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To reach us: Call +44 (0)1903 884988

Or write to: Dolls House World,
PO Box 2258, Pulborough RH20 9BA
Great Britain

email: support@ashdown.co.uk

Website: www.dollshouseworld.com

Editor: Richard Jennings

Email: richard@ashdown.co.uk

Feature writer: Sandra Harding

Advertisement sales:

Maria Fitzgerald

Email: maria@ashdown.co.uk

Design: Wendy Crosthwaite

US office: Ashdown Inc., PO Box 219,
Kasson, MN 55944.

Tel: 507-634-3143

Subscriptions:

UK: support@ashdown.co.uk

US: usoffice@ashdown.co.uk

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"where little things matter"



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welcome

Summer's here and the weather is acting as if it hasn't noticed. But to get you in a summer state

of mind just pull up a chair at Eva Perendreu's Cocktail Beach Bar. It sits prettily over-looking the clear blue water and delicious cocktails are being served in a cosy atmosphere.

The ubiquitous coffee stirrers and tongue depressors, along with recycled cardboard, were used in its construction. Eva said it took her several months to make as "she's not really good" with wood, but the final effect is wonderful.

There's a totally different feel to Sandie Criddle's beachside cottage which has a relaxed, nautical theme, but I'd love to stay there for a couple of weeks.

Aurea Segura can see the sailing boats on the ocean from her workshop and the views have inspired her latest collection of fabulous furniture.

Lots of other lovely scenes too this issue, from a Japanese courtyard to an amazing library built by a collector whose passion has led her to gather more than 4,000 books.

We hear from one club how Zoom meetings have been helping them cope with lockdown and talk to a maker of gorgeous bikinis, shorts and flip-flops about why she loves summer styles.

So get your swimsuit out (in twelfth scale of course). The sun will always be shining when it comes to miniatures.



Richard.

email: richard@ashdown.co.uk

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HOUSE HUNT



Find the little house hidden inside.

■ Last issue it appeared on page 17

Quote of the month:

"The older I get, the more I'm conscious of ways very small things can make a change in the world. Tiny little things, but the world is made up of tiny matters, isn't it?"

Sandra Cisneros

On the cover House by Karen Butler-Kennedy, of Kennedy Miniature Construction. Meet the Maker on P47.



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Caring for the environment: Here at Dolls House World we're as concerned about the environment as you are. We're doing everything we can to ensure the magazine is produced in the most eco friendly way possible. Our magazine is printed using vegetable-based inks on an environmentally responsible paper, which is certified by the prestigious FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council), the not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of responsible forest management worldwide. Our paper also carries the internationally recognised EU Eco-label. Our local printers, Gemini Print, are just a few miles from the DHW offices. They are one of the leading eco friendly printers in the UK, with both FSC® and ISO 14001 certification. They are backed by a series of environmental credentials that allow them to work under the "Green Printing Label". Our printers are also a sponsor of the Woodland Trust – the UK's leading woodland conservation charity.

Eva creates a perfect cocktail beach bar

Eva worked on this wonderful beach scene for about three or four months, but says it wasn't easy 'because I'm not really good at cutting and assembling wood'

BY PAM NORTH

Room boxes and thematic scenes are a passion for Eva Perendreu, an avid miniaturist (and career biologist) in Barcelona, Spain. She loves working with fantasy and nautical themes, and her creativity seems to have no limits; she enjoys the fact that she can reproduce in miniature almost whatever she wants.

Her latest creation, Cocktail Beach Bar, is an artfully executed microcosm of that perfect carefree day at the beach. It instantly conjures up a mental image of relaxing in fragrant sea breezes, basking in warm sunshine, hearing seagulls crying as they fly overhead, and savouring icy, flavourful drinks. Eva's creation captures it all so well, in fact, that it won First Prize in the Room Box Contest, decided by the votes of all the visitors at the 2017 Barcelona Miniatures Fair. It wasn't her first win, as she has had two wins in other years with her Gypsy Traveling Cart, and her Romantic Bedroom.

Her original idea was either to portray a beautiful summer night at a chill-out beach bar, with seating on a dock over the sea, delicious mojitos at hand, and the sea in the moonlight, or, alternatively, perhaps a daylight scene of sunbathing, and looking at the horizon while laughing with friends, family, or a lover. Whatever the time of day, the beach bar vignette should transmit beach bar vignette should



transmit happy feelings and relaxing vibrations. The contest rules specified maximum height/width/length measurements, which crunched Eva's concept of having a long dock, so she had to adapt her initial imaginings to fit the dictated parameters.

All of the structure was made by her from scratch, starting with a framework of cardboard and wood. Many wooden coffee stirrers and wood tongue depressors were used for the floor, and recycled cardboard as well. Her father, at that time 86 years old, helped her to cut the pillars and the railings. She painted the bottom of the 'water' (made from resin) with gradients of blue in order to simulate the sea depths, and she used many materials that she had on hand at home, including chopsticks (on which to hang the garlands of flags), cord, circular plastic pizza savers for the small round tables, water bottle caps, seashells (candle holders), and printables.

A few things were made with polymer clay (candles, and fruit for the cocktails), and bottles from resin. The furniture pieces on the terrace were bought and painted by her. She also purchased a few small things from other artisans, and placed some seagull figures on the floor as "gifts from the angels that live in Ibiza."

"The lighthouse and a sea turtle were bought during my vacation that



summer in Japan," Eva explained further. "I love travelling, and I always look out for materials for my miniature work. I had a very clear idea that the colours should be deep blue and white, very Mediterranean. Finally, I added a garland of tiny lights that at



Top: Fun ocean signs fill the back wall of the bar area.

Above: Fresh summer drinks ready.



Left: Fresh fruit is being added to the delicious summer drinks.

Below left: The clear blue water invites you in to relax at the beach bar.

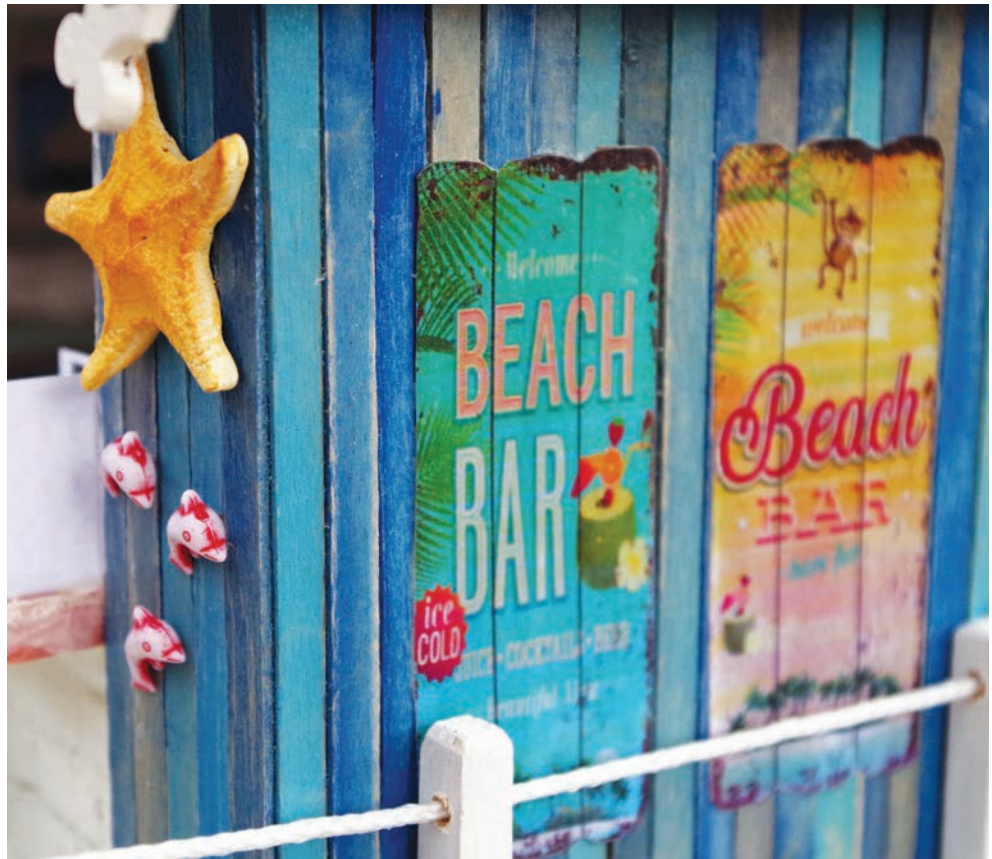
night create a cosy atmosphere. The bar's roof is covered by narrow wooden coffee stirrers, painted one by one with different tones of blue. The roof tiles are made with rough cardboard. I worked on it for about 3 or 4 months, and it wasn't easy because I'm not really good at cutting and assembling wood.

"Another difficulty was the structure; built from wood and recycled materials, it was tricky to be sure it was solid and well-assembled. Also, painting all the wooden coffee stirrers one-by-one was tedious. What was fun to create were all the accessories and the hut/bar; I enjoyed planning the structure and then filling it. My favourite part is the chill-out environment that makes it a place where I would love to be, seated there and enjoying the sunset." Eva is open to selling her Cocktail Beach Bar for the right offer.

While crafts have long been a part of Eva's life, collecting doll's house miniatures didn't become her main focus until about 15 years ago. Soon she discovered that room boxes were an ideal venue to display her many miniature items, and in 2008 she realised she could create her own miniatures from polymer clay, allowing her to further evolve as an artist. "When I see those first room boxes I made, I realise that I would do them completely differently now, but I just have to view them as part of my history," she recalled.

Eva is basically self-taught. "I have participated in some workshops with very talented people, but that's all. I would love to have had more formal training or an art background, and perhaps I can do that sometime in the future. I am totally an amateur miniaturist, and I am so grateful for people to know and see my miniature work. Hopefully they





“ I had a very clear idea that the colours should be deep blue and white, very Mediterranean.”



Above: A few up-close moments in this delightful beach bar.

can enjoy it as much as I do, and that my mini room boxes will inspire them.

She summed up her work process, saying, “The first step is just having an idea. I always know how to start doing a room-box/diorama, but I never can foresee how it is going to turn out, because each has a life of its own during construction. Sometimes I redo, I repaint, I assemble and reassemble,



but at the end the path of creation is always awesome because something beautiful appears from your mind and your hands. It's just like magic!”

Eva plans to start a new room box, and also to prepare new items for the next Barcelona Miniatures Fair. During the last several years, she has participated as a seller in that show, the International Show in Madrid, and also in open-air local markets and online miniature shows. To share her work, in 2011 she created her Facebook page,

and in 2019 her Instagram account.

She confesses some worry about the future of miniatures, saying, “It seems that miniature work has been going down the last years. Some shows around the world have fewer visitors and exhibitors, and the money spent by visitors is less. Now, with the pandemic, we need to wait to see what will happen. Working with miniatures is a hobby that joins family generations, and hopefully more people will become fascinated by the mini world.

House full of memories looking to be cherished

House built by a Lieutenant in the Machine Gun Corps after the First World War reflects the creativity he engendered in prisoner of war camps

BY ALICE MONROE

An impressive house, built by a WWI veteran as an escape from the terrible memories of the battlefield, is looking for a new owner.

Milla Yendell contacted DHW with details of the house built by her grandfather, Frank P Spooner.

Frank was awarded the Military Cross during his service for 'conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in successfully covering the retirement of infantry and keeping his guns in action up until the last possible moment.'

But he was ultimately captured by the Germans and interned in prisoner of war camps. An architect by trade, he put his creativity to work designing and helping construct the stage for a theatre where evenings of entertainment would be organised to raise the spirit of the prisoners.

Milla told us: "When the war was over he returned to Eng-

land a man changed by the horrors he had witnessed and his period of harsh captivity. He sought solace in the creativity that had sustained him during those traumatic times and set to work on creating a doll's house in incredible detail and scale.

"The house is loosely designed in the style of houses in the area where he resettled in Etchingham, East Sussex. One can see the incredible attention to detail in balustrades and wood panelling and the individual pieces of furniture which he has created with such precision and care."

She added: "Given its size, we can no longer keep the house any more and so, reluctantly, we would like it to go to a new home, where it will be cherished for its history and artistry."

■ Email: tim_milla@btinternet.com
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WHERE I WORK

THIS MONTH WE CATCH UP WITH ALMUDENA MORENA OF ART LITTLE MINIATURES IN HER STUDIO

Hi Almudena, tell us how long you've been making miniatures. The truth is — not long. About seven years or so. It started as a hobby, but little by little I got deeper and deeper into this wonderful world. Now I dedicate myself totally to miniatures, a world that fuels my imagination and my dreams.

Where do you work? I work in the house where I live, where I have a small studio adapted to my needs. I live in Fuenlabrada, near Madrid, Spain.

Do you always make your miniatures in the same place? I usually work in the studio as it's where I have everything I need to hand. But I love the kitchen and sometimes work there.

Do you work set hours? I try to have a fixed work schedule but working at home has its advantages and disadvantages. The days are sometimes long because inspiration is often capricious.

What makes your miniature space so special? It is a space that is all mine, full of fantasy, where I can let my imagination fly.



Do you keep your workspace private? I have no problem letting people in as long as nothing is touched. I am very careful and demanding with my work. But I don't usually have visitors; it comes down to my husband and my cute dog.

Do you listen to the radio while you work? Sometimes I listen to music and current affairs but I really enjoy moments of silence, where my head is spinning thinking about some new project.

Name one thing that is prohibited in your workspace. It is forbidden to touch anything, much less change things around. As artists, I think we can seem a bit disorderly to others. But where another person can see disorder, for us everything is where it needs to be.

What cannot be missing from your workspace? The light. Light is joy; it is the energy that illuminates things, makes them visible, makes me feel strong and motivated in my work.

Where would your dream workspace be? I would like to have a large workshop





in a field as I love nature. It would have large windows overlooking a beautiful garden full of flowers and birds with lots of natural light coming through the windows.

Describe your workspace in one word. Awesome

● Almudena Morena of Art Little Miniatures
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“WHERE ANOTHER PERSON CAN SEE DISORDER, FOR US EVERYTHING IS WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE.”

Olga creates lovely wooden mini dolls

Step into the world of handmade tiny masterpieces that are carved and created by Olga Vorevodina, a talented artisan from Russia

BY JOAN MCKENZIE

Since 2014 Olga Vorevodina has been honing her craft making small wooden dolls that are movable and easily positioned. Some of what she enjoys most about this art form is being able to produce small fingers, creating exact scale small eyes and blushing small cheeks. She also loves sewing tiny clothing that can be removed to change the look and function of her dolls.

These days she works with several kinds of wood including basswood, beech, cypress and juniper. Her dolls are all completely made by hand. They are created with great love and care and there is never any exact duplication, however each doll is photographed and added to the recorded history of Olga's personal designs.

Olga began creating dolls as a hobby in 2009. In the beginning, she made small textile dolls, then she tried making dolls from self-hardening plastic. After mastering those mediums, she began looking for what would become her favourite material for doll making and attended a course on carving wooden dolls. Her first wooden doll was about 13 1/2" and it seemed to be gigantic. After that she realised that she loved very small dolls the most and wanted to try to make something that would fit into a doll's house. In parallel, she became interested in antique mignonette porcelain dolls. She owns a small collection of tiny porcelain dolls.

During her childhood there was no doll's house. She did have beautiful dolls, along with some miniature furniture. Her mother sewed detailed and beautiful dresses for her dolls, but she always dreamed of owning an actual doll's house.

When Olga began carving dolls from wood, she realised that each of her dolls had its own character and mood, yet no doll is repeatable. She wanted to surround the dolls with real objects that a person has.

She wanted to ensure that every doll had its own house, or a room with its own style, reflecting the character of the doll. It was at that time that she became seriously interested in doll's houses and realised that a huge miniature community exists and it's filled with very interesting people in the puppet world.

In Russia it is believed that when a woman has a daughter, she wishes to relive the good parts of her childhood and tries to fulfil all of her childhood dreams through her little girl. Olga has two sons, but no daughters. She finds that she still tries to fulfil her own childhood dreams. She still buys small dolls from other artists whenever she finds something special. Her husband has given her with tiny dolls that he has purchased as souvenirs from different countries.

Olga graduated from university and her profession in Russia was magazine editor. Before she started making



dolls, she worked as an editor, writing articles, editing texts and organising press conferences. Whenever a miniature appeared in her life, she realised that this was what excited her and finally realised that creating and selling her own dolls could bring her more income as so many people offered to buy what she had made. She has two young children so she cannot manage both journalism and create fine quality miniatures at the same time, which is why she chose miniatures. Today creating miniatures is her primary professional activity.

Olga loves every doll she makes and every time upon completion she realises that she has fallen in love with the new doll that she created as much as the first doll. Regardless, she easily parts with her puppets and every time she is surprised and yet very happy that another person also fell in love with her creation. When a new doll is quickly bought and she has not had time to enjoy her finished doll and look at it with a rested look, then she misses them more.

One of her first creations was a wooden fox, which her children and she took on several trips. Her son was very attached to that toy and when that fox was purchased, he was very upset and still remembers him. Now she understands that perhaps it would have been wiser to keep that little fox at her home. We must remember to listen to our heart's desire.



Above: A hand-carved and hand-painted little wooden clown girl.

Below right: A closer look at one of Olga's dolls in a pretty blue dress.

Below: Handcrafted baby clothing set that was made by Olga Vorevodina.

Bottom: This tiny black hanger was also handmade by the artist.



Olga sells her dolls online and participates in international puppet shows. Unfortunately, in Russia miniatures are not as popular and appreciated as in England, America, The Netherlands and Japan. One time she made a doll for the shooting of a film with her

model of an old wooden doll. This doll needed to have three identical heads, which were easy to remove and replace. This film was shot and shown on television. Her mother-in-law saw the film and told Olga that she recognised her doll but to date she has not seen



“When creating wooden miniatures, her most valuable tool is her knife that is very sharp with a very small blade.”

the movie.

She really loves creating small things and she truly likes it when they are also very similar to real life objects where you are able to create your own stories with them. Making high-quality miniatures can be painstakingly difficult. However she enjoys allocating difficult tasks for herself as she truly loves the challenge where there is an element of a fairy tale mixed with our own personal story.

Olga is self-taught except for the wood carving class she attended. When creating wooden miniatures, her most valuable tool is her knife that is very sharp with a very small blade. Also, exceptionally helpful is her magnifying glass and of course it helps to have good lighting.

Olga believes that the trending culture of countries has been historically cyclical and while one thing may be gaining popularity there will be an-

other obsession that is losing popularity. She believes that the same process may occur with the current fascination related to miniatures and doll's houses. “The designs of the houses will undergo changes, and the fascination with antique things may not be eternal. Our world is changing rapidly, our life is changing along with it, which means that the life of miniatures in doll's houses will also change. It seems that in Russia, the interest in miniatures is just beginning to wake up. Although there is still an opinion that the bigger the doll, the better. But miniature creation is special work, often very difficult to master. Miniature items are far more difficult to perfect than large items.”

As with all of my featured artisans, the pictures tell the story of Olga. The more you study her unique skills the greater the appreciation will be for something so exquisite and difficult to find.



