

# Rolling Suitcase

by Justine Wheeler

Justine Wheeler and Judy Ward co-chaired the centerpiece committee for the Small Scale Houseparty recently held in Naperville, IL. They designed imaginative 1/2" scale scenes around a travel theme. This suitcase was one of the many items in their scenes.

## MATERIALS

- Insulation Board
- Canvas-looking Fabric
- 1/16" Satin Ribbon
- Bugle Bead
- Heavy Wire for Pulling Handle
- Thinner Wire for Side Handle
- Silver or Gold Thread
- 1/8" Half Round Wood



This suitcase was designed in 1/2" scale. It will work as a child's size in 1" or double all the dimensions to use as a large suitcase in 1" scale.

The core of the suitcase is made from 1/2" Styrofoam insulation board which usually comes in pink. It is available from your local lumber/hardware store in 4' x 8' commercial size. Ask them for a small cut or perhaps you can get a broken scrap.

Ask around at construction sites.

Cut the 1/2" Styrofoam 1-1/4" by about 7/8" wide. Use an emery board to slightly round the corners. Go over all the edges with a wide black marker just to keep the pink color from possibly showing when you glue the fabric down.

The black canvas-looking fabric is actually landscaping material or vegetation mat. This is the stuff you put down to keep the weeds from getting any light but the pinprick holes let the rain go through to take care of the plants you want to keep. Stereo speaker fabric is also a good choice. You can cover the suitcase with any other fabric in suitable scale.

Cover your work area with waxed paper. Cut a collar 3/4" wide by 4-1/2" long from the fabric to go all the way around the case and overlap a bit. Make the overlap come in the center of the bottom of the suitcase. Lay the suitcase flat on its bottom. Glue this collar flush with the table. When this is dry, trim the overhang flush with the top side.

Now cut two pieces of fabric about a 1/4" larger than the front and back of the suitcase. Place one piece so that two of the edges just cover the collar. Glue in place only along the edges of the front piece and trim the overhang when dry. Do the same thing on the back side but put the glue all over the fabric.

Use a contrasting color of 1/16" satin ribbon for trim. Lay suitcase on its back with that collar overlap to the left. Put ribbon on the collar's edge where it meets the front. Glue all the way around. Glue a strip of ribbon 1/4" from the top of the front. This is the outside pocket. Let dry. Using a VERY sharp X-Acto knife, cut straight down into the Styrofoam along the top edge of this ribbon on the front side by sliding your X-Acto knife under the ribbon and fabric.

Now you can slide your passport, magazine and ticket in the pocket.

The pulling handle is fairly heavy wire but flexible

enough to bend by hand. Cut 4 of wire. DO NOT bend until you find a bugle bead, hair spray tube, cocktail straw or whatever to slide on as a handle. Use marker or paint to make wire and handles black. Use 3/4" of thinner wire for the side handle. If you are using telephone wire, strip the wire back toward the center leaving some of the covering to be the handle. Form the wire into a U shape and push the wire into the Styrofoam.

Use silver or gold thread to suggest a zipper about 1/16" in from the ribbon. Leave an 1/8" gap in the middle of one side because the zipper doesn't go all the way around.

The wheels are made from an 1/8" wide piece of 1/8" half round wood or an 1/8" slice of 1/8 automatic pencil eraser cut in half.

Don't forget to pack your magazines, sunglasses, and camera for your weekend in the country.



## NAME CUTOUTS

