



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 April 4th, 2006 and April 11th, 2006. Both these workshops are dedicated to getting together to do the prep work for the two Brooke Tucker workshops in May.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on April 18th, 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 Ann Spooner, Maureen Moller, and Audrey Turton. Cream will be provided by Don Spooner.

Brooke Tucker Workshops: The time since this was just a vague idea has passed very quickly and in a few weeks we will be working with a master! The "Soft Victorian Roombox", on May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, has 22 registrants so far, and the "Skills My Teacher Taught Me", on May 6th and 7th, 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 – Easter Candy

This month's offering is part "printie", part kit.... Make your own contemporary Easter candy for your sweet shop or child's Easter basket. You have the parts for a boxed chocolate bunny, a bag of Smarties mini-eggs, a bag of Real Fruit Gummie Bunnies, a bag of Cadbury mini-eggs, and a boxed Cadbury Crème Egg.

Boxes: Cut out the box, clipping down to the edges of the box as marked, leaving four flaps on the top and bottom of the box. Fold all four flaps on the top of the box toward the unprinted side of the paper. It can help to lightly score along the fold lines with the dull side of an Xacto blade. Repeat with flaps on the bottom. Unfold and straighten out the flaps. Make folds vertically to define the edges of the box. Apply glue sparingly to the white side vertical flap to join the box together. Let dry. Then, starting with the bottom of the box, apply glue to the first three unprinted flaps, and fasten together. Fold over the printed bottom of the box, and tamp down from the open end to ensure that the box stands upright. Repeat with the top flaps.

For the Easter Bunny box, if you are feeling creative, cut out the centre section which shows the bunny, and before assembling the box, cover the cut-out section (on the non-printed side) with a tiny amount of plastic wrap. Make, decorate and bake your own Fimo bunny, and, after brushing the bottom of the bunny with glue or stik-tac, place in the box before the final gluing down of the top box flaps (you will need a little base to bring him up to the level of the opening).

Bags: Cut out bags and fold on the lines marked by the arrows. Unfold flaps, and place glue sparingly on the white side flap, and along the bottom edge of the bag. Refold, overlapping the printed flap onto the white, glued flap. Using mustard seeds or small beads, place a small amount inside the bag (to make it puff out) before gluing together the top edges.

For the Cadbury mini-eggs bag, cut out the white portion of the front, using a sharp craft knife, and/or a pair of very sharp tiny scissors. Before assembling the bag, glue a small piece of plastic wrap on the non-printed side of the bag. Proceed to assemble the bag, but before sealing the top flap, fill the bag with tiny chocolate coloured beads, or make some tiny Fimo chocolate eggs (about ¼ inch in length) to show through the transparent window.

Hints and Tips – Brooke Tucker Tips

Fern from Rhode Island sent Luba the following tips that she learned from taking classes with Brook Tucker. I have added a couple of my own to the list.....

1. **Construction:**
 - a. Instead of using foam core, which is not very sturdy, try illustration board.
 - b. Measure and label all braces that you receive in a kit. With a light pencil, mark the size/diameter/length on each piece. Brooke will get you to do this in class anyway, so you might as well do it in advance.
 - c. A round toothpick cut to an extreme angle makes a great pick for removing excess glue from corners and tight spaces.
2. **Wallpaper:**
 - a. Always cut out the windows and openings in your wallpaper AFTER you put it on, not before.
 - b. Always cut wallpaper with an Xacto knife and a straight edge, not scissors – it is easier to keep it straight.
 - c. When cutting wallpaper, which you can even do when wet, make sure you clean the Xacto knife on a wet cloth after EVERY cut.
 - d. Use Yes glue for wallpaper glue which you thin by adding hot water, drop by drop, until it is the consistency of syrup.
3. **Moldings:**
 - a. When cutting moldings: measure, cut and glue it as you go.
 - b. When you cut a miter, use a small scissor on it afterward to cut the tiny extra piece off the back so it fits perfectly.
 - c. When you do ceiling moldings, turn the box upside down to work on it so that the ceiling becomes the floor.
 - d. When you get your moldings, whatever type they are, draw a dark line with a black marker on the part which will be on the floor or ceiling. That is the part which will ALWAYS be down on the flat part of the miter cutters. If you see the line, you are not cutting it correctly.
4. When using stain for wood, use Deft semi gloss interior spray which will really make it look wonderful
5. To increase holding power of Tacky glue, add a few drops of Krazy Glue on it.
6. When trying to glue pieces to be lined up and straight, use “L” squares which are pricey but great to use. They can be ordered from M&L Precision Machining Inc., 2285 Paragon Drive, San Jose California 95131 (408)436-3955. Or if you are on a budget, use glued together Lego bricks in an “L” shape, about 2”high.
7. Make sure you have a hard pencil to make precise marks. Brooke recommends the Koh-I-Noor Technigraph lead holder #5611C – price is about \$6.50 with #09 hard leads, sold separately. This pencil has a collet end which grabs the leads. It has special sharpener too.
8. When you use a saw and miter box, make sure you ONLY use the miter saw one way- toward you- do not go back and forth with sawing.
9. You can keep glue in a glue gun for a long time if you fill it correctly. Pour the glue slowly down one side and let it fill the whole thing. Then let it set right side up until the air bubble comes to the top. Burp it by plunging it until it does and you are all set.
10. You can make your own tiles for a wall or table top by using any picture you want from the internet or a greeting card. Cut the picture up into ½ inch tiles and rearrange on a piece of poster board with a slight space between tiles. Spray with Deft semi gloss interior spray and then again. When dry, use spackle over it like grout to get between the tiles. Then spray several more times with the Deft until satisfied.
11. You can make copper tiles by using a stylus on a copper sheet (from Michaels) which you rule off into little boxes.

