

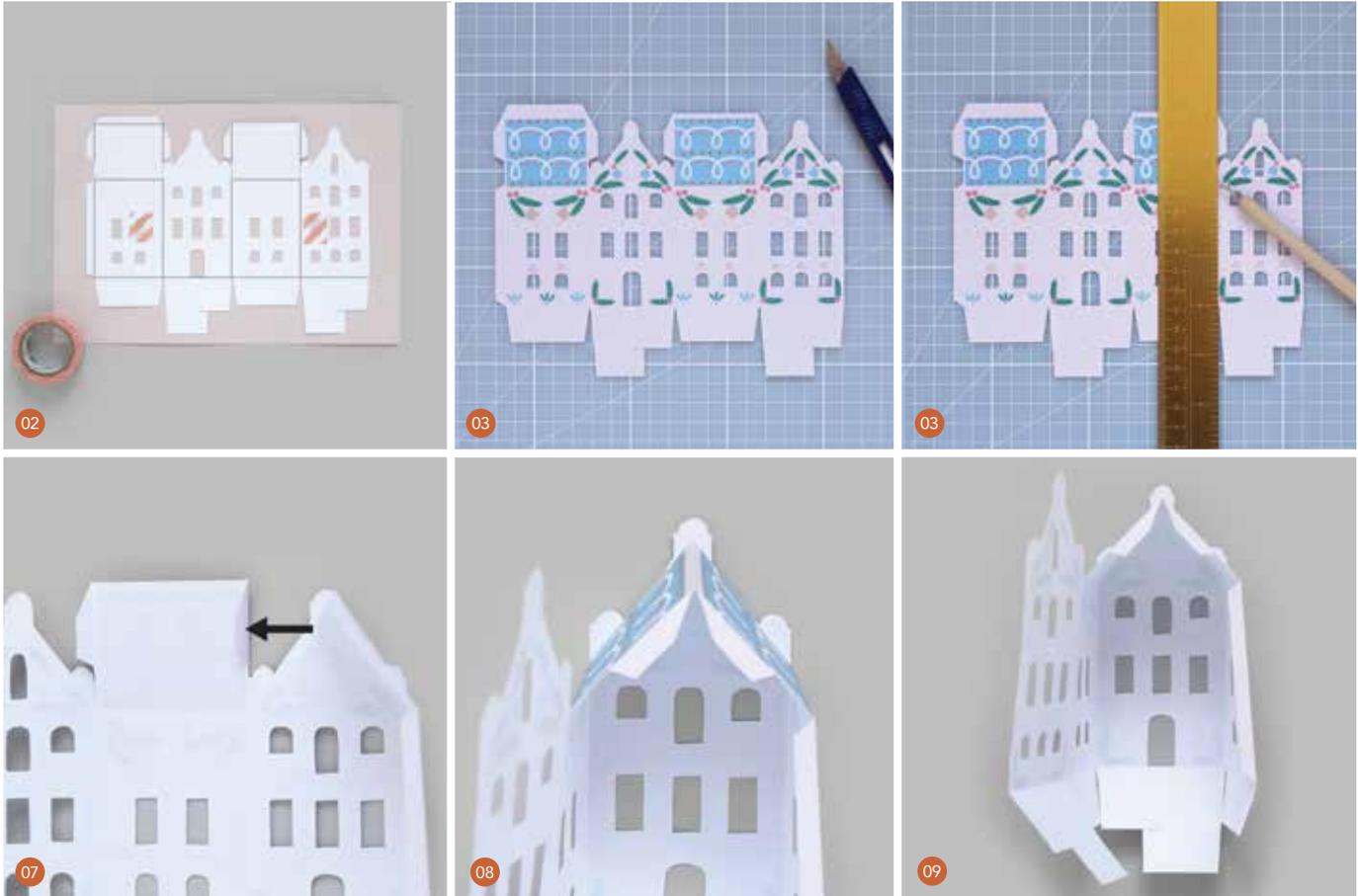


GINGERBREAD VILLAGE

Create your own Candy Cane Lane with
Sarah Louise Matthews' mini papercraft gift boxes







HOW TO MAKE PAPER GINGERBREAD HOUSES

MATERIALS

- Eight A4 sheets of patterned paper
- Washi tape
- Craft knife
- Cutting mat
- Metal ruler
- Embossing tool
- Tacky glue

For those of you who get just as excited about Christmas as us – sorry not sorry – this amazing collab between two of our fave designers is a dream come true.

