



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2011

News from ELF Miniatures

Welcome to our third Newsletter. In the UK we've had our worst summer for 20 years and dolls house enthusiasts here have worked on their hobby through the rain! So we've had a busy time but Elizabeth has managed to develop some new ranges for collectors, please see below.

We have also added to our range from other makers: beautiful Crabtree and Evelyn toiletry sets; and Heirloom traditional rugs.

Our range of accessories in the alternative scales of 1:16 and 1:24 has been extended: you can now find packets of tea, coffee and more in 1/24th and 1/16th; in 1/24th we have a choice of modern flooring and we have additional kitchen accessories in 1/16th.

Finally, many of the designer chairs from Japan are no longer being manufactured, so, if you have your eye on one, don't delay too long before you buy!



Can't think what to buy your enthusiast friends and relatives for Christmas? How about an ELF Christmas Gift voucher? Choose from £5, £10 or £20

New items from Elizabeth

ELF Rollover leather sofas

A new departure for ELF - upholstered sitting room furniture, starting with the Rollover sofa in a choice of colours. It is shown here with 2 of our modern rugs as wall hangings.



1-CLICK kitchens - a kitchen in a bag!



A range of complete kit kitchens from as little as £50, ready for you to assemble using our EAZY kits. Each kit comes with everything you need to make the kitchen in the accompanying photo, including handles, self-adhesive film, and worktops. No need to order any "extras" - everything is included in the price (except glue and paint). Full instructions are provided with each kit, including notes for using self-adhesive film where appropriate.

Extended range of 1/6th (playscale)



Elizabeth has extended our range of 1/6th furniture. You can buy an 'off the shelf' kitchen in white, black or zebrano with a choice of worktops. The first of these is now also available as a kit, and others will follow.

In the bathroom, we have developed a 'modesty screen'. If you are unable to find a toilet of suitable quality for your bathroom, this screen offers the perfect solution. You can use either a cheap plastic one and spray it white, or do as we have done, use blocks of Balsa wood to create a suitable profile, then paint white (or use white hi-gloss film) and hide it with the screen. It will give the effect of having a loo without compromising on the luxury appearance of your bathroom! Only £20.00 in a choice of finishes. ELF has a bathtub and range of vanity options in 1/6th to complete your bathroom.



Featuring this issue...

Bathrooms

We have created two very different bathrooms to give you an idea of what can be achieved in a relatively small space. Below we tell you how we did them, but first, take a look (you can see them at Miniatura as well).

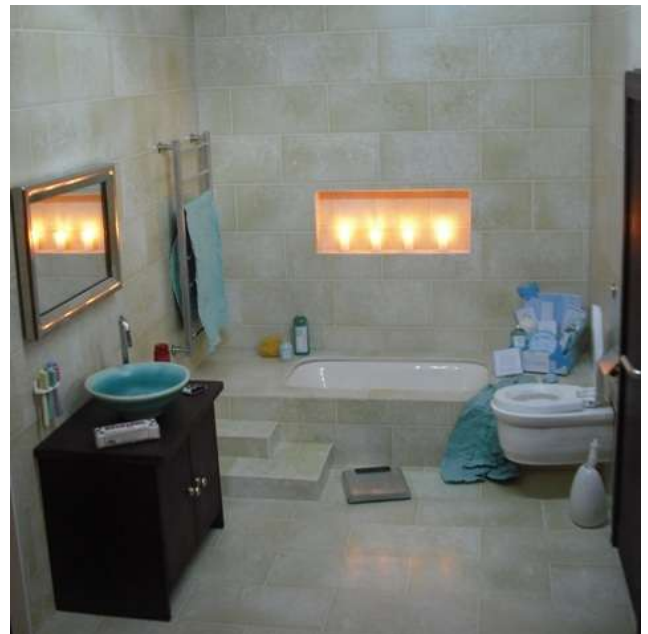


This bathroom in chic black and fuchsia, measures just 6 1/4" (16cms) by 9" (23cms) deep, and includes a doorway for greater realism. The white walls provide a striking contrast with the [black marble tiling](#) for the floor and shower area. The shower is the new shower kit by ELF, great for creating a wet room shower anywhere! The vanity unit is an [ELF Vibrant vanity unit](#) in bright pink (other colours and a matching tub are available). We've used a simple [mirror](#) above the unit and below the

unit are the new [ELF glass and steel bathroom scales](#). The [toilet](#) is china with an [ELF loo brush](#) on the floor beside it.

