

Right: The finished 1/12th scale futon

Futon fun

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

1 /16th scale bed:

- 14 Starbucks coffee stirrers or 6 x 12" lengths of 1/4" x 3/32" strip wood

1 /12th scale bed:

- 25 craft sticks
- For both sizes:
- 4 jewellery head pins, fine brass nails or brass lace pins
 - 4 neutral coloured seed beads to fit snugly on the pins
 - Easy Cutter wood shears or mitre block and saw
 - Sandpaper
 - Pencil
 - Gluing jig (optional)
 - Wood glue
 - Superglue gel
 - Wire cutters
 - Flat needle file
 - Fine drill of the same diameter as the pins
 - Fine forceps



Ronnie Godfrey makes a futon in two scales

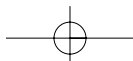
I had a request from my sister to make a double bed futon for her 1/16th scale doll-house, which is being turned into a holiday apartment. At about the same time I started a 1/12th scale house that had a very small living area in the loft, and realized that a futon would be ideal for that situation too. So, I made futons.

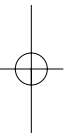
First I took photos of my own, full-size bed for reference, and then drew up plans. I wanted them to open up into real beds, so had to imitate the hinge arrangement on the real thing, which wasn't half so

easy as I'd assumed. Let's just say that I'm glad I don't have to sleep on my miniatures. There are some rather large gaps in the bed base that wouldn't be conducive to a good night's sleep.

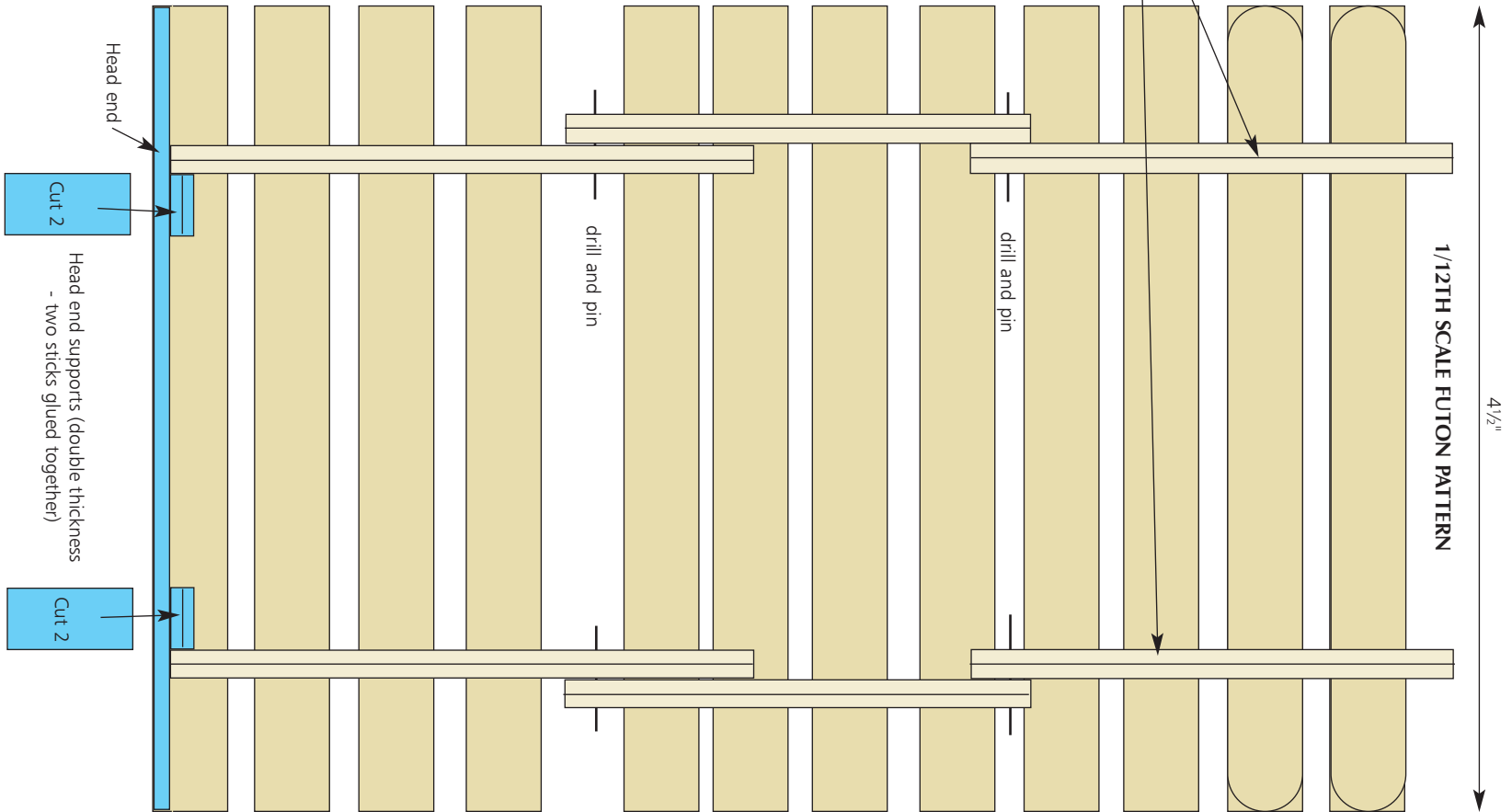
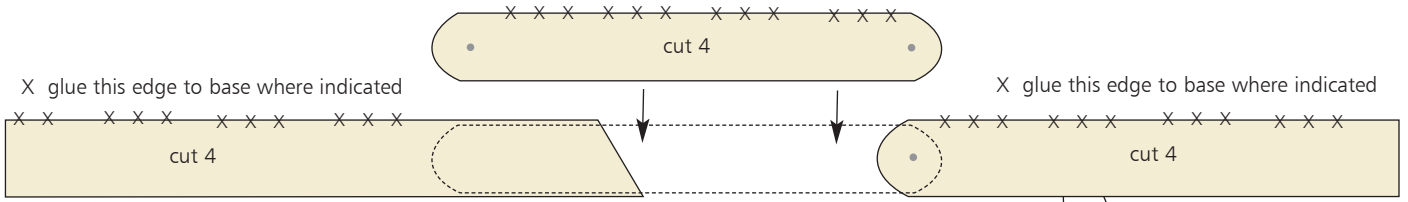
As I didn't have any suitable strip wood on hand I decided to use wooden coffee stirrers harvested from my many visits to Starbucks for the smaller one. I decided on craft sticks for the larger futon.

