

MINIATURE MANSIONS

How to guide...

CLASSIC INTERIOR ROOM STYLE

Here at Miniature Mansions we believe that there is no right or wrong way to decorate a room, only what you find the best, or is the easiest. This is just the way I find suits me.



Once I have a design of what I'm doing I have to work out what I need in terms of materials, using mouldings (from our range of 1/12 scale mouldings) and where they go. I do this by drawing out a plan of my room on paper.

I find this the most efficient way as you can change your mind as often as you like with the help of an eraser. I draw the basic size of the room and then add in the details of the pilasters, plinths, cornices, and skirting boards etc.

Your drawing does not need to be as detailed as mine but it must be drawn accurately as you will see later. [Pic 1](#)

By drawing the detail in this way I can see if the spacing and positioning of the mouldings etc. looks correct and solve any relevant issues at this point. When I am happy with the layout I can work out how many mouldings I will need. Our mouldings are made from resin. They are robust and will not break if you accidentally drop them!

They are easy to cut, sand and are quick to prepare for painting. As they are not porous they do not need sealing. Once they are fixed into place there is no need to worry about chipping when moving things about.

At this point I always check my mouldings over and sand off any mould lines if necessary. [Pic 2](#)

Now using my drawing as a reference and guide I cut the skirting board and cornice to size, both of these need mitre joints so that each moulding will line up (plinths already have mitre moulded in).

First I cut the skirting boards. On my drawing I have the centre line of each pilaster, so I mark on the bottom of each plinth, the centre line and the end of each mitre. [Pic 3](#)

Placing the plinth on the drawing, with the centre lines lined up, [Pic 4](#) mark the drawing on the end of the mitre. [Pic 5](#)

The distance between these two marks is the length that the skirting boards need to be. [Pic 6](#)

Using a razor saw and mitre block, I cut the skirting to length. [Pic 7](#)

TOP TIP

A word about spray adhesives. I use 3M display mount because it gives a permanent fixing. 3M also produce photo mount and spray mount. Both of these are designed not to give a permanent fix, and if used the card will probably peel off in time.

For this article I have decorated the back wall of a room. I cannot start a project unless I can see in my mind's eye what the finished result should look like however this does not mean that I will not change things as I go along. I get my inspiration from magazines and reference books, and rooms like my dolls houses are based on real houses, unless I am decorating from a client and then I do what I'm told!

CONTACT

Miniature Mansions full range of resin mouldings can be seen on our web site: www.miniaturemansions.co.uk
Here you can download our brochure. Or you can email or phone 07786 397871.

It is at this stage that I put colour onto the walls. I prefer to use thin card fixed with spray adhesive. First I paper the ceiling, cutting out a piece of white card which is then taped onto a board and sprayed with white primer from an aerosol can. **Pic 15** (white and grey primer is available from car accessory shops).

The reason for spraying in white primer is that it is in fact off white. Pure white should not be used on models. Spray with adhesive and put it in place smoothing it flat with a clean cloth.

Once cut, **Pic 8** check they fit in the room. **Pic 9**

When happy with the fit, the next to be cut is the cornice. The cornice I am using has brackets. **Pic 10**

It is important that the brackets at each end are equally spaced from the wall. As the cornice I am using is quite deep, a larger mitre block will be required (resin mouldings can be cut with any saw, but the courser the saw, the rougher the cut which will mean there will be more sanding to do) As this cornice is a large moulding, I mark the mitre on using a mitre square to give me a better guide in the mitre block. **Pic 11**

Once both ends have been cut I check the fit. **Pic 12**

I always cut the back wall cornice first. Once cut, should there be small pieces of bracket in each corner, I remove them with a scalpel. Cut the side lengths next, leaving them over length so if the joint needs adjusting you are able to do so. **Pic 13**

Now all the moulding are ready for paint. I again check that they fit. **Pic 14**

Now for the back, I am using a cream coloured card to show off the mouldings. The card is cut about ¼” wider than the back of the box. Laying the card into the back of the box, the excess is folded up the sides to cover the corners. **Pic 16**

Remove card and spray with adhesive. Carefully align one fold into the corner of the box, getting that into the correct position. This is then smoothed out working away from the aligned corner. **Pic 17**

The sides are cut, checked for fit and adhesive applied. Get the edge of the card right into the corner and over the top of the overlapping card on the back. **Pic 18**

The reason for the small return of card in each corner at the back, is so when viewed you will not see a join. Placing card edge to edge can leave a thin dark line.

The card will have made the inside of the room slightly smaller, so for the last time I check the fit and adjust if required. I then trim any mouldings that are over length.

Now for painting. First the mouldings must be primed. Using double sided tape they are then fixed onto sticks. **Pic 19**

TOP TIP

Brushes and paints. I use Kolinsky sable brushes in a variety of sizes from 000 to 1 and chisel brushes from 1/8” to 3/8”. **Pic 20**

These are then sprayed with car primer. Spray several light coats and leave them until the paint has dried. For large areas I would normally spray paint. Otherwise I would use emulsion. (paint finish should always be in matt). A good source for small quantities are Match pots and colour samplers.

