

Boho Retreat

by Fran Casselman

Bathroom:

- #34112 Grey Mosaic Tile Sheet
- #54015 Updated Basic Bathroom
- #76303 Corner Shower Stall
- #75032 Window Cabinet
- #52060 Blue "BATH" Mat

Bedroom:

- #42305 Whitewashed Plank Wallpaper
- #7024 Random Width Wood Flooring
- #76683 Walnut Graham Entertainment Set
- #80597 Evans Side Table
- #45223 Preston Bed
- #77214 Four Glass Bottles with Removable Corks
- #24484 Pink Million Stars Flowers
- #40601 Row of Old Books
- #40330 Pair of Scroll Bookends
- #12362 Marion Battery-Operated LED Table Lamp
- #65580 White Smartphone
- #42353 Calico Cat and Roses Pillow
- #22961 Daisy (Relaxing Grey Tabby Cat)

Kitchen:

- #778 1/24 Scale Rough Brick Sheet
- #34112 Grey Mosaic Tile Sheet
- #77164 Round Pub Table Set
- #75373 European Refrigerator
- #14403 Kitchen Collection 3" Sink/Stove Base
- #13431 Kitchen Collection Sink
- #14405 Kitchen Collection 2"/4-Drawer Base
- #14402 Kitchen Collection 2" Base
- #65549 Four Gunmetal Drawer Pulls
- #1129 Brass Pointed Pin Nails 4mm
- #43113 Victorian Drawer Pull
- #24412 3-Pc. Gooseneck Kitchen Faucet Set
- #77214 Four Glass Bottles with Removable Corks
- #28121 12 Sunflowers
- #77009 Roman Wall Clock
- #65265 Old Fashioned Balance Scale
- #68703 5-Pc. Blue Symmetry Place Setting
- #62065 12 Lemons
- #21053 Tiny Spider Plant
- #15114 Blue and White Tea Towels Kit
- #62269 Blue Spatterware Teakettle



- #65573 4 White Canisters
- #77206 Aged Copper Kitchen Utensil Rack
- #62036 Lucky Bamboo in Blue-and-White Planter
- #17515 1/8" x 3/4" Strip Wood
- #67233 Cobalt-and-White Platter
- #68326 Tiny Green Glass Pitcher
- #65573 4 White Canisters
- #24471 Modern Black Dutch Oven
- #24472 Modern Black Stock Pot
- #64437 Small Embossed Mixing Bowl
- #64477 Large Embossed Mixing Bowl
- #40440 Round Trio Succulent Planters
- #68703 5-Pc. Blue Symmetry Place Setting
- #65573 4 White Canisters

Living Room:

- #74923 Cottage Oak Ladderback Chair
- #76683 Walnut Graham Entertainment Set
- #76347 Regan Writing Table
- #76235 Manhattan Living Room Set
- #85021 Small Widescreen TV with Remote

- #40510 Wicker Ottoman
- #61082 Yucca Gigantea Floor Plant
- #40410 Pair of Medium Terra-Cotta Planters
- #65564 White Laptop Computer
- #77277 Sophia Tall Floor Lamp
- #59101 Yellow Orchid
- #78444 6" Straight Ladder
- #73095 4 Coat Hooks

Other Accessories:

- #54024 Pair of Oblong Baskets
- #40630 Stack of Old Books
- #40540 Corona Special No. 3 Typewriter
- #88524 Pair of Duck Decoys
- #77192 Two Framed Impressionist Prints
- #80320 Key Largo Sailboat
- #66928 Oil Lamp with Hurricane Shade
- #78597 Country Church Birdhouse
- #40620 Stack of Big Books
- #78519 Hourglass
- #7396 Checkerboard
- #67070 Trophy Cup
- #201 Guitar with Case

Finishing Tips:

