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## Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

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October, 2006                      VOLUME 21                      NUMBER 8 est. 1982  
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:** 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 temperatures of over minus 25C)

Admission: \$2.00    Membership: \$20.00



### Upcoming Club Activities

**Workshops:** The next workshops are November 7, 2006 and November 14, 2006. The November 7<sup>th</sup> workshop will be presented by Sunni Dixon and Lorry Saunders, and we will be making hats. The November 14<sup>th</sup> workshop will be presented by Karen Jones and Luba Barnes, and we will make a ribbon holder for our millinery store.

**General Meeting:** The next general meeting will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. The MEE Christmas Party will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

### Club Directors

In case you need to get in touch with one of your executive during the month, here is a handy list of phone numbers and email addresses.

Karen Jones	President	476-9001	<a href="mailto:minilady@shaw.ca">minilady@shaw.ca</a>
Linda Austin	Vice-President	962-0754	<a href="mailto:phlic1957@shaw.ca">phlic1957@shaw.ca</a>
Shannon Goy	Secretary	417-5799	<a href="mailto:tgoy@shaw.ca">tgoy@shaw.ca</a>
Maureen Heuchert	Treasurer	418-5198	<a href="mailto:mheucher@shaw.ca">mheucher@shaw.ca</a>
Luba Barnes	Workshops	962-4093	<a href="mailto:lubarnes@telusplanet.net">lubarnes@telusplanet.net</a>
Linda Gautier	Membership	475-8932	<a href="mailto:eim10@telus.net">eim10@telus.net</a>

And, although I am not a member of the Executive, if you need to get hold of me.....

Tina MacDonald	Newsletter/Website	487-8943	<a href="mailto:tina@camacdonald.com">tina@camacdonald.com</a>
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### Printable of the Month – Halloween

This month's "printie" celebrates Halloween, with three little trick or treat bags for you to put together. Cut out bags carefully. With the back (unsharp) side of a craft knife, lightly score all marked fold lines on the printed side. Fold bags together, then unfold and apply glue sparingly to the side flap. Glue to other side of Trick or Treat bag. Then, fold in the widest and narrowest bottom flap. Apply glue sparingly to second and subsequent end flaps, gluing together in order. Finally, fold the largest and widest bottom flap over and glue in position. Use coordinating string or embroidery thread to make handles and glue to inside of bag, covering with a small strip of white paper cut from the scraps. You may want to touch up the fold lines with a coordinating felt pen.

### Minis on Line

- <http://www.dollshouseworld.com/>. This British Magazine now has back issues on line. You can read them, print them or turn them into a PDF for storage on your computer. Here's an easy way to access the magazines and print only the articles you are interested in rather than purchase the whole magazine at Chapters.
- <http://www.fairiesintheattic.com/index.html> - for anyone who wants to know if you can make REAL money on ebay with miniatures, check out this website.

## Techniques – Bambooning

Over the next few months, this newsletter will be presenting a series of articles taken from the November 1995 **Nutshell News** on decorative painting techniques for miniatures. This month's topic is bambooning. In the months to come, there will be short articles on stencilling, spatter painting, verdigris, rubber stamping, spongework, stippling, and crackle.

An amazing variety of bamboo furniture was popular during the 1860's and 1870s when anything Japanese was in vogue. Simple in construction, this furniture was quite strong and many pieces have survived the years. Bamboo was used alone or in companion with wood or fine basket work for shelves, tables, screens, stands, bookcases, chairs, desks, easels, and picture frames. The decorative mottling on these pieces was generally achieved by scorching and varnishing.

You will need:

- Pieces of furniture to decorate which have sections, or are totally composed, of rounded wood, such as dowels or bamboo skewers
  - Tacky Glue
  - Acrylic paint: burnt umber, black and brown
  - Toothpicks or monojet glue gun
  - Paint brushes
  - Clear nail polish
1. If the wood you are using is not a golden honey colour, paint it so....
  2. Put a thin ring of Tacky Glue around bamboo every 3/8" to 1 3/4" down the stick. This ring should not be more than 1/16" wide. It can be applied by hand with a toothpick, or with a monojet glue gun. When glue is set, but not yet dry, flatten it slightly with your finger tip.
  3. After glue has dried, mix a burnt umber medium-tone wash. Dip a small, flat, stiff bristled brush into wash. Blot off excess wash on paper towelling. Stipple wash onto bamboosed surface in a random pattern. Let dry. Dip dampened brush into burnt umber (not wash), blot off excess and stipple lightly over wash. Natural honey base colour should always show here and there beneath the wash and paint. Let all paint dry. Use a fine-tipped brush and a black-brown paint mix to make a narrow stripe around the centre of the glue rings on the bamboo. The whole faux painting should be done fairly fast, and not exact, for a natural look. No two pieces of the real thing are exactly alike.
  4. Finish piece with clear nail polish.

