

THE MINITIME MACHINE PRESENTS

HOW TO

A SERIES OF
PROJECTS FOR
the beginning
miniature maker

DECEMBER 2018: FAUX SNOW GLOBE



Materials and Supplies:

Shatterproof Water Globe (available in craft stores) or small round glass container with a screw-on lid

White craft felt – plain or sparkly

Extra fine white glitter

1 sheet of oaktag, cardstock, or other stiff paper (I used white, but you could use any color for your house)

Craft Glue (such as Aileen's®)

Scraps of white foam core

Scissors

X-acto® knife

Marking pen for the felt

Paint brush – ½" wide flat brush is best

Miscellaneous:

Small pine trees, snowman, or other miniature winter décor

Snowflake stickers – optional

Colored pens or pencils for decoration – optional

Sheet of wax paper to cover craft area (to catch the fine glitter)

Instructions:

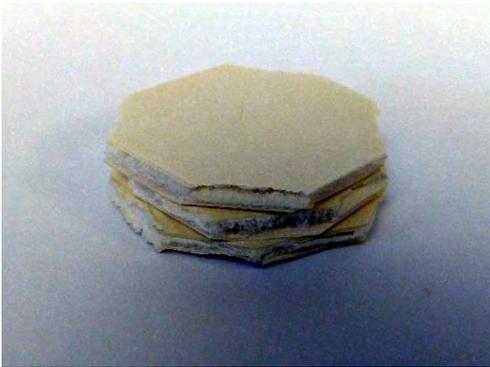
Preparing a Shatterproof Water Globe

If you are using a shatterproof water globe, it will have a screw-on plastic base as well as a waterproof plastic insert in the base. Remove the insert and use it as a template, drawing around it on the white craft felt. (Be careful to choose a marker or pen which won't bleed thru the felt!) Add an extra $\frac{1}{4}$ " around the outside edge and then cut it out. *You will want this extra bit of edge to allow the felt to tuck down around the outside edge of the base and fit snugly.* Glue the felt to the top of the plastic insert only. When you put the snow globe pieces together, this overlap will naturally curve down to the sides.

Preparing a Glass Container and Lid

1. If you are using any kind of small glass container, remove the lid and draw around it on the white felt to create the base of the snow globe. (Be careful to choose a marker or pen which won't bleed thru the felt!) Add an extra $\frac{1}{4}$ " around the outside of the drawn circle and cut it out. This felt will be glued down on top of the foam core (see step 2) so that it will curve down into the lid.

2. I used 3 pieces of foam core, stacked one on top of the other, glued inside the screw-on base to raise the level of the felt "snow" so that it would be even with the bottom of the globe. *The foam core needs to fit inside the glass globe so that the base will still screw on.*

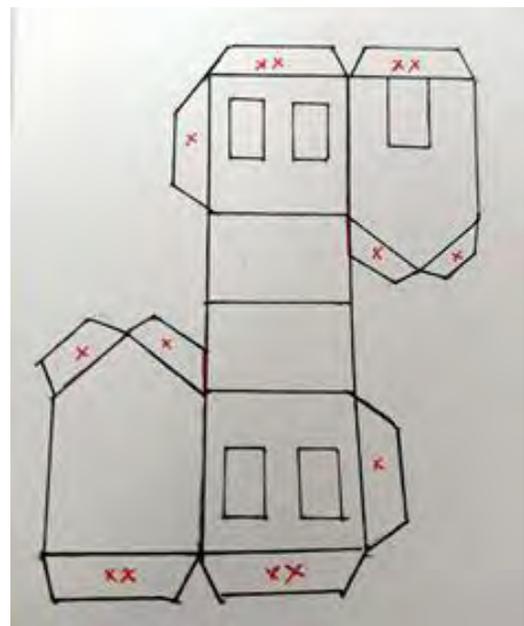


Tip: When working with foam core, it's not easy to cut circular forms with an X-acto[®] knife – don't worry, they do not need to be perfect or pretty since they will be hidden! I cut 3 squares at $1\frac{1}{2}$ " on each side and then just cut off the corners at an angle. Depending on the size of the scraps needed for your jar, you can use an X-acto[®] knife or scissors.

Making the Miniature House

1. Copy the house pattern onto stiff paper such as cardstock or oak tag, reducing it in size according to the size you need for your globe or jar. *(I reduced the image to 80% of its original size to fit in my glass jar.)* Cut out the pattern. The sides and the roof areas are indicated by the red lines – these flaps will fold to join the house components together.

2. Using the non-sharp back edge of an X-acto[®] blade, score all of the lines except the windows and doors. *Score the lines very lightly to ensure that you don't cut through the paper!* Scoring the paper will make the house easier to fold on the lines even with the heavier paper. At this point you can cut out the windows and even the door, if you want that look.



3. Fold all of the flaps – marked with a red X – to the inside. Fold all of the other lines to create the house. Everything should tuck into place neatly. As you assemble the house, place some glue on each of the flaps and hold the pieces in place for a minute or two until the glue sets. **Note:** *DO NOT put glue on the bottom flaps (with the double red x) at this time.*

4. After the house has dried completely, it's time to decorate it. Thin your craft glue down a little bit so that it will be easier to spread using the paintbrush. (A good ratio is 1 tablespoon of glue mixed with 1 teaspoon of water.) Using the paintbrush, coat the roof of the house and any other areas where you would like to apply glitter.

5. If you have some, place a sheet of wax paper under the area where you will be applying the glitter, otherwise this fine glitter will get all over the place. Sprinkle glitter over the areas with applied glue and let it sit for a few minutes. If you want a heavier roof sparkle, wait until it's thoroughly dry, then add another coat of glue and then add more glitter. Add a line of undiluted glue along the roofline and sprinkle with glitter (it is easier to apply the glue using a toothpick). When you finish with the glitter, fold the wax paper in half and use the crease to pour the unused glitter back into its container for later use.

6. If you want to add other decorations to the house, now would be the time. I added a piece of pipe cleaner and some tiny beads to make a garland over the door, or you could just draw a wreath or add some colored dots for lights if you wish. You could also paint the roof.

7. Now it's time to glue the house onto the base of whichever container you are using. Use undiluted glue. **Note:** *Before gluing things into place permanently, arrange the house on the base and add any trees, snowmen or other items you plan to add. Place the globe over the container to make sure everything fits the way you want it to. Remove the globe and glue items into place. Press each item down firmly and hold it in place until the glue sets.*

8. The next step will be to “snow up” the actual snow globe. Using diluted glue and a paintbrush, coat the inside of the globe. Start with the center point and brush the glue out from the center and just a little ways down the sides. Pour the glitter into the globe and swirl it around until all of the glue is covered. Continue swirling the loose glitter around in the rest of the globe. Static electricity will enable it to cling to the sides of the globe, giving it a frosted look.

9. At this point, you can either use the same technique on the outside of the globe or you can choose to finish it some other way. (I used snowflake stickers as an example.) For both of my finished globes, I used the glue and glitter technique on the outside and inside. For my smaller glass globe, I added a piece of miniature green garland, some beads, and a ribbon bow.



Note: *The shatterproof water globe can be turned into a “real” snow globe by following the directions which come with it – adding water mixed with a little glycerin. Just remember that if you choose to do that, all pieces inside the globe will need to be plastic or some other waterproof material.*

Have a good time with it, and Happy Holidays!

TUTORIAL BY LANI SMITH