

Mini House Ornaments

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It's many years since I've been able to spend Christmas there, but come December, the century-old frame house I grew up in will always be first in my memory.

When I was a child, it was painted bright yellow with red trim, and at Christmas it was bedecked with coloured lights in every window and along the eaves. And for me and my sibs, that yellow frame house is where Christmas began.

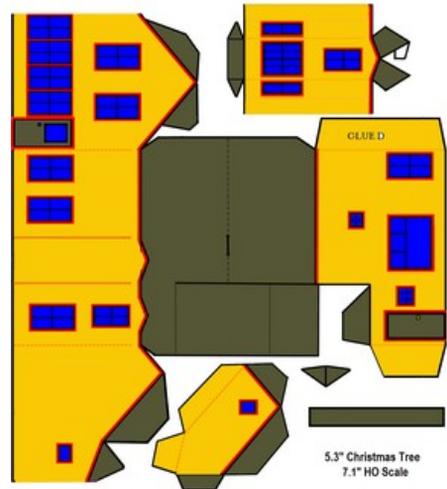


And nowadays, as we decorate our own homes for Christmas each year, we are moved by thoughts of my dad, for whom Christmas truly was the most wonderful time of the year.

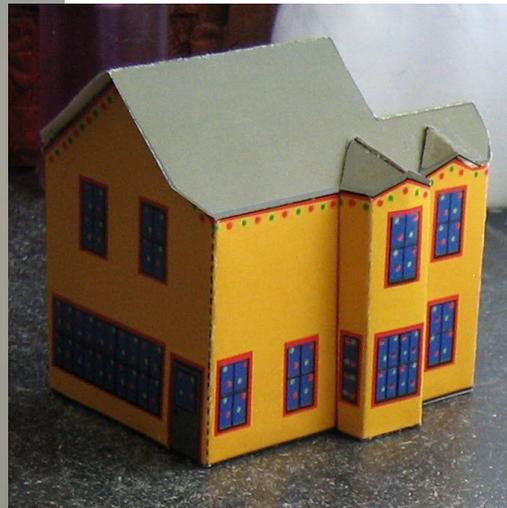
Of all the sights and sounds of Christmas, my sister and I most loved the warm glow of the coloured lights in the windows as we fell asleep at night. We still do.

A few years back, a posting to the thetoymaker.com of a simple folded house ornament gave me a flash of inspiration: a mini version of the yellow house, looking just as it did during those long-ago Christmases. As you'll know already if you've read many of my projects, I love ornaments that have personal significance – and what could be better than this?

To create my ornament, I drew a template on my computer, and printed it on cardstock. I worked pretty much by trial-and-error, making prototypes until I was satisfied with the result. The little house is only about 2.5" high and as long, but with sufficient detail to be



instantly recognizable to the family – including the Christmas lights in the windows. It's far from an architectural model, but it's perfect as an ornament. Once I had a design I was happy with, I made one of the houses for each of the sibs.



These mini house ornaments have had pride of place on everyone's tree for more than a decade now, bringing fond memories of childhood Christmases. And naturally, after I'd made the first mini house, I couldn't resist creating a few more special house ornaments.

Here are just two more of the dozen or so that I've done so far: My husband, and my brothers-in-law too, were delighted with the miniatures of their childhood home. Making the verandah was a bit of a challenge, but I'm happy with how it turned out, and this little house has become one of DH's favourite ornaments.



And here is the house I lived in during the 1980s – still a favourite of mine. When I lived there, the roof and the front door were both blue, and the dormers were white, as they are in my miniature.



I've made ornaments of our own current home, plus the houses of several of my siblings and friends, and a few more. It's thrilling when recipients are able to recognize their own homes in miniature, and all the little houses look adorable on the tree.