Unfortunately, after having cut and assembled the pieces for the small bed I realized that the stirrers are definitely not precision-made,





Base supports - double thickness (two sticks glued together)



4 1/2"

1/12TH SCALE FUTON PATTERN

Head end supports (double thickness
- two sticks glued together)

Cut 2

Cut 2

drill and pin

drill and pin

X glue this edge to base where indicated

X glue this edge to base where indicated

cut 4

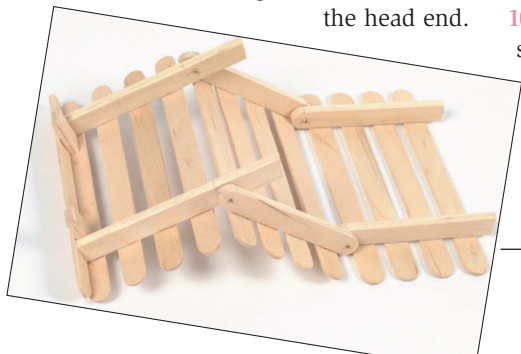
cut 4

cut 4

and result in a decidedly wobbly piece of furniture. Later I made a second one using strip wood, which was more satisfactory. The craft sticks were better, provided I chose and sanded them carefully, but when finished, the bed looked alarmingly as if it had been made of popsicle sticks! Oh well, that's the fun of it all. When the mattress was in place to hide the sticks somewhat, it looked much more satisfactory.

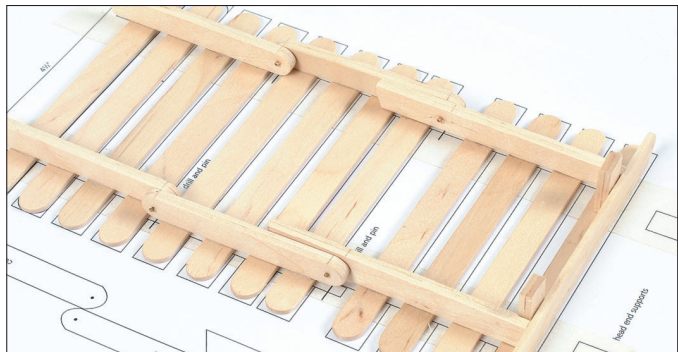
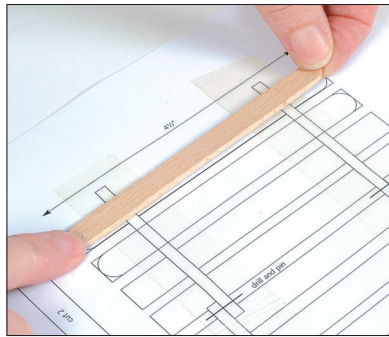
The construction method is the same for both sizes.

- 1 Draw out or photocopy the gluing diagram given. It is helpful to stick double-sided tape along the lines where the supports will go.
- 2 For the larger size only: For base and head supports glue 12 sticks together in pairs (as in the diagram) and allow the glue to dry thoroughly.
- 3 Cut the wood according to the correct cutting diagram. Round the ends of the supports where indicated and drill where indicated.
- 4 Sand the wood gently so there are no rough areas.
- 5 Mark the wood for the bed base to show where the supports go.
- 6 Place the slats for the base on the gluing diagram, ensuring that the ends are level.
- 7 Using wood glue and following the diagram, stick the supports in place. Allow the glue to dry thoroughly.
- 8 Glue the head end supports in place, adding a further stick for the head end.