The [stunning chrome and glass units](#) are available in two versions, either of which would be perfect in any bathroom (and if you have a large room, you can use more than one to great effect). We accessorised the room with several items from our [bathroom and personal care range](#).

The second bathroom is very different ... This bathroom creates an air of calm relaxation and despite only being 8"(20cm) wide and 9" (23cms) deep, seems more spacious than it is. We built a shallow false back wall, and created a small niche to hold a set of [ELF tea lights](#) that illuminate the room with a soft glow. We used [sandstone flooring](#) on both walls and floor to give a harmonious feel to the whole room, and using an inexpensive [china bath](#), built a dais around it to create a luxurious sunken bath, with shallow steps leading up to it. A luxury bath invites spa treatment...so we added a complete [Crabtree and Evelyn pamper set](#) in La Source fragrance, placing a couple of the bottles and the real sponge by the rim of the bath, leaving everything else in its presentation box as if ready to be sampled. An [ELF heated towel rail](#) completes the bathing area.



The [toilet](#) is from the economy range of wall hung sanitary ware, and we've added an [ELF aluminium loo roll holder](#) and a [china loo brush](#).

The vanity unit is an [ELF EAZY vanity kit](#) with the addition of a bowl by Carol Mann (these are available on request), and above the unit is a new [chrome and glass mirror](#). Again we accessorised from ELF's bathroom and personal care range.

New items from the ELF Store

We are delighted to make available [Crabtree and Evelyn toiletry sets](#) - licenced by Crabtree and Evelyn and in beautiful detail. Available made up or in kits, in a variety of fragrances. Illustrated here are 'Citron' bottles and a 'La Source' pampering kit - please see the website for the complete selection.



[Heirloom rugs](#) add a traditional note to a modern house; available in a wide range of patterns and colours. Many of them were

woven on 100 year old looms and designed in collaboration with 5th and 6th generation traditional workshops. Available in a range of colours and sizes: see the section 'Traditional rugs' under 'Carpets, Rugs and Flooring'.



Responding to demand for retro and the 1950's, we're launching 1950's kitchen kits - and have a look at the great 1950s bar stools to complement the look. We also have appliances to fit the period.



Please ask if there is anything you would like that we don't already stock. We can't guarantee to find it for you, but we'll try! For example, we were recently asked if we could find a modern pebble effect fire - we did - and these are now available on the website.

READERS HOUSES

This month we are delighted to feature Heather's house! Heather says "I have always preferred modern houses and miniatures which, when I first started getting interested in dolls houses almost 20 years ago, were very difficult to find. Now I'm so happy to see that Modern is becoming more and more popular and there is now so much more choice from suppliers and artisans. I especially love my kitchen, bathroom and bedroom from Elf, which turned out turned out so much better than I could ever have imagined".



The bathroom features a sunken bath (see below for how to do this yourself) and Heather was the client for whom Elizabeth made the first set of tealights on a shelf. In Heather's kitchen we especially like the figures, they really bring the ELF kitchen to life!



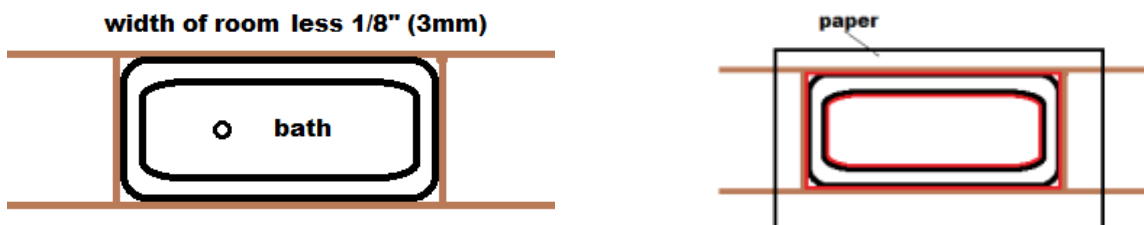
AUTUMN ISSUE'S HINTS AND TIPS —

HOW TO MAKE THE SUNKEN BATH SHOWN IN THE NEW ELF BATHROOM.

