

the  
GRIMM  
DIY's

Waylaying  
its  
Obscurity

by paste

and by paper

## Chapter the First DIY: “Welcome to Grimm Gables”



### Constructing Grimm Gables

*Before you can unlock the secrets of the Grimm rooms, you have to build them. And before you can build them, you have to go rummaging in your garbage bin. Grimm Gables has many curious attributes, not least of which is that it is made of cardboard. It turns out that the building techniques of yesteryear are so remarkable, all it takes to hold up against the ravages of time, River, and hurricane are some old boxes and an immodest amount of tape.*

*This DIY tutorial will take you through the steps of assembling Grimm’s individual rooms and then stacking these into a mouldy mansion. It’s time to gather your wits and your...*

### Mansion Materials

- Scissors or box cutter
- Craft glue
- Glue stick
- Marker
- Paintbrush
- Masking tape
- Ruler
- Corrugated cardboard
- Lightweight cardboard or cardstock (think cereal boxes!)

## Wherein Grimm Gables Gets Its Rooms

The grandeur of Grimm is achieved by stacking boxes and topping them off with a cardboard roof. Once the boxes have been rigged into a towering monstrosity, we'll give them character with graphics, paint, and whatever other materials we have handy!

**First** → Print Chapter One patterns and graphics onto regular printer paper.

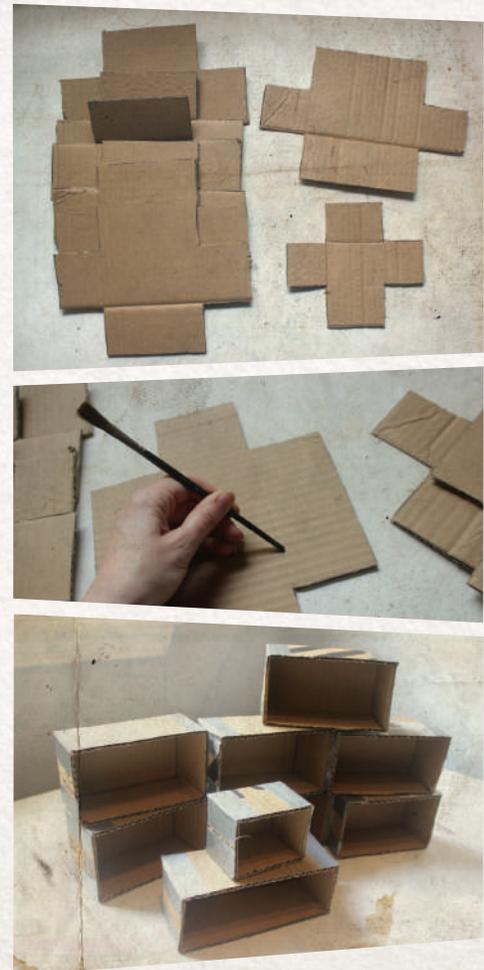
**Second** → Cut out the three box patterns.

**Third** → Using a sharpie or marker, trace your patterns onto corrugated cardboard. When cutting your seven Box One pieces from cardboard, you may find it helpful to trace the first box using your paper template, and then use this first cardboard box piece to trace the remaining six Box One pieces. If you don't have large enough pieces of cardboard, cut out the box sides and joint them together with tape. You can also line up the dotted fold line of the pattern with the fold of your cardboard box's flap.

**Fourth** → Using the line end of a paintbrush or a dull knife, score folds into the cardboard where indicated by the dotted lines of the pattern. A ruler or side of another cardboard piece can help guide the brush or knife. Fold and tape each individual box, thereby entering the third dimension.

**Fifth** → Use as much tape as is needed to assemble the boxes sturdily. Don't worry about how messy it looks—we're going to cover that up!

**Sixth** → Once your nine individual boxes are assembled, set aside your three templates for the next chapter—they will come in handy for cutting wallpaper, flooring, etc.



## Wherein Grimm Gables Takes Its Shape

**First** → With a mansion's worth of cardboard rooms assembled, it's time to get them looming. The handy diagram on the following page will guide your cardboard architecting. We're going to build floor by floor, so begin by taping the rooms which comprise a floor level together, using pieces of masking tape on all seams where the boxes meet. Once you have the mansion's individual levels taped together, conjoin the floors with all the enthusiasm of a corrupt circus barker, stacking one level on top of the next, and using far more tape than seems wholesome or honest.

With your boxes taped together and the heights of Grimm Gables towering above your kitchen table, you will likely observe some lean. We are now in the "cardboard monstrosity" phase. Welcome.

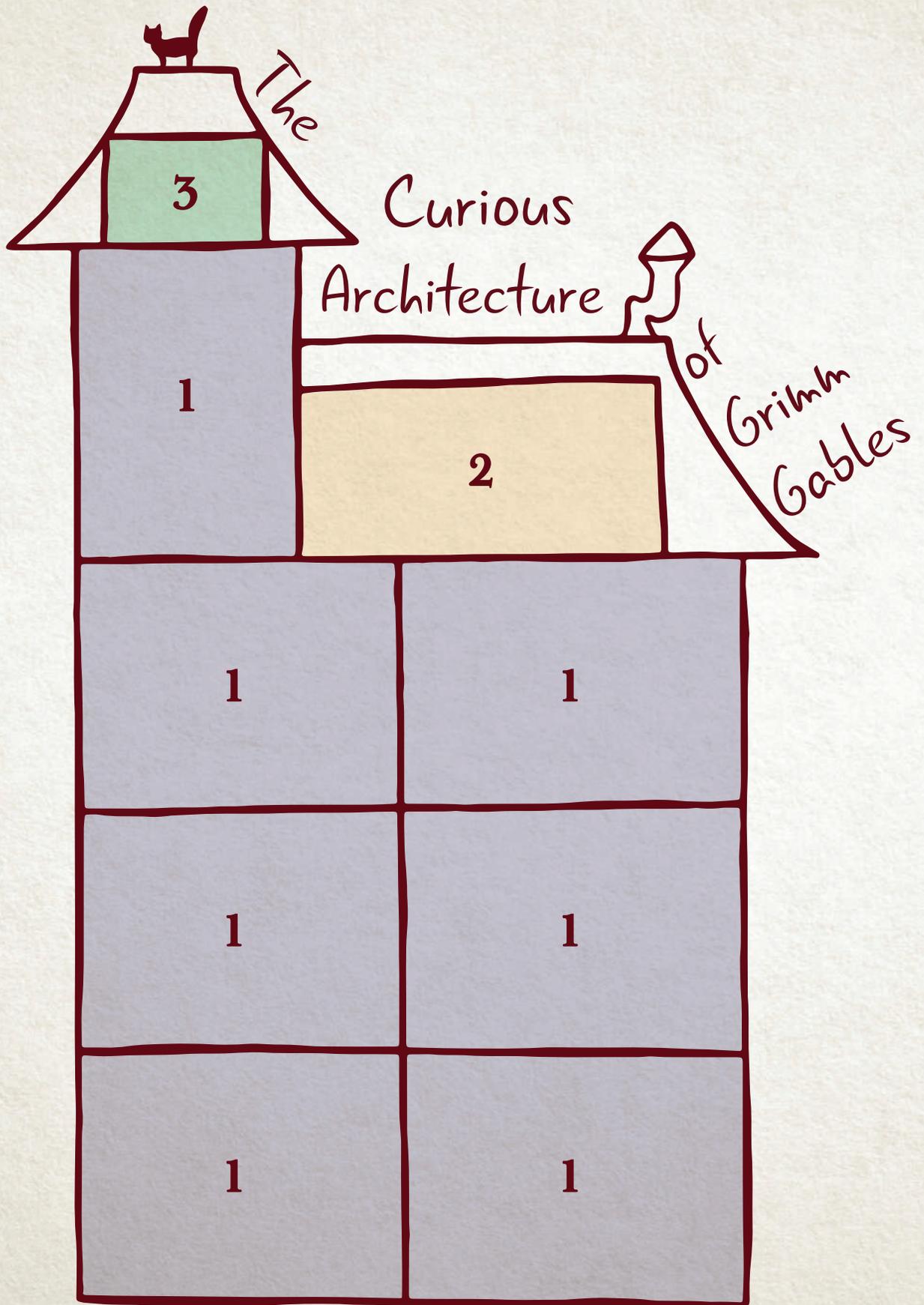


**Second** → To build a steady foundation for something decidedly lovelier—and to prevent the catastrophic toppling of Grimm Gables before its cue—cut a cardboard morsel to act as the Grimm gardens.

