



Miniature Enthusiasts of Edmonton Club

November, 2005 VOLUME 20 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 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

Christmas Party: The annual MEE Christmas Party will be held on December 6th, 2005. This party will start a little earlier than normal at **6:00 p.m.** so that we can eat no later than 6:30 p.m. Please bring a miniature gift if you wish to be included in the gift exchange (value of \$10.00 or less), and sign up to bring a dish for the pot-luck supper. Also, if you bring three miniature Christmas ornaments, your name is entered in a draw to win a tree full of ornaments back! We look forward to having a wonderful time at our annual party, rounding off a great year!

Workshops: There are no workshops scheduled in December and January. The next workshops are February 7th, 2006 and February 14th, 2006. The February 7th workshop will be with Teena Krause and we will be making toys. The February 14th workshop will be with Barb Striethorst and we will be crafting a hand-made basket (cost of \$5.00). For the March workshops, on March 7th, Teena Krause will be talking us through building a smaller scale veranda/patio, and on March 14th, Bonnie Maio will be doing a Faberge Egg!

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be held on January 17, 2006 (assuming that the weather is above -25 C). This is the club's 24th birthday party, so cake will be provided. Valentines themed items would be great for Show and Tell, but of course, anything you want to bring is always welcome.

Printable of the Month – Victorian Christmas Song Sheets

This month's "printie" is a set of Christmas song sheets for your mini Christmas sing along. Perfect for your Christmas decorated Victorian Parlour.

Minis On-Line

This set of links is dedicated to Christmas!

- http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/dried_flower_crafts/28988 - This article provides instructions for making miniature Christmas wreaths (scroll down past the ads at the top of the page...)
- Go to <http://victorian.fortunecity.com/ferndale/686/xmasprt1.jpg> for printable Christmas Cards. For Hanukah cards, go to <http://victorian.fortunecity.com/ferndale/686/hnkprt.jpg> on the same site.
- This page gives you a printable pattern for a Christmas ornament box with a cardboard divider. Go to <http://home.epix.net/~woolse/christmas02.html>, and fill your completed box with all your tiny Christmas treasures.
- Go to http://www.sculpey.com/Projects/projects_SantaPenguin.htm to make a Santa Penguin Miniature Ornament from Sculpey or Fimo.
- <http://www.cynthiahoweminiatures.com/noeltutorial.htm> gives detailed instructions to make your own Mary, Baby Jesus and Manger.
- Build your own realistic Christmas tree at <http://gerdesdesign.com/tree.htm>.
- To browse or buy some miniature Christmas accessories, go to <http://www.momentsunderglass.com/> (the Mini Christmas site) or go to http://www.miniatures.com.br/lista_produtos.php?id_categoria=207.
- To look at a German Christmas roombox, go to <http://www.miniature.net/smallstuff/elke.htm> or visit a Christmas shop at http://thepowderroom.net.nz/jingle_bells/index.htm.
- And, finally, if you want to entertain your kids/grandkids for a while, let them decorate this mini-Christmas scene on line at <http://www.miniature.net/smallstuff/dnd/roombox.html> (seems to only work in Internet Explorer).

Hints and Tips – Save Your Rolls!

Thank you to Teena Krause who suggested this article by Helen Ruthberg, reprinted from *Miniature Collector*, April, 2000.

Ordinarily, we consider paper tubes disposable and toss them out. Hold it! They are most useful as the beginning of many a miniature project.

We're interested in tubes from wax paper, plastic wrap, aluminium foil, toilet paper, paper towels, scotch tape, gift wrap, frozen juice containers and more. Variety is necessary because tubes do differ in width and in strength. Some tubes fit easily inside each other, so a larger tube provides the necessary cover, for example, for the smaller body of a hat box.

Carefully measuring for size is necessary. A pencilled line is adequate and the best tool for cutting along this line is cuticle scissors. To cover the open end of the tube, place end of tube onto cardstock or cardboard. Trace around tube with pencil, Cut out circle. Apply stream of glue along edge of hole opening and put cut-out round into place. Allow to dry. If there is some extension, cut away with scissors.