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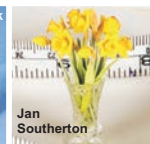
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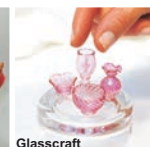
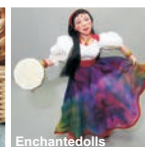
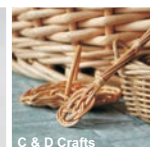
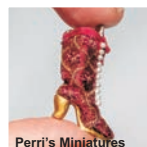
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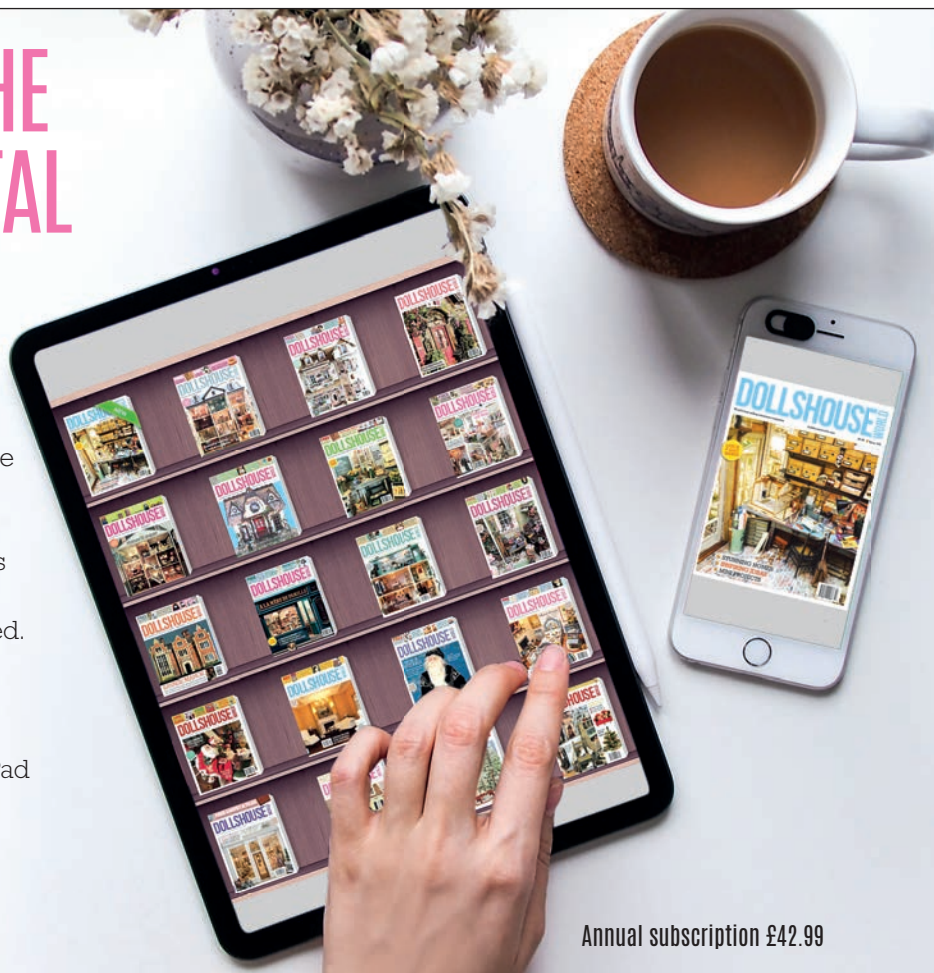


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Estella found her ideal home in London alley

Although new houses can be beautiful, Estella Cowen found her love of the older houses always wins when she is in the market for another property

BY CHARLOTTE MERRYMAN

Accommodating a large collection of doll's houses is never easy because of the amount of room each takes up. But for Estella Cowen and her husband Laurie that was not a problem as they lived in a spacious house that just about had sufficient room to keep the incredible collection that Estella had acquired over the years.

Estella was widowed some years ago, and met Laurie through a mutual



friend. Although it was her first husband who helped renovate some of the houses and who made many pieces of furniture, Laurie has taken a great interest in her collection. Since being introduced to the world of miniatures the couple spent many hours together searching antique shops, fairs and car boot sales for original items for the houses.

Her collection started when her two daughters were very young. While shopping in Camden Passage in Lon-



don, Estella saw a four-roomed house with a lift-off roof sitting outside an antique shop. The house was homemade and built during the period 1890 to 1900; it looked just like a typical Victorian family house.

After a little soul searching because of the cost, Estella decided she had to buy it. Luckily the house came in sections, so with the help of a friend, husband and two daughters (each carrying a chimney-stack!) it was taken home.

The original paintwork was very



Left: The pale blue upholstered chair is part of a set Estella found in an antique market, the other chair and settee are to be found in the sitting room. The carpet sweeper is an early metal one, and the carpet is just one of the many in the house that Estella has stitched, using very muted colours that fitted within the colour schemes of the rooms.

Above: The outside of the house was repainted, keeping the colours as near to the original as possible. Even the lace curtains in the top windows Estella has made to match the two lower floors. She has even painted the stained glass windows in the centre-domed window.

Right: Although three rooms in the house have the same original wallpaper each has its own individual look, like the parlour where the downstairs maid carefully dusts the ornaments above the fireplace. The davenport in the foreground was one of the pieces of furniture made by Estella's husband.



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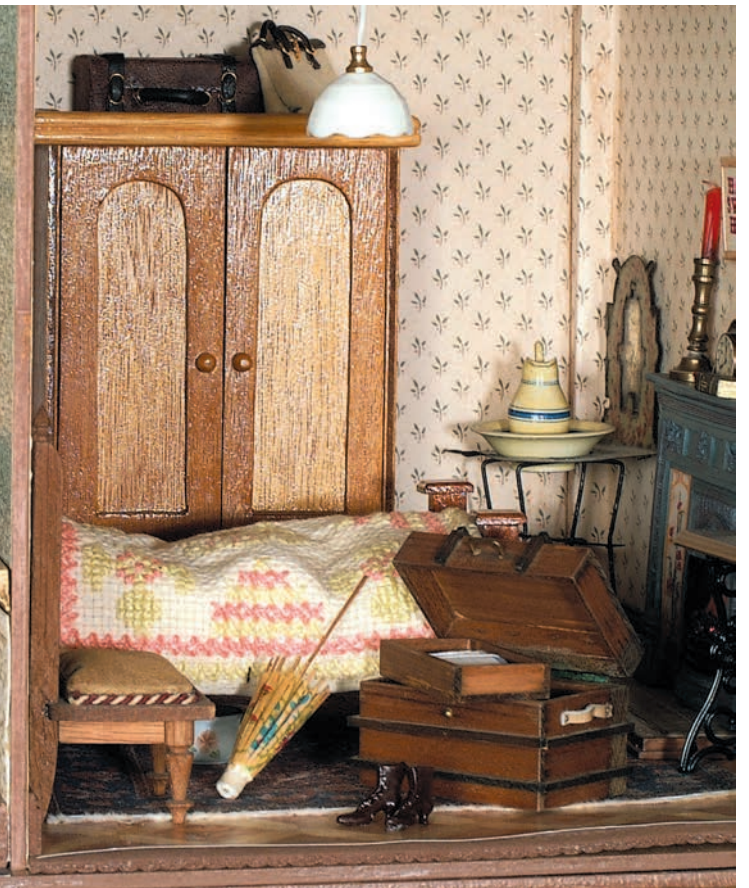
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“The interior, although requiring a clean, has not been redecorated although Estella points out that three of the original rooms do have the same wallpaper”

Above far left: Once he has picked all the vegetables for the family's evening meal, the gardener always calls in for lunch. The wallpaper in the kitchen is original, but Estella has carefully made the floor tiles.

Above left: The dishes are piled in the sink awaiting the maid to do the washing-up, as the cook takes a quick nap after having prepared the family lunch and eaten her own.

Left: The family, being of the middle to upper class, have had a bathroom installed, complete with large water heater. What luxury! The small bedroom at the top of the house, has a delightful old trunk with a lift-out tray (as all the original full-size ones), and the necessary sewing machine to carry out all the running repairs for the household, including the renewing of many items of clothing.

Above: The distressed kitchen cabinet looks perfect against the old tiled wallpaper, filled with blue and white china again found at antique fairs. Although it has taken Estelle many years to collect the furniture and items for her house, she still enjoys the search for something new.

tatty and peeling in many place, so Estella set about repainting it, keeping as close as possible to the original colours. The interior, although requiring a clean, has not been redecorated although Estella points out that three of the original rooms do have the same wallpaper and admits she has been tempted to change it.

It was then decided the house was not big enough and with careful alterations a second floor was added and the roof put back on top. As this alteration has been carefully carried out, if necessary the new part of the house can easily be removed to return it to its original size. Now the house has seven rooms, including a nursery, the maid's room and the bathroom housed on the additional floor.

Over the years it has been furnished





Left: As in most Victorian houses just about every room is filled with nick-knacks including the corner whatnot in the sitting room. Old framed photographs on the piano, family pictures on the walls and a colourful screen in the corner all add to the warm family feel the house has.

Above: The furniture throughout the house has been found at local antique fairs and markets - some even bought at car boot sales. Most of the family in the house are old dolls, but one or two appropriate new ones have been used. The bed with its highly decorative ends is one of Estella's favourite pieces.

Right: Nanny supervises drinks and takes care of the children in the nursery, where they have many toys to keep them happy during playtime, including a doll's house found at a craft fair.





Left: The house started life with only two floors, but Estella found it was not big enough for the family she wanted to live in it. As the roof was a separate part of the house it was easy to add a top floor, which now houses the nursery, bathroom and small bedroom.

Below: Ready for an afternoon in the park. The front door and the knocker are all original, only the stained glass panel has been added.

with mostly Victorian furniture. One or two rather special pieces such as the beautifully carved bed in the main bedroom, and the upholstered chairs in the sitting room and downstairs in the dining room were added.

Estella has stitched many of the carpets throughout the house, as finding old carpets or rugs is nearly impossible.

Estella has a number of other houses in her collection including a Silber & Fleming c1865-75, a Tin-plate Mettoy from the 1950s and a mod-

ern Anglesey doll's house, which is a mixture of a stacking shop and house boxes. This is used for the surplus of things that have been collected over many years and made into an antique shop, which seemed a good idea for storing them.

Both Estella and her husband still spend a great deal of time searching antique fairs and shops for extra pieces for all of her houses, although both admit that items are becoming more and more difficult to find and prices have been going up and up.



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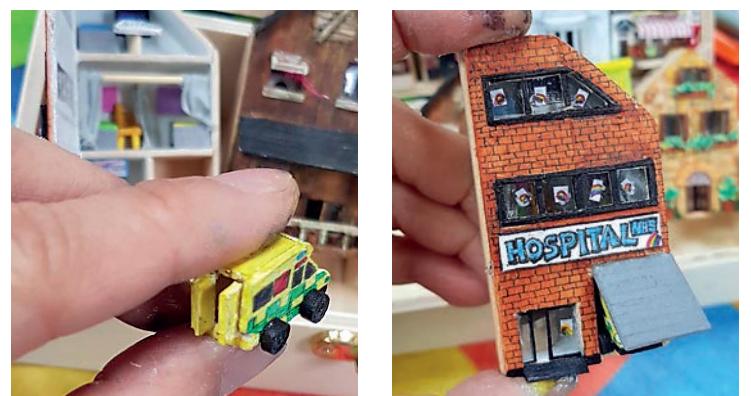
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Tammy sticks to cheap and cheerful tiny homes

Piano teacher hits the right note using lots of lolly sticks and easily available materials to create little houses that are all inspired by personal memories

BY SANDRA HARDING



I am often in awe of the things that some of you make from popsicle and lolly sticks.

I've made a few things myself over time in the same way but never, in my wildest dreams, would I have considered making a doll's house from them. But that's just what Tammy Lam Owen has done, with simply amazing results.

Tammy (pictured above) tells me she has always enjoyed crafts and is never short of ideas for her many projects. Luckily she has time to spend on her hobbies and particularly likes to use things that are easily available and cheap.

Although she is fascinated by miniatures, and over the years has spent a lot of time time on knitting miniature dolls, she felt that making a normal twelfth scale doll's house would take too much patience, something she is lacking she tells me. However, while browsing on YouTube she found a series of tutorials, including one on creating 1/144th scale doll's houses, and she was hooked.

The tutorials were full of hints and tips, plus ideas of where and how to start, and Tammy decided to give it a go. She wanted the little buildings to reflect her own life and chose to make homes that meant something to her



and her family.

So she has made replicas of her own real family home, a Tudor house in a comedy that she loves, a lighthouse she visited, the windmill in her local town, a haunted house inspired by the films she has seen, and

the seaside and sand castles she has missed during the pandemic. There are lots more; far too many to mention.

With a large pack of jumbo popsicle sticks, lots of glue, acrylic paint, Tippex, nail files, plastic packaging for windows and brown envelopes for boxes, the first house was made. Oh yes, nearly forgot, there was also lots of bits and pieces "borrowed" from her husband, Conrad.

Tammy admits that she has great fun in finding ways not to spend money, and is always searching for mini uses for the bits we all seem to collect. I am in awe of the houses but the thought that the minute furniture, light shades, bedding, curtains, carpets and even the tiny piano and stool were made in the same way has given me a headache. They are so tiny! By the way,

Tammy puts a piano in all of her houses; she is, after all, a piano teacher.

I did have a moment considering having a go at making one of these myself, but after a lie down, sanity returned, thank goodness.



Take a trip to sun-kissed beachside cottage

Sandie Criddle has made a welcoming and relaxing little beach cottage. A perfect place to let go and take in the glorious sunshine

BY ALLISON CRIDDLE ADAI

On February 14, 2017 my mum, Sandie Criddle, lost her 15 year old Dachshund. He had been sick and suddenly took a turn for the worst. She was devastated and mourned her sweet dog. A few days later I bought her the Beachside Bungalow Dollhouse Kit by Real Good Toys. I knew she needed a project to throw her time and energy into to help fill the vacancy left by her sweet dog, Max.

For the next several weeks, she put a tremendous amount of time and effort into making a beachside cottage. The original design and photos we had found of the kit online tended to feature it more as a country house versus a modern beachside cottage.

Both my mum and I love the HGTV show, *Fixer Upper*, and we wanted to do a house inspired by that program. Chip and Joanne Gaines, hosts of *Fixer Upper*, often use wood boarding, exposed beams, open floor plans and lots of whites and blues. With that inspiration in mind, mum set-out to build the perfect little cottage.

Her first step was sorting out all the various pieces and then coming up with a plan of how we wanted it to look.

We wanted it to be unique and a move-in ready beachside cottage. We went shopping and found some half-moon windows to add to the design and a French door that would open to an add-on side deck.



She added another pillar in the front as the original design looked incomplete with only two pillars. As we talked about the design, we decided we would eliminate the wall in the first floor that would normally separate the kitchen and living room to give it that open concept design.

Additionally, we would eliminate the wall upstairs that separated the hallway from the bedroom giving a nice open airy bedroom. Mum also planned to add a half wall around the stairs to provide some privacy for the bedroom.

My mum has built many doll's houses over the years, but she took a slightly different approach with this one. Rather than building the entire doll's house first she decided she'd try doing things in sections. First, she separated all the trim which I helped her paint white. Next, we painted the exterior Benjamin Moore colour HC-154, Hale Navy.

Mum decided she'd try decorating interior walls prior to inserting them into the house. For example she put wallpaper and then bead board and trim on the bathroom walls before gluing them into place. She put the shiplap type design on the interior walls of the downstairs before assembling them.

Left: A front view of the twelfth scale summer cottage.

Above: This beautiful ceiling light was made with a real sea urchin.







Left: The grey stained floors add to the beachy theme throughout the doll's house.

Below left: Sandie Criddle adhered the wood boards on the walls before placing them in the house.

Right: Sandie made a fresh blue and white bathroom upstairs.

Below: The cottage has a relaxing side porch for entertaining and for easy access to the beach.

She built various parts and kept them separate until they were done. For example she built the add-on deck, painted it and added the lattice and railings to it. She built the first floor with front porch and put that aside so I could add some of the rock detail around the base of the columns and house.

For the electrical work, mum prefers using the round wire system versus the tape wire electrical system. Over the many years of building doll's houses, she has found that the round wire is more durable over time.

We discussed where we'd like the lights throughout the entire house. From there she moved forward with that design by drawing on the walls (before wallpaper/wood) as to where a light should go.

Next she took her Dremel tool and made grooves in the walls to fit the



wires. All wiring came through the first floor to the equivalent of the crawl space of the home. Basically, if you flipped the house upside down, you'd see a grid of electrical wiring that lights the entire house. We couldn't find the right lights for this beach-themed kitchen so she said she could make some.

Living in Florida has its advantages as we were able to shop at a local seashell shop and see what we could find that we could make lights out of. Tiny little sea urchins were the perfect thing and ultimately became the kitchen lights.

The house came with hardwood flooring, but rather than accepting as it was, mum and I discussed how pretty it would be to stain it a light grey. She used a three step process: first applying a grey stain, then a white over that and finishing it with

a polyurethane. Before she began, she sanded the floors with a fine sandpaper. She then applied the first stain, and after it was adequately dry, she sanded the floors again. She repeated this process for the next stain and the polyurethane.

Once the doll's house was completely put together, she added more design details such as the exposed wood beams in the bedroom that really added a special unique touch. She added the crown moulding and baseboards to help set-off the perfect finishing touches.

We furnished the doll's house in the nautical theme. Mum made the bedding for the bed and designed a little chair for that room to match. All of the window treatments were her own designs. She made the little bench to hold the beach towels in the living room area that turned out really nice.

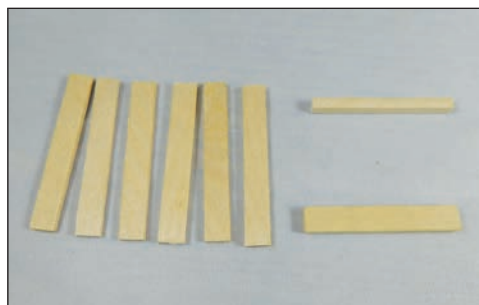


Build a beautiful planter for your garden

This easy to make garden planter is fun to put together and can be painted or stained in your choice of colour

BY BILL & GINA THEESFIELD

Ready to spruce up your outdoor garden? A garden box planter is just the perfect detail to add to your outdoor areas. Whether it is on your deck, patio or front porch. These delightful boxes will brighten up your outdoor scene.