The size of the garden is completely dependent on individual taste and ambition (and can certainly be extended later, with the help of more cardboard and tape, as more grounds of the estate are discovered), but we do suggest you choose a garden that is large enough for the topiary animals to roam freely. The topiary cat is especially restless and will enjoy knocking things from the Grimm chambers when you are out of the room, if he feels too constrained. Come to think of it, he will enjoy knocking things from the Grimm chambers irregardless of the garden perimeter.

As you secure your house to the board, if you find that it is still leaning dangerously, it may be helpful to employ a wedge of cardboard between the yard and the house. This will take a bit of fidgeting before you get it to a happy place.

Remember the winds howling 'round the gables and err on the side of gratuitous tape use.



## Wherein Grimm Gets Its Gables

Do note, the template pieces for the roof have been made with wiggle room to accommodate a variety of materials. If your pieces turn out too large, don't make a fuss with management. Simply trim them down.

**First** → Cut the roof pieces from the same cardboard from which your rooms were wrought and fix these into place using more tape. A bit of tape placed tautly to the uppermost box top will help you to achieve roof slant.

**Second** → The roof shingles may be hewn from thinner material than the walls & roof of your house. If you have constructed Grimm Gables from corrugated cardboard, for the shingles, you'll want to employ a lighter material, like a cereal box.



The cutting of shingles is rather a tedious affair. This may be a good moment to crank up a broadcast, or press others into service, or both. Arrange yourselves comfortably around the hearth, and while away the cutting hour with pleasant chat, speculating on the characters soon to be creeping from the shadows 'neath ole Kellogg's shingles...

**\*\*\*ATTENTION: Each and every shingle must be exactly perfect and identical to its brother and sister shingles, else the entire endeavor will fail.\*\*\***

We jest! The shingles ought not be perfectly uniform in size and shape, so don't sweat their individual configurations too much—look to the bigger picture!

**Third** → Spread a generous line of craft glue across the bottom edge of your roof and apply the first row of shingles. Repeat this, creating another row of shingles overhanging the first. And so on, and so forth---you get the point---until you have made the entire roof thus shingle-ly.

**Fourth** → After the shingles are secure and hobnobly in their place (and we think the more hobnobly, the better!), mix blue + black + gray paint for the slate color. Cover your roof and shingles with paint.

Or don't. We don't much care either way.



## Wherein Grimm Gables Receives a Fresh Coat of Lipstick

**First** → There are myriad ways to apply these graphics, so do not let us constrain you. The simplest way is to simply tape the graphics to the outer walls of Grimm Gables---simple! If you find yourself feeling more ambitious, it's time to get out the craft glue and do-si-do on to step number two.

**Second** → Slather a sliver of your monstrosity's outer wall with glue. Tear a strip from your wall graphic, and apply it to the hideous taped-up mess now staring you down, thereby making it slightly less hideous. Repeat this until Grimm Gables is completely ensnared in a delightful maelstrom of color, texture, and dry rot.

As you apply the outer wall texture, allow some allowance to wrap into the rooms whose walls will soon be adorned in horrors of their own. This will go a useful way in hiding the fact that the whole heap is made of cardboard: a technique borrowed from a luxury highrise builder in my acquaintance.

Feeling more ambitious and enjoying unfettered access to paint? Then proceed with haste to the third step.

**Third** → A smidge of paint can go a long way in adding texture and dimension to your existing graphics. Should you be lucky enough to discover dried and chunky paint in your stash, put it to use, posthaste! The more textured the paint, the more dimension it will add to an otherwise flat surface, and the further it will go in achieving the lie---er, illusion---that your mansion is wrought from planks and nail, and not from garbage salvaged from your bin.

Perhaps it would do well to think strategically of paint placement as you go. For example, white paint dabbed behind your window and door graphics will make them pop a bit.

If you find yourself intrigued by such painterly pursuits, you might even consider printing your graphics in black and white, and using watercolor to give it hues of your own choosing!



## Wherein Grimm Gables Receives Its Means of Egress

**First** → Cut out your windows and door graphics. If your printer ink is kaput, it's time for sketching! You may find yourself wanting more—or fewer windows. Print or draw to your heart's content. It's all the same to us.

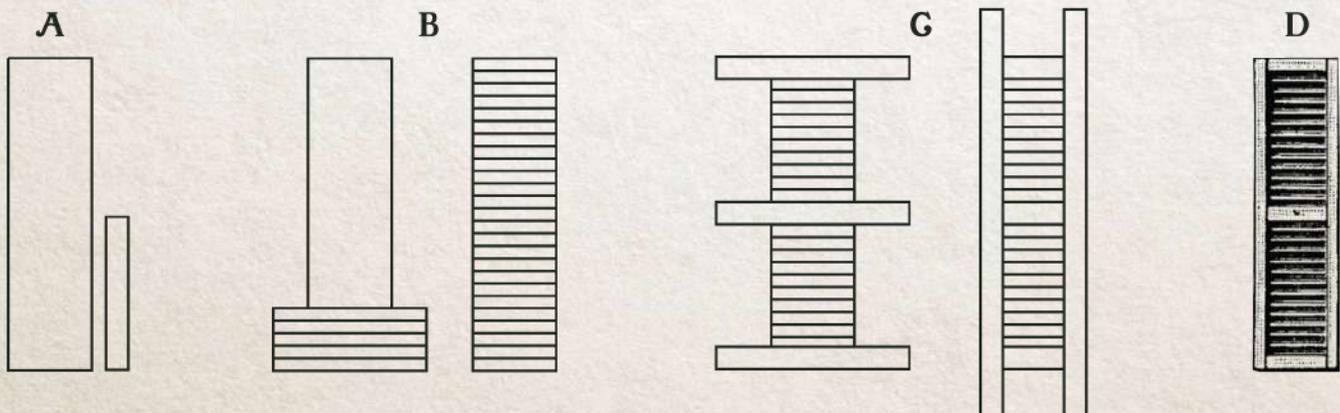
**Second** → Using a glue stick or thin layer of craft glue, attach the door and window graphics to your cereal box cardboard (you do seem to go through an awful lot of cereal, don't you? Rather a good thing, as it turns out). This step goes a long way in making your windows and door sturdy and keeping them from wrinkling when attached to the house. Now free them from the cardboard and go eat another bowl of cereal, you insatiable beast.



**Third** → Use a rolled piece of tape to affix the door and windows to Grimm Gables in your desired configuration. You may opt for crafty glue, but be warned that future column/balcony placement may necessitate renovation.

**Fourth** → Care to add shutters? By this path proceed:

- A.** Measure window graphic and cut matching dimensions from a lightweight cardboard. Snip a bundle of long 1/8" strips from the same cardboard.
- B.** Glue strips in a vertical dimension with some slight overlap, starting at the bottom. Overhang is okay!
- C.** After the shutter is covered in strips, allow time for glue to dry before snipping the overhang. Cut slightly larger strips for the finishing horizontal and vertical touches. Glue them in place, allow to set, then snip ends.
- D.** Paint!



## Wherein Grimm Gables Gets Its Frontal Flair

**First** → Once your window and door graphics have been applied satisfactorily, use glue to affix your balcony buttresses to...you guessed it, the balcony.

*A word of caution:* Do take note of the “left” and “right” indicators on your template when you go to place your buttresses, as this will prevent any regrettable backwards-facing balconies.

**Second** → Create four columns by splitting corrugated cardboard and cutting it into two 12” long strips (with the lines going vertically), and two 7” long columns (see diagram). These columns will be too tall for your house, but are advised with plenty of allowance so that you can cut them down to fit snug between your garden and roof.

→ Here is a helpful trick: If you end up with a column that is too short, use tape to attach it to the roof and then disguise any gaps between the bottom of the column and the garden with shrubbery. Topiary animals cover all manner of evil. This is one of their chiefest utilities.



**Third** → Your wrought iron balcony may be created from old lace, a disassembled berry basket, or from more bits of cereal cardboard. To create wrought iron from cardboard, return to the friendly diagrams on your corresponding Chapter 1 print outs.

Oh, eating another bowl of cereal, I see?

We'll wait.

## Grimm Gables Grows a Garden *(say that 13 times fast)*

Grimm's luscious Gardens demand a thorough raid of your house and yard, from top to bottom, beginning under the kitchen sink.

**Greenery** → Scouring pads become topiary animals. Fuzzy green yarn (hacked from a heinous sweater) becomes tendrillous vines. Spices from your kitchen scatter a path through green-towel-turned-crabgrass. Festive holiday folderol and wreaths find new life in the Grimm's overgrown estate.

