



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. 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 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 March 7th, 2006 and March 14th, 2006. For the March workshops, on March 7th, Teena Krause will be talking us through building a smaller scale veranda/patio, and on March 14th, Bonnie Maio will be doing a Faberge Egg!

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on March 21, 2006 (assuming that the weather is warmer than -25 C). Easter/spring themed items would be great for Show and Tell, but of course, anything you want to bring is always welcome. Food will be provided by Lorry Saunders and Maureen Heuchert. Cream will be provided by Monica LaVoie.

NOTE: If you are interested in registering for the workshop(s) the day before the West Coast Show and Sale (workshops on June 3rd, show on June 4th), Lil McPhee has the registration forms.

Printable of the Month – “Fine Art”

This month's "printie" is a variety of "Fine Art", from a variety of periods, for your dollhouse. There are 6 different strips, so trade with your neighbour if you want something in particular. (P.S. I have several thousand fine art images, from 12th century to contemporary, so if you are looking for a specific painting/artist, call Tina at 487-8943.)

Minis On-Line

This set of links is a mixed bag of things culled from old copies of Dollhouse Miniatures:

- <http://www.loew-cornell.com/> - This manufacturer of artist's paintbrushes offers projects, fun facts trivia and tips on painting techniques, choice of paintbrushes, brushes to select for specific applications, and more.
- <http://www.fimozone.com/> - Provides tutorials on working with polymer clay and related tools (including sets of 8 x 10 texture sheets for creating a number of surface effects on sheets of polymer clay), as well as on blending clays to get the perfect colours for your project. Offers clay, tools, and other materials.
- <http://www.brodnaxprints.com/> - your on-line source for fabric, wallpaper, rugs, and fabulous parquet flooring!
- <http://www.woodcraft.com/education.aspx> - Select Woodworking Articles or DIY Projects under Education on this woodworking site to find information on using power tools, working with wood, finishes, etc.
- <http://www.colinbird.co.uk/> - British furniture artisan Colin Bird offers his realistic wood furniture: many items are copies of pieces found in museums.
- <http://www.minikitz.com/> - Order kits on-line in all scales for furniture, accessories, dolls and much more. Many artisans are represented.
- <http://craft.dow.com/index.htm> - Sponsored by the makers of Styrofoam, this site features tips for cutting, painting, and gluing this product invented in the 1940's. Look up product information, try one or more of the sites projects, and join a craft club to receive free offers, share ideas, and show your work.
- <http://www.tammysheirlooms.com/> - Tammy's Heirlooms carries unique miniature furniture, dolls, accessories, dollhouse kits and assembled dollhouses in one inch and half inch scale. For the serious collector, there is furniture by Bespaq and handcrafted pieces including crystal chandeliers, sterling silver, oil paintings, and porcelain tea sets by IGMA and other artisans. They also carry affordable wooden dollhouse kits by Greenleaf and miniature furnishings by companies including Dee's Delights, Aztec Imports, Miniature Corner, The Dollhouse Shoppe, Handley House, and Dijon. For your wiring needs, there are Cir-Kit Concepts electrical supplies and offer complimentary live support with purchase.
- <http://www.miniaturemolds.com/> - If you need metal and rubber molds, this location offers 400 of them, along with starter and casting sets (designed primarily for action/war gamers but useful for making your own molds).

