

1/4" scale • Lighted Tea Shoppe inside a Tea Box

By Thuy Means, Wichita, Kansas

This issue's project is a quarter scale tea shoppe inside a tea box from Dollar Tree. Printies for china plates are courtesy of Preble McDaniel and wall-paper border is courtesy of Dede Turner.

Tools/Supplies

- Box of tea from Dollar Tree, 4-1/4" x 3" x 2-3/4"
- LED kit from Evan Designs (www.modeltrainsoftware.com)
- Brown plastic furniture (grandfather clock and 2 sink cabinets)
- Wood flower pots (5/8" x 9/16"), 1.5 inch circle template for fabric covering tables
- Lace (1/4" to 1/2" wide)
- Glue stick, tacky glue, soldering iron, transparent scotch tape, straight edge/ruler, Xacto knife, scorer
- Latex spray paint—flat or satin white (optional, for plastic furniture)

Room

Box of tea purchased from Dollar Tree. You can use any tea box you like, but the printie for the tea shoppe roombox was created specifically to fit inside the box pictured above. Dimensions have been provided so you can vary your purchase as needed.



This shows how the tea shoppe roombox printie will fit into the tea box. The front opening lid should be at the bottom so that when you close the box, the flap will be at the tea shoppe's ceiling. The back of the "tea shoppe" will be the tea box's "bottom."

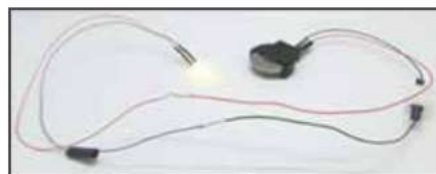


Lighting

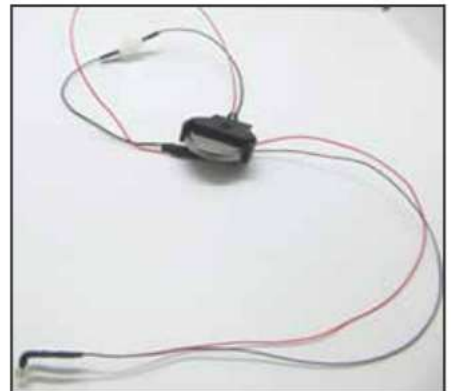
Lighting is entirely optional, but will add a special shine to your tea shoppe. An LED kit from Evan Designs was used.



Thread one shrink tube onto the red and one onto the black wire of your LED bulb wires. Twist the exposed red wire lead from your LED bulb to corresponding red wire lead from the battery holder with on/off switch. Repeat for the black wires. Slide the button battery into the battery holder-- the "+" sign on the button battery should match up with the "+" sign on the battery holder. Press the "on" switch to make sure the bulb lights up. Slide the shrink tube over



the twisted wire connection and use a solder iron over the shrink tubing to protect your connection.



Gently bend the wires to the LED bulb into L-shape (90 degrees).

Printie

The tea shoppe "roombox" with wall-paper, flooring and ceiling is a printie on page 31. Cut out with straight edge and X-acto knife. Test fit your roombox printies into the tea box.

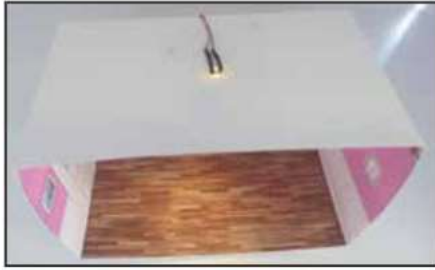


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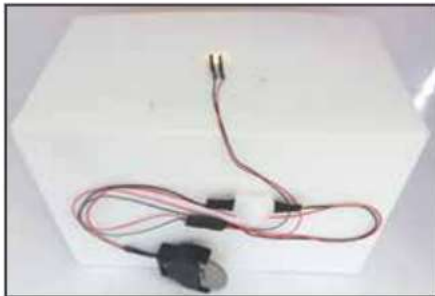
1/4" SCALE WORKPROJECT

Lighted Tea Shoppe

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Use a 1/4" hole punch to place a hole into your ceiling printie. Place your LED bulb onto the ceiling as shown on the right above. Secure the wires with scotch tape.