**Planters** → Pluck your planters from the rubbish heap. Pot your plants with vessels repurposed from various sundry. Raid your hoard for old unscrewed cabinet knobs (a great base for holding stuff up!) and other hardware. Snag plastic bottle caps from the bin, adorning them with hemp twine, paper, or popsicle sticks (cardboard slivers also work) trimmed into wooden slats.



## Tend Your Topiary

In the many hours spent washing dishes over the course of your lifetime, did you ever find yourself looking at the sponge, desiring to meet the topiary animal trapped within it? That day has come.

**Tree** → From your scouring pad or sponge, cut a series of ascendingly large circles. Pierce these circles with a nail and stabilize them using your chosen planter. Layer for desired thickness.

**Menagerie** → Use your menagerie patterns to free the animals from their scouring pads and sponges. As you cut the figures out, tacking the pattern to the scouring pad with spray adhesive or tape will keep it in place for a neater snip. A morsel of cardboard works satisfactorily as a base to keep them upright. Use hot glue to affix the animal to the base, and then cover visible cardboard with scavenged greenery.

Secure them to your garden board by any means necessary: hot glue, tape, or threat of banishment.

If your kitchen reserves are looking lean and sponges aren't an option, turn to craft paper, paint, and cardboard. Your weirdness is no secret in the neighborhood; why not give them a show and go front-yard foraging? Why not do so in a neon house dress and top hat?

## Wrangle Your Trees

**Outdoor Finds** → Convert branches of varying shapes and sizes into massive old oaks by gluing or tacking them to cardboard bases. Cut the bases as large as needed for stability. Cover visible cardboard by heaping ever-higher piles of scavenged greenery. You will find that the heavier the hardware “planter,” the more successful at stabilizing taller objects.



## Chapter the Second DIY: “The Portraits Are Perturbed and Perturbing”



### Constructing the Portrait Gallery

*Before the portraits can properly give you a piece of their mind, you have to hang them. And before you can hang them, you have to give them some marvelously mouldering wallpaper. Though we know they'll hurl insults all the same, it's time to sculpt a place of honor for the Grimm ancestors. Drosselmeyer's pass through this room was brief, and we know that there are many faces and stories waiting to be discovered. Feature the loudmouth offenders from Drosselmeyer's story, or search magazines, online museums, and your own family archives for the more obscure branches of this weird family tree.*

*This DIY tutorial will take you through the steps of assembling Grimm's illustrious Portrait Gallery. It's time to gather your wits and your...*

### Portrait Gallery Materials

- Scissors
- Craft or hot glue
- Glue stick
- Masking tape (other tape will do!)
- Lightweight cardboard or cardstock
- Lace
- Fabric

## Slashing and Arranging Portrait Gallery Graphics

**First** → Moving forward in this and ensuing chapters, you may find it helpful to print your graphics onto white cardstock paper. Don't have any handy? Well don't cry about it, you silly little goose. Simply print your graphics onto regular white paper and use an Elmer's glue stick to apply them to sturdier cereal-box-weight cardboard (Yes, just like in Chapter One's tutorial! Bravo!).

**Second** → Cut out your three wallpaper pieces, door, tile floor, and desired frames. You'll find it helpful to determine how you'll be arranging the graphics onto your wallscape before gluing the wallpapers into your box. Onward.

**Third** → Your first priority is establishing an exit for those fleeing "The Grimm" in terror (this may even come of use to you, dear crafter, in later chapters).

Cut out your door and sturdify it with lightweight cardboard. Stick the door to the wall using a rolled piece of tape. As you begin applying elements which are meant to be 3-dimensional to your

walls (i.e. door & picture frames), you'll notice that a small piece of rolled tape assists in lifting them a bit from the wall, giving dimension to an otherwise rather flat scene.

Once you have determined your door's placement, play with arrangement of the other elements. Then use rolled tape to secure them.

**Fourth** → With your frames and door taped to the wallpaper pieces, affix your rear wallpaper first, using tape or Elmer's. This may require trimming it down by a sliver, or it may be the perfect fit (we aren't losing sleep over it either way).

**Fifth** → After securing your side wallpapers in the same manner, lay your tile floor.

Now, at this stage, many snip snappers will discover that the tile floor graphic is larger than the room and think, "Aha! Gotchya, Tutorial Narrator: you have flubbed." Those snip snappers likely did not read all of the directions previous to diving in, as they were taught in primary school.

If they had listened to their weary schoolmistress, and taken her lesson to heart, they would have discovered this portion of the tutorial in which the wise unseen narrator counsels Grimm crafters to fold the extra row of tile over, spilling it forth from the box and covering their heinous crimes of cardboard and tape below.

"Gotchya," chuckles Tutorial Narrator in a low and rumbling voice, punctuated by a hearty "MWAHAHA."



## Gut a Rug

Converting a heap of cardboard into an magnificent mansion—thereby impressing all of your friends on Instagram—takes a bit of magic.

One element of this magic is the incorporation of as many textures as your heap can contain without collapse. With the addition of fabric, paint, greenery, and other textures, the viewer's eye becomes fooled into thinking that even the flat paper objects are dimensional.

Use a light hand when introducing new materials, but don't be afraid to seek them high and low...

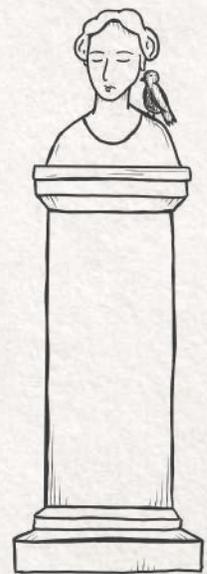
Where, for instance, might you find a miniature rug? Your closet or bureau might be a good place to start. Surely you are well stocked in well-meaning Christmas-gifted garments. Take a pair of scissors to Aunt Jilly's old wallet or scarf. No luck in the wardrobe? A decorative napkin might do the trick. Or head into the bathroom for that solid standby—Gnarly Old Towel.

## Standing Your Statues

See the tabs placed on the statue graphics for your convenience? Use the light pressure of an X-Acto blade or your fiddly fingers to fold those tabs.

A rolled morsel of tape is all that is needed to get them standing at attention upon your marvelous rare Persian bath towel rug.

Thanks, Aunt Jilly.



## Overachieve with a Bit o' Lace, Cardboard, & Graft Glue

Remember a few bowls of cereal ago, when we said that incorporating different textures into Grimm Gables will heighten the illusion of dimension? Well, here is another way to dazzle your friends, you Instagram impresario, you.



At this juncture, your powers of scrutiny will have noted a number of empty frames in the Grimm halls. Many souls have passed through these corridors, and most of their stories are lost to history. We'll need your help in recovering them.

And, la, what a jolly opportunity to collage, or to stroll virtually through the world's great art museums! Below, find a few to get you started.

- New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans
- National Gallery of Art, Washington DC
- Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC
- The Louvre, Paris
- Museum of Modern Art, New York City

That old pile of magazines in the corner will get you finished. We can't wait to see who you meet in your explorations, and to raise our eyebrow at their stories.

## Chapter the Third DIY: “An Off-Key Note Is Heard Ringing from the Parlor”



### Constructing the Parlor

*Before you may invite guests to ding their shins upon the Parlor clutter, you must first build it. Spare portraits and sass from the previous gallery spill over into this room and a dead plant adds life to the priceless vases waiting to be tripped over. That catfather clock keeps more than just the time; what secrets hide below his sick trilling?*

*This DIY tutorial will take you through the steps of assembling the Grimm Parlor and its crowded contents. It's time to gather your wits and your...*

### Parlor Materials

→ Scissors    → Craft or hot glue    → Chapter One box templates

## Design Your Own Wallpaper

Using your Chapter One box templates, go off road with creating your own wallpaper, putting to use scrapbook papers, wrapping papers, wallpaper scraps, or fancy paper napkins. Or, make your own designs using stamps or stencils on old book pages!

It's been a bit of time since Grimm Gables was inhabited in the conventional sense. Protect its furniture from the ravages of dust and river smog by draping the furniture in tissue à la Miss Havisham (and if you are not acquainted with Miss Havisham, get thee to the library, you boorish blotter)!



## Stage Your Vignettes

Gather your freshly snipped Chapter Three graphics and any other small trinkets of your own gathering that would be at home in the Parlor. Let's create some vignettes, otherwise known as small groups of objects staged with a focal point, to tell a story!