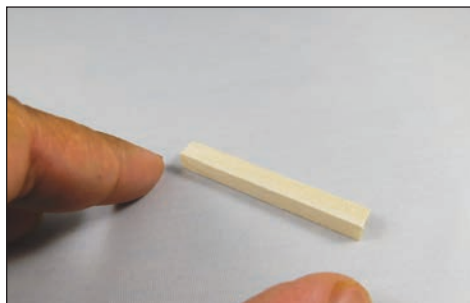


Step 1. Cut the wood for the side panels:

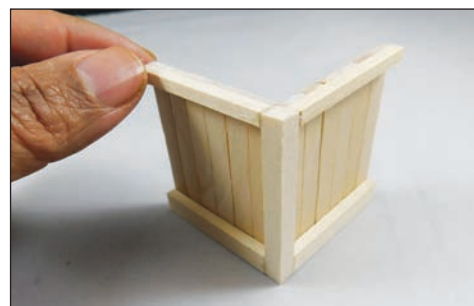
1 piece 1/8" x 1/8" x 1 9/16"
1 piece 1/8" x 1/4" x 1 9/16"
6 pieces 1/16" x 1/4" x 1 3/4"
Repeat 3 more times to make 4 sides



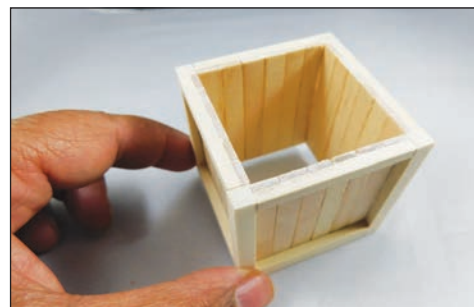
Step 2. Line up 6 of the 1/16" x 1/4" x 1 3/4" pieces. Then glue 1/8" x 1/8" strip to top and 1/8" x 1/4" to bottom. Repeat 3 more times to complete all 4 side panels.



Step 3. Make corner posts. Cut 4 pieces 3/16" x 3/16" x 1 3/4"



Step 4. Glue the side panels to the corner posts.



Step 5. Glue all side panels and 4 posts to construct a square box.

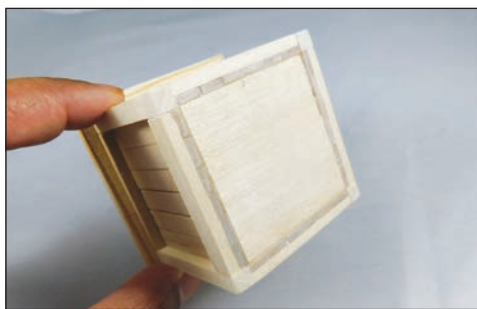


Step 6. Cut the bottom of the flower box to 1/8" x 1 9/16" x 1 9/16" square. Sand to fit. Cut the top frame of the flower box. 4 pieces 1/8" x 3/8" x 2 1/4" on long side (outside) at 45 de-

You will need

- All purpose wood glue
- Cutting knife or mini hand saw
- Craft blade
- Ruler
- Basswood:
 - 1pc 3/16" x 3/16" x 8"
 - 1 pc 1/8" x 3/8" x 10"
 - 1 pc 1/8" x 1 9/16" x 1 9/16"
 - 1 pc 1/8" x 1/8" x 7"
 - 1 pc 1/8" x 1/4" x 7"
 - 4 pcs 1/16" x 1/4" x 12"
- Flower foam
- Artificial small flower sticks and plants
- Stain or acrylic paint

gree angles. Arrange 4 pieces into a picture frame and glue together.



Step 7. Glue the bottom of the flower box to the square box. Glue the picture frame to the top of the square box.



Step 8. Cut the flower foam with a craft blade to fit into flower box. Make the foam slightly smaller than the opening so you can easily change the flower with the seasons.



Step 9. Arrange the flowers into the foam.

Step 10. Stain or paint the box in any desired colour.

Step 11. Add decorated foam to the flower box.

You can create a few garden boxes and a simple bench to form a garden bench if you like. There are so many possibilities!

See more work from Bill & Gina Theesfield by visiting them @calico_garden on Instagram.



Tips on fabric

BY AURALEA KRIEGER

The most important thing you need to know is that synthetic fabrics will make you crazy if you attempt to glue them in anyway. Keep your fabrics natural and you will have much better luck.

Also the thinner fabrics the better. Jersey knits simulate miniature sweaters perfectly, they have some stretch so be sure there is a good amount of cotton in them. Quilting fabrics are wonderful for furniture! But check the percentages. I once bought what I thought was cotton and it wouldn't glue. I went back to the store and discovered it was only 70% cotton.

I honestly never thought it would make a difference but it did. Also natural silks are beautiful for dressing dolls.

The same rules apply for trim and lace. Be sure they are natural. If you only plan to sew and not glue then you will have more options with fabrics.

Always do a glue test to see how the fabric reacts. The best glue for fabric is tacky glue or fabric glues. But I personally have found tacky glue to be the easiest to work with. ALWAYS keep hand wipes at your work table to get the glue off your fingers while you work.

If your fabric store ever sells upholstery sample books snatch them up because those samples make great doll's house rugs! When you go to second hand shops look for vintage handkerchiefs. If you have the courage, snip them up and use the embroidery sections for pillows. I have not been able to do this yet. I always find myself holding it, thinking how wonderful that it has lasted for 30 years and then can't cut it up!

Liliput Library mirrors Susana's mini passion

Susana, a journalist and great reader, has been fascinated with the world of mini books for more than 25 years and now has a collection of more than 4,000

BY SUSANA LÓPEZ DEL TORO

I have always felt a great attraction to the delicacy of miniatures but I was surprised to discover books made in such a small size that reading them was an almost impossible task.

I began to study this particular area of bibliophilia and simultaneously started collecting tiny specimens. That was more than 25 years ago and now I have a collection of 4,000 miniature books, ranging from the 16th century to the present day. I belong to the Miniature Book Society, to whose members I contribute the results of my research on Spanish miniature editions.

I also began to create miniature dioramas and compositions with a literary theme and for the past 12 years

have organised exhibitions in cultural spaces in Spain and sometimes in Italy.

This particular scene was made inside a bar box with marquetry from 1941. I know the exact year because when cleaning it, and disassembling the base to install some guides for the sliding tray, I found a note written in ballpoint pen directly on the wood: "Designed and built by Eduardo Segura, Valencia, 1941".

It was very exciting. The small piece of furniture measures 36 cm wide x 43 cm high (including the top) and 27 cm deep, which becomes 40 cm when you open the door and slide the tray. I installed mirrors on the sides of the back and on the floor to give a feeling of depth, of an infinite library.

It is almost impossible to capture it







with the camera, due to the multiple reflections, but when looking directly at the mirrored floor, you can see two stairs that go down which lead to an office, with two desks and some characters. Actually, these elements (1/24 scale) are attached to the ceiling and hidden behind the pictures in front.

The shelves contain 800 little books, made of foam board and bound in paper, fabric and leather. I selected images of artistic bindings from the 18th and 19th centuries, always with ochre or muted red tones so that the set had a certain chromatic unity with

the furniture and the floor. I disassembled the metal supports that were on the inside of the doors to hold the glasses of the old bar cabinet, and installed shelves, stairs, filing cabinets and a display case for the most valuable books.

The portraits are writers of the Spanish Golden Age: Miguel de Cervantes, Francisco de Quevedo, Góngora, Lope de Vega along with many of the women writers of the time: Teresa de Jesús, Juana Inés de la Cruz.

I painted the floor by hand with wood stains, making a checkerboard in shades co-ordinated with the joints, which I previously marked with a cutter on the board. I placed the light (led, warm) at ground level, behind the red



fabric table, because it gave a more intimate and also theatrical atmosphere.

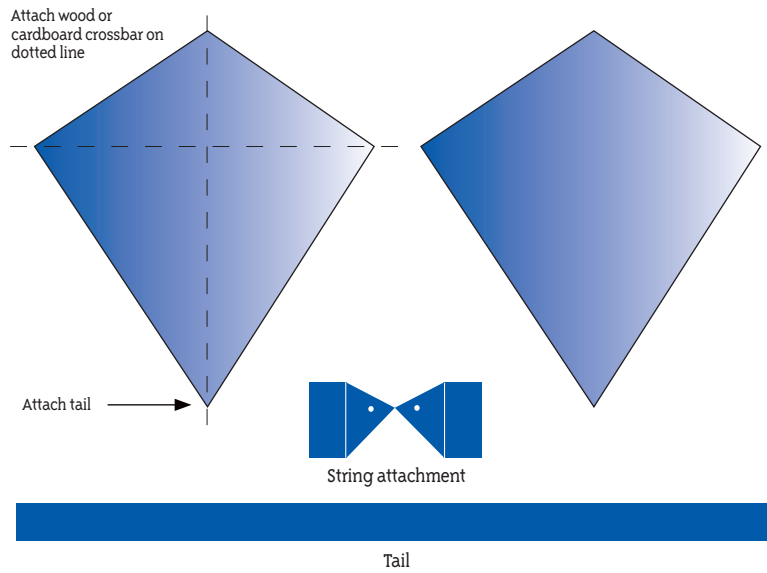
To complete the set and give a nod to the name of my Library of Lilliput, I created a micro library presiding over the room, with tiny booklets with pages measuring 2 to 5 mm each.

From our house to your house

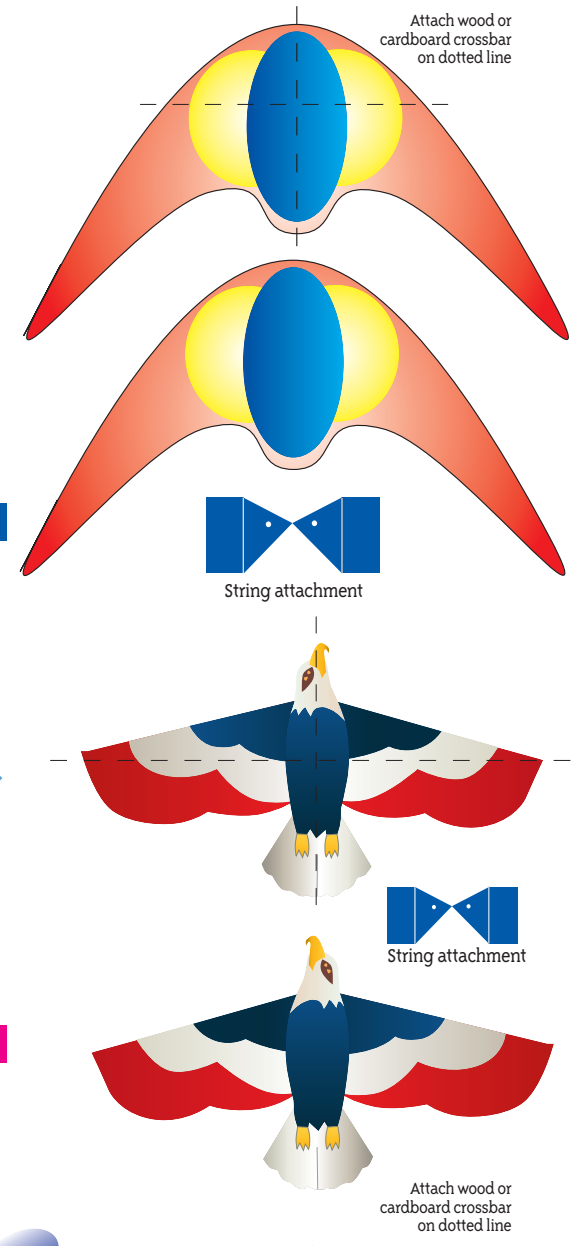
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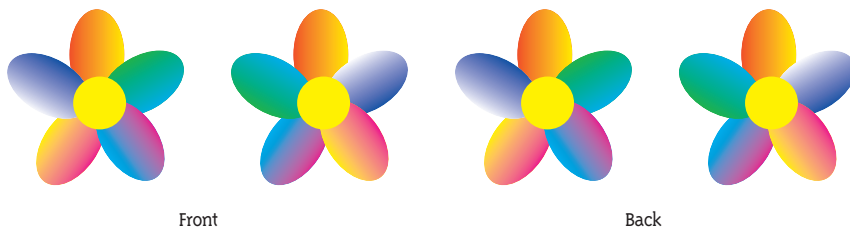
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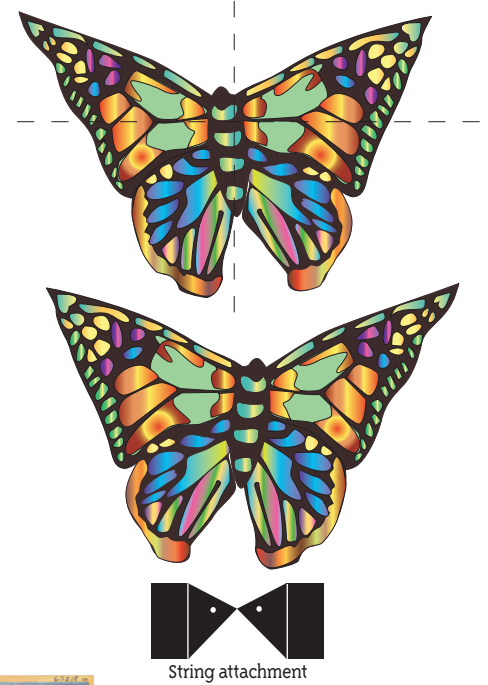
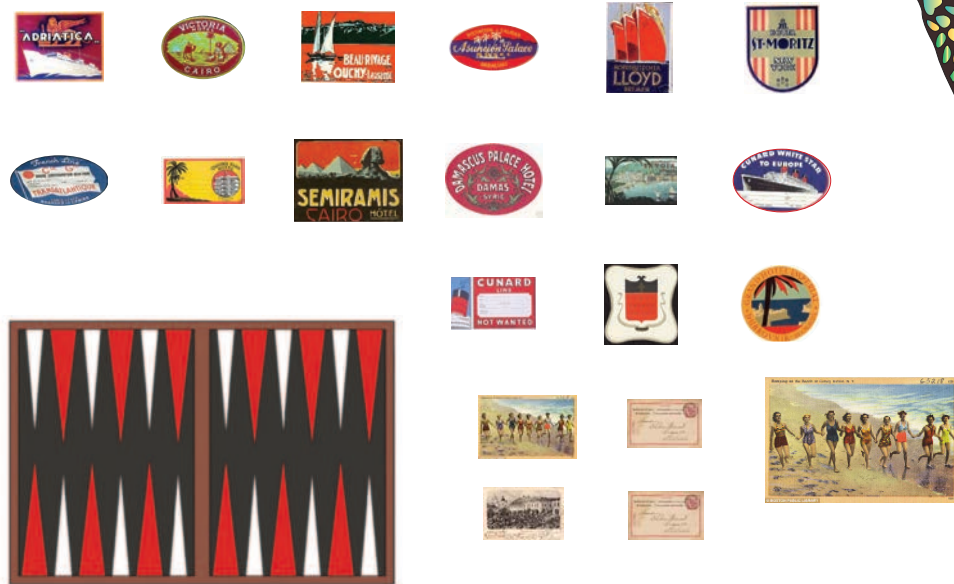


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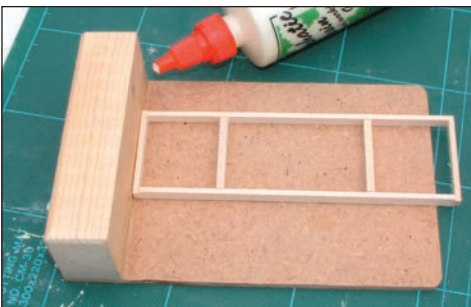
Add a picnic table to your outdoor scene

Cut up a few strips of wood and put together a table for outdoors. Then all you need to decide is what to fill your table with

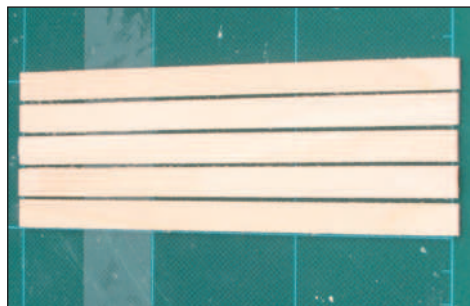


BY DHW REPORTER

It looks great outside a cabin or, if you prefer a more patio-friendly look, just varnish instead of staining.



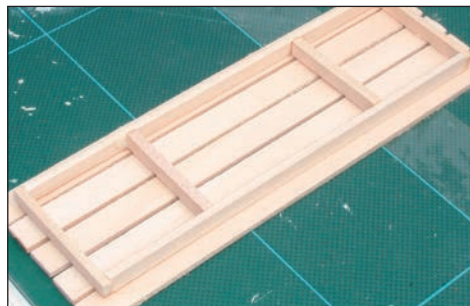
Step 1. Form an oblong with the pieces (2) and (3). Glue cross pieces (4) 1 1/4" from each end.



Step 2. Lay pieces (1) flat, leaving 1/16" between each piece.



Step 4. Glue legs (7) to underneath of table.



Step 5. Glue piece (6) seat supports, 3/4" up from bottom of leg.

Step 6. Glue the seats (5) in place.

Step 3. Glue the oblong on to pieces (1).

You will need

■ Wood glue

■ Wood:

1. 6" x 3/8" x 3/32" thick - cut five
2. 1-5/8" x 1/4" x 3/32" thick - cut two
3. 5-1/4" x 1/4" x 3/32" thick - cut two
4. 1 3/8" x 1/4" x 3/32" thick - cut two
5. 6" x 1/2" x 1/8" thick - cut two
6. 4-1/2" x 3/8" x 3/32" thick - cut two
7. 3" x 3/8" x 3/32" thick - cut four



Japanese courtyard house is just full of surprises



Genevieve picked up the miniature hobby again after a long break and this wonderful little kit, a gift from her husband, was the perfect place to start again

BY SANDRA HARDING

I can't remember showing you a Japanese house before, but when I saw this little beauty I was captivated and thought it might have the same effect on you. I was surprised to learn that it is in fact a 1/24th scale kit, as the detail is so good it looked larger on the photographs.

It is owned by Genevieve Woodward, who now lives in Canada, and was a surprise gift from her husband Richard which he bought through Amazon. It was made in China by Jiata Handcraft Co Ltd and called the Yaquan Courtyard.

Genevieve was not too sure of the

sizing originally as it states on the box that it is 24th, but decided that the Japanese probably had lower ceilings anyway as each room is only 3" high. There were so many items in the kit, it took a while to get them in order, but the instructions were clear and easy to follow, and written in English. I am told it took Genevieve about three weeks to make, and probably took her about 60 hours. Good going I think.

Genevieve only recently picked up this hobby again after a break of some years, and was inspired by a tutorial by Julie Warren on You Tube. She had previously created a twelfth scale doll's

house and a hat shop, which she gave to her mother-in-law.

