



*"The Christmas Village"  
02 JUNE, 2022 by Peppe Apuleo*

*The miniature Christmas villages are an original and different way of bringing the atmosphere of the party into our homes. Let's find out how they are built and what their characteristics must be*

*Picture 1 and 2 Christmas Village 2020 by Peppe Apuleo*

*Picture 1*



*Picture 2*



In recent years, miniature Christmas villages have won over young and old with the magical atmosphere they can create.

Their tradition is linked above all to the United States and the Nordic countries, which are also inspired by their atmosphere and architecture, there are different types, all characterized by well-defined elements.

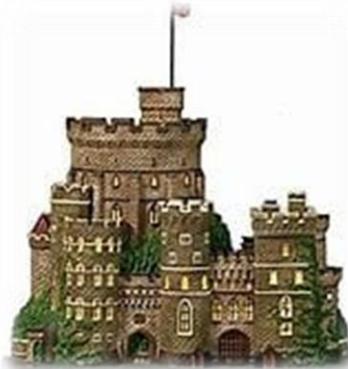


*In a miniature village there are houses, shops, churches, arranged along streets lit by street lamps, and often enriched by fountains, skating rinks, Christmas trees, and rides. All immersed in a winter landscape, with snow, costumed characters, and often with the presence of Santa Claus. For some years now, the Christmas village has taken on considerable importance also in Europe but above all also in Italy, giving life to many websites and social groups that deal with various topics from how to build a village to what to buy and what brand. To date in Italy there are many authorized dealers in the sale of buildings and products for setting up a Christmas village. The best known and most used brands are Lemax and Departement 56, without forgetting Luville, Dickensville, Intratuin, etc. below are some pictures of buildings of the various brands.*

### *Lemax Brand*



### *Dickensville Brand*



*Departement 56 Brand*



*Luville Brand*



*Intratuin Brand*



## *History of miniature Christmas villages*

*In the eighteenth century, in some countries of Germany and Europe, hand-made houses and miniature buildings were used as Christmas decorations. They were built with recycled materials, wood and cardboard, the places where they lived, small country villages and suburbs. This tradition moved to the United States with immigrants and even there began to appear small colorful and picturesque scenarios built at the foot of the Christmas trees.*

*After the First World War, the production of putz houses passed to some Japanese companies, which enriched them with colored cellophane windows. They also began to illuminate the interior with small lights, so that the glow could be seen from the windows.*

*i was a stop in the 1950s and 60s, but in 1976 a retail florist in Minneapolis, Bachman's, created a line of miniature Christmas houses that were enriched every year with accessories and new buildings, sparking a real passion among collectors.*

*To build a miniature Christmas village you will have to decide the type of village you want to build. You can decide to build a classic Victorian village, or a mountain village, complete with an ice rink. You can also decide to combine elements of different settings, although the great thing in these miniature villages is the coherence and continuity between the various elements that compose them.*



*Once the type of village to be built has been chosen, it is necessary to identify the center of the village which can be a fountain, the Christmas tree, a church, the railway station, in short, something must be created that develops the interest and attention of the people who look at the village. Surely in a village, whatever the type, there must be a background that gives more depth and a support base for your buildings and the background itself.*



## *Composition and realization of my Christmas Village*

*The miniature Christmas village he created every year is characterized by various settings and styles, 95% of the buildings, Christmas scenes and various objects are Lemax brand, 5% other brands.*

*I really like the Lemax brand and its products.*

Lemax is famous for collections that depict different settings and styles.

The main Lemax collections are:

- *Caddington Village*
- *Santa's Wonderland New 2020*
- *Harvest Crossing*
- *Vail Village*
- *Carnival*
- *Pluymonth Corners*
- *Juke box junction*
- *Sugar'N Spice*
- *Spooky Town*



*The Caddington Village Collection is the most popular, made up of Victorian style houses, with exquisite details and colors. The warmth of the characters, of the shop windows, of the cottages, of the cathedrals, of carriages and sleighs, bring joyful tidings of the Christmas period.*

<https://www.lemaxcollection.com/villages/caddington>



*Santa's Wonderland New 2020 Santa's Wonder Village collection is simply beautiful. Reindeer, sledges, the elven academy and many other pieces together create a richly decorated village perfect for children.*

<https://www.lemaxcollection.com/villages/santas-wonderland>

*Harvest Crossing is the famous community located in the heart of Southern Ontario's richest farming country, in Tillsonburg in County Oxford.*

*This city is warm and famous for its houses, buildings, businesses and the way people live.*



*The collection reproduces the warm architectural style of the place, with mini buildings, farms, barns, wishing wells and windmills. Harvest Crossing Collection gives a nostalgic look to the old days, when we lived on simplicity.*

<https://www.lemaxcollection.com/villages/harvest-crossing>

*Vail is located in Eagle County in Colorado and this charming and rustic collection takes us to the snow-capped mountain peaks.*



*The mini buildings that reproduce the sawmills, the bed and breakfasts and all the accessories - lumber, stacked stones - the snow-covered roofs of the houses make this tourist village charming.*

<https://www.lemaxcollection.com/villages/vail-village>



Carnival has a circus setting and is a large funfair, with carnival play scenes and rides. A key role of this collection is played by light effects, sounds and movements, as the rides are functional.

<https://www.lemaxcollection.com/villages/carnival>



Seaside adventures abound in Plymouth Corners, a charming New England village complete with working docks, rustic lighthouses, and quirky bed and breakfasts.

