

FreeBee Friday

SEE THE BEE? IT'S FREE!

Tiny Signs for Fall & Halloween

Print, cut, mount & age your own 1:12 scale
yard, porch, and door decorations.



A MINIATURE TUTORIAL BY DEB ROGERS

Let's Make It Mini | letsmakeitmini.com

Gather your supplies

Give a dollhouse porch or garden a seasonal welcome. Make one sign or a whole matching collection using the separate printable sheet. Includes Deb's supplied licensed artwork. Use the finished signs in your personal miniature scenes.

You will need

- The printable sign sheet and a printer
- Matte paper, about 90-120 gsm, or thin matte cardstock
- Thin basswood sheet, about 1/32 to 1/16 inch thick
- Tacky glue, toothpick, and a small brush
- Fine sandpaper, pencil, ruler, and scissors
- A suitable wood-cutting tool and cutting mat
- Brown or gray acrylic paint for optional aging
- Scrap stripwood for stakes; fine thread for hanging loops

Optional: matte acrylic sealer compatible with your printer ink, a small sponge, white or cream paint for backing edges, and a second scrap of wood to support a porch leaner.

Scale: the tall rectangular panels are approximately 1 × 4 inches, representing 12 × 48 inches full size. Other designs vary in size. Keep the supplied proportions and choose designs that fit your scene.

Mini tip: Personal use only. Not for resale. Do not redistribute the artwork or printable files.

Print at the right size

Open **FreeBee-Friday-Fall-Halloween-Printable-Signs.pdf**. Load US Letter paper (8.5 × 11 inches) and select portrait orientation.

Set scaling to **100% / Actual Size**. Turn off “Fit,” “Fill,” or “Shrink to printable area.” Print one page per sheet. The designs stay within ordinary printer margins; borderless printing is not required.

Select color and a good-quality print setting that matches your paper. Matte paper gives a convincing painted-sign look and is easier to age than glossy photo paper.

Measure the red 1-inch reference line on the printed sheet. If it does not measure exactly 1 inch long, adjust the print settings and print again before cutting.

Let the ink dry fully. The sheet includes 13 designs, including tall panels, round plaques, and two wreath cutouts. Keep this full-size print separate from the booklet: booklet mode may change the size.

Mini tip: For A4 printers, print the Letter PDF at Actual Size on A4. Measure the red line; never scale to fill the page.

Cut out your designs

Choose the signs you want to make. Cut roughly around each one first so you can handle it easily.

Use small scissors to trim exactly along the **outside border or silhouette of the chosen design**. For round signs, follow the circle. For tall panels and rectangular plaques, follow the outer rectangle. Do not cut through the lettering or decorative artwork.

For long straight edges, a sharp craft knife and ruler on a cutting mat are an option. Keep fingers away from the blade and use several light passes instead of forcing a cut.

Dry-lay each paper sign on your intended backing. The cut artwork defines the face size; you can make the wood the same size or leave a narrow wooden border around it.

Save a spare printed sign or an unused printed margin for trying glue, paint, and sealer before working on your favorite design.



ILLUSTRATED EXAMPLE • NOT AN ACTUAL-SIZE CUTTING GUIDE

Mini tip: For wreaths, cut the outside first. Carefully open the center with a craft knife on a mat; leave small leaf details simplified.

Prepare the wood

Place the cut paper sign on thin basswood and trace its outline lightly. Remove the paper before cutting the wood.

For round plaques, trace the circle onto thin wood. A ready-made wooden disc of matching size is another option. Cut with a tool suitable for the thickness. Use a supported surface and follow the tool's instructions. If using a craft knife on thin basswood, make several gentle passes with the grain where possible; do not force the blade.

Sand rough edges with fine sandpaper. Keep the backing flat and check that the paper covers it neatly. Brush off the sanding dust.

Choose the edge finish: leave the wood natural, paint the back and edges cream, or use a darker brown finish for an aged look. Keep the front clean and suitable for the glue.

For wreaths and the intricate sunflower silhouette, cardstock is an easier backing than wood. Keep a narrow white margin around delicate petals if needed. Allow any paint or stain to dry fully before attaching the paper. Test the glue on scrap if your chosen finish coats the front of the backing.



ILLUSTRATED EXAMPLE • NOT AN ACTUAL-SIZE CUTTING GUIDE

Mini tip: A 1/16-inch backing represents 3/4-inch wood at 1:12 scale. Thin wood keeps small signs from looking bulky.

Mount the printed sign

Spread a **thin, even layer of undiluted tacky glue** across the wood face. A toothpick or small brush gives control. Cover the edges without leaving puddles.

Align the paper with one edge and lower it gently onto the wood. Smooth from the center outward with clean fingers or clean paper over the face. Avoid rubbing the printed ink.

Wipe away glue that squeezes out at the edges. Do not soak the printed surface or slide it around repeatedly; excess moisture can wrinkle the paper.

Leave it flat to dry. If needed, place clean nonstick release paper over it and add a light, flat weight once the face is safe to cover. Keep the weight clean and avoid anything that can transfer texture.

When dry, inspect the corners. Lifted edges can be repaired with a tiny touch of glue applied underneath with a toothpick.



PRINTED PAPER + THIN GLUE LAYER + WOOD BACKING

ILLUSTRATED EXAMPLE • NOT AN ACTUAL-SIZE CUTTING GUIDE

Mini tip: Test one spare sign first. Printer inks and paper absorb moisture differently.