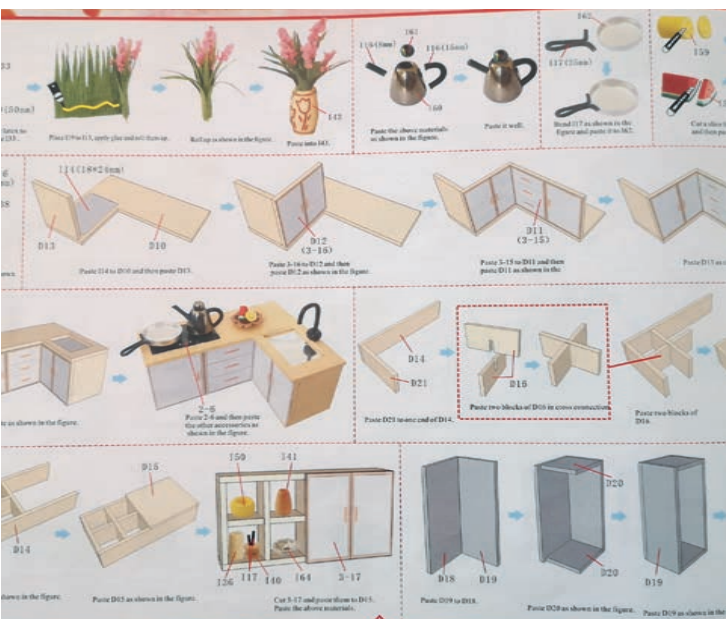
In April 2020 she put together a Greenleaf Orchid house and made furniture from patterns using matt board, which she gave to a friend's niece for Christmas. She has also completed a little tin box theatre called Forest Rhapsody, and has a San Franciscan kit to make up this year. Maybe we can see that when it's done?

To get back to where I started from – the Japanese house. The width is 14", the depth is 10" the height is 13". Each little piece of furniture came as a kit, which Genevieve carefully and patiently made up. The tiny little sushi and chopsticks on the table, the vases and flowers, the cushions and books were all included, as were the pictures, lamps and fully equipped kitchen. Even more amazing is that the kit came with a music box, and lighting, which really does set the house off beautifully.

One of the many adorable things about it is the setting, which is included of course. It has a stream with fish swimming in it, flowers, and a path gently winding through, and I am getting very over the top now.

I just love the fence and the gates and the finishing touches created by the decoration and balconies are just perfect. I have decided that I am going to put one of these adorable Japanese buildings on my wish list. I just have to move real house first though, as I have no room.









“I have decided that I am going to put one of these adorable Japanese buildings on my wish list.”





Inspired by nature

BY CHARLOTTE MERRYMAN

Aurea Segura's previous work owes much to ideas from the 18th Century and Louis XVI's France as well as Jane Austen's novels.

But she has had a change of direction with her latest pieces, finding inspiration in nature and the sea.

Aurea told us: "Looking out my window and seeing the blooming flowers and the birds flocking really inspires me. I'm also inspired by the sea and sailing — living in Barcelona very close to the sea, I enjoy staring out at the sailing boats and they have really helped me for this collection."

She uses specially selected silk fabrics and lace to upholster her miniature furniture and then hand-paints them with astonishing detail.

"At a first glance, you see one scene painted in each piece, but as you get closer and look in more detail, you can see the full story with

many small details."

Aurea is already well on her way with her next collection with a children's theme as well as one inspired by Beatrix Potter's tales.

Above left: Birds inspired this romantic blue set.

Above right: A hand-painted dress and chaise lounge with a floral theme.

Above far right: Views of sailing boats on the ocean inspired these chairs which are paired here with combined with classic hand-painted tables.

Right: An 18th century French scene that Aurea has upholstered and hand-painted in pink tones.



LITTLE LINKS:

Aurearte Miniatures
etsy: aurearte.etsy.com
web: www.aurearte.com
facebook: aurearte miniatures





and the sea



Right: A beautiful hand-painted bed matches the pink tones.

Below: A beautifully handmade twelfth scale dress sits next to the sailing themed sofa.





There's a warm welcome

Amy's small general store has grown into a large one stop shop but you can still be sure of a large helping of good old-fashioned service here

BY SANDRA HARDING

Any of us who have sons of almost any age know that at times they can get a little crabby, and Amy Tkatch's son Jack is no exception.

I wondered if he actually knew that his mother had told me this and named a store after him. Sigh of relief! Jack's OK with it I am reliably informed, so no family sulks and surprises in the Tkatch household, thank goodness!

Amy is Canadian but thought that it would make a change to create an American style, small town general store, and so Crabby Jack's was born. Mind you, it didn't start off this big as Amy had a much smaller store first

which Frank (the owner) soon outgrew. Amy simply swapped it for a petrol station with garage, which she very quickly closed down to create more space. The plot the new store sits on now measures 26" deep by 31.5" wide, and that's a big store. Amy downloaded the shop sign, glued it onto tin, and strung it up at the front.

Amy wanted the store to have a really warm feeling: the kind of place that just welcomes you in, and encourages you to buy. With the amount of stock here, I reckon this has worked just fine.

The structure is wood and the shingles on the roof are each hand cut and made of stained cedar, which were laid

in a deliberately haphazard fashion. Scrapbook paper was used for the walls and floor, to which Amy added paint, to give it a more rustic look. I love the attic area which is full of stuff not suitable for sale.

The vegetables all look really fresh and notice the old fashioned scales just begging to be used. On the other side of the display stand is fresh fish and meats, and they are all packed in ice – such detail. There is a rack of freshly baked bread and cakes, brown paper bags, and even candy floss and popcorn waiting to be sold to the young ones when they leave school.

There are jars full of sweets and



e at Crabby Jack's store



SHOP AROUND



‘I love the attic area which is full of stuff not suitable for sale.’



other goodies, plus wines and spirits, as there always were in the old days of the corner shops, which I recall well. Being a general store they have to cater for everyone's need so there is a collection of shopping baskets, brushes and brooms, buckets and tableware, and the walls are covered in notices of goods for sale and events in the area. A real one stop shop.

Amy also wanted a couple of Canadian touches so she added the moose head and the paddle as well as Tim Hortons coffee, which is on the side. The store has been around for ages according to Amy, and she has placed an old telephone, molasses jugs and the Betty Boop posters which shows the store has seen it all. Frank is the third generation to run this store and he is proud that it's hardly changed at all.

Karen's talent shines in detailed houses

Karen Butler-Kennedy, of Kennedy Miniature Construction has started a house-building business during lockdown. We talk to her about the houses she has built to showcase her talent to new customers

BY DHW REPORTER

Hi Karen, how did you first discover miniatures? My father was a manufacturers' representative for as many as 32 different collector toy lines. We were always surrounded by people in the business. Joachim Steiff stayed at our house and we took him for his first trip to the ocean, where he went swimming despite the cold weather.

And you had the pick of a lot of toys?

I had a select few pieces that I was permitted to play with as a child. The miniatures were always my favourite as I was fascinated with tiny things. I would crochet thread to make tiny clothes, but never for dolls. The clothes were for my tiniest animal toys. To this day, there are no dolls in my miniature builds. I love to add animals to them instead.

When did you first start on building houses?

In 1992, when my daughter was a baby, my then husband and I started one of the MiniWright kits my father had put aside. Unfortunately, he went full throttle when I was occupied with our children, and glued walls, windows, interior stairs, and the front door in place. Then he slapped a very bad paint job on it before I had a chance to do any preparation. I was so discouraged that the house sat untouched for several years. Long after we divorced, my daughter and I found a miniature shop, grabbed a few supplies, and I painted the exterior again for her.

But it wasn't until a lot later that you got back onto the house? Yes, due to a lack of funds, the house again sat untouched until 2018, ten years after my daughter was grown and had moved out of our house. I thought it would be a great surprise to clean it up for her. When I dusted it off and looked it over, I was horrified to see that over the years the exterior boards had split quite a lot around the bottom half of the house. I really wanted to get it usable again and surprise her with a clean and ready to continue project. I sanded, prepped, and then hand cut over a thousand miniature bricks. I carefully glued them to the house, and then mortared them all using real mortar in pastry bags. It took a little over three months to complete the mini-masonry. I was so excited to show my daughter



what I was doing for her, thinking she would be thrilled.

But she wasn't? No. I learned a very painful lesson that day; some things should not be surprises. My daughter doesn't like brick on houses and was very sad about the new look of the house. It was at a point of no return at that stage. She was crushed and so was I. To make it up to her, I vowed to work with her on the other MiniWright kit, making it just exactly how she would like it. I've been collecting items for her kit house ever since, so that we can make it perfectly to her specifications.

But there was a silver lining? Yes, during the brick laying days I had shared my project with my friends and co-workers. They were so impressed with it that they were trying to encourage me to start a side business. When 2020 came in like a horrible nightmare I lost my job of 14 years and quickly pivoted to starting my own business. I worked throughout the summer completing an entire back half of the doll's house to showcase what I can do with a bathroom, main bedroom, and some interestingly unique features.

Tell us a bit about the house The ceiling in the main bedroom is abalone shell, surrounded in rustic blue-washed pine planks to match the pillars in the room. It is back lit around three sides. The bedroom window





seat is deep blue stained birds-eye veneer. There's miniature carpet padding under the bedroom carpet, so that the legs of the furniture sink in just enough to look true to life. The bathroom features real marble flooring, and real ceramic tile in the shower, a pocket door to the kitchen, and back lit stained glass. The back-lit stained glass carried through to the kitchen over the refrigerator, as the lighting is inside the wall between the two rooms. The decking in the back of the house has LED lighting all the way around it, nestled into the railing so that the wires and bulbs can't be seen. The house, which I named The Kennedy House, was finally complete.

The interior looks impressive. It must have taken a while? I reupholstered, painted, and/or rebuilt much of what is in the house. I couldn't afford a refrigerator that I could respect, so I built mine to include real stainless steel, separate

plunger switches to light the LEDs for the fridge side and freezer side when the doors open, and a cord that plugs into the wall behind the unit. I had to learn to work with polystyrene and metals, as nothing I've made involves a 3D printer or laser cutting tool. When I couldn't find a toilet that I thought was realistic and attractive enough, I built mine to be a replica of my favourite type in real life - the pillbox toilet.

Tell us about your latest project?
I choose to use real materials in my



projects, wherever possible. I think of things that I would love to see in miniature, and then search to see if they exist. I started my first completely scratch built project in October of 2020, during lock-down. I thought it would be unique to see a grand, huge stone fireplace on a miniature scale. I didn't see that this was done anywhere else the way I was picturing it in my mind, so I set to work. The interior of the fireplace had to be real brick, with design work that continues all the way up inside to the mantel. It is very important to me that even with a dental mirror, a person could not see where the brick stops. I used tiny rock that looks like river rock and real mortar. I had not seen miniature forests outside the windows of room-boxes, so that was something I tackled. The forest continues far to the left and right of the windows, so that one can't see where it ends. The switch on the wall works, and there is a flush mount outlet in the



floor for the table lamp. The ceiling is hand bull-nosed pine to resemble tongue-in-groove. I call this room-box Mountain Home Study. It took five months to complete.

Which subject would you like to know more about? Although life took me in a completely different direction, I'm a singer and started out as a music major. I love so many different types of music and can't learn enough on the subject. The dining room in The Kennedy House is a reflection of this passion, as it has many different musical instruments in it for entertaining miniature guests. I also have a miniature guitar in the attic bedroom, for playing by the fireplace.

What do your family think of your work? My family is behind me 100%. They are my biggest fans, which makes me extremely happy. My dad, now 97-years-old and living with us,

loves to see what I make. Last time he took a look at a piece I had completed he said: "You know, you should do this for a living!". I lost my mom in 2006. It would have been so fun to show her these things and talk with her about all of them. However, I believe she can see them from her new vantage point.

Any other hobbies or passions? I have a gift for pencil sketching, with some of my works hanging in our house. I've thought about miniaturising a few of them to put into The Kennedy House. My mother was a painter and I'm definitely going to miniaturise a few of her paintings for the house.

What advice would you give to your younger self? If I could speak with my younger self, my advice would be to make time for what you love. Don't let life derail you because you can do whatever you put your mind to. Don't let anyone tell you that it isn't realistic

to shoot for your dream. It's what life is all about and if you blink, you'll miss it.

Where do you sell? I'm building an audience through social media, and also have a website: www.kennedyminiatureconstruction.com. Now, if I were as good at coding a website as I am at miniatures, it would look so much better.

What do you love about miniatures? Miniatures allow the maker to build anything they can imagine, small enough to treasure, admire, and pass down through generations. It's a unique art form that brings joy to so many people of all ages. Pure joy.



LITTLE LINKS:

email: info@kennedyminiatureconstruction.com
tel: 001-503-891-1998
web: kennedyminiatureconstruction.com
facebook: KennedyMiniConst/
instagram: [kennedyminiatureconstruction/](https://www.instagram.com/kennedyminiatureconstruction/)

Make a backgammon board for mini games

Add a game board table to your doll's house with this combined backgammon board and coffee table. But you can make any board game

BY LAURIE JACOBY

Rainy and cold days are best spent playing a board game inside with friends. But in such a tiny house, where do you keep all those game boards and pieces? Where do you find the space to play if mother doll is baking on the kitchen table and father doll has his feet kicked up in the living room? This backgammon coffee table solves all those little problems while also providing an interesting conversation piece for your doll's house's den, playroom, or game room.

Measurements

Tabletop: 3 1/8" x 2 1/8". Cut one.
Front and back table panels: 2 1/4" x 5/8". Cut two and include a 1 1/2" x 1/2" opening centred on one piece to

create the drawer opening.

Legs: 1/4" and 1 1/2". Cut four. You can cut your own from wood or use bamboo forks/skewers.

Side table panels: 1 1/2" x 5/8". Cut two.

Bottom table panel: 2 1/2" x 1 1/2". Cut one.

Drawer front: 1 1/2" x 1/2". Cut one and sand to fit the front opening.

Drawer base: 1 3/8" x 1 3/8". Cut one from mount board.

Drawer sides: 3/4" x 1 3/8". Cut three from mount board. The third side for the back of the drawer should be slightly longer than the other side pieces to glue onto the side pieces.



Step 1. I gave my table decorative legs using bamboo forks I found online. The forks were thin, so to stabilise them I glued two of the thin bamboo forks together before cutting the legs down to size. Alternatively, you can cut out your own legs from wood.



Step 2. Cut each of the table unit and drawer pieces according to the measurements listed. The table pieces are wood, and the drawer pieces other than the front drawer panel should be cut from mount board. Be sure to sand each piece before assembling.



Step 3. Glue the legs to the sides of front and back table panel pieces. Make sure the drawer opening is facing up when gluing the legs to the front panel piece. While the front and back panels are drying, glue the table panel sides to the bottom table panel piece.

You will need

- Wood approx. 1/4" thick
- Glue
- Photo paper
- Iron-on wood laminate
- Mount/mat board
- Bamboo forks or skewers - optional
- Decorative bead, button, earring, etc. in scale to a drawer handle
- Oven bake clay
- Scroll saw
- Sharp knife
- Printer



Step 4. Glue the front and back table panel pieces to the bottom and side table panel pieces.



Step 5. Print the game board on photo paper. The game board image should measure 2" x 1 3/8". Centre the image on the tabletop piece and trace the shape onto the wood. Do not glue on the game board image until the end. You can also paint the image onto the table so long as it fits those dimensions.



Step 6. Frame the space for the game board image using the iron-on laminate. Make mitre cuts in the corners of the frame. Cut strips of the laminate to fill any addition openings between the game board space and the frame on the shorter sides of the tabletop.

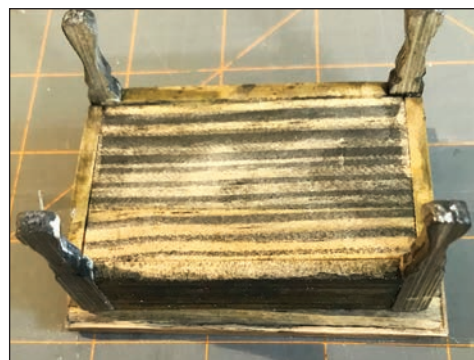


Step 7. Construct the drawer by gluing the mount board sides to the mount board base. When the sides have dried, glue on the wooden drawer front.



Step 8. Slide the constructed drawer into the front panel opening and make sure drawer fits into the table. Sand down the opening until the drawer fits and slides smoothly into place.

Step 9. Centre the table onto the underside of the tabletop piece and glue.



Step 10. Paint and decorate to your preferences before gluing your game board image to the tabletop. You might need to add some card stock under game board to bring it flush to the frame.

Step 11. Add a knob to the drawer front. There are infinite options to use for a door or drawer handle.

I used a small earring, but you can use a bead, button, or any fun find that fits the scale. To play, make some game pieces out of oven bake clay using the instructions on the packaging. You need fifteen round token-shaped pieces for each player.

If backgammon isn't your doll's favourite game, this piece could easily be customised to fit any doll's taste. Use a check-board print for chess or draughts.

Print a Candyland board and cut out colourful cards for a kid's room. Make tiny houses out of clay for your favourite edition of Monopoly.

Whatever game you choose, the design for the tabletop will add a pop of colour and whimsy to any room, and the drawer will keep all your pieces in place until the next rainy day. See the cutouts page for your game board top.



Feed the birds in your miniature garden

We all know the pleasure everyone gets from watching the birds feeding – and even in summer we can attract them to the garden

BY ALICE MONROE

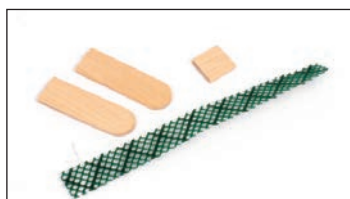
Although at this time of the year, there is plenty of natural food for the birds to find in the garden, sometimes it is still nice to give them something extra – like peanuts! So we have designed two different little feeders that can be hung from the bird table or from branches of the trees.

Square feeder



Step 1. Cut 1 1/4in off each end of the craft stick – these make the sides.

Step 2. Cut 10mm square from the rest of the craft stick – this makes the top.



Step 3. Cut strip of plastic mesh 10mm wide by 90mm (3 1/2in).



Step 4. Glue mesh around edge of craft sticks. Leave to dry thoroughly.

Step 5. Cut piece of embroidery silk – approximately 2in in length.



Step 6. Glue ends together around the top piece.

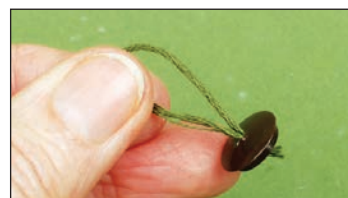


Step 7. Trim top edge of mesh – fill feeder with millet seed or any other tiny seeds – glue on top.

Round feeder



Step 1. Separate the pieces of snap-caps. Drill a small hole in the centre of the cap.



Step 2. Use a small piece of embroidery silk to make the handle.

Step 3. Knot at base and thread up through hole.

Step 4. Cut a piece of canvas 1 in x 1 1/2in.



Step 5. Run glue around edge of plastic cap, and attach canvas.

Step 6. Fill the feeder with seed – if required.



Step 7. Run glue around inside of plastic bottom piece and insert canvas. Leave to dry

You will need

Square feeder

- Craft stick 10mm wide
- Plastic netting – available from garden centres
- Embroidery silk
- Wood glue or tacky glue
- Millet seed (optional)

Round feeder

- Snap-cap - Available online
- Cross stitch canvas
- Embroidery silk
- Tacky glue
- Millet seed (optional)





Garden scene built on tree trunk slices

When Barbie found some tree trunk slices at a craft store they were just what she needed as a base for her four seasons project

BY BARBIE COHN ANDREASON. PHOTOGRAPHY BY TONIA SWENNES

When I came across rustic natural wood tree trunk slices at a craft store, I bought several for future projects. They were about the same size and shape and the tree bark around the edges suggested outdoor scenes. They happened to have served perfectly as the bases for a series of the four seasons I had been thinking of creating.