- #17515 1/8" x 3/4" Strip Wood (aged with #1073 Fred's Wood Weathering Stuff)
- White gloss spray paint was used on the wall sheet, window and base cabinets for consistent color. Several coats were needed; unfinished wood items were sanded lightly between coats. Cabinet doors/drawers were installed after painting.
- Countertop was crafted from mat board; any similar material about 1/16" thick will also work. Cut strips 2" wide (for countertop) and 3/8" wide (for backsplash) and as long as needed. Apply #81430 1/8" Quarter Round molding to front edge of countertop with #1249 Weldbond or other white glue. Molding should be flush with top surface and create an overhang on bottom edge. Do an internet image search for "marble texture" (or "granite texture" or whatever your choice). Keep scale in mind. Print the chosen image at the highest quality possible. Spray the printout with sealer (matte or gloss, as you prefer) and set aside.
- The sink can be "dropped-in", where the lip is on top of the counter, or "undermounted" as shown here. Mark the opening (from the cabinet base) and carefully cut it out.
- The smooth "cooktop" on the center unit is an internet image of a cooktop, sized to fit the countertop space and printed on quality photo paper. Use a black or silver marker to color the edges of the photo paper. I added jewelry findings for knobs, but many cooktops have touch controls so this is not really necessary.
- The kitchen window had to be shortened to clear the countertop/backsplash. Once the final height was determined, the frame and both sashes were disassembled, cut, and reassembled. Note that there is no trim (frame) at the bottom of the window over the sink. (The exterior wall gap was filled with layers of foam core.)
- #75373 European Refrigerator was modified to become a contemporary, bottom-freezer unit. It is used upside down and, while the freezer section now appears to be a drawer, the opening method was not changed. (You may be able to remove the doors to work on them separately. With the door open, pull straight out. The hinges are short "pins" into the frame and they may pull away cleanly. Do not force them as you risk splitting the wood.) Carefully remove the original handles, which are glued-on pieces of wood. You will need to cut and/or chisel them off, but try not to gouge or dent the surrounding surface. Fill any holes and sand the surface very smooth. Cut a piece of thin cardboard and glue in place on what was the bottom to make a new top. Paint all exterior surfaces with good quality silver acrylic craft paint. More than one coat may be needed.

Make new bar handles using eye pins (jewelry findings) and the plastic stems of cotton swabs. Cut the swabs to the lengths you will need for a vertical handle on the upper section and a horizontal handle on the freezer. Put two eye pins on each handle, near the ends. Determine the handle position and drill into the door. Cut very short lengths of the plastic stems to cover the pins and support the handle away from the door. To close the open ends on the handles, apply a little white or tacky glue and let dry. Paint the handles silver and glue in place.



- The optional MDF partition wall provided with the Craftsman Cabin Kit is used to separate the kitchen and bathroom. Additional divider walls were made with foam core board.
- The partition separating the bedroom and living room is 5" high and 8" long, with 2" additional to enclose the bedroom. (In architecture, this partition is called a pony wall.) It is capped with stained wood trim and wallpapered with an internet image of recycled planks.
- The bathroom door wall is positioned between the two windows on the back wall. It is papered with library-shelves wallpaper and has a center doorway opening slightly smaller than the two door panels from #6016 Palladian Split Door. You can use any door panel as a sliding door but if it is a one-piece door, the opening will need to be off center so that the door can slide clear of the opening. Crafting details for sliding doors is on the next page.

Sliding (Barn) Doors

by Fran Casselman

Items used:

- #6016 Palladian Door (door slab)
- #1123 Window Pull
- Foam core (or other wall material)
- Size #1 (8mm) sew-on snaps
(a sewing notion, available at crafts stores and fabric stores)
- Sequin pins or flat head pins (jewelry findings)
- Packaging plastic (such as from a Houseworks door or window)
- Strip wood, 1/4" x 1/16"
- 1/32" thick Cardboard (cereal box, legal pad or similar)
- One plastic-coated paperclip
- Flush-cutting wire cutters
- Super glue gel
- Masking tape and basic craft tools/supplies



Instructions:

The wall may be made of any suitable material, but foam core was used here because it is lightweight and easy to cut while still being rigid enough in this small size. The directions that follow may have to be adapted if another material is used. It is also assumed that the wall is not installed and can be worked on while flat.

In this project, the wall is made of 3/16" foam core board. The door opening is centered, because the split door used here requires wall space on each side to open fully. If you use a single door in a wall this size, the opening should be to one side so the door can open all the way. The wall may be any size that is at least twice the width of the door, and will look better if it is an inch or so wider.

This project can be made with any style of ready-made door or you can make a door to suit your scene. This type of door has no frame so a ready-made door will have to be removed from the frame. On all Houseworks doors, there is a small nail or pin at the bottom of the frame where the door hinges. Remove this pin and you can angle the door out of the frame. There is a top pin also; if it remains in the door when you take it out of the frame, remove it so that you have only the wooden slab with no hardware.