Scout your location options — the floor, the mantle, even atop a sofa cushion. Once you've settled on a space, choose an anchor piece to ground the tableau, and try arranging objects around it to achieve a picture perfect scene.

We recommend taping a small sprig behind the vase for some added height and whimsy. You could also scatter book pages on the floor, or peek them impertinently from beneath a stack of books. Using an odd number of objects accomplishes the perfect amount of visual interest; three or five items should do the trick!



## Chapter the Fourth DIY: “The Cats Tell What They Know”



### Constructing the Boudoir

*The cats of Grimm Gables are not telling what they know, but this tutorial spills the beans on assembling the Grimm boudoir and its contents. A four post bed looks about as uninviting as it smells, heaped high with stained bedding and pillows snipped from your own dirty laundry pile. Carpet squelches under foot. A locked armoire looms from the corner. Perhaps the armoire contains a clean set of linens for your stay at Grimm? More likely it hides stinkier secrets.*

*This DIY tutorial will take you through the steps of assembling the Grimm Boudoir and its cat-scuffed antiques. It's time to hold your nose and gather your...*

### Boudoir Materials

- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Hot glue
- Craft glue
- Paper towel, tissue, cotton, or similar stuffing
- Smidge of old lace, fabric, ribbon
- Brown/black paint or markers
- Lightweight cardboard

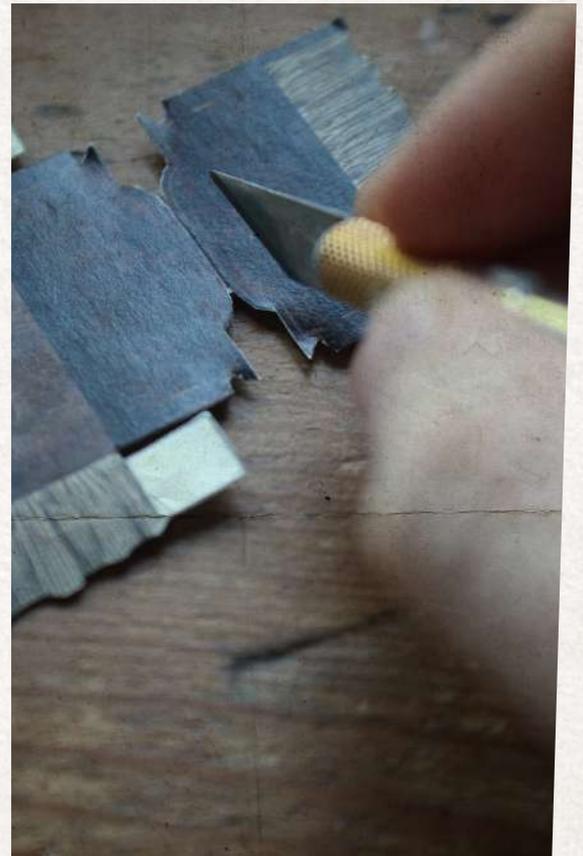
## The Art of Bed-Making

For this edition of our favorite game — “Dig-Through-Your-Mate’s-Negligee-Drawer-and-Purloin-Something-That-Won’t-Be-Futurely-Missed” — we’ll focus our attention first on the tiny cut-out bed. My, how sinister its splatterings! Begin, as always, by freeing the graphic by means most handy: scissors, craft knife, or safely dulled hacksaw.\*

When you have freed the graphic, you may find it helpful to lightly score the folds with a craft knife. On the other hand, those feeling the lack of a craft knife won’t find it helpful at all, and they shall press forward bravely all the same.

Using craft glue or tape, join the joints. What joints? Where? This is a mystery, you Grimmshoe! We trust you’ll figure it out. Or go mad trying. But should you gunk it up, simply loose the straight jacket and print another — tada! The secrets of your crafting fiascos are safe with us, though we can’t speak for those perturbing portraits...

Use scissors to clean up any visible white edges on your marvelous little slumber train. Perniciously tenacious white slivers may be defeated with a sharpie, brown paint or similarly hued marker.



*\*For the official legal record, we do not advise using a dulled hacksaw for any of the offered DIYs. We wouldn't dream of putting your digits at risk. A battle-sharpened Samurai sword may prove more efficient.*

## Bed Posts & Ganopy

My, what a fancy canopy you have, said the little girl in the red cloak. All the better to devour you with, said the creepy but undeniably elegant bed. Let's get fancy.

**First** → From your cereal box cardboard, cut four skinny strips, .25" wide by 2.75" long. Glue these in place, following the lines established by your bed graphic. We're rather partial to the hot glue for this step.

**Second** → Cut a 1.75" x 1.75" square piece of cardboard for the canopy and glue this atop the posts. Again, we are impatient creatures, and partial to the expediency and sturdiness of hot glue for this particular step. And to that point, a word: do not chastise yourself, should your fancy bed canopy become a wreck of hot glue. We'll be covering all manner of ills with some lover-ly fabric snippings. Forward!

**Third** → If you'd like to get extra show-offy, you can fake wooden carvings on the bed posts by gluing old lace or ribbon onto them and then slathering the trimmings with brown paint. Though there is no shame in leaving the posts Amish-ly austere.



## Bed Skirt, Mattress & Blankets

Allow me to illuminate for you another secret for the ages. When embarking on a DIY, often a key to your success (and sanity) is ordering the steps properly. Consider how one step might serve to mask the “seams” of a previous step. To this end, we recommend that you glue your bed skirt into place before you pile up your pillows and blankets. That way, if you leave a trail of glue, you can hide it under subsequent drapery!

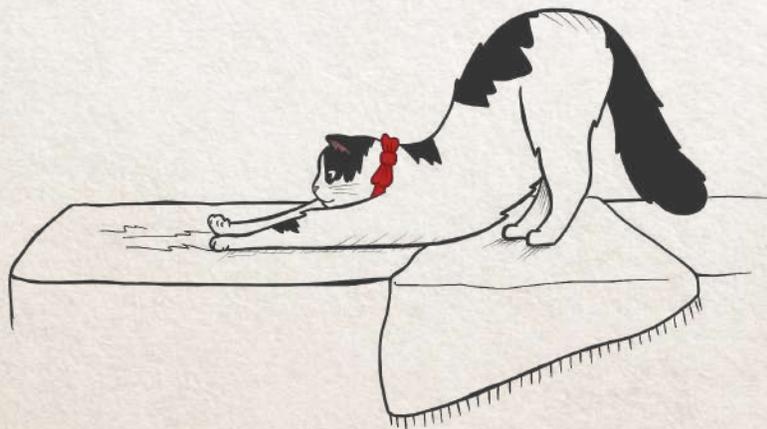
**Bed skirt** → Glue lace or a fabric remnant over the bottom of the bed frame.

**Mattress** → This mattress is shamefully dirty. Let’s be good hosts and hide away the stains before any guests turn up. Pile cotton, paper towel, or tissue to desired fluffiness atop your sordid, cat-stained mattress. Fix the fluffiness in place using glue. Though you’d swear by our insistence that we’ve landed the lucrative endorsement of a hot glue tycoon, we girl-scout-cookie promise that this is not the case. That said, hot glue carries the day again when securing a fluffy lump of fluff that will serve as your mattress.



**Blankets** → Using snippets of fabric, cover your now fluffy mattress, layering sheets and comforters as desired. If you are partial to the characterfulness of the rude mattress below, you can replicate its dingy by giving your little bedding the old “dirty wash.” As the author has always understood it, a “dirty wash” is a swillish mixture of water and acrylic paint, with water winning the day and rather drowning out the pigment. If you’d like to set your filthy drapery in place for time memorial, adding craft glue to your “dirty wash” will help to set and stiffen the fabric.

**Pillows** → If the templates are too fidgety, you can cheat like we did by simply rolling a paper towel, securing the roll with a bit of hot glue, snipping it down to size, and covering it with your chosen pillow fabric.



## Chapter the Fifth DIY: “Who Turned Out the Lights”



### Constructing the Sun Room

*Though we're sure the Sunroom is lovely, it is difficult to make out through the impenetrable gloom. Devoid of sunlight, you'll have to squint in order to see what might be the shape of a fancy chandelier, artist easel, and ghost, cast in the edges of Grimm shadow. We imagine the craftsmanship of that stained glass window is exquisite, but who can really tell beneath its inch of grime? The woeful creaking of its panes against the wind has also become rather alarming.*

*This DIY tutorial will shed light on assembly of the Grimm Sunroom and its contents. It's time to gather your wits and your...*

### Sunroom Materials

- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Hot glue
- Craft glue
- Needle and thread
- Fabric
- Lace and ribbon
- Assorted embellishments and trinkets

## Draping the Curtains

To add a bit of lovely texture other than river smog to your Sunroom, we do recommend:

**First** → Cut your chosen curtain fabric into a neat rectangle the approximate height of your room.

**Second** → Fold it in the accordion style. Stab those accordion folds with a needle and thread at the top of the fabric's length.



