



## Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

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

**General Meetings:** Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month: 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. at McClure United Church, 13708-74 Street, Edmonton. Workshops are held every 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There are no meetings or workshops during July, August, and December. Meeting only (no workshops) in January (assuming temperature is warmer than minus 25C.)  
Admission: \$2.00    Membership: \$20.00



### Upcoming Club Activities

**Workshops:** The next workshops are May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and May 9<sup>th</sup>. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jan Mann will be showing you how to create a garden gazing ball for a garden. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Judi Mitchell is doing a ¼ scale dress on a hanger.

**General Meeting:** The next general meeting will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006. There is no particular theme for Show and Tell, but of course, anything you want to bring is always welcome. Food will be provided by Jan Mann, Holly Weinberger, and Gilbert Funk. Cream will be provided by Sheila Dequaine.

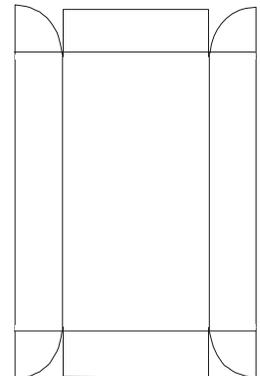
**Brooke Tucker Workshops:** The time since this was just a vague idea has passed very quickly and in two weeks we will be working with a master! The "Soft Victorian Roombox", on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>, has 22 registrants so far, and the "Skills My Teacher Taught Me", on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, has 19. Those of you who are not registered could always drop in and say hello and meet Brooke! Workshops will be held at the Westmount Community League at 10970 – 127 Street, Edmonton.

### Printable of the Month – Mother's Day

**Mother's Day Cards** - Cut out each card individually. Score along folds, then Fold in half along the top edge of the front of the card. Unfold and glue sparingly on reverse (unprinted) side. Refold, pressing firmly. Then, fold again at right angles to first fold.

**Florist Box** - Fold lines are not marked on these boxes. However, using diagram to the right, score all indicated fold lines with a sharp craft knife.

Fold box together. Apply glue only to the small tabs at each end of the box sides, and fold up sides, firmly pressing the tabs to the next side. It is important not to skip the scoring of the boxes. With this stiff paper, folding it without scoring results in a ragged looking fold mark.



Now all you need is one or two long-stemmed roses, nestled in a scrap of tissue paper in the box.

### Minis On-Line

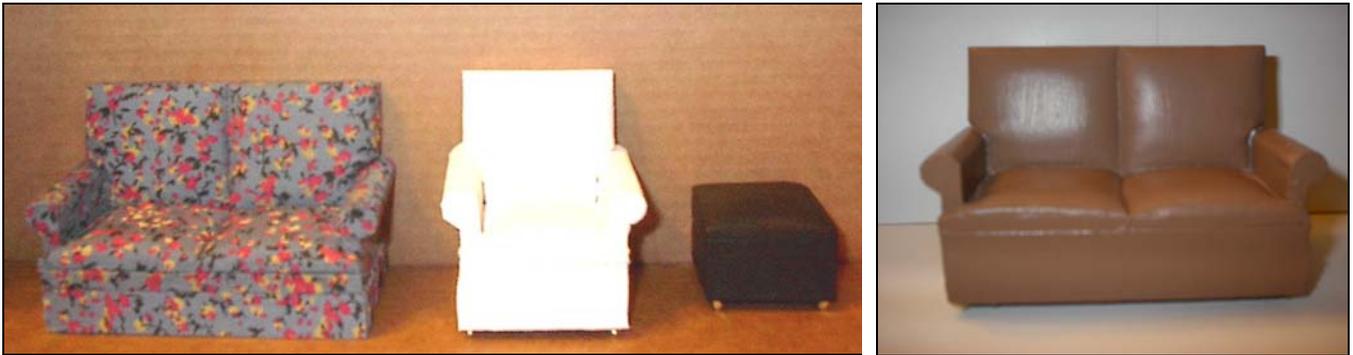
Maureen Heuchert has the following recommendation: I highly recommend the printable miniature kits from Ann Vanture of PaperMinis <http://www.paperminis.com> Some of you may have seen the made-up Chinese takeout and the butterfly collection during Show and Tell at a recent club meeting. Ann prints her kits on specialty papers which greatly enhance them. The prices are very reasonable and although some are a bit fiddly (as miniatures tend to be) they turn out beautifully. Great customer service.

As well, if you sign up for her newsletter you get free printables which have recently included wallpapers, flooring and ceilings for roomboxes (and she gives you templates and instructions for making those also).