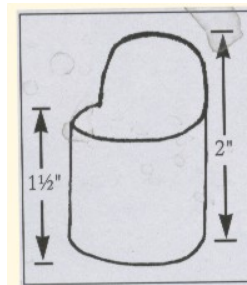
Sometimes it is better to cover the outside of the tube first before adding the circle. Do this when you want to fold and glue fabric or paper over the edge to the inside. Then add the circle, which also may be covered.

Tubes don't have to remain round. They can be pressed into oval shapes to make, for example, a large, old-fashioned copper boiling pan. There are instructions for a number of items provided here, but let your imagination discover other possibilities.

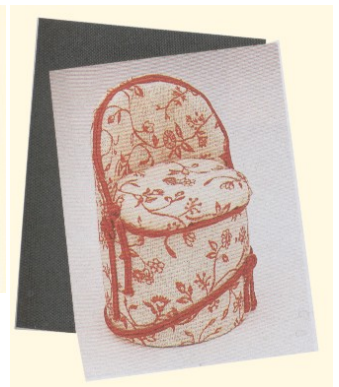


Skirted Table: Spread Tacky Glue on top of a 2 x 1 ¼ inch diameter tube and drape it with a round of fabric. You may wish to cover the open (top) end of the tube before draping the fabric, particularly if your fabric is fairly heavy. Place straight pins equidistant around top to position folds. Spray with hairspray to hold shape. When dry, remove pins. Glue on ribboned bows and a bead bowl filled with seashell "flowers".

Boudoir Chair: Cut a toilet paper tube to a height of two inches. Cut a shape that provides a back, curved area and a seat height of 1 ½ inches.



Cover entire outside area with fabric, allowing small amount of fabric to overlap inside of seat and onto front of back. Cut thin foam to fit upper back inside area. Cover foam with same fabric, overlapping edges. Glue to inside upper part of chair. Cut a seat out of cardboard to fit open seat area. Pad with foam or cotton and cover with fabric. Glue into place. Trim with military braid, ribbon, lace, floss or other accessories.



Cat or Dog House: Cut a 1 ¼ inch opening on one side of a 2 inch tall tube. Spread glue on tube and cover with fabric, overlapping the hole. Notch fabric to the opening, fold to inside and glue. Cut a top, cover both sides. Glue to top of tube. Add bottom.

To make a pillow, cover a wad of polyester or cotton with fabric and glue to inside bottom. Insert favourite pet. Several of these stacked in interesting positions would make a great cat "condo" for multiple cats.

Basket: Cover the inside of a tube with fabric, overlapping top and bottom, so raw edges are on the outside, Spread glue on outside, then encircle with course string. Insert and glue string handle before wrapping final rows.



Drum or Planter: Cut tubes 1 ½ inches high. Cover with appropriate material (fabric, paper, aluminium foil, etc.), folding raw edges to inside. For drum, cut cardboard circles that are a little smaller in diameter than the tube. Insert circles 1/16 inch below top and bottom edges. Add braided trim.

For planter, trace and glue a top and bottom to fit the tube. Place plant on top.

Hat Box: This project uses two different sizes of tubes. The top tube is 1 ¾ inches in diameter; the bottom tube is 1 inch high by 1 ½ inches in diameter. Cover the outside of the smaller tube with fabric and fortify inside with cardstock. Glue thin cardstock or cardboard to the bottom to cover raw edges of fabric.



Cover the rim of the larger tube with fabric. Make and cover a top. Glue top to rim edge. Glue cardstock inside. Decorate with lace, trims, or ribbon and a fabric rose.



Wall Decorations: These are narrow three dimensional settings and can accept anything small. The one illustrated uses a cut greeting card as the backing and foreground, a tiny lady from an HO gauge railway figures set and tiny seashells. Narrow ovals and circles can also enhance picture frames, where depth is desired.

“Tool” of the Month – Jig for Bending Wood

Made for ship modellers, this jig can provide the same bends in wood time after time. Bending wood strips before assembly eliminates complicated clamping fixtures, saves time and money due to broken strip wood and assures neat, tight fitting joints.