My friend, Carol Kubesh, has made the most interesting dolls through the years. Her little kneeling gardener is so adorable. She just seemed so eager to tend her plants. If she could only manage to keep the three curious and frisky dogs out of mischief, and out of her flower beds! Even their rawhide bone and toys are not going to distract them, I'm afraid.



Top left: Tending to the garden can take a little longer with pups around, but it's also much more fun!

Above: Barbie set her mini garden scene on a slice of wood from the craft store.

Make a simple tiny toolbox

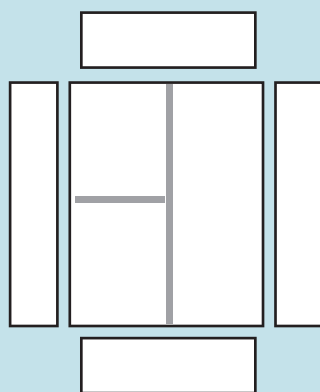


You will need

- Wood
- X-Acto knife
- Ruler
- Sandpaper
- Wood glue

1. Cut pieces of wood as shown in the diagram and glue as shown.

2. Either leave natural or stain as desired.



Centre piece

Tool box divider



Put together a cute card sewing box

Take some cardboard, a bit of glue and some fabric and you'll be able to create this lovely little sewing box

BY KAREN HRTZ

Follow along and add this sweet miniature sewing box to your twelfth scale scene.

Step 1. From the cardboard, draw and cut out the following:

Two rectangles that are 1" wide by 3/4" deep – these are the top and bottom of the sewing box.

Two rectangles that are 1" wide by 5/8" deep – these are the front and back sides of the box.

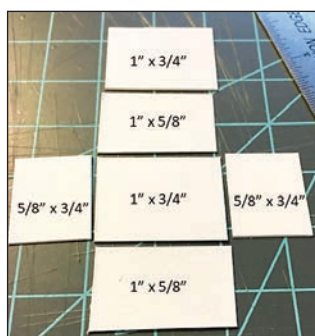
Two rectangles that are 3/4" wide by 5/8" deep – these are the left and right sides of the box.

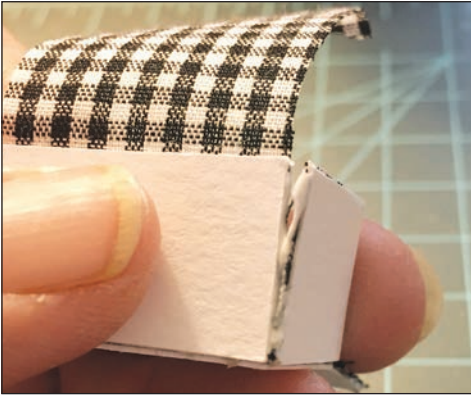
Step 2. Using a toothpick, apply a THIN layer of white glue to the bottom cardboard piece and place it in the lower half of the LINING FABRIC. The glue needs to cover the entire piece of cardboard, especially along the edges.

Step 3. Glue the four side pieces in the same way, placing them as shown with no space between bottom and side pieces.

You will need

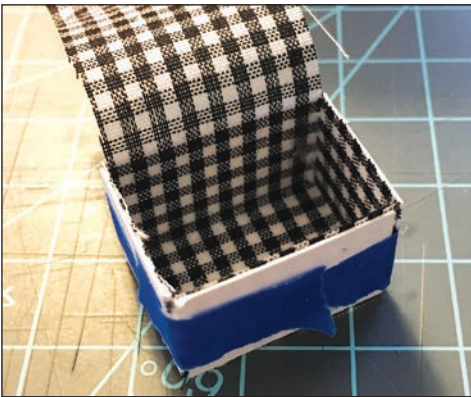
- Cardboard, approximately 3" x 5" – card stock or index card are too thin
- Fabrics
- 1/4" ribbon or trim
- White glue
- Cord for edging and handle
- Beads for feet and button
- Paper clip for handle
- Scissors or cutting knife
- Toothpick
- Ruler
- Tape
- Pencil



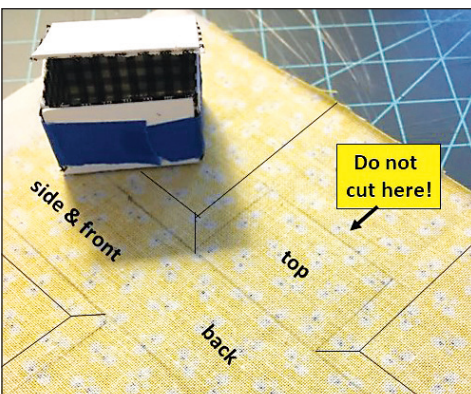


Step 4. When the glue is dry, trim around all sides EXCEPT THE LONG EDGE OF THE BACK PIECE.

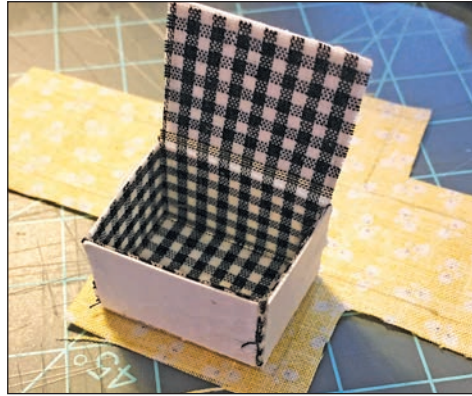
Step 5. Next, fold the sides of the box up with the fabric on the inside.



Step 6. Run a thin bead of glue on the seam at each corner to connect the sides. Apply a small piece of tape to hold the corners while the glue dries.



Step 7. On the wrong side of the outer fabric, trace around the box bottom, back and top as shown in step 6. Then turn the box on its side and trace the sides/front. NOTE: I cut the outer fabric this way so that it would cover the glued corners of the box for a neat appearance.

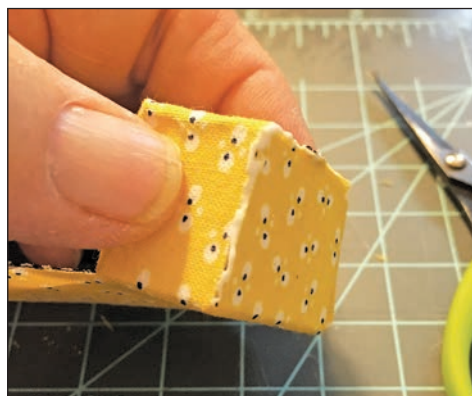


Step 8. Cut the outer fabric as shown in step 6, leaving 1/4" allowance on all edges.



Step 9. Apply a thin layer of glue to the bottom of the box and glue in place on the wrong side of the outer fabric.

Step 10. As with the lining fabric, the glue needs to cover the entire piece of cardboard, especially along the edges.



Step 11. Apply glue to the back of the box and fold the fabric up into place. Make sure the fabric is pulled snug around the edge.



Step 12. Apply glue to the sides of the box and fold the fabric around, making sure it is snug around the corner.

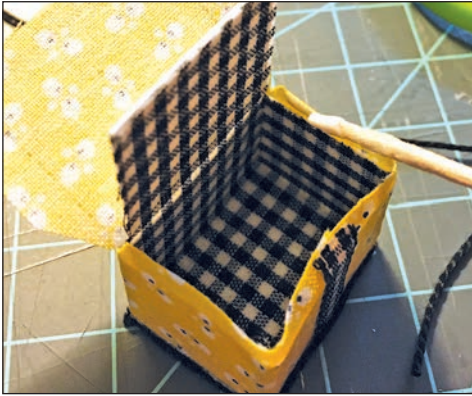
Step 13. Fold the fabric around to the front of the box and trim so it overlaps 1/8", apply glue and secure fabric to front of box. Let dry.

Step 14. Trim excess fabric from box bottom.

Step 15. Apply a thin line of glue along each raw edge of the bottom to seal.



Step 16. Glue a length of ribbon over the place on the front of the box where the raw edges overlap.



Step 17. Glue cord along bottom edges.

Step 18. Apply glue to the fabric that extends above the opening of the box.

Step 19. Turn to the inside of the box and secure with clips until dry.

Step 20. Apply a thin layer of glue to the box top.

Step 21. Holding the box closed, fold the fabric over the top. Let dry. Note: If you glue the top without folding the box closed, the fabric will be too tight to close the box when it is dry!

Step 22. Apply glue to the edges of the fabric and fold to the inside to finish the edges of the top.



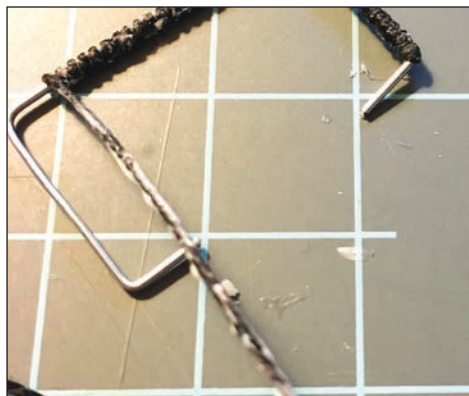
Step 23. Glue another strip of ribbon on the top, aligning it to the piece on the front of the box.

Step 24. Cut a 6" piece of cord and tie a knot, creating a loop at the centre point of the cord.

Step 25. Apply a thin bead of glue on the front edge of the box lid.

Step 26. Align the loop in the cord with the ribbon. Glue in place making sure not to glue the loop down.

Step 27. Glue the remaining cord around the top edges of the box.



Step 28. To create the handle, I used a small paper clip. Reshape the paper clip as shown. It should be about 1/8" wider than the box.



Step 29. Cut a piece of cord (at least 8" long). Apply glue to the cord and wrap the handle making sure not to leave any gaps. Note: Do not wrap the short ends. Those will be inserted into the box.

Step 30. Mark a spot on each side of the box, centred top to bottom and side to side.

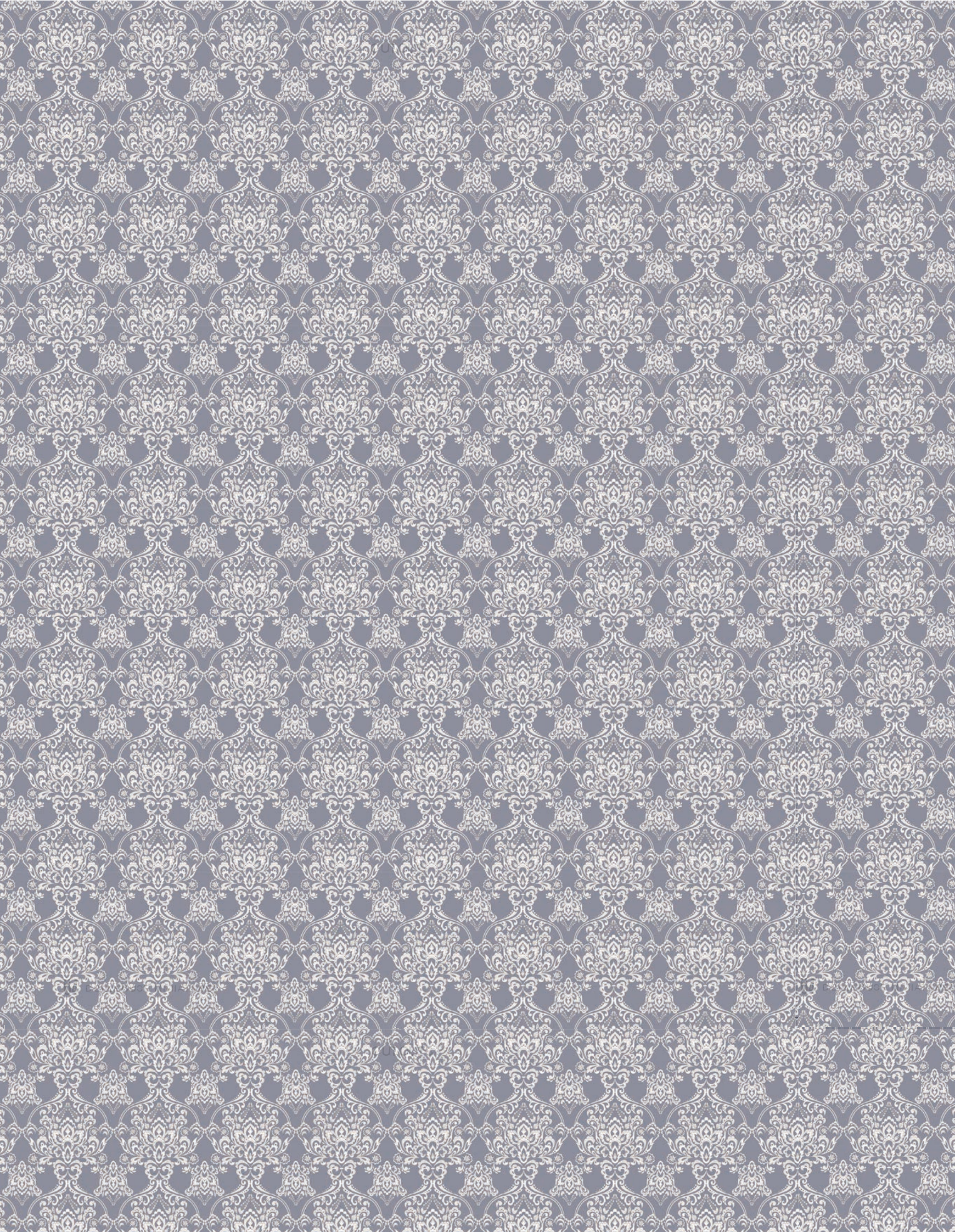
Step 31. Use a large sewing needle (I used a sewing machine needle) and poke a hole through the side.

Step 32. Insert one of the short ends of the handle into each hole.

Step 33. Glue small beads on the bottom if you want feet on your box.



Step 34. Glue a small bead on the front of the box for the closure! You are done!

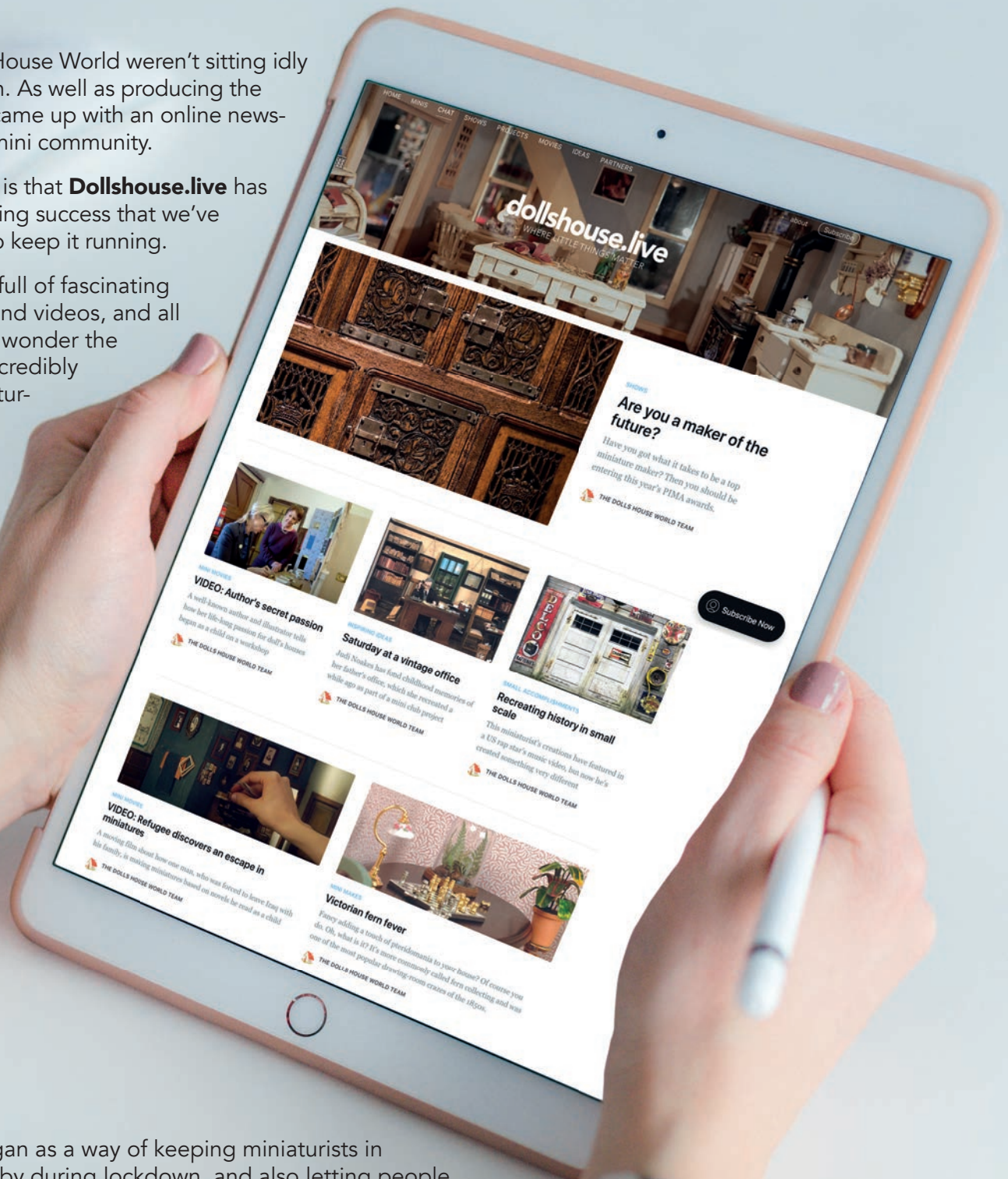


Don't miss **dollhouse.live**

The team at Dolls House World weren't sitting idly by during lockdown. As well as producing the magazine we also came up with an online newsletter to serve the mini community.

But the good news is that **Dollhouse.live** has been such an amazing success that we've decided we have to keep it running.

Dollhouse.live is full of fascinating features, projects and videos, and all totally free — little wonder the site has become incredibly popular with miniaturists in the UK and around the world.



The newsletter began as a way of keeping miniaturists in touch with the hobby during lockdown, and also letting people know how makers and others were coping with isolation.

But it has grown incredibly. Now our mini mad team add new features every week. We are sharing articles from the magazine, but are bringing you a wealth of exciting new content and up-to-the minute news on shows and makers.

So don't miss out. Go to **www.dollhouse.live** on your computer or phone now to read the site everyone's talking about.

Hatch a chicken shelf to brighten your kitchen

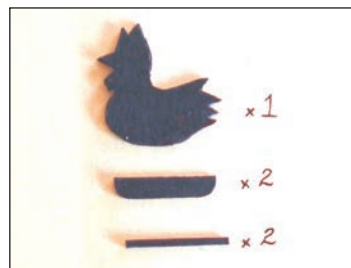
Create a cute little chicken egg holder for the doll's house kitchen - Toni Allen comes up with delightful pattern

BY TONI ALLEN

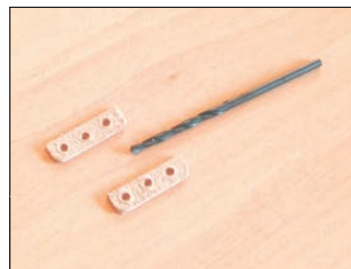
This idea for keeping eggs safe is the perfect way to help brighten up your kitchen - a painted one for a more modern look or a wooden holder for the Victorian one.