**Third** → Tie the ends of the thread together in a knot to secure the pretty folds. Now use hot glue or craft glue to affix the top of this curtain to your wall in the desired configuration.

**Fourth** → A morsel of ribbon makes a pretty curtain tie when placed somewhere near the middle, 'round your curtain. If you choose to add a curtain tie, do so before draping and gluing the bottom of the curtain into its final place.



## Let There Be Light! (Figuratively Speaking, at This Juncture)

**First** → Raid that craft closet with everything you've got, while frantically drinking your preferred bottled beverage. We're looking for ribbon, lace, decorative accents, fabric or paper strips; thin and flexible materials are ideal here.



**Second** → Well done, swift guzzler! By now, you should have emptied that bottle, leaving you with a bottle cap in need of new purpose. And huzzah, it shall find it as a ceiling light in your tiny estate!

**Third** → Take your ribbon, or lace, or wrapping paper, or any strip of something that you only dare imagine, and wrap around the bottle cap. Glue.

**Fourth** → While you are at it, you may carry on gluing! Ideally the hot variety, at this stage. Fire up that glue gun and dab on the bottle cap's top. With the speed and dexterity that only you can muster, press it against the cardboard ceiling.

If you have recently recycled all your bottles, take heart. We offer you an alternate method that is even simpler. This is a good, old-fashioned junk drawer-style raid. Perhaps a chandelier earring, attached by puncturing the cardboard ceiling above. Or a scrapbooking embellishment that's never quite found its purpose. Even a nimble thimble will do. In short — Find any small object, attach it to the ceiling, step back and admire your handiwork!



## Arranging the Easel

**First** → Cut two skinny strips of cardboard, roughly .25" wide and 2.25" long. Glue these morsels into a narrow "V" shape.

**Second** → Another .25" wide strip will serve as the easel's bottom tray. Use your chosen tiny painting to determine how high this support bar will sit on the easel. Glue the ledge into place.

**Third** → Cut a 2" + long, .25" wide morsel of cardboard. Use your craft knife to lightly score a fold in the top of this strip, about .25" down from its edge. Glue this in place as your easel's back leg. Trim the leg down as you please.

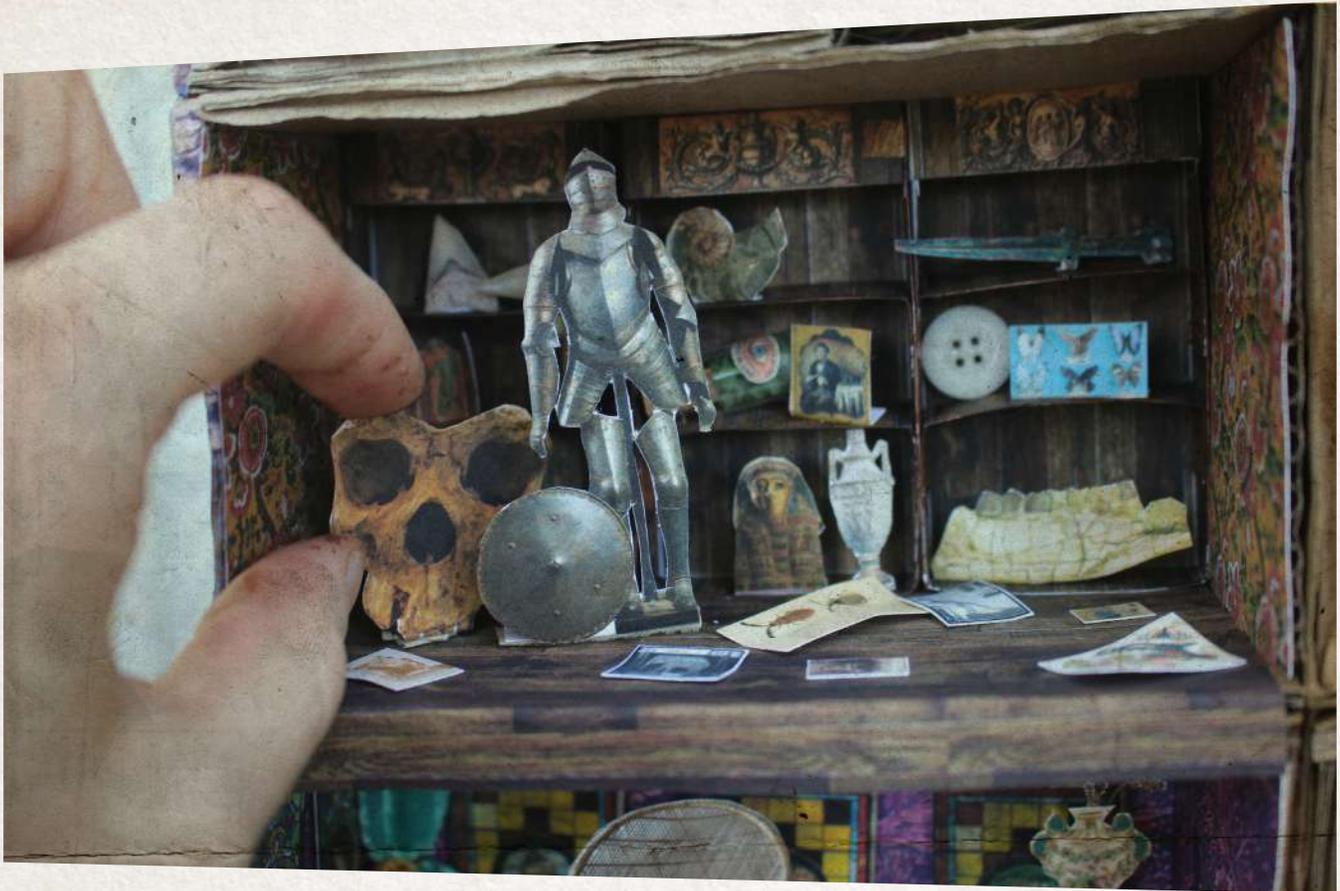
*\*\*\*Be patient while your glue dries into a sturdy little easel!\*\*\**

**Fourth** → Paint your easel with brown paint or maul it with a marker!

**Fifth** → For ease of setting up in your tiny scene, you may want to glue the tiny artwork and paintbrushes into place on the easel. The ambitious among you may even want to create your own original art!



## Chapter the Sixth DIY: “Churlish Cabinetry and Cursed Curios”



### Constructing the Trophy Room

*Before the Trophy Room shelves can strain under their burden of curious curios, you must hack and hammer those shelves from paper and paint. In our estimation, what distinguishes the lowly trophy rooms from the lofty, is their variety of textures, colors, and materials. So, when its shelves are complete and sagging, pack yours with mystery by setting your curatorial sights high and low: from the laundry room, to the knick knack drawer, to that little pile you sweep beneath the carpet when you think no one is looking.*

*This DIY tutorial takes you through the assembly of the Grimm Trophy Room and its chatty artifacts. It's time to gather your wits and your...*

### Trophy Room Materials

→ Scissors → Craft knife → Craft glue → Lightweight cardboard → Curios!

## Constructing the Trophy Room

Three possible courses have been plotted for you in the Trophy Room. With regards to its cabinetry, your clever eyeballs will notice two divergent approaches included in the printouts section. Anticipating that one of these techniques may be better suited to your available supplies and skill level, we have included both. You are most welcome.

**Option #1** → Using the cabinet template pattern, cut your cabinet from lightweight cardboard. A craft knife will help you to score the cabinet joints and folds. Once you have folded and glued your cabinet, paint it with brown paint.

**Option #2** → Use the template to complete the cabinet as in Option #1, but instead of painting it, cut and apply the printable wooden graphics.

**Option #3** → If printer ink is bountiful in your household, simply print the wooden shelves onto heavier weight paper and assemble. Then use paint, markers, or more graphics to cover up visible white spots. This could be the way to go for young investi-crafters and less young beginners!

Or maybe there is some clever combination of the above which will get your clock gears spinning!



Your dossier includes a number of very curious curios, but we can't wait to see what original plunder you dig up!