You will need:

- China bath (remove tap – or ask us to remove it for you if you are ordering from us)
- Strips of wood 1/8" (3mm) thick and a fraction higher than the bath (approx 1 3/16" (3cms))
- 1 piece thin plywood or basswood 1/32" (0.8mm) thick, and approximately 3" (7.5 cms) wide by the width of your room (if you have a large room you may wish to make the dais deeper from back to front)
- Scrap wood for steps
- Glue
- Tiling (paper/plastic, self-adhesive plastic film)

First, cut the strips of wood into the correct lengths. You need four the same width as the bath and two or three the width of your room less about 1/8" (3mm). If you want the edge of the bath very close to the front of the dais, two will be enough, otherwise you need three this length. Place your bath between two long strips, and apply wood glue to the ends of the two short pieces, and glue into place as shown below left. (We've shown the bath in the centre, but you may want to have it to one side). Wrap rubber bands around the frame near the joints so that it creates a good bond (make sure you keep the sides of the frame level).



Once the glue is dry, remove the bath, and take a piece of paper, place it over the frame, and press carefully all the way round the inside edges of the frame and then the INNER edge of the bath, so you get a crease in the paper. Cut out the rectangle made by the frame, and draw over the rounded line of the bath surround. Tidy up the line if necessary, and cut out the centre. Try it over your bath and see how it fits. If the hole you have cut leaves too much of the edge of the bath exposed, redraw the outline and cut well within it (you can always widen the hole – you can't put it back in!)

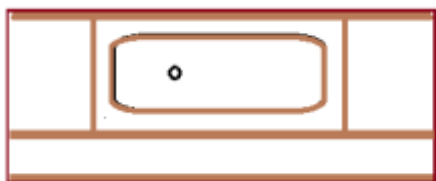
Now sit your frame on the plywood (we recommend ply rather than basswood as it is less likely to split), with the back edge of the frame close to one long edge of the ply (you can allow the ply to stick out a little, as you can sand it once it's glued on). Place the paper inside the frame, and draw round the outline of the cut-out. Use a sharp craft knife and cut the hole from the plywood. Put your bath in the frame again, and put the ply over the top. Mark any obvious improvements and re-cut if the amounts to

remove are considerable (you want the ply to just cover the inner edge of the bath). You'll be able to sand it to a perfect finish once it's glued on.

Apply glue to all the top edges of the frame and sit the ply on top, ensuring it's in the right position, with the back edge a fraction over the back of the frame) the sides covering the frame. Place a weight (heavy books would be ideal) on the assembly and allow to dry thoroughly.

Put the bath under the frame, and pencil in where you need to trim the edge. Use a file, or a roll of sandpaper and sand until the hole is regular, and smooth and just covering the inner edge of the bath. This may take a little while, but time taken now will give best results.

Once the frame is ready, decide how much of a strip you wish to leave in front of the bath. If space is



short and you want to make the frame as narrow as possible, you can trim the ply level with the outer edge of the front frame. Otherwise, decide how wide you want the strip, and draw a straight line across the ply (or leave the piece whole) and then glue the final piece of frame under the ply in line with the edge you have chosen – see left. Sit a weight on top as before

and allow to dry.

When the glue is dry, sand front and back edges level with the top. Try the frame in the room and if needed sand the sides for a perfect fit. You can then cover the top and front edge with your tiling.

In the meantime you can make steps. The each step should be $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1cm) high, and the bottom one should be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ " (4cms) deep, the top one $\frac{3}{4}$ " (2cms) deep. The width depends on your space. In our bathroom we put the steps to one side, with both steps aligned with the left hand wall, but you may wish to place your steps in the centre, in which case the bottom one should be about 1" (2.4cm) to $1\frac{1}{2}$ "

(4cms) WIDER than the top one, which should be at least 2" (5cms) wide.



To make the steps, either create small boxes with tops (sand these smooth with the edges) or simply cut several pieces of scrap wood the same size, and glue together to make up the height (again, you can sand for a good finish).

When you have made the steps, cover these with tiling too.

Sit your frame over the bath. If the bath is lower than the frame, place a piece of wood or card underneath it so that it sits snugly under the rim of the frame. You can now drill a hole for the tap in the surround, or make a tap for the wall – this can be a simple square of wood, painted silver (or cover in silver film or foil) to replicate one of the very modern minimalist wall mounted taps. Or you can choose from the range of taps available from ELF. You can now place the frame with the tub in the room (don't forget the spacer under the bath if it is needed – you can glue it to the bath or the floor if you prefer) and complete your bathroom to match!