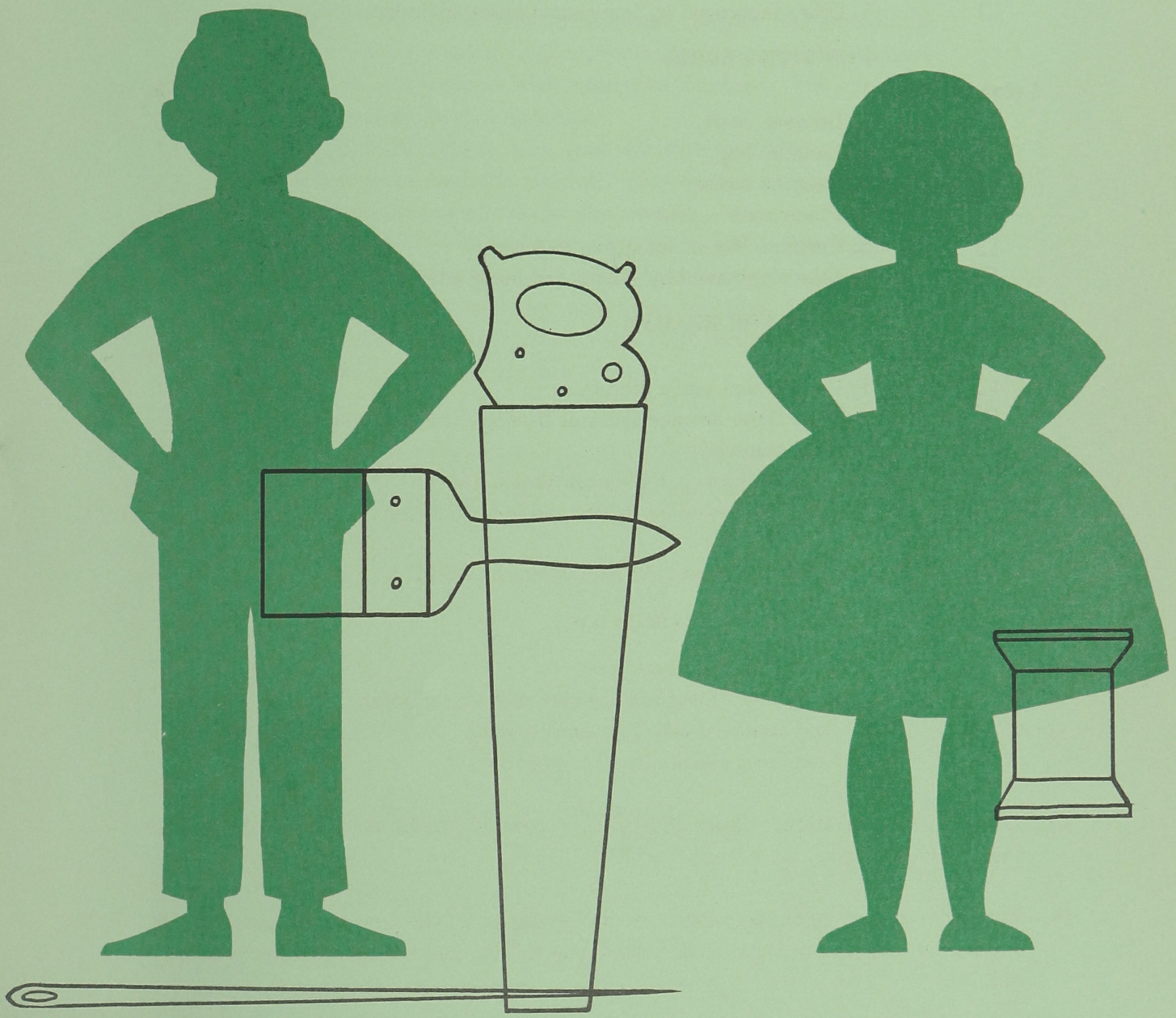
~~Steinhauer~~
4H advisor

4-H Home Furnishing Project Manual

Start with a Small Change



University of California Agricultural Extension Service

4-H–He41

WHAT YOU WILL DO IN THIS UNIT

I. Do *at least* one *from each* of the following groups:

A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

I plan to make		I made
☐	1. Bulletin board	☐
☐	2. Board and brick shelves	☐
☐	3. Wastebasket	☐
☐	4. Drawer dividers	☐
☐	5. Other (approved by leader and home advisor)	☐

FUN WITH FABRIC

I plan to make		I made
☐	1. Dresser scarf	☐
☐	2. Laundry bag	☐
☐	3. Cushion cover	☐
☐	4. Place mats – four	☐
☐	5. Curtains (for at least one window)	☐
☐	6. Other (approved by leader and home advisor)	☐

AN EYE FOR BEAUTY

I plan to do		I did
☐	1. Choose and mat a picture	☐
☐	2. Make three arrangements of flowers, fruit, or other plant materials	☐
☐	3. Collect pictures for a room idea book	☐
☐	4. Other (approved by leader and home advisor)	☐

II. Learn to keep your room neat and your belongings in order.

For at least one month • • •

1. Make your bed every day
2. Keep your closet and dresser drawers in order
3. Dust furniture and floor once a week
4. Keep your check sheet on page 31

III. Give a demonstration, illustrated talk, or special report on something you have learned in this unit.

IV. Keep your record sheet up to date. At the beginning of the year check boxes ☐ to show what you plan to make or do. When you finish, check boxes to show what you did.

Co-operative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, College of Agriculture, University of California, and United States Department of Agriculture co-operating. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, and June 30, 1914. George B. Alcorn, Director, California Agricultural Extension Service.

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Everything except picture mating is in here.

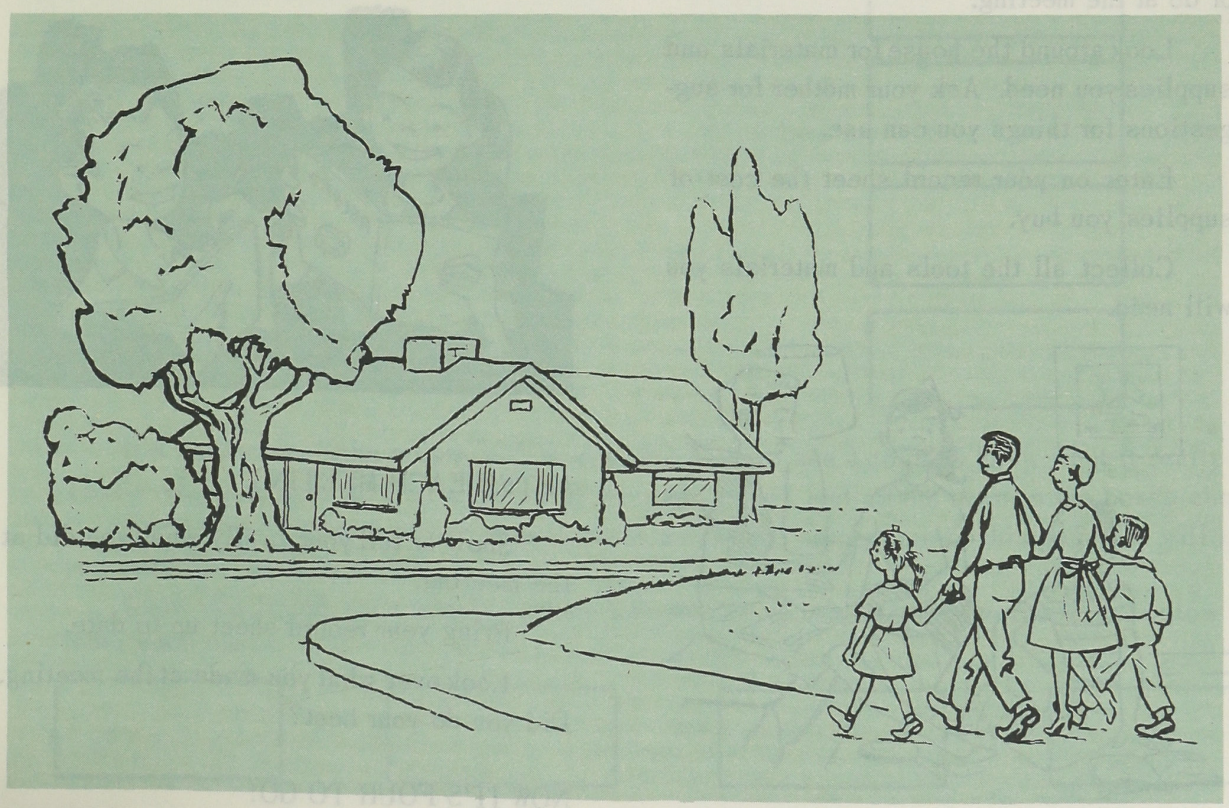
START WITH A SMALL CHANGE

DO YOU LIKE to see a room so cheerful and inviting it makes you feel that way too? Do you like to make things? If your answer is yes, this home furnishing unit is for you.

IN THIS UNIT you'll learn about small changes that make a big difference in the appearance and convenience of a room. You'll have fun working on your articles with other club members. You can show the things you make at club exhibits.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, plan your unit with others in your family. Ask your mother to read this manual. Then talk to your parents and leader about things you can do for your room.

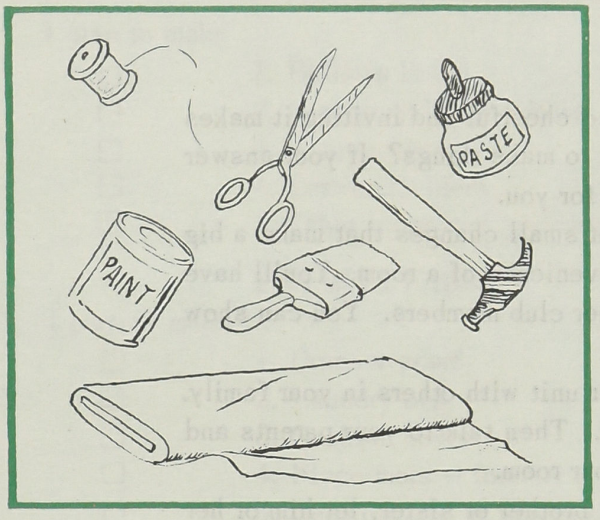
IF YOU SHARE A ROOM with a brother or sister, let him or her in on your plans. Maybe he or she will be working on a home furnishing unit too, so you can talk over your ideas together. The activities in this unit may be planned for any room in your home. Remember – small changes can make a big difference!



Outline to follow for each mtg.

THREE TO MAKE READY!

ONE FOR THE MONEY –
TWO FOR THE SHOW –
THREE TO MAKE READY
FOUR TO GO!



BEFORE EACH CLUB MEETING

Read the section of this manual that tells what you will do at the meeting.

Tell your mother what you plan to make or do at the meeting.

Look around the house for materials and supplies you need. Ask your mother for suggestions for things you can use.

Enter on your record sheet the cost of supplies you buy.

Collect all the tools and materials you will need.



AT EACH CLUB MEETING

Wear clothes that are suitable for the work you will be doing.

Listen carefully to your leader's directions.

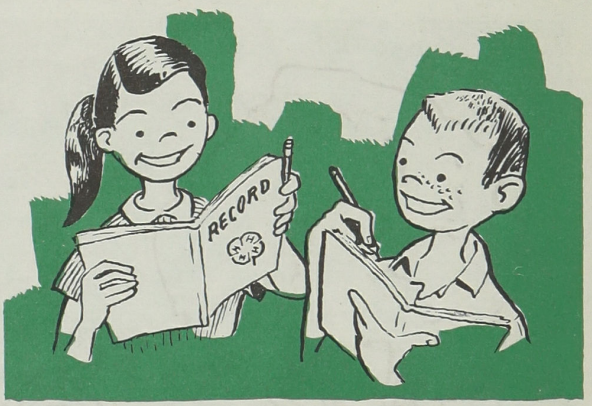
Read the directions for the work you will be doing.

Learn all you can from your leader's demonstrations.

Work safely.

Learn how to use and care for your tools.

When you're finished, it's clean-up time. Be responsible for collecting your own supplies and tools. Help straighten up the meeting place.



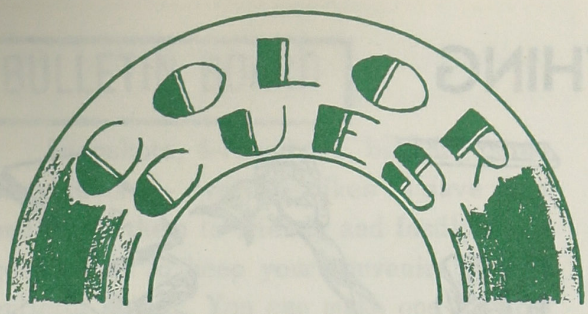
AFTER EACH MEETING

Show or tell your family what you did at the meeting.