<https://www.lemaxcollection.com/villages/plymouth-corners>



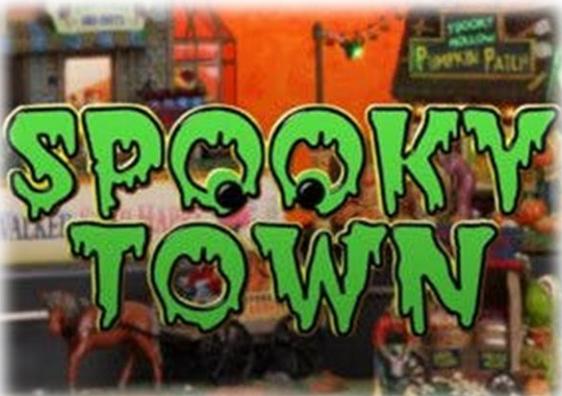
*Jukebox Junction is one of Lemax's most nostalgic villages, bringing to mind memories of cruises along Main Street in the 1950s.*

<https://www.lemaxcollection.com/villages/jukebox-junction>



*Just a scone's throw from the North Pole, Sugar N Spice is the sweetest holiday village you'll ever find!*

<https://www.lemaxcollection.com/villages/sugar-n-spice>



*Amidst dismal decay and dilapidated buildings, the living dead have found a place to rest in pieces in Spooky Town.*

<https://www.lemaxcollection.com/villages/spooky-town>

*Remember!!!!!! The Christmas village is a fantastic world of colors, characters, Christmas landscapes, moving attractions. It's Christmas you build!*



*It is a magical world, the joy of children and the fun of adults. Colors, lights, sounds, movements are the success of these Christmas scenarios.*

*In your Christmas Village it is nice to include some building that represents your city or even your work.*



*The buildings, the characters and all the elements that represent the Christmas villages are made largely of porcelain and polystone, a particular type of material composed of granite, marble and soapstone stones mixed with liquid resin. Each Lemax creation always comes from the studies of a group of design engineers. A prototype in three dimensions is created to understand how the new object created is placed in the village together with the characters who will be part of this story. Subsequently a mold is made to produce the object that has been designed, the porcelain compound is poured into the mold and it is introduced into an oven with temperatures reaching 600 ° c. After the firing phase, all cracks such as doors, windows and lighting points are cut by hand. The product is then hand painted and fired again to maintain the brilliance and quality of the colors.*



## THE ELEMENTS OF THE VILLAGE: WE LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THEM

When creating a Christmas Village, you should know that there are also some main products to buy.

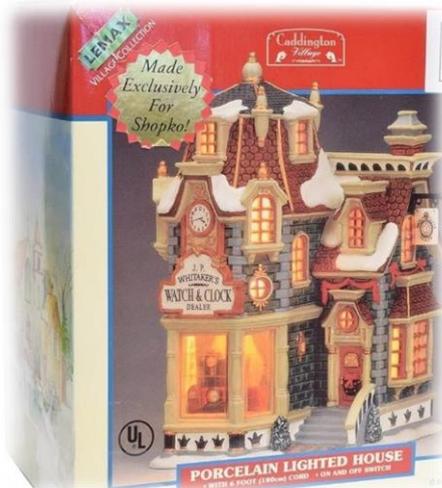
generally for the Lemax world they are divided into six categories.

On the product packaging we will find color codes that identify the product itself.

*The movements and sounds: these are significant elements for a village, useful for creating attraction and animation. Sounds always have an intensity regulator. The packages are marked with a blue band.*



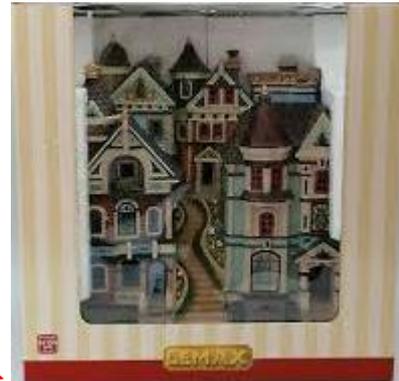
Blue Band



Red Band

*Illuminated buildings: they are static constructions equipped with lights. There are many illuminated buildings that reproduce what exists in reality shops of various kinds, churches, schools etc. The boxes are marked with a red band*

*The facades: front parts of city buildings, ideal for narrow settings. The boxes have a red band if it is also illuminated, green if it is static*



*Red Band Illuminated*

*Green Band Static*

*Support scenes: that is, representations of life or play.*



*The stickers: men, women, children and animals*



*Accessories: such as trees, road signs, street lamps, benches, etc.*



*A fundamental element for the realization of an Italian village is the space. The perspective must also be taken into account in order to increase the spectator's attention.*

*For the supports of the buildings we can use bases that are on the market or we can make them ourselves with polystyrene, cardboard etc. What is important is to position well all the cables for the power supply of the buildings and other objects that are in the village, completed all with trees of various types and measures a dusting of snow and complete.*



Heartfelt thanks to Bill Channell site manager <http://thevillagecollector.com/> who gave me the opportunity to write these columns on his site

Special Thanks to:



Visit of web site: <http://thevillagecollector.com/>

Submit your village photos and video Bill Channell will do the rest.

You can contact me at the following address [giuseppeapuleo@gmail.com](mailto:giuseppeapuleo@gmail.com) if you need a suggestion.



*My thought is:*

*The Christmas village is not a hobby it is an extraordinary infinite passion.*

*By Peppe Apuleo*