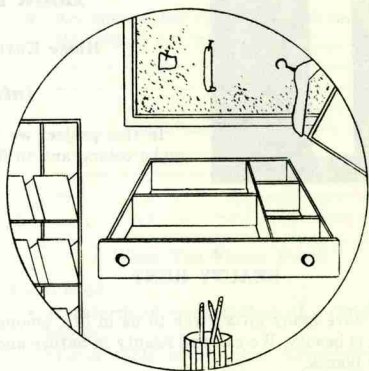


HOME ENVIRONMENT

FURNISHINGS — EQUIPMENT — HOUSING



START WITH A SMALL
CHANGE
5 PROJECTS

41 I

Start With a Small Change

Boys! Girls!

Start your home environment project with small changes. How? First, look for beauty by seeing and making colors. This manual has other ideas, too: flowers for beauty, fun with fabric, and a place for everything. All these activities can be fun and a help to you in your room and to your family.

A purpose is given in the beginning of each project. Choose the project or projects that will mean the most to you.

At the end of each project there is a record sheet. Do the things it suggests and answer the questions. Clip the record and turn it in to your leader or Extension agent.

For our houses to be homes there must be beauty, order, and cleanliness. You can help make yours that way.

1

Look For Beauty

Home Environment Project 1

Introduction

In this project we will learn: to see beauty, to make colors, and to finger paint a picture.

BEAUTY HUNT

We have many gifts given to us in life, among which is beauty. We can find beauty in nature and in our homes.

Inside each of us there is a hunger for beauty in our lives. All day long we may see small displays of beauty at home, at school, and all around town. Sometimes people have a very bad habit which causes them to notice chiefly the things they do not like and to express these feelings freely. We are happier if we look for beauty.

Let's take a beauty hunt

Beauty Hunt No. 1—*Pause each day* for a minute or two and let your eyes find the loveliest thing you can see. Watch robins or sparrows as they fly nearby to get water or food; see the sun as it

sets and casts its changing color on the clouds; notice the colors in a lovely painting, and soon you will be seeing beautiful things and thinking about them every day. This will become a natural part of you.

Beauty Hunt No. 2—Now, collect some things you think are beautiful. These might be pictures of birds, animals, automobiles or rocks. Look at them and try to tell why you think they are beautiful.

Beauty Hunt No. 3—Look for something beautiful in your home. Why do you think it is beautiful? The more you look and the more you express your thoughts, the more you learn to see beauty.

Beauty Hunt No. 4—Take a walk in the fields, along the seashore, or in the mountains and find some wild flowers you like. Carefully lay these in

a cardboard box and cover them by sprinkling borax over them. Cover the box with its lid and set aside. In about a week you can lift the flowers and mount them on a cardboard to add beauty to your room. They will stay almost natural in color if you do this carefully. Some garden flowers can be preserved in this manner, too.

MAKE A PICTURE

Would you like to finger paint? Ask your mother or leader to help you make finger paint and to mix colors. Then paint a picture.

How to Make Finger Paints (Makes 3 Cups)

- 1/2 cup laundry starch
- 1 cup cold water
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatine (1 tablespoon)
- 2 cups hot water
- 1/2 cup mild soap flakes or detergent

Coloring (Colors needed are red, yellow, blue, and black. Food coloring can be used.)

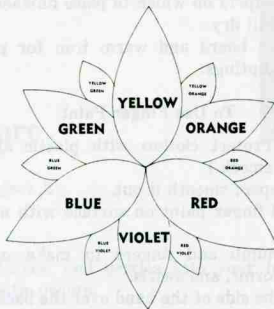
1. Combine starch and 3/4 cup of cold water in a medium saucepan; soak gelatine in other 1/4 cup of cold water.
2. Add hot water to starch mixture.
3. Cook over medium heat until mixture comes to a boil and is clear; stir constantly.
4. Remove from heat; blend in softened gelatine.
5. Add soap or detergent and stir until mixture thickens and soap or detergent has dissolved.
6. Cool. Divide into jars.
7. Mix base solution and coloring to desired color. (For other paint mixtures refer to *Arts and Crafts for Boys and Girls*, H. E. 77, N. C. Agricultural Extension Service.

Color Mixing Experiment

Before you start your finger painting, take a sheet of paper and make these experiments with your colors:

1. Wet paper and add some red in a band across the page and mix with it some yellow in a band. What color was formed? _____
2. In another part of your page, add some yellow in a band and add a band of blue over it. What color was formed? _____
3. In another part of your page, add some blue

Color Wheel



paint in a band. Add a band of red on top of the blue. What color was formed? _____

4. Look at color wheel and name the colors you have made. _____
5. Are there other colors on the wheel? _____
How would you make these? _____

When You Finger Paint

You'll Need:

- A waterproof work surface of a comfortable height.
(Cover table with plastic. Experiment with table and chairs to find a chair and table height that fits you. Your feet should touch the floor and you should be able to sit with the spine straight and bend forward from the hips. Do not stoop or hunch over the table. This will help you maintain good posture—another kind of beauty.)
- Wooden or plastic spoon.
- Jars of finger paint (made according to recipe).
- Paper with coated surface, such as glazed shelf paper or butcher paper.
- Water for wetting paper in a bowl or pan.

