



Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club



November, 2007 VOLUME 22 NUMBER 9 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
Wendy McCarvell	Treasurer	644-9628	wmccarvell@shaw.com
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: Since December is allocated to the Christmas Party, and there are no workshops in January because of the weather, the next workshops are February 5th and February 12th, 2008. Topics will be identified at the January meeting.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on January 15th, 2008.

Christmas Party: Our annual Christmas Party will be on December 4th, 2007. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange (minis only, please), bring a gift for someone else (approximate value \$10) and you will receive one in return. Be sure to put your name on your gift so whoever receives it will know who it's from. Also, if you bring three mini ornaments for a mini Christmas tree, you will be entered into a draw for a tree with all its trimmings.

Printable of the Month – Christmas Paper Plates

Giving away some miniature Fimo Christmas Baking? Here are some paper plates for you to use, or to decorate a party table/buffet.

Carefully cut out each plate (turning the paper, NOT the scissors) and place on a forgiving surface (like a mousepad) that has some "give" to it. Place a dime in the center of the plate, and using a ball stylus, draw around the coin several times using even pressure, until the edges of the plate begin to turn up, without creasing. Remove the coin from the plate, and using your thumbnail, place it on the scored circle, and lightly bend up the outside edge to give it a plate-like appearance. It doesn't need much of a "lift" to look authentic. Merry Christmas!

Minis On-Line

- <http://www.dollhousedreams.com/> - Dollhouse Dreams and miniature wishes is a full-service min-supply company operating out of Iowa.
- <http://www.thewonhamcollection.co.uk/> - this general service UK miniature company has over 4000 items in their 2007 catalogue.
- <http://www.carolynpostgate.co.uk/> - Carolyn Postgate sells miniature Turkish carpets in kit form for the experienced needleworker.
- <http://www.felicityminiatures.co.uk/> - Felicity Price sells miniature needlepoint kits and other needlepoint accessories.
- <http://www.larriannessmallwonders.com/> - based in Ventura California, Larianne is the exclusive retailer for Lori Anne Potts line of men's and women's finery as well as Laure Estes women and children's fine apparel,
- <http://www.billlankford.com/> - Bill Lankford is now semi-retired but still does teaching and visits shows. His website shows pictures of his many projects and provides a teaching schedule.
- <http://www.miniknittingstuff.com/> - Yvonne Wakefield's one stop resource for all your miniature knitting needs, including a free knitting pattern.
- <http://www.leonardsleegardens.com/dollshouse.htm> - next time you are in England, take a trip to Leonard Lee Gardens, and have a look at their turn of the century estate in 1:12 scale. Situated in the village of Lower Beeding, at the junction of the A281 & B2110, 5 miles south-east of Horsham or 4 miles from Handcross - south of London and just north of Worthing/Brighton.

Knives from turned toothpicks

By Maureen Heuchert

The photograph shows a full toothpick, cut to knife length, one side shaved, both sides shaved, rough tip ready for shaping with emery board.

The blades are shaped roughly with an X-Acto knife just shaving the uncarved part of the toothpick (after it's been cut to desired blade length) down bit by bit on either side until it's as thin as possible then finishing the shaping with emery boards. Then the blades are painted silver with my pilot pen and the handles stained with a Minwax stain marker.

1. Cut the round part of the toothpick off about 5/8" from the edge of the carved part. Rest the 5/8" part on the edge of a table or book or something and hold on to the carved part.
2. Using a new X-Acto blade, shave about four thin strips of wood as even as you can make them off the top of that piece (or until you've shaved away about 1/3 of the thickness of the toothpick). Don't try to take off too thick a layer at once.
3. Flip the piece over, lay the flat side against the table and do the same thing on the other side.
4. When you have it down to about 1/3 (or less) of its original thickness, you can take your X-Acto blade and cut off the end of the "blade" at an angle to begin shaping the tip.

Once that's done, you can again rest the "blade" flat side down and sand it smooth with an emery board. When both sides are smooth, take your emery board and sand across the blade one side at a time at an angle until you have an "edge" to your blade.

The "blades" are actually pretty sturdy and I've yet to break one but I have (more times than I care to think about) taken off way too much when I've been shaving the wood off. In which case I simply make a paring knife instead of a carving knife. LOL

Once you get going, you can make any length and shape blade you want.



Finishing:

1. Once carved, paint or stain the handle first. (I just finished a batch and used red nail polish to paint the handles. This way I get the colour and sheen at the same time. I've also used permanent marker to colour the handles and then J.W. etc. gloss varnish. Or Minwax stain markers for the wood effect. I don't advise using acrylic paint as it will raise the grain of the wood and you'll get straggly ends and it's pretty difficult to sand them away.) Then stick the knife (knives) into floral oasis by the blade and let sit overnight until the handle's totally dry.
2. Once dry, you can hold it by the handle while you use the silver Pilot pen to colour the blade. Then you can just put the whole thing on a sheet of wax paper until the blade is dry.

