

THE MINITIME MACHINE PRESENTS

HOW TO

A SERIES OF
PROJECTS FOR
the beginning
miniature maker

AUGUST 2018: ITSY-BITSY FAIRY DOORS



Materials and Supplies:

Birch, cedar, or basswood dollhouse shingles (1:12 scale shingles or 1:24 scale shingles)

Tacky Glue

Paint or varnish

6 Matches (square-shaped)

Sandpaper

Fine Paintbrush

X-acto© knife

Scissors

Miscellaneous:

Beads and Findings (for doorknob, trim, etc.)

Metallic gold trim stickers (*Jolee's Boutique*© brand)

Bits of greenery for vines, moss, or flowers

Pinecone

Tiny scrap of wood or cardboard to make a Welcome/ Fáilte sign for above the door (optional)

Butterfly Wing printie (included, below) or other small images to decoupage (optional)

Instructions:

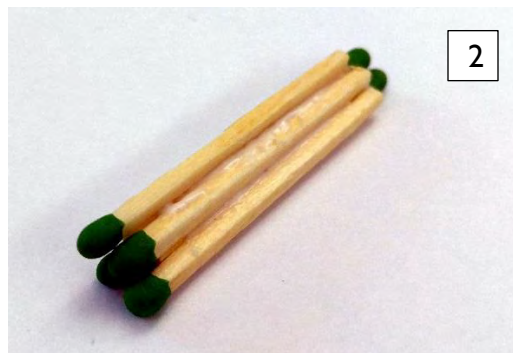
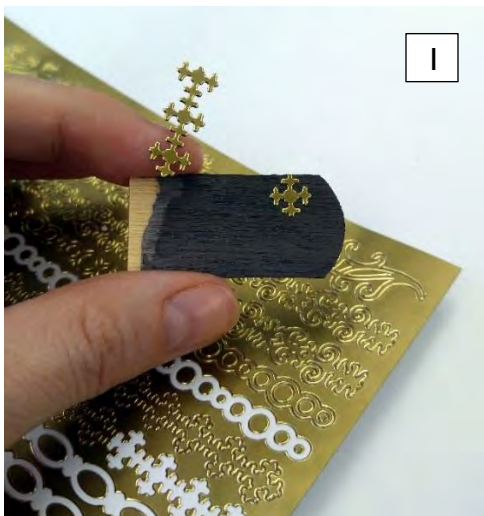
Select the shingle you want to use.



Pictured, from left to right: 1:12 scale rectangular birch shingle (1 1/2" x 3/4") and two 1:12 scale birch "fishscale" shingles (1 1/2" x 3/4"); and two 1:24 scale birch "fishscale" shingles (5/8" x 3/8").

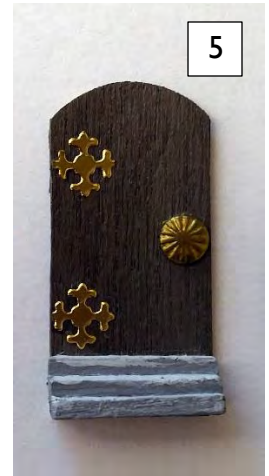
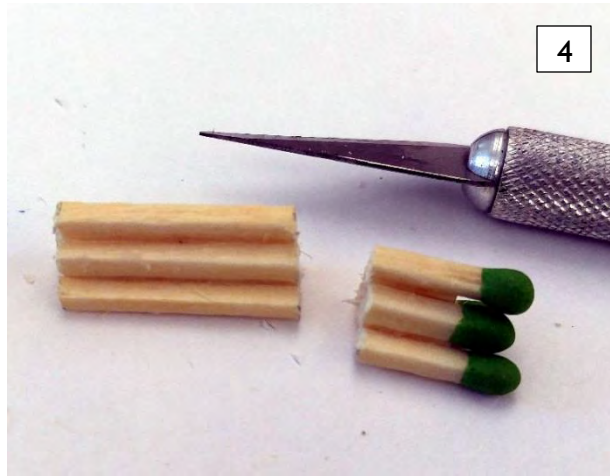
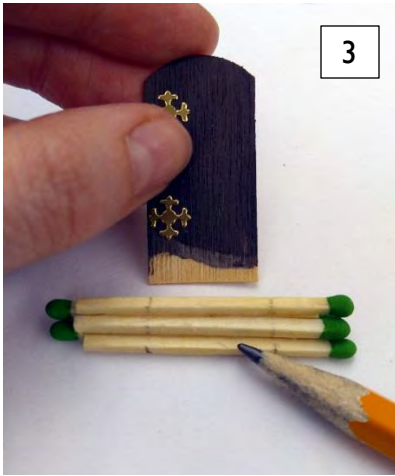
You may want to choose a shingle which has a smooth finish for adding paint and details, or you might prefer one that has an interesting natural color or appealing texture. Decide where you want the door to be located, either inside your dollhouse (such as in a child's room) or perhaps outdoors, such as on the porch. You could even add one to the base of a miniature tree or the surface of a hillside, if you have a landscaped dollhouse! Knowing where you will put it will help guide you on how simplistic or stylized you want to make your door.