For this project the detail will be painted free-hand in gold. The straight runs of cornice will be masked out first. **Pic 21**

Before putting masking tape onto a painted surface I run my fingers along the sticky side several times. This makes the tape less sticky, so it does not remove the paint underneath when removed. Once masked, mount onto the sticks and give a light spray of the colour it is masking. This is done as paint can run under the tape and make a seal. Once the base colour has dried, remove from the sticks and paint on the gold. Painting the gold is straight forward; it just takes time and care. Using a “00” brush and a piece of plastic as a palate, which is used to thin the paint. This way the paint is easier to apply in two coats. **Pic 22**

Once the gold has been painted, the skirting boards are painted dark green. **Pic 23**

Now to fix the mouldings into the room. First to be fixed is the back cornice. Apply UHU to the back of the cornice and carefully fix into place, **Pic 24** followed by the two sides. **Pic 25**

Leave for about 15 minutes to let the glue set a little. Next the skirting boards and plinths. **Pic 26**

When gluing the plinths into place, the pilasters and capitals are put into place without glue to make sure the spacing is correct. Now the pilasters are ready to be fixed. Before fixing the pilasters, I cut two spacers. The width of the spacer is the required distance between wall and pilaster. Using these ensures the pilaster is spaced correctly and parallel to the wall without having to make a mark on the wall. **Pic 27**

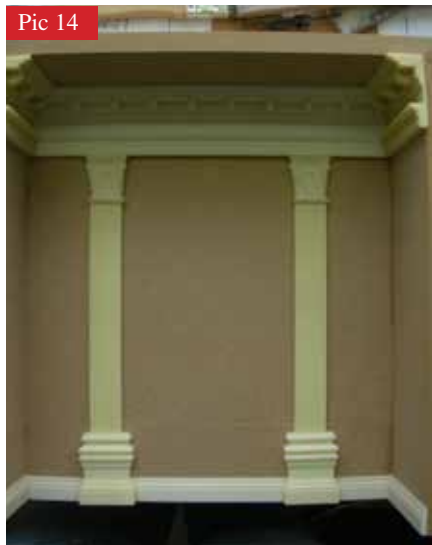
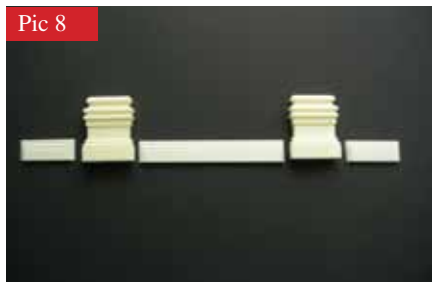
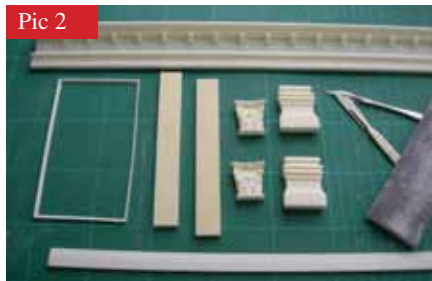
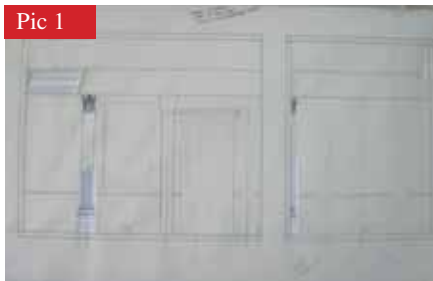
The capitals can then be glued into place, positioning by eye. **Pic 28**

The last moulding to go in is the decorative frame. For this I use three spacers, one for each side and one for the bottom. These will ensure the frame is equally spaced and parallel to the pilasters and parallel with the skirting board. **Pic 29**

Now all the mouldings are in place, I finish off by painting the edge of the room. **Pic 30**

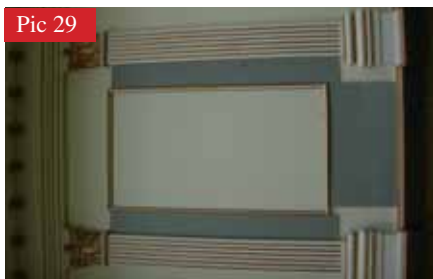
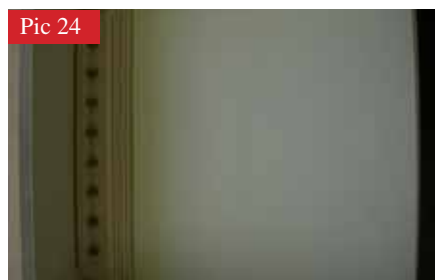
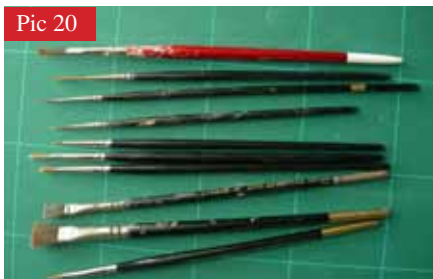
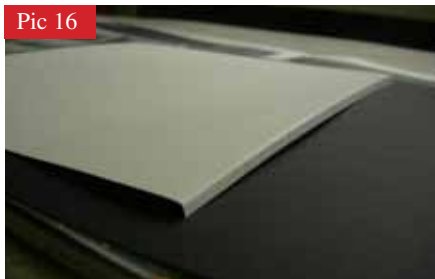
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