottage base, to reflect early summer and so my trees are in full leaf, with some also in bloom.

The second key factor to consider is the type or style of setting that you are trying to replicate. A basic rule of thumb is the more pristine the scene is, the neater the trees and shrubs would be. Hedgerow Cottage's base was inspired by my grandparent's garden and although they didn't live in a thatched cottage, their garden was immaculate with not a blade of grass out of place. So the miniature trees and shrubs that I have included are extremely well pruned and clipped!

"I would like to make my own trees. I haven't found a kit that suited me yet. Would appreciate your guidance. Thank you." Rachel Scott

There are many different techniques that can be used to make 1:48th scale trees; some of them are more complicated than others and all of them first depend on the style of tree you want to make. Over the years, I have used a combination of methods and materials to scratch build most of the quarter scale trees that I have included in my dioramas, so to help you work out which technique might be right for you; here's a super quick over view...

- **Wire trees:** Fine florist wire is a great material to choose if you want to make a bare tree structure. The wire can be wound together and then cut and twisted into shape to form the type of tree you require. The amount of wire you use and the thickness of the wire will determine the amount of branches you are able to create. When you are happy with the shape and structure of your tree, it can then be painted (if required). I prefer to use spray paint to save time. Making trees from wire is not the quickest technique, as it can be quite time consuming, but if you persevere the results can be highly detailed and realistic.



◀ Florist wire is ideal for making miniature trees (Note - for wire tree see also photo 2)

Top Tip!

"depending on the size of the tree you have created, wrap fine florist tape around the trunk prior to painting to hide the coiled wire beneath."

- **Twig trees:** If working with wire doesn't appeal, why not let nature give you a helping hand. I regularly use twigs from my garden to create the main structure of trees or large shrubs. Simply snip off any interesting twigs that mirror the shape and size of the tree you want to make. Put the twigs in a warm place (the airing cupboard is ideal) and allow them to completely dry out. Using a glue gun securely attach florist moss to the 'branches' of the twig. When dry, dab the moss (and any visible

blobs of glue) with PVA adhesive and sprinkle some coarse landscaping scatter over the top. Tap away excess scatter and leave to dry. This type of tree doesn't need painting; just let the natural wood show through!



◀ Bea uses PP's mixed coarse grass on her twig trees

- **Simple conifer trees:** Sometimes the simplest techniques can give some of the best results! So here's a super quick project to create a simple conifer tree from an inexpensive bath sponge!

Bea's quick make

▼ The completed tree in situ

- 1 Draw a triangle onto a piece of foam to the height and width of the conifer tree you require, then carefully cut out.



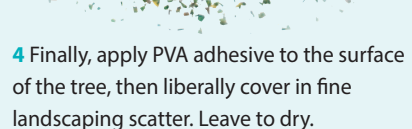
- 2 Using scissors, trim the sides of the sponge to form a rough cone shape, then cover with dark brown matt paint.



- 3 When dry, cut a small hole in the underside of the tree and stick a piece of dowel or twig into position.



- 4 Finally, apply PVA adhesive to the surface of the tree, then liberally cover in fine landscaping scatter. Leave to dry.



◀ Many of Hedgerow Cottage's trees were made from twigs from Bea's garden

And finally...

However, you decide to construct your miniature trees, just remember that in the full-scale world they come in all shapes and sizes, so there is no right or wrong... just experiment and (most importantly) have fun! Happy mini-ing. 🏡



INFO

Website: www.petite-properties.com

Online shop: www.petitepropertiesltd.com

Tel: 01526 328738

Instagram: @petiteproperties

Petite Properties Modelling Community (on Facebook): www.facebook.com/groups/petiteproperties



The art of laser cut kits

Moi Ali talks to the talented Melissa Sipma, creator of multiple scaled and five star review kits, popular with minaturists around the world!



Being made unemployed was a turning point for Melissa Sipma, a Dutch miniaturist from the little town of Drachten in the northern Netherlands.