If you are looking for inspiration, you might want to start by reading more about "Cabinets of Curiosity." These collections boasted a wide array of many peculiar things, including: automaton, artwork, mythological artifacts, strange animals, ancient gravegoods, and weird bugs. You don't need access to the Louvre's labyrinth storage vaults to stock your own cabinet with wonder...Roll up a bit of paper, tie it with a twine, and call it a secret. Use clay to make bird or dinosaur eggs. A bit of dryer lint becomes mummy dust!

## Catfather Clock

Your Chapter Six graphics include the internal mechanisms and secret contents of the catfather clock discovered in Chapter Three.

**First** → Retrieve your previously printed and snipped clock from the Parlor.

**Second** → Using a craft blade or scissors, slice open the clock's hidden door on all sides but the left (or right, if you do so choose), where the door will hinge open. To make for easier door opening and closing, lightly score that remaining side with your craft blade.

**Third** → Glue or tape your newly discovered graphic to the back.

**Fourth** → Return your catfather clock to its rightful place in the Parlor!



## Chapter the Seventh DIY: “A Hitherto Undiscovered Passageway Is Discovered”



### Constructing the Slice-dice-a-tervatory

*There is much afoot in the Slice-dice-a-tervatory. It's time to get your hands busy making it! Though we do hope you'll be gentler with the Grimmlooms than whomsoever previously occupied this room.*

*This DIY tutorial will take you through the steps of assembling the Grimm Slice-dice-a-tervatory and its carnage. It's time to gather your wits and your...*

### Slice-dice-a-tervatory Materials

- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Craft or hot glue
- Dark paint or markers
- Wood sliver or cardboard
- Twine
- Gizmos and gadgets

In the Slice-dice-a-tervatory, objects of the house are being disassembled and reassembled for some mysterious purpose. Let's see if you can put two and two together to make five.

**Flooring** → In this chapter's exploration of Grimm Gables, we discover that the floor treatment on the third level is consistent from room to room. Return to your bounty of wooden planking from Chapter Six and top it off with a new rug, faithfully fringing the Persian using your scissors.

**Furniture** → For the furniture cut outs, some paint or dark markers will come very much in handy for masking those exposed white paper slivers. Don't go too heavy with the paint. A thin layer will do and will keep your fixtures from getting flimsy. The chair will likely be the most fidgety piece you'll create for Grimm Gables, but after this long on the DIY case, we know you are up to the task! Use your boudoir pillow templates to add a seat cushion for the room's mysterious machinist.

**Wall Charts** → When snipping out the wall charts, be careful not to snip off their small tabs. Roll these tabs over a morsel of wood or darkly painted cardboard and fix them into place with glue (we are partial to the hot variety for this task!). For a final flourish, add a tiny loop of twine to the top reverse.

**Artifacts and Specimens** → The objects in this room are the strangest yet, with many seemingly in states of reassembly. The specimens preserved in jars seem to be of a mechanical nature. Fill the empty jars with your own specimens, snipped from magazines, etc. Leave the boxes open and cushion your own mysterious artifacts within by filling them with shreds of paper or packing material.

This is the room for the gizmos, so if you have them, scatter them!



## Chapter the Eighth DIY: “Plants with Rather Forceful Opinions”



### Constructing the Attic

*It is clear that at some point in the history of Grimm Gables, someone took great pains to architect the Attic's greenhouse contraptions. Recreating that task now falls to you, my dear snipper snapper. As in the preceding rooms, this Grimm scene may be enhanced by incorporation of dimensional materials into your paper landscape. Which means that it is once again time for a midnight garden forage.*

*This DIY tutorial takes you through the assembly of the Grimm Attic and its leafy inhabitants. It's time to gather your wits and your...*

### Attic Materials

- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Craft glue
- Dark paint or markers
- Lightweight cardboard
- Optional: Tissue paper, metallic paint

## Ladder Carpentry

**First** → From lightweight cardboard (return to those cereal boxes, Grimm gobblers), cut two 2.5" long x .25" wide strips of cardboard. These will be the ladder rails.

**Second** → For the ladder rungs, cut 6-10 .25" wide strips, approximately 1.5" long.

**Third** → Use a paintbrush to dab modest little dabs of glue up and down the two ladder rails, spacing the glue dabs where you would like the rungs to be.

**Fourth** → Place your rung pieces and fuss with the rails so that they dry parallel to each other. Once the glue has dried, you will be able to snip away excess rung length, so shoot to make the ladder in the ballpark of 1" wide.

**Fifth** → After your ladder has dried, use paint or markers to color it brown or black.



## Fancifying the Terrariums

The most straightforward way of accomplishing teensy paper terrariums is with the assistance of a craft knife and craft glue. Use your blade to carefully slice out the windows and score the folds.

And then get extra fancy with these upgrades!

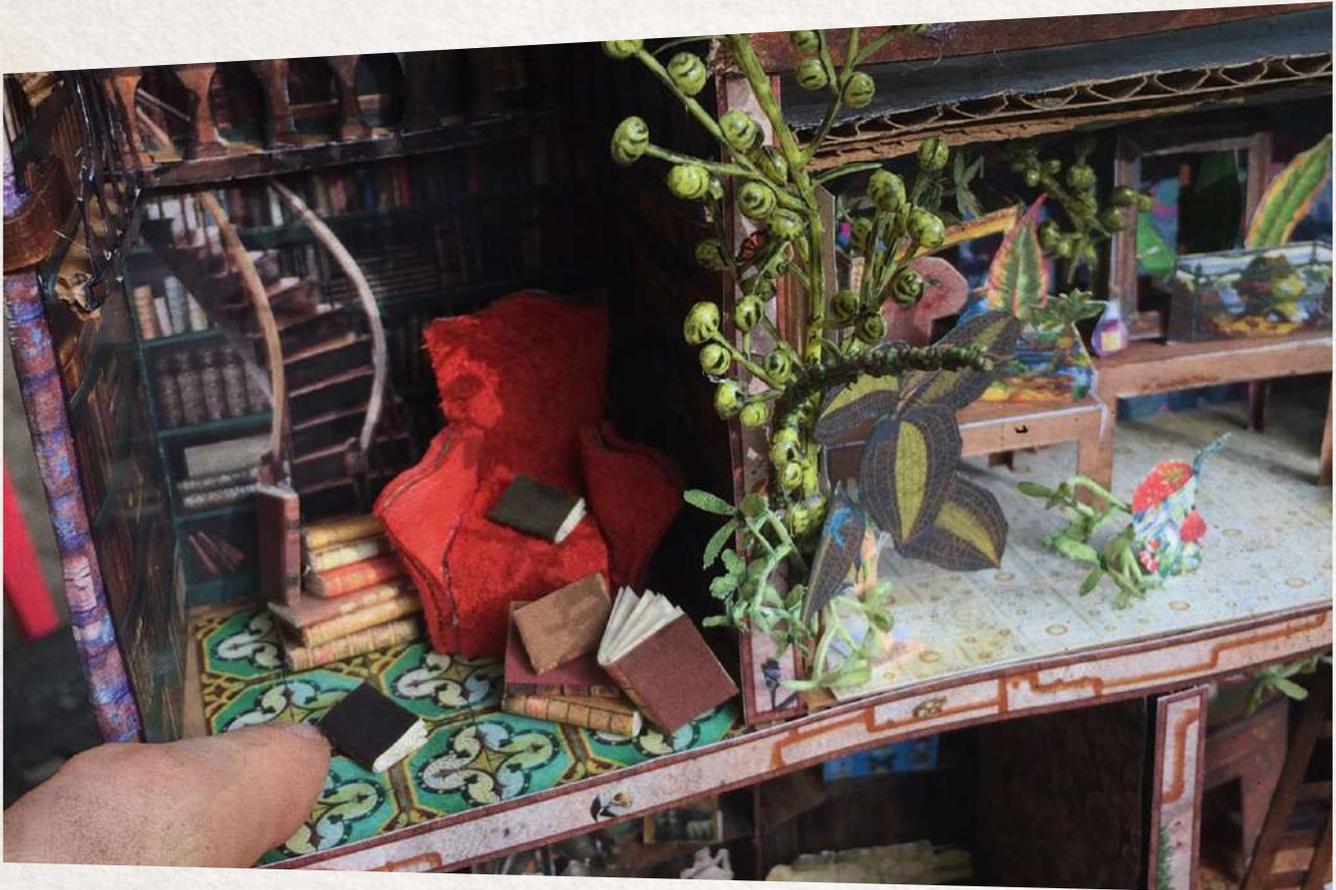
- Use metallic colored paint or markers to add dimension to your terrariums
- Cut and glue tiny terrarium windows from vellum paper or from clear plastic rescued from your recycling bin
- Add beads the base of the terrarium for extra fancy pedestal feet

## Tissue Paper Horticulture

In addition to your cut-out-able plants, you may enjoy getting crafty with colored tissue paper. Snip leaves and vines, and roll scraps into tiny "buds."