Bring your record sheet up to date.

Look over what you made at the meeting. Did you do your best?

NOW IT'S FOUR TO GO!



CAN YOU IMAGINE what a dreary world this would be without color? Color is one of the things that makes a home furnishing unit so much fun. You will use color in almost everything you do in this unit – painting, choosing fabrics and pictures, and arranging flowers and plants. Everything that goes into your home has color.

Color is all about us – in the bold colors of the county fair, the bright green of your 4-H emblem, and the dark, mysterious colors of the ocean. Nature offers us a treasure chest of color. Think of the pale blossoms of an orchard in spring, the bright colors of the desert in bloom, the soft colors of the horizon, the deep, dark colors of trees on a mountain.

The more we look, the more colors we see. Some colors are dark, some are light; some are soft, some are bright. Look around you and sharpen your eyes. How many different colors do you see?

The main colors in your room are cues for new color choices. For the articles you make, choose colors that go well with the colors already in the room. What are the main colors in your room?

	COLOR	SAMPLE
WALLS		
CURTAINS		
FLOOR		
RUG		
BEDSPREAD		

It's hard to describe colors with words. We have to see a color to know what it really is. That's why you need to find samples of the main colors and attach them to the boxes above.

Each time you are ready to choose paint and fabric colors turn to this page. It will give you cues for your new colors.

When you finish each article, attach samples of your new colors to the boxes below and label each one.

A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

"A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING and everything in its place." Does this motto apply to you and your room? Keeping a room shipshape is easy if you have handy places to put your belongings.

What do you keep in your room besides your clothes? Where do you keep your books, games, 4-H ribbons, and snapshots? Fill out the blanks below telling where you keep these things. If you can think of a better place, write it on the list.



MY BELONGINGS	WHERE I KEEP THEM NOW	A BETTER PLACE

Better places to keep things include such things you can make as bulletin board, board and brick shelves, wastebasket and drawer dividers. Read directions for making them on the following pages.

BULLETIN BOARD

Snapshots, 4-H ribbons, birthday cards, party favors – everyone likes to save them and show them to friends and family. One good place to keep your souvenirs is on a bulletin board. You can make one for your room, the hall, or kitchen so the whole family can use it.

Use soft wallboard or other board that will take thumb tacks and pins easily. Try to find a board about ½ inch thick. Handle your board carefully to keep the edges smooth. Paint or cover the board with plain cloth like denim, burlap, or felt in a color that goes with other colors in the room.

Before you begin, decide where you will hang your bulletin board. Then decide on a size and shape that will fit the wall space. Here are suggestions for sizes: 18 inches by 24 inches, and 24 inches by 30 inches.

WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE A BULLETIN BOARD

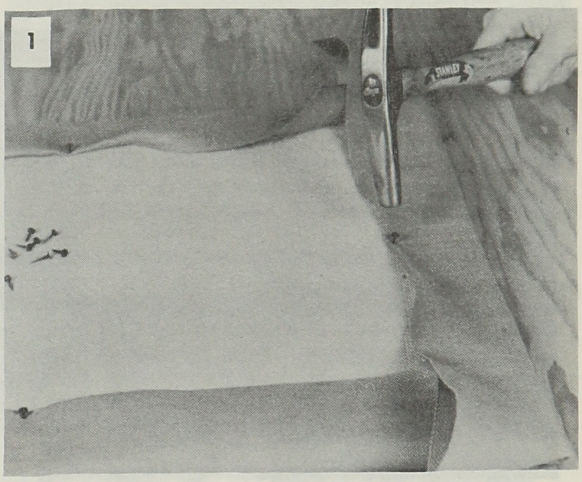
Wallboard cut to the size you want
Picture wire 2 times the width of board
Two 2-hole flat buttons about 1 inch across
Ruler
Pliers or tin snips
Cloth, 6 inches longer and 6 inches wider than board
Box of small carpet tacks, No. 3 or No. 4
4 thumb tacks
Hammer
Scissors

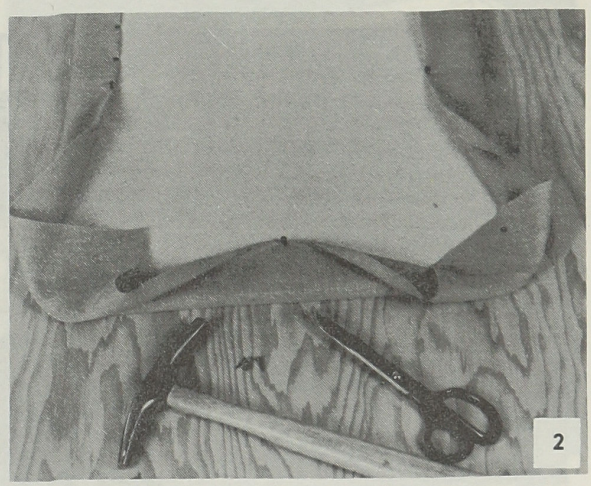
OR

Water-base wallpaint, brush, rags, and newspapers

HOW TO COVER THE BOARD WITH CLOTH

- Cut cloth 6 inches longer and 6 inches wider than board. Your leader will show you how to cut it on the grain.
- Press cloth thoroughly.
- Lay cloth evenly on board and thumb tack it at corners.
- Be sure cloth is smooth and even.
- Turn board over. Tack edges of cloth to board at center of each side. If cloth ravels, turn raw edges under ½ inch. See photo 1.
- Fold corners. Pull cloth so it is smooth and neat, but do not stretch it. Photo 2.
- Finish tacking edges of cloth to board, working from center of each side to corners. See photo 3.


1


2

HOW TO PAINT THE BOARD

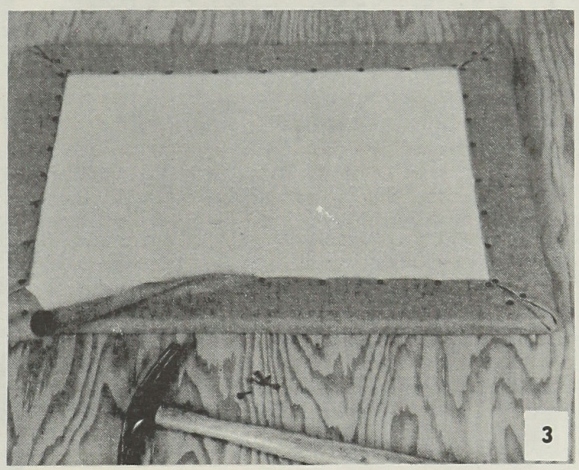
Follow directions on pages 10 and 11.

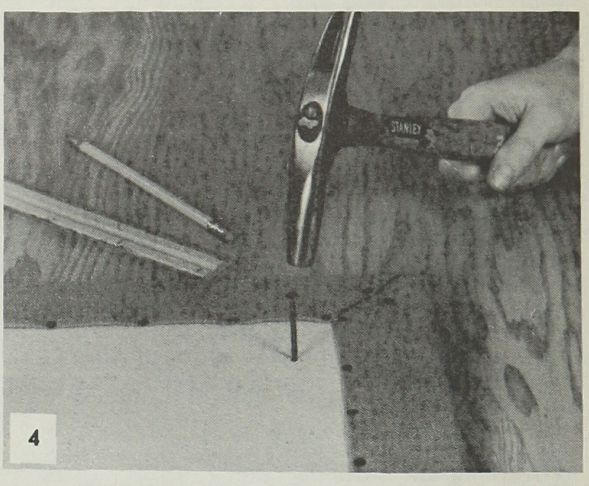
HOW TO ATTACH HANGING WIRE TO THE BACK OF BOARD

- With pliers or tin snips cut a piece of wire which measures 2 times the width of board.
- At both top corners, measure 3 inches from top and side of board and mark.
- Make a small hole through board at marks using a nail. Work carefully so you don't damage board or cloth. See photo 4.
- Run end of wire through one hole in board and both holes of button. Carry wire to other corner hole and run it through board and button. See photo 5.
- Draw wire tight and wrap ends tightly around each other.

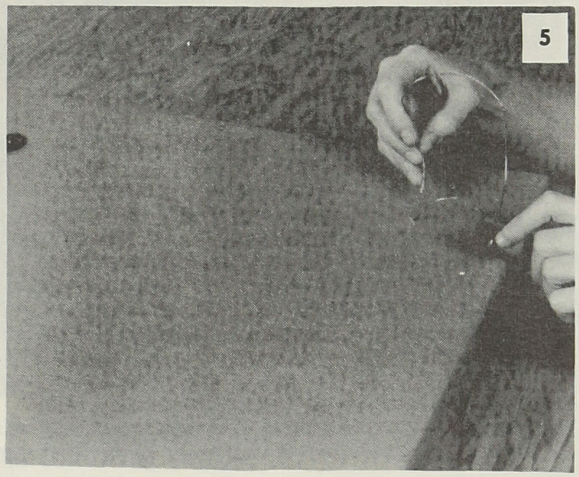
HOW TO HANG THE BULLETIN BOARD

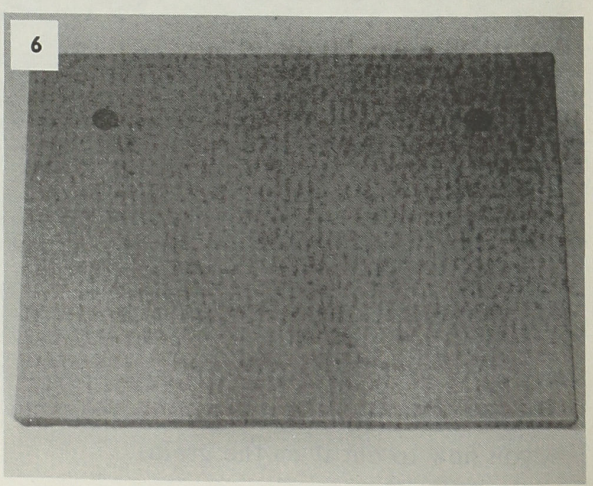
Ask your mother or dad to help you hang your board. They know the type of hook or screw that works best on the walls of your house. The board should hang flat and securely on the wall.


3

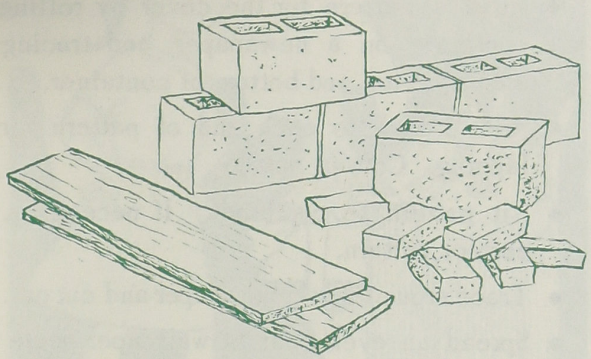


4


5


6

BOARD AND BRICK SHELVES



It's easy to make board and brick shelves to hold your books, magazines, games, and hobby collections. And who couldn't use more shelf space?

Every important job needs a plan. On a separate sheet of paper make a drawing of your shelves as you want them to look. Here are some things to think about:

Where will you put the shelves?_____

How long is this space?_____

How many shelves do you want?_____

How long should they be?_____

Ask your mother and dad to help you answer these questions. They will have good ideas to share with you.

Look for pine or fir boards about 1 inch thick and 10 or 12 inches wide. Maybe you can find old boards around the house. If you have to buy lumber, find out the cost per foot of the width you want. Then figure how much the lumber for your shelves will cost.

Use building bricks, concrete blocks, or glass bricks between the shelves and under the bottom shelf. If your shelves are more than 54 inches long, use bricks or blocks near the center as well as at the ends.

The number of bricks or blocks you need will depend on their size and the number of shelves you want. If you use concrete blocks, you'll find it easier to use half blocks than whole ones.

When your boards are measured and cut, you're ready for the finishing touch – paint or a clear finish. Choose a paint color that looks nice with other colors in the room.

WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE SHELVES

Boards cut to the size you want
Bricks, concrete blocks, or glass bricks
Sandpaper – 1 sheet medium and 1 sheet fine
Water-base wallpaint and brush

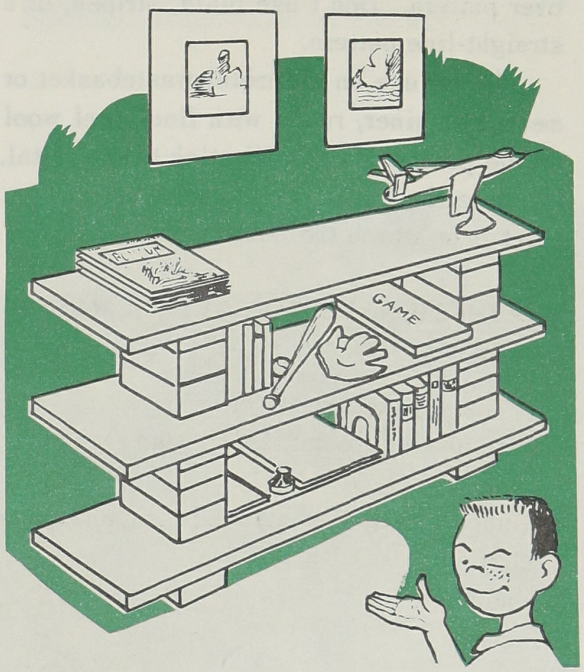
OR

Penetrating wood seal, turpentine, pad of fine steel wool, old nylon stocking, and cup or small dish
Newspapers

HOW TO SAND AND FINISH THE BOARDS

Follow directions on pages 10 – 13.

After the paint or seal is completely dry, you're ready to build your shelves. Isn't it fun to see your shelves take shape just as you planned in your drawing?



WASTEBASKET



You can use your own ideas to change everyday materials into attractive furnishings. For example, you can make a good looking wastebasket by covering or painting a large ice cream carton, popcorn can, or similar container. You can also brighten up an old wastebasket with paint or a new cover. Wallpaper makes a good cover.

Check your color cues before you decide on the cover or paint color. Paint the inside of the container in a color that looks nice with the outside color. Do not line the inside with paper.

If the container has sloping sides, choose a plain cover or one with a small all-over pattern. Don't use plaid, stripes, or a straight-line pattern.

If you use an old metal wastebasket or metal container, rub it with fine steel wool so the paint or paste will stick to the metal. Be sure the container is clean before you paint it or attach the cover.

WHAT YOU NEED TO COVER A WASTEBASKET

Old wastebasket or container
Water-base wall paint, brush, and rags
OR
Wallpaper, wallpaper paste, brush, and clean cloth
Newspapers
Scissors
Pencil

HOW TO COVER THE CONTAINER WITH WALLPAPER

- Make a pattern for the cover by rolling container on a newspaper and tracing along the top and bottom of container.
- Add ½ inch to each end of pattern for lapping. Cut out pattern.
- Fit pattern to container. If necessary, correct pattern.
- Trace around pattern on paper and cut out.
- Spread an even coat of wallpaper paste on paper.
- Roll container onto the pasted surface. With a clean cloth smooth out wrinkles and air bubbles. Fit edges of cover under ridges at top and bottom of container. If container has no ridges, finish upper edge with a strip of masking tape, ½-inch wide.

HOW TO PAINT THE CONTAINER

Follow directions on pages 10 and 11.

DRAWER DIVIDERS

Are your dresser drawers in a hodgepodge? Sometimes we're in such a hurry we forget to put things in the right place. You can get rid of the clutter in your drawers by using boxes or dividers to hold your socks, jewelry, scarfs, and other small things. You can also use dividers for sewing supplies, knives and forks, and other household articles.

Cardboard boxes make good drawer dividers. Use a separate box for each group of things you keep in the drawer. Try to find boxes that are clean and sturdy and the right size for each group of articles. Use the lid or the bottom or both.

To add color, paint the boxes with water-base paint or cover them with wallpaper or gift wrapping paper. Work carefully so your finished boxes will be neat and clean.

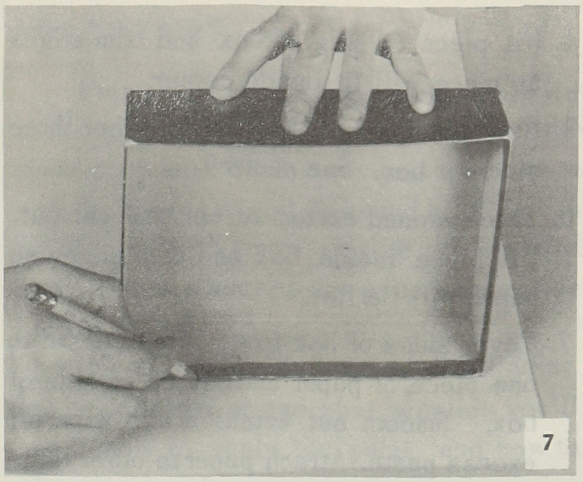


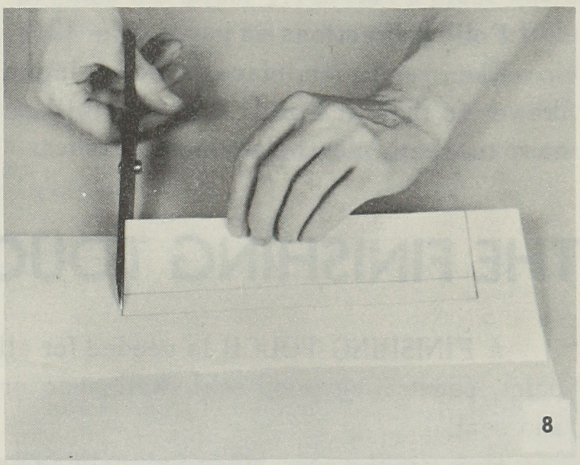
WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE DRAWER DIVIDERS

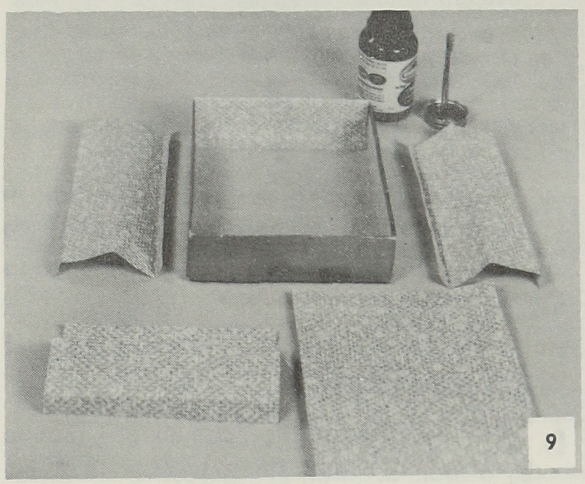
Boxes
Water-base paint and brush
OR
Paper for covering boxes
Rubber cement or paste and small brush
Pencil
Scissors
Ruler
Newspapers

HOW TO COVER BOXES

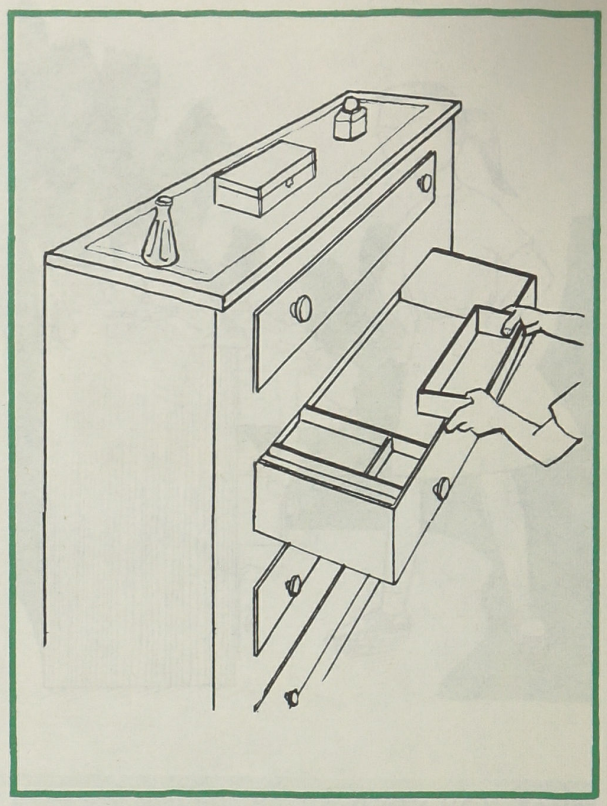
1. Trace around one side of box on wrong side of paper. Add ½ inch to one long edge. See photo 7.
2. Fold paper on other long line. Cut along outer lines through double thickness of paper. This piece will cover the inside and outside of box side. See photo 8.
3. Crease lines ½ inch from cut edges. One ½-inch allowance laps under bottom of box. The other goes on the inside bottom.


7


8


9

4. Fit piece to side of box and trim edges so piece will fit inside corner.
5. Repeat steps 1, 2, 3, and 4 for other three sides of box. See photo 9.
6. Trace around bottom of box and cut out. Fit piece inside box and trim edges so paper will lie flat.
7. Cover sides of box first. Apply paste to one piece of paper and attach to side of box. Smooth out wrinkles and wipe off excess paste. Attach paper to other three sides.
8. Attach paper to inside bottom of box.



HOW TO PAINT BOXES

Follow directions on pages 10 – 12.

When you finish, place the boxes in the drawer so they fit together. Now it will be easy to keep your belongings in order.

THE FINISHING TOUCH

A FINISHING TOUCH is needed for all articles listed under "A Place for Everything" – paint, penetrating wood seal, wallpaper, or cloth. This section tells you how to put on paint and seal.

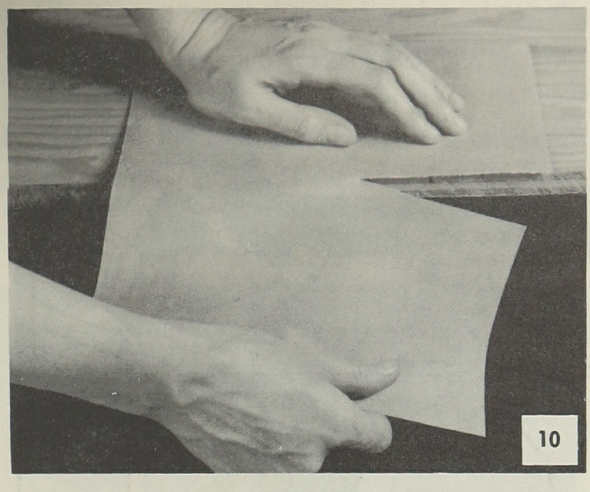
Here are the main steps for applying paint and seal to each article:

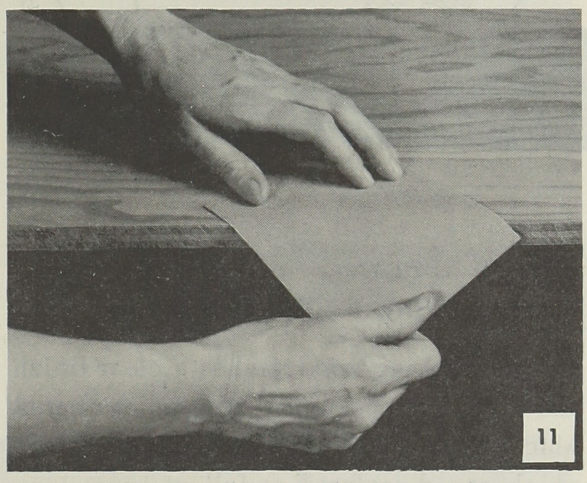
Board and brick shelves	———	Sand boards, then put on paint or seal
Metal wastebasket	———	Sand lightly, then paint
Cardboard wastebasket Bulletin board Drawer dividers	———	Paint without sanding

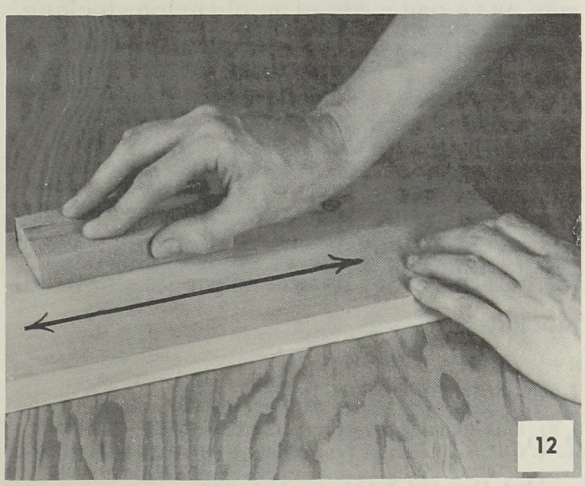
HOW TO SAND BOARDS FOR SHELVES

Sanding the boards is the first step to a smooth finish. Use a sanding block to speed up this job. Photo 12. Be sure to sand the edges and ends of each board as well as the top. You'll be extra proud of your shelves if they feel as smooth as glass!