Make the wall the size you will need and plan (but do not cut) the location of the opening. The opening should be slightly smaller than the door. Place the door in position, flush at the floor, and mark the top of the door on the wall. Then, mark a line across the wall 1/16" to 1/8" above the door height. This is where the door

will actually hang, so that it does not scrape or bind on the floor. (Note: if the wall will go in before any finished flooring, allow for the thickness of the flooring.)

Paint or stain the door as desired. If your door has glazing, decide whether you want it to keep the transparency of the original door or be more obscured. You have many options*, but the glazing in the doors used here was replaced with two layers of #0029 Rippled Water Sheet. You may add any knobs or handles now, or later.

*Other options to replace glazing in a door include mirror sheet, thin wood panel (if the door is stained) or cardboard (if the door is painted). The original acrylic glazing can be roughened with fine sandpaper (on both sides) for a frosted-glass appearance. Grillework appliques may be used on top of or instead of a filler panel.

In an actual sliding door system, an iron rail is hung above the door opening and held slightly away from the wall to allow a pair of flanged wheels to roll along it. The door is suspended from the wheels by iron straps; the wheels are held on the rail by gravity.

The miniature door's rail needs more support so it has a strip wood foundation with a thin, narrow cardboard spacer strip. The rail and straps are strips of packaging plastic, and the wheels are sew-on snaps. Each door panel requires two strap/wheel assemblies.

Prepare the straps

Cut a strip of packaging plastic** about $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide and long enough for the two (or four) assemblies you will need. The length is whatever looks right to you, but it must be long enough for two fastening points ("bolts") on the door and about $\frac{5}{16}$ " extension above the door. Trim the ends in a pleasing shape but do not change the length. About $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the top end of the strap, use a pushpin or T-pin to pierce a hole through the strap. Make another hole about $\frac{5}{16}$ " below the first one, and a third about $\frac{3}{16}$ " below that. Make holes in both (all) straps. Hole placement must be identical for all straps.

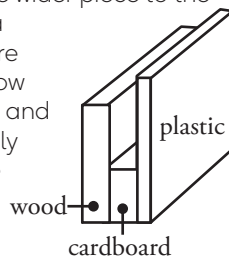
**A thicker material, such as 1mm styrene sheet (from hobby stores and art suppliers) may be used and will actually work a little better, but it will have to be drilled to accept the pins. Do not use wood; it will split. Some miniaturists use thin aluminum from tealight candle cups, but for this use it may bend and the doors will not hang straight.

Prepare the wheels

You need both pieces of a snap to make a wheel. Open the snaps to remove them from the packaging and snap them together again. When viewed from the edge, you will see a thicker side and a thinner side. The thicker side is the front and the thinner side is the back. Find a plastic-coated paperclip (any color, standard #1 size, not jumbo) and bend the outside straight section away for easier access. With a knife or scissors, cut through just the plastic coating and slide it off of the wire (a half-inch length is plenty). Cut this into pieces, about $\frac{1}{16}$ " long, one for each wheel. Put a sequin pin or head pin through the top hole in a strap and through the front center hole of a snap. Slip a length of the tiny tube over the tip of the pin. Hold the snap tightly to the strap and pin, and put a tiny amount of super glue gel near the snap. Slide the tube through the glue and into the recess of the snap. Hold the pieces together while the glue sets, but rotate the snap on the pin to be sure it has not stuck to the glue. Repeat for the other strap(s) and set aside to allow the glue to cure thoroughly, at least overnight. Glue strength increases greatly when left undisturbed.

Prepare the support bar

Cut a piece of $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{1}{16}$ " strip wood to length (a bit more than twice the width of the door) for the support bar. Find or laminate layers of cardboard to $\frac{1}{32}$ " thickness. Cut a piece $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide x the length of the bar. Cut two pieces of packaging plastic, $\frac{5}{16}$ " wide and $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide, x the length of the bar. Use white glue to glue the cardboard piece to the wood piece, flush along one long edge (now the bottom). Sand the plastic pieces lightly to roughen the surface for better adhesion. Use very small amounts of gel super glue (CA), or super glue and white glue together, to glue the wider piece to the cardboard, flush at the bottom and creating a channel where the wheels will rest. Be sure there is no excess glue in the channel. Glue the narrow plastic strip under the bottom to add strength and create a smooth appearance. Set this assembly aside to dry thoroughly, at least overnight. The bonds must be very strong.



