

Cozy Attic Craft Room

by Fran Casselman

Items used:

- #12390 Basic Modular Room Box
- #12387 Southern Pine Self-Adhesive Flooring Sheet
- #1073 Fred's Wood Weathering Stuff
- #61082 Yucca Gigantea Floor Plant
- #78636 Black Work Table
- #75981 Black Executive Chair
- #42451 Red Check Pillow
- #13402 Kitchen Collection 2-Inch Base Kit
- #14405 Kitchen Collection 2-Inch Base
- #95150 Red Rolling Cart
- #88701 Unfinished Stool
- #12380 Slone Floor Lamp
- #1225 Lisa Chair Kit
- #95167 Silver Desktop Computer
- #11218 2022 Mini Scenes Calendar
- #56103 Two White Legal Pads and Pencil
- #56122 Watercolor Painting Pad
- #5018 Large Louvered Shutter
- #78472 Sewing Machine
- #65770 12 Assorted Small Books
- #80971 Unfinished Birdhouse
- #9892 Crow Pompon Feve
- #11992 Matthews Mantel Clock
- #56102 Legal Pad and Pencil
- #42431 Cutting Mat, Quilting Rulers and Rotary Cutter Kit
- #11997 SLR Camera
- #97031 Liquid Chrome Marker
- #54027 Simple Shapes Vases
- #9691 HiTail Cat Feve
- #62036 Lucky Bamboo in Blue and White Planter
- #22875 Stormie Cat
- #7379 Arched Mirror Kit
- #42220 White Beadboard Specialty Paper
- #42551 Dark Grey Linen Paper
- #7069 Small Crown Moulding
- #1249 Weldbond glue
- #4219 Small Corrugated Metal Sheet
- #81430 1/8" Quarter-Round Moulding
- #11872 T-tip

Other items in the scene were crafted and/or purchased from craft stores and other retailers.



The room is built inside #12390 Basic Modular Room Box; the window and door opening cutouts were filled in with wood filler and sanded smooth. The partial wall and angled ceiling area is a unit, constructed from foam core but wallpapered separately and not installed until after the back wall was papered.

The floor is #12387 Southern Pine Self-Adhesive Flooring Sheet, stained with #1073 Fred's Wood Weathering Stuff and whitewashed with Kiwi Scuff Cover white liquid shoe polish before a coat of clear satin sealer.

The lower wall is papered with #42220 White Beadboard Specialty Paper; the upper wall is #42551 Dark Grey Linen Paper. The chair rail is #7069 Small Crown Moulding, topped with a 1/4" strip of chipboard and painted gloss white.

The Kitchen Collection cabinets were assembled as directed but the top drawer sections were cut off. The cabinets are painted gloss white and glued together with a thin wood top over both. The drawer pulls are jewelry findings; the door's knob is part of the kit, all painted gloss black.

The desk tidy is four different lengths (3/4" and less) of a patterned paper beverage straw glued to each other and to a small wood disk.

The container for the floor plant is made from a section of #4219 Small Corrugated Metal Sheet, unevenly painted with two shades of gray to suggest a galvanized finish.





The shutter shelf replicates a real one used by an antiques-show vendor. The full-size one was hinged, and this could be, too, but here the shutters are glued to #81430 1/8" Quarter-Round Moulding instead. Make sure the shutters are all upright (slats sloping down). Decide where you want the shelves to be and use a craft knife on a cutting mat to cut those slats out of all four shutters. Next, paint or stain the shutters (#1073 Fred's Wood Weathering Stuff used here). Cut two lengths of quarter-round the height of the shutters and glue a flat side to the right edge of two shutters. When set, glue the left edge of the remaining shutters to the other flat side of the quarter-round. To make shelves, use strip wood or large craft sticks that are the overall length of your shelf by a little less than 3/4" wide. Slide the shelves into the slots and you're done. Add glue for best stability.

The black work tables were transformed with butcher block tops by way of a paper printie, glued and wrapped around the edges of the tops. The table on the back wall has an extension made of matboard, also covered with the printie, to fill the corner where the tables meet.



There are a number of online tutorials for making mini paintbrushes. I was not pleased with my results for a "real-bristle" mini brush, so I have an alternate method that works very well. You need "Extra-thin Toothpicks" from Amazon (use that exact search term); useful for so many projects. You can also use conventional toothpicks, which need to be shaved and/or sanded to a smaller diameter. Cut the thin toothpick into lengths of 3/4" or so, and use small pliers to crush one end, causing the wood fibers to separate. If your toothpick has a square end and you leave the end flattened, you get a square ended brush. When you sand the end into a rounded shape first, and reshape the flattened tip, you get a rounded brush. Color the bristles with marker or leave them natural; color the handle with markers, paint or nail polish, for shine. Cut a tiny snip of foil (candy wrappers work) and glue around the handle just below the bristles. You can use straight sections of the toothpick as well as the tapered end.



The wall cubbies are made of ordinary printer paper, using a short length of 1/2" square dowel as a forming tool. Wrap shiny tape around one end of the dowel, so glue will not stick to it. Cut at least six strips of paper 1/2" wide x 2 1/4" long. Wrap a strip tightly around the forming tool, square at the end, and glue the overlap securely. Slide the paper off of the tool and let the glue set while you make more. Then, crease the folds tightly to make sharp corners. On another small piece of paper (or graph paper), mark an intersecting vertical and horizontal line. Apply glue to the edges of one of the boxes you made and center it on the drawn lines, so that the corners all touch a line. Let it set a bit, then add others along the lines, gluing where they touch and keeping everything square. When you have as many as you like (six shown here), let it dry thoroughly. Cut away the excess paper and fill your cubbies!

To make the paint bottles, you need lollipop sticks, about 1/8" diameter by 4" long, from the cake decorating section at a crafts store. (Do not substitute wood dowels.) Lollipop sticks are made of tightly rolled paper, which can be unrolled to create the bottle caps. Mark a series of 3/8" lengths on one of the sticks. On a cutting mat, roll the stick under a sharp craft knife to cut the length. Try to keep the cut as straight as possible; it must stand up on one end so sand if necessary. Using paint or markers, color the bottles as desired. Then start another cut in the same way as the first, about a quarter of the way down from the top, but do not cut all the way through. Make a vertical slit in this short section, and begin to unwind the paper to reveal the white core. When it looks about right for a paint cap, secure it with a tiny amount of glue and cut off the unwrapped strip. Add labels if desired.

The glue bottle is a 3/4" length of white paper straw, slightly flattened. Glue the open ends to scraps of paper and let dry. Trim the excess paper away and add a cap made from a slice of lollipop stick with the small end of a T-tip (#11872) glued on and painted. The short pot is another slice of lollipop stick with punched fun foam for the cap.



For the seamed metal roof on the unfinished bird house, cut very thin strips of packaging plastic and glue vertically to the roof. Trim to length when dry, and glue a foil candy wrapper over the entire roof, working from the center out to smooth it over the ribs. Tuck it under the eaves, trim and let dry. Paint the body of the birdhouse white, and draw the "shiplap" lines with a fine pencil. Cover a folded scrap of paper with foil to make the awning. Use black paint inside the hole and to age the foil. Paint the perch red and the base green.