- Tear sandpaper into pieces about 4 inches by 6 inches. See photo 10.
- Pull pieces across a sharp edge to make them flexible. Wrap a piece around a small wood block. See photo 11.
- Always sand with the grain of the wood to prevent scratches. See photo 12.
- Sand boards with medium paper to remove rough spots.
- Sand boards with fine paper until they are smooth.


10


11

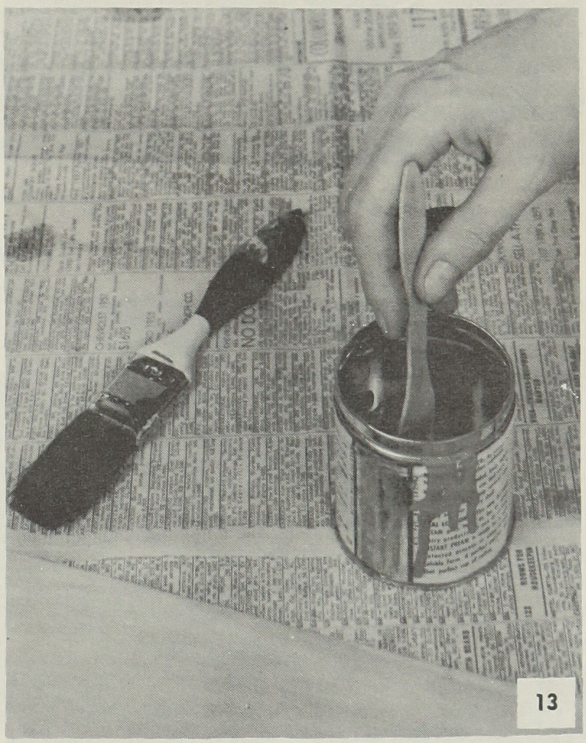

12

HOW TO PAINT

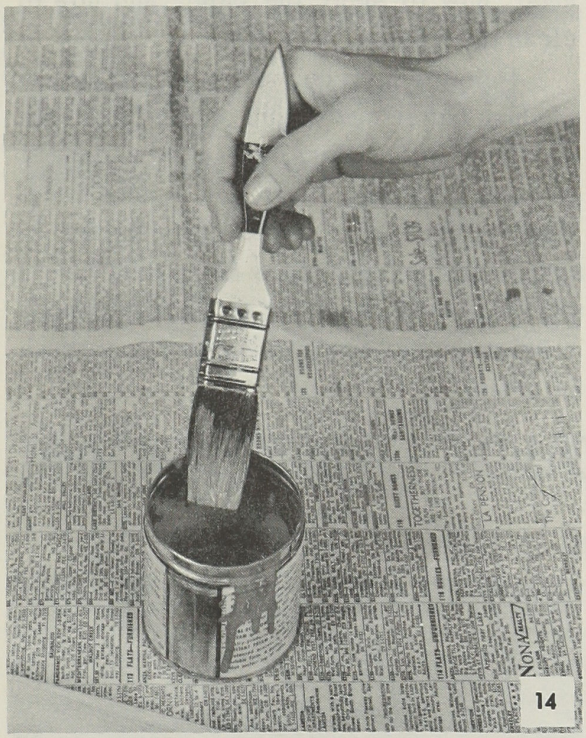
Paint will make a big difference in the looks of your article – it really gives the finishing touch. Water-base paint is easy to use. It dries fast, and drips and brushes can be cleaned with water. Maybe you can find some leftover water-base paint around the house.

If you want to use enamel or oil paint, ask your leader or dad what supplies you'll need, how to apply the paint, and how to clean the brush.

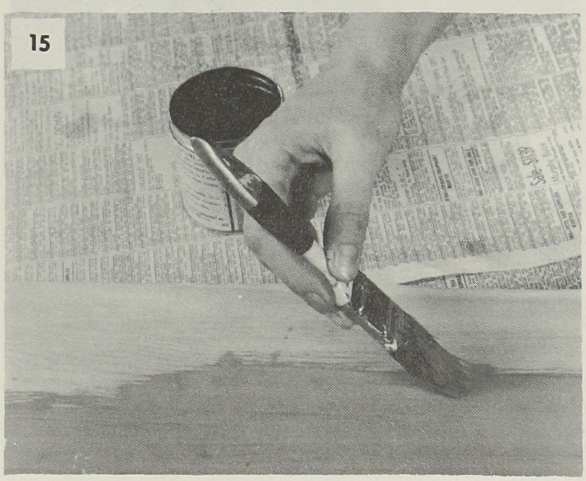
Painting may be messy, so put on old clothes before you begin. Cover the table and floor with a thick layer of newspapers to catch the drips. Try to find a place where there is little or no dust. Wipe the article with a clean rag. Place the article on old jar lids or wood blocks so the paint won't stick to the newspapers. Be sure your brush is clean.


13

- Stir paint until it is well mixed. Photo 13.
- Dip bristles into paint about half their length, lightly tap rim of can. Photo 14.
- Paint with light short strokes following the grain of the wood. Catch runs and drips, smooth them with brush. Photo 15.
- Be sure paint is completely dry before you touch or move your article.



14


15



HOW TO APPLY PENETRATING WOOD SEAL

Penetrating wood seal is a clear finish and easy to put on. It may be used on boards which are free from knots and spots. Boards which are discolored or full of knots look best painted.

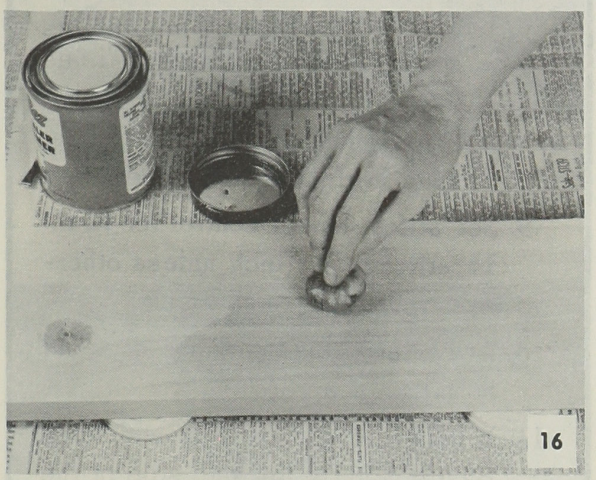
Read the directions on the can of seal before you begin. Instead of a brush you may use a pad made of an old nylon stocking. Your boards will need two or more coats of this finish.

Note. Apply seal in a well ventilated room in which there are no open fires.

Wear old clothes. Cover the table and floor and dust your boards as described above for painting. Set boards on jar lids or small blocks.

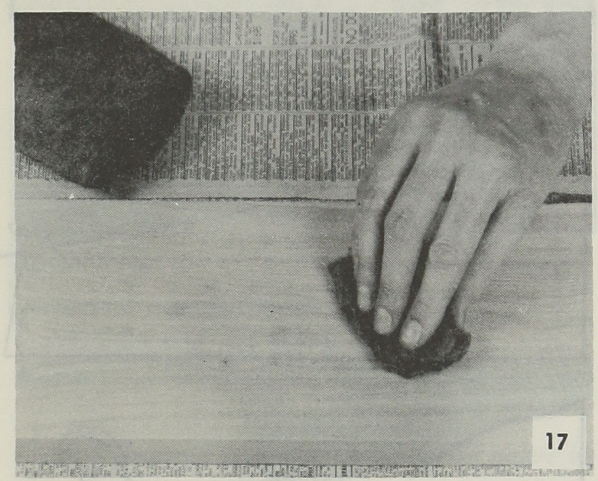
1. Do not shake the can.
2. Pour a little seal into a clean cup or dish. Put the lid back on the can.

3. Dip the pad into the seal and apply seal to the board in a generous, even coat. See photo 16.
4. Let seal stand about 10 minutes or until it soaks in. Wipe off extra seal with pad.



16

5. When seal is completely dry, rub board lightly with steel wool. See photo 17.



17

6. Remove dust and put on another coat of seal. Repeat step 5.
7. Be sure seal is completely dry before you touch or move boards.

When you're through, it's cleanup time. Cleaning up the mess is part of every job. Wipe the rim of the can and put the lid on tight. Do not pour leftover seal back into the can. Put it, your pad, rags, and newspapers into a metal waste can with a tight fitting lid until they can be burned safely outside. Your leader will show you how to clean your paint brush so it will be ready for your next job.

FUN WITH FABRIC

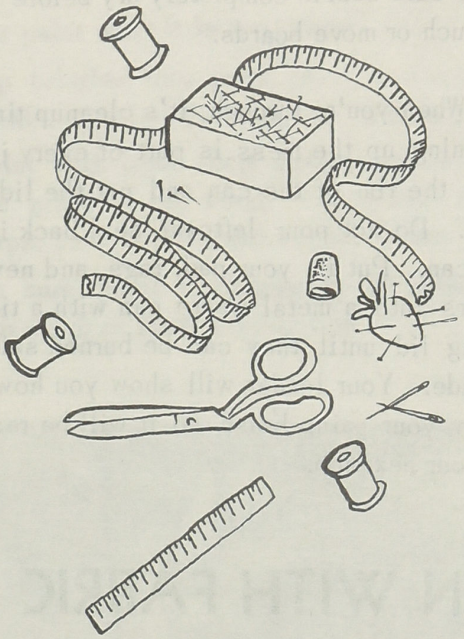
YOU KNOW, IT'S AS MUCH FUN to sew for your room as for yourself. You'll enjoy sewing at club meetings and you'll be proud to show what you've made at your club exhibit.

Cotton fabrics like denim, Indian Head, percale, gingham, muslin, and sailcloth are suitable for any of the articles in this unit. Choose washable, colorfast, and sturdy fabric. Look for labels that say *vat dyed* and *sanforized*. Your leader and mother will tell you about other labels to look for.

Take a cue from your color page and select a fabric that goes well with other colors in your room.

TOOLS YOU NEED TO WORK WITH FABRIC

Thimble	Ruler or adjustable gauge
Needles	Tape measure
Dressmaker pins	Tailor's chalk
Pincushion or pin box	Pencil
Shears	Basting thread



Here are some tricks for smoother sewing. Follow these directions as you sew – you'll be pleased with the results!

1. Straighten one end of fabric by tearing, or by pulling a thread and cutting along the thread line. See Figure 1.
2. Measure the length and width you need for the article you are making. Mark with tailor's chalk or a small snip in the selvage.
3. Tear off the piece, or pull a thread and cut along the thread line.
4. Square the cut or torn piece by stretching. See photo 18.
5. Press torn edges to remove ripples.
6. When you measure, pin, or baste, work at a table and keep your fabric as smooth and flat as you can.
7. Learn to stitch seams without basting. See photo 19.
   - Place seam edges together and insert pins about three inches apart at right angles to edges.
   - Use a seam guide or cellophane tape on bed of machine as a gauge for stitching. Make $\frac{5}{8}$-inch seams unless otherwise indicated.
   - Press each seam open after stitching.
8. Learn to stitch hems without basting.
   - Measure, turn, and press folds for hem.
   - Insert pins about three inches apart at right angles to hem.
9. Set stitch length control for 12 to 14 stitches per inch unless otherwise indicated.
10. At beginning and end of seams and hems, retrace stitching $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
11. If necessary, baste seams and hems. Baste slightly to the side of the desired stitching line. Do not stitch through basting. Remove basting after you stitch.
12. When you finish your article press it carefully. Articles for a club exhibit should be clean and well pressed.

