



Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club



April, 2007 VOLUME 22 NUMBER 4 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: 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 temperatures of over minus 25C)

Admission: \$2.00 Membership: \$20.00

Executive Contacts

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	minilady@shaw.ca
Linda Austin	Vice-President	962-0754	phlic1957@shaw.ca
Shannon Goy	Secretary	417-5799	tgoy@shaw.ca
Maureen Heuchert	Treasurer	418-5198	mheucher@shaw.ca
Luba Barnes	Workshops	962-4093	lubarnes@telusplanet.net
Linda Gautier	Membership	475-8932	eim10@telus.net
Maureen Moller	Director	481-6191	mail@lynnsclub.com
Evelyn Rech	Director	467-9339	kittylady@shaw.ca
Teena Krause	Director	641-2697	
Rosalie Pinske	Director	430-6285	rosecrochetminis@aol.com

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

Tina MacDonald	Newsletter/Website	487-8943	tina@camacdonald.com
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Upcoming Club Activities

Workshops: The next workshops are May 1st and May 8th, 2007. Both workshops will focus on making character Fimo dolls, and will be presented by Tina MacDonald and Holly Weinberger, based on techniques learned from Jamie Carrington, Cat Wingler, and lessons that have been self-taught. The first workshop will focus on sculpting the face, hands and feet. You will need to bring a 6-inch ruler, an emery board and a small (about ¼ inch across), soft, square paint brush. The remaining materials will be provided, at a cost of \$6 for both sessions. We will create the basic sculpting tools, although if you have some favourites, bring them along! The second workshop will focus on assembling the doll, painting the face, and wiggling the doll. For this workshop, you will need an Xacto knife, scissors, fine point paint brushes, as well as black, brown, blue, and pale pink paints.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on May 15th, 2007. You are invited to bring your "latest and greatest", or one of your "tried and true" miniature displays or collections to Show and Tell. Although a spring themes would be timely, anything goes, and everything is welcome.

Important Notes from Last Meeting

Note: these are not official minutes. These are my recollections of a number of key decisions that were made at the last meeting, as a result of majority votes by the MEE members present at the meeting:

- For those M.E.E members who have not used their \$100 club contribution to a miniature workshop, you can retrieve your \$100 by bringing in receipts for miniature related purchases up to that amount, and the club will reimburse you.
- Since the church is only available on June 16th, and 23rd, the group felt that this was too late in the year, and the annual club-sponsored workshop will take place in October.
- The M.E.E. 25th Anniversary Birthday Celebration will take place on September 22, followed by the annual Show and Sale on September 23rd. Tickets will be \$35.00.

Printable of the Month – Long-Playing Records

This month's printie is two long-playing records from the 50's and 60's for your mini living room or teen bedroom. There are five different versions. Trade with your friends to get the ones you want.

1. Carefully cut out record covers. Score all fold lines lightly with a sharp craft knife. Fold tabs toward center of cover, and apply glue sparingly. Fold album cover together. Before glue has a chance to dry, insert nail file, or other thin metal implement and make sure that the glue has not oozed out and stuck the two sides of the album cover together. Set aside to dry.
2. Cut out each pair of records along the square guidelines. Apply glue to the back side of one record and glue the two record pieces together back to back. Allow to dry. Using a sharp craft knife or small scissors, round off the records as a unit. (Using a quarter as a guide for the craft knife ensures a perfectly round record.) Blacken the record edges with a black felt pen.

Tool-of the Month – Magnifying Glasses

Need magnifying lenses to see what you are doing in small scales? This product offers four magnifying lenses and a spectacle clip in one stylish black box. Always the right magnification for all your projects while you keep both hands free for the job at hand.

- 4 lenses included: 1.7x / 2.0x / 2.5x / 3.0x magnification
- can be attached to most spectacles for hands-free detailed work
- the lens can be flipped up for normal viewing

This item can be purchased at <http://us.daylightcompany.com/product.plm/9/55> for US \$14.99,



Minis On-Line

- <http://www.jimcoatesminiatures.com/> - Jim Coates Miniatures - Handcrafted dollhouse miniatures including miniature dollhouse fireplaces, miniature dollhouse over mantles, miniature dollhouse crown moulding, miniature dollhouse mirrors, miniature dollhouse framed pictures, miniature dollhouse columns, and miniature dollhouse French doors.
- <http://www.datemanbooks.com/> - Dateman Books – traditional hand-sewn miniature books
- <http://www.minidolls.com/home.shtml> - The goal of **Doll Artist's Workshop** is to have everything a Doll Artist and Miniaturist should need to create their own works of art. They carry supplies for those interested in: Doll Millinery, Redressing Gene and Barbie, Doll Costuming, Egg Art, Heirloom Sewing, Victorian Ribbon Work, Ribbon Embroidery, Wearable Art, and so much more. Stock includes Imported Silks and Cottons, Trims, Cotton Lace, Feathers, Hat Making Supplies, Silk Ribbon, KAO Brand Bunka, Doll Jewelry, No-hole beads, Silk Ribbon, Ombre Ribbon, Rhinestones and many other items.

Techniques – Faux Wood Techniques

Over the last few months, this newsletter has been presenting a series of articles taken from the November 1995 **Nutshell News** on decorative painting techniques for miniatures. This month's topic is faux wood techniques. Only three topics left: spongework, stippling, and crackle. Faux wood makes good finishes for wainscoting, floors, furniture, or wherever one wants a wood-like look. Each of these techniques involves removing some of the top layer of paint to expose the base coat. Different techniques and tools create different effects.