Melissa took what could so easily have been a major setback and turned it to her advantage, as she explained: "I lost my job so I decided to turn my hobby into a full-time job. I like being my own boss and earning my living doing work I love!"

I was intrigued to find out how Melissa got into miniatures in the first place. "My love for

Melissa Sipma



► Art Deco chair



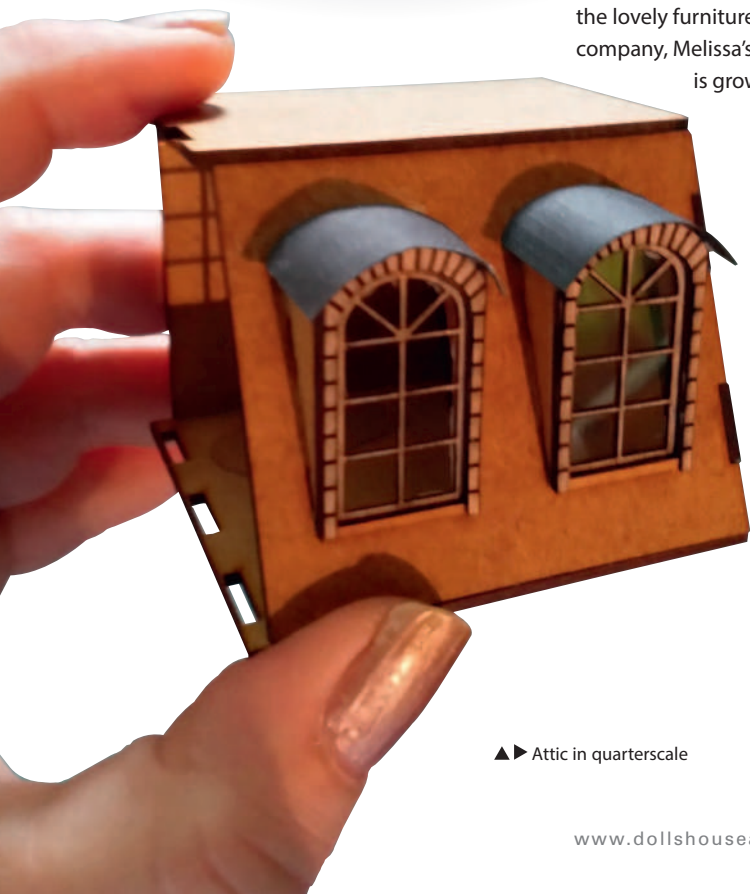
◀ Chairs in three scales

miniatures started more than 20 years ago with a visit to the supermarket! There I saw the first issue of the Del Prado part-work, a magazine series where over 125 issues you could make your own dollhouse, including all the furniture." Melissa bought that first issue and has been hooked on miniatures ever since! Now her taste are much more sophisticated, and her miniatures are truly exquisite.

She has a growing personal collection, which includes three 12th scale houses, five 24th scale houses and five 48th scale houses! She's quite the miniature property tycoon! They vary in style and encompass Rococo style, Art Nouveau, Tudor and also what Melissa terms "timeless cozy houses". On top of all that Melissa also has room boxes full of the lovely furniture that she makes for her company, Melissa's Miniwereld. The collection is growing all the time.

Drawing on inspiration from all around her, Melissa quite often sees a nice cupboard in someone's home and out comes the camera: "I take pictures of it and later I recreate it in miniature," she exclaimed. "I get my inspiration from the internet too. Suppose I want to make a chest of drawers, I go Googling or I look on Pinterest for ideas. I then collect different pictures of chests of drawers and I create my very own design inspired by all the different images I have gathered."

Her talent is awesome yet Melissa is entirely self-taught: "I've always been creative, though," she explained. "Since I was a child I have loved making things but I have no formal training in the arts, woodworking or other skills that are used in miniature-making." Despite the lack of training, there is no doubt that Melissa has a strong innate talent for all things small, and her attention to detail makes her kits simply adorable and very realistic. 



