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ISSUE 260

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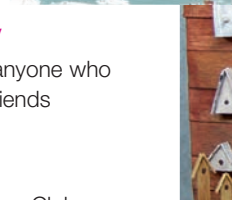
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I LOVE talking to people who have only just discovered the world of miniatures. The fresh converts are so excited to discover this mini world exists, and kind of sad that they have missed out for so many years.

Take one of the makers we feature this issue. She loved making miniature things as a child but only came back to it many years later when she found a tiny world existed for grown-ups. She began making, then selling to friends, and now sells to shops. She wishes she'd started in the hobby years ago.

It's also fun when people bring their outside talents to bear in the miniature world. Tanya Waughman used to design theatrical costumes, and has used those talents to good effects in making almost everything for her doll's house.

We've lots of projects this issue so you can keep filling your house with things you've made. Happy Easter from all of the DHW team

Richard

Richard Jennings - Editor. richard@ashdown.co.uk



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House Hunt

FIND THE little house hidden somewhere in this issue. Last issue it was on page: 14.



Talented Tanya learnt a house full of skills



Tanya Waughman decided on the difficult route when she decided on a doll's house... making everything herself

by Sandra Harding

have one of her own.

After looking at many houses, and seeing the prices of them, Tanya did what any normal person would do (not); she decided to make her own. The first thing she did was to buy a book by Venus Dodge, which took her through all the processes needed to create the house she wanted, with her own adjustments along the way of course.

What followed was one great big

learning curve, as Tanya taught herself about lighting, woodwork, sawing and decorating and, as she had also decided to try to make all the accessories herself, the curve was even more curved than usual!

Talking to Tanya, I very soon realised that this lady has hidden talents which would help her in her undertaking. Not only had Tanya owned a bridal shop, and is a fine needlewoman, she has also

I have recently spent a lovely morning looking at Tanya Waughman's collection of houses, room boxes and beautiful items made by her over the years, and I want to tell you about them all.

However, as often happens, there is too much for one article, so I am cur-tailing my excitement and covering just one of her houses for now. (Don't worry though, I will do all the rest for you later)

As a girl, Tanya did not have a doll's house, and it was only a breathless telephone call from her sister-in-law that started the avalanche that was to follow. "Come and see what I have just bought," was the call, and as soon as Tanya saw the doll's house she just knew she had to





designed and made theatrical costumes for many years. Some of her work has been seen on television in an Andrew

Lloyd Webber programme, and over the years she has made many of the beautiful costumes for the Thursford



Christmas Show, and the photographs and programmes are amazing.

Coming back to the house, as most of it is made by Tanya, it is easier to list the things that she has not made. For instance the china ornaments, and some of the accessories, but in the main, anything Tanya could make herself, she did. In fact some of the items were designed by her, and made with other members at the Chichester Dolls House Club meet-



to the rooms.

The lady (actually the very first doll made by Tanya) nursing the baby at the top of the house is Esme. She is nursing her daughter Chloe, and Esme is expecting the postman to bring a letter from her husband Phillip, who is serving in Her Majesty's Navy. He spends

long periods at sea, but is due home in the next few weeks. She wonders what he will bring home this time, as he bought the parrot home from his last trip. They called him Horatio, after the captain of his boat. Luckily Horatio really likes the cook, Miriam, so spends most of his time in the warmth of the kitchen. Mind you, she does feed him a lot of titbits.

Whilst Phillip has been away, Esme has had a new extension built, which Phillip had planned before he went away. They now have a bathroom and scullery, and for the first time Phillip will be able to see the plans he made turned into reality, and will be able to soak in his own bath.

We wish this charming family a happy and contented future, and we will leave them in peace to wait the return of the weary traveller. **DHW**

ings. The cuckoo clock, for instance, is so detailed it even has a little bird coming out of its door (actually a bead). The wooden table is a coaster, and much of the furniture she made from scratch, including the pretty wicker cradle. Every drawer and cupboard is full of household items and food and the end result is really lovely.

The beautiful and delicate carpets, cushions and all soft furnishings were carefully handmade of course, and Tanya also finds time to make full-size cushions and bags for her niece's 'real' shop in Dorset. The pictures on the walls are from America, as Tanya saw them and decided it was something she could not do better, and they add a charming touch





Jackie loves world she never knew existed

Jackie of Jay's Miniatures makes up for lost time with her mini business

By Sandra Harding

As a child, Jackie was always making miniature things out of plasticine, wool or anything that she happened to find around the house, even though she did not have a doll's house.

Life in full size moved on, and it was not until 10 or so years ago that Jackie found out about the world of miniatures

that had existed for all of her life. As soon as this world was eventually discovered her husband Ken bought her a doll's house, together with several packs of Fimo.

A friend suggested she join a doll's house club and she suddenly realised what she had been missing for all those years. Within a few weeks, she was pro-



ducing mini Fimo items galore, which she gave away, sold to friends and other members of the club. It was at this stage that Lin, from the Steyning Dolls House Shop, gave her encouragement and confidence by offering to display and sell her





miniatures.

It was suggested that she should attend doll's house fairs, as she had by now so many items that she could easily fill a table. Her first show was at Hove where she shared a table with another club member to see how her miniatures sold. Needless to say – they did.

By now she had become an expert in making realistic food items and she gradually added to her range, including cabbages (one of the best sellers). Although Jackie is not sure why, I can tell you it is because they are so realistic and mouth-watering, rather like everything else in her colourful displays. Other hot favourites are plates of cakes and scones, gateaux, stilton cheese platters, salads,





roast dinners, and a wide range of bread.

Jackie has also created set pieces, and the charming tea table, laid with cream teas, china, napkins, dainty cups and saucers and a menu (which can be read with magnification) is a delight. I also love the pub scenes she has created and Jackie tells me that she is selling more and more individual items for shops, pubs, and tea rooms.

If you live anywhere near Steyning in West Sussex, you can see and buy Jackie's lovely products from The Dolls House Shop, 120 High Street, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3RD, or at one of the local shows that she attends each year. **DHW**



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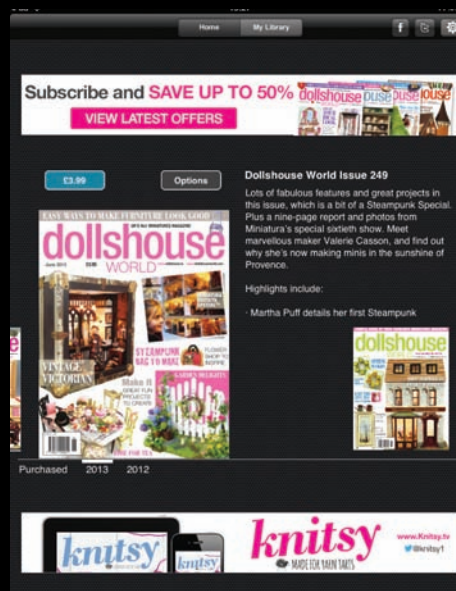
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Assembly Rooms, Dedham C07 6DE (off A12)

SUNDAY 6 APRIL - 6TH YEAR!

The Charmandean, Forest Road
Worthing BN14 9HS (on A27)

SATURDAY 12 APRIL - 15TH YEAR!

Clarence Hall, Beaufort Street, Crickhowell
NP8 1BN (on A40, near Abergavenny)

FRIDAY 18 APRIL - 16TH YEAR!

Novotel Stevenage SG1 2AX (A1M/J7)

SUNDAY 20 APRIL - INAUGURAL EVENT!

The Cedric Ford Pavilion, Newark Showground
Lincoln Road, Newark NG24 2NY (A1/A46)

MONDAY 21 APRIL - 7TH YEAR!

Holiday Inn Milton Keynes East M1/J14
London Road, Newport Pagnell MK16 0JA

SUNDAY 27 APRIL - 29TH YEAR!

Knight Hill Hotel & Spa, South Wootton
King's Lynn PE30 3HQ (A148/A149 Junction)

All fairs open 10.30am to 4pm. (Novotel opens at 10am).

Dolly's Daydreams

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Floral fun and plant delight

Floral artist Janice Kimbro creates elegant displays of delightful miniature flowers

By Martha Puff

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL PUFF

I love to make flowers,” Janice Kimbro says. “I put a lot of care, imagination, and hard work into each one. Flowers make my heart smile.” Better known as Jan, she has a lifelong passion for creating in miniature.

Jan grew up in the San Joaquin Valley region of California in what is largely an agricultural community. “Even as a small child, I liked to keep my hands busy and mind stimulated. I enjoyed playing make-

believe and would make ‘real’ pies from mud batter and little miniature houses out of dirt clods. I was fortunate enough to have a creative and imaginative grandmother who enjoyed many crafts. At age three, she taught me how to embroider. I would make beads from flour and salt for necklaces to wear. Salt-dough clay is inexpensive and easy to mix. Once dried and painted or sealed, salt-dough clay items can last indefinitely.”



After that, Jan started painting flowers and greenery using paint-by-number kits. This acquainted her with acrylic paints and allowed her to experiment with paint brushes for adding detail. “I’ve always been busy doing something crafty with my hands. Eventually my love of crafts led to minis—doll’s houses, room boxes,

ABOVE: Yellow ruffled iris made using a Hanky Panky punch. Hand-painted, hand-cut leaves in handmade pot.

LEFT: Blue hydrangea in pot. Mixed greenery with Jan’s laser-cut and coloured ivy in basket. Jan says that while she enjoys all the flowers she makes, hydrangeas are one of her favourites.





ABOVE: Mixed spring bouquet in miniature ceramic watering can from Dragonfly International. Fall arrangement in old boot with Jan's hand-coloured leaves.

RIGHT: Rusted garden chair with sleeping cat, flowers, climbing ivy, and roses. One of Jan's favourite designs. All pieces shown are twelfth.



ABOVE: Red Hawaiian mum, hand-painted with hand-punched leaves in handmade pot.



and a wide range of projects. I tried my hand at everything I thought I could do, and more."

Then, as a young mother raising two children by herself, she had little time for miniatures. But, when they became young adults, minis took back over. "Today, I am a seventy year old grandmother, who has worked as a waitress in the same establishment for the last thirty-seven years. Creating miniature flowers is my hobby, my passion, and how I relax."

While Jan had no professional training in making flowers, she started going to miniature shows and studying the work of others. "I met the lovely and talented Yvonne Jean Vonada, then living in Sacramento, California. She was known as the Fuchsia Lady. I loved her flowers, and Yvonne became my mentor and adviser. That was about thirty-five years ago. Yvonne is still a friend today. Barbara Taplin, owner of the Elegant Dollhouse in Sacramento for more than thirty years, is someone else who has provided a lot of support."

Inspiration and ideas come from florist catalogues, online research, and a love for gardening. "I want to see the flowers close-up and like to study photographs of real flowers in pots, garden boxes, greenhouses, and gardens." Jan also looks at





ABOVE: Hawaiian pink and rose mums in handmade pots. Pink violets in teacup.
ABOVE RIGHT: Janice's heirloom two-tone ruffled purple iris in pot, twelfth scale.
BELOW RIGHT: The interior of A Place to Dream. Filled with beautiful greenery and flowers, Jan's conservatory offers a peaceful place to think and imagine.



quality punches for flowers and leaves. She also sells laser cut flowers and leaves to get the precision required to make certain types of miniature flowers. "I have no difficulty in getting materials and supplies for what I make. My only must-have tools are a stylus and scissors."

"While I take pleasure in all of the flowers I create, my very favourites are the hydrangeas and irises. I have made just about every garden flower there is. I also hand cut philodendron plants. The philodendron genus contains some of the most beautiful foliage plants in the plant kingdom."

When it comes to her workshop, Jan says, "Oh, oh—chaos! I have a small room full of tools, wire, coloured papers, various floral supplies, books, and paints

the creations of other flower artisans to observe their composition techniques and the colours they select. "Studying the work of others has helped me to improve my techniques. The ever-so-talented Era Pearce (Pearce Miniatures), an IGMA Fellow in Flowers, has given me bits of advice over the years. Miniaturist artisans are incredibly generous with their knowledge."

Jan prefers to work in twelfth scale as she is more satisfied with the outcome.

She hand punches the flowers and also uses some kits. "I design many of my own leaves which are laser cut for me. I go to my flower garden and pick nature's leaves. Then, I copy the leaves onto paper and shrink them down to the proper size. I hand cut each leaf individually. All of my leaves are true to nature. I have about fifteen different leaf patterns that I have perfected."

Although she mainly creates flowers, Jan also makes ceramic pots and vases. "Deb Laue, Dragonfly International, was very instrumental in getting me started."

For the last several years, her main supplier has been Ruth Hanke of Hanky Panky Crafts. Ruth carries top-notch flower-making supplies and tools. This includes assorted coloured papers and high





ABOVE: Hand-painted flowering plants and greenery by Jan or from kits. Jan furred the poodle and three cats for the scene, one of which is hiding in the flowers around the fountain.

BELOW RIGHT: Conservatory, "A Place to Dream" in twelfth scale. The base is 12" deep x 15" wide.

of all kinds. In short, lots of stuff! This means I have little space and sometimes spill over to the kitchen table and then the dining room table. I share a home with my daughter and twenty year old grandson, so this can sometimes be hard on them."

Jan's price range for her flowers is from £7 to £50. "I strive to make my flowers as affordable as possible. I enjoy seeing people smile when they look at my work. I prefer not to accept commissions as I don't feel as though I can duplicate a piece. Everything I make is one of a kind and original."

As for looking ahead to her future miniature making plans Jan says, "My goal for the future is to continue making miniature flowers as long as I can. That is what gives me joy and pleasure." **DHW**

A PLACE TO DREAM

At last year's Folsom Fiesta State Day in Sacramento, California, Jan Kimbro took First Place with her project, "A Place to Dream."

The May Day Minis club has hosted the NAME Folsom Fiesta State Day for the past twenty seven years. "About 70-80 miniaturists participate in each year's May workshop. We are given a year to complete the project, and return it the following May to be judged by our peers. I was thrilled to take First Place."

"We all received a box with pieces of foam core to build a 10" x 10" structure. Since I love flowers, I decided to design a conservatory with a Plexiglas roof. I raised the overall height to 14" and incorporated wood slats along the sides of the Plexiglas for added interest." Jan opened up the solid back wall by adding French doors. To add Old World charm, she put in two large arched palladium

windows on each side. The exterior faux stone is made from paper clay.

"On the interior, I used stucco wall-paper and glazed over it with pale green paint which I wiped off. For the floor, I used faux tile, with each tile cut separately and laid by me."

Most of the plants, flowers, and vines were made by Jan. "They are either my own designs that I have laser cut or make using punches and kits. All of the flowers and leaves are hand painted, one petal at a time. The poodle is from an estate sale, and I furred it and the three cats. A few of the plants were revamped or gifts from friends."

The design of this heart warming conservatory cannot help but capture your imagination. It is a little piece of luxury—a peaceful hideaway from a busy life. It serves as a reminder that what you create in miniature is limited only by your imagination.

