

Scoring In Half-Scale

In 1/2" scale, Pat Bauder and Frank Moroz are an unbeatable team

BY JANE TILTON

Five years ago **Pat Bauder** and her next-door neighbor and partner, **Mary Pine**, ended their doll and antiques business. Mary kept on with the dolls and Pat, who was deeply into miniatures by then, continued to build and furnish miniature houses. Husband **Joe**, an insurance executive, helped with the house building. As the business grew more hectic and Joe became even more heavily involved in his own work, which often keeps him gone 14 hours a day, Pat says, "It was either get a new business partner or a divorce."

Enter **Frank Moroz**, a talented and experienced miniaturist with an independent streak a mile wide. How did these two get together? Pat says the partnership just evolved. At first Frank made

houses for Pat. Then she began to help with his interiors. They began to take each other's things to shows. Finally when they kept meeting each other exhibiting at the same shows, they said, "The heck with this!" and joined forces.

Since Bauder-Pine was already incorporated, they kept the name. Much of their building is done in a two-story workshop attached to Pat's historic brick Federal home in Langhorne, PA. The house, the third Pat and Joe have restored, will be the last, says Pat. The first one was hard, but the

second one "nearly broke our backs," she declares. Their present house is decorated with antiques and reproduction furniture and is full of Pat's various collections. Joe, Pat says, "is proud of what I



Photo by Lynn Tilton

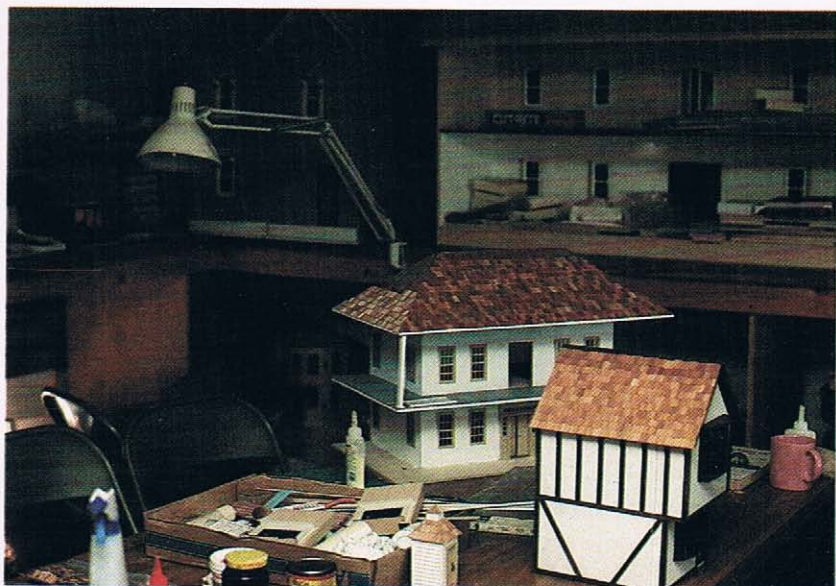


Photo by Lynn Tilton

do, but he doesn't understand the collector's craze."

"There's no rhyme or reason to what I collect. I just buy what I like and throw it in the house." What she likes includes such diverse things as silhouettes and salesman's sample-sized furniture, some of which is old, some made by **Fred Laughon** of Richmond, VA. A Windsor writing-arm chair was made by **Sam Laity** of Kutztown, PA, the benchmade chair-maker at the Kutztown Folk Festival. A hanging corner cabinet displays 1" scale miniatures with porcelain dolls by **Marty Saunders** representing an authentic Quaker family of 1810.

A room box in the corner of the living room holds a collection of early American folk art reminiscent of the Abbey Aldrich Rockefeller museum in Williamsburg, VA. **George Schlosser** did the paintings in this scene. One of **Amanda Skinner's** rocking horses is wildly askew in a corner of the room box, cour-

tesy of Pat's Maine coon cat.