Above: Lay double-sided tape onto the pattern.

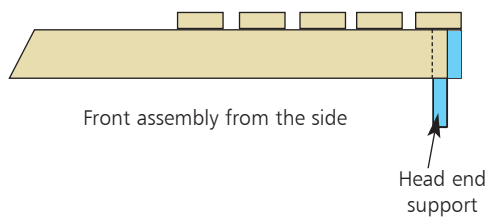
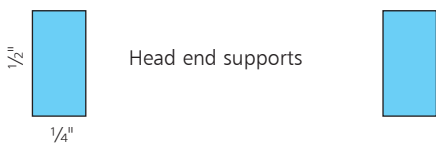
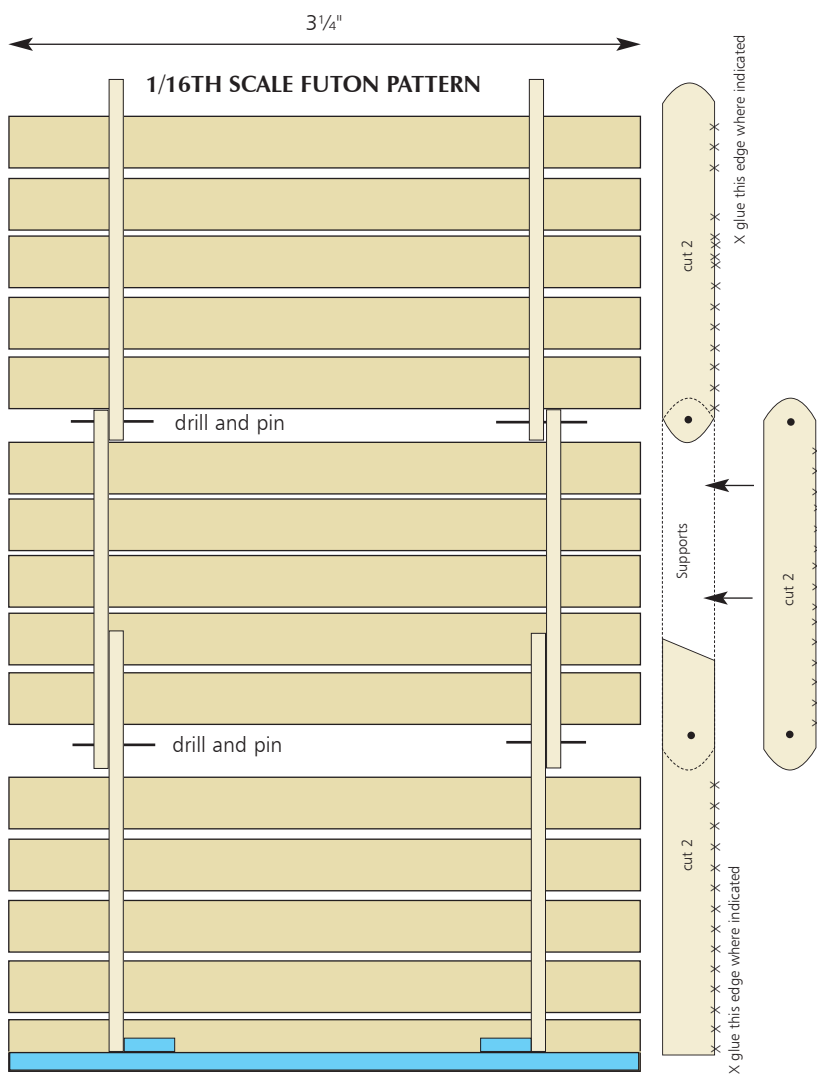
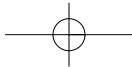
Left: Stick your cut sticks onto the double-sided tape, using the pattern as a positional guide.



- 9 Assemble the bed on a flat surface. Insert pins into the holes and check that the bed will fold correctly. If not, sand and adjust the length of the support slats.
- 10 Using wire cutters, cut the pins so that a short amount of wire protrudes from the wood.
- 11 Using superglue, stick a small bead over the end of each wire.
- 12 Using the file, remove any roughness on the end of the wire.

Above: The assembled futon laid out on the 1/12th scale pattern. Note the base supports and head end supports are made thicker by using two sticks glued together.

Left: If the pins and glue are in the right place, your futon should fold easily



Finishing touches

I made both mattresses using polyester wadding covered with cotton fabric using the dimensions of the bed base as a pattern. The contrasting cushions are also made of cotton fabric filled with polyester stuffing. Although the mattress on the larger bed stays in place when folded, the smaller one was more problematical and wouldn't stay folded. So I sewed transparent press-studs inside the seat section and held the whole thing in place with ribbon ties. **AM**