▲► Attic in quarterscale



“I love it when I finish a little room, put all the furniture in it and turn on the lights. That makes me smile”

▼ Plant stand



Melissa's skill is recognised across the globe. She was once commissioned to make miniatures for a theatre company in Canada and recently made furniture for a youth series on Belgian television: "There was a dollhouse in one episode and I was asked to make all the furniture for it." In addition, she occasionally does tutorials for a Dutch dollhouse magazine. I am always open to commissions," she explained.

I wanted to know about her favourites: "That is a difficult question! I am very proud of my Art Nouveau shop box, and my also my treasury cabinet, but I also think the conservatory is very beautiful. I really like the Art Nouveau style, so anything from that era is always a big favourite."

I looked to see if there was a definite Dutch feel to Melissa's range of items in her Etsy shop, and I noticed her scale cross stitch embroidery download of Dutch artist Vermeer's famous Girl in a Pearl Earring painting. Most of her pieces, however, have a very international feel and would fit into many interiors styles right through to modern homes.

Her Etsy store stocks mainly laser cut kits in all three popular scales: 12th, 24th and 48th. You will find kits for French Rococco beds, sofas and chairs; modern shelves and drawers; traditional dressers and tables; sweet little cribs and garden benches... the range is immense and all are designed and manufactured by Melissa.

What makes Melissa happy, I asked? "Many things. Good customer reviews always make me happy. I love it when I finish a little room, put all the furniture in it and turn on the lights. That makes me smile. And, of course, my work makes me very happy – and I am lucky to have a job that combines my passion with one that also enables me to pay my bills! That is true happiness." Who would have thought that losing a job could ultimately lead to such happiness. 🏠

▲ 1/24th scale chair



▲ Modern drawers



▲ The Art Nouveau shop



Make sure you get a copy of the April edition to for the chance to win one of Melissa's favourite Kits, her treasury cabinet, when Moi reviews it for her Kit & Caboodle feature!

From Melissa's own collection

**INFO**

To view more of Melissa's work visit

www.etsy.com/uk/shop/melissasminiwereld

Shabby chic shelving unity

Following on from her interview on page 38, Melissa has created this project exclusively for readers of DHMS. This shabby chic piece would look pretty in any cottage scene.

Melissa's
full-scale
inspiration



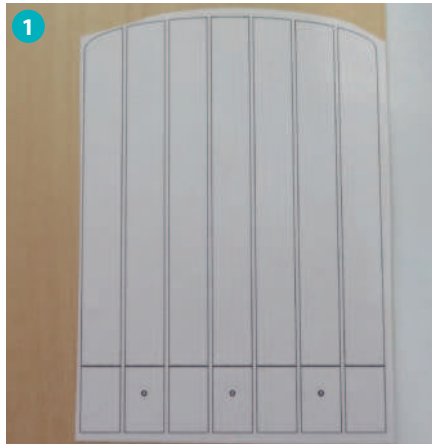
YOU WILL NEED

MATERIALS REQUIRED

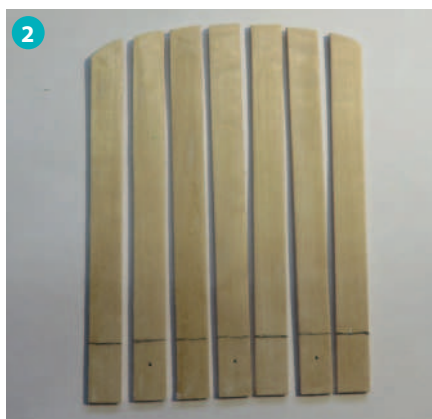
- 1.5mm basswood
- 3 small nails
- 2 knobs
- Glass sheet
- Piece of paper

TOOLS REQUIRED

- Tacky glue
- Wood cutter
- Sharp hobby knife & ruler
- Scissors & glue stick
- Printer



1 Print out or trace part 'A' from the template provided and stick it with glue stick on a piece of basswood.



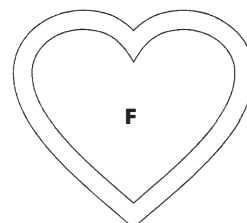
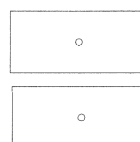
2 Cut the pieces out and remove the paper from the wood. Place the lines in the right place and poke the wood where the wholes should be.

