

IT'S EASY TO BE A Sunday Painter

You don't need expensive equipment at the start; here are some suggestions for using everyday articles around the house.



by Honoré Singer



No need to render subjects faithfully. Use imagination; it's an interesting way to express your dreams.

THE GROWTH OF "Sunday painters" in the last decade has been phenomenal, yet many people are reluctant to try painting with oils because of the equipment required. Painting is so much fun, though, and such a good means of self-expression, that we'd like to report a bright new idea that makes painting easy with a mixture that "feels" and handles like oils.

First, borrow some tempera (poster paints) and brushes from the kids' playroom; then, some powdered detergent from the laundry. Mix two parts tempera with one part detergent—Mom's muffin pan is excellent for this. Use more water to thin the paints; add detergent to thicken. Find some shirt cardboard, paper towels, paper bags,

or construction paper to use as your "canvas."

Your other equipment is just as readily available. Use foil or a cookie sheet as a palette for mixing colors. With a spatula, mixing spoon, or serrated knife create different textured effects on thickly painted areas. Mom may protest, but not for long. The built-in detergent makes cleaning up easy, and muffin pan or spatula is quickly rinsed and ready for conventional use.

Start by blocking out your ideas in paint with diluted colors, or sketch in the design with pencil. When satisfied with the basic composition, build your picture with undiluted paint, using short, heavy strokes. Heavy daubs of paint will build up on your sketch just as oil paints do. To change the

design or texture of certain areas after you've painted in heavily, scrape off the paint with a knife before it dries completely. Keep paints moist longer by adding a few drops of glycerin.

Should you want more of a canvaslike texture, use the underside of oilcloth or a rough cloth which has been stretched and pinned on cardboard. And try cotton swabs for delicate touches.

You'll probably want to preserve any painting of which you're especially proud. After drying it for at least 24 hours, use a soft-haired brush to cover the painting with clear shellac thinned with denatured alcohol. Give it two thin coats, allowing four hours drying time between coats.

Sound like fun? It is fun!

Many hours are spent happily painting away at her blackboard-easel.



The day's marketing arranged for a still life, Mom works in her studio—the dinette.

