

General Project 12—Miniature Grandfather Clock/Frank J. Brad



All the wood parts of this miniature clock were made in Frank Brad's "confined" workshop.

You could say Frank J. Brad is a man with "time on his hands." He uses a Sherline 4400 lathe and Model 2000 mill to make parts for the 1/12 scale miniature clocks he builds. He has made several woodworking attachments for his machines including a drum sander and table saw attachment for bringing his raw exotic wood stock to size and thickness. All the parts were handmade except for the chains, chimes, pendulum motor, and brass feet on the base. The dial, pendulum lyre and bob, and the key escutcheon plate he has custom made by "outside" labor. It took Frank several years of saving to purchase the machines and the workspace he has to use it in would be considered "restrictive" at best. His craft shop is allotted about 12 square feet of space with a single work cabinet 6 feet long and 2 feet deep. This must hold



all his tools, materials and projects and is lockable. Frank was kind enough to send these photos along with a very thoughtful and detailed letter about the working conditions under which they were built. I say this because Mr. Brad is currently serving a sentence in a prison in Rosharon, Texas, and he does his work in the prison craft shop. He is allowed to outfit his portion of the shop with his own choice of tools, and he chose Sherline because of the quality, versatility and compact size. He says that since the highly publicized prison break in Texas a while back his shop time has been more restricted, but he still uses his tools every chance he gets. He sells his work as his only

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income in prison and uses much of it to buy more tools to further his skills as a craftsman. If you wish to inquire about the purchase of some of his work, he is represented by Lady Jane Gallery in Parrish, Florida. See www.ladyjane.com or e-mail info@ladyjane.com. Mr. Brad expects to be leaving his present surroundings in less than two years and will be taking his tools with him to set up a shop where he will be free to pursue his skill to its fullest extent.