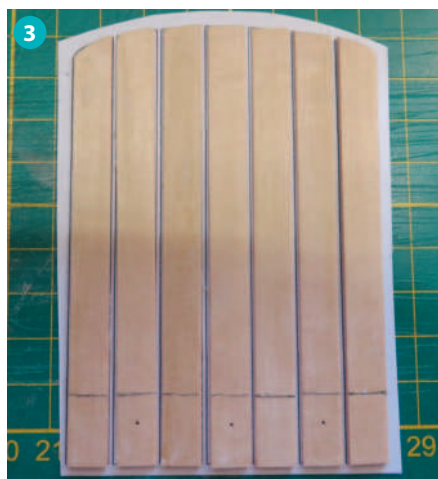
Shelving unit templates

Patterns at 50%

© Melisa Simpa 2021

Drawer front





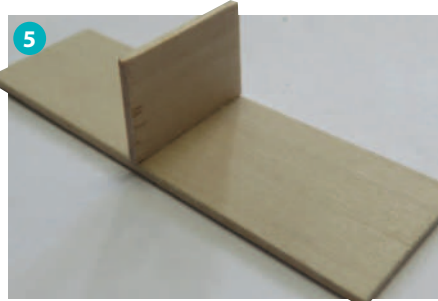
3 Print or trace part 'A' part once again and glue the pieces created on top with using a the glue stick.



4a Create part 'B' using the template provided and fix to the wood using the gluestick. Cut out the shape using a wood cutter.



4b Remove the paper from the wood and mark the lines with a pencil.



5 Using the template provided, create part 'C' and secure in place along the pencil line.



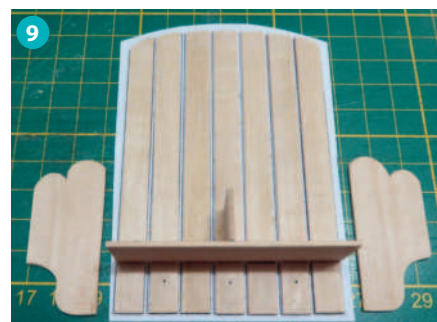
6 Cut the pieces as indicated on the template required for the drawer.



7 Glue the drawer pieces together and secure the little knob in place on the front.



8 Glue parts 'B' and 'C' together onto the back of part A.



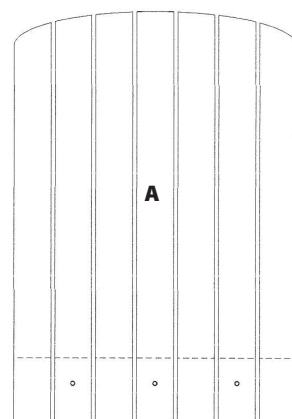
9 Create and cut out parts 'D' with a knife or a little saw and glue them on the sides of this.



10 Create and secure part 'E' in position and put the drawers in place. Drill the holes and glue the nails in there. Create and cut out part 'F' and cut a piece of mirror out of a glass sheet to place behind.

FINISHING

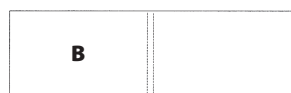
You can finish the project by painting it any colour you wish. Mine is painted with wood dye, a light teak by Rustins. After that I dry painted it a little bit with moss green to make it look weathered. 🏠



Patterns at 50%
© Melisa Simpa 2021

Side drawer

Bottom drawer



Back of drawer

Partition wall





Going down in scale!

DHMS reader Steve Milson shares his passion and recent builds whilst discovering smaller and smaller scales!



The idea of making a castle came from the cover of a book I was reading, showing a fortified city with several unusual towers and buildings. Concentrating on one tower and building I made a few rough sketches of what I had in mind and began. Due to the Covid-19 and a major lockdown I only had what was at hand to work with so the design gradually changed, but I still tried to keep near enough to my original plan. One good thing about lockdown was I had plenty of spare time for my hobbies, there was no point in going out, apart from food shops and chemists - there was nowhere to go.