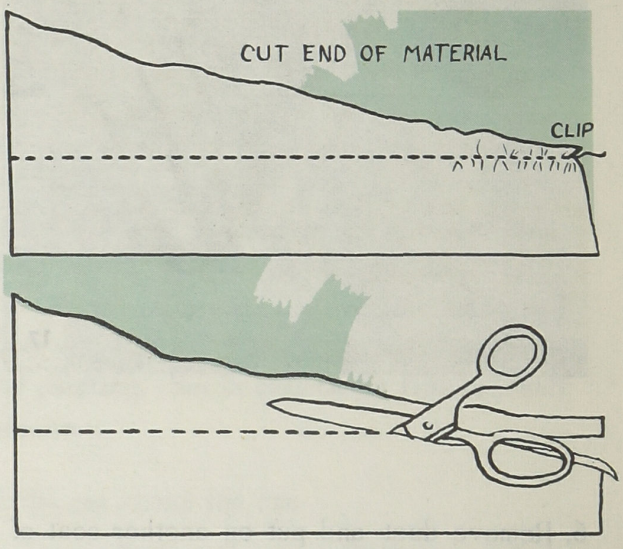
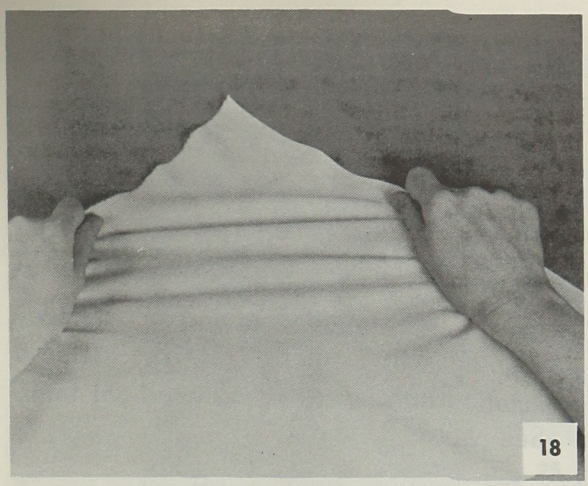
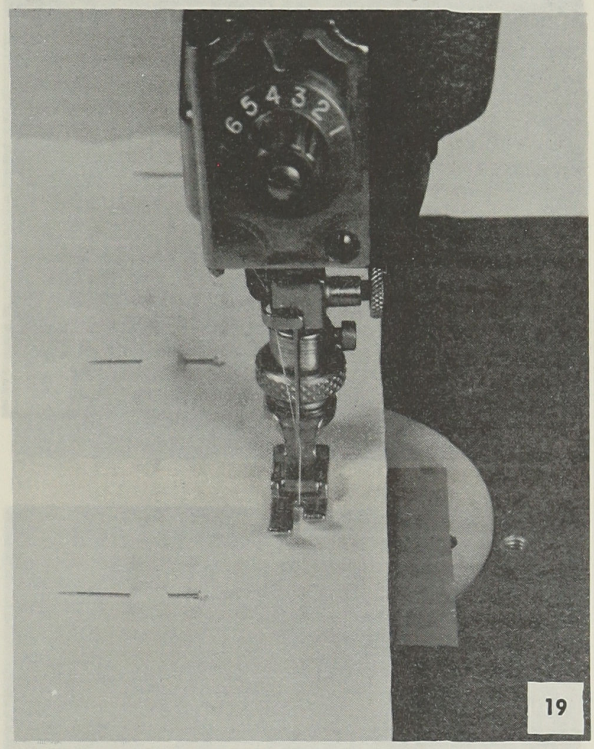


FIGURE 1.



18



19

DRESSER SCARF

A dresser scarf adds a note of color to a room and protects the dresser top.

Plain fabric is a good choice for a scarf. The things you keep on your dresser will look better on a plain background than on a patterned one.

A scarf should be the same shape as the dresser top. It may be the same size or it may be one or two inches smaller. The directions below tell you how to make a dresser scarf which will be about one inch smaller than your dresser top. The long sides of the scarf should be hemmed. The short sides may be hemmed or fringed.

Measure the length and width of your dresser top. You will need a piece of fabric this size.

WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE A DRESSER SCARF

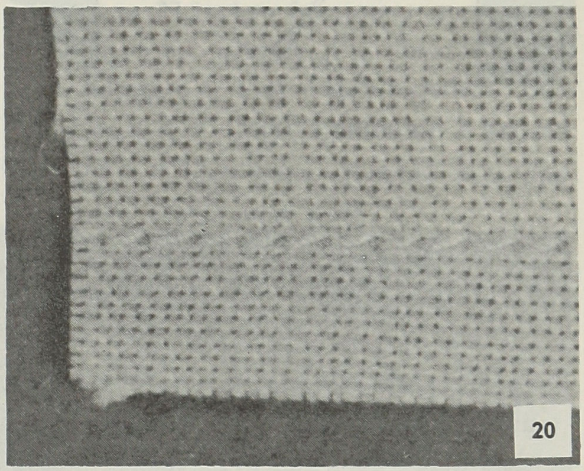
Fabric

Matching mercerized thread

Sewing tools

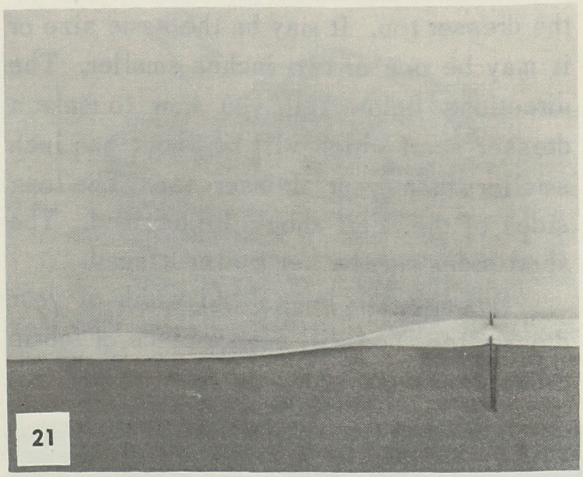
HOW TO MAKE A DRESSER SCARF WITH HEMS ON ALL SIDES

- Do steps 1 through 5 on page 14.
- Machine stitch ¼ inch from cut edges on all sides. This stitching line will help you turn even hems. See photo 20.



20

- On each long side turn and press ¼ -inch fold along the stitching line. Then turn ¼ -inch hem, press, and pin. See photo.



- Stitch hems by machine or hem by hand. See Figure 2 for hemming stitch.
- On each short side turn a ¼ - inch fold. Then turn, press and pin a ¼ -inch hem.
- Stitch by machine or hem by hand.

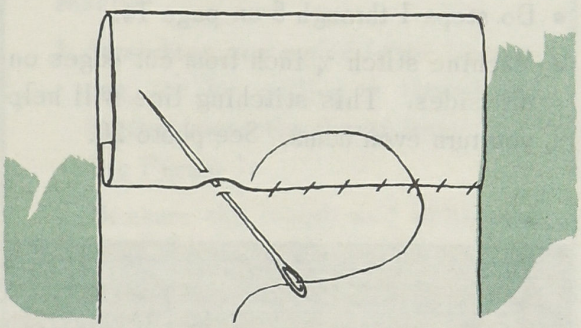
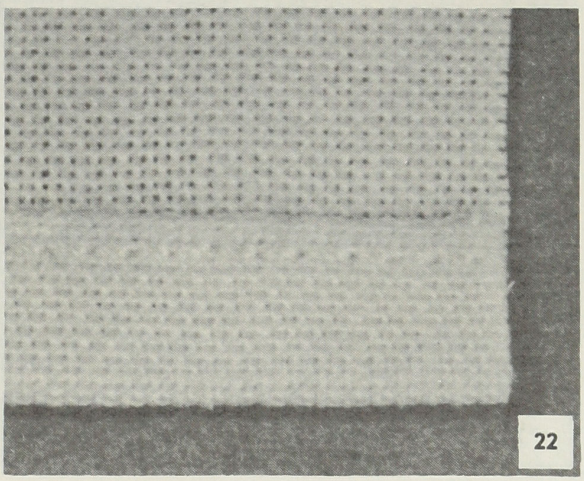
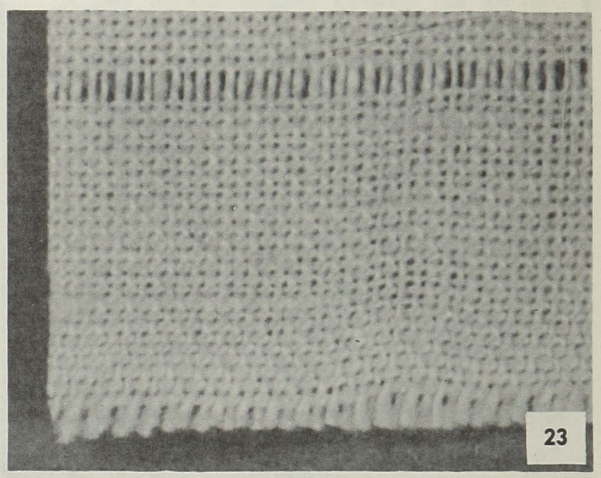


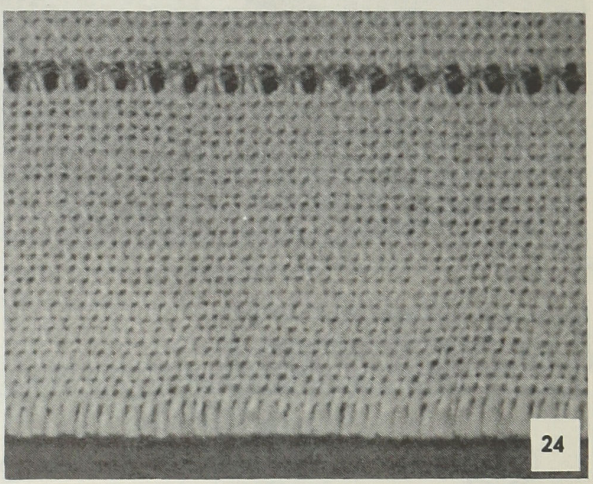
FIGURE 2. HEMMING STITCH.



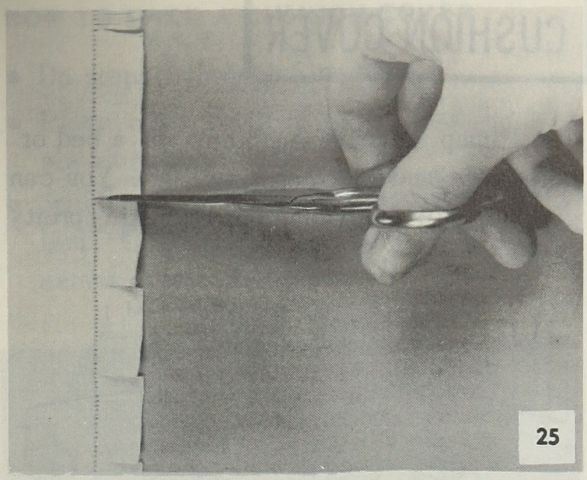
HOW TO MAKE A DRESSER SCARF WITH FRINGES ON SHORT SIDES

- Do steps 1 through 5 on page 14.
- Fringe only coarse fabrics such as Indian Head. Do not fringe percale. Fringe should not be more than ½ inch long.
- Pull out one thread ½ inch from cut edge. Machine stitch along this line. Use a small stitch, 16 to 18 stitches per inch. See photos 23 and 24.

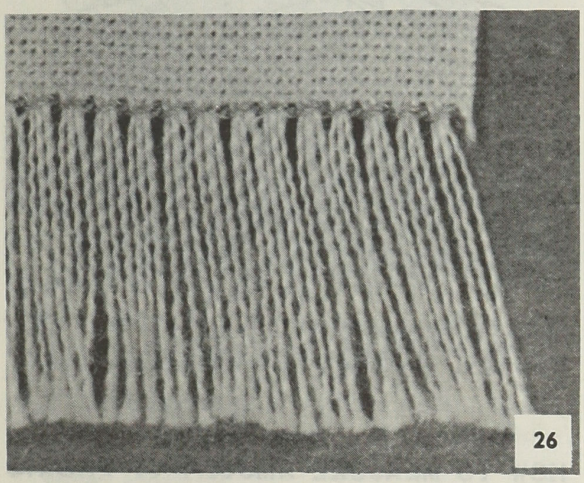




- With small sharp scissors snip fabric up to stitching line every inch. Photo 25.
- Pull out threads up to stitching line. See photo 26.

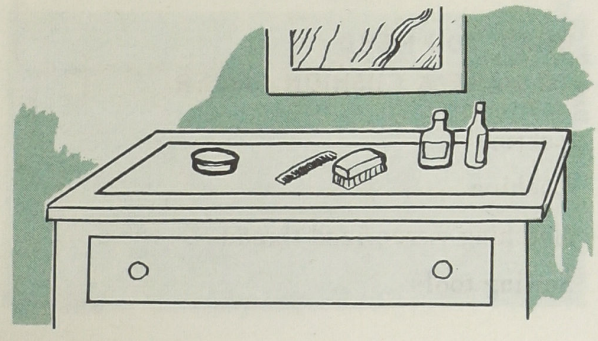


25



26

- On each long side stitch ¼ inch from cut edges. This stitching line will help you make even hems.
- Turn and press a ¼ -inch fold along the stitching. Then turn, press and pin a ¼ -inch hem.
- Stitch hems by machine or hem by hand.
- Press scarf and brush fringe smooth.



