



Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

March, 2005 VOLUME 20 NUMBER 3 est. 1982
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 April 5, 2005 and April 12, 2005. The April 5th workshop will be the second in a series of workshops that will culminate in our all-day workshop in May. We will be making two walls of the room box. Bring your choice of wallpaper and appropriate glue, a saw for cutting 4 X 4s and an Exacto knife. We will also be making a spring basket with chicks and bunnies. The April 12th workshop will be building a butterfly house.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on April 19, 2005. If you have any interesting collections of miniatures, please bring them along for Show and Tell, or bring spring-themed items. As always, anything else you want to display is always welcome. Food for the March General Meeting will be provided by Lynda S., Carol K., Cindy S. and Val.

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

Since we will be wallpapering at our next workshop, the links section and the Hints and Tips section of this newsletter will focus on wallpaper. The following links provide on-line sources of supply for dollhouse wallpaper.

- <http://www.dollhouseminiatures.com/supplies/paper.htm> - Dollhouse Miniature Wallpaper from Fingertip Fantasies Dollhouse Miniatures.
- <https://enchantedminiatures.hosting-advantage.com/wallpaper%20page%202.htm> - Wallpaper from Enchanted Miniatures.
- <http://store.dollhousecollectables.com/yhst-4107290884353/floors.html> - links take you to a variety of pages showing wallpapers from a number of suppliers.
- <http://www.tigerlilyandrose.com/products.htm> - Tiger-lily and Rose wallpapers (this is the company name not the designs...).
- http://minigraphics.com/pretty_papers/ - Mini-graphics only sells wholesale, but their wide selection gives you lots of ideas.
- <http://www.minishop.com/motts/Category.cfm?&DID=6&CATID=17> - lots of interior decorating ideas here.
- <http://members.tripod.com/~PhyllisJoy/me/project3.html> - this page allows you to print your own wallpaper directly from the web.
- http://www.allthingsmini.com/patterns/textiles/wallpaper_patterns.html - more printable wallpaper patterns.
- <http://www.blohmdesign.com/printables.asp> - Still more printable patterns!

If you are handy with a computer and own a good graphics programs, making your own wallpaper is quite easy (I make all my own wallpaper). Make sure you use a good quality paper that will stand up well to the application of glue. In designing your own wallpaper, you only need to design a single repeat, then using the duplicate/clone feature of the graphics program you can turn it into full sheets of wallpaper. Most commercial wallpaper is made in 11 inch sheets but if your room is 12 inches or more high you will have difficulty, or may be forced to use a wainscoting paper as well to fill the ceiling to floor area. Using 8 ½" by 14 inch (legal) paper will give you longer lengths of wallpaper to work with.

Printable of the Month – Miniature Notepaper

Letters written on pretty paper are a joy to both write and receive... so this month's printable is a boxed set of writing paper with matching envelopes to scatter on a desk or table. Add a miniature pen or pencil, and your dollhouse residents are all set to catch up their correspondence! There are three different patterns (Hydrangea, Pansy [illustrated] or Butterfly Blooms), one of which is attached to this newsletter. If you don't like the particular pattern attached to this newsletter, find another newsletter, or trade with a friend.

NOTEPAPER BOX - Cut out top and bottom of box. With the back side of an Exacto knife (the dull side), score along all fold lines. Make all folds. Unfold and apply glue sparingly to the four corner tabs. Refold. Press glued tabs to box sides making sure that the corners are square.

ENVELOPES - Cut out each envelope and score lightly with the dull side of an Exacto knife along the fold lines. Fold together with the printed floral section to the inside. Unfold and apply glue sparingly to the two side tabs. Fold bottom of envelope up, pressing against the side tabs. Using a toothpick or other small flat object, slide it into the envelope, making sure that the glue did not ooze out and inadvertently stick the back and front of the envelope together.

Cut out the individual sheets of notepaper. And, yes – the envelopes and letter paper all fit within the box.



Hints and Tips – Wallpapering in Your Dollhouse

This information comes from a panel of experts providing tips in the Miniature Collector. And, they don't always agree!!!

Selecting the Wallpaper

- Mary Lou Nancken of New York recommends selecting the furniture before selecting the wallpaper. Choose wallpaper that is compatible with the furniture and appropriate to the era and style of the house (this can take a little research). Since in most miniature houses, all rooms are viewed at the same time, clashing colours and diverse pattern sizes should be avoided. This is not as much of an issue in room boxes.
- Martha Hastings of Charlotte, North Carolina recommends picking the wallpaper that would be harmonious with your colour scheme and your furniture. Remember you can always re-upholster your furniture to coordinate with your paint or paper.