- Moist sponge or cloth for rewetting paper.
- Newspapers on which to place finished painting until dry.
- Ironing board and warm iron for pressing dry paintings.

To Use Finger Paint

(NOTE: Protect clothes with plastic apron or smock.)

1. Wet paper; smooth it out.
2. Spread finger paint on surface with arm motion.
3. Use thumb and fingers to make patterns, small forms, and swirls.
4. Glide the side of the hand over the background to shape leaves and flowers.
5. Make details with finger tips. Push the paint away to form design.
6. Try out each action; enjoy the color, the abstract design, the rhythmic motion, and line.
7. Create at least two finger painted cover papers. Choose one to mount on a matting paper to use for a color spot in your room. This will be a part of your project exhibit.
8. Set aside papers to dry. Press on wrong side with a warm iron to help set the color.

Mount Your Painting

Mount your favorite finger paint piece. This can be used to add a spot of color for the walls of your room. Since this will probably not be a permanent wall hanging, you will not mat or frame it; but you will want to mount it.

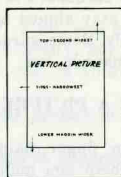
You can use poster board, thin wood, cork, or even mat boards for mounting. You can choose either white or color. Choose a mounting board which repeats one of the soft light colors in the painting and that would look well on your walls. The finger paint piece may need to be trimmed to make the edges neat. However, some may not need to be trimmed. If they are so well done that the painting covers to the edge of the paper, the rough edge may even be desirable.

Decide whether your finger paint would look better on a vertical, a square, or horizontal.

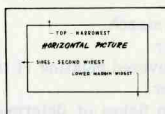
Get your mother or leader to help you cut the mounting material straight and even. You will need to decide on the size of your mounting paper

and what size the margins will be. Below are some guides for mounting:

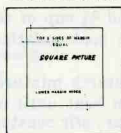
Vertical —Bottom margin is widest.
Top margin next.
Side margins are narrowest.



Horizontal—Bottom margin is widest.
Side margin may be next widest.
Top margin narrowest.



Square —Bottom margin is widest.
Side and top margins are the same
and narrower than bottom margin.



Paste your finger paint on mounting board and add a hanger on the back. A lightweight cloth tape hanger can be glued to the back.

Places to Visit

School art displays.
Community art displays.
North Carolina Museum of Art.
Libraries.

Demonstrations to Give

Learn to See Color
Color Vocabulary You Can Learn
Color, Texture, and Design for Beauty

References

"Color, Texture and Design in Space, a Basic Manual for the 4-H Home Improvement Program," prepared by The Sperry and Hutchinson Co.

Encyclopedias

Flowers to Share

Home Environment Project 2

Introduction

The purposes of this project are: to bring flowers, leaves, and berries into your home for beauty; to learn to arrange them; and to share them with others.

Selecting Your Flowers

Do you have some flowers blooming in the yard? If so, why not cut some to add beauty and cheer to your room? You can use tulips, jonquils, and early-blooming shrubs, such as jasmine, pussywillow, and japonica to bring a breath of spring into your room.

You can have petunias and zinnias all summer. Chrysanthemums are colorful in the fall. In the winter, when you can't have cut flowers, you can put ivy, philodendron, or an African violet in your room. A vase of greens is always appropriate.

The secret of keeping flowers fresh is to gather them when they first bloom and some are partially opened. Late in the afternoon or early in the morning is the best time to cut flowers.

Cut your flowers with a very sharp knife, scissors, or garden clippers. Cut the stems on a slant. Poppies need to have their stems plunged into boiling water for a few minutes before they are put into cold water. Crush the ends of woody stems of shrubs by pounding with a hammer to help them take up more water.

Choose flowers that repeat colors in your room or those that accent colors you have in your room.

Cut small flowers with long stems; cut a few larger ones a little shorter; cut the largest ones with the shortest stems.

As soon as you have gathered the flowers, put them in a bucket of water so they can get a good drink. This will keep them fresh longer.

Containers

Look around the house for a low bowl or a suitable container. (Fig. 1) It can be of the same color as the flowers, or green to blend in with the leaves. It could be a plain glass bowl from the kitchen. You do not want to use a fancy or brightly colored container. You want to show off your flowers, not the bowl.

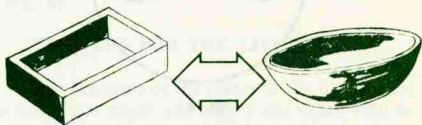


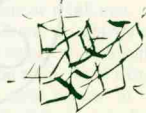
Fig. 1

HOLDERS

Now you need something to make the flowers stand up in the bowl. A needlepoint holder is just the thing. If you don't have one, bend some chicken wire over and over to fit into the bottom of the bowl. (Fig. 2)



Needle point holder



Chicken wire

Fig. 2

Modeling clay, such as you use at school, or florist's clay will make the needle holder stay in place. Turn the holder upside down. Twist the modeling clay into a rope and wrap it around the bottom edge of the holder. Turn the holder over and press it flat against the bottom of the bowl. The bowl must be dry in order for the clay to stick. Place your fingers near the edge so you won't prick them on the holder.