When the glued straps and bar are thoroughly set, paint the areas that will show. Keep paint out of the channel as much as possible.



Assemble the sliding door unit

Check that the wheels rotate and are well attached to the straps. With flush-cut wire cutters, cut the pins at the back of the wheels, as close as possible. Fit a wheel onto the bar (only the back section goes into the channel) and determine how much gap to leave between the top of the door and the bottom of the bar. If you leave about $\frac{3}{16}$ " gap, you should be able to hang or remove the doors after the wall is in place. If you leave less gap on a narrow wall (as here), the doors will have to be installed with the wall, because there would not be enough room to slide them on/off the end of the bar. Measure the gap amount and mark a line on the wall, above the earlier line for the top of the door. Tape the bar to that line, tape the door to the first line and, with the wheel still in the channel, position the strap on the door near one side. Use a pin to mark the door through the holes in the straps. Mark the other strap position(s). Remove the wheel from the channel and attach the straps/wheels to the door(s) with sequin pins or head pins, drilling as necessary. The pins will extend through the door. Once they are in place and all the way against the door, mark the extending ends, pull the pins out one at a time and cut slightly shorter with the flush cutter. Put a tiny amount of super glue gel on the shaft of the pins and push them back into place. Paint the pin heads. Hang the doors on the bar to confirm there is the right amount of gap and adjust as needed.

Use measurements or a paper template to record the line positions on your wall. Cut the door opening and finish the wall as desired. Re-mark the line for the bar and glue it in place. Let it dry and hang the doors. If your wall is wide and a door could slide off the end of the bar, glue a tiny block inside the channel as a stop. Install the wall in your structure.

Creating a removable wall to the #92017 Craftsman Cabin

by Fran Casselman

Items used:

- #92017 Craftsman Cabin
- Drill, with assorted drill bits
- Screwdriver, or driver bit for drill
- 2 - 3/4" Sq. x 15 3/4" L dowel (check length needed before cutting)
- 2 - drywall screws, 1 1/4" length
- 2 - flathead brass wood screws, size #4 x 3/4" (or 7/8")
- Masking tape
- Clamps
- Pencil



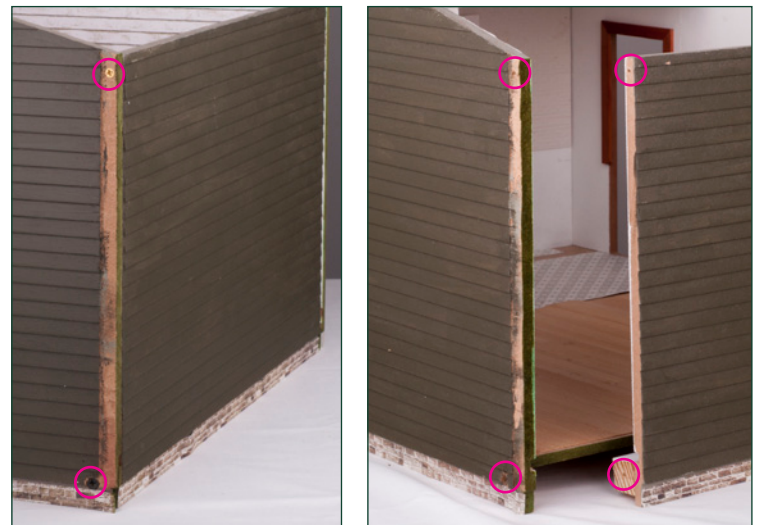
A number of small, lightweight power tools are available that work well for a miniaturist's needs, as well as most household chores. Shop at home centers or hardware stores for a cordless "power screwdriver" or "drill/driver" with a rechargeable battery and available drill and screwdriver bits. ***General rule for using a drill:** When the bit is being moved into or out of the material you are drilling, it should always be spinning. Especially when withdrawing the bit, keep the drill spinning until it is clear of the material. If you try to withdraw the bit when it is still or stopped you are likely to break the bit. You do not have to switch a drill into reverse to withdraw when drilling.

