
Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

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Box 70045, Londonderry Post Office, Edmonton, AB T5C 3R6

General Meetings: Held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month: 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. (except July, August, and December). at McClure United Church, 13708-74 Street, Edmonton. Workshops are held every 1st and 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Admission: \$2.00 Membership: \$20.00

NOTE: Memberships are due **NOW** (October 19, 2004). November 1st is the cutoff for memberships, so if you want to participate in all the club activities, better pay up!



Upcoming Club Activities

Workshops: On November 2, Maureen Moller (481-6191) will be showing us how to make ????. On November 9, Bonnie will be leading a workshop to make packaged steaks and chops, and a corsage. Bring tweezers, glue and scissors.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on November 16, 2004. As it will be our last general meeting before Christmas, Lil is suggesting that our Show and Tell for that night have a Christmas/Holiday theme (and attached is some Christmas wrapping paper to get you started). But of course anything you want to display is always welcome. Food for the General Meeting will be provided by Tina Krause, Cheryl Prentice and Shannon Goy. Cream will be brought by Linda Austin.

Minis On-Line

I just got back from the Fall Minatura Show in Birmingham, England. With over 400 vendors, it was easy to be overwhelmed at the quality (and the prices!!!) of the marvellous items for sale. Unfortunately, some of the best don't have websites. If you are interested in looking at some of the most exquisite items from British and European miniaturists, you might find these links of interest. These talented folks only attend UK fairs, but you can always buy on-line! Here's a little tour of Minatura for you.

- Stokesay Ware - <http://www.stokesayware.com/> - The Stokesay Ware range of dolls house china recreates classic English designs in miniature using completely authentic materials and techniques.
- Avon Miniatures - <http://www.avonminiatures.com/> - Fine 1/12 Scale English porcelain for the dollhouse. These guys are relocated Canadians.
- John J. Hodgson - <http://www.johnjodgson.com/> - fine hand-carved miniature furniture and fine art products (be sure to check out the Queen Anne Double Dome Secretaire for only £9,600, or about \$22,000!)
- Colin Bird - <http://www.colinbird.co.uk/> - Fine quality hand made Victorian and Edwardian furniture in 1/12 and 1/24 scales.
- The English Kitchen - <http://www.minifoods.com/> - individually handcrafted collectable miniature foods.
- Small-Time - <http://www.small-time.com/> - Makers of fine 1/12th and 1/24th scale working clocks.
- Lilliput Press - <http://www.lilliput.co.uk/> - publisher and bindery of fine books in miniature.
- Warwick Miniatures - <http://www.warwickminiatures.com/> - manufacturers of toys, dolls, fashion/household items, weapons, armor, pewter, etc.
- Karen Fitzhenry - <http://www.karenfitzhenry.com/> - period rocking horses faithfully reproduced in miniature.
- Susan Lee Miniatures - <http://www.susan-lee-miniatures.com/index2.html> - Quality 1/12 scale classic leather footwear and accessories, nursery toys and collectable miniature bears.
- Brooke Tucker Originals - <http://brooketucker.com/> - miniature accessories, decorative standing screens, put-about room boxes, custom commissioned scenes. Brooke also offers courses, which is why I was in Birmingham in the first place.
- Sid Cooke Dolls Houses - <http://www.sidcooke.com/> - Quality dolls' houses and shops that stand out from the rest.
- Miniature Log Homes - <http://www.miniatureloghomes.co.uk/Main.htm> - makers of handcrafted log buildings-modern log houses, traditional American-style country stores, log cabins and schoolhouses etc. (must be relocated Americans).
- Replicast Miniatures - <http://www.replicastminiatures.co.uk/> - manufacturers of 1/12 scale architectural plaster ware, i.e., coving, ceiling roses, archways, columns, fire surrounds and more.
- Jackson's Miniatures - <http://www.jacksonsminiatures.com/> - miniature builder's merchant, with doors, windows, wallpaper, dollhouse plans and kits, etc.

How-To's

Tips from Bruce Steinke

1. When gluing wood furniture, put glue on and let the wood absorb the glue. Put more glue on and stick the pieces together.
2. When staining wood items, the cut side will always absorb more stain, so put stain on cloth rags, dab off the stain a couple of times, and then stain the cut side.
3. For door knobs or dresser pulls, use gold no-hole beads. Make a small round indent and then glue bead in. This works well for ¼ scale dressers, etc.

Tips from Brooke Tucker (picked up in Birmingham)

1. When gluing walls or other relatively large pieces of wood together, coat edges with Aleen's Tacky Glue, then dot Crazy Glue (original only) in key locations. The Crazy Glue holds the wood in place while the Tacky Glue sets. Brooke requires "quick stick" for her courses.
2. A round toothpick, cut at an extreme angle, makes a great cleaning tool for getting excess glue out of cracks and joints.
3. If hinges are your nemesis, and you don't care if your cupboard doors actually open, Brooke has an answer. Find some fine gold elastic cord (it has sort of a spiral of gold around it, and can be found in stores that sell Christmas wrap), cut to the appropriate length and glue in place. You'd never know it wasn't a hinge!
4. When cutting mitres in wood, especially cornices, draw a heavy black line on the part of the moulding that snugs up to the ceiling. Then, when cutting your mitres, make sure that you NEVER see the black line. This way your mitres will always meet the right way. Sounds too simple, but it really works!

Tool of the Month - Lowe-Scheren Mitre Cutter

This is an essential tool for any woodworker who needs to cut forty-five degree mitres in small mouldings on a regular basis. The base also has marking for cuts of 15°, 30°, and 90°. Similar to a garden shear, the built-in fence allows you to cut mitre joints quickly, easily, and with accuracy. This mitre cutter can be purchased at Mike's Tools, <http://mikestools.com/lowe.asp> for \$37.59 US plus shipping. Brooke Tucker (and now yours truly) swears by them. I can't believe how easy it makes cutting any type of mitre on miniature mouldings! Expensive, but worth it!



Odds and Ends

- Daytona Master Builders, a local company, are looking for someone to build miniature models of their show homes. You can check out their houses at <http://www.daytonahomes.ca/>, to see how difficult this might be. If you are interested, call Kent, at 452-2288 ext. 104 for more details.
- Do you remember when we had club pins at one time or another? Does anyone know if there are any left somewhere (or any other details?). If so, please call Sunni at 459-5240.

Editorial Note

As your new editor, I am looking for any suggestions, comments and mini-gossip for items you might want to see in your newsletter. How about an "items wanted" section, where you can ask your mini-friends if they can help you find something? Or short articles on specific subjects? A listing of upcoming shows in Western Canada? Themes for the minis on-line section? Please give Tina a call at 487-8943 (or e-mail to tina@camacdonald.com) with any announcements, hints, items of interest or anything else you want included in your newsletter.

The Last Word

Maude was getting on in years and one day, when she was feeling poorly, she called her daughter to give her some instructions for when she was gone.

"Now, dear, you know that I have been collecting miniatures for the last 40 years? Well, I have an Excel spreadsheet on my computer that records every one of my mini-purchases, who made it, where I bought it, and for how much. The file is password protected so your Dad couldn't find out how much my collection is worth. After my funeral, I want you to give him the password, and tell him to take a look at the file."

"But, Mom!" exclaimed her daughter. "When Dad gets a look at the total, he'll probably have heart failure when he sees how much money you spent on your minis over the years!"

"Exactly!" Maude grinned. "I want to make sure I don't have to wait long for his company when I'm in heaven!"

Happy Halloween!