Sources of Supplies for Brook Tucker Workshops

Brooke Tucker's supply lists contain a few items that are not readily available. Here are some sources of supply:

- Koh-I-Noor Technigraph pencils can be purchased at Delta Art Supplies, 12506 – 118 Avenue. Mention you need it for a class, and they will give you 10% off. You can also get them at Colours Art and Framing at one of their three locations: 10104-149 Street, 10660 – 105 Street, or 10818 – 82 Avenue.
 - Deft Spray can be purchased at Lee Valley Tools, 18403-104 Avenue.
 - “Yes” glue for wallpapering can be purchased at Western Educational Activities, 12006 – 111 Avenue.
- Luba will be bringing in a full set of the other specialty glues required, including Quick-Grip Glue, Slo-Zap, and Zip Kicker glue accelerator.

Minis On-Line

This short set of links is a listing of the websites of some of the artisans that are exhibiting this year at the Chicago International Miniatures Show (since I was looking these up anyway...). Browse around and drool over their marvellous items.

- <http://www.neilcarterminiatures.com/> - Neil Carter sculptures using the lost wax technique.
- <http://wonnacott.org/GPWmini-cabinet.htm> - Geoffrey Wonnacott has been making fine quality miniature cabinets, furniture and traditional games for 20 years.
- <http://www.johnhodgson.com/> - John Hodgson creates fabulous miniature furniture and fine oil paintings.
- <http://www.jamescarringtondolls.com/> - character dolls for your dollhouse.
- <http://www.raystoreyighting.com/> - chandeliers, wall sconces, every lighting need met here!
- <http://www.richardstacey.com/> - miniature bricks, slate, stone for walls, floors and roofs.
- <http://www.acquistosilver.com/> - silver and gold miniatures.
- <http://www.avonminiatures.com/> - fine English porcelain for the dollhouse.
- <http://www.nantasyfantasy.com/> - miniature treasures and artisan dolls.
- <http://www.minifoods.com/> - miniature food from the English Kitchen.
- <http://www.frogmorton.com/> - Rik Pierce is a leading creator of castles and fantasy structures.
- <http://www.pepperwoodminiatures.com/> - flowers, plants, paintings and Tiffany lamps.

Top 10 Reasons why Eternal Damnation is Better than Building Your Own Dollhouse

Eternal Damnation	Building a Dollhouse
10. Hell is the end of the road.	You think that you are done, but you never really reach an end.
9. You burn forever but are not consumed.	You are consumed with your house, and will burn until you complete it.
8. Your fate is in the hands of Satan, Prince of Darkness, who knows what he is doing.	Your fate is in your own hands: cut, bleeding and glued together, and you don't know what you are doing.
7. Satan gives you something you want in return for being damned.	Building your own dollhouse gives you nothing but grief, in return for endless labour.
6. Eternal Damnation is avoidable.	If you are a true miniaturist, building your own "BIG" dollhouse seems to be unavoidable.
5. Eternal Damnation is free.	Dollhouses are expensive.
4. People who like you pray for your deliverance. People who don't like you damn you to Hell.	People who like you pray that you'll finish soon. People who don't like you think you're nuts!
3. Hell has no windows, doors, ceilings or floors.	Dollhouses have many windows, doors, corners, fireplaces, dormers, and other difficult construction problems.
2. You only pass through the gates of Hell one time.	Once you have one dollhouse, you want another, and another, and another, until the space runs out.
1. Satan sincerely believes in the triumph of Evil over Good.	You sincerely believe in the triumph of Perseverance over Incompetence.

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.