

Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

June, 2005 VOLUME 20 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 are 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 September 13, 2005 and September 20, 2005. The September 13th workshop will be with Bonnie Lau, learning how to accent painted tiles. The September 20th workshop will be with Luba Barnes, and we will be making a pocket watch filled with a mini scene.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on September 6, 2005. PLEASE NOTE THAT BECAUSE OF OUR ANNUAL SHOW TIMING, THIS IS THE **FIRST TUESDAY** OF THE MONTH rather than our usual third Tuesday! Show and Tell could be a fall theme, or an advance look at something you will be displaying at the show. Of course, anything you want to bring is always welcome.

THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER WORKSHOPS OR GENERAL MEETINGS FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER!

However, ideas for summer activities are always welcome... how about volunteering to host an open house to show off your whole mini collection? Please share your ideas with the group at the meeting!

Fall Workshops 2005: On Saturday, September 17, 2005 (the day before the fall show), there will be three workshops: Margaret Jarratt (Large Wedding Bouquet – maximum class size is 6 and the price is \$90); Jeanine Shore (Painting Easel – maximum size 12 for \$35); and tentatively with Laurie Saunders (Mailbox with Landscaping – no price yet). Please register as soon as possible with Luba.

MEE Fall Show: will be held on Sunday, September 18, 2005. Please register any items you wish to display with Laurie Saunders (459-6533) before the end of June. Forms are available on the table to register your displays. The club also needs volunteers to sell tickets and to man (woman???) the display room. We need lots of people willing to take on one or two hour time slots for every hour from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please check out the Sign-up Sheet on the flip-chart stand for available jobs. Extra registration forms are available from Lil if you need a table at the show.

Brooke Tucker Workshops: will be held on May 2, 3, and 4, 2006 (Soft Victorian for \$650 US) and May 6 and 7, 2006 (Things My Teacher Taught Me for \$475 US). Put these on your calendar now and register with Luba. Half of the payment is required by the third week of September, in US dollars, and the remainder must be paid in full by December Christmas Party. You will receive your pre-workshop kit approximately a month before the workshop. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from a master before she retires!

Fall Workshops 2006: Advance information from Luba indicates that Sue-Anne Thwaite will be doing two classes of 12 making a Dutch Baby House filled with shops. Also, Debbie Montague will be doing a Christmas village.

Printable of the Month – Mini Carpets

As an end of the year treat, this month's "printie" is a little carpet for your dollhouse. As a 1:12 scale carpet, these would work well in an entry hall, or under a small pedestal table. In 1:24 scale, these little carpets could cover most of a room. These items are printed on fine 100% cotton cloth, with a heat-transfer backing. Just cut them out and use as is, or if additional stability is desired for the item, or if you want it to be more "substantial", it can be ironed onto smooth cardboard or cotton fabric using a medium to high heat setting. DO NOT USE STEAM. Press for 5 seconds and allow to cool.

There are 12 designs in all, so if you can't use or don't like the one attached to your newsletter, trade with another member of the club!

