

# CONTRIBUTOR GUIDELINES

# WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in submitting to our miniature magazines! American Miniaturist (AM) and Dollhouse Miniatures (DHM) are growing, international hobby magazines devoted to supporting and furthering the hobby of dollhouse miniatures.

Our aim is to inform, entertain, and inspire our readers. With subscribers in over 45 countries, we are proud to have an extensive and varied readership.

## WHERE TO BEGIN

Contributors to our magazines are enthusiastic miniaturists and are often readers themselves, with a solid understanding of both the hobby and the magazines. Those less familiar with the titles are asked to familiarize themselves with our style and approach before submitting.

While both titles include a mixture of features and projects, AM & DHM are each distinctly different. American Miniaturist aims to inspire miniature enthusiasts to create. It is a project-based magazine designed with the miniature maker in mind. Dollhouse Miniatures, on the other hand, focuses on fine miniature art for the devoted collector.

For submissions, our editor will have the final authority to place your submission in the magazine she feels is most appropriate.

We welcome and encourage submissions or article ideas from writers of all skill levels. Submitted material will not be turned away purely on the basis of grammar, spelling, or other written skills.

For those who wish to become regular contributors or to stay in the loop with our titles, we send out monthly (AM) and bimonthly (DHM) emails with updates. If you would like to be

added to our email list, please email [auralea@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:auralea@ashdown.co.uk) to let us know which magazine(s) you are most interested in.

Please take a look through our Contributor Guidelines and feel free to contact us with any questions.

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## SUBJECT MATTER

We publish two types of articles: projects/tutorials and features. Projects teach readers how to create something in step-by-step format, while features encompass a broad range of other interesting content to inspire miniaturists.

Features Topics Can Be:

- Spectacular dollhouses, room boxes, or mini scenes
- Profiles of talented artisans, their stories, and their outstanding work
- Useful information that enhances a miniaturist's creative process

Projects Can Be:

- Original projects or items. Past issues have included a wide range of items, from scene foundations (making a room out of a birthday card) to individual items (furniture, dolls, clothing, wildlife, etc.).
- Helpful tips and new techniques for making miniatures (how to weather a cabinet or create a rustic roof, etc.).
- Full scenes, in the form of long or serial projects that contain tutorials for each individual part of the scene or room box.

All projects and articles must be your own work. If they're influenced or based on anything else, you must let us know in the submission. Also, all projects and articles must be original. We do not accept submissions that have been or are planned to be published elsewhere.

## TEXT

Submitted text should be/include:

- In a Microsoft Word document or typed in the body of an email
- Average word count for feature articles between 1,000-2,000 words. Write what you feel is appropriate and we will edit or ask for more text as needed.
- Average word count for projects between 500-2,500 words. How-to projects may be any length as long as they follow the format detailed under PROJECT GUIDELINES.
- Generic tools/materials names over brand names (i.e. craft glue instead of Tacky Glue); however, exceptions apply if the author recommends readers use a specific brand to achieve the desired results.
- Measurements must be in **inches**, preferably with **fractions** so that readers can measure accurately with a ruler; exceptions apply when lengths are exceptionally small (i.e. millimeters or centimeters).

## PHOTO SPECS

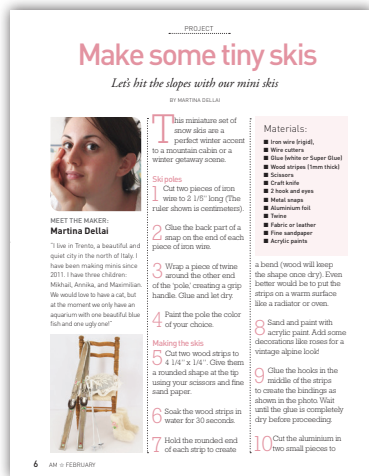
- Photos must be in **.jpg or .tiff** format. Digital files are preferred, by email, Dropbox, CD, flash drive, or SD card.
- **Illustrations or photographs are required** for illustrating all aspects of a dollhouse or scene or each step of a how-to project.