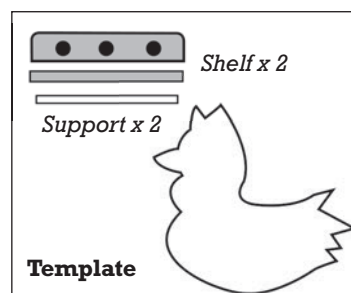
Step 1. Trace around the templates for the chicken and shelves plus the shelf batons and transfer onto the card.



Step 2. Using the sharp knife carefully cut around all the pieces and lightly sand off all the edges using a very fine grade sandpaper (finishing paper).



Step 3. Using the small drill bit gently make three dips in each shelf to hold the eggs, do not drill right through the shelf, sand the tops flat when finished drilling.



Step 4. Glue the shelves in place onto the chicken and glue one baton under each shelf for extra support. Leave to dry.

Step 5. When completely dry use white or cream paint to cover your chicken. Do this for the painted chicken or the varnished one. Two thin coats of paint give you a better finish than one thick one. Make sure the paint goes into all the shelf joins and tiny cracks in the card. Leave to dry.



Step 6. While your chicken is drying you can make some tiny eggs for the holder using the white and sandy brown Fimo. Make as many as you would like in your holder maybe a few 'eggstra' to go in a bowl too. Bake your eggs at the clay manufacturer's recommended temperatures for the specified amount of time



and leave to cool.

Step 7. Now your chicken is dry it is time to add on the features using coloured paints, a red crown, yellow beak and orange tail feathers (or any colour you choose). For the eye and the beak split use a black permanent marker.

Step 8. For the wooden chicken use a coloured varnish, paint quite quickly as this dries very fast but has a great wooden effect.

Step 9. When all your paint/ varnish is completely dry you can super glue your Fimo eggs into place on the shelves.

Step 10. To finish the painted chicken, add a small bunch of raffia/straw to the base of the chicken so it looks like it is sitting on its nest.



You will need

- Thick card
- Glue
- Paints (white/cream yellow, red, orange)
- Wood varnish
- Small amount of straw
- Small drill bit
- Sandpaper
- Sharp craft knife
- Small amount of Fimo clay in white and sandy brown.

Make a shelf unit for your mini goodies

Gale made this shelf unit to contain paper in her scrapbook store, but it can be adapted to fit any mini scene



BY GALE EVANS

Versatile and quick this is a project that can fit almost any miniature scene. You can adapt the idea to make shelves of different sizes and shapes, as I did in my scrapbook store.

You will need

- Mini table saw (or something to cut the wood). The Chopper is a great tool. An X-Acto knife will also work
- Glue
- Sandpaper (fine grit)
- Balsa wood in these sizes (see pattern):
 - One piece 1/16" x 1" x 18"
 - One piece 1/16" x 1/8" x 11"
 - One piece 1/16" x 3" x 4"
 (Make sure at least two sides are squared.)

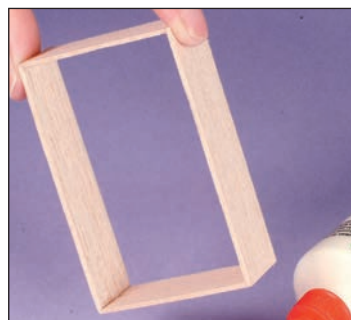


First, cut the balsa wood into these sizes:

From the 1/16" x 1" x 18" cut two pieces 3-1/2" (top and bottom) and two pieces 2-1/4" (sides). Cut one piece 3-3/8" (horizontal shelf) and another piece 2-1/8" (vertical divider)

From the 1/16" x 1/8" x 11" piece, cut three pieces 3-1/2" long (these will be your mouldings)

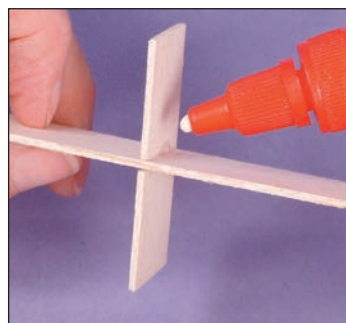
If you plan to stain your shelf unit, it is a good idea to sand each piece smooth and stain first to avoid problems caused by the glue showing. If you plan to paint, you can do that as a finishing step. Now to the assembly.



Step 1: Glue the top and bottom pieces to the side pieces, making sure the side pieces are glued to the inside like a frame. Let dry.



Step 2: On the shelf and divider pieces, mark the centre point of the length and the width. You will now make a slit to the middle on the long side of each. The slit needs to be 1/16" wide.



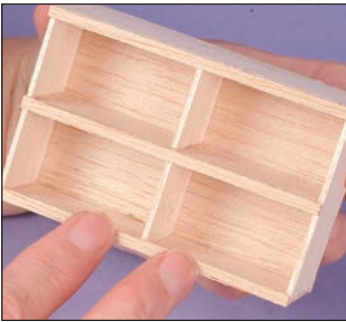
Step 3: Glue the two together at right angles by standing the 2-1/8" inch piece (vertical shelf) on end with the slot facing you. Put a dab of glue along the slot. Slide the 3-3/8" piece (horizontal shelf) on to the vertical shelf. Let dry.



Step 4: Set your frame on the 1/16" x 3" x 4" piece and square it with two of the sides. Draw a line on the other two sides. These are your cutting lines. Cut the piece to fit on the back of the frame. Glue and let dry. Now, glue the shelf and divider unit into the frame. Let dry.



Step 5 and 6: Glue one of the three moulding pieces (1/16" x 1/8" x 3-1/2") on to the top, making sure it is even with the top. Do the same with the bottom piece.



The third piece will be used in the middle to cover up the shelf edge. Let all dry.

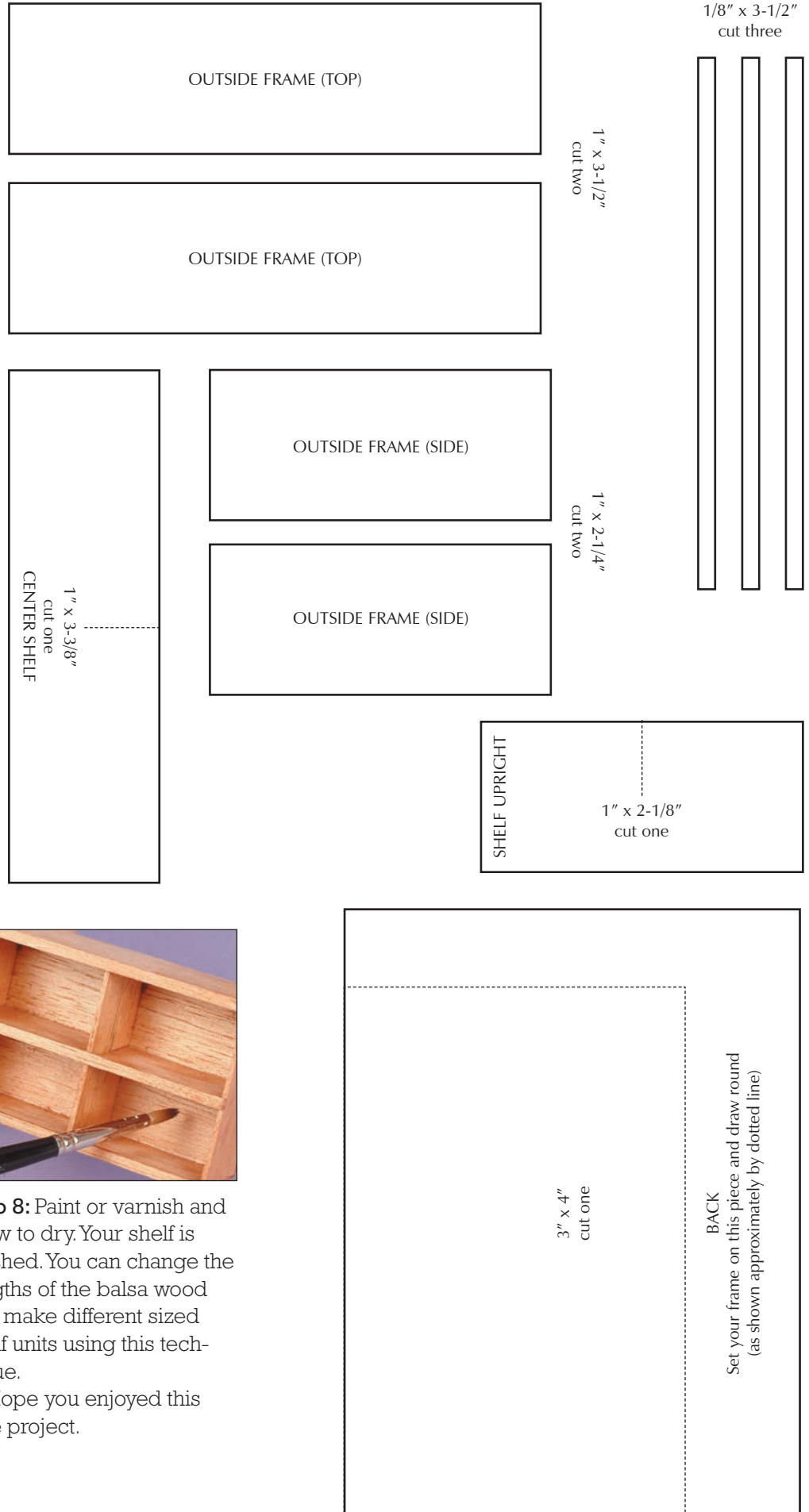


Step 7: If painting, now is the time to sand all your edges smooth with a piece of fine sandpaper.



Step 8: Paint or varnish and allow to dry. Your shelf is finished. You can change the lengths of the balsa wood and make different sized shelf units using this technique.

Hope you enjoyed this little project.



Carolyn's beach wear is such fun for summer

Swimsuits are colourful, flirty, and sizzlin' hot! So have some mini fun in the sun this summer choosing one or more swimsuits made by Carolyn Hall

BY DEB WEISSLER

S hopping for new swimwear can be pure joy or one's worst nightmare.

All those skimpy, colourful suits and so much bare skin! This summer we will positively swear off body shaming that elicits moans and groans, at least when it comes to mini ones. Miniature artist Carolyn Hall learned long ago that when it comes to tiny fashions, there's always room for at least one swimsuit. Maybe more! So let's go shopping!

"I think nothing shouts SUMMER like the idea of leaving cold weather behind and shedding bulky winter togs to jump into a swimsuit, ready to frolic in the surf and stretch out on the sand enjoying the sun's warmth," Carolyn says. "I'm just happy some people want to capture that feeling in miniature!"

Whether your mini vignette is a seaside or tropical oasis, a garden pool, or cabin by the lake, Carolyn can envision her swimsuits and bikinis hanging on a clothesline to dry, draped across a cabana chaise, or lying on the bed in anticipation of a hot afternoon's cool dip. One of her customers created a resort surf shop while another made a Hawaiian-theme room box. Swimsuits and surfboards say it all.

Born and raised along the Mid Atlantic, Carolyn's world was surrounded by sun and water. As the only child to much older parents, she often occupied her solitary hours sewing and crafting. Her mother sewed a great

deal, making clothes for them both and taught Carolyn the basics at an early age. Together they would create items for Barbie and Skipper, and even her toys were craft-inspired like a toy sewing machine capable of making chain stitches.

Carolyn discovered the world of miniatures in a roundabout way. She didn't have a doll's house but played for hours with her furnished Barbie's Dream House and car, so these was her very first introduction to tiny things. "In the 1980s I participated in craft shows making a variety of sewn and crocheted items," she recalls. "Then realising I needed to produce things that were smaller and quicker to make, I started making Christmas ornaments. I had taken a jewellery design class and was introduced to polymer in one of the sessions. While everyone else in the class was rolling round beads, I was experimenting with making various miniature fruits and vegetables!"



It was while standing at the cash register in her local craft store that Carolyn spotted copies of *Nutshell News* magazine. On the cover was a fabulous display of fruits and vegetables created by Mary Eccher. That cover opened her eyes to the world of miniatures. Attending her first miniature show just a month later was a jaw-dropping moment.

"I think right then and there was the moment I was hooked! Over the years I have made various miniature items and have always been on the lookout to make things I don't see of on a regular basis. While at a miniatures flea market, I spotted a one-piece swimsuit that had been commercially produced. I went home and started researching miniature swimwear and saw very few choices. I drafted a few patterns and decided to make my own."

Some of Carolyn's exquisite suits and trunks are OOAK due to limited amounts of fabric she may have on hand. In some cases she may only have enough to make a tiny bikini top. She's always on the lookout for fabrics with small prints, although fabrics with larger prints will work if strategically snipped. Her designs are contemporary, although she has thought about attempting an old fashioned turn-of-the-century swim dress.

Her one piece suits and bikinis sell

Left: Red and white stars against a field of navy blue trunks.



Top: A trio of sunny yellow.

Top right: The guys will love these black and tan surfing trunks.

Above: Who says a one piece suit can't be eye catching? A navy blue polka dot and lace for a flirty vintage look. This teal one piece comes with sunflower flip-flops.

Far right: Black and white geometric strap-less with star flip-flops

Right: For girls who like a bit more cover up, a two piece ruched set with matching sun hat and flip-flops.

Bottom right: Regardless the weather, this bikini with sun hat and flip-flops is red hot!

equally well. One customer purchased a bikini that coincidentally was an exact duplicate of her own bikini. This clever artist also makes matching accessories like sun hats and flip-flops. Garnering inspirations from swimsuits viewed on-line, one of her greatest challenges is selecting which fabrics to grab first.

"I have a ton of fabric that was either given to me or were purchased for

other projects. In preparing to make swimsuits, I first select suitable prints. For me, the fabric print and amount of the fabric available dictates whether I make a one or two-piece suit as well as the style. I create my own patterns so they will be uniform in size. The swimsuits are assembled using both glue and sewing, and some are embellished with tiny buckles, ribbon or tiny jewels. I often use tweezers for assembly and a small quilting iron to press as I go, keeping seams flat and making sure everything is secure."

Carolyn works on an assembly-line basis, cutting out several suits from different fabrics. She may have eight or ten suits or trunks going at one time. One thing is for certain – she quickly loses track of time! "I often don't realise how long I have been working until I look at the clock.

"My dining room has officially been designated as my workspace but my dream is to have a studio with massive work and storage space and completely dedicated to crafts."



Stan finds his style in paper maché homes

The Abandoned House is just one of the wonderful creations made from paper maché clay by Stan Gregg, but creating the brickwork can be tedious and messy

BY SANDRA HARDING



The first thing I noticed about these photographs was the graffiti (another first). This won't come as a surprise as you know I love that little something different, and this creation by Stan Gregg is certainly that. It's so well done it looks real and, guess what, it's made from heavy duty poster board and I am so impressed.

However, it didn't start so well. When Stan first started creating his little works of art, nine or so years ago, he used thin plywood for the base of the houses and, as he covers them in wet paper maché clay, the wood warped badly. Quite a learning curve.

To start the process Stan makes the windows and door frame and lays them out flat on the poster board to get the right look. He then traces around them to keep within the size he wants. This building is about nine inches deep by 11 wide and 29 high. Stan likes to keep his creations slightly smaller than twelfth scale so they can fit in the smallest places. Very wise, as we are all running out of room I think — or is that just me?

After hot gluing the walls together he uses paper maché clay layered onto the sides of the building between a quarter to half an inch thick. He then creates the brick effect using a brick stamp he made which, he admits, wears him out as it can take one and a half hours to do one side. It has to be done before the clay starts to harden and he does the four sides in one long day.

I can imagine how tedious and messy that must be and the huge relief when it's done. After they dry a little, with a fan blowing on them for a day, he starts to add paint, making it even wetter. Stan decided to use real grout on this house which gives a very realistic look and, after he adds the grout and washes off the excess, he repaints each brick individually. The grouting and the rewetting of the paper maché means that it needs to dry for a week or more, time which Stan puts to good use, working on the inside.

Inside the building, the tiles were created using pictures found online, which were reduced in size and printed. Stan then covered them in clear tape for glaze, cut them to size and glued the printed tiles onto heavy duty cardboard. He then recut the tiles and glued them to the floor.

The pictures on the walls are printed, the frames are match sticks and popsicle sticks while the fireplace was made using a mould. Most of the wallpaper is scrapbook paper, and Stan tells me he had great fun adding it, distressing it, before making it peel off the walls. What a funny hobby we have?

Although Stan tells me that he started this hobby only nine years ago his interest in miniatures began when he and his twin sister had a doll's house. They were about 12-years-old and they both loved their miniature world. This was rekindled for Stan when he





made a wooden doll's house for a neighbour's daughter, followed by kit builds. The addiction had set in.

It was during a break from his job as a Programme Manager working with disabled adults that he decided he needed to create something. What better than a miniature gnome tree house, of course! After that came Hagrid's hut and mushroom houses, using his newly found paper maché pulp, and Stan knew that this was his outlet and a hobby he just loved.

Stan discovered the Denver Miniature Show held annually in his home town, and during a visit met one of the museum's managers, who showed interest in his work, and said he should exhibit them. They were a real hit and

they all sold with people asking for more.

The next show will be his sixth year and he still has new creations in mind. It takes approximately 7-10 days to finish each unique piece, depending on the complexity. Stan likes his real home to look like a clean model show home, so his creations are kept behind closed doors in his craft room and spare bedroom between shows.

He tells me that he never keeps his houses, although he has been tempted with the Brick Mansion which is full of expensive furniture. However, for the right price — who knows?

I really hope to show you more of Stan's work later as those already sold sound fascinating.



CLUB NEWS



Club flourishes with mini Zoom meetings

The challenge of lockdown brought out the best in miniaturists at the Gatwick Dolls House Club as they adapted with Zoom meetings and secret packages

BY CAROL LEWIS

Although more used to tackling problems on a small scale the large issues caused by the Covid pandemic were still not enough to stop Gatwick Dolls House Club members from putting heads together to make sure we could continue our monthly meetings.

With chairman, Barbara Hoyle, at the helm socially distanced garden meet ups were held followed by meetings via Zoom.

The club started in 1995 and still has members today who were there at the beginning. Indeed, as I was reminded the other day, I used to take my daughter in her car seat, place it on a chair at

the back of the hall and she slept while I indulged in my hobby. She is 30 later this year!

Time may have moved on but it has been more important than ever for us all to stay in touch and continue our friendships and general camaraderie, as well as trying to keep occupied in lockdown with miniature makes.

Like so many others we have had to adapt and be fluid in our plans. Our initial hope to meet in July last year was sadly not possible, nor our postponed restart in September, nor again for our annual December Christmas party where we share food and bring along the projects that we have all

been working on throughout the year to display.

Keeping in touch was helped by Sasha Moore setting up a members' Facebook group where there have been postings of many interesting makes and displays along with requests for specific lockdown essentials — "does anyone have tartan fabric?" resulted in a successfully completed chair.