A Place to Dream photos by Michael Puff and Connie Sauve.



quick and EASY HATS

By Sandra Harding

Assembly

1. Remove existing bow, and decide on design and decoration you want.
2. Choose the colour scheme, and match up the decorations using whatever you have to hand. Beads, ribbon, net, lace, flowers,

YOU'LL need

- Pack of four hats from pound shop or similar (usually on a card making stand)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Feathers
- Beads
- Tiny flowers
- Ribbon
- Picot braid

feathers, flower soft, picot braid.

3. Glue chosen braid neatly around the top outside of the brim. Glue braid to the underneath edge and the crown if wanted. Let it dry.
4. Arrange the decorations until you are happy with the result, and then start gluing them on to the hat.

5. It is best to leave the feathers to last and, if necessary, add a few beads or flower to hide any little join.

Let it all dry, and then make another, and then another... **DHW**

TOptip

These hats are an ideal way of getting stock into your shop quickly. You can always exchange them later for more exotic creations. These hats are meant to go flat against a wall display or table, not on display heads.



knot-free NEEDLEPOINT

You can add a touch of luxury to your home with painted needlepoint chair designs with Gayle Baillargeon

By Gayle Baillargeon



Gayle and family.



Original chair before painting.



My grandmother spent months patiently making needlepoint covers for a pair of French Provincial armchairs. I always loved those chairs and wanted one like it for my own home. The only problem is, I am NOT a talented needle worker. The thread knots, and I miss stitches, and the project becomes more tattered and soon looks as if someone has used it to mop the floor. Needless to say, the whole mess ends up in a box under the bed until everyone has forgotten that I started another “doomed” project and I can quietly throw it away. I console myself with the thought that the cats would have had a field day with all those tiny stitches on a chair seat.

But I still want one of those chairs, and paint is much more forgiving than thread, so although I will never have a needlepoint chair in my own home, I can have them in my miniature houses. Many of the fine chairs available have faux leather or painted upholstery. That painted finish gives you the perfect base to create your own tapestry. It is also possible to paint cotton fabric by giving it a base coat of Gesso to tame any wayward lint; just avoid fabric with a thick pile, such as velvet. Use acrylic craft paint; it comes in lots of colours and dries quickly.

There are so many possible patterns for a needlepoint chair that it's hard to select one. Books and websites on needlework, antiques, and furniture all have excellent

reference photographs. It can be as simple as a bouquet or as intricately detailed as a landscape tapestry. You could also use a wallpaper or fabric design to create a matching needlepoint pattern.

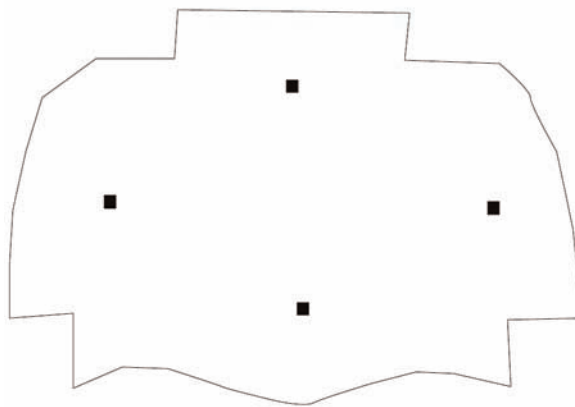
YOU'LL need

- Chair
- White acrylic paint or Gesso
- Fine sandpaper
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrushes (at least one thick and one thin)
- Toothpick
- Paint extender or water

Step 1: Choose one pattern that appeals to you and decide on the background colour.

Step 2: Save the photograph of the pattern to your computer and print off a large colour version of your choice. Reduce the same pattern to a size that would fit your chair and print. Now you have the miniature-size print to get the proportions right while using the large print to understand the details.

Step 3: A primer coat of white acrylic paint or Gesso should be used to conceal any pattern already painted on the chair cover or to cover dark colours. You can also use



Gesso to coat fabric.

Step 4: Once it is well dried, give it a very gentle sanding with fine sandpaper to smooth away any surface bumps.

Step 5: Paint the background in the colour you have chosen. Try not to leave any brush strokes. Apply at least two coats of base colour. Some dark colours may need three coats to give an even finish. Let the base coat dry well.

TIP: A small foam brush or an eye-shadow applicator could be used to give the paint a smoother surface.

Step 6: Use a toothpick dipped in paint to add small dots to divide the chair seat into

quarters as shown in the pattern below. Make the same reference dots on the pattern. This will help to keep your design centred.



Step 7: Start with the main parts of your pattern, such as the larger roses, and out-



line the shapes with a fine brush and the appropriate colour. Use paint extender or water to keep the paint flowing and smooth.

Step 8: Fill the outlines in with a flat coat of the base colour for each element. You will add the highlights and shadows later.

Step 9: Add the smaller parts of the design, such as the rose leaves or a ribbon border. Again, use the main colour to block in the overall shapes.

TIP: The base colour with white added will give you a shade suitable for the highlights. Shadows may be darker shades of the base colour, such as burgundy shadows on pink roses.

Step 10: Once you have all the elements of your pattern painted with their base colours, it is time to add the details.

Your large copy of the pattern will help you see where the shading should go as well as show you the colours and tints used on the original needlepoint.

You also may want to try your colour combinations on a sample painted on paper before you start working on the needlepoint seat. This will help you make sure you have the correct shades without forcing you to start completely over if you have the wrong ones.

Try to keep the paint thin and smooth. Remember: "It is only paint!" If something doesn't work out, don't give up. Just let it dry well, sand it lightly, paint over it, and start again.

This same painting technique can be used to make tapestry pillows, large wall hangings, or any other kind of needlepoint design from whichever era you are working on replicating.

Every little doll's house deserves that touch of luxury and sophistication. And this way, you won't have to fight with a single tangled thread! **DHW**



Gayle's finished painted chair.



A note on needlepoint

Needlework was considered an acceptable pastime for ladies during the Middle Ages. It kept them occupied and added warmth and luxury to their stark surroundings. The pieces were also status symbols, as only a wealthy household could afford the time spent on non-essential decorative arts.

Immense wall-hanging tapestries, such as the Unicorn and Bayeux Tapestries, were usually the work of several women, while smaller samplers and individual cushions were more personal endeavours.

Less-affluent women also spent the little leisure time they had doing needlework. It added a bit of luxury to their wardrobe and homes while teaching young girls the necessary stitches used to clothe their families. Patterns were hand-drawn on fabric and embroidered. A copy of an interesting design could be traced on paper and outlined with pinholes. Chalk or carbon was dusted through the outline to transfer the pattern onto fabric. These methods were virtually unchanged for centuries.

The industrial age brought new materials and techniques for needlework. Printing companies in Germany produced a new type of pattern that quickly gained popularity during the mid-1800s. Often called Berlin Work because of its origin, these charted needlepoint designs were printed in black and white, and the needle worker counted the chart to transfer the pattern onto the canvas before starting to stitch. Later charts were coloured and marked out in grids. By counting the holes in the canvas, the design could be stitched directly onto the canvas. New colourful dyed yarns also became available, and brightly coloured cushions, upholstery, and small personal items decorated many Victorian homes.

Needlepoint cushions and pictures with the design painted directly on the canvas were soon offered and eliminated the need to transfer the pattern. By the 1950s, you could also purchase a canvas with the difficult centre design already stitched and spend your time filling in the background with a single colour. And today, any of these options as well as less-authentic ones are also available.

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birdhouses GONE CRAZY

Joyce Mori's scene is bound to delight anyone who loves paying homage to our feathered friends

By Joyce Mori

My husband and I took a day trip. He spent the morning bird watching. I walked the main street hoping to visit some shops. Unfortunately, most of the shops were closed. We did get to eat a nice lunch at a restaurant located in an historic house. On the way back to our car, I saw the back of a building that was covered with weathered birdhouses. A few weeks later I decided to replicate the back of that building to create a mini project to include that and other ideas.

I think this would be a fun

workshop for a club. If each participant made several birdhouses for a swap, it would be very easy to fill the back of your building.

Birdhouses

No patterns are provided because they are easy to create by studying the photo. They vary in size from 1 1/2" to 1/2" high. This is a great way to use up tiny sections of wood left from other projects. Two houses have copper tape as the roof and are meant to be primitive-looking.

Step 1: Paint all birdhouses with a wash of white paint.



YOU'LL need

- Coffee stirrers
- Wood
- Mat board
- Artificial grass
- Builder's foam
- Green paint
- Brush
- Wooden plate for base
- Variety of small pieces of wood for birdhouses
- Piece of branch (1 3/4") for holding birdhouse

YOU'LL need

- 3/8" diameter dowel, cut 2 1/2" high
- Two chair legs cut off to about 1 3/4" for arms
- 3/4" thin wooden circle for head
- 1/4" x 1/8" x 1 3/4" wood for sides of body
- 1/8" x 3/8" x 1 1/2" wood for upper body
- 1/8" x 1/4" x 3/8" wood for neck

Step 2: Paint a thin-wash brown or black paint on top of the white paint. This gives them a dirty, weathered appearance.

Step 3: Use brown paint to add an entrance hole for each house.

Scarecrow

I added a scarecrow-type person, which I had seen in front of a shop in Le Claire.

Step 4: Paint all parts of the wooden scarecrow as you wish.

Step 5: Glue the two sides to

the scarecrow's body.

Step 6: Attach upper body.

Step 7: Glue arms, neck, and head in place, then glue the scarecrow to a base. I used a wooden bowl.

Fence

I used coffee stirrers for the basic posts, and you can cut the roof pieces to fit.

Step 8: Cut six strips ranging from 2" to 3 1/4" high.

Step 9: Cut one end of each post to a point. The points can



to the birdhouse fence posts. Study the photo for reference and glue the fence together.

Step 11: Cut a slight trough in the builder's foam base to allow the birdhouse fence to slip into it.

Step 12: Glue the fence in place on the base.

Tiles and foundation

YOU'LLneed

- Eight 3/8" mosaic glass tiles for stepping stones
- Polyfilla or other filler
- Artists' chalk
- Styrofoam (for foundation stones)

This is the base of the scene and adds a bit of realism as well as some visual interest to the whole birdhouse scene.

Step 13: Cut two squares in the base to allow for the placement of the mosaic tiles. I placed my tiles upside down.



Step 14: Put filler between the tiles.

Step 15: Make the stone pieces for the back wall foundation. The photo shows a one-inch-wide piece of Styrofoam that has been cut from the main piece. The Styrofoam is 3/8" thick, so cut a slice off that is approximately 1/8" thick. You have a strip then that is about 3/8" wide by 1/8" high.

Step 16: Use your fingers to flatten this along all its edges and down its length.

Step 17: Break off pieces that are varying lengths from 3/4" to 1 1/4" long. These are the stones. Cut off several strips in order to have enough stones to

place across the back to form the foundation. My foundation does not go all the way from edge to edge of the builder's foam base; it is about three stones high, or 3/8" high. I placed the stones about 1/8" in from the back of the base.

Step 18: Grate several colours of chalk pastels and colour the stones after they have been glued in place. You can also paint the stones with a neutral colour and then add chalk as more colouring.

Finalising the wall

This is the main part of the

YOU'LLneed

- 3/4" wide siding strips
- 1/8" x 3/8" x 6" narrow side panels
- 1 coffee stirrer
- 6" x 6 1/2" mat board
- 6" x 5 5/8" mat board
- One piece of 3/8" square wood cut 7 1/8" long
- One piece of 1/8" x 3/8" wood cut 6 3/4"

scene. In order for everything to look accurate, the creation of this should be approached with care.

Step 19: Paint two strips of your wide siding green.



Step 20: Paint the rest of your wide siding strips with a dark wash of a paint colour, such as heritage brick by Americana.

Step 21: Paint the narrow side panels the same colour as you

painted the siding.

Step 22: Glue your siding strips to the larger piece of mat board. Put a weight on it as the strips dry. It will still probably bow a bit.

Step 23: Sand the strips in places to allow the bare wood to show.

Step 24: Add a light wash of brown/black paint to age them.

Step 25: Glue the mat board to the top of the foundation stones. Bring the mat board forward so only about 1/8" of the foundation shows at the front.

Step 26: Study the photo of the back of the wall; we are now going to add the extra support to the back of the siding and the base of the foundation.

Step 27: Glue the 1/8" thick piece of wood support to the back of the stone foundation and the top of the base.

Step 28: Glue the 3/8" thick piece of wood support to the top of the first support piece and the top of the stone foundation.

Step 29: Glue the second piece of mat board to the back of the previous mat board back.

Step 30: Glue the narrow side panels to the back of the mat board and the side of the 3/8" square wood on the back.

Step 31: Glue the coffee stirrer support in place.

Step 32: Paint two siding strips green and cut them to fit on the front and side edges of the foam.

Step 33: Glue the birdhouses to the siding in a random pattern.

Step 34: Glue the log, scarecrow, and artificial grass to the base. If you have a friend who loves birds, this would be a perfect gift for him or her. If you keep this scene for yourself, I think it adds a wonderful bit of whimsy to your display of miniature scenes. [DHW](#)

YOU'LLneed

- 1/16" x 1/4" wood for the fence posts
- 1/8" x 1/32" wood for roof pieces
- 1/8" square wood for cross pieces

be longer on one side than on the other to make it more interesting.

Step 10: Glue the roof pieces

Talented members celebrate club's 13th anniversary

Sandra Harding visits Uckfield Dolls House Club on a special day

By Sandra Harding

I had been invited ages ago by Lucy, of 'A Basket Of...', to visit the Uckfield Dolls House Club, and the day finally arrived. I was there to report on the club's "Making a corset in a box" session, and although my husband came along, he is not allowed to play with corsets, so I sent him shopping instead.

The session was headed by Freda Stalker and Ann Paice, and they gave everyone a pre-prepared kit, including fabrics, braid, bows and even the card and tissue paper to make the box. The end results were lovely and everyone went home very happy to find a very special place for their corset.

This club has so many talented members, including Idske, who also belongs to a pottery club, and makes delicate twelfth scale pots, embroidery and furniture. Then we have Freda and Ann who just love making the most beautiful flowers, Lucy who is their Fimo expert, and Yvonne, Rosemary, Mary, Veronica, Frank and Frazer and others who have a wealth of talent between them. One of their future projects is going to be needle felting pets, and I have to tell you an irresistible quote I heard from Ann: "I started making



a dachshund dog but it ended up looking like an Afghan hound." (Sorry Ann).

This busy club was started about 12 years ago by Joyce Wilson after she became interested in doll's houses and began making things for her own house. After placing an ad in the local shop one person turned up, Rosemary Batters, and from that slow start there are now

over 30 members, of both sexes. Joyce wanted the club to be non-profit making, non-competitive and welcome to all abilities. Judging by my time with them today this has certainly been achieved.