You will need:

- Acrylic paints in different wood-tone colours.
 - Antiquing paint or acrylic retarder/extender
 - Soft cloths or razor saw or stiff paint brush or fine toothed comb.
1. Give the piece to be worked on a base coat of paint that is of a lighter shade than that which will be used for the top coat. Let dry. Mix retarder with top coat paint and brush over base coat in the direction that the wood grain will go. Then, use one of the following techniques.

2. For antiquing, wipe top coat off in one direction with a soft cloth until desired effect is achieved. Let dry. Buff, wax, varnish or glaze as desired.
3. For graining, gently scrape wet paint surface with razor saw in one direction, wiping off saw as necessary. Continue until a wood grain is achieved.
4. Dragging is accomplished by dragging a rather wide, stiff bristled brush through the wet top coat, in one direction, until the base coat is showing through the brush strokes.
5. A combined finish is accomplished by combing the wet paint until the desired pattern or under coat is exposed.

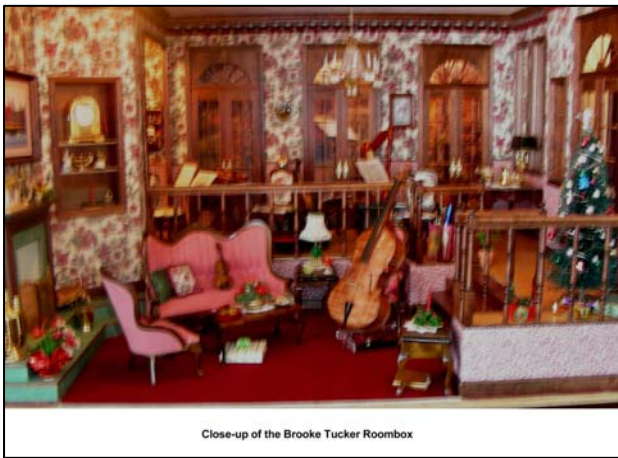
A combination of these techniques can also be used. NOTE: While all of these techniques are quite simple and easy to do for anyone, with practice you can produce some very exciting and realistic “fool-the-eye” results.

Member Profile – Lil McPhee

Lil has always been interested in miniatures. As a child, her brother’s girlfriend built herself a dollhouse and started furnishing it. Lil was fascinated and started spending her allowance on plastic furniture from Woolworth’s, even though she had no house to put it in. To Lil’s delight, she was presented with the dollhouse when she was eleven. As if by magic, her collected furniture complemented the furniture collected by her almost sister-in-law. That was the start of her miniature hobby. And, although her dad eventually threw out her dollhouse after she left home, she still has the furniture to this day.



Then life intervened: university, marriage, four boys, a fulfilling career....where was the time for miniatures? In the mid-80’s, Lil faced a number of health issues with her family, and miniatures became her lifeline. She joined M.E. E. in 1985 and hasn’t looked back since! Her first exposure to M.E.E. was a workshop where they made coffee mugs out of paper. Lil was fascinated that two little pieces of paper could become a recognizable miniature object! Her involvement with the club was cemented at that point.



Louise Zawada, an early club member, became Lil’s first teacher and mentor, taking Lil under her wing and teaching her about miniature tools, techniques and approaches. But Lil learned from many other M.E.E. members as well as at various workshops. A fond memory is her trip to Seattle to spend a week at the house of Brooke Tucker building a roombox. Lil says that people need to take the time to just look, really look, at minis. If you study what you see carefully, you can learn a lot!

Lil used to be a devotee of “Small Stuff” on line, but found that hours and hours of time could just disappear while browsing all of the posts. So much time got “lost” this way, that there was no time for actually working on minis. Today, Lil makes do with perusing every mini magazine she can get her hands on, and stays away from online activities.



Now, after five years of retirement, Lil can't figure out how she ever had time to work! Lil feels that "I probably got more done when I was working, since I had to be organized". Working on miniatures comes and goes in waves for her, depending on what else is going on. If a show is coming, she will certainly be working on something! But she finds time for other hobbies as well, including painting in watercolours and oils, pen and ink drawing (some of which she has done in miniature), collecting miniature Christmas houses, crocheting and upholstering her own (full-size) furniture.

Although Lil has an entire room set aside for working on miniatures, she says it is so cluttered that she ends up working on the dining room table most of the time. Her husband laughingly refers to her as his "bag lady" since she has so many things tucked away in bags. Lil says that "Half the fun is in organizing stuff, and looking for things. It's like Christmas all over again when you find something you have forgotten about!" However, it's frustrating to find something that you know is part of a kit, but you can't remember which one! Lil's best advice for new miniaturists is to stay on top of things and finish what you start!

Lil's family has always been very supportive of her involvement in miniatures. When her boys were young and still at home, she would come home from club meetings with her latest project in hand and leave it on the kitchen table. The next morning during breakfast, the whole family "oohed and aahed" over her creations. Now, Lil has a seven year old granddaughter to share her minis with. Lil says her granddaughter is not quite old enough yet to be really careful with the good minis, but Lil has purchases two tin dollhouses with plastic furniture at antique shops, and her granddaughter loves playing with them.



Lil doubts that she will ever "retire" from minis. "It's a state of mind", she explains, "looking at the world through a miniaturist's eyes. Once a miniaturist, always a miniaturist!" It must be an inherited trait, since her granddaughter is starting to bring her things she might use (like a candy container shaped like a garbage can) for "Grandma's house".

Happy 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.