

## Easel for Artist's Studio

Miniatures West Club Project by Nikki Donahue • Photographed and edited by Monin Dreebin

Another great project in the Artist's Studio Series by Nikki Donahue. This seems complicated and intimidating, but really goes together easily.

## WOOD NEEDED

It saves a lot of time if you stain the wood first.

- 1/32" x 1/8" x 1"
- 1/16" x 1/8" x 4"
- 1/16" x 1/4" x 40"
- 1/16" x 5/16" x 1"
- 1/8" x 1/4" x 6"

## TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Hand cutter or miter box and saw
- Sandpaper or sanding sticks
- Stain pens
- Tacky glue
- Graph paper
- Waxed paper
- Gold or black paint



## Base

**SIDES:** from 1/8" x 1/4",  
cut 2 pieces 2-7/8" long

**SPACERS:** from 1/16" x 1/4",  
cut 1 piece 2" long

from 1/16" x 1/4",  
cut 1 piece 1-3/4" long

**BRACE:** from 1/16" x 1/8",  
cut 1 piece 1-3/4" long

1. Orient the side pieces so that the narrow side is down. Round the tops of both pieces at the front and back, sanding them until they are identical.
2. To assemble the base, glue the longer spacer on top of the two side pieces at the front, 1/4" from the front edge. Glue the shorter spacer between the sides at the back, 1/4" from the back edge, flush with the outside, creating a square. (See photo) Before the glue has set, use the graph paper to verify that the base is square.
3. Glue the brace in between the side pieces, 1/16" side down, on top of the back spacer at the outside edge. This creates an L-angle, which will serve as a stopper for the rear diagonal brace.

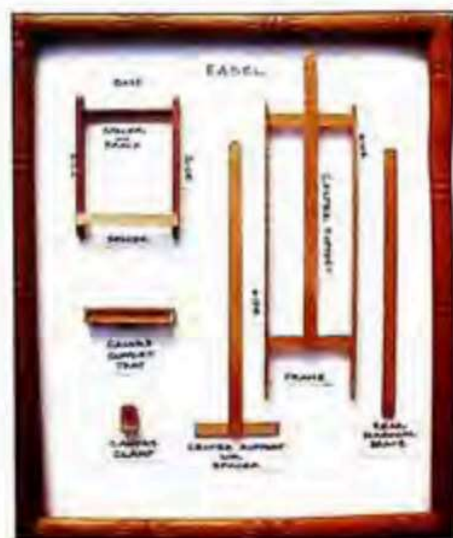
## Frame

**SIDES and CENTER SUPPORT:**  
from 1/16" x 1/4",  
cut 3 pieces 6" long

**SPACERS:** from 1/16" x 1/4",  
cut 2 pieces 1-5/8" long

**REAR BRACE:** from 1/16" x 1/4",  
cut 1 piece 5-1/2" long

4. Slightly round one end of all three 6" pieces. These ends will become the tops.
5. Select the two that best match and set them aside to be used for the sides. The third one will be the center support.
6. Glue one spacer to the bottom and back of the center support,



at a perpendicular angle, flat to flat, centered, flush with the bottom. When the glue has set, but before you glue on the sides, you can test to see if the frame will fit inside the base.

7. With the center support face down (spacer on top), glue the two sides to the spacer, one inch from the bottom of each side. This will result in the center support being flush with the front of the sides and the spacers about 1/16" back from the front edges.
8. When the glue has set, test fit into the base.
9. Glue the top spacer to the back of the center support, 1/4" down from the tops and centered between the sides. Use the graph paper to be sure that the frame is square and that the center support is correctly centered.
10. Put the frame in the base and decide how much backward slant you want. The rear brace goes diagonally behind the center support to the L-angle at the back of the base.

Cut the rear brace to fit. Glue the frame into the base at the de-

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## 1" scale • Easel for Artist's Studio

sired angle and behind the front spacer. Glue in the rear diagonal brace.

### Canvas Support and Tray

**BACK AND LEDGE:** from 1/16" x 1/4", cut 2 pieces 1-3/4" long

**TOP:** from 1/16" x 1/8", cut 1 piece 1-3/4" long

**SIDES:** from 1/16" x 1/4", cut 2 pieces to fit

**SET SCREW:** decorative toothpick

11. Glue the ledge under the back, creating an L-angle.
12. For the sides, cut small pieces to fit your L, rounding them at the front edge.
13. Glue the top to the back and ledge piece and glue the rounded sides at the ends.

14. Make a set screw, by sanding the top of a decorative toothpick flat. Do two of these as you can use the other one for the canvas clamp, which is next. Paint them black or gold. Cut off below the neck, about 1/8". Attach to a small piece of 1/16" x 1/4" wood and glue to the bottom of the canvas support tray, centered. Glue the whole tray to the center support approximately 2-1/4" from the bottom of the easel.

### Canvas Clamp

**BACK:** from 1/16" x 5/16", cut 1 piece 1/2" long

**LEDGE:** from 1/16" x 5/16", cut 1 piece 3/16" long

**SIDES:** from 1/32" x 1/8", cut 2 pieces 3/8" long

**CLOSING:** from 1/16" x 1/4", cut 1 piece 3/8" long

**SET SCREW:** decorative toothpick

15. Round or shape the top of the back piece. Then glue the ledge to the back on the front at the bottom, creating an L-angle.
16. Glue the two side pieces to the rear of the back piece, flush with the bottom. Fit this to the center support of the easel, near the top, so that it will hold your canvas in place. You can make a back for it by gluing the closing piece behind the center support. This makes a little box. Slide it up and down while the glue dries so that it does stick. Then it will adjust to any size canvas. Glue the set screw into the front at the center.
17. Congratulations, you are finished. Now isn't that the cutest working easel you ever saw?

## 1" scale

### Artist's Palette

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#### TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- Wood 1/32" x 1" x 2" for each palette
- Scribbles 3-D shiny paint
- Stain
- Sandpaper
- Wax paper
- Tacky glue

1. Trace a pattern onto the wood. Cut it out with a sharp X-acto knife. Sand the outside edge. Stain the wood.

2. Make the thumb hole. Start making the hole with a small drill bit or the tip of an X-acto blade. Slowly enlarge the hole with a larger drill bit until you get the size you want. The hole needs to accommodate a tiny thumb! If you don't have drill bits, you can make a fool by wrapping sandpaper around a toothpick.



3. To create the look of paint squeezed from a tube onto your palette, apply a tiny amount of 3-D paint to wax paper. Make lots of these in different colors so you have several from which to choose. Play with the paint using a toothpick or tiny brush, until it pleases you. Allow to dry thoroughly.

4. Remove the paint dots from the wax paper with an X-acto and glue to the palette with Tacky. You may want to use colors to coordinate with a particular painting or one on your easel.

