

Potatoes, Carrots and Apples

By Carolyn Eiche, Carolyn's Creations

MATERIALS

- White Fimo
- Red Fimo
- Orange Fimo
- Burnt Umbre Paint
- Wood stain (opt.)
- Green tissue paper
- Brown package mailing tape
- Small flat basket
- Air fern or lycopodium or similar for carrot tops
- Very small rubber bands
- Straight pins
- Piece of styrofoam
- Toothpicks
- Foil pan or heavy duty aluminum foil to bake on
- Wood glue
- Tacky glue
- Small wooden bowl
- Piece of a dried flower stem
- (8 or 9) pieces of stripwood 1/16" thick by either 1/4" or 5/16" wide and 3/4" long
- Wooden circle 1/8" thick by 3/4" in diameter

TOOLS

- Small pair of scissors
- Small paintbrush 0 or 1
- X-acto knife

Basket of Potatoes

Potatoes

1. Soften a small piece of white fimo. Form 12-18 irregularly shaped ovals about 3/16" in diameter.



I chose this project because of the theme "Member's Gallery". I belong to the Big Apple Miniaturists or BAM, who meet in New York City. Every month a member is chosen to teach a small project to the rest of the group. This year we're making potting or garden sheds and all our monthly projects revolve around that theme. I taught this project at our January meeting and thought I would also share it with all of you.



2. Poke "eyes" in the potato with a toothpick and drop onto foil.
3. Bake them in a 250-265 degree oven for 15-20 minutes. Let cool.
4. Mix a drop of water with some burnt umbre paint and roll potatoes around in the paint to make them "dirty". Let dry.

mailing tape about 1/2" wide. Wrap one around the bottom of basket and one near top. These are the "bands" that will hold the basket together.

5. Stuff a piece of green tissue paper into basket for a soft bottom and glue potatoes in with tacky.

Basket

1. Trim any fuzzies off of stripwood pieces with a pair of scissors.
2. If you wish to stain the pieces of your basket do so now. You may use a wood stain or watered down burnt umbre paint. Stain the slats and the wooden circle. Let dry completely.



3. With a toothpick, run a line of wood glue halfway around edge of circle. Place flat on table and attach a few of the slats to the edge standing upright, to form basket. Let dry and repeat until you cannot fit any more slats. Let dry. A small rubber band wrapped around the bottom will help to hold them in place.

4. Cut of two strips of brown package

Carrot

1. Soften a small piece of orange fimo. Roll six balls about 1/4" in diameter.
2. Roll each ball into a long teardrop shape. Fat at the top and pointed at the bottom.
3. Use the back edge of an x-acto knife blade to create the lines that run around the carrot. Hold each teardrop on your finger and gently roll the knife blade back and forth around the carrot. Watch your fingers! Be careful not to cut yourself.
4. Poke a pin into the top of the carrot and place onto foil. Leave the pin in the carrot as you can use it for a handle later. Bake as above and let cool.



5. Holding the carrot by it's pin

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1" SCALE

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handle, give each a wash of burnt umbre paint to make it look dirty and to tone down the color of the fimo. Stick the pins into a piece of styrofoam to let carrots dry.

6. When dry, carefully pull pins out of carrots and insert a bit of air fern or lycopodium for the carrots green tops.
7. If you wish you may make two bunches of three carrots each by wrapping with a very small rubber band. I found mine in the hair care dept. of CVS where the brushes and hair clips, etc. were sold.
8. Glue into a small flat mini basket.

Apple:

Basic instructions for making apples can be found in the Jan/Feb issue of the Gazette. Workproject entitled the Witch's Pantry and the poisoned apples bowl.



If you have any questions or comments on this Workproject please contact:

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Projects are needed!**

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Debbie Young,
Workprojects Coordinator
11468 North Bloomfield Road
Nevada City, CA 95959

ANY SCALE

Faux Porcelain

by Howard Davis, Richardson, Texas

I have discovered a wonderful product for miniatures. How many times have I come across a "PLASTIC" object that was perfect - but UNPAINTABLE?! Well, go to your local Hardware Store and purchase a can of Rust-Oleum Specialty Frosted Glass, Semi-Transparent Finish Spray (under \$5).



It's made for your clear window in your bathroom. Just spray and it's instant frosted glass.



Well, if it sticks to glass it sticks to plastic - even some rubber items. And when dry, paint with acrylic paints, let dry, and re-spray.

Impossible you think, well look at this Harry Potter figure before - and after. Yes



See page 31 for more about the Room of Angels.

the young patient in my "Room of Angels" looks like Porcelain but I call it "faux porcelain".

I developed the idea after I photographed a series of miniature rooms for a lady and she dropped one of her porcelain figures and it shattered.

Her husband had been laid off and it was hopeless to try and acquire a new one - or continue with her hobby as she employed multiple porcelain figures in each setting.

I replaced it with my "faux porcelain" process and she loved it immediately. Now she could return to producing her mini scenes at a cost she could afford.

And it inspired me to use the technique for center pieces. (One friend shipped a box room only to discover that a fork lift had punched through it in the mailing process!!!)

So if sudden early retirement has pushed you out of the fine porcelain figures market, try faux porcelain. Note my figure in the Room of Angels has the sweetest face I've ever seen.