

Serene Shiplap Bathroom

by Fran Casselman

Items used:

- #14403 Kitchen Collection Sink
- #13431 Kitchen Collection 3-Inch Base
- #5034 Classic Value Window
- #5019 Medium Louvered Shutter
- #73804 Modern Bath Tissue Holder
- #54015 Updated Basic Bathroom
- #24882 Pair of Woven Fruit Baskets
- #40580 5-Pc. White Bath Accessories Set
- #78611 21-Pc. Jewel Tone Bottles Set
- #9149 12" x 1/16" Strip Wood
- #41598 Black & White Basketweave Tile Wall/Flooring Paper

Instructions:

The sink counter top and tub deck are made of mat board covered with paper printed in a marble pattern found on the internet. (The tub deck was cut away from the faucet area since it is not visible here.) The tub surround is foam core.

The handles were removed from the fruit basket and it has been lightly painted white. The "towels" are lightweight fleece material.



Creating Simple Shiplap

Tools Needed:

- Sharp pencil
- Craft knife
- Non-slip metal ruler
- Cutting mat

Materials:

- Lightweight poster board (Dollar Tree)
- Glue Tape (Dollar Tree)
- Mat board (dependent on project; craft store, picture framer or art supply)

Note: #9149 Strip Wood (1/2" x 1/16" x 24") is suitable for this project in place of poster board, but should be sanded and painted before the backing strip is adhered. To avoid having joints, there will be a good bit of waste.

Preliminary notes:

The popular shiplap wall treatment is very easy to create in miniature and can be very inexpensive. It does take some planning and preparation, but uses dry adhesive so the wall panels can be installed right away; no waiting for glue to dry. (It is much, much more difficult to describe than to do, so don't be intimidated by all these words.)

I created the bathroom vignette from foam core so it is a freestanding piece and I was able to work on flat panels before assembly. If you want to use this treatment in an existing, assembled dollhouse or room box, it will be best if you can make replica wall panels of mat board or illustration board and work on the flat panels before installing them in the room. This is the easiest way to assure matching lines in corners. (Shiplap also looks great on an accent wall; for that look you only need a panel for the area the shiplap will cover.)

In real shiplap, the boards are shaped on the long edges so there is a lip on one edge to overlap a tongue on the other. When they are installed, the resulting slight groove between the boards creates the distinctive shadow line that identifies shiplap. Unlike flooring, shiplap installations usually do not have any visible end-to-end board joints.

For miniature, we only need the slight separation to create the shadow line; the "boards" do not actually overlap and can easily be made long enough to span a wall.

In addition to the foam core used to make the structure, this project uses lightweight white poster board and glue tape, all purchased at Dollar Tree. The poster board is available in full sheets* but also in a package of five 11" x 14" sheets, which I found easier to work with since my wall measurement was less than 14". I bought one pack and did have board left over for another project. I needed three packs of the glue tape (two runners per pack).

The background and "boards" should be the same color. White is easiest; no paint was used for this project. If you want a color I suggest spray-painting the elements separately before assembly. The poster board will likely warp from any paint, but probably less with spray paint and should flatten again when completely dry.

The tools needed are a sharp pencil, craft knife (new, sharp blade), cutting mat, and cork-backed (nonslip) metal ruler. If you don't have a mat and/or ruler long enough to make cuts at least the length of your wall, consider investing in these tools. I most often use an 18" ruler and 12" x 18" mat, and shorter rulers for shorter cuts.

The best way to cut narrow, straight strips of paper or thin board is with a knife and ruler, not with scissors. (I am right handed; left-handed crafters should reverse these directions.) Measure the size you need and make tick marks on opposite edges of the board. With the board on the mat, line the right edge of the ruler up at the marks; use your left hand to hold it with moderate pressure and your right hand to cut. Do not rush; you will get a feel for the pressure needed as you go. As long as the ruler does not move you can make a second pass, if needed, or pause the cut and "inchworm" the ruler hand to follow the knife and maintain a steady hold for longer cuts.

Some crafters may have a paper trimmer, often sold for use in scrapbooking. These are fine to use if they allow for as long a cut as you need. You need consistent, accurate cuts so be sure your trimmer cuts absolutely square.

Technique:

First, cut a piece of poster board slightly longer than the width of the wall you will cover. Don't worry about the other dimension; you will probably need more than one piece anyway so cut them as you go. Set it aside. You are probably left with a piece of board too short for the wall; here is how you will use this scrap and get some practice cutting and measuring before you cut the "boards" that will show.

This part is tricky to describe but simple to do. Always measure from the same edge; that is, if you measure from the left edge to make the row of cutting marks on the top of the piece, then also measure from the left to mark the bottom. Don't measure from the left for one row of marks and the right for the second.

The practice strips - which will be used but will not show - are 1/4" wide. Cut many, until you feel comfortable with the process and ready to move on to the strips that will show. Put them aside.

(It is always best to use a ruler that is closest in length to the cut you are making. For example, if you need 17" strips for the width of your wall, you would use an 18" ruler. If the cut is 12" or less, a 12" ruler is easier to use.)

The strips that will show are 1/2" wide. The poster board has a very slight difference between the two sides. Either one is fine, but you need to be sure to keep the strips all the same side up. Choose which will be the front and lightly scribble with a pencil across the back so you can easily tell which is which on all the strips you will cut. Measure and mark the board (back side this time, be sure your surface is clean) and cut the 1/2" strips. Don't worry about how many you will need; it's easier to figure that out after you have started installing the "boards."

The shadow line is created by making the "boards" appear thicker than they are. Place a 1/2" strip face down; run a line of glue tape along the center and apply a 1/4" strip. It does not have to be perfect, and several shorter pieces can be used to make the full length (but don't overlap). That's one done!

Keep making "boards" until you have enough to play with. When you are ready to install, run the glue tape on the back of the 1/4" spacer strip and place it on the wall panel, starting at the bottom and letting the ends hang over. Apply additional "boards," spacing by eye about 1/16" to 1/32" apart (less than the thickness of a popsicle stick).

You can make a spacing guide tool with thin strip wood or heavy cardboard if you are unsure about the spacing visually, but it is a bit tricky to use. A helper can hold the guide tool as you install, or you can apply the glue tape directly to the wall to make adjustments easier before you smooth a "board" down.

To keep things level, you can make tick marks every few inches on both the edges of the wall panel as a guide, but don't draw lines across where they might show between "boards".

When you are happy with the wall panel, use the knife and ruler to trim the overhanging ends. If there will be an adjacent wall that makes an inside corner, line the panel up where the two will meet and apply "boards" to the second wall, using the first wall as a guide to spacing. When you trim the ends, trim the "boards" on one wall to allow for the thickness of the shiplap where it meets the other.

If you plan to use baseboard and crown molding, apply them on top of the shiplap. For door/ window frames and fireplaces, cut the shiplap to meet the trim.

*To cut a board larger than your ruler or mat, mark the size as with smaller cuts, but use a yardstick and pencil to draw the cutting line. Then, carefully cut in shorter segments, moving the mat and ruler as necessary.