

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



Upcoming Club Activities

Workshops: The next workshops are March 1, 2005 and March 8, 2005. The March 1st workshop will be the first in a series of workshops that will culminate in our all-day workshop in May. We will be making one section of the box. The March 8th workshop will be with Pat Carr-Wiggin and we will make pies. Pat will provide supplies and the cost is \$1.00 per pie.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on March 15, 2005. Since Easter is very early this year (Good Friday is March 25), Show and Tell for that night has an Easter/spring theme, but of course anything you want to display is always welcome. Food for the March General Meeting will be provided by Gilbert Funk, Maureen Mohler, Audrey, and Monica LaVoie.

All-Day Workshop: will be held on Saturday, May 14 at McClure United Church. Put it on your calendar now! We will be doing an indoor/outdoor room. The inside part of the roombox will have a plant alcove and a lit bay window with a seat. The other (outside) has a porch or garden. The roombox will be done in four sections, and the first workshops in March, April and May will be dedicated to preparation for the all-day workshop.

MEE Fall Show: will be held on September 18, 2005.

Minis On-Line

The following ideas for spring miniature projects come from a great page of links that you can find here - http://directory.google.com/Top/Recreation/Models/Dollhouse_Miniatures/Projects/.

- <http://www.beadwork.about.com/library/weekly/aa020998.htm> - make yourself a miniature beaded Easter basket. Instructions and photos can be found here.
- http://www.sculpey.com/Projects/projects_easterbunny.htm - or, make Easter Eggs and a chocolate bunny to put in your Easter Basket.
- <http://members.aol.com/kkfryer/photos.htm> - How to Take Miniature Photos for your Dollhouse.
- <http://www.polymerclaycentral.com/pcc/featured/parrot1.html> - making a 1/12 scale Victorian birdcage out of polymer clay.
- <http://carolcraft.minis.users.btopenworld.com/projects1.htm> - instructions for making a street light, climbing plant on trellis, and hanging basket.
- <http://www.cynthiahoweminiatures.com/hatmaking1.htm> - an on-line tutorial in making miniature hats. Every dollhouse needs a new Easter bonnet!
- <http://www.polymerclaycentral.com/ornrtrees1.html> - on-line tutorial in making miniature potted trees to set on each side of your front door.
- <http://www.thechinadoll.com/bricktutorial.htm> - on-line tutorial for laying brick floors and walkways.
- http://members.aol.com/Kapricrn/new_page_7.htm - a variety of ideas from "Dollhouses on a Shoestring". Good ideas for rugs.
- <http://www.swallowhilldolls.com/stockings.htm> - stockings and silk slippers for dollhouse dolls.
- <http://www.castingforpurls.com/> - instructions and patterns for miniature knitting.
- <http://swallowhilldolls.com/silkrose.htm> - how to make silk ribbon rosebuds.
- <http://www.hobbyhouse.co.uk/electric.htm> - electrifying your dolls house with copper tape.
- <http://miniatures.about.com/cs/howto/ht/daffodil.htm> - instructions for making miniature daffodils for your Easter bouquet or flower arrangement.
- <http://miniatures.about.com/cs/seasonal/a/landscaping.htm> - article giving tips and tricks for outdoor landscaping for miniature projects.

Printable of the Month – Miniature Seed Packets

In the spring, everyone's mind turns to gardening – so attached to your newsletter are some seed packages for your dollhouse residents to dream over and plan their garden with. Cut out the attached flower and vegetable seed packets as a block, and fold on the indicated line. Apply glue sparingly to the reverse side, and fold together. Let dry and then cut off the individual packets.

Or for a whole selection of Easter printies, illustrated here, go to <http://www.printies2.homestead.com/easter1.html> or <http://www.printies2.homestead.com/easter2.html>.