Hints and Tips – Miscellaneous

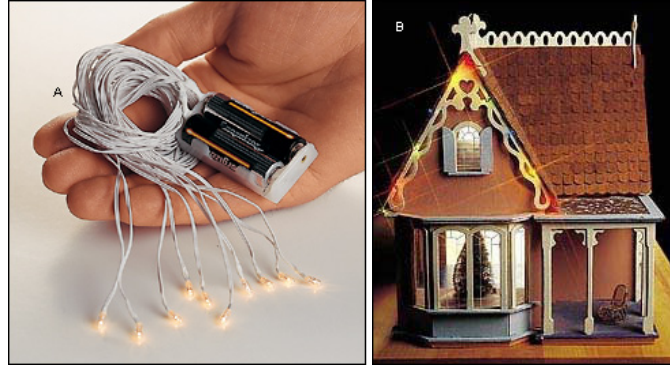
- <http://www.the-complete-miniature-dollhouse.com/> - this page provides links to a series of wonderful articles, including:
 - ☑ [Choosing the right dollhouse project](#) - A successful dollhouse project depends on many factors. Determine what you should build to get the most enjoyment from the project.
 - ☑ [Building the Shell - Dollhouse kit or Dollhouse plans?](#) Building the dollhouse shell is an adventure in itself. Whether you build from a dollhouse kit or from plans, your project will suddenly have substance!
 - ☑ [Add some Fun with dollhouse lighting](#) Your project will come alive with the addition of dollhouse lighting.
 - ☑ [Dollhouse interior design](#) The dollhouse interior decorations will give your project character and charm.
 - ☑ [Dollhouse furnishings](#) The broad range of available dollhouse furnishings is impressive. But if you can't find what you want, build it yourself.
 - ☑ [The perfect dollhouse occupants](#) Usually, once the detailed interiors are finished, the dollhouse is left vacant. Here is help in your search for your perfect dollhouse occupants.
 - ☑ [Dollhouse Detail Library](#) Various downloadable dollhouse construction details
 - ☑ [Dollhouse supplies](#) Searching out good sources for dollhouse supplies is an ongoing process.
 - ☑ [Dollhouse Books](#) A collection of good books about dollhouse construction and furnishing.
- <http://www.min-furniture.freereserve.co.uk/Apr05/Hints2x.html> - tips on sawing miniature timber. See also <http://www.min-furniture.freereserve.co.uk/Apr05/Hintsx.html> for cutting timber to width with a craft knife and steel rule, and http://www.min-furniture.freereserve.co.uk/Apr05/Hints_3x.html for sanding a part to width.
- <http://www.acanthusminiatures.com/page13.html> - on-line tutorial for painting rust.
- <http://home.comcast.net/~canada189/Printabletut.html> - tutorial on making up printies from the web.
- <http://www.geocities.com/heartland/woods/5223/flrarrang.html> - tips and hints on making your miniature flower arrangements look professional.

Minis On-Line

Since summer is coming, there will be no club workshops. Here are some links to miniature projects that will keep you busy over the summer months.

- <http://www.polymerclaycentral.com/pcc/featured/parrot1.html> - build a 1/12 scale birdcage out of polymer clay. Text and illustrations by Sue Heaser.
- <http://home.flash.net/~txva/pattern2.htm> - make a child's painted rocking horse or hobby horse.
- <http://www.acanthusminiatures.com/page30.html> - make a box of chocolates from Fimo. This site gives you a printie for the box itself (needs reducing) at <http://home01.wxs.nl/~rieme018/page13.html>.
- <http://home.comcast.net/~canada189/DIYProjects.htm> - DIY projects from Michelle Canada include a flashlight, a seashell angel, a simple wire plate rack, a modern lamp, an art deco mirror, a quilt rack, wrapped candies, a bathroom mirror, a Faberge egg, a galvanized tub, ladies high-heeled slip on shoes, a hurricane lamp, a doll's doll, and a man's folded dress shirt.
- <http://gerdesdesign.com/baby.htm> - instructions for making a miniature sleeping fairy baby.
- http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Creek/5892/MiniReviews/page_9.html - make a miniature aquarium.
- http://martiesminis.myfamilyforum.com/fruit_tray.shtml - make a miniature fruit tray.
- <http://home.flash.net/~txva/pattern.htm> - make a tiny teddy bear.
- <http://gerdesdesign.com/tree.htm> - make your own very realistic evergreen tree – a perfect Christmas tree!
- <http://mini.brayforum.com/020xcale.htm#mini> – make a mini Advent calendar.
- <http://home.flash.net/~txva/pattern3.htm> - make a miniature moulded ball mask.
- <http://castingforpurls.com/> - Casting for Purls offers miniature knitting patterns for clothing, household accessories and rugs/afghans/blankets.
- <http://dancingvioletdesigns3.homestead.com/Miniatures.html> - a number of cross-stitch patterns for mini rugs.
- <http://www.geocities.com/vienna999/freeprojects.html> - several free projects including a Halloween vignette, a bouquet of roses, a Christmas wreath, a box of Christmas ornaments, a Christmas Rose centerpiece, miniature craft kits, and much more.
- <http://martiesminis.myfamilyforum.com/poppertoy.shtml> - make a miniature "corn popper" push toy.
- http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Creek/5892/MiniReviews/page_8.html - make a "Happy Beads" baby toy.
- <http://www.fortunecity.com/victorian/cezanne/4/minis/projects.html> - links to projects on crafting a pot-bellied heater, a wicker bassinet, a snow sled, a duck or rabbit rocker, a diaper bag, and Fimo veggies.
- <http://mini.brayforum.com/020pets.htm#mini> – make mini pet stuff.
- <http://cottonridge.safeshopper.com/50/cat50.htm?764> - Includes how to make baby gift baskets, tea and molasses cookies, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, a cake baking table, and potted spiral topiary trees.

