



Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

January, 2007 VOLUME 22 NUMBER 1 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



Upcoming Club Activities

Workshops: The next workshops are February 6, 2007 and February 13, 2007. They will be focused on building shelving for our millinery shop.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on February 20, 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 Valentine or St. Patrick Day themes would be timely, anything goes, and everything is welcome.

Printable of the Month – Miniature Song Sheets

Attached is a selection of miniature song sheets for you to cut out and decorate your music room or place on your piano, or in your mini church.

Minis On-Line

- Go to <http://www.glasscraftuk.com/> for exquisite miniature hand-blown glassware, specializing in cranberry glass.
- Check out <http://www.craft-products.com/> for realistic Brick & Stone finishing products for decorating dolls houses and models. The products are easy to apply so now anyone can create beautiful authentic effects. Most items are available in both 1:12 scale and 1:24 scale. Products include various brick and stone patterns, roof tiles, lead flashing for chimneys, floorboards and many other products.
- At <http://www.craftycomputerpaper.co.uk/>, you will find a veritable treasure trove of 'crafty' computer products you never dreamt existed ... all sorts of papers and fabrics that you can print on using your computer printer and incorporate into your craft projects. You'll find FREE online courses and graphics to download here too. They've got ideas to get you started, detailed instructions to keep you on track and a forum to put you in touch with fellow crafters.
- Fill up your library with miniature books from "A Novel Idea" at: <http://www.miniature-books.com/shop/>.
- If you need any horses for your outdoor scene, you'll find the best at <http://www.breyerhorses.com/>.

Millinery Research On Line

To give you more ideas about making mini-hats for your millinery store, check out the following mixture of links to miniature millinery projects and historical research sites.

- Go to <http://www.costumes.org/history/100pages/1800to1817costumesparisiens.htm> for drawings of a variety of Regency-era Hats (1800-1817), drawings of a variety of hats from the 1920's can be found at <http://www.costumes.org/HISTORY/100pages/books/lowenhats/1925hatslowen.htm>, Victorian hats are illustrated at <http://www.costumes.org/HISTORY/100pages/19thhats80s.htm>. And, you can find links to drawings of headgear from the 12th to 20th century at <http://www.wingeo.com/700Series.htm>.
- Cynthia Howe, at <http://www.cynthiahoweminiatures.com/hatmaking1.htm> offers a complete millinery tutorial online, or check out her completed products at <http://www.cynthiahoweminiatures.com/miniaturehats1.htm>.
- See other completed miniature hats at <http://www.littleafrica.com/rosebud/>.
- <http://miniatures.about.com/od/recycleyourtrash/ht/hatstand.htm> helps you to make a miniature hat stand in this quick project.
- At <http://msatminidolls.minilists.com/milliner.htm>, you can find directions for making a variety of millinery decorations, and go to <http://msatminidolls.minilists.com/hatinstr.htm> for another hat project.

Techniques – Verdigris

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 stencilling. In the months to come, there will be short articles on spatter painting, rubber stamping, spongework, stippling, and crackle.

