

FLOORS INFORMATION SHEET

Option 1 – Plywood or MDF

Starting with floors, the most basic is the use of plywood or MDF from which the house is constructed. This could be stained and polished or even painted to good effect.

Option 2 – Scribing Floor Boards

To improve on the simple style above, floor boards can be scribed and lengths marked off on a plywood floor, not forgetting to show the nail marks which should be spaced as though nailing to joists. The spacing would be 16" to 18" or in 12th scale, 1 ⁴/₁₂" to 1 ¹/₂". Don't forget that the joint would be nailed both board ends. Making nail marks is best done with a sharp compass point.

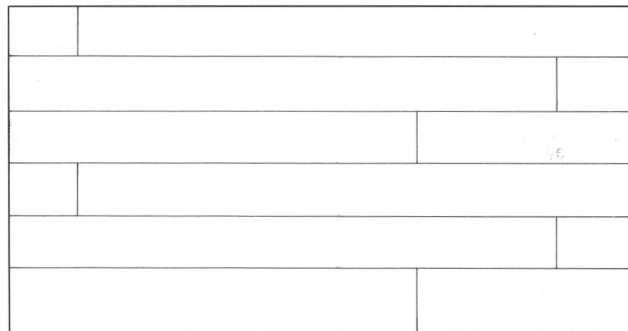
The polishing is achieved by applying 3 coats of Shellac Sander Sealer, sanded between coats when dry. The final coat should be finished using fine steel wool or Webrax (non-woven web) which is much cleaner to use than steel wool. Finally, remove any dust and then polish with a good quality wax polish which will give your floor a very pleasant patina.

MDF does not lend itself to staining as it doesn't have a grain and looks much better painted. However, as we all want a quality finish to our Dolls House there are other alternatives.

Option 3 – Iron-on Floor Boards

One method is the use of Iron-on Floor Boards which can be applied using a small travel iron. The floor boards are available in different widths in Oak, Mahogany and Pine and are easily cut to length with a pair of sharp scissors. They are made from real wood veneer which has hot melt adhesive applied to one side.

Your floor boards should be cut to length with scissors ensuring the board lengths, along with the nail spacing, meet where the joists would be in a full size house. This ensures your floor looks as realistic as possible.



Iron on Floor Boards

Large Rooms

If your room sizes are quite large then it is possible to apply the floor boards directly to the MDF by placing the first plank in position, with the adhesive face down, covering the plank with a piece of brown paper to protect the iron and simply apply pressure with the hot iron.

The glue does not take very long to melt so remove the iron and brown paper and press down the plank with a piece of wood to ensure it is secure. The wood is used to protect your fingers from the hot glue! Apply another plank next to the first one using the same technique ensuring that the first one does not move. If it does move simply use the block of wood to slide it back into place. Repeat this process until your floor is complete. Remember your floor should be fitted *before* you apply skirting, door casing or hanging doors.

Small Rooms

Since most dolls house rooms are not particularly large, it is often easier to make a paper pattern of the room and transfer this pattern to a strong piece of card or 2mm plywood. Now apply the iron on floor boards to the card and follow the same procedure as for the larger rooms. You will also find it easier to finish your floor before gluing the card into your room. Once again, remember to fit your flooring before applying skirting, door casing or hanging doors.

Option 4 – Parquet

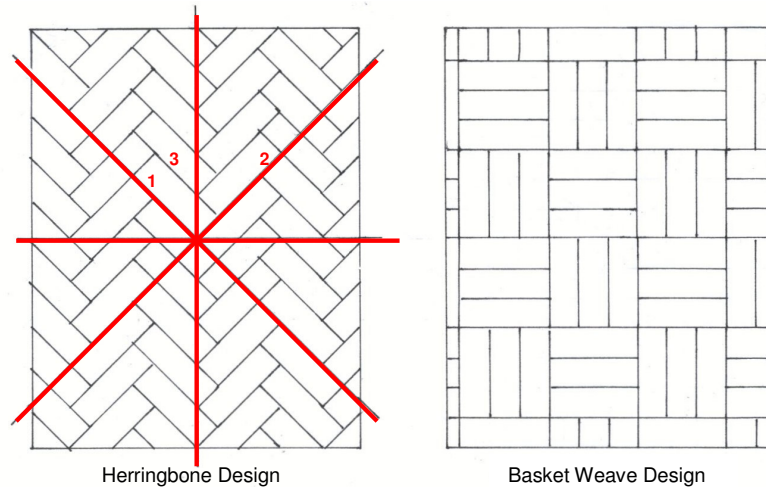
Parquet flooring would generally be used in the main room of the house and the entrance hall. A variety of suppliers produce Parquet Flooring which is available in either sheet form or individual blocks of wood and either can be used depending upon your level of skill.