Zoom technology was also new to many of us but thanks to Zoe Andrews setting us up, we have been able to conduct full meetings and chat whilst making mini pieces.

We enjoyed demonstrations on how to make perfect boxes in various sizes and styles and a second demonstration, also by Marion Agate, talked us through the art of making paper roses from hole punch cut outs.

Ralph Keemar conducted a Zoom meeting showing the art of mould making and the explanations and tips inspired many new to this particular skill to have a go in their own homes.

As it became clear that lockdown meant restricted gatherings over a longer period, the club committee once again got their heads together and for the months of April, May and June, kits were prepared. It was challenging to think of making up kits which could easily be posted while





relying upon members' own tools kits and stashes to complete a project. Pots of paint and bits of wood were not going to fit in the envelopes!

One package was sent to each club member with three individual sealed envelopes – one to be opened for each month and not before. For those unable to use Zoom written instructions were sent.

Asking members not to peek at the kit contents before the meetings meant that we all opened the right envelope together and saw for the first time what we would be making. I really had no idea that we could achieve the level of participation via Zoom but it has been a real joy that we have all been able to carry on with the hobby and encourage and chat to each other on a regular basis.

It was business as usual for the club's AGM conducted via Zoom and our 28th birthday celebrations in April meant I was tasked with making up celebratory kits of hats, gift bags, banners, invitations, envelopes and more.

Ralph's amazingly sourced kit the following month enabled perfect packages from the 1930s to be made from pre-printed card and now every miniature household can stock up their shelves with essentials from washing powders to cereals, biscuits to cigarettes.



The third 'flatpacked' kit enabled club members to have a (green)house full of plants, thanks to Barbara's kits.

In one photo you can see some of us showing our appreciation for one of the demonstrations which took place.



HAVE-A-GO DAY IS BACK ON

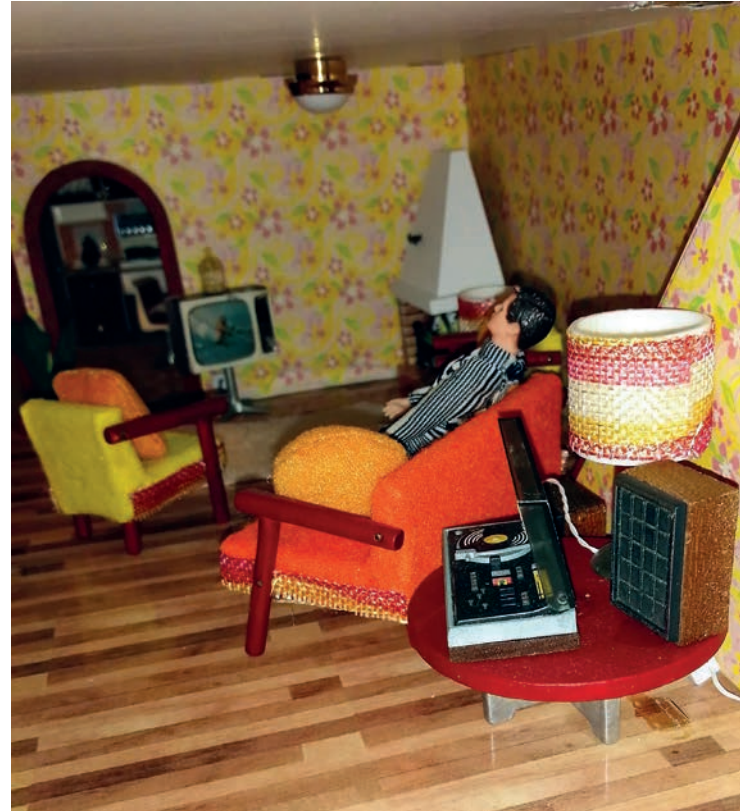
One real disappointment was the need to postpone the club's annual October Have-A-Go Day. But we are delighted to confirm it will take place this year on October 16 at our regular meeting place at the Horley Methodist Church Hall, Victoria Road, Horley, Surrey, RH6 7AS from 10 – 3 pm.

The day is a great way of meeting like minded enthusiasts, seeing the display of diverse miniature projects and scenes made by our very talented members. You will have seen photographs from previous events in DHW over the years. The day is organised so that anyone can confidently have-a-go at making quality miniature pieces with material, tools

and guidance being provided to complete a kit for a small cost.

For all the hard work in keeping us going, the final word should go to Barbara: "Do come along and share a fun and interesting day with us. We have all had to miss out on social days and interactions for such a long time but we very much hope that on October 16 this year we can prove that we and our friends are very much back on track to better things."

If you are thinking of attending but would like reassurance and confirmation nearer the time that the event will be proceeding, you can contact Barbara at Barbara@hoyle-engineering.co.uk





Caroline's Home gets a colourful makeover

BY SANDRA HARDING

When Debbie Debs bought an old Caroline's Home in 2019 she knew that it was in need of a nice new makeover.

She agonised over whether or not to keep it as it was originally (a 1970s/80s house) or simply doing what she wanted to improve it.

Eventually, Debbie decided on a revamp and started with the outside. The original, badly marked yellow door and shutters were painted and the front was changed to "brick" walls with paper printed from the internet. More wallpapers were printed out for the rooms inside, all very much in keeping with the original era.

Debbie made new blinds and put

down nice flooring throughout. The bathroom mats were made from felt, with decoration added. An old sofa and chairs were recovered from the same felt, although the effect is really very different. Debbie rewired and recovered all the lamps and lights in the house and made all the curtains and bedding in each room.



The furniture is all from the right period and has been collected over some time. The chap sitting on the sofa watching television is house sitting as Debbie tells me the family have not moved in yet. When they do, I am sure they will all be very happy with the bright colour schemes of the new decoration.

Behind the name

The name "Caroline's Home" was used by the Barton company as a trademark from about 1976 and houses, and accessories, were sold in toy shops and department stores across the UK. Barton, along with the Caroline's Home brand, were taken over by Lundby of Sweden in 1984.



Make an outside deck for your doll's house

Perfect for outdoor entertaining. Grace Shaw has designed an impressive deck that your mini people will love

BY GRACE SHAW

Does your doll's house need a deck to have barbecues on? Or, maybe your house residents want to enjoy the garden you worked so hard on. Here are plans to make a switch back deck that can be adjusted to fit almost every doll's house.

First, decide how big to make the deck. Mine is the entry for the second floor of my in-law apartment so I didn't want a full-sized deck. For a larger deck, adjust the sizes of the patterns accordingly. The lower deck is a switch back so that the stairs aren't too steep.

Determine the height of the deck. Measure from the bottom of the doll's house to under the doorframe. Write this measurement down. The framing of the deck should ride just under the door frame.

You will need

- One 1/4" plywood (13 1/2" x 10 1/2" or desired size) for patio
- Nine pieces of (3/16" x 3/16" x 24") large square wood for posts
- 10 - 12 finish nails
- 20 pieces (1/2" x 1/8" x 24") flat wood for framing, decking and steps
- One piece (1/8" x 4" x 24") wood for carriages
- Six pieces each (24" long) top stair rail and bottom stair rail
- 30 pieces (1/8" x 1/8" x 24") small square wood for balusters

Now measure the width of the doll's house to determine what width your patio base will be. The length is up to you. The deck can be the width of your doll's house, but you will need to move the stairs to the outside corner of the deck instead of the inside corner of the deck. Be sure to relocate the posts accordingly.

The patio base I used is 13 1/2" x 10 1/2" inches by 1/4" thick. Plywood is available from timber merchants and DIY stores. Often if you ask, they will cut the size for you though you may have to buy a larger sheet than you need.

Large square posts support the deck. Place them 1/4" from the edge of the plywood. See figure one for placement of the deck support posts. Do NOT put in the posts for the top or bottom of the stairs yet. Drill a tiny guide hole in the middle of the bottom of the posts, a little smaller than the nails you plan to use. Drill a small guide hole in the plywood in the proper locations.

Apply a small amount of wood glue to the bottom of the posts, and then nail the posts from the underside of the plywood. TIPS: Make sure the posts sit flat on the plywood and are square to the sides of the plywood or it will torque your deck. Also, make sure they are straight. Don't worry about the height of the posts. You cut them later. Let the glue dry.

Using thin flat pieces of wood, box in the posts for the upper deck and lower

deck. Space two supports across the inside of the upper deck and one for the lower deck. See figures two and three. Run the supports the opposite direction you plan to run your surface deck boards.

The height of the upper deck should ride just under the door framing for your second floor entry door. The lower deck should be 6 1/4" from the top of the patio floor to the top of the boxed framing. See figure two. Glue and clamp the framing and let dry.

Using the same flat wood, cut the deck flooring for the tops of both decks. Leave a 1/16" overhang on both sides of the deck framing. You have a choice to run the decking boards either lengthwise, or width-wise. Just be sure your framing supports go the opposite direction of the decking surface.

Fit the decking boards around the corner posts that are just inside the deck surface. Glue the flooring boards into place and let dry. Now fit your deck up under the door of your doll's house. The deck surface should be the same height as the door's bottom sill. To make the deck sit snugly against the house, chisel out the width of the door-frame from the deck board so that the door indexes into the deck. See figure four.

Now that you have the decking on, cut your rail posts to 3" above the deck flooring on both decks. Cut and set aside five extra, three-inch posts for the stairs.

Cut two sets of stair carriages using the pattern in figure five, shown in the actual size. One set of carriages may have to be trimmed later but they are the same angle.

Placing the carriages for the steps is tricky. Do the lower deck first. The first carriage fits under the deck framing but snug against the box and post that your decking sits on. You will notice that one end of the carriage has an extra notch. That notch is where the deck framing sits. The other end rests on the patio surface. See figure six. The carriages should be placed $2\frac{1}{4}$ " apart. Be sure to keep them parallel. Glue and clamp them into place. Let them dry.

The notched end of the carriages fits under the upper deck as before, but the bottom of the carriage fits to the outside of the lower deck's box framing. You may have to cut the bottom of the carriage to fit the space between your two deck surfaces. See figure seven. Clamp and glue the carriage into place. Make sure you keep the carriages parallel, $2\frac{1}{4}$ " apart.

Next, cut the step treads from the same flat thin wood you used for the decking. The steps should have a $\frac{1}{16}$ " overhang on each side of the stair car-

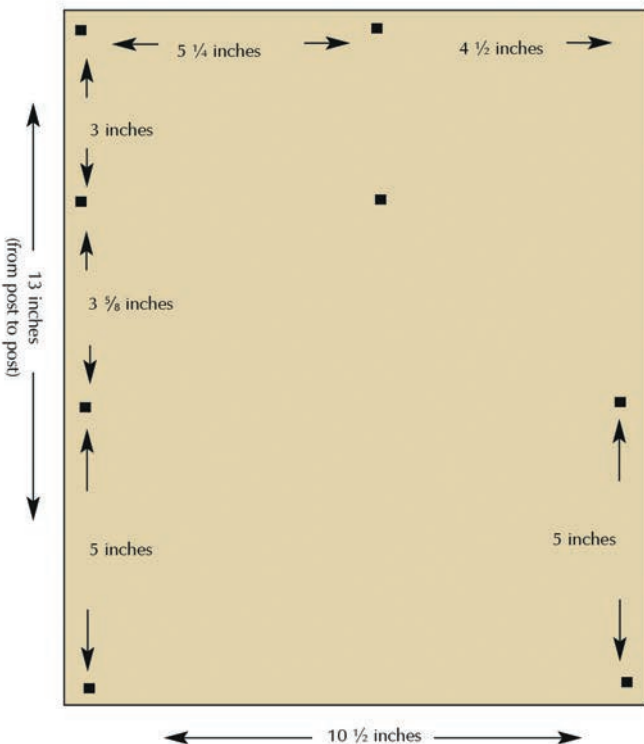


Figure one: placement of the deck support posts.

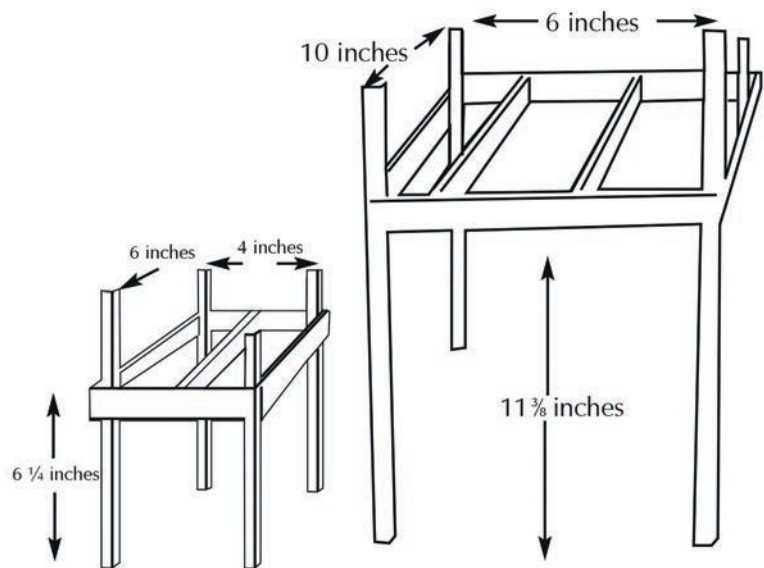


Figure two: view of deck framing with measurements.

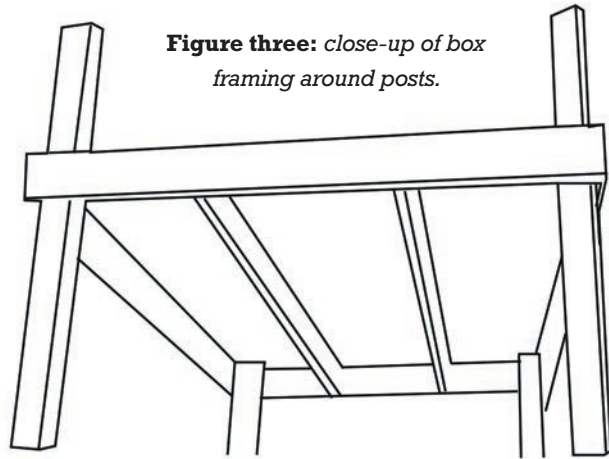


Figure three: close-up of box framing around posts.

Figure four: shows how deck fits around door.

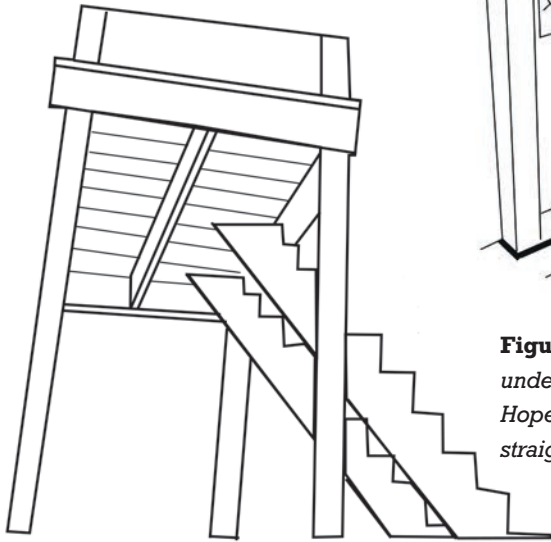
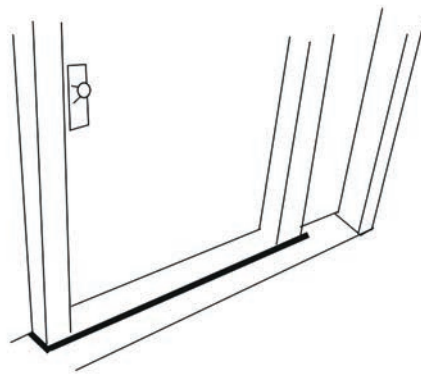


Figure six: how carriages fit under deck surface. Hopefully your deck will be straighter than our diagram

Figure seven: how carriages fit between upper and lower deck.

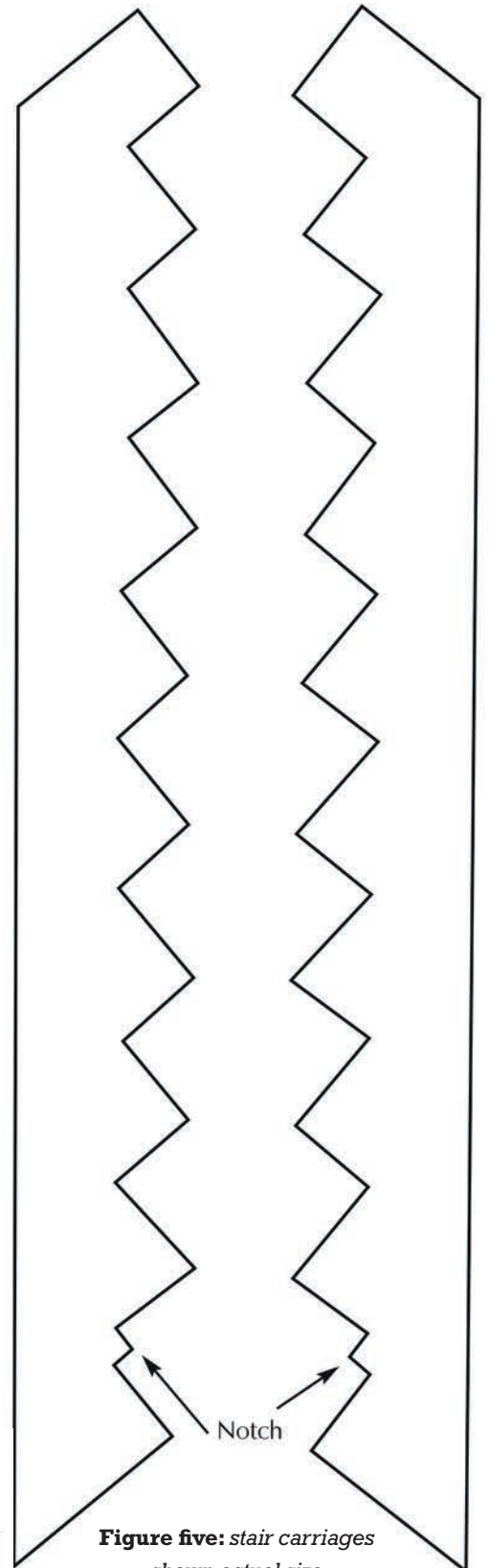
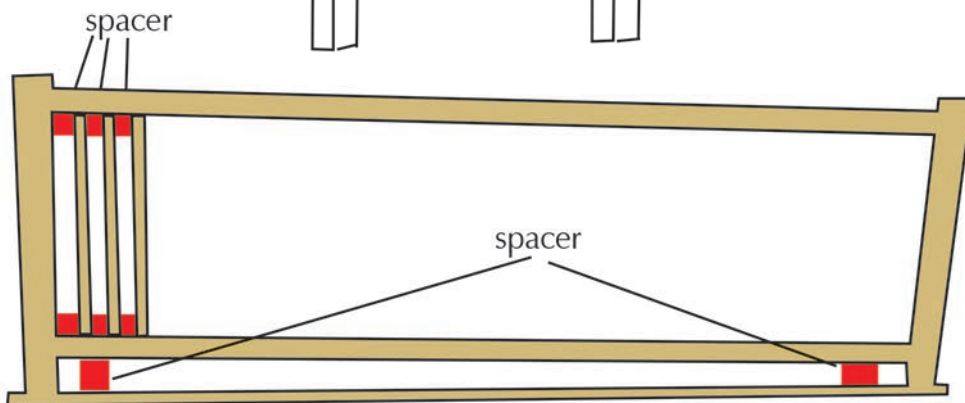
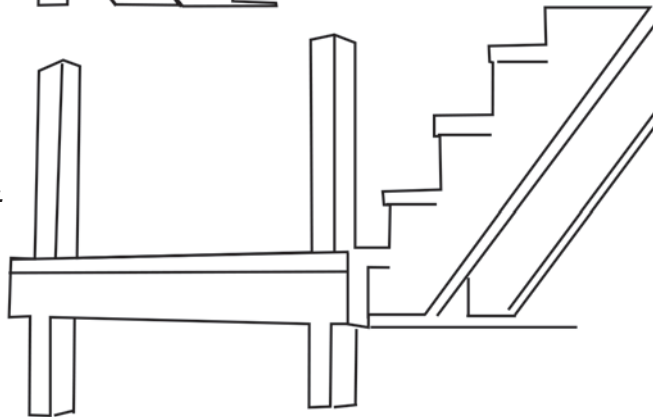


Figure five: stair carriages shown actual size (8 1/2" from tip to tip).