## Chapter the Ninth DIY: “Forgotten Voyages Are Taken”



### Constructing the Library

*What library would be complete without a chatty armchair, precarious ladder, and damp book heaps? It's time to discover the penultimate chamber in this wild Grimm chase, where the tomes pile high, the stains run deep, and the wind howls hungrily outside.*

*This DIY tutorial takes you through assembly of the Grimm Library and its contents. It's time to gather your wits and your...*

### Library Materials

- Scissors    → Craft knife    → Craft glue    → Hot glue    → Paintbrush    → Dark paint or markers
- Lightweight cardboard    → Fabric    → Acrylic paint

## Library Railing

**First** → From your balcony rail graphic, snip three portions of rail with lengths to match the width of your three library wall graphics.

**Second** → Now, you may be the sort of lunatic who enjoys methodically blading every last snippet of white from within the balcony railing. If this is so, while you grab a fresh craft blade, I will proceed with the others to an alternate method: Choose one of the parallel rail beams and snip directly into it, relieving the space between two posts of their white paper. Go down the rail repeating the process. Trust me on this...

**Third** → When the white in-between has been removed, to disguise your scoundrelly slash dashery, snip out a long strip, either a beam from your extra balcony rail graphic, or a piece of brown paper or cardstock roughly the width of your balcony beam. Use craft glue to glue this separate strip to your balcony railing to hide the snips you've made. Once you have glued the beam in place, let it dry sandwiched between wax paper under a stack of lonely old encyclopedias. They are happy for the work.



**Fourth** → Once your balcony rail has dried nice and flat, use a black or brown marker to go over those white edges, making them disappear and blend into the woodwork!

**Fifth** → You'll want to install your finished balcony rails so that they sit forward from the shelf ever so slightly, giving the room some architectural dimension. To achieve this, grab a piece of corrugated cardboard. From the cardboard, cut a long skinny piece, roughly .25" wide.

**Sixth** → From your .25" wide corrugated cardboard strip, snip lengths equal to the length of your three balconies, making two pieces per balcony. For each balcony, glue one to the reverse of the top rail and one to the reverse of the bottom rail.

**Seventh** → Your balcony rails are ready for install! Begin with the back wall. Run a bit of craft glue across your corrugated cardboard runners and glue them into place on the graphic. Once they are securely dry, glue the back wall into the room. Before doing anything with the side balconies, next glue in your two side walls. You'll have to trim up the side balconies a smidge to fit against the back balcony so that they don't protrude. Do so and then glue them in, level with the back wall balcony. I'm not sure I would advise strolling on these balconies with a heavy stack of books but my, they do look charming, don't they!

## Armchair

From this Grimm library armchair, a reader may depart on voyages of the imagination. We'll use the templates to transfer their shapes to cardboard, and then cover the cardboard pieces with fabric. Velvet scraps or leather castoffs work great for this project! For the finished armchair in accompanying pictures, scraps of cherry red leather were used.

**First** → Cut the library armchair templates from your printed paper. Trace these onto cereal box weight cardboard.

**Second** → Cut the pieces from the cardboard, making sure to lightly score the line on the seat piece. Using hot glue or craft glue, affix these cardboard pieces to your chosen fabric and then cut the fabric around them, keeping close to the edge. When you have glued the cardboard seat piece to the fabric, flex the fold before cutting to be sure that the cardboard will be covered with the proper amount of fabric.

**Third** → Repeat the fabric gluing process above for the reverse sides of the chair back and arm rests.

**Fourth** → Put it all together! Hot glue will be your best ally in assembling the chair pieces. After the pieces are glued together, flex the armrest pieces out a bit to add some dimension. Distress with a paintbrush and a wash of acrylic paint. Then add books, cats, and naps to your heart's content!



## Tiny Books

What would a library be without several lifetimes worth of books! Wrap your book cover images around morsels of paper or cardboard. Stack to a precarious level. Then listen to what the books have to say...



*With your cavernous library drawn cozily about you, why not put away the screens, turn out the lights in exchange for a flickering candle or two, and have some fun reading stories to each other? Our favorites are "On the Orient Express" by Ray Bradbury, "The Ghost of the Kardiff Giant" by Mark Twain, and simply anything and everything by M.R. James!*

## Chapter the Tenth DIY: “Adieu, Grimm Gables”



### Constructing the Bell Tower & Hoisting Sail

*Contained within the uppermost chamber of Grimm waits its biggest miniature secret yet. What do a topiary cat, a bit of rigging, and a paper napkin have in common? They are all crucial pieces of a plan to save Grimm Gables. Execution of this plan---and the fate of the Grimmlooms now depends upon you. Judging by your capable dispatch of the previous nine DIY tutorials, we know those deft crafting digits are up to the task.*

*Sharpen your wits and scissors; this final DIY tutorial takes you through assembly of the Grimm Bell Tower and the house sails. For the last time, until the next time, it's time to gather your...*

### Bell Tower Materials

- Scissors
- Craft knife
- Craft glue
- Dark paint or markers
- Lightweight cardboard
- Tissue paper
- Metallic paint

## Armoire

Your Chapter Ten graphics include the secret innards to your boudoir armoire from Chapter Four. Use a craft blade or scissors to slice open the doors of the armoire and then glue your newly discovered graphic to the back.

## Trap Door

We'll be revisiting a previous DIY in order to gain access to Grimm Gables' greatest secret; it is time to build the final trapdoor ladder!

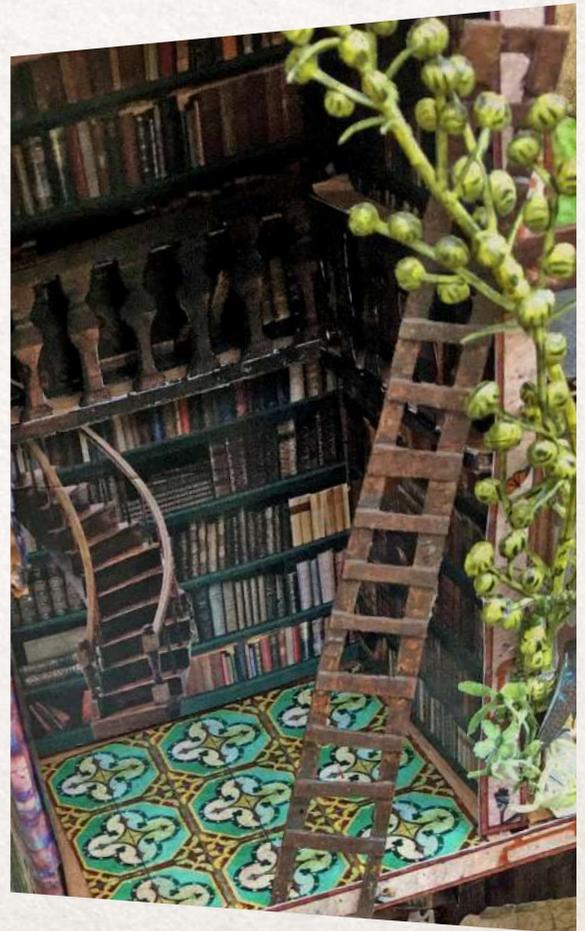
Pssst: The library ceiling is very tall indeed and overachievers may find this a good opportunity to experiment with forced perspective, which in this case means setting the ladder pieces so that the rails are ever so slightly wider at the bottom, and subtly narrowing them as you move closer to the secrets up top...

**First** → From lightweight cardboard (you know the drill: grab those cereal boxes!), cut two 5" long x .25" wide strips. These will be the ladder rails.

**Second** → For the ladder rungs, cut 14-20 <.25" wide strips, approximately 1.5" long.

**Third** → Use a paintbrush to dab modest little dabs of glue up and down the ladder rails, spacing the glue dabs where you would like the rungs to be. Once the glue has dried, you will be able to snip away excess rung length, so don't worry about the overhang as you shoot to make the ladder about .5" wide.

**Fourth** → You may want to sandwich your ladder under some heavyweight books so that it dries flat. After your ladder has dried, use paint or markers to color it brown or black.



## Sails

**First** → Use your templates to cut sails from paper, fabric, tissue paper, or wax paper. For our sails, we ransacked the kitchen hoard of takeout napkins. They were just the ticket!