Pat first became involved in miniatures 17 years ago when her parents gave her daughter, then five years old, a doll-house. Pat found herself buying "collector's quality things for a little girl to play with. She took them in her hands, and squish!" says Pat.

She found herself often fixing things, and soon decided that anything she could put back together she could make from scratch. She began her business in 1975.

At first the miniatures had to fit into her busy schedule. Pat spent 19 years at Pennsylvania Bell, where she was the first woman commercial representative. She was president of the local historical association, spent four years on the local planning commission and was the first woman borough councilman. "I can do all the weird things I do

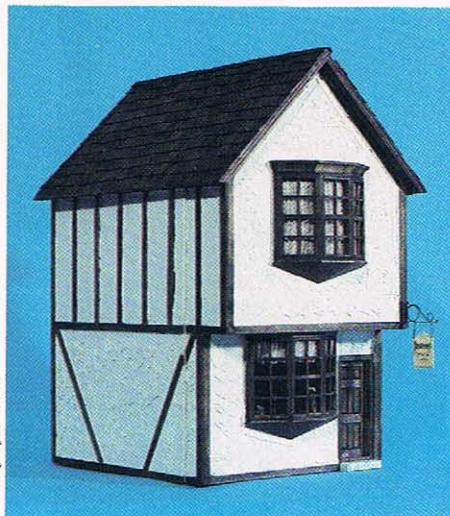
because I've been supported well by my husband," Pat says.

Pat discovered that the farther up she



Photo by Lynn Tilton

Pat Bauder (opposite page, inset) and Frank Moroz (this page, inset) spend many hours in the spacious and well equipped Bauder-Pine workshop (this page, top), turning out miniatures that delight 1/2" scale collectors. Among the projects they are currently working on is a limited edition of 25 miniatures of the Kellum-Noble House (opposite page, top) in Houston, TX, which they did for the Dallas Mayfest.



went in her career the less freedom she actually had — and then she just quit. "I'm not making as much money, and maybe I never will, but I'm happy," she says.

Frank spent years as a professional antiques dealer and flea marketeer. During his years in the business he discovered a large demand for dollhouses and began to fill his customers' needs. When he realized how much larger the demand was than the supply, he began building dollhouses. For a while he made shells for the **Doll House Factory** in Lebanon, NJ, one of the oldest businesses in the field. "I began out of necessity," says Frank. "I had to make a living." He finds his work so satisfying that he expects to be crafting in miniature the rest of his life.

Frank, who prefers the individuality of different houses, says, "I can't sit in one place and do the same thing for long periods. It drives me bats!" He once had 11 production jobs in one year.

Frank began his miniatures work in 1975, about a year before his heart attack. Although his wife has been very supportive, and used to attend shows with him, none of Frank's four children are involved in miniatures.

While Frank prefers design work and building, Pat does more of the finish work.



Lately they've done mostly historic houses. The familiar Victorian mansard-roofed house on the cover of the Bauder-Pine catalog sits across the street from Pat's house. Another popular house, Mt. Pleasant, is a copy of a Georgian home in Fairmont Park in Philadelphia, PA.

Currently in the works is the Hunter House, a Greek Revival house in Birmingham, MI. The house is being done for the Miniature Makers Workshop in Royal Oaks, MI, and will be offered for sale only through Miniature Makers Workshop.

Frank and Pat recently visited the Hunter House and took pictures. Frank learned to make drawings from his father, who has a degree in drafting, but he prefers to work from 1" scale miniatures or real life rather than from drawings. "Nothing's really original," Pat says. "We're all working from real life."

Frank prefers to do whole houses. He feels he can put a bit more into a whole house, rather than being limited by just one room. Frank had always done 1" scale houses until he and Pat were teaching a miniatures class four years ago.

For the NAME Houseparty held on the Queen Mary, Frank and Pat did a small Tudor house (above left) which has been decorated as an inn (above right), a house, or a bordello. It is half-timbered and uses artists' modeling paste for the plastered exterior walls.