## Tips and Hints – Working in 1/144 scale

From In Some Small Way, at <http://www.insomesmallway.com/>

Over the years I have developed ways of working that save work and prevent unfortunate problems. You may wish to try some of them.

1. When gluing two flat pieces of wood together (laminating, so to speak) never smear glue over the entire area. This causes the glue on the outside to dry first and when the inside glue dries it will make the edges pull away and buckle. Put your glue on the edges only for a much better result. It will hold just fine.
2. When gluing, if you want your piece to have a quick grab but long lasting stick use white acrylic craft glue on one edge and a bit of super glue on the other (Cyano Acrylic). You will have time to position correctly but it will dry much faster. Super glue alone does not last as well. (Forget the ads of the man hanging upside down on the ceiling).
3. When putting together tiny 1/144th pieces do not try to do it holding it in thin air. Place one piece on the table before you and pull the other piece toward it after applying the glue. Use a little plastic box to keep things at a right angle.
4. A pair of long, stainless steel, fine pointed tweezers with a slide lock clamp will be wonderful to grip your tiny pieces for painting. Just scrape the paint off the tweezers afterward. They last forever. Great for positioning tiny pieces of furniture into tight corners in your micro houses.
5. Try a Minwax stain pen for perfect staining of tiny pieces. It dries immediately so you can continue with your work. It does not warp your wood and one pen will last you for several dozen 1/144th projects, or a dozen or so 1/24th projects. Great for making wood plank floors too. Just use a water base fine line black marker pen

to draw your lines and ageing spots on the bare wood. Then use the spirit based stain pen to go over the lines. They will not smear or blur. But be sure you are using a water based pen. Using a permanent ink one WILL cause smearing. Try this on a scrap if you are in doubt. You can use a spirit varnish if you like afterward, but not a water based one.

6. With tiny projects I have found that to place wallpaper the best thing to use is a glue stick. I use Staples brand but UHU works fine too. I put the glue on the wood, then press on the paper and smooth out any air pockets. Be generous with the glue as any missed spots will not stick the paper down. It sticks well and does not make the paper run. ) This is important as many papers are water based inks and will smear if they get wet.
7. I work on a large sheet of glass (an old, thick piece that was a dresser top). I do everything on it from mixing small amounts of paint, to putting globs of glue on it for easy access, to cutting things with my craft knife. When it is dirty I scrape it down with a single edge razor blade. I have used the same glass for seven years and it is still in good shape. And you don't damage your table top.
8. Rather than use a regular craft knife I get mine from the hardware store. Stanley makes them and they come with breakaway blades so when it becomes dull you just break off the end and presto! you have a new blade. You can buy refill blades too--very cheap. Get the narrowest size.
9. With quarter scale and micro scales, I always wallpaper before I assemble the walls. Your corners will not be as neat but you will probably end up with a better finish than if you try to get your hands in after assembly. If you use this method be sure to keep any walls free of paper at the edges where walls meet or a second floor must go. Glue must stick to the wood for a strong house, not to the wallpaper.