LAUNDRY BAG

Your personal laundry bag will help you live up to your motto, "A place for everything." Use sturdy cotton cloth in a print or plain color that looks nice with your closet or bathroom colors.

Laundry bags can be made in different sizes. The following directions are for a bag about 18 inches wide and 26 inches long.

WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE A LAUNDRY BAG

¾ yard (27 inches) of fabric 36 inches wide
Matching thread
Wooden clothes hanger
Sewing tools

HOW TO MAKE A LAUNDRY BAG

- Do steps 1 through 5 on page 14.
- Bring selvages on long edges together with right sides inside.
- Measure 13 inches from one corner along selvages for opening. Pin remaining part of selvages or long edges together. See Figure 3-A.
- Stitch a ⅝-inch seam. Retrace stitching ½ inch. Press seam open.
- Turn, press and pin a ⅝-inch fold on each side of opening. Stitch along selvage edges. Figure 3-B.
- Refold bag. Pin center of seam and opening to center fold of cloth. Figure 3-B.
- Lay hanger on upper edge. Mark around top curve with a pencil. Cut on this line. Figure 3-B.
- Pin and stitch ⅝-inch seams across top and bottom of bag. Retrace stitching ½ inch.

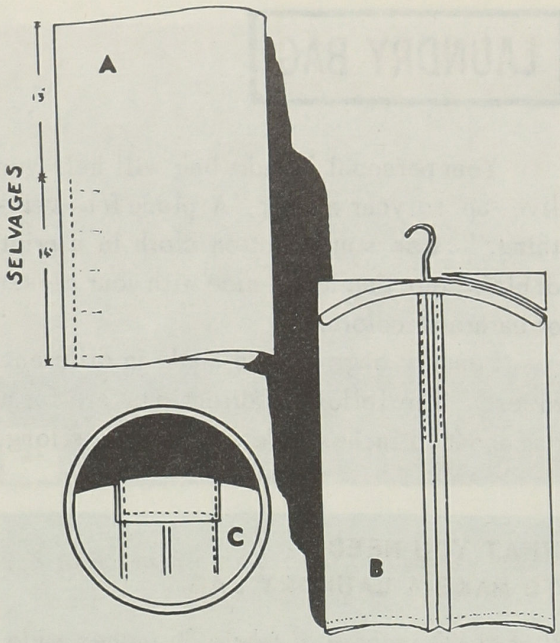


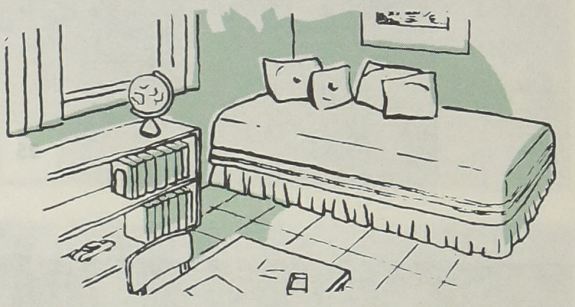
FIGURE 3.

- To make the upper and lower ends of the opening stronger, cut two pieces of cloth 1¼ inches square and fold in half. Pin folded edge of one piece to stitching line at top of opening. Pin the other piece across the seam at bottom of opening. Stitch neatly. See Figure 3-C.
- Turn bag right side out. Press and insert hanger.



CUSHION COVER

Plump colorful cushions on a bed or sofa help make a room inviting. You can give new life to old cushions by making pretty new covers.



It's fun to choose colors for cushions. They can be the brightest color in a room or they can repeat other colors in the room. Select a color that goes with the bedspread or sofa cover.

You will enjoy using your cushions if you choose sturdy cotton fabric that is easy to wash. Besides those listed on page 13 you can use corduroy or glazed chintz.

HOW TO MEASURE AMOUNT OF FABRIC FOR A CUSHION COVER

- Measure one crosswise seam of cushion and one lengthwise seam.

	Width	Length
Cushion	___ inches	___ inches
For seams add	1¼ inches	1¼ inches
You will need two pieces this size	___ inches	___ inches

WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE A CUSHION COVER

Fabric
Cushion
Matching mercerized thread
Sewing tools

HOW TO MAKE A CUSHION COVER

- Do steps 1 through 5 on page 14.
- Place right sides of fabric together and pin along three sides.
- Stitch ⅝-inch seams. Retrace stitching ½ inch. Clip corners to remove bulk. Press seams open. See photo 27.



27

- At open end press and pin a ⅝-inch single fold.
- Turn cover right side out and carefully shape corners.
- Insert cushion. If cover is too loose, remove it and make seams wider.
- Pin and baste folded edges together ¼ inch from edge. Carefully slip stitch edges together. See Figure 4 for slip stitch.

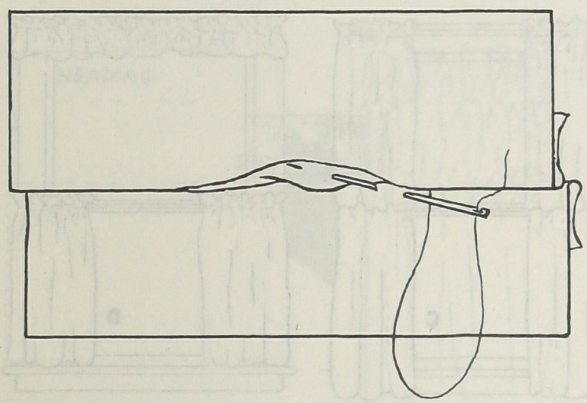


FIGURE 4. SLIP STITCH.

PLACE MATS

Who doesn't like to set a pretty table? If you have taken "Let's Learn to Cook or Food for Fun," you know how to set the table correctly and make lots of good things to eat. Another way you can help at mealtime is to make place mats that look nice with your dishes.

Before you shop for fabric, look at your dishes and talk with your mother about color choices. Is there pattern on the dishes? Then choose a plain color fabric that sets off their color. Are the dishes plain? If so, use plain or patterned cloth.

Figure 5 shows how to cut four place mats from 27 inches of fabric, 36 inches wide. Each finished mat will be about 12 inches by 17 inches. If you want larger mats, ask your mother or leader to help you figure the amount of fabric you need.

The long sides of the mats should be hemmed. The short sides may be hemmed or fringed. Except for a difference in size, place mats are made the same way as a dresser scarf.

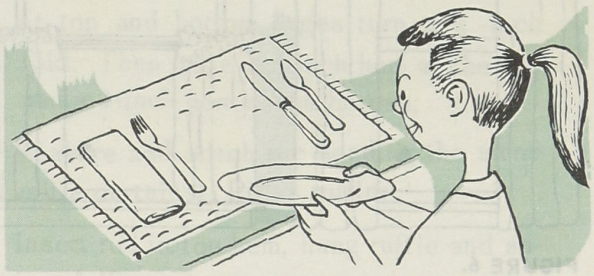
When you display your place mats at a club exhibit, why not show a plate and glass with them?

WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE FOUR PLACE MATS

¾ yard (27 inches) of fabric 36 inches wide

Matching mercerized thread

Sewing tools



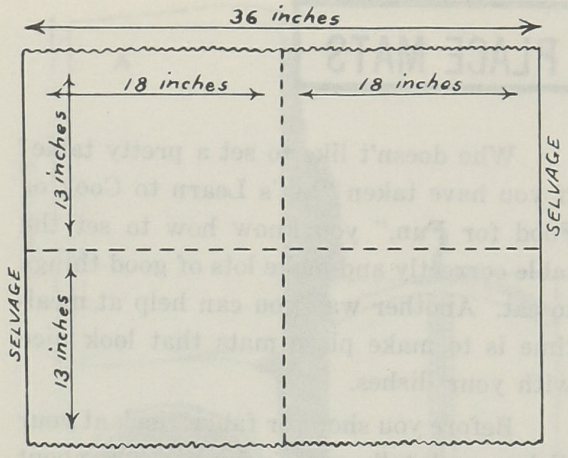


FIGURE 5.

HOW TO MAKE PLACE MATS

- Do steps 1 through 5 on page 14.
- Cut out place mats as shown in Figure 5. Snip selvages ⅛ -inch every 3 inches.
- To complete place mats follow directions for dresser scarf on pages 15 – 17.

CURTAINS

If you have done lots of sewing, you can make simple cotton curtains in one of the styles shown in Figure 6.

For a room with patterned wallpaper, choose plain fabric in one of the main colors in the wallpaper. Different patterns in walls and curtains confuse the eye.

With plain walls you may use a patterned fabric. Look for a pattern which contains the wall color. You may also use plain curtains with plain walls.

Patterns should be matched on all curtain panels. If you choose a pattern, allow extra yardage and ask your leader or mother to help you cut the curtain lengths.

Ask your mother or leader to help you measure the windows and figure how much cloth you will need. The bottom hem fold of a finished curtain should either come to the window sill or be even with the wood trim. See Figure 6 for curtain lengths.

On two-tiered cafe curtains (see Figure 6-C) the bottom hem of the top curtains should lap over the top hem of the bottom curtains.

When you plan the width of curtains, remember that most cotton fabrics 36 inches wide will push up to about 18 inches. Sheer fabrics of 36-inch width will push up to about 12 inches. The following directions are for a pair of curtains made of two separate lengths of 36-inch fabric.

The directions tell you how to make a heading at the top of curtains. A heading is a part of the top hem which stands above the rod and gives the curtains a finished look. See Figure 7.

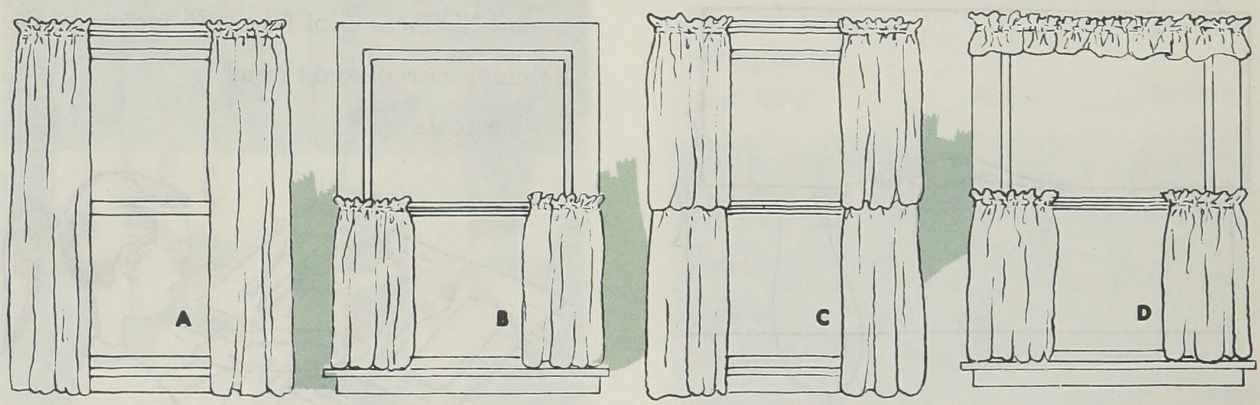


FIGURE 6.

HOW TO MEASURE CURTAIN LENGTH

- With yardstick measure from top of rod to sill or to bottom of wood trim _____ inches
- For heading and top hem add 3½ inches
- For bottom hem add 3 inches
- Total length you need for each curtain panel _____ inches

WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE CURTAINS

Fabric

Matching mercerized thread

Sewing tools

HOW TO MAKE CURTAINS

- Do steps 1 through 5 on page 14. **Note.** If fabric has pattern which should be matched, ask your mother or leader to help you cut out curtains.
- Snip selvages ⅛ -inch every 3 inches.
- On each long side turn a ½ -inch fold. Then turn a 1-inch hem, press, and pin. Do not stretch edges.
- Stitch hems by machine or hem by hand. See Figure 2 on page 16 for hemming stitch.
- At top and bottom edges turn a ½ -inch fold. Then turn a 2-inch hem at the top and a 2½-inch hem at the bottom.