The club meet monthly, on the second Thursday of the month, between 2 - 4.30, and includes tea, coffee, biscuits, and the fun of making something whilst having a laugh with good, like-minded friends. This day was a special one, as it was the club's 13th anniversary and, as is the custom, Mary Bates made the birthday cake. She is seen in the picture with Joyce laughing, as is usual at this happy club.

Shirley tells me that the wonderful thing





about this club is that everyone, no matter what level they are at, feel comfortable being there, mostly because they don't take themselves too seriously, even though they are all passionate about miniatures. Members are also given a monthly newsletter, which makes sure that they all know what's going on if they happen to miss a meeting.

The club is justifiably proud of the fact that they raise money each year for a chosen charity whenever they hold an exhibition in Uckfield. The next exhibition is to be on July 12, 2014, in the Ashdown Room at The Civic Centre, with all proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support. I will be there on the day for you to report on this talented and happy club. Do come along if you can.

• For further details of this club contact Shirley at: udhclub@gmail.com or call 01273 479281. **DHW**



Crafty, creative colourful cake

Italian miniaturist Manuela Michieli makes fascinating, whimsical cakes in an array of colours and designs

By Allison Croat

In northern Italy, there is a miniature artist of untold talents. Her name is Manuela Michieli, and she makes cakes. That's not all she makes, however.

"I tend to miniaturise only things I like in real life—cakes, pastries, and some fruits and veggies," says Manuela, an artist whose skills are being recognised worldwide. "I love polymer clay, it's a truly amazing medium, so sometimes I model other kinds of accessories and

some animals, such as birds, dogs, and cats."

Whatever she is making, Manuela makes it beautifully. For the past 10 years, she has been in the miniature business, though she has been in the hobby since 1985. "From the very beginning, I've always experimented with new ideas and materials that may help me improve my skills."

Her skills have been garnered through many different experiences. "When I was a young lady, I had the good luck to work in a creative studio where I learned lots of artistic techniques, and applied them to my miniatures." She also attends workshops to learn from other talented

TOP: Manuela won first place at the 2013 Miniaturitalia show in the Minicake Designer Contest where miniaturists were asked to replicate designer cakes. Visitors to the fair voted on the most accurate replica.

ABOVE: A tribute cake to the classic Minnie Mouse.

BELOW LEFT: A lively cake with bright pink and blue colours adorned with white flowers and bows.

RIGHT: A chocolate lover's dream; a chocolate cake with rich fudge.

BELOW: An collection of Manuela's cakes in spring colours.





miniaturists.

Taking the skills she has learned from other artisans, plus what she has taught herself, Manuela is able to teach miniatures to others through workshops. "I love teaching!" she says. Over the past 12 years, she has run multiple classes, including some in America. "I love the feeling you have seeing people enjoy finding out they are able to do something they didn't believe they were able to do. Miniatures are a great way to teach math, geometry, history, etc. It's fun to see how people learn quickly while they play." Manuela uses the fun and learning in minis to volunteer with children in school, showing them important



ABOVE: Manuela's cake designer shop displays cakes for every event and occasion, including the best one—"just because."

LEFT: An elegant soft pink and white cake topped with delicate roses.

RIGHT: Purple and white polka dot cake with an ornate bow on top.

BELOW RIGHT: Manuela's "Mad Hat" cake displays perilous precision and fun design play.

lessons through miniatures.

It's not easy to combine her family life with her career. "I still haven't found the right balance," admits Manuela. "I'm a mother, wife, and housekeeper first, and only in the remaining time can I be an active miniaturist." Lucky for her, her mind is her partner in minis. "My mind always works, even when my hands can't, so when I do finally go into my small laboratory, I always have a clear picture of what I want to do."

When she finally does manage to sneak a few minutes or hours in her workshop, Manuela throws herself into her minis. "I lose the sense of what's going on around me and enjoy the thrill of creating something new." Her creations are all one-of-a-kind; since she's not a large producer, she has taken to calling

her minis the "spring-summer collection" or "fall-winter collection" as a joke, since like fashion, she produces just a few special items a year.

Because all of her pieces are one of a kind, she doesn't have the luxury of keeping her creations. "My main interest is in the challenge of making each piece, not keeping them, which makes it easier to let them go into other hands. At the moment, however, I'm not able to sell any of the cats that I've created."

Once she has created a piece, she sells mainly online, though sometimes she will sell at fairs.

At the moment, she attends three shows: Chicago International, Philadelphia Miniature, and Miniaturitalia, which is the only Italian miniature show and is very special to Manuela. She has also been to some IGMA shows and a few others in Madrid, though at the moment, she has engagements that limit her ability to travel. In the future, she



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hopes to be able to attend them again.

Even without travelling, her miniatures manage to keep her very busy. "I've made about 120 miniature tutorials, each one with step-by-step photos, for an Italian publisher's miniature book collection. "It has been a very big effort for me, because all of these objects were original projects of mine."

Her original projects are stunning pieces of miniature art. Manuela's cakes look astonishingly realistic, like something you would find at a professional baker's shop. The colours are beautiful and the creations are whimsical and funky. Her "Mad Hat" cake, for example, sits topsy-turvy, looking to fall over any minute. The juxtaposition of strips and spots on the different layers adds to the bubbly look of this fabulous piece. And on top sits a beautiful brown bow, making the whole cake seem like a present to be unwrapped. Or the "Doodle" cake, looking for all the world like some miniature artist simply took a crayon and drew on the fanciful designs.



ABOVE: A square chocolate cake with flowing green and brown ribbon that accents the mint green stripes along each tier of the cake.

BELOW LEFT: Rose cake with shades of pink and draped with white sashes similar to Sleeping Beauty's dress.

BELOW: A close-up view of the main counter in Manuela's cake designer shop shows wedding candies and cakes and cake design magazines.

BELOW INSET: An adorable tiny bear hugs a pink heart atop a three tiered soft pink and white cake.

RIGHT: Detailed blue and green cake with swirls and flowers of fun.

When talking about her favourite things about minis, her thoughts form into two sections. First is the childlike innocence of minis. "In our small worlds, there is nothing bad. Scenes tell mostly about happy and peaceful histories. They are a kind of isle where we can rest from the fears and efforts the real world often brings into our lives."

Secondly are the lessons to be learned. "They teach many things, especially to children. You cannot replicate something if you do not understand it. Working in miniatures requires looking at things with care, and understanding the many steps to take to reach the final goal." Both of these aspects insure that Manuela will continue creating miniatures for Italy and the world long into the future. **DHW**



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mini button FOOT STOOLS

Rosemary Cooper demonstrates two ways to make simple, sweet foot stools you can add to your mini living room

By Rosemary Cooper



AS SEEN ON
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www.dollshouse.tv

This simple project is the perfect way to utilise all those odd buttons you may have sitting around in jars and drawers. You can pinch them off your grandma, or you can go through your own button box,

but any big buttons, especially coat buttons, are the ones you want to use for this project. Match up a pair of buttons or just two that are similar if you don't have a pair, and then we'll get started making our mini button foot stool.

YOU'LL need

- Knife
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Tacky glue
- Something round for measuring
- Small clamp
- Old pair of buttons (from a coat or other large buttons)
- Material of your choice (thinner is easier)
- Wadding or cotton wool
- Black, brown, or dark coloured cotton for base
- Braid for decoration
- Four feet (small beads will work)
- Needle and thread



Step 1: Cut out your material at least 1/2" bigger than your button. Use something round for measuring the material.

Step 2: Cut out your wadding the same size as your button.



This will create a nice cushion for your foot stool.



Step 3: Put your button flat-side down against your wadding.

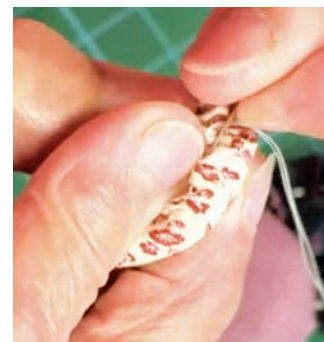


Step 4: Stitch all the way around the edge of your material.



Step 5: Gather your edges of the material. Add your wadding and your button to the material, and gather around to close.

Tip: have your thread doubled when you're gathering the edges of your material. This will help prevent breaking.





Step 6: Tighten your thread, knot, and cut off the excess thread. You now have the top of your foot stool.

Step 7: Repeat steps 1-6 with your black cotton material to make the base of your stool.



Step 8: Now you have two buttons, one with your chosen material and one black one.



Step 9: Coat your black button with glue. Glue right along your thread line, making sure not to put any in the middle—the glue may seep through the button-holes and stain the fabric.



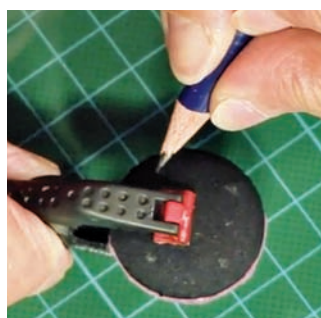
Step 10: Press your top button to the bottom and wipe off any glue that seeps out.



Step 11: Clamp the top and bottom together, and leave to dry. Make sure it is level.



Step 12: Tuck in any edges if they aren't neat enough. It may be helpful to use a sharp edge to help tuck in the material.

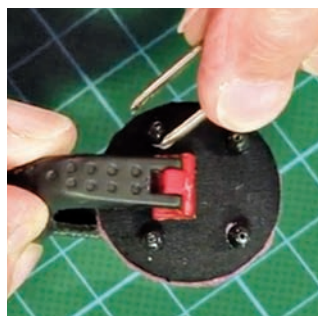


Step 13: Mark out with a pencil where you want your four feet.



Step 14: Glue your four feet to the bottom of your stool using some tacky glue.

Tip: it's easier to do this with a pair of tweezers than by using your fingers.



Step 15: Put to the side and let the feet dry before moving on.

Step 16: When it's dry, it is time to add your braid to the stool. You can also use cord or any kind of string.



Add your braid right around the middle of the stool, where the two button pieces meet.



Overlap only a small bit, just to conceal the end.

I've also made a rectangular foot stool using this same method. This time, instead of using buttons, I've used a slim piece of wood to give the foot stool its oblong shape. The piece of wood I used is 1 1/2" x 1 1/4".



For the rectangular foot stool, repeat the same steps as before. When you cut your materials, make sure you trim off the corners order to keep the material from bunching when you stitch it up around the piece of wood.

Stitch up your material just as you did before, pulling it tight at the end to secure.

Put together your base in the same way, and then stick them together with some glue. Clamp the two pieces together as they dry.

Add four little beads on the bottom, in the corners, for the feet. You can also add braid to finish your stool, if you like. [DHW](#)



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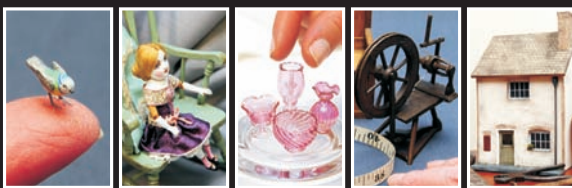
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make a cat quilt WITH MIA OWW

Mia Oww is a crazy cat lady that lives in a trailer park at the MSATMiniDoll List Yahoo Group. Here she shares her easy way of making a twelfth scale cat quilt

By Lucie Winsky



My kittens needed a blanket to keep them warm on cold nights so I decided to make them a quilt. After reading up on the subject I found my own lazy way of getting the job done. I don't have time to be fiddling with these things, as my kitties need lots of attention with their combing, feeding,

and my running around with string toys.

I wanted a quilt that from my perspective is 6'x6' for my kitties. If you like that size too, then follow these directions.

Step 1. Cut a square of white cotton fabric 7"x7" and draw a 6"x6" square in the middle of it with a pencil.

YOU'LL need

- 7x7" small pieces of cotton fabric in white and assorted colours
- 7x7" two-sided fusible interfacing
- 7x7" quilt batting
- Cat paper punch
- Thread to match
- Sewing machine with feather stitch (optional)
- 1" square cardboard template
- Black fabric marker
- Iron
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Ruler



RIGHT: Mia Oww's cats enjoy their fancy new blanket after its creation.

Step 2. Then draw 1" squares inside the one you just drew so that you end up with six 1" squares across and six 1" squares vertically. You will be placing your fabric squares on here so the lines should be as straight and accurate as possible to keep the squares in the correct areas.

Step 3. Cut a 1" square of cardboard to make a template.

Step 4. Fuse two-sided fusible interfacing onto the back of different pretty cotton fabrics that you want to add to your quilt. This way, when you cut them out, they are ready to be attached to your quilt.

Step 5. Trace around the cardboard square template onto the fusible-interfaced side of the fabric with a pencil and cut 18 1" squares out. Put them on every other square of the white cotton fabric to create a nice colourful pattern. The rest of the squares are going to be covered with a kitten design.

Step 6. I have a nice metal kitty paper punch that used to I punch out several kitties from the fused fabric. I also flipped the punch over so that some kitties were facing right and some were facing left, just to add more dimension to the quilt. Then I placed the kitties on the plain white squares.

With the paper punch that I have, you have to press really hard to get those kitties out! If your punch gets dull, you can always punch through some aluminium foil to sharpen it.

Step 7. Once all of your interfaced cats and squares are set on the quilt in the correct areas, iron the squares and cats down permanently to the white cotton fabric.

Step 8. Cut a backing from blue print fabric or whatever colour takes your fancy in a 7"x7" square. Cut your quilt batting (which is used to make the quilt puffy) in a 7"x7" square too.

Step 9: Stack the three layers on top of each other: first the 7"x7" blue print fabric facing down, then the batting, then the white fabric with the cat and squares on top facing up. This is the way all of the fabrics will end up facing, so make sure it looks correct before you move on to the next step.

Step 10. If your sewing machine has a neat little feather stitching design like mine does, you can shrink the size down a bit and sew rows and rows of the squares together with thread (I used a pretty blue thread). Otherwise you can use a straight



or zig-zag stitch if you're doing this part by hand.

Step 11. To finish the edges I cut most of the white cotton and batting off of the edge and folded the blue print over itself twice and then sewed that down with the feather stitch also. If you look closely at the photo above, you can see how this creates the look of a border with the blue fabric that makes the quilt look very polished and

nicely finished.

Once all of the stitching and finishing of the edges was done, I took a fabric marker and added details to the kitties, like an outline and some eyes and whiskers. Then, with the same marker, I signed my name proudly on a front block for the whole world to see!

Taaa Daaa! My kitties wasted no time in breaking the quilt in. **DHW**

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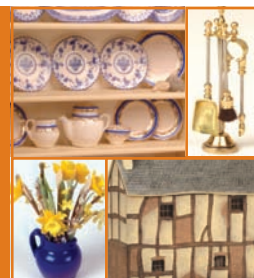
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Time for Thame

Sandra Harding misses the show, but is still able to bring us a full report on the fair that raises money for Breast Cancer

By Sandra Harding and Felicity Holland

PHOTOS BY FELICITY HOLLAND



Well my friends, this is a first for me. I am reporting on a doll's house show I did not go to. I blame my grandsons for my non-attendance as they gave me the most awful cold and cough (the kind that keeps you up at night).

