



Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

June 2006 VOLUME 21 NUMBER 6 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. 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 September 12th and 19th. As soon as our new workshop coordinator is elected, they will let us know their exciting plans for next year.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on September 5th, 2006 (NOTE that this is the first Tuesday of the month to ensure that we have a meeting prior to the annual show and sale).

Annual Show and Sale: Our annual show and sale will be held on September 17th at the Best Western Westwood Inn at 18035 – Stony Plain Road. Please see Lil regarding volunteering to help. On September 16th, there will be two all-day workshops. Sue Thwaite will be teaching a Dutch baby house, at \$275, or Debbie Burville (Montacute Miniatures) will be teaching miniature Christmas houses for \$65.

Printable of the Month – Victorian Photographs

This month's printies are a selection of turn-of-the-century photographs, so you can decorate your miniature rooms with portraits of your ancestors.

A Find by Luba

At the Brooke Tucker workshops, Brooke was amazed at the design of our Crazy Glue packaging. Our glue comes in a plastic tube with a child-proof cap, with a pin inside a plastic shield for safety. She thought this was a great idea, but missed the stand that comes with the American version of the glue.

Luba has found a source for the American glue, with the stand to keep it upright when working with it. You can find it at the Liquidation centre, in the same strip mall as Princess Auto (11150 – 163 Street, Edmonton.)

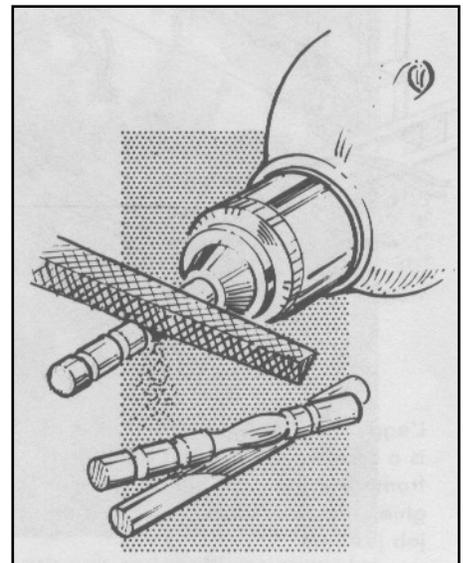
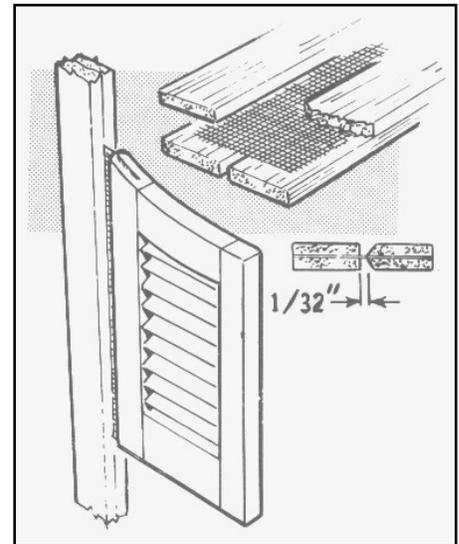
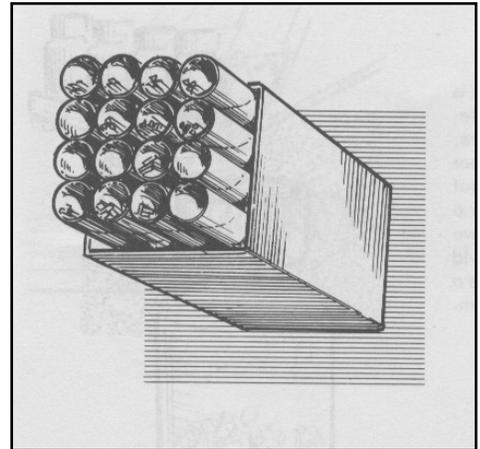
Minis On-Line