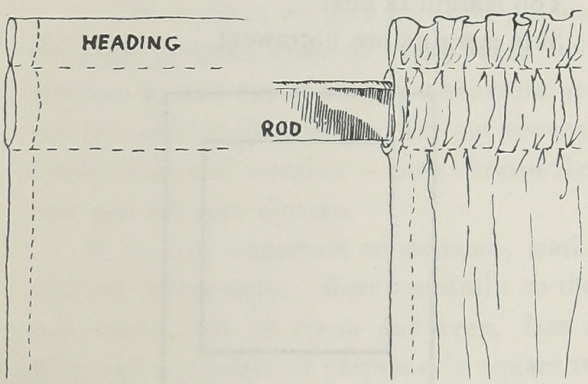
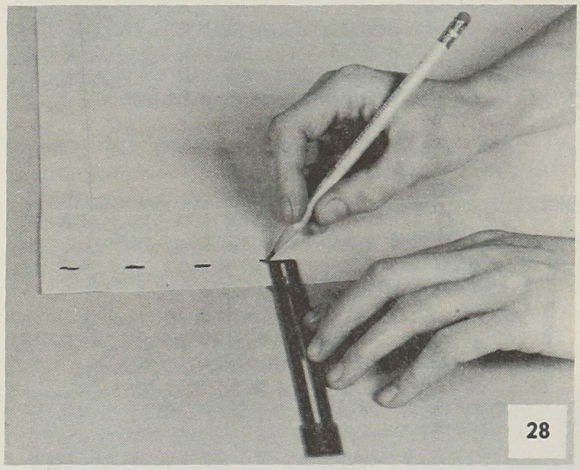


FIGURE 7. CURTAIN HEADING.

- Stitch hems by machine using a long stitch (8 to 10 stitches per inch). Retrace stitching at beginning and end. Or, hem by hand.
- To make heading, measure 1 inch from folded edge at top. Mark lightly with a pencil on the back of hem. Photo 28. Machine stitch along marked line using a long stitch.
- Press curtains. Do not stretch side hems.
- Insert rod in top hem, hang curtains and adjust fullness.


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HOW TO MAKE A TOP RUFFLE

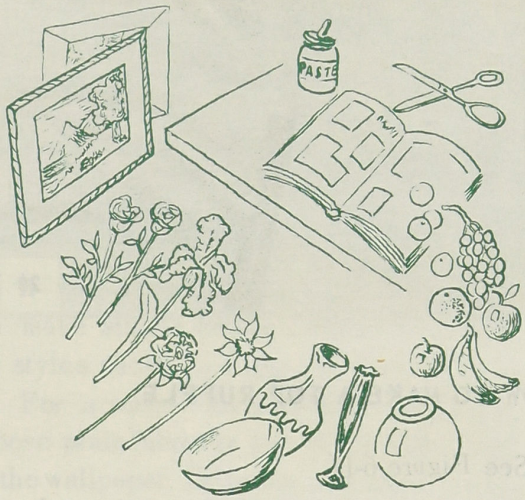
- See Figure 6-D.
- Measure a strip of cloth two times the length of the rod and as deep as you want.
- Add 1½ inches for the bottom hem and 3½ inches for the top (a total of 5 inches).
- Do steps 1 through 5 on page 14.
- On the short sides turn a ½ -inch fold, then make a 1-inch hem.
- At top and bottom edges turn a ½ -inch fold. Then make a 2-inch hem at the top and a 1-inch hem at the bottom.
- Measure and stitch the heading the same as for curtains. Press ruffle.
- Insert rod in top hem, hang ruffle and adjust fullness.

AN EYE FOR BEAUTY

WE BRING BEAUTY into our homes in many ways – through the furnishings we make, the colors we choose, and the thoughtful things we do for others in our family. Even small things like pictures and flowers add beauty to a room. Keeping our eyes open for beauty adds extra enjoyment to everyday living.

In this unit you will learn to:

1. Choose, mat, and hang a picture.
2. Make arrangements of flowers or other plant materials.
3. Make a collection of room ideas.



PICTURE

Have you ever noticed how pictures spice up a room? You can find pictures for your room in many places – magazines, calendars, book and department stores, and museums.

Why do you like certain pictures? Some 4-H Club members like a picture because it reminds them of good times they have had – a picnic, a trip, or camping. Some enjoy a picture because it shows something they like – a pet, birds, flowers, outdoor scenes, or religious subjects. Others like a picture because the colors and shapes please their eyes.

Pictures may be matted and framed in many ways. The purpose of a mat and frame is to enhance the picture. A mat is a cardboard border or "window" laid over a picture to set off the colors and shapes in the picture.

Here is one simple inexpensive way to prepare a picture for hanging. Cut a mat from a desk blotter, heavy construction paper, or cardboard. Attach the picture to the mat and add a cardboard backing. If you wish, you may cover the outer edges with masking tape. You do not have to put your picture in a frame.

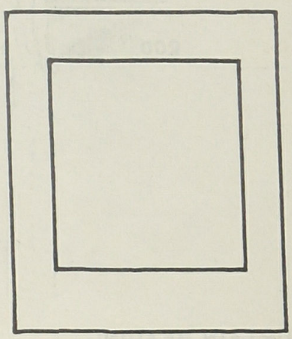
Choose a mat color which repeats one of the soft, light colors in the picture and looks good with the wall color. Try samples of different colors to see which is best with the picture and the wall.

If you use masking tape on the outer edges, select a color similar to the mat color. Some matted pictures look best without a tape border.

The width of mat margins is important. Follow these guides for margins.

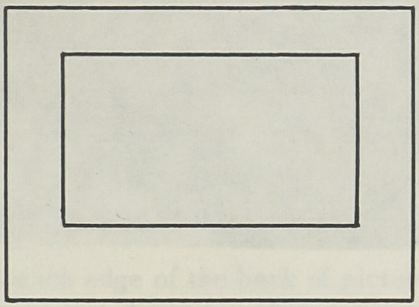
For a picture longer than it is wide –

Bottom margin is widest
Top margin is next
Side margins are narrowest



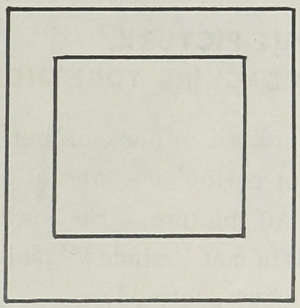
For a picture wider than it is long –

Bottom margin is widest
Side margins are next
Top margin is narrowest



For a square picture –

Bottom margin is widest
Side and top margins are the same width and narrower than bottom margin



The margins we give here are guides. Because pictures come in many sizes and shapes, no one set of margin measurements can be used for all pictures. Try out several combinations of margins – then choose the best one for your picture.

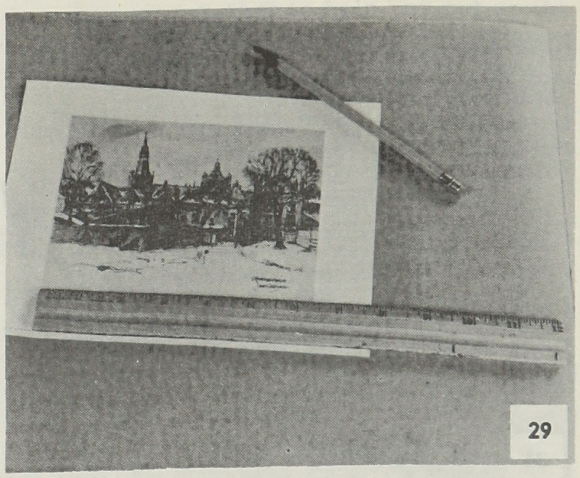
It is very important to measure, mark, and cut accurately. Work carefully so the mat edges will be clean and even. Use a ruler and a triangle or carpenter's square to mark straight lines and sharp square corners.

WHAT YOU NEED TO MAT A PICTURE

Picture
Material for mat
Cardboard for backing
Masking tape, if you wish
Wrapping paper, about 15 inches by 20 inches
Cellophane tape
Gummed picture hanger
Sharp shears
Sharp knife
Cutting board or lots of newspapers
Triangle or carpenter's square
Ruler, 12- or 15-inch, or yardstick
Rubber cement or glue

HOW TO PLAN MARGIN WIDTHS

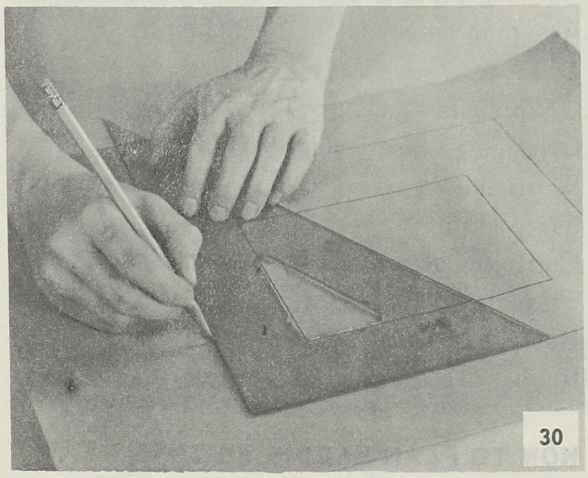
1. Measure the length and width of picture. Do not add in the white border. Do not cut off border. See photo 29.



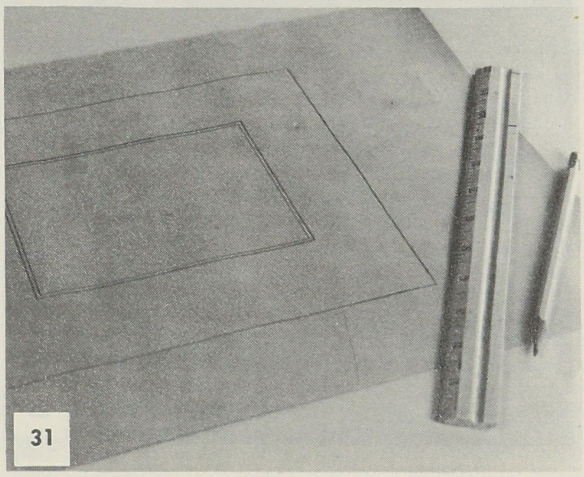
29

2. On a large piece of wrapping paper draw an outline of picture according to measurements in step 1. Use a triangle or ruler to make straight lines and square corners.
3. Decide width of margins for mat. See mat margin guides for proportions.

4. Draw lines to show margin widths. Use a triangle or ruler to make straight lines and square corners. Cut along outside lines. See photo 30.

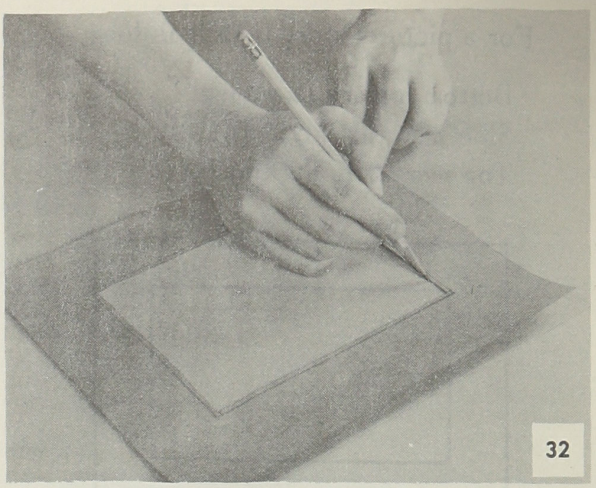

30

5. Draw new lines $\frac{1}{8}$-inch inside the lines you drew in step 2. Cut paper on new lines. See photo 31.


31

HOW TO CUT MAT AND BACKING

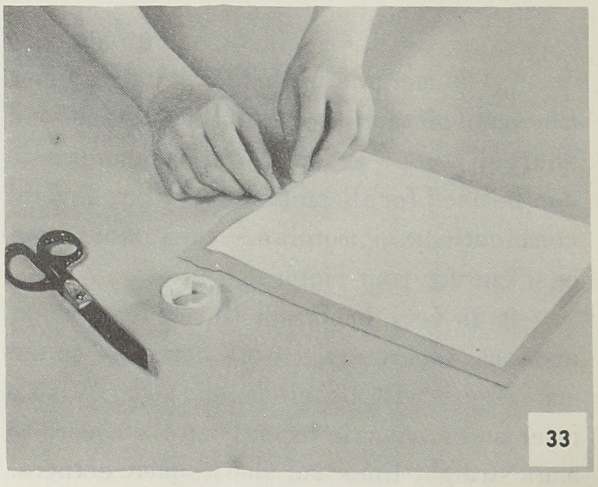
- For backing, trace around outer edge of paper pattern on cardboard.
- For mat, trace around outer edge and center opening of paper pattern on mat paper or desk blotter. See photo 32.


32

- Cut paper, desk blotters and lightweight cardboard with sharp shears.
- Cut mat board and heavy cardboard with a sharp knife. Work on a cutting board or thick pad of newspapers. Work carefully so you don't cut yourself.
- Cut very straight edges and clean sharp corners.