## Hints and Tips – The “Leather” Look

Basic instructions for giving an upholstered piece of furniture a leather look (thanks to Briar Picchiatti, American Miniaturist, issue #2, Jan/Feb 2003, p. 10)

Using a sponge brush, paint the upholstery on your piece of furniture with a thin layer of gesso, sand, add another layer of gesso, sand again, add a third layer of gesso and sand again. Do as many layers as necessary to completely cover the fabric. The gesso takes awhile to dry properly so this takes time. Once that's done, you paint your piece (again using a sponge brush) with a coat of acrylic paint in your choice of colour. Paint again, sand, and paint again. Then, finally, coat with a water soluble antiquing stain, wiping it off immediately with a soft clean white cloth. OR for your final step, paint the entire piece with a stingy layer of Mod Podge matte. There are two pictures: one shows the love seat in its original condition, the chair covered with gesso, and the ottoman finished in black with antique stain. The other shows the loveseat finished with tan paint and matte Mod Podge.



### Maureen Heuchert's notes:

I used three coats of gesso, sanding after each one. Depending on the fabric, you may be able to get away with two or may need four. You should not be able to see even a hint of the original fabric - your piece should be totally white.

Any acrylic craft paint should work. I used two different brands and they both worked fine. I had trouble getting an even coat with the tan paint but I added a few drops of extender and it made all the difference in the world. It went on beautifully evenly after that. Personally, although the original instructions call for using water based antiquing stain (which I did use on the black pieces), I think I prefer Mod Podge matte for the final finish. And definitely would use the Mod Podge on a lighter colour. I think the 'trick' is in using the sponge brush to apply everything. (You may need a smaller paint brush to get into the nooks and crannies.) It gives your finish that leather grain so I tried to keep all my brush strokes going in the same direction.

## A TRIP TO CHICAGO

I was lucky enough to spend a week in Chicago at the beginning of April, to attend the Chicago International show, as well as take two workshops (one to build a Tudor Market Hall, and one to learn proper bookbinding techniques). As well there were two other shows running, the Windy City Show, and the Independent Miniature Artisan show. A shuttle bus took us back and forth. I also took a day to visit the Throne rooms at the Chicago Art Institute, and visited the Kupjack Studios, where we were regaled with tales of working with Mrs. Thorne. I thought you might be interested in some of the displays that were there. So here is my picture gallery!



This roombox was entitled “Renaissance”, created by Spence's Nook.



“Regent Street”



This is Eamon O'Roarke, who, along with his wife Sue, taught a workshop to make this wonderful Tudor Market Hall. I took the workshop from them, and brought the house home flat packed, so you will see the real thing when I get it reassembled!



A view of the main sale hall – there were four huge rooms at the Chicago International, the main show hall, the World of Dolls, New Artisans (who had never exhibited in Chicago before) and a room for the “do-it-yourselfers”, with every type of mini-supplies/tools imaginable!



A selection of some of the dolls – I liked the transvestite stripper!



Rik Pierce or Frogmorton Studios taught a class to ake this lighthouse and cottage using Paper Clay – I only wish I had had the time to take this one as well!



Ron Hubble's Table



## LITTLE LIMERICKS

Reprinted from American Miniaturist, Sept./Oct., 2003

There was a young lady from Reno,  
Who made mini foods el supremo.  
Said her newly wed mate,  
"I don't like to eat late!"  
So she served him her freshly baked Fimo.

While painting my dollhouse one day,  
I pondered "Why am I this way?"  
I could clean my house,  
Or iron a blouse.  
But why SHOULD I when I can just play?

They're for houses, room boxes, vignettes,  
In duos, and trios, and sets.  
Boxes stacked to the ceiling  
May not be appealing  
But a mini I don't want, I ain't met.

A wee tiny mouse one inch tall  
Had a home in a hole in the wall  
He found a wife mouse  
In a lovely doll house  
And they moved in together last fall.

There was a young lady from Crete  
Whose projects were never complete.  
She sat there all day,  
And with minis would play,  
While her house fell down round her feet.

There once was a miniature lover,  
Round Joanne's and Michael's she'd hover.  
Over fabric, it's true,  
Over Fimo and glue,  
And from hubby kept all undercover

We glue, carve, and hammer and nail  
Paying careful heed to detail,  
While our houses get dusty,  
The dishes get crusty,  
We're creating perfection in scale.

I was shopping one day at Joanne's  
With supplies loaded up in both hands.  
Spied a sign saying "Clearance",  
And without interference,  
Juggled all the way to the check stand!

# Happy Mother's Day!!!

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