Combining Lucia Wilkinson's cute illustrations with Sarah Louise Matthews' papercraft skills, the pull-out papers in issue 121 of *Mollie Makes* are a mini gingerbread village just waiting to happen. Each one has a template printed on the back, ready for you to cut out and stick together. And, each tiny home doubles up as a gift box too.

You can buy a copy of the issue here www.buysubscriptions.com/back-issues/mollie-makes-back-issues or just use patterned papers from your own stash and the template on the last page. Turn them into tree decorations, give them to friends with treats inside, adorn a mantelpiece with them – the list is endless. Looks like there's a new way to spread Christmas cheer this year.

01 If using the papers from the magazine, **roughly cut** around the templates on the wrong side (WS) – the plain side – of each sheet of paper. If using your own papers, trace the template on the last page onto the WS of each sheet.

02 Place one house shape onto the cutting mat, WS up, then cut along the solid lines using the craft knife. Hold the knife like a pen and always cut **towards yourself**, using your other hand to hold the paper in place. Rotate the paper in between cuts, and for the straight lines, use the metal ruler for a neat finish. It also helps to washi tape the paper to the mat, adjusting the position of the tape as you work.

03 Turn the paper right side (RS) up and use an embossing tool or butter knife and a ruler to score along the dotted lines. To do this, position the ruler in place over the **dotted line**, then run the embossing tool alongside the ruler while gently pressing into the surface of the paper. This will

create an **indented line**, making the paper easier to fold.

04 Fold all the scored lines into **mountain folds** – this means the paper goes downwards from either side of the fold, so the fold line resembles the peak of a mountain.

05 With the paper still RS up, apply a thin layer of tacky glue to the left roof panel's **right hand tab**. Turn the paper over and attach the glued roof tab to the back of the adjacent sloped edge, aligning the fold with the cut edge.

06 Keeping the paper WS up, apply a thin layer of tacky glue to the RS **of the long tab** along the top of the roof panel.

07 Working quickly before the glue from Step 6 dries, apply a thin layer of **tacky glue** to the RS side of the next tab along to the left, which is adjacent to the other sloped side.

08 Attach the glued tab from Step 7 to the back of the adjacent sloped edge, aligning the fold with the cut edge, while simultaneously pressing the long glued tab from



HOW TO MAKE PAPER GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Step 6 onto the back of it. Again, make sure to **align the fold** with the cut edge.

09 Apply a thin layer of tacky glue to the RS of the three remaining tabs – the **two sloped tabs** on the roof and the long tab down the side of the house.

10 Press the WS of the **tab-free** face of the house onto the three glued tabs, aligning the folds of the tabs with the cut edges.

11 Turn the house upside down so the **open bottom end** is facing upwards. If using as a gift box, fill the house with any gifts or treats at this stage. Next, fold down the two smaller flaps, as shown.

12 Fold down the two larger flaps and link them together by sliding the two small slits into one another, **closing the base** of the box. The house can now be turned RS up, and any gifts inside will be secure.

13 Repeat Steps 2-12 with each of the remaining six house shapes to **create all seven** of the gingerbread gift box houses.

MEET THE MAKER SARAH LOUISE MATTHEWS



Sarah is a Sheffield-based paper product designer. She makes fun innovative stationery, artwork and decorations, as well as bespoke commissions for photo shoots, brands and weddings. Find her on Insta @sarah_matthews. www.sarahlouisematthews.com