However, the show, organised by Felicity and Ron Holland for the last three years, is an important event on the calendar. Apart from the fact it is always a big success, this couple also raise money for the Breast Cancer Campaign (a cheque for well in excess of £2000 will soon be on the way to the charity) and, regardless of my absence and disappoint-

ment, I wanted to let you know about it.

To do so, I have spoken to people who were there, namely Felicity and Ron.

This year the fundraising tables were moved to the middle of the main hall, but the sales table was, as usual, filled to overflowing with collected, donated and handmade items. It was the place to pick up 'just the thing you wanted', or even 'just the thing you didn't know you wanted'. Yes, it was that kind of table - irresistible. The volunteers were working flat out all day, and the crowd remained three deep throughout.

There was a very grand raffle, and thanks must go to the exhibitors and

everyone else who donated such fabulous items. There were more than 30 wonderful prizes, and the winners were absolutely thrilled. The children (and everyone else) loved the Miniature Tombola with hundreds of prizes to be won, all donated and made by members of the Thame Miniatures club, MTM of Thame, plus others of course.

On top of that the Thame Dolls House Club pulled out all the stops to display a range of room scenes made by members during the year, showing the imagination and creativity of this talented group of miniaturists. I hope to do an article on the club later for you.



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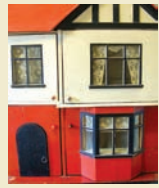
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At one end of this very large hall we had Celia Thomas, of KT Miniatures, with her fascinating collection of vintage and antique accessories and dolls houses. A chance to buy the quirky and unusual items that were around when your mother, or even grandmother, had a doll's house.

Nearer the other end of this large hall was IGMA artisan Mags Cassidy, of Mags-nificent Miniatures, who has been a stalwart supporter of this event since its early days. Mags displayed her wonderful collection of food made from polymer clay which is all carefully researched for historical accuracy. She has food from a wide range of historical periods – so she is an excellent person to contact for food for any particular period.

There were 43 exhibitors at this friendly show, including newcomers to this event Artforge, Miniature Mansions, Caroline Stafford Miniatures, and Julia Connett Miniatures, all of whom have been on the waiting list for this highly-regarded show for several years. Also new this year were Jennifer's of Walsall, invited in response to requests from visitors for more DIY stands, and Mouse House Miniatures, invited in response to requests for more food-makers.

The show also welcomed ELF Miniatures, who brought a modern dimension to the event, and Susan

and Sandy Eismont with their beautifully made range of Tudor furniture in twelfth and 1/24th scales. Phoenix Model Developments stepped in at the last minute, when Peter Clark had to withdraw just three days before the show for health reasons. We wish him a speedy recovery, along with Jim Hemsley of Trigger Pond, Ray Storey of Ray Storey Lighting, and Anthony Church, our friendly town crier. We missed you all, and look forward to seeing you next year.

Along with the newcomers were 'regulars' such as Beith Miniatures with their wonderful range of fine quality hand-made furniture from Georgian through to the Edwardian period, Sally Meekins Miniature Ceramics, Al'turn'ative Proportions, Shepherd Miniatures, and many other stand holders with mouth watering items for sale. It is so easy to be tempted, and so easy to spend such a lot of money at this friendly event where stand holders and visitors are welcomed and the organisers are around to help where needed all day.

Visitors came from all across the UK, including a minibus from Cheltenham, from Cheshire and Cumbria, from North Wales, Kent, and the south west.



The doors had to be opened a few minutes early to ease the queue, which was obstructing entry to the pool and other areas of the leisure centre. The crowds continued to flow in for several hours, many hurrying firstly to the charity stands, then spending time browsing the huge variety of stands.

One visitor said: "I wouldn't miss this fair for the world – it's such a high quality show with such a lovely atmosphere." Another, who had travelled from Yorkshire, said: "You have such an excellent event here – I came particularly to visit ELF, but I shall certainly be back in future." "You are fundraising for such a good cause," said a more local customer who had bought a bagful of goodies from the sales table as well as items from Ironworks and Shoebutton Bears.

Every taste, style and era was catered for, from fantasy to Tudor, contemporary to outrageous, and everything in between. Congratulations must go to Felicity and Ron and their supporters for another very successful show.

I plan to go to the next one on Saturday 21st February 2015 (provisional date), but I have to wait a whole year now. I might just go and sulk a little first.



shave off some PLANTING TIME

Use a razor cover and other household materials to create your own windowsill or patio planter with artist Pat Vick

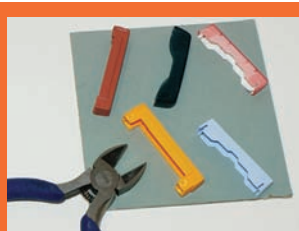
By Pat Vick

Once upon a time... as many of my mini projects start...I saw an interesting “free” container in (this time) my bathroom: the cover on a Bic™ disposable razor. It was yellow and had some projections that needed to be cut off. Then came pink, other pastels, followed by translucent and a variety of colours to specify the “purpose” of the razor...and now I own a lifetime supply!

A word of caution: If you cut your own live plants, dry them carefully away from your household edibles. You don't want to know what may be living in them, and you definitely don't want it crawling around your house, real or mini. I even keep purchased dried/preserved naturals away from my main supply for a month or more, just in case. I once had two packages of “Candy Tuft” (very hard to find) develop web worms inside their plastic bags. It hurt to spray and trash them. At a minimum, spray anything you've collected and dried with hair spray, which also adds stability to fragile stems.

So now with that said, let's make a mini planter!

YOU'LL need



- Razor cover
- Filler
- Plants
- Toothpicks
- Tacky glue
- Cheap wire cutters
- Tweezers, paint, and paintbrush if desired



Step 1: Trim any plastic protrusions from razor cover. Paint it if desired. All are quite paintable with acrylics if you want

terra cotta or another colour to match your décor. Painting the translucent ones on the inside makes them look like ceramic.

Step 2: Slather glue inside the planter and push filler in. Trim and paint as necessary. The filler I use is brown Oasis™ foam, sold to arrange live flowers in vases. Alternatives are air-dry clay or DIY filler that isn't yet dry. Any of these can be painted brown.

Step 3: Make a hole in the soil with a toothpick; dip the bottom end of the greenery in glue and push it into soil. Your garden may be as full or sparse as you wish.

Plants I used are a selection of plastic and dried natural plants. If you ask for herb names, be advised that I don't know the names of big ones either (except chives and mint). I pinch a leaf, smell, and decide

if it will enhance what I'm cooking.

When selecting plants, look at the centres, leaves, and other bits. Very few of my plants are from a single plant; many are built, stem by stem, leaf by leaf. If you find something tasty-looking that isn't green, paint it using sprays meant for silk plants or using acrylics and a soft brush.

I find plants in craft stores, floral supply, yard sales, and thrift shops. Chives are “good old-fashioned plastic pine needles.” Don't add any blooms; those should really be cut off of “working” plants.

Step 4: Place the planter on your twelfth window sill, or if in a smaller scale, on the edge of the patio.





For more plants

You can use ceramic containers and beads, toothpaste and bottle caps, or wooden things like flowerpots, bowls, buttons, and the “axle caps” and wheels from wooden cars, all of which I usually paint terracotta. I slather the wheel and axle cap tops with glue, dip them in sand, add filler if necessary, and plant or glue to the planter top.

Many plastic plants look like succulents, including plastic pine needles. I use Ironwood pods and Alder cones for a cactus—sprayed green with “points” touched lightly with a foam brush and white paint.

TIP: If you are not using purchased sterile sand or gravel, place it in a disposable pie tin and cover it tightly with aluminium foil. Bake it one hour at 350° F to kill insect larvae.

You may want to “dress” the top of your plants with gravel, ground walnut shells (pet supply) or tiny scoria (lava rock) just like we do for real plants.

The photo above shows both the Bic™ herb garden and several other simple plants, including one in a small plastic mint dish (from a party store) painted terracotta. Happy planting! **DHW**



New home needed for mini collection

French collector wants to pass on her figures for children to view

By Sandra Harding

I met a charming and elegant 85-year-old French lady recently who wants to give away her rather unusual collection of miniatures, which she has been collecting worldwide for thirty years.

The collection contains 428 resin and porcelain figures (each of which is named), plus hundreds of pieces of small furniture, animals, flowers and other accessories. They are also intermingled with many 1/24th scale doll's house pieces, small 1950's celluloid dressed dolls, and many pieces of 1960's plastic furniture.

They are set in groups, such as garden, bedroom, living room, and include a wedding scene, nursery, terrace, shops and many other ‘settings’.

Madame Royie Joseph has travelled the world in her capacity as a model and governess and settled in the UK nearly 40 years ago with a career as an auxiliary nurse.

She now hopes to give her collection away to a charity, so that children can view it, and get pleasure from looking at it. Ideally, she would like it to stay together, but realises that this may be difficult to do. She has arranged for part of the collection to be displayed in a charity shop for subsequent sale, and the money raised donated to the charity.

If you would like further information, or have any brilliant ideas of how to best dispose of this unique collection, then please contact me direct at sarenharding@yahoo.com **DHW**

miniature SHOWCASE

WITH MARTHA PUFF



• “The cactus garden in the aged tub is comprised of hand-made Saguaro, Golden Barrel, Mammillaria, and Cereus Cacti,” says IGMA Fellow Era Pearce, Pearce Miniatures. “I added in Echeveria, Aeonium, and Aloe succulents. My goal is to recreate in miniature giant dahlias and other plants with vivid, vibrant blooms.”

MINI CONTACTS

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• Barbara Greene-Flindall of Silver Fox Creations, Canada, is the exclusive distributor for Bespaq quarter-scale furniture. She said: “In addition to my own quarter scale pieces, I feature accessories from very talented artisans. My line includes pottery, carpets, wallpaper, fabric, paper flooring, stained glass panels, plates, tatting, Acclaim silver, some lamps, food, afghans, etc.”



TOP: Prototype of room box workshop
ABOVE: New secretary, demi-lune table and half-tester bed.
BELOW LEFT: Hall tree and country kitchen set.



MINI CONTACTS

Barbara Greene, Silver Fox Creations
3024 Uplands Dr., Ottawa,
Ontario K1V 9W3, Canada
001 613 736 0475
www.silverfoxcreations.com

• Shellie Kazan, in her shop, Shellie's Miniature Mania stocks some wonderful pieces. The parrot and pirate (right) are by Teresa Dudley, the trunk is by Joyce Bernard, and the telescope is by Alvaro Rodriguez from Taller Targioni, Spain. The shoes are by The Dolls Cobbler.

MINI CONTACTS

Shellie's Miniature Mania

www.shelliesminis.com

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CA 94070

Email: shelliesminis@msn.com

Telephone: 001 650 593 4921

BELOW: Handcrafted grapevine over 1/48 arbor with two built-in benches. Yellow iris and ferns. Fairy made by LadyBug Miniatures.



• Patricia Brehm-Nash of Pat's Bloomers began making 1/48 scale flowers and plants around 1997. "Many ideas come from customer requests," Pat says. "This year, in addition to popular favourites, I plan to make my first hydrangea bush, some hanging ferns, and hanging ivy. I will also bring back my hollyhocks. My new fruit trees to plant in the yard have been well received and I will continue to make those."

RIGHT: Beautiful handcrafted yellow climbing rose bush covers 1/48th wood porch swing on stand. Red and yellow tulips in ground. Fairy made by LadyBug Miniatures.

BELOW: Handcrafted 1/48th lemon, orange, and apple fruit trees in pots.



MINI CONTACTS

Pat's Bloomers

Pat Brehm-Nash

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Email: pbnwb@aol.com



MINI CONTACTS

Maritza Moran
www.maritzaminiatures.com
MaritzaMiniaturesEtsy

• “This French day bed is made from two refurbished and modified Bespaq chairs,” says Maritza Moran of Maritza Miniatures. “It is draped in goldenrod and raspberry silk taffeta, upholstered in chocolate brown silk chemise, and has hand-painted silk pillows and a jewelled crown canopy top. The chocolate silk wall panel is a hand painted Chinoiserie design.”



ABOVE LEFT: Mummy's Day Party table.

BELOW: “A Night in the Museum” in 1/48 scale was a Pre-Convention Workshop piece for the NAME National in Tucson, AZ. When the lights are turned off at night in the pyramid museum, the mummies have a Mummy's Day Party. The workshop was in collaboration with Stewart Dollhouse Creations.



• From Carla Gaustad's table, these one-of-a-kind hand-sculpted 1 1/2"-high polymer dolls with sand-filled bodies are by Kathi Kuti, Canada. “In 2013 I plan to add exciting items to my line of toys and expand my new series of 4"-tall children,” Kathi says. “I will also keep on making the dolls that my collectors have come to expect every year.”



• Carol Kubrican of true2scale, Wisconsin, told us: “We work in twelfth scale and have just started to offer quarter-scale kits. Our tiny glitter houses are 1:144 scale and we offer accessories to go with them. This year, we are working hard to expand our quarter-scale line and are creating some lovely wallpapers to accompany the kits.”



ABOVE: The All is Bright Village is a glitter house village sized to fit into a twelfth scale scene.



ABOVE: Eiffel Tower displays in twelfth (not shown), 1/24 and 1/48 scales.

MINICONTACTS

True2Scale, Carol & Tomas Kubrican
shop: true2scale.com
email: carol@true2scale.com



ABOVE: Harvest Vignette. The structure kit includes the three-sided box, plastic case, papers for floors and walls, plus all furniture.

RIGHT: Party Foods kit has all the makings for veggie tray with dip, shrimp platter with cocktail sauce, and deli tray with rolls. Includes serving platter with glasses of champagne.

• Janet Smith of Desert Minis, Inc., New Mexico, told us: “I endeavour to make quarter-scale foods with as much detail and realism as in twelfth scale. I have the same goal for my micro scale foods. Working under a microscope allows that. I offer both finished products and kits.”



LEFT: Coffee Shop Pastries kit includes the makings for bagels, croissants, Danish pastries, and apple turnovers. Includes coffee cups and juice bottles on ice. (Pastry case is not included.)

RIGHT: Pieces from Janet's Diner food kit.



MINICONTACTS

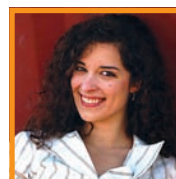
Janet Smith
Desert Minis, Inc.
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mini pleasures OF SPRINGTIME

Highlight the season of pastels and bunnies with this adorable and fun little Easter scene

By Angela Schiavone



It's springtime again! Time for gardens, bunnies, and Easter eggs! Though this is the world of minis, not all projects need to be bigger ones.

I actually made this scene with a group of friends. We all got together to make spring scenes. I didn't have a really clear picture in my mind when I started, but I just kept working and gradually discovered it.

I did know the basics: I wanted a fence so I didn't have to deal with an image that didn't look real. I knew I wanted a pond of some sort. I knew I wanted a picnic area. And I knew I wanted something with the sticks (I don't think I settled on a canopy until I was already working on it). You can use these easy techniques to make your own little spring scene too!

