

THE MINITIME MACHINE PRESENTS

HOW TO

A SERIES OF
PROJECTS FOR
the beginning
miniature maker

NOVEMBER 2018: MINIATURE CORNUCOPIA



Materials and Supplies:

White tacky glue or Glossy Accents®
Craft paint (brown was used for this tutorial, but any color is fine)
Round or oval wooden disc, approximately 1 1/4" long
Aluminum wire (22 Gauge)
Hemp cord (size #20 or smaller, to imitate wicker)
Wire cutter
Small pliers (flat or needle-nosed)
Paint brush
Specialty paper punch, maple leaf (approx. 5/8" in size)

Miscellaneous:

Dried twigs (grape stems were used for this tutorial)

Small pieces of foliage décor or 1:12 scale squash (a bit of plastic succulent was used for this tutorial)
Construction paper, fall colors

Introduction:

This miniature cornucopia will be the perfect centerpiece for your holiday table! Here are some things to consider when gathering your materials:

Glue: Regular white glue (Elmer's® or Aileen's®) will work quite well for this project. However, I have discovered a new adhesive called Glossy Accents®, which I prefer. It dries completely clear and sticks well to wood, cloth and leaves, etc. It's relatively inexpensive and you can find it in several sizes.

Twigs: You'll need very fine twigs. Its fall, so you may find some twigs in the yard that will work well. Look for very thin twigs that have a lot of small branching. If twigs aren't an option for you, I found that grape stems worked really well for this project. After the grapes have been eaten, leave the stems on a paper plate or paper towel to dry. They will provide several small branching sections that can be cut from the main stem.

Wire: I found that 22 gauge wire works well. It's soft enough to be cut with a good pair of scissors and easy to manipulate (you do need to be able to twist it around itself).



Hemp Cord: For this project, I wanted a cord that would look like wicker when it was woven. You could use any kind of cord that appeals to you. I used size #20, but you could use thinner cord.

Foliage Décor: While exploring a craft store recently, I found a plastic ball of imitation succulents which looked very realistic – and the individual pieces were just the right size for miniatures. You could always create tiny pumpkins or squash to fill up the cornucopia, as well.

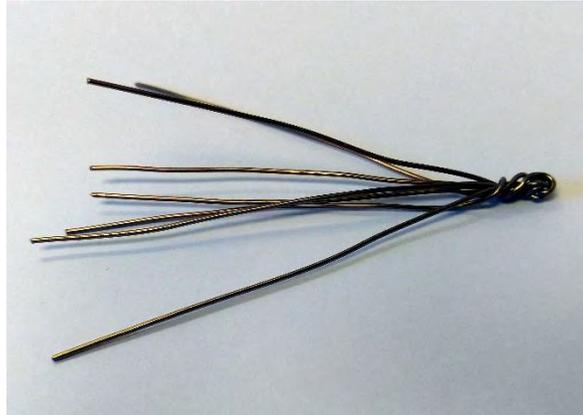


Instructions:

Weaving the Cornucopia

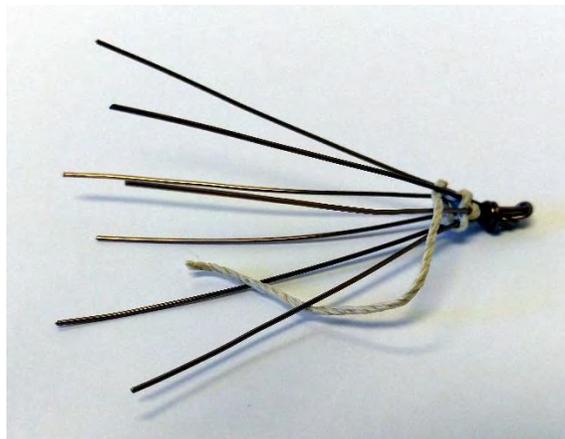
1. Paint the wooden disc brown or the color of your choice. Be sure that you paint the sides. It will probably take two coats. Set aside to dry. This will become the base that the cornucopia will sit on.

2. Cut 3 pieces of wire, each 6" long and one piece of wire 4" long.
3. Bend the 6" pieces in half. Take the 4" piece and bend the top down about 1/2". Hook it over the triple wires and twist it around to make them secure.



HINT: This may feel like an odd thing to do but, in order for the weaving to happen properly, there needs to be an odd number of spokes.

4. Cut about 6 feet of whichever cord you've decided to use. This should be plenty for the whole cornucopia. Tie a tight knot in the end of the cord and trim off the loose end.
5. Hold the wire armature by the secure end and separate the wires so that they are spread apart in a circle. Glue the knot into the inside of the circle and allow to dry. Give it a couple of hours to dry because you will be putting some stress on this area once you begin to weave.
6. Begin to weave using the normal pattern of over one strand of wire, under the next strand of wire, over the next one, under the next one, etc. Keep the weave tight and the wires fairly close together for the first inch or so. After that point, begin to spread the wires as you form the cornucopia shape.



NOTE: Check frequently to be sure the weave is consistent. Push the cord down tightly to keep the woven look. It might be helpful to put a drop of glue around the circumference every 5-6 rows to insure that the weave stays tight.

7. Once the cornucopia is as large as you'd like, cut the cording off and glue it down. (The sample shown is large enough for a centerpiece on a large 1:12 scale dining room table. A smaller one could go on a mantelpiece or end table.)

HINT: If you happen to **run out of cord** before you've reached a stopping point, just glue that end of the cord to the inside of the cornucopia, then cut another piece of cord and glue it to the inside, also. Give it an hour or so of drying time before proceeding with the weaving.

8. When you've reached the desired cornucopia size, cut the cord and glue it down on the inside. (I found it helpful to put a bead of glue along the edge of the last round of weaving, to create more of a finished edge.) Cut the end of the wires to about $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Using the pliers, curl the ends under to give them a decorative look.

Adding the Twigs and Foliage

1. Using the paper punch, make 8-10 leaves of assorted fall colors. Cut the grape stems or twigs into $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " lengths to create various "branches." Glue the leaves to the twigs (or grape stems) and leave overnight to dry.



2. Arrange your pieces of foliage (in my case, a bit of succulent) or your choice of miniature squash within the large opening of the cornucopia and glue them down. Include some branches and extra leaves. Glue the cornucopia to the painted base and arrange a few more leaves decoratively around the base. And your Thanksgiving décor is complete!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!