Starting out

I started with the tower, made from MDF and mount board, then made the building next to it. The stonework was made from Fimo air drying clay, marked out with a mini screwdriver and then painted to resemble stones. The balcony is made from a half bottle top covered in Milliput with a design pressed into it, the gallery is made from card, Milliput and bits from my scrap collection and an old brooch, other decorations were from leftover bits from model boat kits and jewellery findings. When the main building

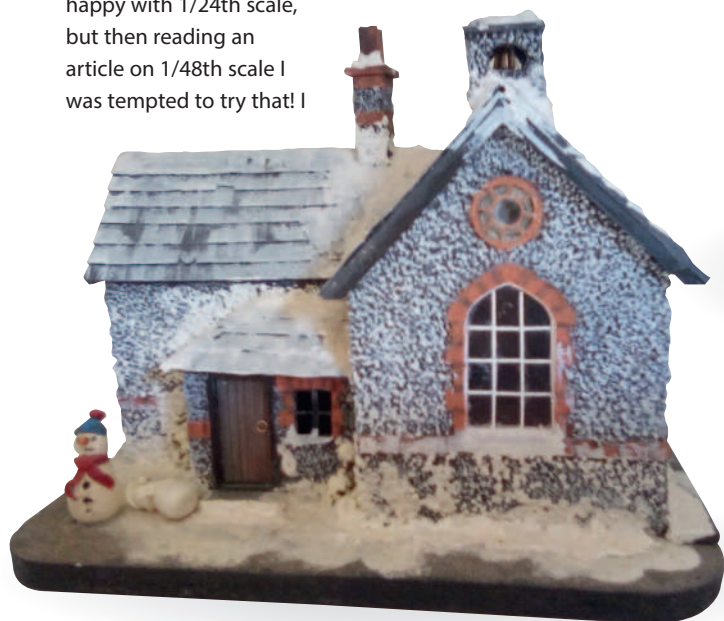
was finished, I decided to set it in a moat with some scenery around it. I already had some imitation water left from another model I'd made, and the scenery, also made from leftovers. I made the swans from wire and Milliput. My wife said it only needed Rapunzel on the balcony and Romeo and Juliet in the gallery to complete it. As I can't make figures she'd have to keep imagining.

A history of building

I've always made models since I was a small boy (a long time ago as I'm now 80) but I only became interested in dolls houses about 30 years ago, when I was browbeaten by my wife into making her one. Once started of course, I was hooked and next thing I knew I'm into wallpaper and making carpets and furniture and thoroughly enjoying myself. I got quite carried away, but eight houses later we ran out of room. Luckily by that time 1/24th scale had put in an appearance, so new homes were found for most of the 1/12th scale houses and I started on the smaller scale, making light fittings, furniture, rugs etc. I really preferred the smaller scale, mainly because it took up less space, the only drawback being the lack of nice china and glass, in fact all the things I could not make, this was soon sorted out with a trip to Kensington Dolls House fair. I was quite happy with 1/24th scale, but then reading an article on 1/48th scale I was tempted to try that! I

haven't looked back since. I started with a 1/12th scale plan that I scaled down and was pleased with the results, then could not think of anything else to make. I saw a Petite Properties ad and sent off for two kits and was very happy with the results. The thing about their kits is you get the basic building which can be finished, as their example or left to one's imagination. I started making my own designs, and since then I've finished about fifteen models, from cottages, schools, Tudor buildings and even a manor house, which has a grand staircase and real wooden floors. The windows took a while to sort out, as I wanted some to have arched tops to them. I eventually solved this by slicing off the top of cotton reels, then cutting the slice in half - this made a

beautiful arch and even bars coming down for the top of the window. I've always made furniture for the 1/12th scale and 1/24th scale but I've had to draw the line at 1/48th scale, finding at my age it's too fiddly so all my houses remain empty for now. Empty or not we're running out of room again, so new homes must be found again, if I want to continue with my hobbies. I also garden, make model boats, decorate eggs, paint model soldiers and help out around the house! 🏠



Free book cut-outs

A gift from us to you, these 1/12th and 1/24th scale cut-outs of vintage books are a great, simple project to help you fill your miniature scenes with the small details. Simply cut them out, wrap the around the appropriate depth filler, MDF off-cuts would work perfectly, and fill your shelves!