How it works: one row of adjustable nylon formers are arranged to the shape of the bend you need. Planks or strip wood are then soaked in hot water for several minutes to make them pliable. Then they're placed against the first row of formers. The second row of formers is then slid up against the wood to hold it tightly in place. Remove the wood when it is dry. The wood will be permanently formed to your predetermined curve. Form curves in wood up to 1 inch wide, or shape multiple smaller planks up to 5 planks at a time by stacking one atop the other as shown. Made of water resistant acrylic with 10 nylon formers and cap nuts, zinc plated screws and no-slip silicone rubber feet.



Ideal for shaping curved planks for outside siding (like on a Victorian turret), or shaping drawer fronts for a fancy chest of drawers.

Approx. 5 inches x 5 inches with 1 inch high nylon formers. Available on-line from Micro Mark for \$20.95 US. URL is <http://www.micromark.com/>, then search for Item Number 60663. P.S. – this is a great place to browse around if you are looking for tools!!!!

You know you're hooked on miniatures if...

- You walk into your favorite mini shop, and the employees immediately say, "Hi, we'll get the boss for you."
- You've ever plunked down half your paycheck for miniatures in your favorite scale, and then wondered what it would be like to try smaller scales.
- You talk about your favorite miniature artisan with the zeal of an evangelist promoting his religion.
- You haven't let your daughter/granddaughter play with "her" dollhouse since last Christmas.
- You honestly feel that, if your husband buys a DVD, that entitles you to buy a small miniature, and a new plasma TV or flat screen monitor for him means a new dollhouse for you. Fair is fair!
- You spend more on your miniatures in a year than people in the Third-World spend on the real thing.
- The latest issue of Miniature Collector arrives on the same day as your federal tax refund check, and you open the magazine first.
- The latest issue of American Miniaturist arrives on the same day as your Alberta oil rebate check, and the only reason you open the check first is so you'll know how much you can afford to spend as you read the ads in the magazine.
- You've ever bought a miniature you had no use for, just because it looked so nice, and then bought more just like it and to go with it, and then designed a special roombox to hold all of them, just so they wouldn't look out of place with the rest of your collection.
- You've ever been tempted to send flame e-mail to someone whose only wrongdoing was outbidding you for that special miniature on eBay.
- Your spouse gives you some wooden scraps, a roll of copper tape, and a box of acrylic paints for your birthday, and you're speechless with joy.
- Someone says she/he's finished her dollhouse, and you sadly shake your head and say they've missed the point of the entire hobby.
- You have a manila folder in your desk (or a subdirectory on your computer) full of hand-drawn dollhouse plans that you know you'll never build, but they're too good to discard.
- You think that thirty hours spent making shingles and applying them to your dollhouse roof is time well spent.
- You never miss a chance to try and interest your children in your hobby, even teenagers in a "cars" stage.
- You've considered ending a friendship after showing off your minis to friends, and their only question is , "How much did all this cost?"
- You hate collectors, because they drive up the prices of the miniatures you want to buy. (But you're going to charge the earth for anything you make, and that's different.)
- You've ever told yourself, "Never again will I try to put hinges on my dollhouse doors while working over a shag rug" or you rip same out to install indoor/outdoor flat carpet over the padding in your den.
- You've ever felt smug because you found a historical inaccuracy in a published photo of somebody else's dollhouse or roombox. Not that you'd ever say anything about it, of course.
- You've visited your mini shop on a busy day, and wound up answering detailed questions for other customers before you shop.
- You justify the money you spent at a mini show as "just doing my part to improve the nation's economy."
- Your spouse gives you something expensive but inappropriate, like an Art Deco stained glass mirror for your Regency Dollhouse, and you hang it on a wall to avoid hurting his feelings, but the whole time, you're squirming inside.
- You've ever tried to justify bringing home a new dollhouse carpet or upholstered chair on the grounds that it's your husband's favorite color or matches your shoes.
- Hardly a day goes by without you making progress on planning the dollhouse you're going to build someday.
- Your family has ever eaten in the living room because the kitchen table was buried in tools, paints, glue and detailed parts for your latest project.
- It constantly annoys you that the kits for model trucks, cars, boats, railway landscaping and railway people in the hobby shop aren't made in useful scales, like 1:12.
- You've ever told anyone, "I can quit doing miniatures any time I want!"

Merry Christmas!!!

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.