Preparing the Surface

- John Fish and Larry Osburne (The Guys from Texas) recommend sealing the wall with water-based poly-acrylic, then sanding lightly and using a tack cloth to remove any dust.
- The surface for the wallpaper should be perfectly smooth. Fill imperfections with wood filler and sand the surface smooth. If the wall is rough, apply two or three coats of gesso (a primer used by artists), sanding between each coat.

Selecting the Glue

- Brooke Tucker prefers Grandma Stover's Yes! Glue, thinned out with a few drops of hot water and stirred smooth. It is important that the glue is applied in a vertical direction only to prevent stretching. She then fits the paper in place.
- Martha Hastings uses commercial vinyl wallpaper paste.
- Some people recommend adhering the paper with a spray adhesive.
- Use a throw-away brush for wallpapering. You do not want the paste as thick as icing, but be sure that the entire surface is covered.
- You should use wallpaper glue even if the wallpaper is pre-pasted. (Laurie Grant and Lynne Stierman).

Preparing the Paper

- The Guys from Texas cut the paper to size and seal the paper (both sides) with Krylon Matte Fixative (do this outdoors).

Cutting the Paper

- Martha Hastings cuts back wall wallpaper the height of the wall minus 1/8" to 1/4" by the width of the wall plus 1/2 inch. Then, cut the side wallpapers 1/8" to 1/4" less than the wall height and 1 inch wider.
- Don't forget to check right side up and upside down. After each side wall is cut to size, mark doors, windows, etc. It's easier to cut them flat. Remember, measure twice, cut once. It's better to locate cutouts in the middle of the paper rather than near the edge as this will prevent the paper from pulling away or curling. Alternatively, most others do not cut out door and window openings until after the paper has been applied to the walls, and is completely dry. Laurie Grant and Lynne Stierman recommend extreme care in cutting openings, making sure that you don't slice through any electrical tape which may be wrapped around door openings.
- Gail Harrison-Pompa of Through the Keyhole recommends using a pencil to mark an arrow on the back of the paper to indicate which direction is up to make it easier to get the paper on right side up after the paste has been applied.

Applying the Paper

- The Guys from Texas apply paste to the **wall not the paper**. Fit the paper in place and smooth out lumps with a credit card while wiping with a damp, not wet, sponge.
- On the other hand, Brooke Tucker and most others prefer to apply the glue to the paper.
- Martha Hastings aligns the paper with the ceiling, leaving space at the bottom towards the floor, but this will be covered with the baseboard. Then she installs the back wallpaper so that 1/4" extends beyond each corner. Side walls are applied starting at the corners and allowing 1 inch to overlap at the opening to the room. When the paper is completely dry, she then cuts out any openings and removes the excess extension at the front of each wall.
- If possible, remove doors and windows and trim before wallpapering.
- Laurie Grant and Lynne Stierman start wallpapering by applying the wallpaper carefully against the back wall, and use a credit card to smooth the paper flat, and to crease the corners.
- Applying the back wall paper first, bringing it 1/4 inch onto each side wall allows the side wall paper to overlap, hiding the join. Make sure you match patterns and directions!

"Tool" of the Month – Watchmaker's Cases



Originally made to store gems, watch movements and jeweler's findings, these glass-topped aluminum containers are ideal for organizing the minutia of a miniaturist's world. For example, I rounded up all my opened and unopened packages of Houseworks stuff, and now have a neatly organized box full of door knobs, dollhouse nails, hinges, drawer pulls, decorative elements, etc. The clear glass tops of the cases make it a snap to lay my hands on exactly the right fitments, and I don't have to buy more because I can't find that package of mini-nails!

Container sizes range from 1-1/4" (33mm) to 2-3/4" (70mm) diameter. Available in sets, the containers come packaged in either pasteboard or hinged aluminum boxes. The set of ten 33mm containers comes in a 2-3/4" x 6-1/2" aluminum box — a perfect size for fitting into toolboxes to take to your next workshop. These are all excellent containers at superb prices.

Sold at Lee Valley Tools, 18403 – 104 Avenue, Edmonton - \$16.95 for a set of 56 cases (includes items **B, D, E & F** in the illustration). For more details on prices of individual boxes of each size, go to: <http://www.leevalley.com/wood/page.aspx?c=1&p=44948&cat=1,43326>.



Thoughts for the Day

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) School lunches stick to the wall.
- 9) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 10) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 11) The best place to be when you are sad is in grandma's lap.

SUCCESS:

At age 4, success is . . . not peeing in your pants.
At age 12, success is . . . having friends.
At age 16, success is . . . having a driver's license.
At age 35, success is . . . having money.
At age 50, success is . . . having money.
At age 70, success is . . . having a driver's license.
At age 75, success is . . . having friends.
At age 80, success is . . . not peeing in your pants.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge... mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre, not the toy.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

- 1) Growing up is mandatory; growing old is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way;
But NEVER forget the blessings that come each day.
Have a wonderful day with many *smiles*.

Have a GREAT April!

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.