IN YOUR NEXT EDITION OF **DollsHouse** & MINIATURE SCENE

APRIL 2021 ISSUE ON SALE

**DIGITAL EDITION AND
SUBSCRIBER COPIES POSTED
FRIDAY 19th MARCH 2021**

**PRINT EDITION:
THURSDAY 25th MARCH 2021**

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

Digital and Social Media Content Creator: Anna Lewin

Tel: 01778 395053

anna.lewin@warnersgroup.co.uk

Publisher: Lucie Dawson

lucie.dawson@warnersgroup.co.uk

ISSN: 0967 4918

Warners Group Publications Plc,

The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 9PH.

Printing

This magazine is printed by Warners Midlands Plc.

Martin Harris

Tel: 01778 391000

Newstrade Distribution

Warners Group Publications Plc,

Nikki Munton

Tel: 01778 391171

Nikkim@warnersgroup.co.uk

FOR ALL SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES

Tel: UK +44 (0)1778 392007

Web: dhmsmag.uk/subscribe

Email: subscriptions@warnersgroup.co.uk

DollsHouse & MINIATURE SCENE

Dolls House & Miniature Scene is published 12 times a year, the digital edition on the second Friday and the printed edition on the third Friday of each month.

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Every care is taken to ensure that the content of the magazine is accurate; however the editor nor publisher assumes no responsibility for omissions or errors. The editor reserves the right to edit copy.

All the material published remains the copyright of the publisher. No part of this magazine may be published, reproduced, copied or stored in a retrieval system without the prior permission in writing of the publisher. No commercial exploitation is permitted. Tutorials and projects are for the reader's use only.

While reasonable care is taken when accepting advertisements, the publisher cannot accept responsibility for any resulting unsatisfactory transactions. No warranty is implied in respect of any product mentioned herewith. The Advertising Standards Authority exists to regulate the content of advertisements. Tel: 020 7429 2222.

Prizes, gifts or giveaways offered in competitions might be substituted with ones of similar value. Unless otherwise stated, all competitions, free samplings, discounts and offers are only available to readers in the United Kingdom. Prices quoted are correct at time of going to press and are subject to change. Please check with the individual retailer for up to date prices.

© Warners Group Publications PLC 2020

ADULT CONTENT



Step inside the world created by Ryan Monahan!

TAKE A SEAT



Mid-20th century design by Fernando Setien

ALL THE DETAILS



Explore the work of Max Aditya

MAKE IT TINY



Create a miniature work of art

LIVING HISTORY



Discover some of the best among the best

GET ARTISTIC



See it to believe it!

Details of how
to subscribe can
be found on
PAGE 24
and 42

BUY YOUR COPY ONLINE AT:

www.dollshouseandminiaturescene.co.uk

at your local newsagents or WHSmith or by telephoning 01778 392007

Dollhouse Mania

Shop in store, or order by phone, mail & online

Dolls Houses & Miniature Accessories

Large store with over 12,000 products



100s of dolls houses in stock



Loyalty scheme in store



£7.90
INC P&P

Includes a promotion code for 10% off next order

- Houses & kits • Furniture
- Dolls • DIY & Tools
- Papers • Electrics
- Carpets • Accessories
- New LED Lighting

Check website for latest offers

www.dollhousemania.co.uk

29 Park Lane, Cradley, Halesowen, B63 2QY

Open: Tues - Sat 10am - 3pm

Tel: 01384 638833

email: sales@dollhousemania.co.uk



If you are not on the internet, for the personal touch call us or post your order



LOUISE



CHRIS



BOB