



Looking small

Chris Nelson needs tweezers for this one

Poppies is a really pretty shop. So I thought I'd love to make a model of it, just to see what it looked like. I made it to scale and it came out really well.

I had to carve the wooden panels out the front, because they've got to be carved, otherwise they don't look right. It took me about four or five goes, and I had to scale the little peaks and the little hollows to fit, otherwise it just doesn't look right.

The scale works out around 1:12, pretty much the same size as a traditional doll's house. I took a photograph of the fireplace, and made a model around it, and I put the little silver fan on top of the heater; that's there just to let you know that's the fireplace.

I got a really good camera. So, I took a photograph of Georgia and Julie, and it's stuck to the back wall of the model, but when you look in the front door, it looks 3D — it looks like they're actually in there.

I find model making really relaxing to do. It's all about measuring. You've got to measure four or five times, and then cut once. You're down to the millimetre. Modern large-scale tools will do the job, you've just got to be careful.

I can envision what it's going to look like when it's finished, in my head, and I've got to try and get the actual building of it to that scale. We met a lovely lady, who's an artist by profession, and she's a miniaturist. She paints miniature



LEFT: POPPIES OUTSIDE AND IN. ABOVE: A SHOP FROM A CHILDHOOD MEMORY. BELOW: AT WORK IN THE SHED.

paintings, but she also makes loaves of bread that look absolutely real, even close up. You can take a photograph of that miniature loaf, and then put it beside a real one, you can't tell the difference. So, she sort of got me really interested in that side of things.

Making things keeps your brain active too, I think, and it keeps your hands active, and it makes use of your shed, you know? But yeah, I enjoy it. It's good fun.



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