Verdigris is described as a green or greenish blue deposit formed on brass, copper, or bronze surfaces when they are exposed to the elements. What verdigris usually brings to mind are green artefacts. The look has long been popular, especially for garden oriented objects. Most any item – wood, plastic, metal – can be given this faux finish but pieces with some detail seem to work best. The process is quite simple but takes a bit of time. The time is worth it as the results will change an ordinary object into a work of art.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Liquid acrylic paints in colours of khaki (think of very dull copper), turquoise, lime-green, white
 - Liquid acrylic paint extender (such as Americana's Brush and Blend (to thin white wash and slow drying time)
 - Metallic bronze burnishing powder or wipe-on antiquing paint
 - Paint brushes, including a small, round, stiff bristled one such as used for stencilling
 - Soft cloth or paper towelling
1. Make sure the item you will be painting is clean and grease free. If necessary, use a craft knife to trim away any flash/mold lines.
 2. Base coat the entire piece khaki. Keep in mind that when painting miniature pieces, two light coats are better for coverage than one thick coat. This way, the finish will not tend to peel and the designs will not be obliterated. Let dry.
 3. Pour some turquoise paint onto a palette or piece of wax paper. Thin just slightly with water, spreading paint out. Dip stiff bristle brush in paint and blot off on paper, in a stippling motion until the paint on the brush is very "dry" and does not give off any blotchy dabs. Use a stippling motion to apply the turquoise paint over the khaki colour until just a blush of the khaki colour shows. Make sure all grooves and indentations are filled with turquoise colour (use a small soft brush if necessary) as this is usually where the corrosion starts. Let dry.
 4. Pour some lime-green acrylic paint on your palette or paper, and prepare your stiff brush as was described for the turquoise paint. Add lime-green lightly over some of the turquoise. Done with the right touch, the lime-green will not stand out, but will accent the turquoise. Let dry several hours or overnight.
 5. Make a medium light wash of white acrylic paint and water and extender. Brush a coat of the mixture over the prepared objects. Use a soft cloth or paper towel to blot off paint, leaving a slight ashy/grey look. Blot up any excess white that has deposited in grooves.
 6. Apply some metallic bronze to palette or wax paper. With finger tip, soft cloth or brush add just a hint of the colour over the piece, making sure it blends into the other colours.

TIP: Verdigris finish should be dull/flat, so do not use gloss or polish. If the piece is to be out in the weather, use a matte finish.

SUGGESTED USEAGE FOR THIS FINISH:

- If pieces are unadorned, glue on assorted jewellery findings for accents. Cordings may be glued around urns or bird baths or pedestals.
- Assemble odd pieces to form urns or bird baths or pedestals and finish with verdigris.
- Look to wood turnings in craft shops, buttons, and jewellery findings.
- Look to children's toys for plastic animals or figures that would make good garden statuary.
- Wilton cake decorating supplies have many inexpensive forms that work well alone or in combination for fountains, bird baths, etc.
- Wrought iron miniatures such as baker's racks.
- Any type of planter.

Tool of the Month – Xuron Scissors

Xuron 440 PET High Precision Scissors are the answer to modelers' and crafters' needs for an ultra precise scissor. Cuts fine or delicate items, including materials such as silk embroidery floss or thin mylars and delicate photoetched parts with a clean, square edge exactly where the scissor is positioned. Ideal for cutting wood reed used in caning and basketry. Cushion grip, Xuro-Rubber™ handles and a Light Touch™ return spring replace conventional finger loops, for increased comfort and precision.

This innovative design is especially advantageous for users with arthritic hands. Rated for cutting soft metals up to 0.005". Available on-line from Tower Hobbies at <http://www2.towerhobbies.com/cgi-bin/wti0001p?&I=LXKZ29> for US\$12.99.



Linda's Best Recipe – Lime Chiffon Dessert

After dining sumptuously on this dessert at our Christmas Party, several people have asked Linda Austin for the recipe. She suggested putting it into the newsletter so everyone can share in the goodies.

BASE

1 ½ cups crushed graham crackers (about 24 squares)
1/3 cup sugar
½ cup butter or margarine, melted

FILLING

1 package (3 ounces) lime Jell-O
1 cup boiling water
2 packages (one 8 ounces, one 3 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 carton (16 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed

Combine first three ingredients for base; set aside 2 tablespoons for topping. Press remaining crumbs onto bottom of 13 x 9 x 2 inch baking dish; set aside. In a bowl, dissolve gelatine in boiling water; cool. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar. Add vanilla, mix well. Slowly add gelatine until combined. Fold in whipped topping. Spoon over crust, sprinkle with remaining crumbs. Cover and refrigerate for 3 hours until set. Makes 12 to 15 servings.

Miniature Math

12th of a maximist = 1 miniaturist

$\frac{(1 \text{ miniaturist})}{(1 \text{ flat-packed house})} \times (2 \text{ tubes of glue}) = 1 \text{ optimist}$

1 miniaturist newsletter editor + 1 deadline = 1 plagiarist

10 dents in a mini-cupboard = 1 decadent miniature

Happy Valentine's Day!

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.