Most of Bauder-Pine's 1/2" scale furniture is for sale either finished or in kit form. Pictured are finished samples of their popular settle and cupboard (above), and Victorian bed and dresser (above right), all available in kits. They also sell a number of pieces made by Frank and painted by Frank, Therese Bahl, Cheryl Hollis and Karen Steely (right).

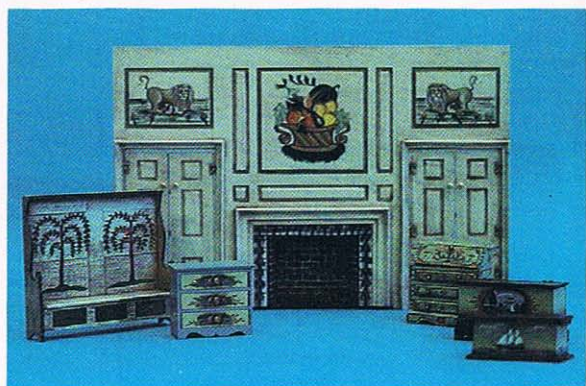


Photo by Lynn Tilton

Helen Barnstead had a 1/2" scale miniature which Martha Dinkel had done. She needed more furniture, so Pat designed canopy bed kits for everyone in the class — 35 in all. After working on the 1/2" scale furniture, they decided to do one little house to see if they would like it. The result was Bauder-Pine's Pennsylvania fieldstone farmhouse, one of a limited edition of 50.

Frank has one of the little houses, which uses pine bark chips for fieldstone, but the pair has moved on to other designs. "We like to do different houses all the time, so it puts a limit on how many we do," Pat says.

A 1" scale room box was a combination effort at a recent NAME houseparty in Williamsburg, VA. **Braxton Payne** did the original drawings, then Frank redesigned it and built it in 1" scale. Braxton did the fireplace and window seat. **Andrews Miniatures** did much of the room interior. **d. Anne Ruff** made the drapes and **Bob Bernhard** did the Queen Anne chair. **The Club** did the beds and hangings, although Pat and Frank made the headboard. The entire room has been redone

in 1/2" scale and is now available for sale.

Bauder-Pine's house kits are sold as unfinished shells — as shells with all components — completely finished — or at any stage in between, Pat explains. Mt. Pleasant, the Georgian house, is the only exception. It is sold only as a completed unit.

Pat and Frank have a commitment to keep their kits affordable, which is one reason they have gone heavily into half-scale. In addition, they find 1/2" scale houses convenient to work on. "You can tip one over on your lap to paint the ceilings," says Pat. Collectors with limited space have also contributed to the popularity of half-scale.

In order to help keep their miniatures affordable, Pat and Frank have learned to dovetail work projects. While Frank is finishing one operation, Pat may be working on another. They often try to complete several units at a time. For example, Pat may paint six windows at a time, or do beds six at a time, varnishing them all at once. Frank's father does 95% of the turnings for them, and Frank designed a special lathe which he had two retired machinists make

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from scrap. As Pat says, "It's been a struggle to keep the kits affordable."

Pat and Frank also sell handcrafted pieces in 1" scale. Much of the furniture is made for Bauder-Pine by other craftspeople. Bob Bernhard of Dolphin Originals does upholstered pieces for them. They sell a number of excellent painted pieces made by Frank and Pat, and painted by Frank, **Therese Bahl, Cheryl Hollis and Karen Steely.**

Eighty per cent of the 1/2" scale kits they sell were designed by Pat and Frank. Most of the half-scale furniture is for sale either finished or in kit form. In addition, many building supplies are stocked and hard-to-find decorator items such as rugs and paintings, as well as a full line of lighting fixtures in 1/2" scale.

"The satisfaction of working in miniature," Pat says, "is that you can decorate and furnish whole rooms and houses, and keep them neat and clean, and nobody (except the cat) messes them up!"

For more information write to Bauder-Pine, PO Box 518, Langhorne, PA 19047 enclosing an LSASE. A catalog is available for \$3. ☐

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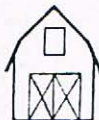


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