- <http://www.miniatures.com/hbs/global/index2.asp> - electronic counterpart to the print catalogue, **Hobby Builders Supply**. This site has dollhouses and miniature accessories in 1" scale, 1/2" Scale, as well. We even have dollhouses and miniature furnishings in 1/144" Scale. Be sure to check out their projects section for some great ideas.
- <http://miniatures.about.com/> - a generalized website about the hobby with many links to other sites, and some useful ideas and approaches.
- <http://www.spmiatures.com/index2.html> - Online catalogue of handcrafted dollhouse miniatures. Miniature silver, porcelain, pottery, glass, art, furniture, and accessories from many countries.
- <http://www.miniatures.org/> - official site of NAME, the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts. Find a miniature club near you, or search their magazine miniature project database for projects, tutorials and how-tos. Read about upcoming Houseparties and Conventions, Mini Weekends and State Days. See some sample pages from The Miniature Gazette, the Official Publication of NAME. The site also can help you find a shop, show, or miniature website link.

Hints and Tips – Miscellaneous

Reprinted from “The Miniaturist’s Workbench – A series of Nutshell News Reprints” by Jim Newman, 1982.

- Save your old cardboard gift wrap tubes to make this sensible storage rack for your strips of wood moulding. The unit can lay on a shelf so that your stock is stored horizontally, well protected from damage and warping. Add a round circle of cardboard taped to one end to prevent strips from sliding right through the tube, and leave the tubes loose in their box. Then even small pieces can be stored with like mouldings and tipped out when needed.
- If you live in an apartment or small home where you do not have room for a little workshop, then sanding pieces of furniture, etc. can be a problem with the dust created. An excellent idea is to place the work piece and the sandpaper block inside a thin plastic bag – an old dry cleaning bag works very well. The bag prevents the dust from travelling.
- Save your burnt wooden matches (or buy some to burn on purpose). Cut off the tips after they are well burnt, and you will have some very convincing miniature charcoal briquets for your barbecue.
- A very convincing cement can be made by adding sand to light weight spackle to give texture. Spread the mix where required, then press the edge of a popsicle stick into it to give the effect of blocks or slabs. When the cement has dried, paint it with a light grey matte paint.
- An effective two-way hinge for miniature saloon doors (or any door that should open both ways) can be made by sandwiching a strip of fabric between two pieces of wood. While the glue sets, lightly clamp the assembly with clothes pins or paper grippers. Be sure to leave the 1/32” gap shown or the hinge will not work.
- The roll-on ball from a deodorant bottle makes an excellent ceiling light. The material is semi-soft, can be easily drilled, and glows softly when a light bulb is inserted into a drilled hole. The addition of a domed shade makes it even more convincing.
- When you wash out sable or other expensive brushes after using them for watercolour or acrylic, place a drop or two of Woolite on the brushes to get them really clean and leave them in excellent condition, then rinse them in clear water. When you clean brushes that have been used for oil-based paints and have been cleaned in solvent, rinse them in a little water that’s had some cream rinse added to it, then rinse them in clear water. This will help recondition the brushes that the solvent would dry out too quickly. If these hints are followed, brushes will last a lot longer and keep their shape.
- Make turned chair and table legs without using a miniature lathe using an electric drill, assorted round and triangular files and sandpaper strips. Set a dowel in the drill chuck, making sure the drill handle is on your left to achieve correct rotation. Use a hand drill if someone will turn it for you. It is best if a horizontal drill stand, like those made for Black and Decker drills, is used to securely mount the drill. Invest in safety glasses too!
- To achieve a swirl effect on walls or ceilings, spread spackle, then use a toothbrush to make swirls or other patterns. The brush cleans up rapidly, so you should scrape it clean frequently for the best results.
- Leaving paint brushes in cleaning fluid and resting on their bristles causes them to bend and spread, making them useless for accurate painting. Preserve the shape of the brush by suspending it in the fluid. Cut a narrow V-shaped slot in a card disk larger than the mouth of the bottle of cleaning fluid. Press the handle of the brush in the V notch to suspend the bristles in the cleaner between painting jobs.



Brooke Tucker Hints – Making your Own Cording

One of the fun lessons that Brooke Tucker provided at our “Soft Victorian” workshop was how to make your own cording for finishing upholstered furniture or doll clothing.