Hints and Tips I – Miscellaneous

- To keep copper wiring tape from twisting and tangling, roll up tightly and put in a postage stamp holder. Feed the tape out the slot, and it stays tidy!
- If you are using computer printed “art”, wallpaper, or any other mini printed on an ink-jet printer or colour copier, you will eventually have a problem with fading. Liquitex Gel Medium solves the problem. Just paint a thin layer on the printed picture. It comes in gloss or matte finishes, or you can mix a dab of each to create your own semi-gloss. It goes on white, but dries clear. The colors will stay true even in direct sunlight. You can paint it thick on any picture cut out of a magazine, with brush strokes to match the picture to make it look like a painting. No glass is needed to cover the picture. It also cleans up with water.
- Observe full-size items, first noting color. As much as size, colour has to be in scale too. Tone everything down. Even if an apple is bright red in real life, tone it down for miniatures. Use a great many shades of color to create dimension, even if it is a piece of furniture. If everything is one color, it is hard-looking. You want your pieces to be soft and have dimension. On lacquered pieces, use an oil-based glaze to bring down the tone. Mute even antique petit point using anything – coffee, tea, commercial dyes – that will give the desired look.
- You can’t make real looking furniture unless you know the time for which you are creating. For example, gold leafing differed from one period to another. Louis XVI furniture has brighter gold trim; leafing from other periods is more muted.
- Use the thinnest natural fabrics for drapes, 100% silk or cotton. Synthetics will fight you. Fabrics have to drape with gravity. If you are putting fringe on drapes, study the flow of fringe in large size. Notice it doesn’t stand straight all around. Pin drapes into place and use hair spray or matte finish spray to hold folds correctly. Or, glue fabric to aluminium foil, and fold as desired. Every fold on the right side should be executed on the left so they match.

Hints and Tips II – Adding Detail to a Room

Reprinted from *Miniature Collector*, October, 2003, by Suzanne Crowley

- Layer, layer, layer! One of the common mistakes with early roomboxes is that there is not enough detail. Unless you are doing an art gallery or period room, minimalist is not that interesting in miniature.
- Add potted plants and greenery to a room. Plants infuse a room with instant life.
- Upgrade furniture where you can or invest in one collectible, finely made piece of furniture. The addition of a few nice pieces can totally transform your look.
- Tell a story about your room. Are the occupants about to go on a trip? Add luggage, travel brochures and designer shopping bags. Has your imaginary owner just left the room? Add a plate of cookies, a candy dish or a folded newspaper.
- Add a rug to anchor the room. It’s amazing how a pretty rug can infuse a room with drama.
- Reupholster out-of-scale or tired-looking pieces.
- Fix poorly done work. Don’t be embarrassed. We have all come a long way! Examples of poorly done work include messy upholstering, bad mitring or trim, pillows that are not quite square, glue spots. Some mistakes are easily fixed. Remember the old saying, “When an architect makes a mistake, he plants ivy!” You can always add trim or rosettes to cover up something. Don’t let any mistake catch the viewer’s eye.
- Pull the eye up in a room. Layer and stack paintings. Stacks of two or three are nice. Another common mistake is a painting that is too small over a couch or fireplace. Replace it with a larger painting or add brackets on either side with an element on top.
- Drape a handmade throw over a bench or sofa. Cut a rectangle out of a complementary fabric and fringe the edge.
- Add more decorative pillows. Handmade or purchased pillows always add richness to a room. Sometimes pulling a darker colour into a room by using pillows adds punch.
- Pull in another accent colour. Use black or a minor colour from fabric or other elements in the room.
- Remember the rule of odds in decorating. Odd numbers of things are more interesting to the eye than even numbers of things. This works especially well when arranging accessories. Sometimes a really large object such as a lamp works as a neutral and doesn’t count in the tableau.
- Vary your heights. This applies to accessories, furniture placement and wall decoration.
- Edit with a careful eye. Take out what does not work.
- Do the spindly leg check. Are there too many brown legs showing in your room? Replace a table with a skirted one. Or replace a coffee table with an ottoman. Exception: dining rooms, where there will always be a lot of spindly legs.
- Scale up and plump up the pieces. If you have too many delicate pieces in the room, replace them with something plumper and more substantial.

- Add detail to a plain door by upgrading the doorknob and putting a decoration with trim or a painting over the door. Remember, you always want to try to pull the eye upward.
- Add some very fine detail in an accessory. One nicely done artisan piece will go a long way.
- Add trim to pillows and chairs. Vary the colours, style and texture. Stock up on tiny trims so you have plenty from which to choose.
- Paint gold or black details on a piece of furniture.
- Add fringe around a sofa or to curtains. Small fringe is available on the market or make your own from grosgrain ribbon. Just cut off the bottom end of the ribbon, and pull the threads off until you achieve the look you want.