Making the Brown Door with Stairs



1. Select a 1:12 scale fishscale shingle and paint it with a dark brown acrylic paint. After the paint dries, cut small bits of *Jolee's Boutique*® metallic sticker trim to make faux door hinges. You could also use a small touch of metallic gold paint, if preferred.

2. To make the stairs, you'll need 6 square-shaped matches. Glue them into a staircase formation by creating one row of three, one row of two, and the last match perched on top. See the diagram for clarification.

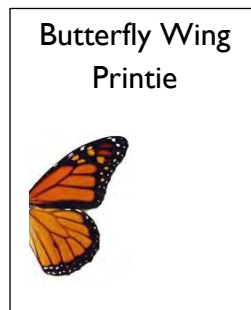


3. Using the door as a guide, mark the edges of your stairs using a pencil.

4. Cut the stairs to size using an X-acto[®] knife.

5. Paint the stairs using acrylic paint and attach them to the base of the door. I used two shades of gray paint, applying a lighter shade on the top surface, to give more contrast. I found a little broken bead among my odds-and-ends which worked nicely as a doorknob.

Making the Blue Fairy Door



6. Using blue and white acrylic paint, paint one of the 1:12 fishscale shingles in a blue gradation.

7. When the blue paint dries, paint small white dots at the top and bottom of the door. Cut out the butterfly wing printie and glue it onto the door. I used a leftover smaller bit of the same gold trim (see above) to make a base for the doorknob, then applied a green plastic jewel in the center for the knob, itself.

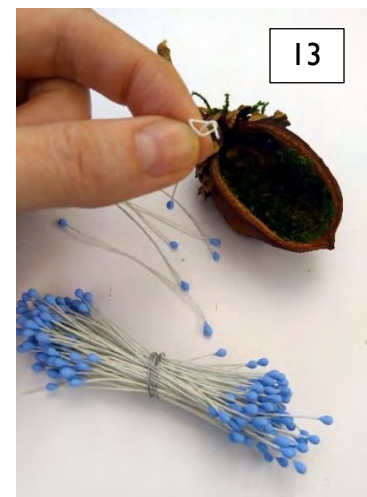
Making the Seed Pod with Fairy Door



8. I used a Bottle Tree seed pod, but a walnut shell would work well, too. Be sure to clean out any remaining plant matter before you begin.

9. This is a great way to put old pinecones to use! Break off several scales to use as shingles on your seed pod.

10. Coat the top of the seed pod with a thick layer of tacky glue. Apply the pinecone scales in alternating rows, just as you would with roof shingles. Apply more glue as needed. Don't worry about uneven edges on the scales, those will be covered up in the next step.



11. Using little bits of landscape turf (or any leftover garden greenery), fill in any gaps between pinecone scale shingles.

12. Apply a thick layer of tacky glue to the interior of the seed pod and cover the interior with landscape turf or garden greenery.

13. This is the fun part – searching for little additions! Rummaging through your craft drawers will always turn up unusual surprises! I found these periwinkle blue stamens and thought they would add a nice touch of color. I bent and knotted the ends before applying glue to them, to give them more surface area for a better grip.



14. I inserted a 1:24 scale shingle into the center of the seed pod – I left it completely natural, other than using a black pen to make a small dot for a doorknob. Next, I found a white bead, which I painted red on top with white spots, to look like a magical mushroom. As a finishing touch, I added some gold sparkle to the door, pinecone shingles, and edges of the seedpod.

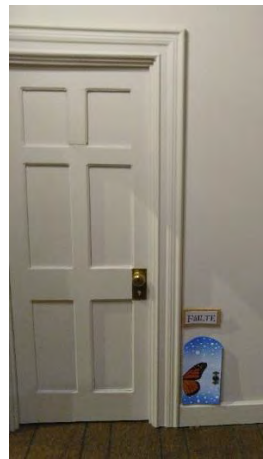
This completed project makes a nice gift for someone special!

Making Tiny Welcome Signs



15. I printed out the words ‘Welcome’ and ‘Fáilte’ using the font “DeRoos,” which I thought looked very fairy-like. (Fáilte means welcome in Old Irish.) After cutting the words out, I glued them onto a few spare shingles and cut them out using an X-acto® knife.

Finding the Right Spot for Your Itsy-Bitsy Fairy Door



Where would you like to add a little bit of magic? You could put your door in a discrete corner, only noticeable to the keenly observant visitor, or you could give it a spot of honor in a special room. Don’t forget to try out window sills and building exteriors, too! Have fun!