Add gentle age

Start on scrap. The simplest aging method is to darken the backing edges and leave the printed face mostly untouched.

Dry-brush the wood: dip a small brush in brown or gray acrylic paint, then wipe almost all the paint onto scrap paper. Lightly brush the back and edges to suggest worn wood. Let the original wood color show through.

Soften the paper edge: use the nearly dry brush to touch just the outer rim of the printed sign. Work inward only a tiny amount so the words remain clear. Add a little extra color near the lower edge or one corner.

Optional faded edge: a tiny amount of cream paint on a nearly dry sponge can soften a bold border. Dab gently; do not scrub.

Build the effect gradually and let each application dry. Avoid a watery wash on an unprotected print: it can bleed ink, buckle paper, or loosen the glue.



ILLUSTRATED EXAMPLE • NOT AN ACTUAL-SIZE CUTTING GUIDE

Mini tip: Age the edges more than the center. In miniature, a little weathering goes a long way.

Seal without smearing

A sealer is optional for indoor display. It can protect the printed face during handling, but different printer inks react differently.

Test your chosen **matte sealer** on a spare print and let it dry. Check for bleeding, color changes, tackiness, and curling before using it on a finished sign.

Follow the sealer's label for compatibility, application, ventilation, and drying time. If a brush-on coat smears the ink, stop; choose a compatible product or leave the face unsealed.

Use a light application and let it dry fully. A heavy glossy coat can obscure the tiny details and make the sign look plastic.

If you want to apply aging to the face after sealing, test that combination too. The edge-only dry-brush method remains the easiest beginner option.

Mini tip: These paper-and-wood signs are for indoor miniature scenes, even when they decorate a dollhouse garden.

Make a garden stake

Cut a narrow stripwood stake to suit the sign and your scene. A suggested visible length below a small plaque is **1 to 1-1/2 inches**; add extra length only if it will be inserted into a base.

Sand the stake and finish it to coordinate with the sign. Leave the glue joint suitable for bonding. Allow the finish to dry.

Lay the sign face down on a clean surface. Center the top of the stake on the back with about 1/2 inch of overlap. Attach it with a small amount of tacky glue.

Keep the stake straight while the joint dries. Test the scene's base before installation: insert it into a suitable prepared hole, or glue it to a concealed support suited to the base material.

A small rectangular fall plaque or round welcome sign can become a garden stake. Keep the tall panels as porch leaners, or mount them on suitably sturdy supports. Keep entrances clear.



ILLUSTRATED EXAMPLE • NOT AN ACTUAL-SIZE CUTTING GUIDE

Mini tip: Stake dimensions are suggested starting points. The mounting depends on your scene base.

Hang or lean a sign

Door or wall plaque: glue the two ends of a short fine-thread loop to the back, near the upper corners. Cover each end with a tiny paper tab and tacky glue. Let it dry before hanging.

Adjust the loop length to fit a miniature hook. For a sign that sits directly on a wall, a tiny removable mounting dot may be an option if it is compatible with that surface.

Porch leaner: mount the “It’s FALL Y’all,” WELCOME, ghost, or stacked-pumpkin panel on thin wood and finish the edges. Lean it beside the door against a stable wall.

For added stability, attach a small scrap support behind the lower edge or secure it to your scene with a suitable mounting method. Keep it from falling into the doorway.

Small shelf sign: glue a tiny wooden foot to the back at the bottom so a horizontal plaque can stand on a porch table or mantel.



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Mini tip: Dry-fit each sign before gluing it into the scene. Check the door can still open.

Choose a seasonal style

Tall porch panels

“It’s FALL Y’all” with autumn gnomes; rustic pumpkin WELCOME; “Hanging With My Boos” ghosts; stacked jack-o’-lantern “Trick or Treat”; and a sunflower panel.

Smaller plaques

A rectangular fall gnome design and a THANKFUL harvest design work on doors, tables, or garden stakes.

Round welcome signs

Choose the pumpkin-and-flower welcome, red harvest truck, “Happy Gnome Happy Home,” or cow-and-sunflower welcome design.

Wreath cutouts

Autumn leaves and sunflower-and-wheat wreaths can be mounted on thin cardstock. Cut the outer silhouette and center opening; simplify the tiniest details.

Use notice

Personal use only. Not for resale. Do not redistribute the artwork or printable files. Artwork supplied by Deb under her commercial-use subscription.

Mini tip: Use the separate sign sheet for cutting. Tutorial illustrations are not actual-size templates.

Your final checklist

- The printed red reference line measures exactly 1 inch.
- Paper and wood edges are neat.
- Glue is dry and corners are secure.
- Aging leaves the wording easy to read.
- Stakes, loops, or supports are firmly attached.
- Your dollhouse door and paths remain clear.

Printing this booklet

The 12 tutorial pages are in reading order, sized 5.5 × 8.5 inches. For a folded booklet, use your PDF reader's Booklet setting on US Letter, left binding, both sides. Test duplex orientation with a sheet first.

Print the sign sheet separately. Select one page per sheet at 100% / Actual Size. Do not print the sign artwork in booklet mode or scale it to fit.

Personal use only. Not for resale. Do not redistribute the artwork or printable files. You are welcome to share photos of your finished personal miniature scene.

See the bee? It's free!

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