



"I MADE IT MYSELF"

A Whole Week of Pleasure in Making a Doll's House

By KATHERINE WYNNE

THE man-of-the-house is at the Front needing comforts, and we are all, right down to Baby, making sacrifices. But with the holidays coming and no prospect of going to mountain or lake, and very little money, I saw I must devise some means of keeping four lively, healthy children happy and busy; so we talked it over—the kiddies and I—and determined to make things. The children were delighted beyond measure, and I soon found that the greater part of the pleasure of toys is in the making and the pride of owning something that "I made all myself."

I wanted something with which all the children could help and that would be big enough to keep them busy for a whole week. So, buoyed up with the confidence of ignorance, we decided on a doll's house, and a good big one, too! I had once read of how it should be done, and I trusted to a natural aptitude for mechanics to help me out in difficulties; and the finished result, shown in the two pictures, more than justified my confidence.

We bought a couple of packing cases at twenty-five and fifty cents each, selecting those having the grain of the wood straight and even and free from knots. We planned a house whose outside walls should measure, without the gables, twenty-four inches high, the depth being nineteen inches, with a width of thirty inches. In the picture the ground floor shows the living-room at the left, the hall and the dining-room. The kitchen, which you cannot see, is back of the dining-room. The floor space given to the living-room is ten inches in width, with the full depth of the house; the hall is six inches wide, and runs clear through to the back door; the dining-room is twelve inches in width and ten and a half inches deep, leaving eight inches for the depth of the kitchen. One-half inch is taken up by the outer walls and by the partitions.

On the second floor the large double bedroom is over the living-room, a smaller bedroom over the dining-room, and the bathroom over the kitchen. The stairway is made in two parts, with a landing between where the stairs turn. On the second floor the hall must be widened by making the bathroom and the back part of the bedroom only nine inches wide instead of twelve. This is to give room for the elevator shaft, which runs up beside the stairway.

The top floor may be used as a ballroom, or as a playroom for the doll babies on rainy days. It

The roof is made of two sections, each twenty-eight inches long by twenty-four inches wide, and the ridge is fifteen inches above the third floor. If the windows are cut four by five inches, camera plates can be used for glass. It is easier to hang curtains across the doors in the interior, making only the front and back doors.

Plans of each floor should be carefully drawn on heavy paper, and doors, windows, partitions, stairs, and elevator shaft marked in exactly right. The elevator may prove rather difficult, and if so, it may be left out. The chimney is a solid block of wood, two-and-a-half by three-and-three-quarter inches, and is painted to imitate bricks.

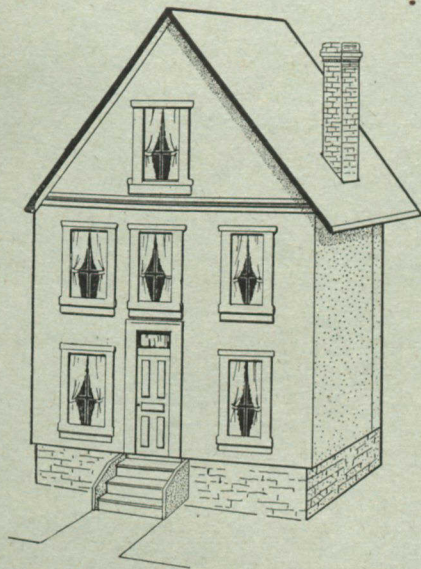
Cigar box wood is the best to use for the window and door trimmings, and to make hard wood floors all through the house. The glass can be puttied in, just the same as in "real" doors. Saucepan knobs, which may be bought by the half dozen, make excellent door knobs. It is better to glue the delicate parts of the stairs rather than to nail them; use toothpicks for the spindles in the balustrade.

THE opening in the second floor for the stairs and elevator shaft must be very carefully cut. It is at the back and against the double bedroom partition and measures six inches across and eight inches deep. The elevator shaft is beside the front stairs and takes up the three-and-five-twelfth inches which is the distance that the stairs run back to where it reaches the landing. The width of the five steps from the second floor. An elevator is something new in dolls' houses and may be omitted if it promises to be too difficult; but if the plans are accurately drawn and care is taken, it can be successfully accomplished.

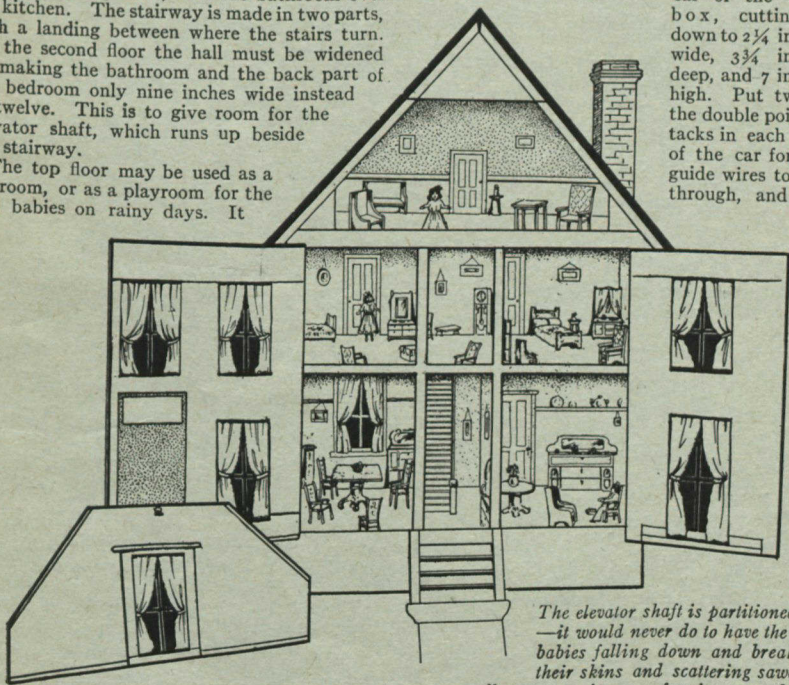
Material necessary for elevator—2 small pulleys, 4 feet of brass chain, 7 feet of No. 12 wire for the guide wires, half a dozen double pointed tacks or very small screw-eyes, a short piece of lead pipe, and a cigar box. Make the car of the cigar box, cutting it down to 2¼ inches wide, 3¼ inches deep, and 7 inches high. Put two of the double pointed tacks in each side of the car for the guide wires to run through, and an-

other in the centre of the top from which to attach the brass chain. The guide wires are of very heavy wire that will not bend easily. Cut two pieces the same length, to reach from the first floor to the ballroom ceiling, and, after running them through the tacks in the sides of the car, fasten the two upper ends in the ballroom ceiling and the two lower in the ground floor. Care must be taken to have these wires fastened in exactly the right points, else the car will not run easily or balance properly.

Now run the car to the top of the shaft and mark upon the ceiling where the screw eye or double tack in the top of the car strikes. At this point bore a



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is the whole width of the house, except that the very sharp angle made by the floor and roof is boarded in at a distance of a couple of inches from the outside edge, and the angle in the roof is boarded in to make the ceiling.

But the depth is only a little more than half, as it is partitioned across just in front of the elevator—it would never do to have the doll babies falling down and breaking their skins and scattering sawdust all over our nice new furniture, would it?

The front wall of the house is divided in the centre and opens on hinges, but it is more convenient to have the front wall of the third floor fasten on with wooden buttons.

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