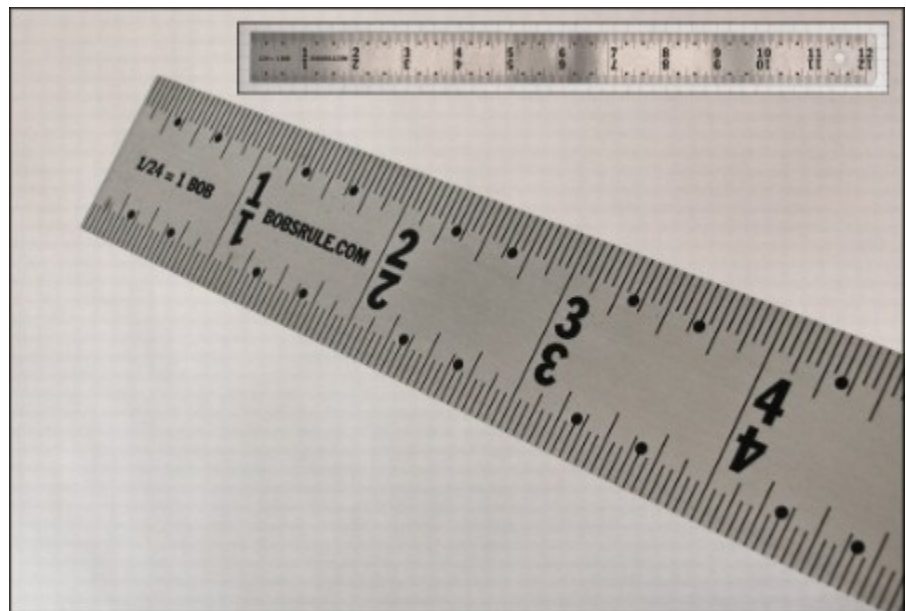
### **“Tool” of the Month – The-“Bobs” Rule**

Ideal for miniaturists, the “Bobs-Rule” measures in increments of 1/24. That means that both 1:12 and 1:24 miniature project measurements are super easy with this ruler.

The 1/24" is a useful increment in a number of ways. Like the foot, which can be easily divided into halves, thirds, quarters, sixths and twelfths, an inch made up of 1/24th's can be divided into halves, thirds, quarters, sixths, eighths, and twelfths (try that with the metric system). The 1/24" is very close in size to the millimetre and so has the same natural advantage as an ideal small unit. These rulers allow us to take advantage of the largely forgotten 1/24" and elevate it to its rightful place as a core unit of measurement.

Look for the 12" Bobsrule Value Edition, crafted from brushed stainless steel which includes clear

markings for the 8 bob and 16 bob (1/3 inch and 2/3 inch) increments making quick readings easier than ever. Engraved with extra clear black-filled markings at <http://www.bobsrule.com/index.htm> for \$8.75 US.



Here's what an American Miniaturist columnist had to say about the Bobs-Rule. "If you consider 1/24<sup>th</sup> of an inch as one BOB, the advantage simply is this: On a standard 1:12 dollhouse project pattern, a BOB equals half an inch. Two BOBS is a scale inch. I deem it an absolutely brilliant measurement. If I wish to work in 1:24, a BOB equals an inch. I can easily divide 24 by 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 24. Can this get any easier???"



## 2006 MEE Show and Sale

The 2006 MEE Show and Sale was a great success, as usual, with 25 tables with 17 dealers, and hundreds of miniature enthusiasts attending. Here are some pictures of the displays to help you remember what creative people the club members are!



**First Place – Peoples Choice Award – Karen Jones**



**Second Place – People's Choice Award – Linda Austin**



**Third Place – People's Choice Award – Tina MacDonald**

I must apologize for my picture taking ability --- for several of the following pictures, I neglected to include the name of the exhibitor in my photographic field of vision, and so, many of the following pictures cannot be attributed to the wonderful miniaturist who created the exhibit. My profound apologies to you all!!!



Lorry Saunders

Luba Barnes



Linda Austin



Karen Jones



Jan Mann







Linda Austin



Cheryl Prentice



Maureen Heuchert



Linda Austin



Bonnie Maio



Linda Austin



Gilbert Funk



Linda Gauthier

### Small Thoughts

Reprinted from Miniature Collector, August 2000.

Sometimes I leave the real world  
Where all has gone "kaput"  
And climb into my mini-world  
Scaled one-inch-to-the-foot.

I take a lot of kidding  
From almost everyone.  
But let them do their kidding –  
I have all the fun.

There's no place in the real world  
That I have ever seen  
Where an ordinary girl like me  
Can really be a Queen.

But in my little Kingdom  
Among my tiny things  
I know the maxi-pleasure  
That miniaturizing brings.

I place a tiny armchair  
By a minute fireplace  
Imagining contentment  
Upon the man-doll's face.

When seated by the fire,  
Wee book upon his lap,  
The Master of the Mansion  
Takes his after-dinner nap.

Seated in the Nursery  
Are little Sis and Brother  
Listening with interest  
To a story told by Mother.

The whole enchanting family  
Seems right from Fairyland.  
Mom and Dad and kiddies  
Could fit within my hand.

The passing years have aged me  
I'm no longer a "Young Pup"  
Yes, of course I have grown older,  
But I never have grown up!

# Happy Halloween!

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.