Gather up your excess wire with light switch and battery holder and place onto the back side of your tea shoppe roombox as shown. Secure all wires with scotch tape.



Test fit the above into your tea box. Notice in the back the lid flap goes to the bottom of the box, and there is a 1/2" of unused space to allow room for the wires, battery and lid flap.

Once you are satisfied that everything fits as it should, apply YES glue or paper glue stick to all roombox surfaces and slide the roombox with attached light apparatus into the tea box making sure the roombox printie is flush with the front edges of the tea box.

China Hutch

The china hutch uses two brown plastic furniture "sink cabinets" stacked on each other. The top unit is the back of the sink cabinet. For a shabby chic look, spray paint the brown plastic furniture above with flat or satin white. Allow to dry completely before applying printies.



Printies for the clock face, china plates, cabinet doors for the china hutch, china hutch shelves, and bottom of the grandfather clock have been provided for you. There are two colors — pink and blue.

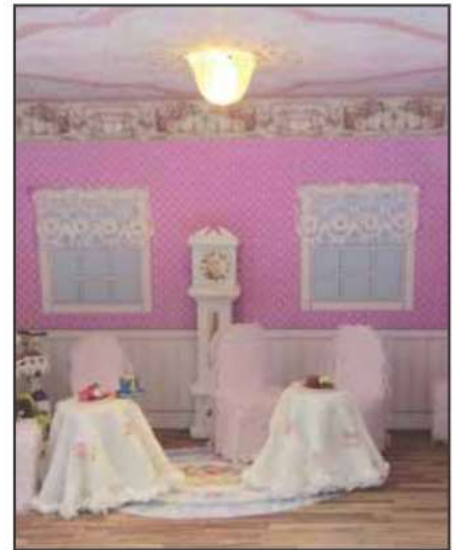
Tables

The tables are wood flower pots available in craft wood section of most hobby stores. You can also substitute with a 1/2" diameter wood dowel cut to 5/8" length or mini wood spool. Use a 1.5" circle template to cut out the fabric for the table covering. Glue on some lace or pulled bunka to cover up the raw edges of fabric circle. The dowel/pot is centered onto the fabric circle making sure the fabric will be even with the bottom on all sides. Apply a glue line at 12:00, 6:00, 3:00 and 9:00 and press a "fold" onto the pot. Apply additional glue lines at 1:00, 4:00, 8:00 and 10:00 to make more "folds".



Lace Curtains

Gluing on a bit of lace onto the windows at the back of the shoppe. You could cut out the individual window panes, add some plastic cling film to the back and a printie of "outside scenery" for more realism.



Chairs

Add quarter scale chairs (4-6) of your choice

Add plates of cupcakes/donuts/pastries, teacups using 1/16" or 1/8" eyelets (add tiny jump rings for the cup's handle), vase of flowers etc.

Ceiling Light Shade

Use a 10mm tulip bead or your choice bead to cover the LED bulb/ceiling light shade.

Printie

Use a good quality photo quality paper. It makes a huge difference in capturing detail when the scale is this small. Canon 8.5" x 11" MATTE photo paper, 45# weight, was used for the project pictured. Canon's matte photo paper looks like cardstock (print on the brighter white side) and gives added stability to the overall structure.

If you would like the printies with flooring and ceiling as one piece with the wallpaper or as a Word document so you can re-size the printies, email thuymeans@gmail.com with Tea Shoppe Free Project in the subject line.

Hope you enjoy the project! If you have any questions or need help, email me at thuymeans@gmail.com.

NAME CUTOUTS • 1/4" TEA SHOPPE



Blue - China Hutch Cabinet Doors, Shelves and Plates



Teapots & Teacups



Clock Face



Pink - Plates, China Hutch Cabinet Shelves & Doors



Rug



Ceiling



Floor