For those interested in design and looking for a challenge then using the individual parquet blocks can provide you with an opportunity to create your own pattern or to use the standard Herringbone or Basket Weave found in most period houses. This method will provide you with an outstanding finish but does require a great deal of patience! Not a job you should be doing if you are at all tense!

The Red Guide Lines will help with the planning of your floor and centres the design into the room.

Base for the floor

Once again, making a pattern of your floor from 2mm plywood and creating your parquet floor on this is easier than working inside your room. The completed floor can then be glued into your room.



Herringbone Pattern

Referring to the drawing above, first draw horizontal and vertical lines through the centre of your room floor then 45° angle lines through the centre lines as shown on the drawing in red (black is fine on your floor!)

Fix the first Tile, (1) on the drawing on to the line of the 45° Red line starting at the centre of the room. Next add (2), then (3) and carry on to fill the floor of your room. The red lines are there to help you keep your herringbone pattern in line.

When the parquet floor is complete, sand it flat and then give it three coats of sander sealer, sanding between coats. Leave to dry overnight and sand smooth, dust off and then wax polish.

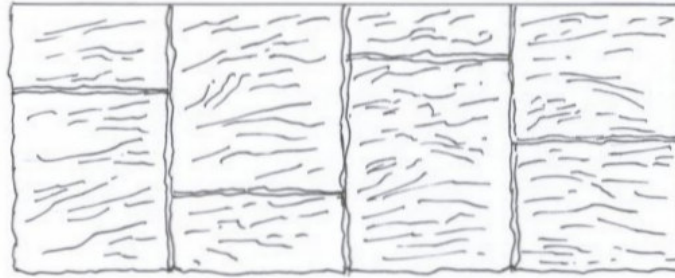
Option 5 – Stone Flags

In older houses the kitchen floor was usually made from flag stone which is another method you can do yourself. “Flagstones” can be cut from thick card into various sizes to suit the scale of your room. 3” x 2”, 2” x 2”, 2” x 2 1/2” are fairly common sizes, however these should be varied to fit your room size.

When you have cut out your “Flagstones” the edges should be sanded to round them over and the corners taken off (see drawing). Glue the stones into your room leaving space between for pointing. Next apply tile and grout (tile cement) or Polyfilla over the whole floor and before it dries, scrape off the surplus to leave an irregular finish to represent natural stone. When the filler is dry, sandpaper the surface but do not remove all the filler as it needs to look like riven stone.

Lightly clean out the joints between the stones then remove all the dust. Give the floor two coats of sander sealer to seal the surface. Brown card would give the illusion of a sandstone floor. You could also paint the floor to suit what ever your chosen theme happens to be.

Stone Flags



Option 6 – Tiling

The two rooms in which tiling would be most appropriate would be the kitchen and bathroom. We explained in a previous article on Bathrooms how to achieve various tiling finishes, however, just in case you missed that edition, here are the instructions again!

First make a base board

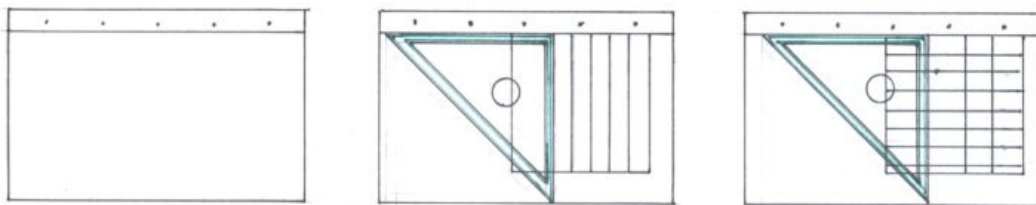
Make this with MDF or plywood $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick with a backstop pinned and glued in position at the rear of your base (see left hand drawing below).