**Second** → Place your sails flat onto a piece of wax or parchment paper. Use a large brush to gently stain them with watery acrylic paint in tan, brown, and/or grey hues.

It's important that you allow these to dry properly before moving onto the next step. It's also important to take care when placing them on your lawn to dry. For one, they won't fare well if your lawn happens to be mown that day. For another, they could blow away! Because they are sails after all, you silly DIY narrator, and meant to catch the wind. What on earth did you expect? Though the neighbors surely must have enjoyed that spectacle: you lumbering off into the forest in your crafting jim jams, chasing painted takeout napkins captured on a breeze...



**Third** → Your masts will be fashioned from .25" wide strips of cardboard. These need to be sturdy enough to hold your sails, so you may find it helpful to double up layers of cardboard with craft glue to make them more structurally sound. We did so by folding our masts in half onto themselves, with the assistance of a ruler and Xacto blade (and steady adult hands if you are a young crafter and/or lack opposable thumbs).

When you have properly sturdified your masts with craft glue, put that heavy stack of encyclopedias to work again as they dry, so that they dry flat.

Once dry, paint or color your masts with dark brown or black. Our own Grimm rigging required about 26" length of masts, all told. We advise making more mast than you think you are going to need, so as to forgo the sad, late-process discovery that craft backtracking will be required.

Of course, if you have popsicle sticks or long morsels of wood, you can save yourself the trouble and just use those. We the narrator just happen to be sitting on an embarrassing hoard of cardboard which needs whittling...

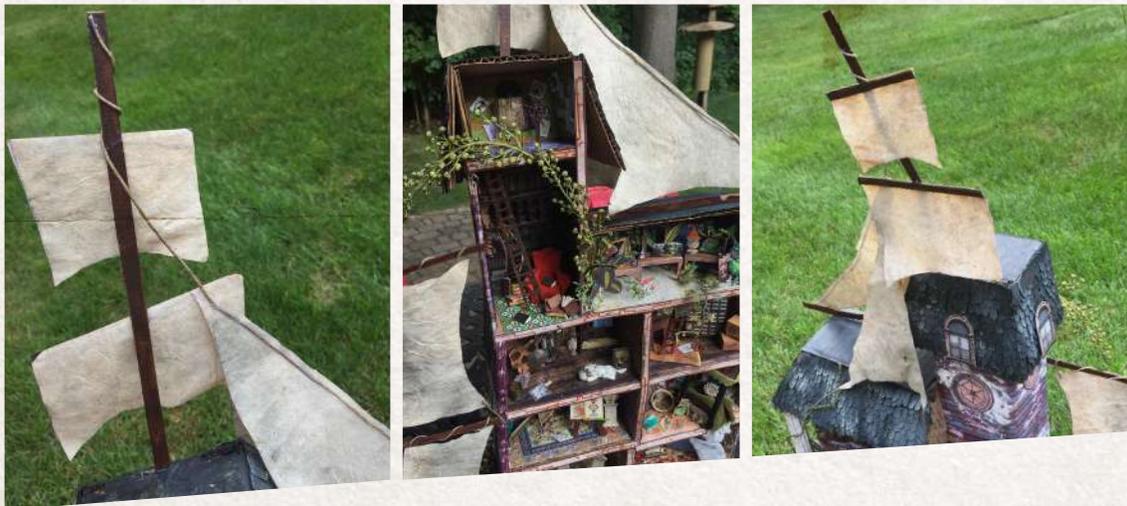


## Hoisting Your Masts

The horizontal masts were glued directly to the in-between cardboard of the rooms. An X-Acto blade may assist in creating tiny slits. To hoist the tall vertical sail atop the bell tower, we made a small slit where the front roof piece joint meets the top of the bell tower room box, and we wedged the mast in with the help of some hot glue.

## Unfurling Your Napkin Sails

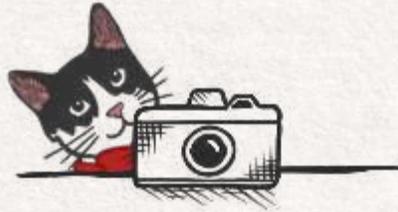
Your sails may be glued directly to the masts, or you can get fancy with a bit of twine rigging and hot glue! Once your masts are satisfactorily in place, the inner wall graphics will help you to disguise their workings and add a mysterious finishing polish to your cardboard monster. With the Grimm Gables flag flapping proudly above the house, it's time to begin a new journey!



And this, my friends, is where we take our leave. How we've enjoyed journeying with you through the rooms of Grimm Gables, and being harassed by its relics! If the Grummlooms were still here, and not busy making a ruckus on the River, they might express their gratitude for your assistance. Then again, they might not. Either way, we hope you've enjoyed your time with us. With so much mystery & madness afoot in New Orleans, we imagine it won't be very long before we are calling you up again. Be on high alert for new adventure by following your peculiar friends on Instagram & Facebook @ladydelaney, and LadyDelaney.com. Adieu, Grimm Gables! -L



# Snapping Your Snips



As you venture inside Grimm Gables, you may want to document your discoveries along the way! Here are our tips and tricks for getting the very best results when photographing your tiny works of art.

## Lighting

Snuff those camera flashes with great haste. We're on the hunt for natural light, not artificial. You will find the perfect glow next to a window or glass door, or outside in the shade.

If you're finding the light too bright, try diffusing it by putting up a sheer curtain, or experimenting with the settings on your camera to see what best highlights your mini estate.

## Composition

Composition, or how you place objects within a frame, makes a big difference in creating dynamic visuals.

Including some foreground interest is one way to add a sense of depth to the scene. For example, a pair of scissors or a grouping of small objects might be staged at the bottom of the frame closest to your camera's viewfinder, with Grimm Gables contents arranged to your liking in the background.

You also might try following the rule of thirds. Divide the frame into 9 equal rectangles, 3 across and 3 down. Many cameras and smart phones offer the capability to display these grids, so be sure to check your settings to access this feature. The idea here is to place the elements of interest along one or more of the lines or where the lines intersect.

You might also get creative with the direction in which you arrange your camera and your photo-ready objects. Rather than relying on straight-on or top-down shots, consider getting more abstract, focusing on the tiny intricacies of a particular piece. Invite the viewer into your estate, and direct their attention where you want it, on the detailed elements within the tiny works of art you are so carefully creating!

## Cropping

Applying a neat crop to your photographic pursuits will cut out distractions and create good visual interest. This can be done with your camera while snapping your shots or when editing later. The viewfinder is essentially a photo frame, and you are arranging your items and omitting unnecessary components to capture the perfect scene! You can also look into a free basic photo editor or use your smart phone to crop things just so.

## Scale

We encourage you to call attention to just how small your mansion and its parts truly are!

To emphasize scale, incorporate a full size object next to your mini work as a comparison. For example, utilize a well-placed nickel next to a 3-inch sculpture. Or, introduce your hand into the scene, i.e. adjusting a small frame on the wall or applying color to the floorboards with a paintbrush. You could even invite your cat to loom largely behind Grimm Gables, provided he or she is not prone to countertop destruction.

## Color

Let's gab about complementary colors, shall we? When used well, contrasting hues will help create some truly dynamic and striking compositions.

If you need a bit of a refresher, unearth your grade school art supplies, or simply do a quick search in the stacks of your closest virtual library, for our tried and true companion—Color Wheel. This is a useful tool in assessing how different colors work with each other.

Consult the all-knowing Wheel to find those beautiful, opposite, complementary colors. Green against red? Gasp! Orange neighboring blue? My word! Purple skirting yellow? Bravo, brava!

Now, make haste and arrange objects of contrasting colors strategically within your composition! Vite, vite!

## Quantity

Take more photos of one scene than seems reasonable. And then take some more!

When photographing objects on such a small scale, often a micro movement is the difference between a bland shot and a dynamic one, and to be quite truthful, they are oftentimes happened upon by accident!

After spending so much time creating and staging the tiny scene, spend equally long playing with angles and taking myriad photographs before selecting the winner that portrays your estate's attributes at their finest.

## Editing

You've snipped your snaps, and now it's time for the finishing touches: digital edits. You can do this directly on your phone, or in editing programs.

Fiddle with exposure to get the perfect amount of light in your image. Increase contrast just a hair to introduce depth to your photograph by fine-tuning shadows and/or adjusting highlights if there are spots that have lost detail from overexposure, or appear too dim. Test out saturation settings to enhance the color. Most importantly, apply any and all changes little by little until you get your ideal outcome!