A note about using screws with MDF: You must predrill holes for screws, and the drill bit size should be very close to the screw size. (In wood, you would typically use a bit somewhat smaller so the screws will provide better grip, but MDF will split.) Use flathead screws, and countersink the heads (drill a shallow recess with the tip of a large bit) so the surface remains flat when the screws are installed. When drilling into the edge of an MDF panel start with a drill bit two or three sizes smaller than the final size. Work slowly, and pull the bit out frequently to clean away the dust*. Repeat with the larger bits, and make the hole deeper than it needs to be so any remaining dust has a place to go. (Be careful not to breathe in the dust.)

Creating a removable wall

The left end wall of the Craftsman Cabin has no windows and can be made removable with this method. When it is open, a 15 3/4" length of 3/4" square dowel (available at home centers) is placed just below the floor to replace the wall. Screws drilled into the ends of the dowel through the front and back walls hold the structure together.

For stability when the wall is in place, a similar length of square dowel is glued to the removable wall, just below the groove for the floor. That way, the wall can be installed or removed as desired. Simply remove the screws and dowel, put the wall in place, and reinstall the screws into the dowel that is attached to



the wall. When the wall is in place, there are also two small screws near the top corners of the wall to keep it secure. The corner trim is held on with a removable adhesive such as double-stick tape, repositionable glue or Tacky Wax.

I used 1 1/4" drywall screws to fasten the walls to the dowel at the foundation and #4 x 3/4" (or longer if you can find them) flathead brass screws through the upper wall, into the edge of the adjoining wall. Do not drive the screws in too tightly, only enough to be flush with the surface. This system will not stand up to really rough handling, but is sturdy enough for changing out occasionally.

See reverse for Step-by-Step instructions

Step-by-Step on creating a removable wall:

- Work on the wall panels prior to assembly or, while in dry fit, remove the left end wall and use masking tape across the opening to keep the kit stable
- On the outside surface of the front and back walls, draw a vertical line $\frac{3}{8}$ " away from the edge (to allow for the thickness of the end wall)
- From that line, draw a $\frac{3}{4}$ " square positioned just under the groove for the floor at the lower back edge
- Mark the center of the square and drill through the wall as described above. The bit size should be appropriate for the screws you will use. (Drilling through an MDF panel does not require quite as much caution as drilling into an edge, but should still be done carefully.)
- Use a large bit to create a countersink for the screw head. Carefully drill into the panel just enough to fit the screw head.
- Reassemble the kit (except for the end wall) if you were working on flat panels, and install the floor.
- Check the length of both square dowels and cut to fit (if not already cut). Slightly too short is OK.
- Clamp the dowel in place below the floor and between the front and back walls. (Use masking tape if you do not have clamps.)



You can pre-drill into the ends of the dowel although you do not have to, as the wood is soft and easy to work with. However, it will want to twist as you drive the first screw in so you may need an extra hand to hold it in position if you do not have clamps.

- Install the screws. If you are using a power driver, stop a little short of fully seated and finish both with a manual screwdriver after you install the second screw.

You now have a stable structure with an open wall. The roof will still sit properly so you can leave it open and still have the finished appearance from another angle.

For the option of a wall that can be removed and replaced as needed, there are a few more steps.

- Mark a centerline at the floor groove of the removed wall, and the center of the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ " square dowel. Matching center to center, glue the dowel to the wall just below the floor groove.
- While the glue dries, drill through the front and back walls, at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " down from the top of the wall and centered within the $\frac{3}{8}$ " line you drew earlier. Check the drill bit size as you are using smaller screws than before. Create a countersink for the small screws.
- Remove the screws holding the front and back walls together and replace that dowel with the wall-and-dowel assembly. Make sure everything is flush and square and tape the wall corners. Install the screws as before.
- Use a pencil to mark through the new holes in the front and back walls onto the edge of the side wall panel.
- Remove the screws at the base and take the wall panel out again (make sure your pencil marked the edge).
- Slowly and carefully, as described above, drill into the edge of the wall panel. If you have clamps, try putting one at the area you will be drilling. Even with a great deal of care, the wall panel may split but it will still hold when reassembled as long as the hole is not too big.
- Reassemble with screws at the top and bottom of the wall for a secure, solid structure.