Use white faced card for making your tiles. Either make up sections large enough to cut out the sizes you require or cut the card to fit the location where the tiles are to be fitted.

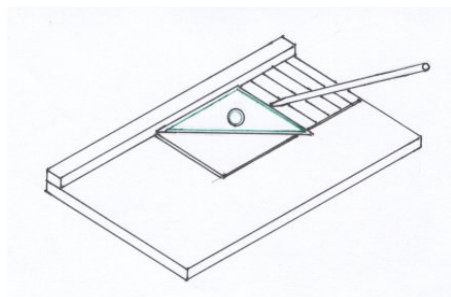
Mark out the tiles on the white face of the card using your base board and a set square. See illustrations. Use a round ended tool to mark the tiles; a steel knitting needle is suitable.

When all your tiles have been marked out, spray on the base colour to suit your scheme. If you only want a plain tile, then a second coat should be sufficient.

Top view of base board for making tiles



View of base board for making tiles

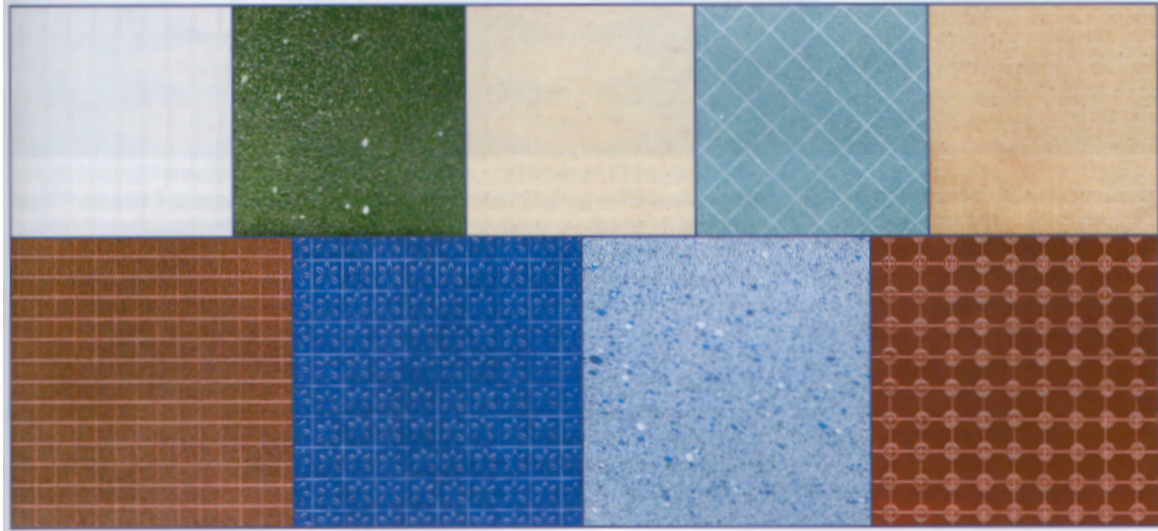


For a multi-coloured tile, spray a second coat of your base colour then from a distance of about 2', over spray with the colours you wish to use in your room. **NOTE:** Only very short bursts are required which need to be aimed high over the tiles allowing the paint to drop onto the original colour. I find that if you do not over shake your spray cans you end up with larger droplets which give a better effect. It would pay to practice on some spare card first.

Once the paint is dry the tiles can be glued in place.

Where tile edging shows, this can be rolled over by carefully running a knitting needle along the edge. This gives the effect of rounded edge tiles.

If you don't like using spray paints, you could use Humbrol Enamel Paint but it would be necessary to prime the card first. To achieve the speckle effect use an old tooth brush dipped in paint but dry off the excess on a paper towel and then flick the bristles over your tiles. Again, we suggest experimenting first on card you plan to discard.



Sample tile effects

