



Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club



May, 2007 VOLUME 22 NUMBER 5 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 June 3rd and June 10, 2007. Karen will be doing hats at the first workshop. The second workshop will complete the series on character Fimo dolls, and will be presented by Tina MacDonald and Holly Weinberger. We will be doing wiggling and costuming. Even if you haven't attended the first two in the series, you are welcome to bring your undressed or unwigged porcelain doll and join the fun. For this workshop, you will need sharp sewing scissors, straight pins, tacky glue and good fabric glue (Grrrrrip). General patterns will be provided. Tina will bring a selection of fabrics and wiggling material and Luba will bring a selection of trims. All will be available at nominal amounts. Cost of this workshop is \$2.00.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on June 17th, 2007. This will be our annual general meeting (where we fill any Executive Committee vacancies), as well as our annual garage sale. So bring all those minis or miniaturist supplies that you couldn't live without, and yet can't find a place for/can't use after years of trying. You are also invited to bring your "latest and greatest", or one of your "tried and true" miniature displays or collections to Show and Tell. Although summer and BBQ 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:

- The club members voted funding to Barb Striethorst to develop name tags for all of the members so that they can be worn at each meeting.
- Advertising for the M.E.E. 25th Anniversary Birthday Celebration was discussed, as well as cost options for dealers and those who will be bringing a guest. For those bringing a guest, only the ticket purchaser will be eligible for door prizes. Tickets have been printed, so get yours NOW!!!! Ticket sales close the first week in September.

Printable of the Month – Antique Canned Goods

This month's printie is a set of antique can labels for your general store or old-fashioned kitchen.

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.
3. Paint each end of the dowel with silver acrylic paint. Let dry thoroughly.
4. Glue label to finished "can".

Tool of the Month – Clay Sculpting Tools

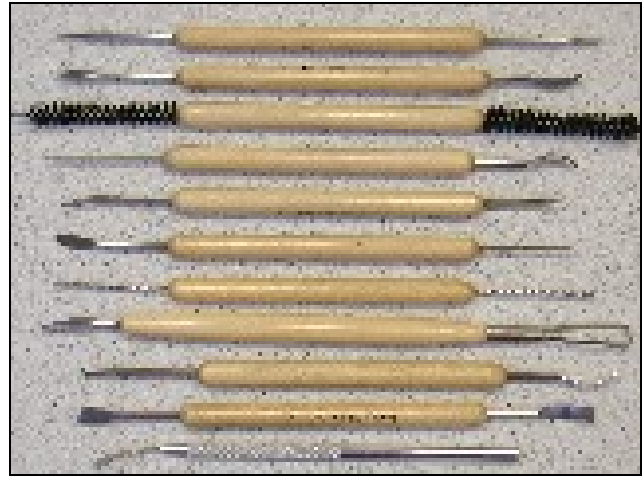
The recent doll seminars brought my attention back to the various clay sculpting tools that are on the market.



Wooden tools by Kemper for shaping clays are available from <http://www.polymerclayexpress.com/tools2.html>.



This set can be purchased at Michaels.



This set of metal tools (along with many other push moulds, sculpting tools, texture mats and other assorted clay working helps) can be found at <http://www.clayarttools.com/mall/c101/s26078/productist.asp?Category=Tools>

Techniques – Sponge-work

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 sponge-work. Only two topics left: stippling, and crackle.

Sponging is a fast and easy way to achieve a subtle painted finish. You may use one or several colours over a light base coat. The colours may have several shades of one colour, or completely different colours.

You will need:




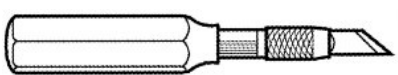
- Acrylic colours of your choice
 - Sponge – if your sponge is not rounded off, cut it that way, or it will leave unnatural patterns.
1. Base coat the piece to be sponged. Let dry.
 2. Thin the sponging colours slightly with water and a bit of acrylic medium or retarder/extender in a saucer.
 3. Dip sponge in prepared paint and blot off excess on paper towel until desired pattern emerges. Use the sponge in a blotting motion to apply the first colour over the base coat so that some of each is showing. If a second sponging colour is to be used, let the first colour dry and then apply with the second colour.

Tips:

- Two colours of almost the same shade will produce a suede look.
- By rotating the sponge periodically you will be sure not to set up a pattern.
- Two colours of sponging will produce a marble-like look.




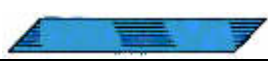


Tools – An X-Acto Knife Primer

There are four basic X-Acto knife handles, all of which come with a variety of grips, depending on the “package” you get them in. In Scrap-booking stores, for example, you can find blades that rotate, padded handles, etc. The only different between #'s 2, 5, and 6 is the shape of the handle and the grip. For heavy work, choose the one that feels best to your hand.





	X-Acto # 1 is for light delicate work and takes the small blades.
	X-Acto # 2 is for medium duty and takes a larger blade.
	X-Acto # 5 is for heavier work and takes large blades.
	X-Acto # 6 is also for heavier work and takes large blades.










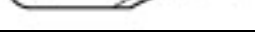
There are a wide variety of blades which fit the various handles. To change the blade, regardless of the handle design, turn the metal chuck at the end of the handle from right to left, about ½ turn. Pull the knurled collar down until a click is heard. Remove the old blade and insert the new metal shank. Turn the chuck from left to right to secure the blade.

Blades for the Number 1 handle:

	Blade #10 is for general cutting, carving and slicing.
	Blade #11 is the general purpose blade most used by miniaturists. The thin point is good for confined spaces and narrow cuts.
	Blade #12 is for delicate paper work and acts as a correction blade for stencils.
	Blade #13 is a micro saw blade for precision saw cutting.
	Blade #16 is for scoring, stencils, etching, small holes and notches.
	Blade #17 is a ¼ inch chisel for narrow cuts.

Blades for the Number 2, 5 and 6 Handles:

	Blade #15 is a keyhole saw blade for interior cuts.
	Blade #18 is a ½ inch chisel for deep cross cuts.
	Blade #19 is a broad blade for light chiselling and rough shaping/deburring.
	Blade #22 is for long cuts, general shaping, whittling, trimming, slicing.

	Blade #23 is double-edged for corners. It is an all-purpose cutting tool with a good wedge point for confined spaces.
	Blade #24 has a fine point for close corner cuts.
	Blade #26 is general purpose trimming and whittling.
	Blade #27 is a 3 inch saw blade.
	Blade #28 is hooked for curved shaping, whittling leather and linoleum.
	Blades #34 (Fine), #35 (Medium), #36 (Coarse), and #39 (Extra Fine) are saw blades that will fit the No. 5 and No. 6 handles and work with an X-Acto Mitre Box.
	Blade #103 is a 3/4 inch convex carving blade.
	Blade #104 is a 3/4 inch concave carving blade.
	Blade #105 is a 1 3/8 inch concave carving blade.
	Blade #106 is a small 1 3/8 inch concave carving blade.

All blades and knives can be found on-line at <http://www.hobbyplace.com/tools/xknives.php> or at http://www.artstuff.net/xacto_blades.htm (among other places). Michaels and art supply stores here in town carry the basic sets.



Have a great long weekend!

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.