- A **headshot** of the featured artist or of the author (for projects) is also requested.
- **DO NOT** crop, resize, brighten, sharpen, or do anything else to photos. Photos are edited in-house. Original files will ensure the highest quality.
- Photographs should be **labeled** by step number (for project tutorials) or a descriptive phrase (for features).
- A **list of captions** is required for features. Note that all images submitted to us might not be used. We reserve the right to determine what will best illustrate the project or scene.
- Camera-ready line drawings or computer-generated illustrations to accompany photographs are not required but are encouraged if they add clarity to a project.
- **We reserve the right to reject articles based on the quality** of the photography. If photographs are deemed unusable, the contributor will be contacted and asked to either re-shoot or send the item in for photographing (all items will be returned to sender).

## PHOTO TECHNIQUES

- Photos should be taken at the **largest file size** and **highest resolution** possible on your camera settings. Photos are required to be at least **300dpi** for print publication.
- Keep **perspective** in mind when photographing. For instance, it is helpful to think of capturing the image from a miniature person's point of view.
- **Overall views** from the top are sometimes necessary to show all aspects of a piece, but we don't want photos that are from the perspective of someone floating above the room!
- Shoot from **various angles** and take **close-up** shots of details that might be overlooked in a wide shot.
- Have **adequate lighting**, but not so much that you get a lot of glare. When photographing inside, it is often helpful to have two light sources from each side of a piece to ensure adequate lighting. Adjust your light source(s) as necessary to eliminate shadows.
- Keeping all items in **focus** is a must. If you have a manual lens, adjust it as you look through the viewfinder to make sure all items appear clearly. If you don't have a manual lens, adjust your distance from the object until it comes into focus.
- Use **simple backgrounds**. Draping a solid-color sheet over a chair provides a quick and effective backdrop. Try to create a seamless backdrop (i.e. one that doesn't show a division behind or on the sides of the item you're photographing).
- Backgrounds should be **light-colored**, preferably a light blue or gray. Do not use white or black.
- Photographs must be **free of shadows**, glare, blurriness, and other obstructions.
- Sometimes trial and error is the best way to produce quality photographs. While it can be time consuming at first, it also allows you the opportunity to fine-tune your technique, making future photo sessions easier!

# PROJECT GUIDELINES



Here's a short example:

“This miniature set of snow skis is a perfect winter accent to a mountain cabin or a winter getaway scene.”

- In a similar vein, we'd like a **short conclusion** to tie up the article. What did you end up doing with the item? What is your next challenge? Are there any creative ways the item can be used or alternative ways to make it? One to two short paragraphs is sufficient.

## Materials:

- Iron wire (rigid)
- Wire cutters
- Glue (white or Super Glue)
- Wood stripes (1mm thick)
- Scissors
- Craft knife
- 2 hook and eyes
- Metal snaps
- Aluminium foil
- Twine
- Fabric or leather
- Fine sandpaper
- Acrylic paints

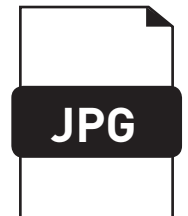
- A complete list of **tools and materials** is required for all how-to projects
- **Tutorials in several parts**—i.e. a “Dressing a Doll” tutorial that

- **Instructions** must be written in numbered steps that correspond to numbered photos.

- **A brief introduction** to the topic is necessary to provide context. What is the tutorial? Why is it an important/fun/useful technique or project? One to two short paragraphs is sufficient.

includes one part on making a doll dress and another part on making a doll purse—should include a 1- to 2-sentence introduction and separate list of tools and materials for each of those parts as well.