Hints and Tips – Decorate Your Dollhouse for Spring/Easter

- When I think of Easter, my mind wanders back to that lovely basket full of faux grass and Easter goodies that the good bunny left for us by the couch. To make one in miniature, start with a basket. This can be a purchased item (easy to find at this time of year), or you can make one by molding an appropriately shaped piece of glue soaked canvas over a plastic form (shampoo bottle, etc.), secure with an elastic band while it dries, then decorate raw edges with ribbons and bows. You can also use the central medallions of doilies in a similar manner (either a store find or make one yourself). If you are feeling really ambitious, you can check out a basket weaving book from your local library...with the right materials and a little patience a small basket is within your reach.
- To fill the basket...well, you will need a bunny of some sort. Look in your local dollar store, etc., and sometimes they will have inexpensive little bunny earrings. If you can find a very small bunny, all you need to do then is take it off the earring, and paint it chocolate brown. These earrings are also good for bunny dolls. A Fimo rabbit can be made as well. To make a flat bunny, draw an outline of Peter Cottontail on a piece of cardstock. Cut out, and place on a rolled out Fimo sheet. Cut around the template, remove cardstock, and apply bunny fur lines, cure as per manufacturers directions. Jelly beans can be made with Fimo as well. Roll a very thin snake of the clay, cut into very short pieces and round the edges. Bake as usual, cool, and make a bag out of clear sandwich wrap to put them in. A nice finishing touch is to add a pretty pastel bow. Don't forget to also make little marshmallow chicks, foiled eggs, and little toys for the mini child within.
- Easter eggs are also a favorite. Buy little eggs from the craft store, or make them out of Fimo, decorate with paints or leave solid colors. You might also want to search your local cosmetics counter for funky little decals/transfers that are popular for finger nail art, as they can make decorating an egg that much easier! Why not make an egg decorating scene as well? Small bowls can be made out of Fimo, or a painted wood turning, then filled with different colors of glass paint. Glue bowl to a miniature paper (either can be purchased, invented on the computer, or take the local rag and have it reduced!). Have another bowl full of unpainted white eggs, and some eggs lying on the table that have been painted with glass paints. Don't forget the mini paint brush made from a painted round toothpick and hair bristles.
- Spring is traditionally windy. Is there a better excuse to go fly a kite? An easy way to make one is to fold a piece of paper in half, and cut out an irregular triangle (one short steep cut, then a long gradual cut). If you are confused by this, check out the shape of half a kite and take measurements. Draw the shape on the fold, and cut out. Glue this to another piece of paper to give it a bit of weight (thin piece of construction paper?). Cut out. For the cross supports, either glue a thin plastic covered wire, or crochet cotton (the type that says "for fashion garments") to the back. For the kite string, use thread...glue one end to center of cross, wrap the other end around the handle (a piece of round toothpick, or any appropriate size tube shape cut down to size). From here? Well, now that you have the basic kite, decorate with bits of lace, color from paints, bits of ribbons, etc. Don't forget to add a tail!
- Another spring item is the pinwheel. Cut a small square of very thin paper, fold it in half one way, open it up and fold it in half the other. Using a compass, draw a circle around the center point. Starting at one corner, cut towards the center, and stop when you reach the circle that you just drew. Do this three more times. You should be left with four triangles attached at the center. Take every second corner, fold it into the center and secure with a small dab of glue. If you have done this correctly, you should have the head of the pinwheel (if you are confused, go out and buy a pinwheel...for purely scientific purposes, of course!). Next, attach the back to an appropriate size stick (Fimo, rolled paper or a stiff plastic covered wire). Cover the center of the pinwheel with a small decoration to dress it up.
- Birdhouses and feeders are always fun for spring, too! For simple houses, cut a short length off of an appropriate size piece of square molding. Turn it on its edge and you will see a diamond shape...look familiar? From here, drill three holes into the block... one on the bottom center (this is where your pole will attach), one larger hole in the center of one face of the diamond, and a third smaller hole (a bit bigger than the

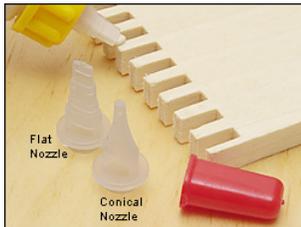


width of a round toothpick) just below the larger hole. A pole can be made from a thin dowel, the base can be a piece of wood, doweling, or anything that looks like it would work. Cut a short length of toothpick and glue it into the smaller hole...this is your perch. From here you can start decorating your bird's home! Bits of high grit sandpaper can be used for the roof, acrylic paints can be used to achieve a number of effects. If you are stuck for inspiration, check out spring craft magazines. They will often have many good color pictures of interesting birdhouses. Finish off by tucking some moss inside the entrance hole around a mini Fimo bird. If you do not want to make a house from wood, you can also make houses from poster board and a little paint, or search your local craft store. Small pre-made birdhouses that are ready to paint can be found. Feeders can be made from lengths of clear straws, jewelry findings, bits of dowels, paper boxes and the like. Bird seed can be simulated from pepper or different colors of fine craft sand mixed together. A suet feeder can be made from transparent Fimo and some tulle netting. Remember seeing bird feeders made from milk cartons? Well, take apart a real carton, see how it is built, and reconstruct one in miniature (from poster board and a reduced label) for a humorous touch!