“Tool” of the Month – Tool Lists

Reprinted from Kim Walter at about.com (<http://miniatures.about.com/od/creatingminiatures/a/toolboxlists.htm>).

There are a wide variety of tools to use in creating great miniatures. Whether you are building a house or making a flower arrangement, the right tool can make the experience fun and error-free. If you want to create fine scale miniatures, tools that emphasize accuracy and scale are critical. Taking workshops from experienced miniaturists is a great way to try out tools and supplies to see if they work for you. However, not everyone always agrees on what is the right tool! I've listed tools and supplies I use frequently (or hope to use someday in the case of the advanced list) but I'd encourage you to experiment with new tools to see if they can improve the quality of your miniature creations. I've tried to focus on tools that have multiple uses but there are also tools that are more useful to particular applications like dressing dolls or building miniature furniture.

There are no definitions of an "advanced" miniaturist and no one's going to be questioning your experience! However, as you create miniatures you will naturally acquire new skills and attempt more difficult projects. The lists are based on the tools and supplies needed to finish more complex and varied projects. They are also divided up in consideration of budget restrictions. On the beginner list are the items you will use most often as you do simple projects so I recommend you purchase those first. The advanced list contains power tools that can be expensive and you may want to see if you will really use them before you buy.

Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ X-acto knife with #11 blade ❖ Sandpaper ❖ Tack cloth ❖ Thick White Glue (e.g., Aleene's Tacky) ❖ Minwax Stain Pens ❖ Razor Saw & Mitre box ❖ Metal cork-backed rulers ❖ Toothpicks ❖ Craft sticks or wooden stir sticks ❖ Hand drill with small bits ❖ Awl ❖ Hammer & Finishing Nails ❖ Self-Healing Cutting Mat ❖ Small sharp scissors ❖ Fabric scissors ❖ Tweezers ❖ Quilt pins or corsage pins ❖ Testor's Liquid Plastic Cement ❖ Quick Grip ❖ Acrylic paints in a range of colors ❖ 1/2", 1/4" and fine point acrylic paintbrushes ❖ Matte acrylic spray ❖ Interior varnish ❖ Paper Towels ❖ 1" Foam brushes ❖ Plastic dixie cups with lids ❖ Variety of small clamps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Handheld Mitre Cutter ❖ Glue syringe ❖ Doll stand to hold glues upside down ❖ Dremel or rotary tool with attachments ❖ Legos stacked in the shape of a right angle ❖ Hands free magnifying lens ❖ Stylus with ball ends ❖ Needle-nose pliers ❖ Small wire cutters ❖ Paperclay ❖ Resin product ❖ Scenic Water ❖ Various sizes of clamps ❖ Cyanoacrylate Glue (Zap-A-Gap is one brand.) ❖ Regular Super Glue ❖ Slow Curing Cyanoacrylate Glue ❖ Very small tip paintbrushes ❖ Gel Stain Medium ❖ Crackle Medium ❖ Sanding sticks ❖ Wood Fill ❖ "Third Hand" stand ❖ Magnifying visor or goggles ❖ Wire cutters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jeweler's screwdriver set ❖ Grrrip Craft Cement ❖ The Chopper ❖ Electric Sander ❖ Scroll Saw ❖ 4" Table Saw ❖ Miniature lathe ❖ Miniature router ❖ Round-nose pliers ❖ Soldering tool ❖ CA glue accelerator



The Miniaturist's Prayer

Dear Lord,

I'm going to need some notice
Before my days are done.
You see, I'm a craftaholic -
A fact not known to some.

My craft room, it is bulging
All corners, crannies and nooks
There's loads of boxes under the bed,
I hope no one ever looks!

I tell myself when shopping,
"No more craft bits today,"
But the craft shops are like magnets
Drawing me their way.

I'm totally at their mercy
Just "need" a dozen of each.
Then I hurry home to hide them
Before the family starts to preach.

So Lord, I'll need a little time
To dispose of all this stuff.
And Lord, can we just keep all of this,
Between the two of us?

(Thanks to Maureen's sister for sending this along!)

Think Spring!!!

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.