

## Tips for Lighting Older Wooden Lundby Dollhouses

By Patricia Harrington

IN THE DECEMBER 2007 ISSUE of *The Lundby Letter*, we printed some information on using the new-type Lundby transformer, with the longer contact prongs, in Lundby houses manufactured from the mid-1970s on, i.e., those with plastic front frames.

But what about the older Lundby houses made entirely of wood and Masonite? Of course, the best solution is to win an older blue Lundby transformer on eBay and locate the appropriate connector through We Love Lundby Club members. But while you are waiting for that to happen, there are some things you can do.

The first thing to do is measure the distance between the two holes in the back of your Lundby house. If the distance is 8 mm, go ahead and use any Lundby transformer you have, including the new type, and refer to the December 2007 issue of the newsletter for more information.\*

If the distance between the two holes is 1 inch (12mm), then the new transformer cannot be directly plugged in. Here are two alternatives:

1. You will need a Lundby extension cord, preferably the triple type. The prongs on the plug will be too close together to plug directly into the Lundby house. Elisabeth Lantz advised me to cut the plug in two, using a utility knife. You then carefully cut the insulated wire along the indentation about 1/2 inch. Be careful not to cut the copper wires or leave any of them exposed. See photo.

The prongs will still be a little loose when plugged into the back of the house—use a little bit of sticky-tak to hold them firmly in the holes. You may have to play around with this a bit to get the exact amount you need, keeping in mind that the metal prong has to have some contact with the metal hole. Once you have succeeded in securing the two sections of plug into the Lundby house, plug the transformer into an outlet in your own home.

Then plug the transformer-connector into the Lundby extension cord and test

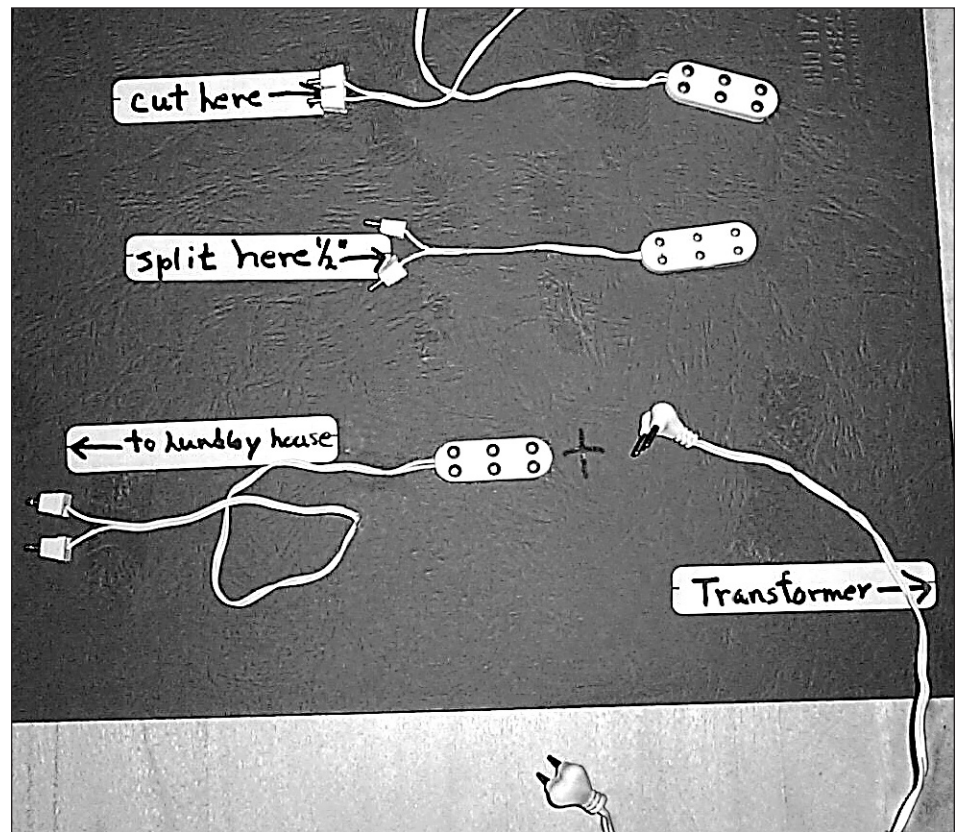


Photo by Patricia Harrington

that it all works by plugging a Lundby lamp somewhere inside the house. Test different outlets inside the house.

It helps to make sure the plastic part of the extension cord is lying flat behind the Lundby house. Make sure there is no tension on the wires to the house.

2. The following is a permanent method and you may want to ask an electrician to help you; you could also take the transformer and the house to a model-train store and ask them to do it. You will need a soldering iron. Cut off the white connecting plug from your transformer. Separate the insulated wire about 2 inches; then strip the insulation from each section about 0.5 inches, being careful not to cut through the copper wires. Solder one section to one hole on the back of the Lundby house; solder the section to the parallel hole. Plug your transformer into the outlet in your home and test different outlets inside the Lundby house using Lundby lamps.

*Help, you say? What if it doesn't work and I have now ruined the connector of an expensive transformer? TIP: you can solder the wires of a Lundby extension cord to*

your Lundby house and then plug the transformer into the extension cord. See method #1 above.

**Extremely Important:** Do not leave transformers plugged in all the time. They should be unplugged whenever you are not actually playing with your Lundby house. They do overheat. This is especially important if you use the soldering method.

\*Apparently Lundby *did* make wood-framed houses, even in the 1960s with the more modern transformer connections on the back, at least in the UK. Linda Bancroft owns one and I have seen her photos.