Grass and fence wall

This lovely ground and backdrop will beautifully complement your pastel-coloured Easter accessories and stone-covered pond.

Step 1: Glue the foam boards together at a ninety-degree

YOU'LL need

- Foam boards
- Glue
- Three straight pins
- Grass (roll or fibre)
- Wooden coffee stirrers
- Craft glue

angle to make a floor and wall. I stuck in three straight pins to create some extra support.

Step 2: For the floor, simply stick on the roll of grass. Alternatively, you can sprinkle the grass fibre onto the glue-covered surface.

Step 3: For the wall, cut wooden coffee stirrers to the size of your wall and glue into place.

Cracked egg

This is just a fun, cute item that you can easily add to any Easter scene or even a mini kids-in-the-kitchen breakfast scene.

Step 1: Dip the handle end of a small paintbrush in flour. You'll use this tip to mould your shell.

Step 2: Roll out the white clay as thin as you can and mould it around the tip. Smooth any

folds.

Step 3: Using the razor blade (be careful!) cut the cracks in the shell and dispose of excess clay.

YOU'LL need

- Small paintbrush with rounded handle end
- White clay
- Yellow clay
- Clear-drying glue or liquid "water"
- Flour
- Razor blade
- Wax paper



Step 4: Now we'll do the yoke. Roll out a tiny ball of yellow clay.

Step 5: Carefully, pull the shell off the paintbrush and bake both the shell and the yoke.

Step 6: Put the now-baked white shell on some wax paper and then place the tiny ball of





yellow yoke on the ground just outside of the shell so that it looks as if it has spilled out.

Step 7: Take your water substance and pour a little inside the shell, over the yoke, and let it spill out a bit beyond the yoke. Let it dry. Oops! Looks like there was a little accident!

Stick canopy

YOU'LLneed

- Sticks
- Hot glue
- Pine cones
- Flowery vines

Because I created the canopy for this scene right on the spot and didn't have a set plan, I just glued the canopy right onto the back wall as I was working. It turned out really well,



but if you're more comfortable gluing it together separately before adding it to the wall, you can do that too.

Step 1: I first glued in a long stick (from the park) onto the wall. This gave me a line to start with and a bottom support for the criss-cross pattern.

Step 2: Hot glue some smaller sticks and two long ones onto the first in a criss-cross pattern. I tried to hold the sticks in place as I glued in each one and let them dry. I kept the project upright, but would put it on its back if that angle was easier to hold the drying stick in.

Step 3: Remember to put in two diagonal supports as shown above so it doesn't collapse!

Step 4: I found the pine cones that I'd added on the canopy at a park. They actually grow that little! I think you could also find them at a craft store, but I just picked up ones that had fallen to the ground. I then hot-glued these pine cones onto the canopy along with the flowery vines, which I bought at a craft store. You can add any other bits of outdoor decorations that you think of—bits of leaves, moss, grass, or any other natural piece that you think would look decorative and fit the theme.

After you've done your bits of outdoor decoration, your canopy is now done and ready to head your Easter scene!

Frosted cake

What better item to bring on a spring picnic than a cute

YOU'LLneed

- Clay (for cake)
- Liquid clay (for frosting)
- Chalk (for frosting colour)
- Tiny sprinkles
- Toothpick
- Razor blade



little cake with yummy frosting?

Step 1: Mould the round shape of a cake out of clay, then carefully cut out a slice or two of it with the razor blade. These can be made into slices if you'd like.

Step 2: Using a toothpick, carefully tease the exposed cake in the area where you cut the slice out. This will give it the cake-like crumbly texture. Make sure you don't squish the cake in between your fingers!

Step 3: Frost the cake with liquid clay mixed with the chalk colour.

Step 4: Add the sprinkles to the top, then bake and enjoy!

Rocky pond

I thought a nice pond would be the perfect addition to a springy Easter-themed scene.

Step 1: Paint the surface area of your pond blue. This will give

YOU'LLneed

- Blue paint
- Clear-drying glue or liquid "water"
- Small stones
- Deer moss
- Hot glue

the water the colour you want.

You can add some green and brown in there if desired.

Step 2: Hot glue rocks around the perimeter of the pond, and also add a couple inside the pond area for realism.

Step 3: Glue tiny bits of deer moss around the pond edge. Use the moss to plug any holes between the perimeter rocks; you can also try to plug these areas with hot glue. You can even tear up bits of the deer moss to be underwater.

Step 4: Finally, pour in the clear drying glue or water substance to fill your pond. Let it dry.

I added many other mini touches to this scene, like a basket of flowers, a stuffed bunny, and of course little eggs. On the wall, I threw on a bird-house and a springy straw hat. The rest of your decorating is really up to your Easter imagination.

For a finishing touch, you can also add some little animals like the ones we made last month! I thought the bunny was the perfect addition. Now, you have a nice relaxing Easter scene! **DHW**



small accomplishments

Share your fun with other readers

Send us your photos

We want to feature readers' projects every issue. So whether you've dressed a doll or decorated a mansion, send us the photos. Don't be shy. Email richard@ashdown.co.uk with Small Accomplishments in the subject line. Or send photos to Small Accomplishments, Dolls House World, Unit 5E, Park Farm, Chichester Road, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0AG



Rosemary's made a wide range of beautiful minis



By Sandra Harding

On a visit to Rosemary Cooper's house to take photographs of her doll's house (see issue 253) I could not help but notice the large amount of other mini items she had on show. I was so intrigued by the diverse and interesting collection, I felt sure you might like to see them for yourselves.

I have to start this part of Rosemary's bits and pieces with the very moving Remembrance Chair, which was created as a result of a Chichester Dolls House Club challenge, whereby each member was to use a purchased chair and create a "scene" on it. This unique idea came about whilst Rosemary was attending

a church remembrance service. It is so beautifully observed, down to the collection tin hanging on the chair, and the handmade poppies and flag.

The imaginative Nativity is just a little club Christmas challenge which was created out of an exotic nut, 'stolen' from a bag of pot pourri, with little figures purchased and painted.

The magic hat was made out of a wedding table decoration, which Rosemary adapted in the most ingenious way. The rabbit actually does pop up and down (yes, really) when a little switch at the side is operated, and I know because I did it.

The Pedlar dolls were another club challenge. Rosemary chose to do a pedlar lady doll and got so carried away that she also made a man. After a lot of research,



Rosemary dressed them as they should be, with red capes, layers of thick clothes, and an embroidered apron for the lady. The accessories and trays holding them were all handmade of course. They include toys, hats, hatpins, lace, carpet beater, bellows, feather dusters, and numerous other things tucked in every nook and cranny. They are really lovely.

Something else lovely to look at are the Faberge eggs which is one of



Rosemary's specialties, as she has a ready supply of real cockatiel eggs from a friend's bird. She has created many of these lovely eggs, and is intending to give a tutorial on how to do them at the club sometime soon. I am told the eggs are carefully blown, and given two coats of clear varnish and allowed to dry, painted and then decorated. Like everything, I am sure it is not as simple as Rosemary told me, but as I am going along to make one at a future meeting, I will let you know how I get on.

The picnic table was

made for another of Rosemary's clubs makes, with the theme being a picnic scene. As you can see, the table is loaded with more of her home made Fimo products.

Last for this group is the pretty teddy bear's picnic. Rosemary has a lovely teddy bear pattern book so she made a lot of them – as we do, and decided to let the family go out for a teddy bears' picnic. Daddy bear is sitting on the bag, and the little boy is being a pest to his Mummy. The baby is sitting on a log, with a squirrel waiting for possible crumbs. The little girl does not want to get her fur dirty so she has chosen to sit on her napkin. They are all sitting on a cork pot stand. A delight. [DHW](#)





designing a PERFECT CAKE

Manuela Michieli shares one of her creative mini cake designs—a chocolate cake with strawberry embellishments

By Manuela Michieli

The first time I made this chocolate cake with strawberries, it was for a nice event: I was on a cake design TV show where a famous Italian cake designer, Barbare Perego, was showing how to make the real cake and I, on parallel, was showing how to make its miniature version.

I decided to create a step-by-step tutorial from this experience, and now I'm happy to share it with you.

YOU'LL need

- Work surface (I use a ceramic tile)
- Round cutters in two different sizes or two plastic caps
- Acrylic roller (or a glass bottle)
- Sharp blade
- Two big needles: one with a sharp point and one with a rounded point
- Drinking straw
- Scissors
- Polymer clay: brown, red, green, white, sun yellow

- Liquid polymer clay (optional)
- Talcum powder
- 2 or 3 mm red ribbon
- Glue



Step 1: Condition the brown clay then roll it flat. To get the desired even thickness use two strips of wood, of the same thickness as the one you need, as a guide for the roller.



Step 2: To cut the two round pieces composing the cake, you can use two different sized round cutters, or you can also use two small plastic caps. I'll show you both ways in this tutorial.

Here I start using a very small plastic cup to cut the taller round part of the cake.

Step 3: You don't need to use a releasing



agent like talcum powder to prevent the clay from sticking to the plastic cup since the air trapped in the cup will act as a small piston, leaving the cut clay on the tile. This kind of cutting will also give you a nice rounded edge to your cake.



Step 4: Remove this piece from the tile using a sharp blade and set it aside.

Step 5: Roll a thinner layer of brown clay using, as before, two guides for your roller. Here I used two thinner strips of wood than before, but you can use small stacks

TIP: Please remember, once you have used a tool with polymer clay, you shouldn't use it again for real food.



of cardboard or two knitting needles. Of course if you have a pasta machine...use it!



Step 6: If you're using small cookie cutters, you will need a releasing agent to prevent the clay from sticking to it. Here I'm using talcum powder—dip the cutter into it and gently tap the edge to remove the excess powder from the cutter.



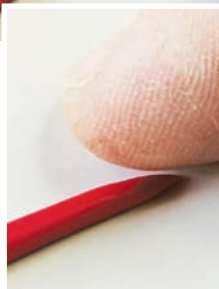
Step 7: Cut the shorter round shape of the cake by firmly pressing the cutter on top of your clay sheet.



Step 8: Remove the excess clay. If there is any powder left on the cut piece, you can lightly brush it off with a small paintbrush.



Step 9: Put the first, taller piece you cut on top of the second, shorter one. Press them together just a little to make them adhere to each other. Here we have our cake's base!



Step 10: To make the strawberries, roll a thin snake of red clay (more or less 3 mm thick).

Step 11: Use your fingertip to make one end of the snake pointed.



Step 12: Cut the point so that you have a small triangular shape, and place it on top of the cake.

Step 13: Repeat step 11 and 12 two more times.



Step 14: Use a pointed needle to make the strawberry texture as shown in the next pictures.



Step 15: Using the same procedure as for the strawberries, roll a very small point from the green clay.

This point will be so small you can cut it by the same needle you will use to put it on top of the strawberries to make the green leafstalk.



Step 16: Repeat step 15 until you get all the leafstalks needed. You'll want at least three or four for each strawberry.



Step 17: Roll a thin flat sheet of the same green used for the leafstalks and this time, to make leaves, we will use a very cheap cutter: a plastic drinking straw!

Usually the straw has a round shape but if you just flatten an end of it with your nail and then release it, you will get an oval shaped end that is very useful to cut leaves.



Step 18: Cut at least 6 leaves.



Step 19: Then, using a sharp needle, texture the veins on your leaves.



Step 20: Put the leaves on top of the strawberries and shape them in a natural pose. The needle is a useful tool, and will help you to shape the leaves and to gently press them in place to make them adhere to the strawberries.



Step 21: If you like, you can add some buds by modelling small green snakes as shown in the picture bottom left.



Step 22: Now roll a thin sheet of white clay. This time I used a flower shaped 3/16" Kemper cutter to get the small flowers.



Step 23: Remove the small flowers from the working surface by an X-Acto knife or a sharp blade.

Use a rounded point needle or a small stylus ball to put them in place on top of the cake. The pressure you will use to make them adhere to the leaves will also leave a round dip in the centre of them.



Step 24: Put a very thin bit of yellow clay into the rounded dip of each flower and, by

the sharp pointed needle, prick it to texture the centre of the flower.

Step 25: Bake the cake in the oven at the right temperature according to the polymer



clay brand you used. Bake for 30 minutes.

Step 26: After the cake has baked, you may complete your cake with a final touch: add a red ribbon all around the taller part of the cake and glue it putting a little dot of glue just in the ribbon junction point.

Step 27: If you like to add some more strawberries, leaves and flowers on the cake base as I did, you can add them even after you baked the cake. Just put some dots of liquid polymer clay on the base to act as glue and then lay your new decorations on it and bake again.

If the baking temperature is right (carefully control it by an oven thermometer) you can bake your pieces over and over again as many times as you need without any problem. **DHW**



The charm of silver

Sandra Harding suggests a use for those old charm bracelets that might be languishing away in a drawer

By Sandra Harding



Ladies of a certain age will know what I am talking about when I mention charm bracelets, as most of us had them in the 1960s.

It usually started with the gift of a silver, chain link bracelet, usually from parents or boyfriend for Christmas or birthday and, of course, it would have at least one charm all ready on the bracelet.

Charms would then be given over time to commemorate special events, maybe a 21st or 18th birthday, or a stork carrying a baby for a new arrival. You get the idea.

I believe I had mine for my 18th birthday and by the time I was 23, my bracelet was full. Parents, brother and sisters and friends had all added to my collection.

My lovely bracelet was eventually placed into my jewellery box, where it languished for many years. Not because I didn't love it, but because I had lost count of the embarrassing moments when my heavily lacquered hair had become snagged in a charm (remember, it was the days of back-combing and lacquer).

I had also ruined many pairs of stockings, tights, jumpers and other people's clothes if my hand happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. (This happened a lot). The reason my bracelet came out of store is an easy one - I discovered doll's houses and miniatures in the 1990s.

It started with my cutting off one charm, a lovely little opening jewel box, which went onto my lady's dressing table. The next one was a clock which went into the study, closely followed by two little goblets, which are now in my chapel, but which originally were in the study. Next came two cats and a basket of flowers, which are now ornaments in the sitting room, plus another two matching goblets.

A lot of the charms were not able to stand nicely, or just did not look right, and those are all in my strong room in my Big House. (You will see the house in a few weeks in DHW) In the room are the baby and stork mentioned earlier,

Old Mother Hubbard, an Aladdin's lamp, a champagne bucket, a wishing well, telephone and ballet shoes, to name a few. I had the strong room built especially for these and to it I added crowns from Buckingham Palace, 'silver' figures from the National Trust, 'silver' beads, cloisonné boxes from a car boot sale, clocks without a home, and in fact anything I thought would look good.

