

Find a dress, a cake, or flowers in our wedding gallery



American miniaturist

June 12

Issue #110

www.americanminiaturist.com

Price \$6.95



PROJECTS

- Lady's hat
- Wedding book
- Bridal bouquet
- Lacy dress
- And more!

Bridal Boutique

A GARAGE-SALE DEAL IS QUICKLY TRANSFORMED INTO A MINI SHOP

KITTENS FOR SALE

Make a bouquet with Dollshouse.TV

Contents

Features

- 13 Fancy furnishings**
Deb Weissler introduces us to the linens and woods of artist Gerry DeCave.
- 20 Outdoor gazebo**
My Doll's House transformed a gazebo kit into a flowering scene.
- 22 Bridal gallery**
Martha Puff highlights the dresses, flowers, and cakes of talented artists.
- 62 Bridal boutique**
Rhea Avery shares how she transformed a garage-sale find into a lovely shop.
- 72 Paper miniatures**
Learn the history behind Ann Vanture's Paper Minis and Ann Vanture.
- 90 Judaic wedding**
Barbie Cohn Andreason shares the customs of Jewish weddings.

Projects

- 10 Mother's hat**
Kat the Hat Lady shares an easy and lovely hat for the mother of the mini bride.
- 40 Top tips**
The artists from our bridal gallery share their best tips and tricks for you.
- 47 Exotic feast**
Make a traditional breakfast from the country of Sri Lanka with Marianne Colijn.
- 52 Dress on display**
Gallery artist Felma Jackson shares how to make a lovely dress for your mannequin.
- 57 Bridal bouquet**
As seen on Dollshouse.TV! Sandra Harding shares her technique for a bouquet.
- 76 Wedding book**
Use the Snippets on page 79 to create this beautiful book with Ann Vantures.
- 82 Tom's toolbox**
This month, Tom shares how to use a table saw for several types of wood cuts.
- 90 Fancy pastries**
Roberta Marone shares how to create fancy pastries from her home country.



Making perfect PAPER MINIS

For Ann Vanture, making paper minis sounded like an easy task. But it took her over a decade to meet her own standards.

It can be difficult finding what I need," says Ann Vanture of Paper Minis. "My mother used to get annoyed with me when I was a teenager because I would get in my head that something I needed must exist even though I'd never seen it. I would then drag her all over the city trying to find it."

Today, Ann uses that determination and perfectionism to create a line of paper products specifically for miniaturists. With items in a variety of

scales and ranging from just a few dollars to up to about \$40 for her most expensive kit, the Peddler's Wares kit, Ann's products can be found all over the globe.

Ann uses what she refers to as a "secret recipe"—a mixture of multiple com-

puter programs, plus high-quality paper and printing—to create her paper items. "The illusion of detail is typically what a miniaturist strives for with books, but my aim is to make the illustrations pop and the text readable, although you will probably need to use a magnifier," she says emphatically. Her quest for the perfect readable 1:12 minis began when she saw the dollhouse of her younger sister, Cordelia, and felt that "the little kitchen groceries could be improved."



With her graphic artist history, she decided to try it herself, a daunting task that longer than even she anticipated. After a decade, though, she came up with the perfect combination to "bring out color, texture, crisp lines and readable typesetting at a scale 1:12 our human size." In addition, all of her paper minis are waterproof—perfect for the klutz in all of us, yes, but primarily as a way to allow buyers to antique the papers in whatever manner they wish.

Choosing products

"I don't do custom work, but I do take suggestions on what might be a good seller," Ann says. Her favorite pieces are books "because they are timeless gems and make for a great collection for generations to come." She follows all copyright laws, so books still under copyright would require a royalty payment that she says would "make the price tag unappealing"; therefore, most of her books are either in

the public domain (e.g. older classics) or are of her own creation or are abridged versions that fit as a miniature. Most of the books found from Ann are difficult or impossible to find elsewhere, especially at such high quality.

"The ultimate easy design is a must for me," Ann says frankly. If she decides that an item on her website can be made with a better design or as an easier project, she'll remove it until she has changed the design to meet her high expectations.

So what do you get when you buy paper miniatures from Ann? First, there is the attention to detail. "A competitor's candy box or powder



box may be a chunk of wood covered with printed labels. A Paper Minis candy box will be lined and made to accommodate candies, the powder box's lid removes to a completely lined box with handled powder puff." As Rhea Avery





(see her dollhouse utilizing Ann's paper products on pages 62-69) wrote, "It's like the difference between acetate and silk. One is serviceable, but the other is truly lovely."

Her clear dimensions and large photos on her website help buyers know what they are getting before they even buy it, and all books and complex projects are accompanied by tutorials. For more simple projects, directions can be found on the website if needed. In addition, Ann offers a free club to help people



get the hang of her minis before committing to a full purchase.

