

# How to use ancient crafts and modern techniques

## How to make a Victorian (staff) toilet and cistern.

This is an early flush toilet that would have been installed in the staff quarters of a wealthy household, mansion or castle.

The base is made of wood. The cistern would have been originally made of iron but we are making ours out of wood.

The toilet bowl can be a white bowl from your stash or a clear plastic shape you may have been 'saving', sprayed white. This sits under the seat and is not visible except from above.

Assembly of toilet.

1. Cut out the pieces as shown below.
2. Drill a 25mm hole in the centre of the top.
2. Glue the sides on top of the base and the back against base and sides.
3. The top is glued on the tops of the sides and against the back.
4. The front is glued into place when the bowl is fitted.
5. Find a suitable bowl and glue into place.
6. Make up the lid as detailed below.
7. Glue a piece of tape half on the top and half on the underside of the lid for the hinge.
8. Glue the front into position setting it about 2mm back from the edges and base.
9. All done and read to paint.

Materials required: Balsa or bass wood 3mm thick.

Strong tape for hinge.

Bowl or basin.

Paint or wood stain.

Tongue depressor (1)

25mm drill bit for hole in seat.



The cistern instructions are overleaf.

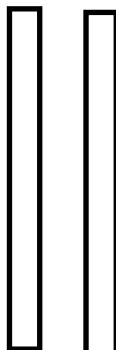
Front: 3.5cm x 5.5cm

Sides (2)

4.5cm wide x 3.5cm high

Lid: Cut two strips 4mm wide and 4.5 cm long.

Place the 3 top strips alongside each other and glue these two strips across the top 1 cm in from the edges.



Cut these pieces out of 3mm bass wood or balsa wood.

Back

6cm wide x 4.5cm high

Base and top

6cm x 5 cm

Top. Cut 3 out of tongue depressors 15mm wide. 5.8cm long

The cistern is just a simple box made from components listed below. You could just as easily use a block of balsa wood.

Cut out pieces detailed below. Position the sides between the front and back pieces and glue into place.

Chamfer or sand an angle of 25% along the edges of the wood on three sides of the top and bottom pieces.

Glue these in place.

Once the glue is dry, drill a hole in the side of the cistern about 1 cm from the top edge around the middle, to receive a piece of wire bent as shown in Fig 1. Attach a piece of chain to this wire with a loop on the end, for flushing. It doesn't have to go up or down. Just glue the wire in the hole.

Drill a 10 or 8mm hole in the bottom of the cistern for the water pipe.

Water pipe. Take a piece of dowel, cut it to the right length. (The right length being— if the dowel is flush with the inside top of the cistern and the head room accommodates a seated doll.)

Paint with copper paint.

When dry, glue the dowel into the hole, pushing it to fit snugly against the top, inside. Depending on where and how your toilet is fitting in your house, glue the dowel down the back of the toilet unit.



#### Materials required:

Bass wood or balsa wood 3mm thick.

Acrylic paint.

Tacky or quick dry wood glue.

Drill bit.

Piece of dowel for pipe

Chain

Piece of 18 or 20 sized wire.

#### Getting the right look.

A lot of miniaturists like their bathrooms to look pristine and clean and new. I like mine to look like someone messy has just left them.

Toilets in the 19th century could be challenging. Often unhygienic by our standards. People wiped themselves on rags (that they sometimes carried around with them). Or they used old newspaper.

In my Chateau I will have a variety of toilets from this most humble staff toilet adjacent to the kitchen, a step-up toilet for the housekeeper and the top of the range (of the times) toilets for the family and guests.

Quite a challenge in itself!

Top 7 m x 3cm

Chamfer three edges

Cut 1.

Bottom 6cm x 3cm

Chamfer three edges. Cut 1.

Front and back

6cm x 2cm. Cut 2.

Sides.

2cm x 2cm.

Cut 2.