Tools of the Month – Dripless Glue Bottle and Accordion Bottles

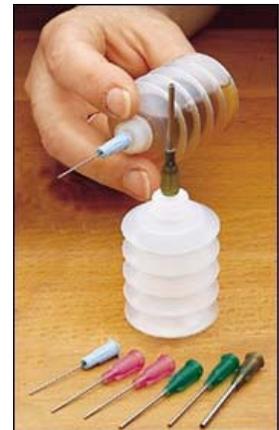


This dripless glue dispenser is ideal for small-scale work. With a gentle squeeze of the bottle, glue is forced through a channel at the bottom of the airtight reservoir and up the spout. This displacement creates a vacuum in the reservoir that siphons excess glue from the spout as you ease your grip, preventing drips. The 4 oz. bottle is supplied with two trimmable nozzles, flat for dispensing a strip of adhesive and conical for



beads. The included nozzle cap stores on the lid when not in use. A replacement set of nozzles and caps (two of each) is available separately.

Or, for very fine work, have a look at the accordion glue bottles. The set includes two 1 oz. bottles and 8 blunt needles, two each of gauges 14, 18, 20, and 22. They can be used for gluing in the same way as syringes.



Sold at Lee Valley Tools, 18403 – 104 Avenue, Edmonton - \$5.95 for the dripless glue bottle, \$1.95 for a set of replacement caps and \$4.95 for the set of accordion bottles.

Easter Project



Go to <http://www.dow.com/craft/proj/512.htm>, to find complete instructions to build this cute Easter Egg Factory! It says that you can complete the project in a day!!! (But not if you work like I do.....)

The original plans call for Styrofoam as the main building material, but if you have children/grandchildren, you might want to try adapting the design to make it a **gingerbread** Easter Egg Factory, making gingerbread walls, using Smarties or jelly beans to tile the roof, and making a whole flock of bunnies out of marshmallows! An edible fence made from thin stick candy would also be fun! Then after the factory has been admired, photographed and eaten, you can recycle your inedible miniatures for another project!

Georgee's Dolls

Georgee has been very busy lately getting ready for the Winnipeg Gathering. So busy, in fact, that her order records have suffered. If anyone is waiting for a doll from Georgee, she asks that you please give her a call at 962-8046 to find out when it will be ready, and to make sure that she really is working on your doll!

Thought for the Day

You are old, mother dear, the young tell their tales,
And you ought to be knitting or sewing!
And yet you continually haunt Garage Sales.
Pray what is your reason for going?

On Sunday you ought to be praying in church,
To prepare, 'cos you'll soon meet your maker.
And yet we're continually left in the lurch
While you romp round the stalls by the acre.

In my youth, I reply, it was during the war
And I may have had flair and ability.
I wanted to make things from stuff that I saw
But materials were scarce and utility.

What with rationing shortages, coupons for frocks
There was no room for any excesses.
So I learned how to knit, and to sew, and darn socks
And I made my own skirts and dresses.

But now there's this rubbish to buy for a song,
It's a positive trove full of treasure.
And I'm longing to make things, I haven't got long!
So don't you deny me my pleasure.

There's clock cases, buttons, and brooches and fans
And tiny print fabrics I'm certain.
And when used in the dollhouse by capable hands,
They'll end up as a bedspread or curtain.

There's bird cages, bracelets, designs of the worst
And all sorts of other Tom Foolery.
And if you've the eye and get in there first,
You can make lots of things from the jewelry.

So that's how I furnished my dollhouse you see,
Things to buy that provide inspiration.
And I'm glad on my Sundays, I'm carefree and free.
I'm glad we're a throw-away nation!

King's Column. The Doll's House Magazine, p. 37. December 2004

Happy Easter!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ON-LINE AT: <http://www.camacdonald.com/MEE/>

Contact Tina (487-8943) if you have something you want to sell, or to place an ad or an announcement.