“Buy” of the Month – Mini Lights



Last trip to Lee Valley Tools, I promise! But look what I found this time.... These steady-burn mini-lights make great accents for dollhouses, wreaths, and other craft projects. The designer unit has 10 white mini-bulbs, each at the end of a 36" strand of white wire, suitable for wiring a house or putting accent lights in a scene. Or use them to illuminate your crafted light fixture.

The Christmas light strand features 10 multi-colored bulbs strung on 30 inches of green wire. Both the designer unit and the Christmas light set has a battery pack (that uses two AA batteries, not included) with a convenient on/off lever. Because the bulbs are soldered onto the wire strand, they are not replaceable, but they are rated for 10,000 hours. No more fiddling with copper tape!!!!

Available at Lee Valley Tools, 18403-104 Avenue, for \$9.50 (designer lights) or \$8.95 (Christmas lights).

Dollhouses and Miniatures: Dolls--Delight or Distraction?

From [Kim Walter](#), your Guide to [Miniatures](#) at <http://www.miniatures.about.com>

There seem to be two camps in the miniatures world concerning whether or not to use miniature dolls in miniature room settings--the doll lovers, and the doll haters.

Now, this may sound extreme, but it is a true phenomena that I have observed during years of miniatures collecting. The doll lovers do not think a dollhouse or a roombox is complete without at least one doll in it--or, perhaps, many. They believe that dolls add life to a miniature setting. Some collectors spend considerable amounts of time trying to find realistic dolls in just the right poses, and with just the right expressions for their setting. In the minds of these collectors, the crowning touch for a store roombox would be the doll cashier ready to hit the cash register keys; for a Christmas morning scene, that touch would be doll children kneeling around the tree, ready to open their presents.

Others in the doll camp do NOT like their dolls so active and realistic, and they prefer a more historical use of dolls--doll-like dolls which are somewhat stiff, but nevertheless beautiful, in various rooms of their dollhouse. This harkens back to the historical use of dolls in the English baby houses of the late 16th century through the 1800s, and is popular with collectors who collect vintage and antique dollhouses, and with those who like to recreate the "feel" of such houses.

Those in the non-dolls camp are generally the miniaturists most concerned with accuracy and realism in their roomboxes and dollhouses. These are the miniaturists who take their calipers to make sure that the 18" vase they want reproduced on the living room table is exactly 1 1/2" tall in the roombox (using the most common scale, 1 inch = 1 foot). The miniaturists who make these types of rooms like their rooms to be such that if you photograph them, it is difficult for the viewer of the photograph to realize that the room is in miniature at all, because the scale is so-dead on! Of course, this illusion would be spoiled, in such miniaturists' eyes, by the addition of a doll, which, even if in the correct scale, can never appear "real" in this sort of room. For instance, the Thorne Rooms, which are miniature roomboxes exhibited in the [Art Institute of Chicago](#), do not have dolls. These rooms are meant to showcase European and American decorative arts and architectural interiors, and for this type of room, dolls would be superfluous and out of place.

Which camp do you fall into? It would be interesting to take a vote of club members to see what the consensus is (if any).

Miniature Humour

Did you know that, according to his speech as Class Day speaker at Harvard University, June 7, 2000, Conan O'Brien once got his head stuck in his niece's dollhouse because he wanted to see what it was like to be a giant?
All his niece could say was: "Uncle Conan, did you really go to Harvard!?"

Q: What does a witch kid want for Christmas?

A: A haunted dollhouse.

NEWS: Toys 'R Us announced plans to open the worlds' largest toy store, a 101,000 square feet store. They say the store will include a life-size dollhouse. If it's a life-size dollhouse, doesn't that mean it's a regular house house?

Knock Knock

Who's there?

Miniature!

Miniature who?

Miniature open the door, I'll tell you!

And, last but not least, the true meaning of "cat nap".....



Enjoy your 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.