

Embellishing Your Weiman Mini Model Resin Furniture



My first decorating experiment on a Weiman Mini Model was a broken chaise lounge (top right photo). The legs were broken off and I didn't believe I couldn't use it, so I had nothing to lose. I liked the decoupage results so much; I made legs from stacks of small buttons and pony beads and the little sofa was functional again. I continued to experiment on other blemished pieces by sanding the paint off down to the resin. I was left with light and dark spots, but using a brightly colored opaque tissue paper (upper left photo) was a good solution. Creating a pattern with bits of various colored tissue papers (bottom photo) hid minor blemishes after a light sanding.

BEFORE YOU START

- Washing the mini furniture with dish detergent will remove any oil, dust, or fingerprints and help paints, alcohol inks, or decoupage adhere to the surface.
- A green scrubby or sanding sponge will help smooth away any rough surfaces or blemishes.
- Small holes can be patched with wood glue, Elmer's school glue, Apoxie Sculpt air-dry clay, and possibly other medium.
- Dry with a cloth and you are ready to get started.

PAINTING

Other Weiman furniture crafters have used alcohol inks and acrylic paints, although I have not experimented with any of them yet. Test whatever medium you would like to work with in a hidden area (on the bottom).

DECOUPAGE

I was thrilled with my results using printed tissue paper applied with exterior grade wood glue. I tried gluing thin cotton quilting scraps on one of the minis and it seemed too thick to work with on such a small curvy piece. I stuck with the tissue paper.

- Tissue paper torn into small pieces will conform well to curves and edges.
- I pour exterior grade wood glue into a plastic disposable container with a lid to keep glue from drying out and to reuse with another project.
- Use a wet disposable paint brush or sponge applicator to apply the glue.
- Although the diluted glue tried to bead up on the Mini Model surface, using a small brush to apply the paper, all layers adhered well.
- Work the furniture piece in small sections allowing the glue to dry to the touch before starting another section to prevent the paper layers from moving around and sticky fingers.
- Applying additional coats of diluted glue after the previous layer has dried for 8-hours or more, will help seal the paper and smooth out overlapping areas.
- Glue embellishments into place after the piece is completely dry (12 to 24 hours).
- Embellish the dried decoupage project with paint, stickers, gems, and anything else you would like.
- Apply a couple coats of clear sealer or varnish over the embellished piece once it has had a few days to dry.

IDEAS

The poppy paper decoupage experiment on a swirl sofa became a business cardholder for my accountant. A stack of IRS 1040 instructions (only 1/3 of the 100+ pages) were reduced to scale, printed, cut, stacked, and glued to the sofa to keep business cards in place on the left side. A line of clear dimensional glue was drawn across the sofa surface to discourage cards from slipping. A polymer clay coffee cup was mounted on the right side as an additional card stop.

The "Just Relax" sign was printed onto a clear label then mounted on a thin brass-colored metal cut from a Spam can. The tiny sign was bent to match the sofa's curve, and mounted with tiny wire nails.

A couple coats of clear matte sealer were applied over everything.



There are many potential uses for these ¾" scale Weiman Mini Model sectional sofas besides the obvious use in fairy gardens, dioramas, dollhouses, and the ones shown here. Oh, maybe a decorative paperweight! Do people still use paperweights?

I hope you are inspired you to create something wonderful with your Mini Models!

Download a free PDF copy of this idea sheet from the Walker's Way Weeds website under the "Tuts & Vids" tab: <http://www.walkerswayweeds.com/mini-gardens/tutorials/>