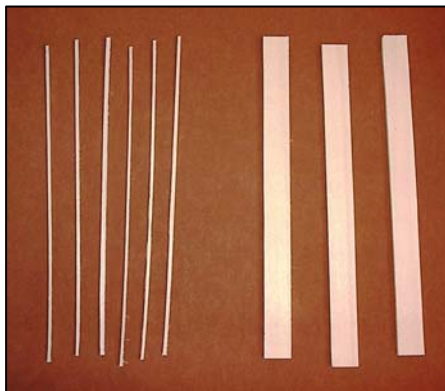
Knife Block

By Maureen Heuchert

These instructions make 8 knife blocks. (I like to make things in batches – plus the length of the piece gives you something to hold onto.)

1/8" thick basswood
1/16" thick basswood
Tacky glue

Cut 3 pieces of 1/8" basswood 6" x 1/2" (Piece A)
Cut 6 pieces of 1/16" basswood 6" x 1/16" (Piece B)

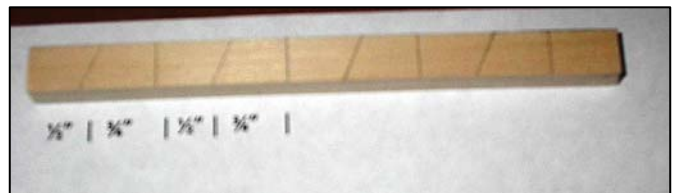


Piece B

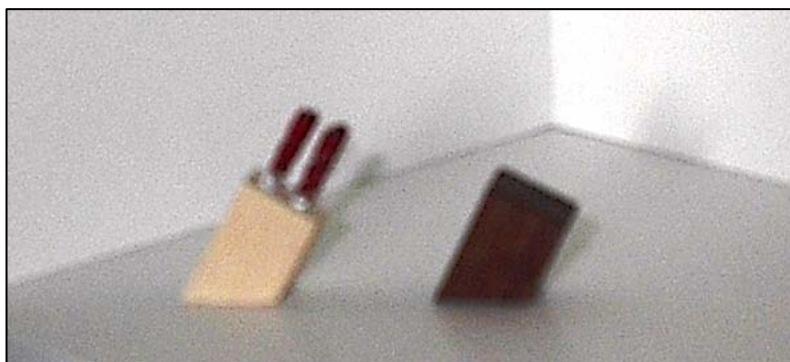
Piece A

Take one piece A and spread an even coat of tacky glue on one side. Take one strip of Piece B and place it down the centre of Piece A. Then place another Piece B on either side making sure it's even with the outer edges of Piece A. Clamp the pieces in place at both ends.

Repeat this on a second Piece A. When the glue has dried, stack the three pieces like this, using the third:piece A as a separator.



Glue together. When the glue has dried, cut through the stack on the solid side of the strip as shown above. Sand and stain (if you choose).



Abandoned Farmhouse Becomes Life-Sized Dollhouse

A unique art exhibition opened in Manitoba over the weekend, but not in a gallery or even a city: a Saskatchewan artist unveiled a life-sized dollhouse in a southwestern field. From Highway 2, near the Saskatchewan border, it doesn't look like much; only a painted sign of a family holding hands suggests anything unusual about this particular abandoned farmhouse, one of many.

Saskatchewan artist Heather Benning transformed an abandoned farmhouse in southwestern Manitoba into a giant dollhouse. (Photos courtesy Heather Benning) Around back, the north-facing wall of the house has been replaced with Plexiglas, showcasing its interior, fully restored with candy-coloured walls and furniture from the 1960s, when the home was abandoned. Heather Benning worked nearly 18 months on the project, entitled *Dollhouse*. "I wanted to show the passage of time. I was able to show what it looked like before it was left, but then what it looks like now, you know, 35 years later," said Benning.



"I chose to leave the porch on there, which is rotted out, and leave everything to look quite rustic on the outside." Benning said she was inspired by abandoned farmhouses close to her childhood home near Humboldt, Sask. Each item of furniture staged in the life-sized dollhouse dates from when the house was abandoned, around 1968. "We used to have an abandoned farm on my father's land where I grew up, and I used to play there a lot when I was younger," she told CBC. "I'd play inside the house and set it up and stage it and things like that." Ruby Busby, a resident of nearby Reston, visited the house Saturday. Busby can remember driving past the house in the 1960s, when it was still occupied. She was surprised to see its restoration. "Well, I couldn't believe it, it was so nice," she said. "It was very cute, I think, and just like it was years ago, probably." Benning created *Dollhouse* while serving as

artist-in-residence for Redvers, Sask., about 30 kilometres west of the house. Although she has only a few months left in her term, she plans to leave the house on display until it becomes unsafe. The house is located off Highway 2 near Sinclair, Man.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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.