

## Small-fry kitchen appliances

The miniature kitchen furniture consists of a two-door refrigerator, a sink with faucet, and a stove with play dials and an oven. All are constructed alike—¼-in. chipboard over ¾ x 1¼-in. framework. Appliances can be painted to match your full-size ones

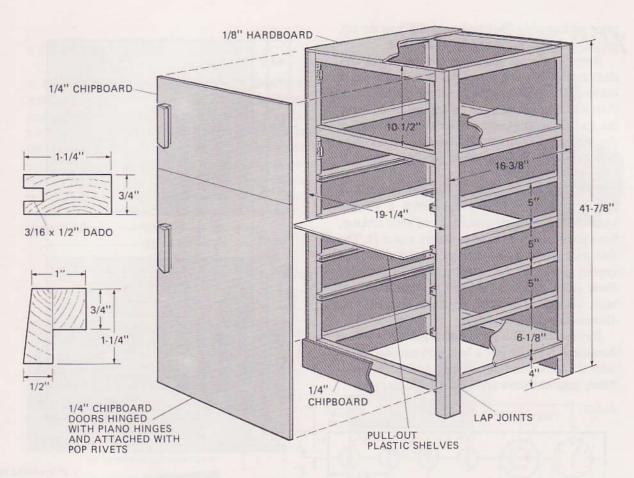
What daughter or granddaughter wouldn't love these sturdy toy appliances made up to look just like full-size ones?

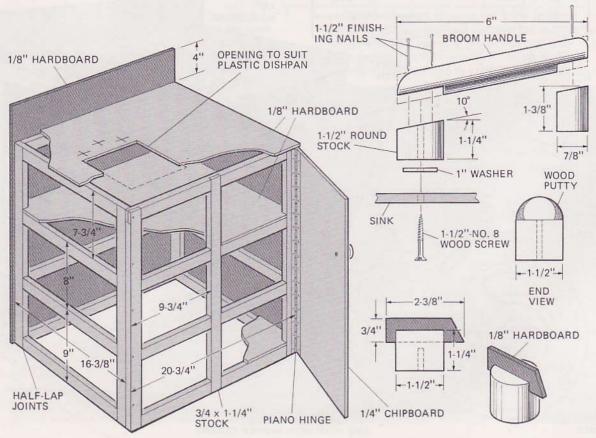
BY TERENCE E. HOGAN

■ STURDY, REALISTIC-LOOKING and sure to please your little gal is this set of pint-sized kitchen appliances you can build in a weekend or two. Unlike the flimsy metal or corrugated cardboard counterparts available commercially, these scaled-down versions of major appliances have enough movable parts to keep the youngest lady of the house occupied for months.

Because the units are constructed of pine stock and skinned with ¼-in. chip and hardboard, they are light enough to be easily moved, yet rugged enough to take the punishment small fry can dish out. All units are assembled using glue as well asnails. To fasten the outer covering, also use white glue and 34-in, finishing nails.

Since the three units are basically alike, you can save time by using jigs, gang-cutting and other production-line methods wherever possible. For example, after roughing out the hardboard and chipboard, all frame pieces of a given dimension can be clamped together and cut simultaneously on the table saw. To avoid confusion, mark all pieces as they are cut. With all pieces of the frames cut, these parts can be sanded and prime painted





prior to assembly. But make certain you do not prime those areas that will be glue-joined.

Range. To mark the range for the clocks and dials as shown, use a center punch to locate exact centers. After painting the front, the circles, clock dials and other details can be applied using India ink and an artist's brush. When this "artwork" is dry, apply clear varnish. The window on the chipboard door is simply a piece of plexiglass set in the rabbet with bathtub caulk.

Sink. On the unit shown, the sink is a 2½ x 7½-in. bowl that came with a 49-cent vegetable grater. Before cutting out your sinktop, have your "sink" on hand to assure a neat fit. The sink trim requires a little effort using a chisel and coping saw to do the notching. After assembling these parts, fill any voids with a wood filler and sand smooth. Trim can be finish-painted with aluminum paint for realism.

Refrigerator. This is the easiest unit to construct because it is really just a box with two doors. As with all units, sand all surfaces and edges absolutely smooth before applying a nontoxic paint.