HOW TO PUT PICTURE, MAT, AND BACKING TOGETHER

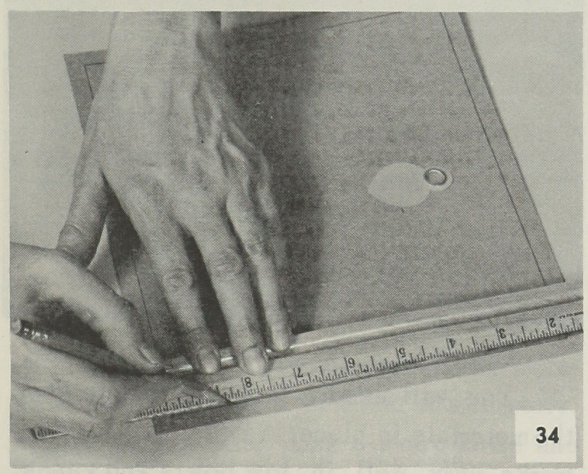
- Attach picture to back of mat with small pieces of cellophane tape at centers and corners of picture. Be sure picture is centered in mat "window" and is flat and smooth. See photo 33.


33

- Apply glue to edges of picture backing. Work glue to outer edges of backing.
- Lay matted picture on backing and press them together. Wipe off excess glue right away.
- When glue is dry, attach a gummed picture hanger to the center back, 3 inches from top of picture.

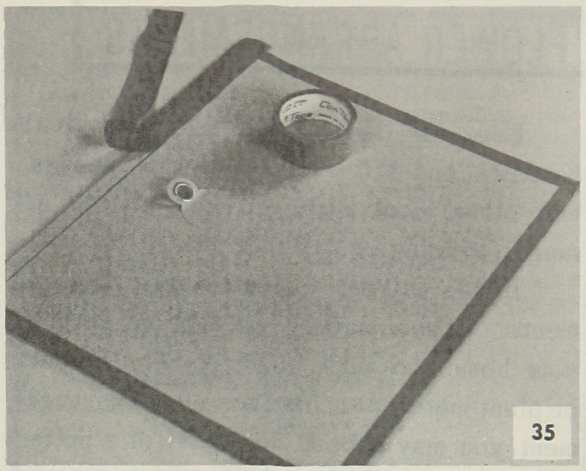
HOW TO ATTACH TAPE TO OUTER EDGES

- On each edge of the back of picture measure and mark a line half the width of tape. See photo 34.



34

- Measure a strip of tape the length of picture, add ½ inch, and cut.
- Attach tape to back with one edge following the line. Smooth out wrinkles as you work. See photo 35.
- Fold other half of tape to the front of picture.
- Trim off extra tape at ends.
- Attach tape to opposite edge and other two edges.

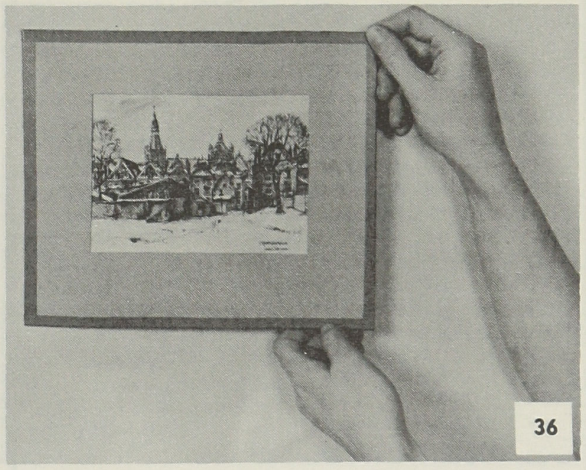


35

HOW TO HANG THE PICTURE

Hang the picture over a piece of furniture and low enough for you to see it easily. A picture should be high enough not to crowd the furniture, but low enough for your eyes to move easily from the furniture to the picture.

Ask your mother to help you put up the hook or gummed picture hanger. If you have plastered walls and use a hook, mark the spot for the hook and cover with cellophane tape. Then drive the hook through the tape. This keeps the plaster from crumbling.



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FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Everyone likes flowers and plants both outdoors and in the house. Fruit, leaves, and other plant materials may also be arranged to bring beauty to a room.

In this unit you will make three arrangements. They may be used in any room in your home and made of any type of flowers or plant materials. In place of one arrangement you may choose and care for a potted plant or vine. Find out how much water and sunlight it should have.

To look their best, flowers and plant materials should be placed in suitable vases and bowls. Here are tips for choosing a container.

Color

Choose a color which blends with the flowers or plant materials you want to arrange. White and cream, and soft shades of blue, green, yellow, rust, and brown are good choices. Bright, harsh colors take away from the beauty of flowers and plant materials.

Shape

Look for a container of a simple shape, with little or no decoration. Photo 37. Vases and bowls with lots of curlicues and bulges are too fancy for flowers and plants.



37

Flower pots and vases shaped like animals may catch your eye but don't hold enough dirt or water for a plant or flowers.

Material

Use a container of a material that harmonizes with the flowers or plant materials you wish to arrange. For example, use a glass or china bowl for delicate flowers such as roses and sweet peas. Heavy pottery containers are good for sturdy flowers such as zinnias and geraniums. Baskets and wooden bowls and trays are suitable for fruit, leaves, cones, and dried grasses.



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You will need a flower holder to keep the materials in place. A needlepoint holder works very well in low bowls and vases. Use a piece of modeling clay to anchor the holder to the bottom of the container. Be sure the container and clay are dry before you begin. Crumpled chicken wire makes a good holder to use in tall vases.

WHAT YOU NEED

Flowers or other plant materials
Container
Holder
Clay
Knife or shears

There are many ways to make arrangements. The best way to learn is to practice with flowers and plant materials from your garden. You will find helpful ideas in books and magazines and by seeing how flowers and plants grow naturally.



HOW TO CUT AND ARRANGE FLOWERS

- Plan your arrangement for a certain place in the room – kitchen or dining table, buffet, dresser, or bookshelf.
- Use fresh materials, in good condition.
- Cut flowers in the evening or early morning and put them in water immediately. Cut long stems. Use a sharp knife and make a slanting cut.
- Select and arrange a few pieces to show off the beauty of each instead of crowding many into the container.
- Use different lengths. The tallest should be about one and a half times the height of a tall vase or one and a half times the width of a low bowl.
- Arrange flowers the way they grow with big blooms at the bottom and small blooms and buds at the top.
- Place darker colors at the bottom and lighter ones at the top.
- Change the water every day.



ROOM IDEA COLLECTION

Sometimes two heads are better than one. Most of us like to exchange ideas with others and we learn from others' experiences. A collection of room suggestions from family, friends, books, and magazines adds to your own ideas. Your collection will be helpful in this unit and in home furnishing units in which you enroll later.

Look for ideas for color schemes, furniture arrangement, curtains, bedspreads, lamps, closets, framing and hanging pictures, and flower arrangement. Carefully clip and mount the suggestions that you might use in your home. Keep your eyes and ears open for ideas throughout the club year.

Group your clippings according to topic – color schemes, furniture arrangement, etc. Keep them in a ringed notebook or scrapbook with a sturdy cover. Make notes on the clippings telling why you like the suggestion and where you might use it.

SHIPSHAPE ROOM

JUST ABOUT EVERYONE LIKES to see a shipshape room – one that's neat and clean. Don't you? It's easy to keep a room shipshape when you know how to make your bed and dust and when you hang up your clothes and put your belongings in place every day. Taking care of your room will be a big help to your family – they will be extra proud of you and your room.

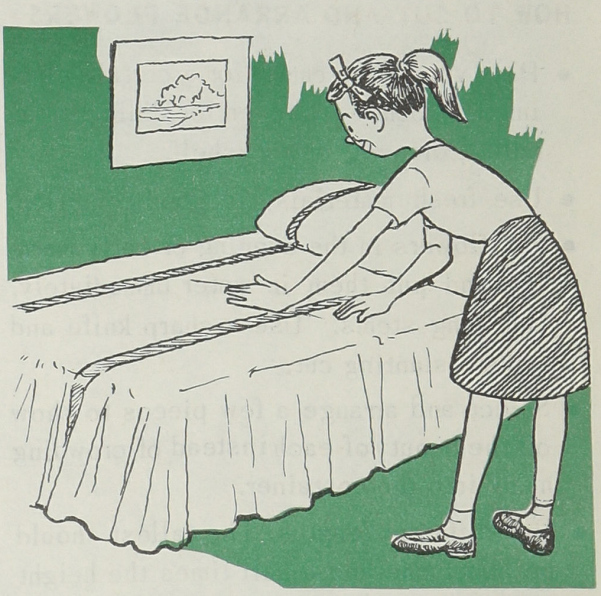
Here's what you need to do in this unit for at least one month:

- Make your bed every day.
- Keep your closet and dresser drawers neat.
- Dust the furniture and floor in your room once a week.
- Check the Daily Check Sheet on page 31 every day.
- Ask your mother to fill in your sheet at the end of the month telling how you kept your room.

MAKE YOUR BED

One of the first things you see when you enter your room is your bed. Is it neat and smooth? Or lumpy and wrinkled?

Daily bedmaking is easy if the bed is made well when the linens are changed. The directions tell you how to make your bed and how to take as few steps as possible. Some members can do it in one trip around the bed. Can you? Try it and see.



- Begin at one side of the bed.
- Straighten the bottom sheet, pull it tight and tuck it under the mattress.
- Straighten the top sheet and blankets and pull them into place.
- Fold end of top sheet over the blanket at head of bed.

- Pull bedspread into place and fold back top of spread. Lay pillow in place.
- Turn the end of spread over pillow.
- Go to the other side and finish making the bed in the same way you made the first side.

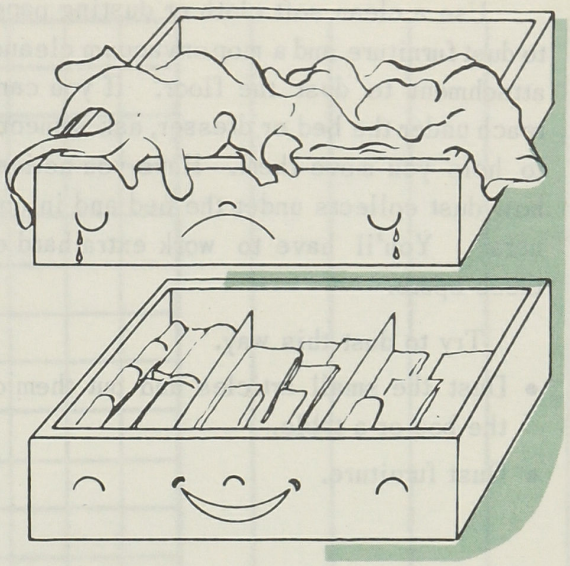
KEEP YOUR ROOM AND CLOSET CLEAN

Here are two secrets for keeping your room and closet neat. 1. Decide on convenient places to keep your clothes, books, magazines, games, and other belongings. 2. Put them back in place when you're through with them.

Sort your things and see whether you can find handier places to put them. Keep your underwear, socks, sweaters, and scarfs in neat stacks in the drawers. Drawer dividers will help you keep small articles in order.



Does the closet have enough hangers and hooks? Can you reach them easily? If not, ask someone to help you put in hooks or lower those already in the closet. Place your shoes in a shoe bag or on a rack or in a neat row on the floor.



If you do these jobs every day, you will be surprised at how fast you can make neatness a habit. And your room will really be shipshape!

DUST FURNITURE AND FLOOR

Weekly dusting of the furniture and floor makes a room sparkle.



Use a clean soft cloth or dusting paper to dust furniture and a mop or vacuum cleaner attachment to dust the floor. If you can't reach under the bed or dresser, ask someone to help you move them. Have you noticed how dust collects under the bed and in corners? You'll have to work extra hard on these spots.

Try to dust this way.

- Dust the small articles and put them on the bed or a table.
- Dust furniture.
- Shake dresser scarf outdoors.
- If you have a small rug, take it outdoors and shake it. Or, clean it with a vacuum cleaner or carpet sweeper.
- Dust the floor.
- Put everything back in place.
- Shake dust cloth and mop outdoors and return them to the right place.

When you finish, sit down and see what a good job you have done. Does the room sparkle? Did you miss any spots?



Cut on this line.

DAILY CHECK SHEET

KEEP CHECK SHEET ONE MONTH FROM _____ TO _____ 19 ___

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Make bed																															
Hang up clothes																															
Put away shoes																															
Put soiled clothes in laundry bag or clothes hamper																															
Keep books, games, etc., in order																															
Straighten rugs																															
Empty wastebasket																															
Dust furniture once a week																															
Dust floor once a week																															

Mother's remarks: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

The author is Jane Schoppe, Extension home furnishing specialist. She was assisted by the following committee members:

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