

TINY TECH TALK
ACQUIRING AN APPRECIATION FOR MINIATURES IN "REAL" LIFE
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Miniatures BY BARB

Ask collectors of miniatures how they acquired an appreciation of their hobby. They will astound you with an array of interesting stories. We were all exposed to the enjoyment of tiny reproductions in a variety of ways. If we could incorporate miniatures into our "real" lives imagine how many more people we could involve in the fun of miniatures.

Gifts are a great way to expose the uninitiated to the world of miniaturization. A miniature table set with dinnerware would make a lovely hostess gift. A mini crib or dressing table complete with accessories makes an unusual welcome gift for a new baby. A table set for a holiday or a vignette make a unique gift for the hostess of that holiday party. I often bring a table set for Passover when I am invited to share the holiday at the home of a friend or family member. How exciting it is to see my gift as the table centerpiece the next time I am invited.

Interior Decorators use many interesting things as a focal point when planning a room. Why not use miniatures? A miniature table complete with table settings can make a lovely centerpiece on a table. The miniature table in the center of my diningroom table is a replica of the chippendale table it sits upon. A table with chairs or a couch and club chair would be a conversation piece on a coffee table, end table or china cabinet. Picture a dressed baby crib on a shelf or on the dresser in a child's room.

A collection of items is always an interesting focal point. Display a group of 144th scale dollhouses on a shelf in a bookcase. Place mini books in a mini bookcase and display it on a bookshelf among the real books. You get the idea. Bring some miniatures into an Interior Decorator. Show him how to display them. Wouldn't you love to be his source of supply?

Display miniatures Demonstrate how miniatures can be decorative in your shop. Set up a gift section. Show a gift box complete with tissue paper, bows and ribbons. Place a decorated crib in the box and a card next to it for a new baby.

Tobe Creed incorporated some of her mini creations into decorations on clothing. I have incorporated my dinnerware into some attractive jewelry pieces and giftware. Think of new and creative ways to incorporate miniatures into "real" life. Put on your thinking caps or better yet encourage your customers to create new ways of using miniatures in their lives. How about a contest?

Bringing miniatures into the real world will spark everyone's creativity. It will encourage your customers to purchase more and will expose miniatures to more people. Let's expand our horizons and spread the appreciation of miniatures.