- **Be as specific as possible.** If one of your steps says something like, “Put on wallpaper,” try to add more detail. What steps are necessary to add the wallpaper? How would someone who has never added wallpaper go about doing it?
- Include **photographs to accompany each step** of a how to project. We want to see how you added that wallpaper and what it looked like before the wallpaper was there.
- Include **overall views** of the final scene or final project within another scene. Once we learn how to make an item or use a technique, we want to be inspired by seeing what you've done with it!
- Rename your project photos as Step 1, Step 2, etc. Do NOT place numbers within the photo or add numbers on the photo itself. Go back over your text and make sure the steps correspond with your photos.
- Because we understand the complexity of submitting projects we will include your business name and web address at the end of the tutorial.



STEP1.JPG

## FEATURE PROMOTIONAL DETAILS

- Having content in our titles is a huge privilege and can be a great boost for your business. After all, our global audience is passionate about one thing; miniatures! We do not publish any contact information as we consider this promotional material. We recommend that you take advantage of this editorial opportunity and advertise along with your valuable content. You will be asked to consider a Get In Touch ad (only \$99) that will be placed directly in your article. Expect to be contacted by Sara Vix, [sara@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:sara@ashdown.co.uk), as she will discuss all of your options. Feel free to contact her with any questions.
- If other artists or sources are mentioned, please send us their contact information. This will be for in-house use only.

## SUBMITTING

Please include the following with all submissions in the form of a cover letter:

- Author name (byline) and photographer name (byline)
- Complete contact information (phone, email, mailing address; these are for in-house use only) for author, featured artist, and any artist/business mentioned or promoted
- Name of magazine to which you are submitting
- Photo captions for feature articles

## 3 ways to submit your work

**Email:** send text and images to [auralea@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:auralea@ashdown.co.uk) in a .zip file or as attachments (text can be pasted into the body of the email)

**File-sharing Site:** Send text and images via a file-sharing site such as Dropbox or YouSendIt to [auralea@ashdown.co.uk](mailto:auralea@ashdown.co.uk)

**Mail** text and images on a CD, flash drive, or SD card to:

Auralea Krieger  
[NAME OF MAGAZINE]  
PO BOX 219  
Kasson, MN 55944.

- Questions can be directed to Auralea via email.

## REMUNERATION

- We pay a nominal fee for varied editorial and solicited projects that meet our mission and are professionally written and submitted as a complete article, which is defined as a cover letter, text, captions. These articles would require very little (if any) proofing or editing as well as professional, high-resolution photos. Any remuneration is at the full discretion of the editor.
- Submitting editorial that is self-promotional or submitting photos for a feature article that is written in-house does not warrant payment of any kind.
- Payment, when warranted, is made upon publication of the article. The amount is determined by the editor based upon, but not limited to, the following criteria: article and

photograph quality, length of article, overall complexity of the work, and adherence to submission guidelines.

- You may also choose to trade payment, when warranted, for magazine subscriptions/renewals, issue copies, back issues, or advertising credit. Please contact us with any questions.
- **Please note:** We do not send complimentary copies for published articles. However, you will receive a complimentary iMag link for the issue your work is published in along with ordering information for printed copies.

## THE FINE PRINT

The following appears on the contents page of each issue and should be understood by all contributors prior to submitting:

*All material submitted to the magazine is accepted on the basis that copyright will be vested in the Publisher who assumes all rights worldwide, in all forms and media. This means the publisher owns the rights to the instructions and photographs that we publish. The work may be published in the magazines, our i-Mags, e-books, CDs and bookzines as well as on Dollshouse. TV and/or our digital apps. You continue to own the copyright for the design and are free to teach and sell your work. We ask that you wait a minimum of 6 months after the publication of the issue before teaching the design or selling your own instructions. We do not allow you to re-publish the design featured in other books or magazines without prior consent.*

Thank you again for your interest, and we hope to hear from you soon!  
We look forward to working with you to promote miniature art and share your expertise with our readers!

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[www.americanminiaturist.com](http://www.americanminiaturist.com)