If, like me, you have a charm bracelet hidden away for the same reasons, it might be time to get it out, give it a polish, and see if you can incorporate any of your little silver miniatures into your own house. [DHW](#)



Up for the challenge

Carol and Dave Huffman enjoy dreaming up new designs for each other to attempt as they advance their inlay techniques

By Emma Barklay

Carol Huffman's beginnings in miniature inlay furniture stemmed from desperation. Carol, who wanted to incorporate her interests for Tudor history and Art Deco architecture into her miniatures work, had a difficult time finding pieces to use. Not to be deterred, Carol, along with husband Dave, decided they could make their own.

They come up with the designs together, or choose to imitate something they've seen in a magazine. Dave builds the raw product, then Carol refinishes the pieces by painting, doing the inlay design, and varnishing each one to a perfect finish.

Dave, whose father was a college shop instructor, recalls lessons he learned watching his father work when he's constructing pieces. Carol's knowledge of inlay design comes from years of living in New York and working to preserve buildings with Art Deco architecture.

"I have a lot of knowl-

edge in my head about the Art Deco period because I lived in it," Carol says, "but I found a lot of people didn't know much about it."

While the inlay design certainly makes the piece distinct, Carol knows her work wouldn't be possible if Dave's

skilled work wasn't taking place first.

"He says that I cover up his mistakes, but the reality of it is I couldn't do what I do without him," she says. "You have to have a good foundation for a piece, and he gives me the foundation I need."



Their work is done very much in a joint effort, as a piece will often be passed from one to the other, and then back again, before it is finished. For complicated pieces, Dave will build it in pieces, Carol will do the inlay on each piece separately, and then Dave will glue the pieces together for the finished product.

The Huffmans are always up for new challenges — which often come from each other. The two enjoy testing and stretching their skills as they dream up new miniature items to create.

One such piece was a serving table that could be used to place a tea set on, which had rounded sides. Carol says she wanted to make this piece to prove to herself that she could



ABOVE: A checkerboard game table.

LEFT: Dining room set and fireplace with Blue Boy painting from Carol's personal minis collection.



ABOVE: Western style bar with matching stools.

ABOVE RIGHT: Tri-fold privacy screen done with Victorian style pictures.

RIGHT: An Indian maiden screen.

inlay items on a curve. While the table was initially difficult to make, Dave and Carol each finished their part successfully.

"Dave keeps giving me more challenges," Carol says. "The one now is making a round bed. I've had a couple failures, but am still working on it." Another challenge the two have undertaken is that of size. They had always worked in twelfth scale, until they received inquiries about replicating their work in 1/24th and 1/48th. Carol and Dave didn't see why they



couldn't. "A woman at a miniatures show basically asked my husband if we could do it on a dare," Carol says of one inquiry to reproduce a piece in 1/48th.

Carol and Dave took the dare, and have since recreated many of their original pieces in 1/24 scale. Each piece they make now, is done in each scale.

The Huffmans enjoy sharing their knowledge and

techniques with other artists, and feel it is best when artists share their projects with each other. They believe sharing knowledge is the best way to contribute to the community of miniaturists.

"I like to learn that way, and my husband, he has no problem asking people things," Carol says. "You have to reciprocate; you have to give back. That's the way we look at it."

It's lucky for the miniature world that they do. **DHW**

BELOW RIGHT: Another of the many art deco screens Carol and Dave make.

BELOW: Rounded serving table.



something for THE BIRDS

The birds need to bathe any time of year, so Diana Carpenter has built an ideal bird bath or garden pond

By Diana Carpenter

Now that spring is about to arrive, our thoughts go to gardens and the bird life that we have been feeding all winter. A bird bath is always popular and very easy to make and here is how I made mine—a little bird adds to the charm.

Step 1: Now this is really easy but you will need to cut a circle of tin foil to fit inside the bottle top otherwise the Fimo will stick to the washer and you will never get it out! I cut a circle out from the base of a tin foil cat food container.

Step 2: Condition your Fimo and roll out a log to make the plinth. This can be any length, the choice is yours. Try to keep your ends as even as possible and then put to one side.

YOU'LL need

- Bottle top (the beer bottle that has a frilly edging)
- Circle of tin foil to fit into the bottle lid
- Block of granite Fimo
- Flower Soft optional
- Tile to work and bake on

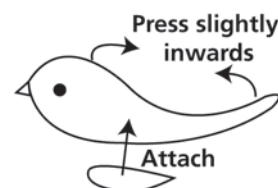
Step 3: Next, make a small round to act as a base for the plinth to sit on. Position the plinth onto the base and make sure it sits firmly. This is now ready for baking.

Step 4: Brush the inside of the bottle top with water, this will help when removing the baked Fimo from the lid.

Step 5: Cut a circle of granite Fimo to sit inside the bottle lid, press it down as evenly

as possible and trim the edges. Try to press the Fimo gently into the frilly edges as this adds to the finished look.

Step 6: Add a tiny amount of Fimo to one edge to act as a shelf for the bird to sit on.



The bird

Step 1: This little chap looks really sweet sitting on the edge of the bird bath and is easy to make.

Step 2: You can add as many as you like, the choice is yours. From the granite Fimo mould a small amount of clay into an elongated tear drop. The fat end is the bird's head while the thinner end is pinched out into a fan shape to make the tail.

Step 3: Two more smaller tear drops flattened are attached as the wings. Gently ease the tail and head slightly upwards and inwards.

Step 4: Take a tiny amount of Fimo to make a beak and make two tiny holes for eyes.

Step 5: Attach the birds to the edge of the unbaked 'bath'. Try to do this before baking as trying to attach the birds after baking is



very tricky, believe me, I have tried!

Step 6: Bake all your pieces in a domestic oven (not a microwave) according to the manufactures instructions on the packet of Fimo.

Step 7: When cooked and cool, glue the bowl to the plinth.

Step 8: At this stage Flower Soft may be used, I think it adds a finishing touch to the bird baths.

Step 9: The green Flower Soft looks good as moss.

Step 10: If you find you have omitted to attach the bird before baking and have to use glue, a prop made from rolled up tin foil is useful as a support until the glue has dried.

Garden pond or water feature

These can look so attractive in a small space and add interest to your garden. They are very versatile and can be used as a water feature or a planter.

YOU'LL need

- Block of granite Fimo
- Scenic Water
- Flower Soft (optional)
- Tin moulds (I have used petit four moulds available from good cook shops)

Step 1: Wash these out with water before you start and don't dry them.

Step 2: Condition your Fimo and roll out a piece to fit your mould, press gently into the mould until it fits snugly, trim the edges. At this stage you can add a tiny piece of Fimo to one edge, to act as a platform for a little bird.

Step 3: If using the long mould add a small amount of Fimo to one long edge to act as a long platform for the birds. I have also made four feet for the long bird bath/planter, these are four blocks of Fimo placed at each corner, bake according to the manufacturers instructions.

Step 4: Make bird as before.

Step 5: When cool add your Scenic Water or similar 'water' substance, add any water plants you want or, if using as a planter, add your plants. I have used the tiny Fimo birds to decorate these but they can be left off if desired. Flower Soft can now be added if required. **DHW**



Tiny little clutch bag kits

• Do the dolls in your doll's house have a handbag obsession? These little clutch bags could be just what you're looking for. They are quick to stitch, and easy to assemble. With six patterns to choose from, there is bound to be a suitable design for you to make.

The clutch bags are all to be stitched using tent stitch (like half cross stitch) on 40 count silk gauze. The kits contain Anchor stranded cotton, a generous piece of silk gauze, clear instructions, a suitable needle and a colour block chart to count the design from.

If you haven't stitched in this scale before, or are unsure about making one of these kits, visit the free online tutorials page at www.janetgranger.co.uk/tutorials.htm and see how easy it is.

The kits cost £9.95 each. P&P is £1.75 per order if placed by post (cheques to Janet Granger); p&p is free online if your order is over £40, otherwise it is £1.75.

Janet Granger Designs, Rose Cottage, Leek Road, Waterhouses, Staffordshire, ST10 3JS Tel: 01538 308860 www.janetgranger.co.uk

Mini celebration

• Jean Kain and Eric Piper are to be honoured by the Cheltenham Miniaturist Club with an exhibition of their work as part of a celebration of all things miniature. The club will be joined by many other miniaturist groups on Saturday, May 10 at the Springbank Resources Centre GL51 0LG in Cheltenham. All proceeds from sales tables, silent auctions, the grand raffle and all day refreshments will be donated to Maggie's, the cancer support charity. The club is looking forward to greeting friends old and new throughout the day.

Club display

• West Glamorgan Dolls House Club will be exhibiting, as part of a 'Hobbies Weekend', at the National Botanic Garden of Wales, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire on the 24th, 25th & 26th May 2014, 10am to 5pm. An amazing variety of doll's houses, room boxes and miniatures will be on display plus miniature items for sale.

• In last issue's feature on Mini Mixtures we mentioned the embroidery skills of Julia Matthews. Here's a couple of examples of her extraordinary work. The gingerbread houses feature canes of Fimo and anything glittery, while the delightful little shell jewel boxes are made using tiny shells which Julia collects from her local beach.



• Julia can be contacted on 02392 587397 or email j_matthews@talktalk.net

Paul and Trevor come up smelling of minis

Training by the Army Catering Corps helps House of Mindy with their food preparation, and collectors love the spit roasts that smell of herbs

By Sandra Harding

Isometimes wonder where to start when I begin any article, but this time, with The House of Mindy, I had no problem at all – it had to be the name. It came from one of a pair of gorgeous Yorkies called Mindy and Cutie, and although sadly Mindy is long gone to doggie heaven, the name will live on.

It was after Paul Taylor created a display case with Mindy's things in it, and food made from clay, that the idea began to form. Friend Trevor, and others who saw the display, thought that he could make a business from making and selling, and although some family members thought he was "off his head", they decided to investigate the possibility further.

He told me that a visit to Alexandra Palace as a buyer left him in a complete daze, but full of enthusiasm, after talking to sellers and other people at the show. Paul soon arranged to have accounting and bookkeeping lessons, so that they could operate as sole traders in the miniature business, and they realised that it just might be possible to turn their hobby into a full time occupation.

Paul and Trevor launched their new business at Danson Park Craft Weekend in Kent in about 2000. The show was held in a tent, and they had a six foot table, a room display box made from

cardboard, and a very limited range on offer. They were reassured by other sellers that Alexandra Palace would be better – and it was in fact a great success. Mind you, they had to work very hard, but they

certainly breathed a sigh of relief. Trevor, who makes hand-decorated furniture and handles all the behind the scenes activities, such as driving, was also very happy. As they do about 25 shows and exhibi-





tions a year, this is quite an undertaking, particularly as Trevor has undergone open heart surgery.

They sell “anything and everything miniature” as Paul puts it, and what anyone wants they try to get or make, including one-offs and commissions. Paul’s speciality, however, is making food items and he regularly gives demonstrations at fairs. As he was trained by the Army Catering corps, his experience in food is pretty good.

However, I don’t think that the army supplied whole rich-roasted spit roasts for soldiers’ lunches. I actually picked one up, and plan to buy one for my Tudor house as they not only look realistic, they also smell of the herbs that Paul adds to the mix. Customers tell him that their mini kitchens smell of the spicy herbs years after they were placed in their setting – now that’s what I call fun.

In the early days, Paul’s father helped make the wooden rolling pins, trugs, boards and other larger pieces, including tea trolleys, cake stands and counters. But now Paul makes the larger items, including the butcher’s blocks. These are very popular, as Paul fills them with all sorts of ‘bloodied’ items of meats, and they look really good.

Even though Paul and Trevor have been doing this for many years, Paul gets



great delight from doing live demonstrations at the shows they attend, and loves to see people’s faces as they look on in awe at his skills. Each piece that is made is created by hand, and there are no moulds of any kind used in the process, therefore making each item a little individual piece of art. Paul he told me that he supplies “quality pieces at reasonable prices” and I can’t argue with that.

Interestingly, Paul feels that all buyers should have the chance to buy something

that they can afford, and loves the fact that he supplies items from as little as a few pence up to £500 for a very special commission. This means that children, whom he considers the serious collectors of tomorrow, through to the very mature and experienced collectors, are able to obtain something from his very diverse stand.

They have made many good friends over the years, including Jan and Barry of Dolly’s Daydreams, and they attend quite a few of their shows during the year. They intend to carry on with the business they love until their batteries run out. They were certainly fully charged at the City of London Dollhouse Festival in January, which was very busy and a great success for them.

If you want the chance to see Paul at work, or purchase one of his aromatic, realistic spit roasts, or indeed a hundred other lovely things, he and Trevor will be attending many shows in 2014. Look for the listing on their web site. [dhw](http://dhw.com)
paul.e.taylor@btinternet.com



a mini place OF WORSHIP

Vera Blair completes her Tudor home with a beautiful alter table in the attic, creating a private chapel for her miniatures family

By Vera Blair

In Tudor times, many people had private chapels for their families that ranged from the very elaborate with stained glass windows and sumptuous tapestries for the wealthy, to a small niche for private devotions for those of lesser means.

I built my little chapel originally to fill up empty space in the attic of my Tudor doll's house. It began as a small altar with two candlesticks and a Bible (made last issue), and ended up as an elaborate chapel with handmade stained glass, a handmade leather-bound Bible, handmade chalices, candleholders, and altar cloth.

For this article, we will examine how to set up the altar with cloth, cross, chalices, and candlesticks. All of these are easy to make from a variety of commonly found parts.

This is a great project to do with kids since the candleholders and chalices are simply assembled parts. My six year old granddaughter, Ivy, designed and made several candleholders and chalices herself to be placed on the altar. However, do not let children use superglue.

Making the altar

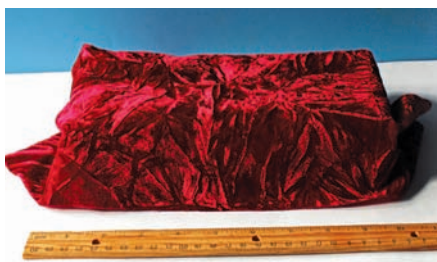
The altar is very easy to make—it's just the wooden box in the size of your choice and some pretty fabric for an altar cloth. I like red or green velvet with gold trim.

YOU'LL need



- Wooden box 6-8" in length, about 4" in width
- Scraps of material for altar cloth
- Gold or silver braid trim
- Scissors
- Superglue gel





Step 1: Cut the altar cloth to fit around the box.

Step 2: Cut a piece of gold or silver trim to fit around the top of the box.



Step 3: Glue the trim into place.

Now you will make the decorations for your altar: a cross, chalices, candleholders with candles, and a Bible.

Making the cross

YOU'LL need



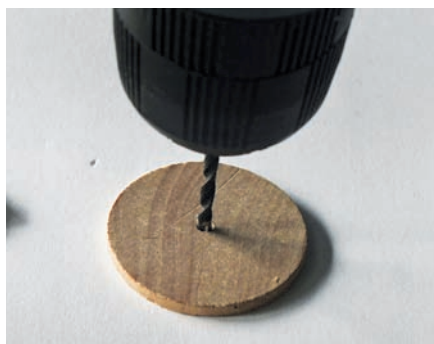
- Small cross
- Copper tubing (about 6" in length and 3mm diameter)
- File
- Drill
- Small wood circle or square
- Superglue gel

The cross may be purchased as a pendant from the jewellery department of hobby stores. I chose a Tudor-y looking metallic cross, but there are many styles available and you will find the perfect one for your altar.