Figure eight: shows rails and spacer for hand rails.

riage. Glue into place.

Now that your steps are in, place the posts for the top and bottom of the stairs the exact same distance apart. The three-inch posts should be placed just at the outside edge of the stair treads on the upper and lower deck, and at the bottom of the stairs on the patio.

Keep them all straight and the same distance apart. Drill the guide holes for the patio three-inch posts and in the patio surface, then glue into place as you did with the large deck support posts. The stair post on the upper deck can be glued, or nailed from the bottom of the deck surface. Be sure to keep them straight and the same distance apart.

Now the real fun begins! Making the rails. Put your favourite wine in the refrigerator to chill, and have a glass handy. You will need them.

Here are some tips to make doing the rails easier. Use spare larger square post wood to space the rails when you install them on the deck. Cut some extra small square wood for spacers for the balusters. These only need to be 1/2" long, or you can space with balusters that you haven't used yet. It's easier to space the balusters with pieces of wood, than to try and measure the distances. For best results, use spacers at both the top and bottom of the rails. Also let your wood glue get a little thick. It's easier to work with in this application.

To construct the rails you need a top curved rail piece and a bottom square rail piece, and small square wood for the balusters. Cut the balusters to about 2 1/2". Make sure all the balusters are the same length to make it easier to put the rails together. Completed rails should measure about 2 3/4" high and be spaced evenly

TOPTIP

- It's easier to stain the wood before you build your deck. If you try to stain after and glue has sealed the wood, the deck will look splotchy. Painting really doesn't matter because paint will cover glue spots, but stain won't penetrate after the glue seals the wood.

on your three-inch high corner deck posts. Measure and cut the top and bottom rail pieces to fit snugly between the rail posts of your deck. See figure two and eight.

Lay the bottom rail sideways on your work surface. Using a gluing jig or other straight surface to lay the end against will make it easier to start gluing in the balusters. Place a small wood spacer next to your straight surface, then glue in one baluster. Place another spacer, then baluster until all the balusters are in place. Leave the spacers in place until the rail is put together and dry. Be careful not to get glue on the spacers. See figure eight.

Carefully run a bead of glue in the groove of the top rail and slip onto the balusters. Place small square top spacers between the balusters to keep them straight. Your rail should still be lying on its side. Put rubber bands over the ends of the completed rails to help pull them together. Let dry. Remove spacers and rubber bands. Make next rail until you have enough to fit all the way around both deck surfaces except for the stair openings.

To install the railing on your deck, place the large square spacers on the deck surface and set the rails on it to keep them in place while your glue dries. See figure eight. Use glue and clamps to hold the rails in place until dry.

When all the upper and lower deck rails are in place it's time to start the

stair rails. They are made the same way but are angled to fit the stairs.

The easiest way to get the angle is to lay your top (and bottom) rail pieces next to the stair posts.

Using a pencil, draw the angle of the cut. Make your rail as quickly as possible as above. Place a rubber band on each end of the rails before picking them up to keep the rails from falling apart. Before it dries hold it up to the step posts so that the balusters are angled.

Try to leave the spacers in place when you do this so the balusters don't shift position, and don't forget the square spacer sitting on the top and bottom steps to rest the railing on. Glue and clamp them in place. Let dry.

Do one stair rail at a time, letting the completed one dry. When dry, cut the rubber bands off and remove the spacers from between the balusters. If you are afraid the spacers might become stuck, you can remove them before dry, but be careful you don't move the balusters and make sure the railing is securely clamped into place.

Once your deck is completed and dry, apply mini mortar or other desired surface to your patio under the deck. When completed, your mini people can have their first barbecue!

“When all the upper and lower deck rails are in place it's time to start the stair rails. They are made the same way but are angled to fit the stairs.”



Quick and easy

Make a pheasant in a case

BY SANDRA HARDING

Make a pheasant (oh yeah, I hear you say). Honestly, I am no expert, but with a bit of practice you can do it. The best way I found was to make it flat-backed, on a flat surface (try a tile), creating a piece that will be the main body.

This way, you can model it into shape, without trying

to create the whole bird. Flatten out the tail, add on the head and beak and then add a wing. I roughed up the body and wing a little to look like feathers.

Add a tiny top knot on top of his head. No idea what it is, maybe just feathers! He is about 2" from head to tip of tail. Bake as instructions say.

I had about ten attempts before I had it looking anything like a bird, let alone a pheasant, so don't panic. Fimo is very forgiving.

In the meantime cut out stiff card to the length, height and depth you want

to fit the bird, with a little room around it (see picture). My case is 3" by 1.5". Cut out a thinner piece of card for the back and glue it together to form the case. Let it dry and paint it the colour you want. I forgot to paint the inside of one of mine light brown. Sorry.

If using craft sticks, cut/saw them to the required size and sand corners. Paint or stain to the colour you want. Cut out a cardboard back — I glued the four pieces of the wooden frame onto it. It is much easier that way. Let it dry.

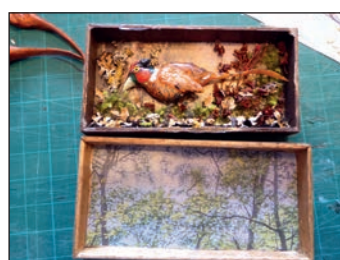
Choose the background

picture and glue it into the card to create a backdrop. Let it dry

Now start painting the pheasant (don't panic, just look at the picture and paint). I have pheasants in my garden every day and they are all different, so don't worry about it. I started with a terracotta colour over the body and tail, but not the head and neck. Burnt Sienna maybe, or mix your own. I added black and white flecks lightly and gradually. Paint light black stripes down the top of its tail loosely. Let it dry.

You will need

- Side view picture of a pheasant, as guidance {unless you can find one to include on page}
- Background picture with some sky and trees or branches, in small scale (see Cutouts on P35)
- Clear sheet of plastic for front (clear wrapping from birthday cards works well)
- Fimo, caramel shade
- Pack of acrylic paints and a paint brush
- Hard card or craft sticks
- Scissors, tweezers and glue
- Tiny twigs, green moss, dried fungus, flowers, green Flower-soft, dried seed heads etc





Paint the top of the head, top knot and down the neck a little a sort of greeny blue, leaving the eye, the beak the neck and the red bits. Let it dry. Paint beak an off white, and then paint the white neckline. Paint the red bits, missing the eye area. Lastly, when it's dry, paint the eye in yellow with a black speck in the middle. Let it dry. Now you can take a breath.

Add glue to the case, along the bottom and up the sides and back slightly. Glue in greenery, moss, tiny twigs, bits of fungus

from the twigs, dried flowers, or anything woodland-like, checking there is still room for the pheasant to lay flat under the top clear cover.

Whilst it's drying, glue Kevin in and add more of the greenery and bits in front to hide the lack of legs (I'm not that good).

Let it dry completely before cutting out a piece of clear cover and gluing it on.

We call all our visiting pheasants Kevin (no idea why) and their ladies we call Effa. You can guess why.



Miniaturists compete for big £10,000 prize fund



Visitors to this year's Kensington Dollshouse Festival will be able to feast their eyes on a host of incredible miniatures in the annual Perfection in Miniature Awards (PIMA).

Sow organiser Charlotte Stokoe told us: "We are delighted to be hosting the PIMA 2021 once again at the KDF London Showcase. The competition is in association with Ahmed Al Thani, a regular visitor to our shows, who generously sponsors these awards.

"Over the last six years, the PIMA have become an important part of our annual calendar. The aim of the competition is to encourage all the talented craftsmen who exhibit at our shows, to create something really special, something that pushes them to try new things and learn new skills, hence raising

Top: This St Leger gent's working umbrella took the joint top prize in 2020.

Above: Nicola Mascall's American needlework sampler was second.



the standard of this incredible art form even further.

"The PIMA Showcase is a display of all the entries in the competition and is now a highlight of our show and we have introduced the People's Choice Award that is voted for by the visitors to the show.

"The prize fund for this competition is now over £10 000, so it is a real boost to the makers who spend so much time creating these special miniatures for us.

"The 2020 entries were definitely the best yet and we cannot wait to see what our talented exhibitors come up with this year."

● The PIMA Showcase is displayed at Kensington Town Hall during the KDF London Showcase on Sept 17th and 18th, 2021. All visitors to the show will get a chance to vote for their favourite entries.

Top: Yosh Sagi's Chippendale Settee shared first place in 2020.

Above: Microdolls' stumpwork casket with secret garden was third.

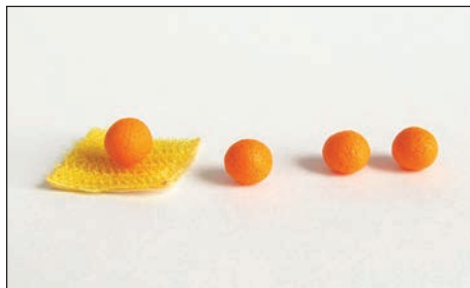
Create your own little bowl of fresh fruit

A fresh bowl of fruit is the perfect addition to a kitchen table or a dresser. Just change the bowl to reflect the season

BY SADIE BROWN

Bring a splash of colour to the kitchen table throughout the summer with a bowl of fresh fruit.

so slight variations in size adds to a realistic appearance. Roll the balls across a small square of Velcro to create the look of the orange skin.



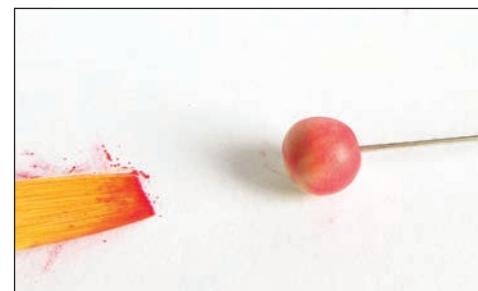
Step 1. Mix equal amounts of orange and Sunflower Yellow polymer clay then roll into individual balls around 7mm in diameter. However, remember that no two pieces of fruit are the same



Step 2. Make a small hole in the top of each orange using a sewing pin or needle tool. Mix some Apple Green clay with Sunflower Yellow and brown to create a mossy forest green shade (mix plenty as you'll need more of this) and add a small piece of the mixture to each hole.

You will need

- Polymer clay - white, translucent, Sunflower Yellow, orange, Apple Green, brown
- Pastels - red, brown, green, Lemon Yellow
- Burnt Umber acrylic paint
- Small brushes
- Craft knife
- Ruler
- Sewing pin or needle tool
- Small ball tool
- Small square Velcro
- Dried stem from long grass or twig
- Gloss and matte varnish



Step 3. Mix white and Sunflower Yellow clay to make cream and add in a little of the Mossy Forest Green mixture from the previous step. Roll into individual apples about 7mm in diameter. Make a hole in the top of each apple

with a pin/needle tool for the stalk and brush them all with red pastel, ensuring areas of the green apple beneath remain visible.



Step 4. Use the ball end of a sewing pin or a small ball tool to press an indentation into the top of the apples surrounding the hole.



Step 5. Take some more of the mossy forest green clay mixture, this time rolling and shaping it into pear shapes similar in size to the oranges and apples. Make a hole in the top of the pears for the stalks before grating some brown pastel across your work surface or on a sheet of paper. Roll the pears across it to pick up individual specks.



Step 6. Mix some Sunflower Yellow clay with white to create a bright shade for bananas. Roll and shape the clay into individual bananas measuring just under 2cm in length when curved. Brush a little brown and green pastel over the top part of the banana, where you hold it to pull the skin down. Add a



very thin line of brown pastel running down the length of the banana skin.



Step 7. Mix translucent clay with grated green, Lemon Yellow and brown pastels to create the mixture for the grapes. Because this type of clay mixture changes colour when it's baked, it's always a good idea to bake a small piece to ensure you're happy with the shade.

Once you are, roll lots of tiny individual grapes of varying sizes.



Step 8. Build the individual grapes into a bunch, tapering them towards one end. Bake along with the rest of the fruit and allow everything to cool.



Step 9. Take a stem from a piece of long grass or very tiny twig and cut into individual stalks. Paint with Burnt Umber acrylic paint and after allowing to dry, coat with matte varnish.

Step 10. Once the stems have dried thoroughly, glue the stalks into the tops of the apples and pears. Coat the grapes and oranges with gloss varnish. The apples, pears and bananas should be coated with matte varnish. Once the varnish has dried thoroughly, pile the finished fruit into your favourite bowl.



A WEE LITTLE NURSERY

Rhe Holder created a little nursery in honour of the ten grandchildren that enjoy coming to visit her at her home

BY RHE HOLDER

When I finished all the rooms in my doll's house, I started making additional rooms in room boxes. I completed a workshop room box and a Christmas setting room box and was surprised at how much fun each individual project could be.

I bought another box kit at Michael's Craft Shop, and after putting it together the search for just the right things to put in it began.

My husband and I were blessed to have 10 grandchildren. We kept a room for them with a baby bed set up at all times, just in case we had an unexpected little visitor, so I thought the idea of furnishing a nursery room box would be fun.

For years I had kept the

wooden baby bed that I had slept in as a baby. When our first grandchild was on the way, we brought it down, gave it a new paint job, and fixed a special place for it at our house. Consequently, when I started the nursery room box, the cot was the first thing I looked for. Since I also had kept my own original high chair and used it for my grandchildren, I was thrilled to find a bed and old-fashioned wooden high chair at Through the Keyhole in Dallas, Texas, very much like my original ones. The other pieces of furniture I found at a Michael's Craft Shop.

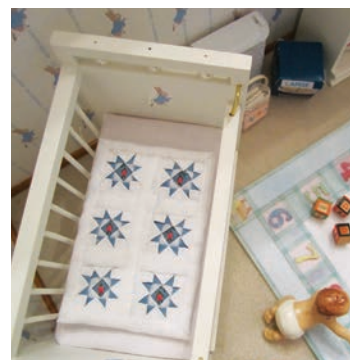
Beatrix Potter's stories were favourites of mine and the rest of our family as well, so it was exciting when I found the Peter Rabbit wall-

paper in Dallas at Through the Keyhole. I also found the coordinating pictures there. The decals on the furniture are rabbits cut out of the wallpaper and glued on. The wall-to-wall carpet is a scrap of velvet out of my sewing box. The throw rug was a gift from a friend.

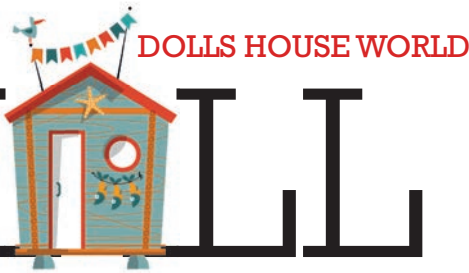
After I started each of my room boxes my children and even some of my grandchildren would be on the lookout for anything they thought

I might use. They live from the east coast to the west coast, and every time I went for a visit they would have located another miniature shop to take me to. On a trip to visit my son and his wife in Virginia I found the little quilt on the bed and the cushion on the rocking chair. They were handmade by the owner of the shop. The Bible and baby scales sitting on the wardrobe were gifts from family members as well as some of the toys.

It was such a blessing for me to furnish this room box, because it reminded me of times that my grandchildren were nursery age. It brought back many cherished memories of when they came to visit "Grandmother and Granddaddy Holder" and the fun we had together.



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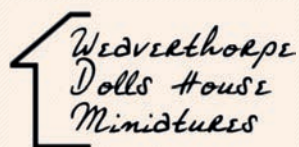
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SMALL TALK

WE CHAT WITH AMANDA KENNEDY ABOUT HER DOLL MAKING

Hi Amanda, when did you start making minis?

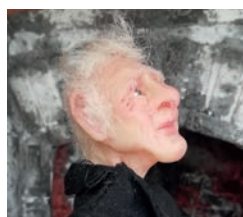
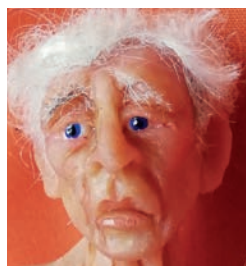
I got into doll's houses in about 2006. I found the hobby quite expensive so I thought I'd try making a few things. I've worked with various materials from card to wood to clay and many more.

And it was clay you got on best with?

Yes, I started small on fruit, vegetables, bread etc. Then I turned my hand to sculpting dolls. Initially they all resembled something from a horror show gone wrong.

But you improved? I persevered and now my dolls have started to resemble mini people. I don't do pretty dolls such as. I like the lived-in look with wrinkles, warts and all. I don't use any moulds and have changed the way I make the dolls over the years, which have only seen improvements. As I've progressed over the last few years family and mini friends have asked me to make dolls for them.

That must have been a confidence boost? Yes. I've also made many as



presents. And, of course, as presents for myself as I have several doll's houses on the go at the moment. I also have dolls that get acquisitioned as my mum also has several doll's houses... and I can't say no to my mum, even at my age!

Of course you can't. But you've also been asked to make lookalikes we hear?

Some friends sent photos of their loved ones and asked me to create a mini version. I enjoy doing these personal dolls so much as it's really close to my friends' hearts. The man in the orange shirt and the white-haired man looking up to the sky are mini loved ones. Some of them have travelled across the world.

And those friends give you lots of feedback? The miniature world may be big but it's also a close world. Many

mini friends over the years have sent me doll making materials from hair to material to buttons... all gratefully received. Many mini friends have encouraged me to persevere and some are also my greatest critics.



● We want to feature more readers in Small Talk and we would love to hear about your life in minis and your passion for making or collecting, or both. Just send a quick email to richard@ashdown.co.uk to express an interest.



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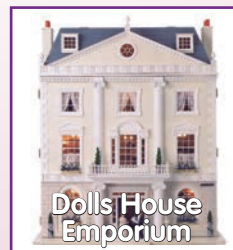
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