



Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club



June, 2007 VOLUME 22 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: 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.....

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

Workshops: The next workshops are September 4th and September 11th, 2007.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on September 18th, 2007, just prior to our 25th Birthday Celebration on September 22nd, and our annual Show and Sale on September 23rd, 2007. Tickets for the Birthday Bash have been printed, so get yours NOW!!!!

Printable of the Month – Groceries

Here's a selection of groceries for your mini kitchen. For the boxes:

1. Cut out the box, clipping down to the edge of the box, leaving four flaps on the top and bottom of the box.
2. Fold all four flaps on the top of the box toward the unprinted side of the paper. Repeat with flaps on the bottom. Unfold and straighten out the flaps.
3. Make folds vertically to define the edges of the box. Apply glue sparingly to the vertical flap to join the box together. Let dry.
4. Starting with the bottom of the box, apply glue to the first three unprinted flaps, and fasten together. Fold over the 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 cans:

1. Cut out the can label. Wrap around various sizes of dowels until a snug fit is found, with the edges of the label overlapping slightly.
2. Cut a length of dowel that is slightly longer than the height of the label. Sand both ends ensuring that the can sits absolutely flat. Paint each end of the dowel with silver acrylic paint. Let dry thoroughly.
3. Glue label to finished "can".

Minis On-line

To keep your mini "fix" going during the summer, and to prevent withdrawal from discussions with fellow miniaturists, here's some links to on-line discussion groups to keep you going until September!

- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MiniScenesAndThingsFlowerAndGardenMinis/> - to share ideas on making miniature flowers, plants, and landscaping from paper, clay and dried materials. Floral design will be discussed as well as using flowers through out the dollhouse.
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/makingminiatures/> - to share ideas for making miniature furniture and other miniatures for the dollhouse without going broke.
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/THEMINITRADINGPOST/> - to share and discuss our love of one inch scale dollhouse miniatures, dollhouses and room boxes along with our latest projects. Group members can also participate in monthly miniature swaps/exchanges.
- http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Dream_Dwellings/ - for those who are interested in building a miniature castle or palace, Tudor mansion, medieval and/or fantasy setting!
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WEECREATIONS/> - for those who love the wee world.
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/miniaholics/> - A group for fanatics, collectors, designers and makers of 1:24, 1:48, 1:144 and other Smaller Scale Dollhouse Miniatures, who don't know when enough is enough.
- http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swap_shop/ - This club is for swapping and enjoying dollhouse miniatures. We swap in 1" scale (1:12) unless otherwise specified.
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MiniScenesAndThingsMiniClasses/> -
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MicroMinis/> - our tiny corner of cyberspace where we can enjoy creating dollhouse miniatures in 1:144 scale.
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/halfscale/> - discuss and share tips, projects, DIY, ask and answer questions on all topics pertaining to the middle scale (1/2" equals a foot) of dollhouse miniatures.

Techniques – Stippling and Crackle

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 topics are stippling and crackle. This will complete the series.

Stippling

Stippling requires very little artistic ability and produces professional looking results. Over the years, this technique has been used to cover all sorts of surfaces, but is most associated with walls and floors.

You will need:

- Two colours of acrylic paint (soft colours look best for this technique)
 - Acrylic medium or paint extender
 - Paper towelling or sponge
1. Base coat surface a light colour. Let dry a few hours or overnight.
 2. Mix a darker second colour with some medium or extender and brush over the base coat.
 3. Immediately use crumpled paper towel or sponge in a stippling motion over the top of the wet paint. This will remove some paint, letting the base coat show through. How much you remove is up to you and how fast you work before the paint dries. Keep the sponge as dry as possible by blotting on scrap paper as you work. If using paper towelling, rotate it when it becomes saturated.

Crackle

Crackle is an interesting finish that gives the appearance of age on the surface of painted pieces. This finish uses a commercial product and requires two colours of paint – one for the undertones and the other for the top.

You will need:

- Object to be painted (country pieces work well)
- Acrylic paint in two colours, one for the top colour and another for the base colour that will show through the cracks. This can be any combination, but a dark and light contrast works well.
- Commercial Crackle Glaze (at Michaels in the acrylic paint aisle)

1. Apply the base coat of desired acrylic paint. Let dry.
2. Brush one coat of crackle glaze over base coat. Let dry for 20 minutes to one hour.
3. Brush on the top colour of acrylic. The moisture of the top coat of paint will instantly activate the glaze, and the top coat will crackle. The wetter the top coat, the more crackle. Let dry.

Tip: Make a sampler for yourself of different colour combinations for future reference. Try adding some water to the top coat of acrylic to see the difference in crackling.

Member Profile – Linda Austin

Linda was introduced to miniatures in 1988, when her father made a set of dollhouse furniture for her and her daughter, Shawna. She showed the “naked furniture” to a neighbour, who happened to be a miniaturist, and from there, found M.E.E. Linda has been a member of the club since 1989 and has been a member of the Executive in one capacity or another since 1995. Later, her father built her a dollhouse, which, as the years passed, got somewhat battered. She handed the house over to Karen Jones, who found that when she tried to restore it, it literally fell apart. So, Karen rebuilt it from scratch, ending up with the gorgeous southern mansion that is Linda’s “Big House” today. Linda still hasn’t furnished it, because her passion is for roomboxes. Someday, maybe.....