The wood squares or rounds are available in small bags in the wood hobby

department of local hobby stores. Select a wood piece that is 1" in diameter and a few mm thick.

Step 1: Snip off the top loop of the cross charm with wire cutters.



Step 2: Drill a small hole into the wooden square or round. Drill the hole about the size of the diameter of your copper tubing.

Step 3: Stain the wood with wood stain if desired.

Step 4: You may need to file a small notch into the bottom of the back of the cross to seat the tubing better.



Step 5: Glue the tubing to the back of the cross and let dry.

Step 6: Insert the tubing—with the cross attached—into the small square or round wood and secure with a drop of superglue gel.



Step 7: Let dry according to manufacturer's directions. The cross is now ready to place upon the altar.

Making the altar rail

YOU'LL need



- Two 4" pieces of doll's house stair rail
- Two 4" pieces of 1/2" square dowel
- Wood glue
- Wood stain or polyurethane if desired



Step 1: Glue two 4" pieces of doll's house stair rail (or porch rail) to the two pieces of 1/2" square dowel. Let dry.

Step 2: Stain with wood stain if desired, or paint with clear polyurethane if you want to leave it natural. The square dowel will hold the altar rail upright. It does not need to be attached to anything.

Alternatively, you can make a simple altar

rail with 2" lengths of craft sticks glued to the 1/2" square dowels and secured with a longer craft stick (think of a ladder laid sidewise).

The chalice

The chalice has been the object of awe and mystery since ancient times. The name "chalice" originates from the Greek word meaning vessel. The most famous chalice is part of the legend of the Holy Grail. Chalices are used today in churches of many denominations for the wine of the Christian service.

I originally became interested in making chalices for my Tudor doll's house. The banquet hall was decorated for holiday festivities and a noticeable lack of a certain "something" began to nag me. I had made lots of candleholders in various styles and began to examine the parts of these candleholders more critically. Candleholders taken apart and magically reassembled became beautiful goblets or "chalices."

The parts are easy to find in hobby stores—they're mostly bead caps and beads in a variety of finishes such as gold, silver, and glass (these can be spray painted). Bead caps became the cup part of the chalice and the bottom part. More beads became the stem. The chalices first became part of the banquet table as drinking goblets, and then for the altar of my chapel. For the banquet table I made small chalices or goblets, and for the altar, larger, more elaborate chalices.

Real chalices come in an immense variety of styles, with the cup either smaller or larger than the base. You can make larger chalices for your altar and then make a dozen very small goblets for your holiday banquet table!

Choose solid cups rather than lacy metallic ones to resemble real chalices (so the wine won't run out)!

Tip: Small clips serve as an extra set of "hands," and are very useful to hold the bead caps while you are working on them.

Chalice stems



For the stems there are many varieties of long beads (either metallic or wooden to spray paint later). Many of the beads are embossed with attractive designs.

Tiny round beads may be stacked on a piece of wire for stability and inserted between the top and bottom of the chalice.

Chalice bases



Chalices bases are made from the same type of bead caps as the chalice cups. Choose a basic design for your chalice with either the cup larger or the base larger. You will have enough raw materials to design several types of chalices and decide what you like best.

Making the chalices

Step 1: Choose the bead cap that will become the cup part of the chalice.

Step 2: Combine the bottom, stem, and top in various combinations until you have

YOU'LL need

- Bead caps (8mm - 1/2")
- Long beads for stem
- Superglue gel
- Spray paint in gold, silver, bronze, or pewter if desired
- Small clips

achieved the look you like. Your goblets can be anywhere from 1 cm tall up to 2" tall depending on whether you want them on your banquet table or your altar.

Step 3: Put a tiny drop of superglue gel on the underside of the chalice top. Attach the stem to it and let dry.

Step 4: Then select the bottom of the chalice and glue it to the stem. There are many combinations possible, just work with this until you find what you like and what will fit into your chapel.

Step 5: Spray paint the chalices with gold or silver or pewter spray paint if desired, or leave them as they are. Many real chalices are made of several different metals. Make a dozen small goblets for your banquet table!

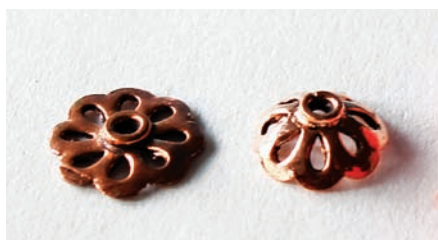


Making the candles



The candleholders are made essentially the same way as the chalices—there is a small bead cap for the base, a central stem, and a bead cap on which the candle rests. You can also stack several small round





YOU'LL need

- Straight beads for the stem of the candleholder
- Bead caps for the bottom of the candleholder
- Bead caps for the part where the candle will sit
- Real birthday candles
- Hollow cotton swabs with the cotton cut off
- Dental floss for the wick
- Superglue gel

beads for the stem. Many of the bead caps are made of pretty, lacy metal and may be flattened somewhat to look more like real candle holders and will also stand up better. Some of the bead caps are made out of plastic coated with metal and will break if you try to flatten them.

You can make the candles by using real birthday candles cut 3/4" to 1" in length. Scrape a bit of the wax off from around the wick.

Or you can make candles out of hollow cotton swabs! They're an excellent diameter, and you can thread dental floss through the swab for a very realistic looking wick.

Step 1: Glue the stems to the bases and let dry.

Step 2: Then glue the tops to the stems and let dry.

Step 3: Secure the wick with a tiny drop of superglue gel.



You can make a great variety of candleholders in this manner in many doll's house sizes and styles.

You have now made all the parts for the altar of your private chapel! Now arrange your chalices, candleholders, cross, and Bible on the altar. This really looks spectacular and is ready for your dolls to assemble in worship. **DHW**



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a beautifully FINISHED TABLE

Carol Huffman shares her secret for creating beautiful decorative tables by demonstrating the basics of instant inlay

By Carol Huffman

Inlay is a technique of inserting decorative elements into a surface such as wood furniture, musical instruments, and other objects. After a groove is routed or chiseled into the object of choice then items such as bone, tortoiseshell, mother of pearl, brass, fine metals, and contrasting woods are inlaid into the groove.

The technique of inlaying began during the Renaissance in Florence using marble with precious stones chiseled into it and used to decorate altars, columns, and floors. The art was called Pietra Dura. Marquetry is the art of applying and fitting different pieces of shaped veneer to a structure to form decorative patterns.

Although marquetry is a technique separate from inlay, the marquetry makers were called “inlayers.” For the sake of this article we will call ourselves “Instant Inlayers.” Banding is marquetry in 36 inch long strips and various size widths used for inlaying. Instead of actually routing our table top we will lay banding side by side to create the inlay look.



YOU'LL need

- Block of wood
- Wood Banding (design patterns)
- Wood Banding (solid colours)
- Glue
- Glue brush
- Scissors
- Midwest Products Easy Cutter Ultimate (see note)
- Sandpaper
- Stain (if desired)
- Varnish or sealer

Easy Cutter Note: This tool cuts straight edges and mitres corners — adjust setting to 90 degrees for straight cut and 45 degrees for a clean right angle cut.

Step 1: Assemble your supplies. You will need a block of wood for a table top. Any size you want will work fine, but keep the thickness to either 1/4 inch or 1/8 of an inch so you can cover it evenly with banding also without encountering too much trouble.

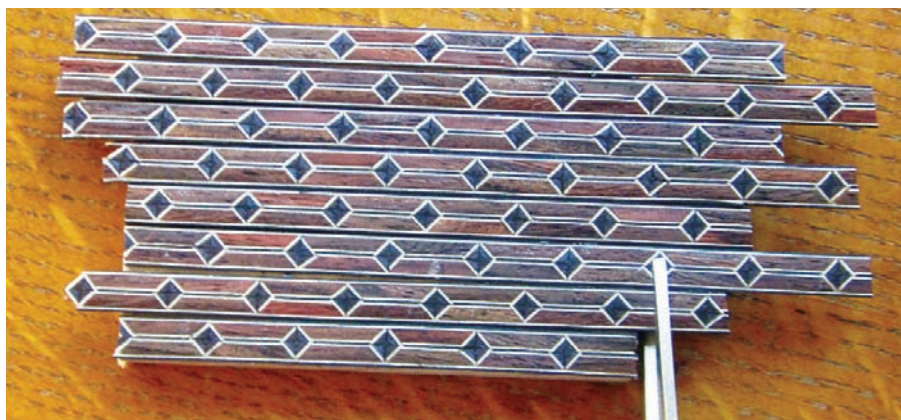
Step 2: Lay out the banding on the wood and be sure to leave them a little longer so that you can adjust the pattern.



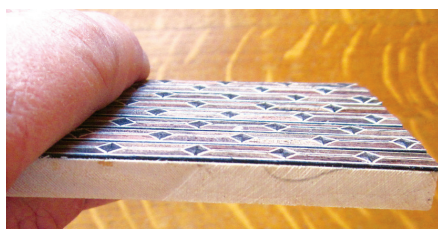
Step 3: Start gluing the banding onto the block of wood. Brush glue on to reverse side of banding strips and press onto block of wood.

Step 4: Fill the block of wood with strips of banding glued down to it. I have alternated the pattern. That's the purpose for making the strips a little larger than the block of wood.

● Wood banding is strips of wood veneer that comes in various widths ranging from 1/8 inch to 1/2 inch and is 36 inches long. They come in solid colours like walnut, rosewood, maple, ebony, and mahogany and an assortment of patterns that lend themselves to any décor. One good supplier for the banding at reasonable prices is Acute Marquetry & Design.



Step 5: With scissors pressed against the block of wood cut off all the excess banding.



Step 6: After you've trimmed the excess banding to the edge of the block, you are ready to inlay the skirt or apron of the tabletop.

Step 7: Inlay the sides of the block of wood with an opposing colour. I like to use a solid colour.

Step 8: Sand the top of the table until it feels smooth. I prefer hand sanding so as not to take too much off. The banding strips are thin, so be careful not to sand too much off of them.

Step 9: Stain and Varnish the table top with a colour that matches your wood banding.

Step 10: Attach inlay table top to a base. You can purchase pre-made bases from the craft store, you can turn a base on a lathe (see sample) or you can "instant Inlay" a cube piece of wood to match your tabletop.



This method of instant inlay can be used on round or curved items. There are many ways you can alter the basic method to create a variety of pieces. You can mix printed banding with solid colours to create depth of field. If you border your table top with a patterned banding and insert a solid banding in the centre you have created the routed look.

You can also use the demonstrated method to create parquet flooring. Instant inlay can also be used on existing pieces of furniture to cover damages.

The illustrations above demonstrate the versatility of this method of inlaying with banding. [DHW](#)

little critter EASTER BASKETS

Marianne Colijn creates fun holiday-themed crochet projects to help you celebrate Easter the miniature way

By Marianne Colijn

I love baskets and Easter is the perfect time to make and use them. They are brilliant for gifts, the Easter egg hunt, and for decorations. I made two baskets, a bunny and a little chick in crochet. And while I was at it, I crocheted some eggs, too.

YOU'LL need

- Punch thread in white
- Crochet hook (0,60)
- Black beads for eyes
- White pompom
- Pink bead for nose
- Rouge
- Tacky glue
- Hairspray or fabric stiffener (optional)
- Tweezers (optional)
- Marble (optional)

Abbreviations:

Sc= single crochet
St= stitch
Sts = stitches
Sl = slip stitch

Bunny basket

The rounds are not closed so you work in a spiral and I highly recommend the use of a

marker.

WChain 2

- Round 1: 6 sc in first chain
- Round 2: 2 sc in every sc
- *Round 3: * 2 sc in first sc, 1 sc in next sc *, repeat from * to *
- Round 4: * 2 sc in first sc, 1 sc in each of next 2 sc*, repeat from * to *
- Round 5: 1 sc in every sc using only the back loops.
- Round 6 – 8: 1 sc in every sc using both loops
- Round 9: * work 2 sc together, work 1 sc in each of next 3 sc* repeat from * to *
- Round 10: 1 sc in each sc , finish round with slip stitch, finish off and cut thread. Weave in all ends.

Bunny ears

You want to make two of these for your basket.

- Chain 8
- Row 1: 1 sc in second chain from hook, and 1 sc in each chain
- Row 2: Chain 1, turn, 1 sc in every sc, work 3 sc in last sc of row and work along other side: 1 sc in every sc till end.
- Finish off and cut thread.

Basket handle

- Chain 20.

Making up the basket

- Step 1:** Sew on the ears checking the photo for placement.
- Step 2:** Sew on the handle to the basket, too.
- Step 3:** If you want to stiffen your basket, spray it with hairspray or apply fabric stiffener and leave it to dry for a couple of hours.
- Step 4:** After the basket has dried, glue on the pompom to the front of the basket, checking the photo again for placement.
- Step 5:** Add beads for nose and eyes. For extra nice eyes, break your beads in half using a pair of tweezers. Glue the beads in place.



Step 6: Add some rouge to the inside of the ears and cheeks.

Step 7: If you like, you can add a rim to the bottom of the basket so it will stand more stable. Chain 15, close to circle and finish off.

Step 8: Weave in loose ends and glue circle to bottom of basket.

Chick basket

The pattern for the chick basket is the same as bunny basket.

YOU'LL need

- Yellow punch thread
- Crochet hook (0,60)
- Pieces of pipe cleaner or felt
- Piece of Velcro or an old toothbrush
- No-hole beads for eyes
- Tacky glue
- Marble

Chick wings

Instead of the ears make two wings. You can omit the wings if you like, the basket will look



cute without them, too.

- Chain 2
- Work 4 sc in the first chain
- Chain 1 and turn
- Work 1 sc in every sc
- Fasten off and cut thread

Basket handle

- Chain 20.

Making up the basket

Step 1: Weave in all lose ends.



Step 2: This basket does not need to be stiffened if you want it to look fluffy like mine. But to get a nice shape it is a good idea to put the marble inside the basket, wet it and let in dry into shape.

Step 3: Remove the marble and for the fuzzy look, brush the basket with the rough part of the piece of Velcro or with an old toothbrush.

Step 4: I did give the finished basket a bit of a hair cut because I felt the hair was too long but that is optional.

Step 5: The handle can be glued to the inside of the basket with Tacky glue.



Step 6: I used an old Easter chick for the beak and feet for my crochet chick basket. If you are using an old Easter chick for

parts like I did, cut off the feet and remove the beak. You can replace these parts with pieces of pipe cleaner or felt in a suitable colour if you prefer.



Step 7: Glue the feet to the bottom of the basket, making sure the toes are showing.

Step 8: Then add the beak, eyes, and the little wings.

