

4 ways with a shoebox



Here's a great excuse for a spot of shoe shopping – the boxes will provide you and your kids with hours of creative fun. With a couple of test pots of paint, your imagination is the limit to what you can make.



1

Mail box

Kids love getting mail and with their very own mail box you can top up the deliveries. Turning a shoe box into a mail box is about as simple as it gets. The slot in the front for mail, a bent lid for retrieval and a cardboard flag to let you know when there's something inside.



2

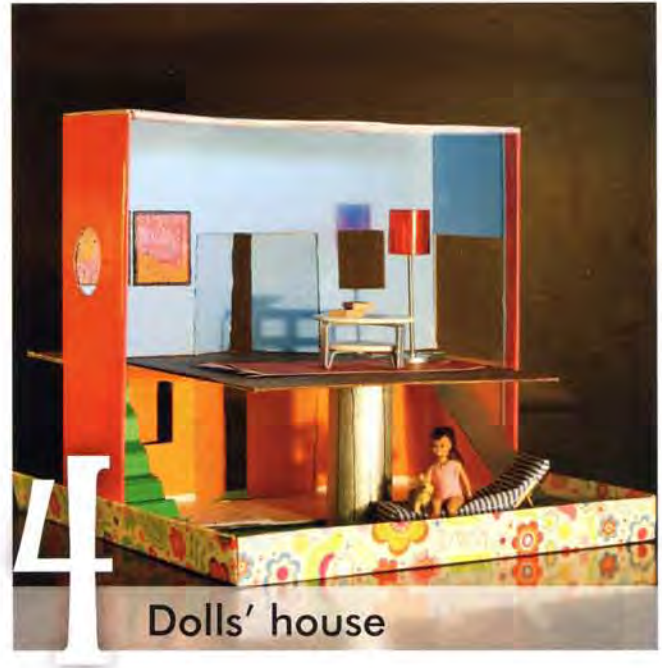
Diorama

A day at the beach, farmyard, moonscape or a rock concert – as we chose – all make perfect themes for a diorama. Paint, cut and paste people and add your props. Make your own or try dolls' house furniture or toys from your local emporium. Cut a hole in the top of the box for lighting (coloured cellophane creates an effective glow) and another at the front to look through.



3 Petrol station and car park

Here's one for the engine aficionados in your household. A touch of black paint can quickly transform a basic box into a car park. The top level is the shoe box lid, glued on at right angles to the upturned box - which becomes the lower level. Cut a slit in the top of the box for the ramp, and an entrance way of the same width in the side. The supports are toilet rolls painted to look like petrol pumps. Draw white lines for parking spaces.



4 Dolls' house

We were lucky with this one. We managed to find a pretty box with a floral lid and pink exterior, but you could easily paint or cover with contact. The mezzanine was created with a spare piece of cardboard resting on a toilet roll, and the windows, doors, slide and stairs cut with a craft knife. The rug and pictures on the wall are made from paper, but all the other furniture is from another dolls house. If you've got a large family of dolls at your place, go for a classic construction by gluing four boxes together to make the bedroom, bathroom, lounge and kitchen combination.

