



Welcome to my
(miniature)
WORKROOM

Don't have a spare room for a sewing oasis? Then live the dream in miniature, says SACHIKO ALDOUS, with boxed studios complete with tiny tools and postage-stamp-sized stashes.

By Janai Velez

Take a browse around this pretty, light-filled sewing room – check out the cupboard with bolts of fabric organised in colourways, the mannequin showcasing the latest garment and quilt blocks awaiting pressing. But all is not what it seems. This is a teeny sewing room in a suitcase, furnished with craft- and

dollar-store finds, handmade pieces and repurposed items, all Thumbelina size. The cutting mat is cardstock with a gridwork of lines drawn onto it; the floorboards and wallpaper are scrapbook papers; buttons are used as plates; and that gorgeous white-lace rug? – a paper doily!

And this downsized 'room' pays big decorative dividends for next

to no cash. "If I am working with a life-size room, it can cost a fortune to design the whole thing, but with the miniature room, I can be creative and achieve the look for a fraction of the cost," says its creator, US-based Sachiko Aldous, who has also made an adorable bedroom in a candy container, weeny Christmas-themed rooms and a minuscule quilt shop.





"I have been collecting miniature items for a while now. When I had a sewing machine, iron and ironing board, it was time for me to put together a sewing room. Once I channelled my mind, ideas flooded, and I couldn't stop till I was done," says Sachiko of her tiny treasures.

The soft colour scheme of the room is modelled on her own sewing space, but other elements, such as the white, textured wallpaper, chest of drawers, large pom-pom pillow and a selection of yummy treats, are all fresh from Sachiko's imagination.

"I love everything to do with creating. I make quilts, sew, stitch, refashion, repurpose, paint shoes and make jewellery, too! I have to say my deepest love is working with fabrics," Sachiko says. But we think her finest hours come from her tiny treasures.

"Any box can be the base of a [mini] room, but I wanted more than just a box, to expand the room and make it possible to put it away when necessary. The wooden suitcase was a perfect fit for what I had in mind. I painted the unfinished box, added wallpaper and 'wood' floors and then



decided on furniture. The rest is just making, decorating and moving around small items," she says.

Sachiko has big plans for more tiny rooms. "I always like to create something people look at and relate to – something people can see themselves in. A living room, kitchen, hallway, bookstore, flower shop ... the possibilities are endless." Topping her priorities is a girl's bedroom, which she promised her daughter she'd make before any other miniatures. Her daughter is clearly as enraptured

as we are with little crafts. When Sachiko showed her the miniature sewing room, her jaw dropped and eyes filled with amazement. "I caught her playing with the sewing room, using the mini iron and ironing board to press the tiny quilt blocks!" beams Sachiko.

Find out more about Sachiko Aldous, of Tea Rose Home, by visiting her blog (tearosehome.blogspot.com) and following her on Pinterest (www.pinterest.com/tearosehome) and Instagram (@tearosehome).



THE HARDEST PART OF ALL

The mannequin is only 3¼in tall, so Sachiko had to be extra creative with her sewing skills to make the dress (with the help of glue). "I started out with rectangular fabric pieces and went from there. By accentuating the waistline with a lace apron and ribbon flower and adding a 'pearl' necklace, I was able to create the look I had in my mind's eye," she says.