First, select two equal length pieces of embroidery silk (from one to six threads, depending on the thickness you want for the final cord), fine wool or crochet thread. The combined length of these two pieces should not be any longer than your arms can stretch (you will see why later...). Choose two contrasting colors, in the colours of your fabric, or use the same colour for a uni-toned cord. For a very delicate look, combine one strand of fine gold thread with two strands of embroidery silk for one of the lengths.

You will need a new piece of equipment to proceed. You need a hand drill, or a hand egg beater, or some other device that translates turning a handle to a spinning motion. See photo for the adapted hand drill that Brooke Tucker uses. You will notice that she has attached a cup hook to the end of the bit on which to knot the threads.

Firmly knot the two pieces together. Tie one end of the combined rope to a clamp securely fastened to a desk top or table. Tie the other end to your adapted “twister” machine. Back up until the combined cord is horizontal and stretched tight.

Now, turn the handle two or three HUNDRED times. The higher the number of turns, the tighter the twist in the finished cord. Experiment to see what effect varying the number of turns, or varying the thickness of the threads have on your finished cord.

Now, still holding the twisted threads taut, take a lead fishing weight (about 6 ounces) with an attached hook, and hang it in the middle of your combined, twisted, cord, close to the knot holding the two lengths of cord together. Detach one end of the cord from the twister machine. Holding that end of the cord in one hand, unhook the other end from the table clamp, holding your arms as far apart as possible. (It helps if there are two of you.....)

Slowly bring your hands together, keeping the lead weight in the middle of the combined cord. As the threads reach the vertical position, the weight will suddenly start spinning like a whirling dervish. This will continue for a few seconds, then the weight will gently come to rest. At this point, you should have a beautifully twisted two coloured (or three, or four, etc. coloured) cord for finishing the edges of your upholstered furniture, or for trimming that little dress with just the right colours of edging.

Dip each end of the newly-combined cord in a little glue to stop it from untwisting. Every time you cut the cord, you will need to redo the ends with glue to prevent it from fraying back to its original component parts.

Enjoy!



Ten steps to a Great Workout

Pat Cranford reveals her plan for sneaking minis to safety.

Reprinted from American Miniaturist, Jan/Feb 2003.

We've all done it, and it's a necessary hazard of the hobby: Sneaking Minis Into The House. But, it's a great workout, and builds character.

1. Reconnoitre the premises. Where is the "enemy"? You know, those darling non-miniaturists who think you should finish the projects you already have. (They just don't get it).
2. Make sure all doors are unlocked along your proposed route to "safety". Remove all obstacles – you need a clear shot. Think speed.
3. Wrestle the new miniature QUIETLY out of the car. (What do they put in those bags that make them so noisy?) Stay alert. Keep one eye toward the front door and the other toward the back door that you are trying to make a run for.
4. Feel the rush of adrenalin that comes at the mere thought of being found out. Use it. Let it propel you forward.
5. If the new mini happens to be a dollhouse, then you get a double workout.
6. Careful now, don't trip over the nosey dog who thinks you've got a special treat for him. The commotion will alert the enemy and you'll be trapped.
7. Once you're in, don't relax. The worst is yet to come, especially if your craft room is down a flight of stairs as mine is – right next to you-know-who's home office. The most perilous place to be found with mini in hand is in this stairwell. There's no escape. There's no place to stash anything that's too large to go under the shirt, into a pocket or mixed into a load of dirty laundry. (Yuck! What we have to go through!) That's why it's so important to make sure the coast is clear for the trip down the stairwell. No sooner do I get close to the bottom of the stairs, when I hear the familiar squeak of his chair as he stands up. Oh m'gosh....
8. Quick, make a mad dash back up the stairs. Clutch mini close to your heart. Though blood pressure pounds in your temples, stay focused. Breathe deeply.
9. Whew! Close call! You've cleared the stairs and the path to safety. Finally, you've arrived unnoticed, but you're still not home free.
10. Take some of that highly regarded, much talked about dryer lint and ever so gently, hold it over your new found treasure and lightly blow on the lint just so you get a nice, light, delicate dusting over all exposed surfaces. It gives it that "been here forever" kind of looks even if you-know-who happens to work up the courage to enter your craft room, everything will look like its been there forever. No new stuff here. Nope.

Have a Great Summer!!!

See you in the fall!!!

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.