Ann has a studio that houses what she describes as "an army of printers" at the ready, which allows her to micro-manage everything from the inventory to the color and quality of each and every item she sells. "If this were jobbed out to a print house, I



would drive them crazy," she says, and the cost would go up exponentially due to the specifications of miniatures. Something being off, even half a millimeter, is the difference between everything fitting together and something being too snug. This is also

why Ann uses the exact same paper once she has settled on a design—changes in thickness could cause items to fit incorrectly. Yet "there is no

"It's like the difference between acetate and silk," Rhea says about Ann's work compared to others. "One is serviceable, but the other is truly lovely."

to a print house, I



mass production involved," Ann states clearly. Each print is looked at by two people and also examined under a magnifying glass before being sent out.

Each week day has its own "personality," Ann says, always beginning with email. "Then Monday and Tuesday are spent filling orders, Wednesday and Thursday are printing days, Friday is newsletter and complimentary projects day. All hats are worn by me including the website maintenance and design, so Friday includes that as well. Saturday and Sunday and

evenings is when I take care of business like taxes, reports, marketing efforts, and design-

ing." Ann pauses, then laughs, "Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to spend all my time designing?!"

Looking forward

Ann is most excited now about the McLoughlin Book Club (pictured at the top of page 74) with bookcase and dollhouse, was just voted 2012 Reader's Choice Finalist for Miniature Kit. Having evolved over the years, one of her book lines has developed into a book-of-the-month subscription and project-of-the-month subscription. This McLoughlin line covers both areas and will run for two years. 



GET IN TOUCH

Paper Minis

Email: ann-vanture@paperminis.com

Web: <http://www.PaperMinis.com>

Victorian planner

Using the Snippets on page 79, you can put together this lovely wedding planner book by Ann Vantures.



When Traci told me the theme for the June issue was to be about weddings, my mind went directly to envisioning what a bride at the turn-of-the-century might do to plan a wedding. Printed materials were not as abundant

as they are now and I am sure no one published bridal magazines back then. So I thought perhaps a young woman would collect what scant pictures, photos, or adverts she might see over time.

Perhaps her mother had Queen Victoria wedding

Tools & materials:

- X-acto knife with fresh blade or detailing scissors
- Thin metal straight-edge ruler
- Tweezers
- Good cutting mat (cardboard will ruin your blades)
- Fast-grab, quick-dry white craft glue that dries clear
- A glue stick (optional)
- Small piece of aluminum foil to use as a glue pot
- Slender artist's paint brush to apply glue
- 12" length of color-coordinated 1/8" wide ribbon (preferably silk)

memorabilia she could use as a guide for composing an invitation. She might collect business postcards for milliners and dressmakers and want to pick florals with specific meaning. Wouldn't it be fun to have a cake

made to look like what a royal would have!



Step 1: Cut out all pieces. Press the paper against the ruler to make folds as shown in the photo.



Step 2: Make all the folds by pressing the lines up against the thin metal straight-edge ruler so that they are neat and clean.



Step 3: Use the small artist's brush with glue to glue down the perimeter edges, including the little one between the folder's pockets. As you will see I forgot mine! Do not glue the pockets at this time.



Step 4: Take the tweezers and press the perimeter's edgings.



Step 5: Draw a line across the folder above where the pockets will land. Glue the ribbon along that line.

Step 6: Glue the lining panel centered to the inside as shown below. Notice the little tab that didn't get glued down...it should have been before this step.



Step 7: Glue down the pockets' respective tabs. The pockets are open in the middle. The pockets'



side tabs are glued to the inside of the folder.



Step 8: Use the ruler to make the bend on either side of the spine.



Step 9: Place an invitation (or thank you card) in the center of an envelope, fold as shown.



Step 10: Place a dot of glue on the two side flaps, which will be on the bottom, and press. If you



accidentally glue flaps to the back of the envelope, take your blade tool and slice the bond free.

Step 11: Fill the pockets with your wedding items. Tie it shut with the bow.

Now that you have finished the Victorian bride's planner, consider using it to help stage a miniature bedroom with a

lovely wedding gown standing in the room, trousseau in a hope chest, and planner pages strewn about on furniture. **AV**



Use the Snippets on the next page (page 79) to cut out and glue together your own version of this Victorian-era wedding planner by Ann Vantures!



Admiral Markham's "Arctic" Wedding Cake

Bridal Fashion

Catering

Flower Chart



Victorian Bride's Wedding Planner Portfolio

Marriage Certificate



Sample Thank You Note Card



Portfolio's Lining Panel

Dress Maker and Milliner



Table Settings



Queen Victoria's Wedding Cake



Queen Victoria's Invitations as Samples