Coloured Easter eggs



Crocheting Easter eggs is a lot of fun. All you need is some remnants of DMC tatting thread or other thin thread a 0,60 cro-

chet hook a tiny bit of stuffing.

If you use space died or variegated threads the stripes will appear all by themselves which is an asset when you are crocheting something this small.

Rounds are not closed, and you will be working in spirals, so a marker will be a very good idea.

- Chain 2.
- Work 6 sc into the first chain
- Round 1: * 1 sc in first st, 2 sc in next sc * repeat from * to *
- Round 2: * 1 sc in first 2 sc, 2 sc in next sc * repeat from * to *
- Round 3: 1 sc in every sc
- Round 4: 1 sc in first 3 sc, 2 sc in next sc * repeat from * to *
- Round 5-6: 1 sc in every sc
- Round 7: * 1 sc in first sc, work next 2 sc together*, repeat from * to *
- Round 8: Work 2 sc together all around.
- Round 9: work 2 sc together all around
- Stuff egg and cut thread leaving a longish tail.
- Thread tail to top of egg and gather closed.
- Fasten off, weave in lose end.

You can place your coloured eggs inside your chick or bunny baskets, or place them around your doll's house or springtime scene to create a fun miniature Easter egg hunt.



Egg shaped critters

Another fun Easter item you can crochet are little egg shaped critters.

These critters say Easter in a way that nothing else does. They are a lot of fun to make and work great as decorations around the house. I used crochet because I love crochet and it is very popular these days. Just read on and I will tell you all about it.

This is a perfect beginner project and also pretty quick to make.

Bunny critter

The pattern is worked in spirals, this means the rounds are not closed. Using a marker will make your work much easier.

The bunny egg is 1" tall.

- Round 1: Chain 2, work 6 sc in first chain
- Round 2: * work 2 sc in first sc, 1 sc in next sc*, repeat



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YOU'LL need

- White punch thread
- Crochet hook (0,60)
- Tiny white pompom for tail
- Tacky glue
- Black beads for eyes
- Rouge and small applicator
- Pink sewing thread
- Silk ribbon and flower foam
- Stuffing—fibrefill



from * to * around

● Round 3: * work 2 sc in first sc, 1 sc in next 2 sc*, repeat from * to * around

● Round 4: * work 2 sc in first sc, 1 sc in next 3 sc*, repeat from * to * around

● Round 5: * work 2 sc in first sc, 1 sc in next 4 sc*, repeat from * to * around

● Round 6: 1 sc in every sc

● Round 7: * work 2 sc in first sc, 1 sc in next 5 sc*, repeat from * to * around

● Round 8 - 10: 1 sc in every sc

● Round 11: * work first 2 sc together, 1 sc in next 6 sc*, repeat from * to * around

● Round 12: * work first 2 sc together, 1 sc in next 4 sc* repeat from * to * around

● Round 13: Start filling the egg with fibrefill and work 2 sc together around

● Round 14: work 2 sc together around

Fill egg with fibrefill. Finish off, cut thread leaving a tail



and close egg using the tail to gather the stitches. Weave in the loose ends.

Bunny ears

Make 2 of these.

● Row 1: chain 5, work 1 sc in second chain from hook and 1 sc in other chains but work 3 sc in the last chain. Work around other side of the chain : 1 sc in every chain.

● Row 2 : Chain 1 and turn. Work 1 sc in next 4 sc, work 2 sc together in the next sc to create the tip of the ear. Finish off, cut thread and leave a tail for sewing on.

Making up the bunny

Step 1: I like to use a little rouge on the inside of the ears.

Step 2: After you added the rouge, fold the ear in half and make a stitch to secure the fold at the bottom of each ear.

Step 3: Sew ears to top of head checking photo for placement.

Step 4: With pink sewing thread embroider an X shape for the nose about half way down the body.

Step 5: Add the eyes. If you want nice flat backed eyes cut the beads in half using tweezers.

Step 6: Add a bit of rouge to the bunny's cheeks.

Step 7: Glue tail to the rabbits back. This will help him to sit

if it is put in the right place, so check before you glue.

Step 8: I did want to make a girl bunny so I added a little pink bow and a bit of flower foam to make her a bit more girlie.

Variation

You can also use this pattern to make a crochet chick by changing the colour of thread you use, and omitting the ears and pompom tail.

A beak and feet can be cut out of felt or made out of little bits of pipe cleaner. I used little plastic feet cut off an old sad looking plastic bird.

Chick wings

If you like to add some wings to your little egg shaped chick, you can use this pattern to make them:

- Chain 2
- Work 4 sc in the first chain
- Chain 1 and turn
- Work 1 sc in every sc
- Fasten off and cut thread
- Glue wings to sides of body.

And there you have your little crochet egg shape chick. **DHW**



spring into EASTER FUN



Make your Easter just a little more exciting with these cutouts, including a mini recipe book, Easter cards, and egg bags

Easter is the time of year when gifts are given, many in the form of chocolates or flowers.

On the cut outs page in this issue (page 75), you will find a number of ideas for making gifts for your family or friends to add to their miniature Easter baskets.

Recipe book

With people dropping in to see you over the Easter period, why don't you offer them some fancy Easter cakes or a slice of pie and some coffee? In this book there are recipes for delectable goodies like the Simnel Cake, Hot Cross buns, a loaf and a pudding, and a mini Marbled Easter cake.

Step 1: Cut out the pages and fold into an accordion, gluing the backs of the pages together.

Step 2: Glue the covers to thin cardboard (like some old cereal box) and cut out. Lightly score down the spine to help fold the cover neatly.



Step 3: Run glue down the spine of the pages and glue them into the covers. This completes your little recipe book!



Easter cards

Sending Easter cards is



now, apparently, in the top six of occasions—after Christmas, birthdays, and anniversaries. Just cut these out and fold them along the lines to add a little bit of Easter cheer in your doll's house.

Egg bags



Rather than putting your eggs into boring boxes, these pretty designed bags make a lovely gift and are such fun for little children to find.

Step 1: Cut the patterns out and fold them into their bag shapes.

Step 2: Cut thin strips for the handles and glue those to the insides of the bags.

Step 3: Stuff your bags with small pieces of tissue paper—and don't forget to add an egg!



embellish your EASTER SCENE

If you want pastels and sparkles, use Joyce Mori's techniques to create carrots, eggs, and flowers for mini Easter decorations



These quick and colourful decorations were used to embellish a curved fence I'd made that was not put into a particular scene or vignette.

YOU'LL need

- 8" square tea-dyed muslin
- Orange polymer clay
- Fine glitter
- Green pearl cotton
- Wire for wreath
- White floral wire
- Tiny basket
- Green tissue paper cut into narrow strips
- Pastel craft paints
- Toothpicks or fine brush
- Tiny bit of stuffing



lin. When the glue is dry, place a tiny piece of stuffing into the egg and glue along the remaining edge to close it. Use tiny clamps to hold the edges secure while the glue sets, then cut out the egg. Paint the back the same colour as the front and touch up the edges.

Step 5: Repeat the same process for the flower, except cut out the painted flower and glue two petals to a tiny piece of muslin. Then trim the muslin backing to follow the flower shape. Glue a piece of floral wire into the flower and glue it closed. Paint the back of the flower and edges and spread a light layer of glue on one side and sprinkle glitter.

Step 6: Place a piece of crumbled tinfoil or floral foam in the bottom of the basket. Add the cut-up tissue paper as artificial grass, then place the carrots, eggs, and flowers in the basket as desired.

Step 7: To create a wreath, paint twisted wire white to allow some wire to show through. Glue eggs, flowers, and carrots as you wish on the wreath, then glue a hanging wire to the back. **DHW**



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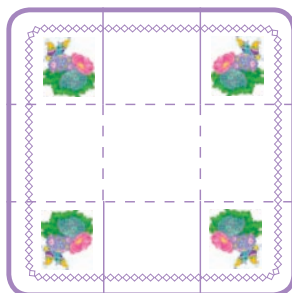
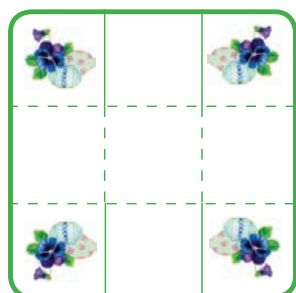
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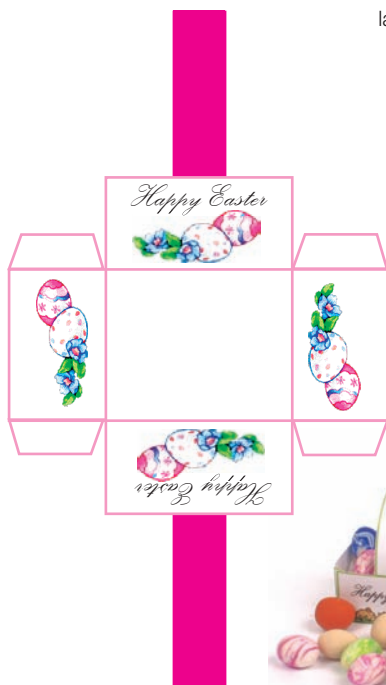
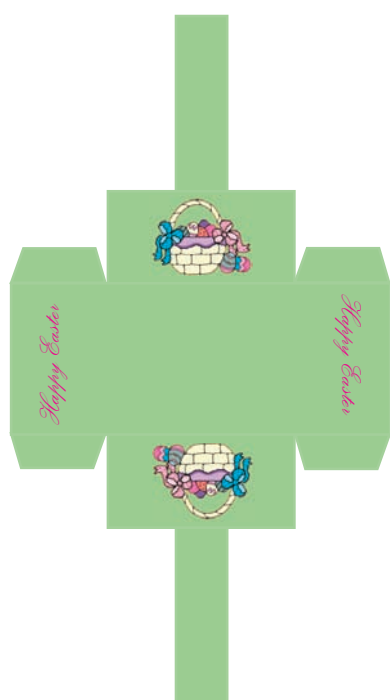
Available on the
App Store

Easter egg boxes



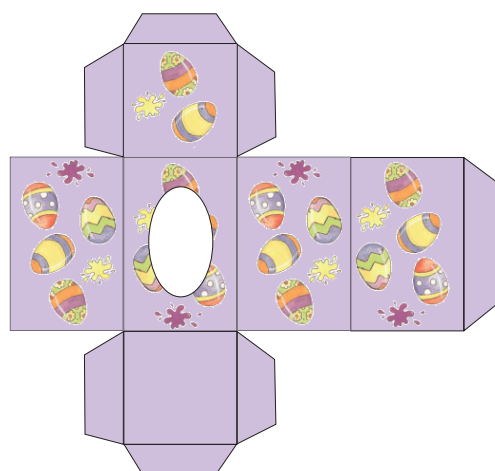
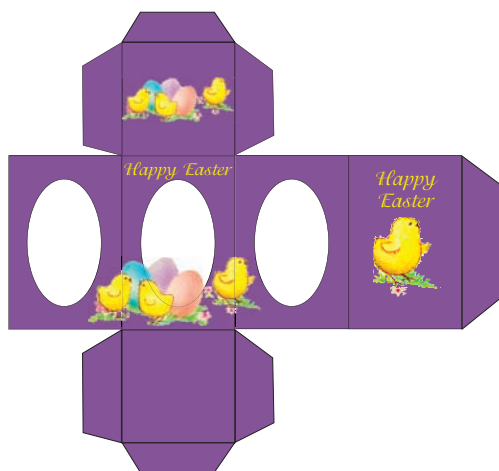
Paper Easter baskets

1. Cut out the baskets carefully.
2. Cut down the side slots and fold according to the dotted lines.
3. Fold up the middle side pieces and glue the handle in place.
4. Fold up the end pieces and overlap the bottom edges – glue in place.
5. Fill basket with tissue paper and a large Easter egg or small ones.



Easter baskets

1. Cut out the baskets carefully.
2. Fold up each side of the basket with the tabs folded to the inside.
3. Glue the tabs to the inside.
4. Glue the handle together at the top, overlapping just a little.
5. Fill with tissue paper and eggs.



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Continued on page 80

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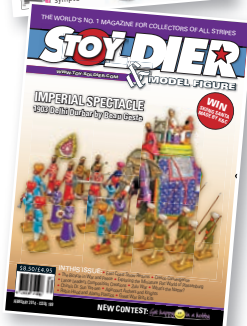
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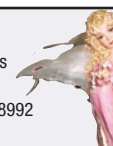
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SATURDAY 5TH APRIL

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The Assembly Rooms,
High Street, DEDHAM,
near Colchester,
Essex CO7 6DE (Off A12)
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

SUNDAY 6TH APRIL

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

The Charmandean,
Forest Road,
WORTHING,
West Sussex
BN14 9HS (On A27)
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL

ANNUAL DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

Clarence Hall, Beaufort Street,
CRICKHOWELL,
Powys NP8 1BN (on A40)
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

SUNDAY 13TH APRIL

DOLLS HOUSE & MINIATURES FAIR

Royal Highland Centre,
MacRobert Pavilion, Ingliston,
EDINBURGH EH28 8NB
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Scottish Fairs

DOLLS HOUSE & MINIATURES FAIR

Petwood Hotel,
WOODHALL SPA,
Lincs LN10 6QG
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Lyndsey Fairs

GOOD FRIDAY 18TH APRIL

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

Novotel Stevenage,
KNEBWORTH PARK,
near Stevenage,
Hertfordshire SG1 2AX

(A1M/Junction 7, next to
Knebworth House)
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Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

SUNDAY 20TH APRIL

DOLLS HOUSES, MINIATURES, DOLLS & TEDDIES FAIR

The Cedric Ford Pavilion,
Newark Showground,
Lincoln Road, NEWARK,
Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY
(A1/A46/A17)
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Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

EASTER MONDAY 21ST APRIL

ANNUAL DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

Holiday Inn Milton Keynes East,
M1/Junction 14, London Road,
NEWPORT PAGNELL,
Buckinghamshire MK16 0JA
(on A509)
Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

SUNDAY 27TH APRIL

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

Knights Hill Hotel & Spa,
SOUTH WOOTTON,
near King's Lynn, Norfolk
PE30 3HQ
(Junction A148/A149)
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MAY

SUNDAY 4TH MAY

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

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The Sea Front, FELIXSTOWE,
Suffolk IP11 2AE
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Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

SUNDAY 11TH MAY

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SUNDAY 25TH MAY

DOLLS HOUSE & MINIATURES FAIR

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Organiser: Little Mermaids'
Dolls' House Club

MONDAY 26TH MAY

ANNUAL DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

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Old Shire Lane,
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Organiser: Dolly's Daydreams

SATURDAY 31ST MAY

DOLLS HOUSE & MINIATURES FAIR

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Organiser: MGM Fairs

JUNE

SUNDAY 1ST JUNE

DOLLS HOUSE & MINIATURES FAIR

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(on A2 between Dartford
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SUNDAY 29TH JUNE

DOLLS HOUSES & MINIATURES FAIR

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Open: 10.30am - 4.00pm
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