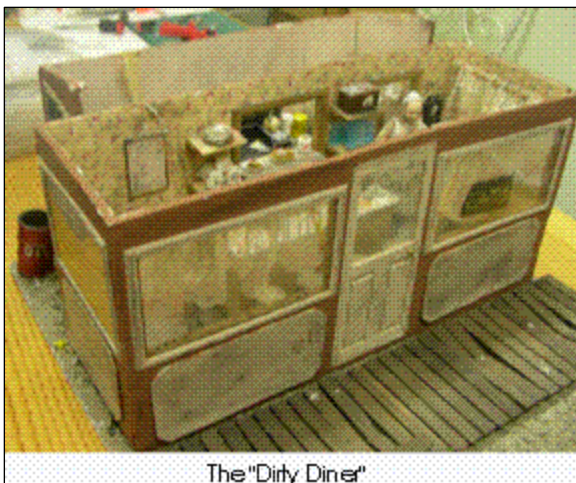
Linda's "Big House"

Linda is a nurse in a busy operating room at the Royal Alex Hospital, and the time she has available for minis is very dependent on how busy things are. But, she picks up some interesting mini freebies along the way, like batteries that can only be sterilized once, and wiring for pacemakers (which provide excellent stoppers for small glue bottles).

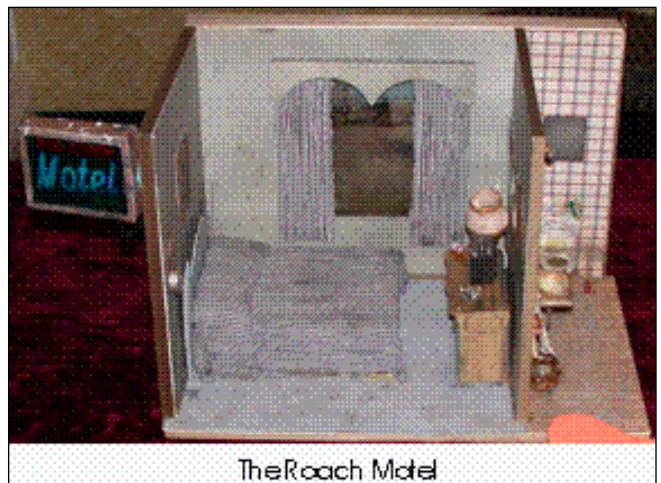
Linda has a true miniaturist’s eye, seeing potential minis everywhere. She is currently working on a collection of 80 non-working watches that she picked up at a garage sale, taking them apart for the components (think picture frames, clock faces, mini-motors, and ¼ scale candlesticks.....).

Linda enjoys making things herself. “I can’t imagine spending \$85 for a teapot! I won’t buy anything that costs more than the “real thing” would cost for my own house. I do buy some things”, says Linda. “But the real fun is in trying to figure out how to do it myself.”

Linda loves trying something new, unless it is in wood. She has a self-confessed love/hate relationship with wood! She says, “I can start out with a perfectly square corner, and by the time I get finished sanding it, it’s round!” Perhaps this is where her love of “grunge” comes from. Here are a couple of her “grunge” specialities...



The "Dirty Diner"



The Roach Motel

Taking the "Soft Victorian" Brooke Tucker workshop was very hard for Linda. "I desperately wanted to make it a messy boys' dorm room, with some dirty sweat socks hanging from the fretwork, but I thought Brooke might have heart failure if I even suggested it!" It just proves that she can do "pretty" as well as "grunge", since both the "Roach Motel" and the Brooke Tucker roombox won Viewer's Choice Awards at the 2005 and 2006 Shows.



The Brooke Tucker Roombox

Linda prefers 1" scale, although she dabbles in 1/4" scale. As she says, "My eyes aren't what they used to be!" But, give her a glue bottle and some tweezers, put her on a desert island, and she could still make minis. For all new miniaturists, Linda

recommends



Linda's Workroom

investing in good tools. "You can't "make do" with a pair of eyebrow tweezers and your kid's Elmer's glue. You will just end up so frustrated that you might not continue. And, in the overall scheme of things, good tools for miniaturists aren't that expensive!"



Linda's specialties are exquisite miniature knitting and, more recently, miniature jewellery made with real gold chain, and REAL gemstones. So, if your doll needs a warm sweater, or a sapphire necklace, just see Linda at the upcoming show, and she will help you out!



off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



Ode to a Hot Glue Gun

I wish that I could hold you tight
The way you hold my stuff.
You warm embrace feels oh, so right,
Securing all my fluff.

And when you burn my fingertips,
I'll bite my tongue and smile.
Because the beauty we create,
Will make it all worthwhile.

Have a wonderful summer!

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.