How to Arrange

Cut the stem of one of the light and smaller blooms to a length about one and one-half times the width of your bowl. Stand it up in the back of the holder and near the center. (No. 1 in Fig. 3) Cut another light bloom much shorter, and stand it over to the right near the front. (No. 2 in Fig. 3) Make it lean toward the right. Cut another bloom about the same length and place it to the left. (No. 3 in Fig. 3) Lean this bloom to the left.

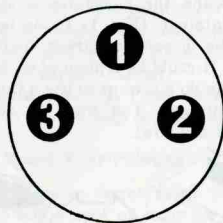


Fig. 3

Cut another bloom just a little shorter than the tallest one. Place it near the tallest, and a little to the right. Put another one to the left. (Numbers 4 and 5 in Fig. 4)

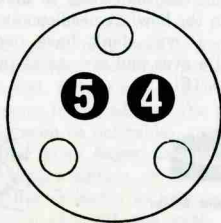


Fig. 4

There is a space left in the middle near the front. Use darker and larger blooms here at the bottom because they are heavier looking. These will have the shortest stems of all. Use at least two here, one shorter than the other so that some of the green leaves or petals come over the front of the bowl. (Numbers 6 and 7 in Fig. 5)

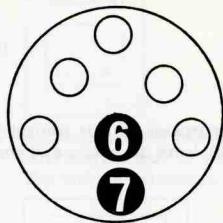


Fig. 5

If there are some empty-looking spots use a few more flowers or leaves, but don't crowd the arrangement. You want each bloom to show. If the needlepoint holder shows, cover it with leaves. If the arrangement is placed where it shows from all sides, put a few flowers at the back. Now see how pretty the flowers look.

Never leave flowers in a room after they are wilted or dead.

FRUIT, LEAVES, OR BERRIES

Mealtime is one of the happy times when the family gets together. Why don't you add beauty to the table by making a low arrangement of some kind?

In spring, summer, and fall you can use flowers. And in the cold months it can be fun to see what you can find to use, instead. In the fall, when the leaves have pretty, bright colors, try an arrangement of yellow and russet-colored leaves. Pretty, shiny, green magnolia leaves can add color and beauty in the winter. Cedar that has clusters of small berries can be used. Branches of evergreen shrubs, some of which have berries, are pretty. Try arranging some gay-colored fruit—oranges, apples, bananas, and grapes—for the table.

Always keep the arrangement low enough so that people seated can see each other across the table. You and your entire family can enjoy at mealtime the beautiful arrangement you create.

WINTERTIME ARRANGEMENTS

In winter the outlook from your windows is often bleak, and fresh flowers and greenery are not available. Plan to add color and interest in your rooms by arrangements that can be made with dried flowers and plant material.

To dry strawflowers and everlastings for winter arrangements, remove leaves from the stems. Then tie in bunches and hang heads-down in a dry, ventilated place. (Fig. 6)

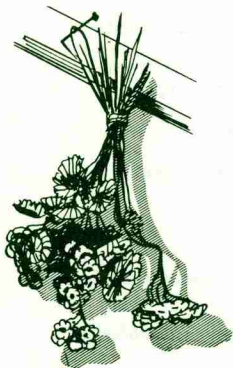


Fig. 6

Pick gourds before hard frosts, being careful not to bruise them. Wash, then cure for several weeks in a warm, dry place. A coat of clear shellac gives sheen and heightens color. (Fig. 7)

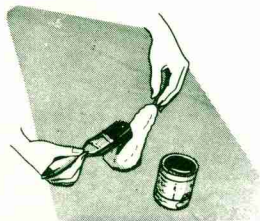


Fig. 7

A dried arrangement can look alive. Yellow strawflowers with perky petals and glistening sheen can be arranged with slender branches of evergreen.

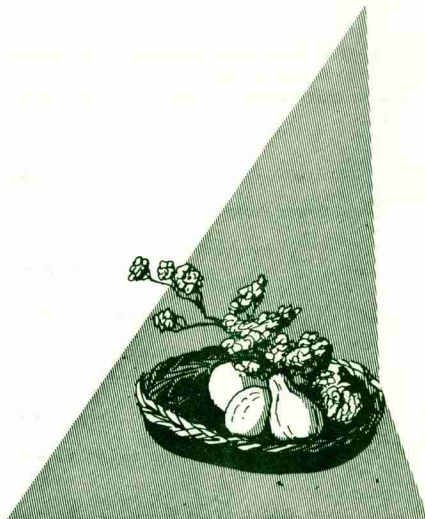


Fig. 8

Place dried everlastings, gourds, and two rocks on a reed tray to make a quick and easy arrangement. Save choice material from year to year. (Fig. 8)

FLOWERS FOR THE LIVING ROOM

Where are some of the places in the living room to which you might add beauty and cheer with an arrangement of flowers? Remember — not too many! One arrangement will probably be enough. You might make a low one to go on a coffee table or one for an end table, if the table will not be too crowded with an arrangement. Or you might make one to go on top of a chest. An arrangement usually shows up better against a plain background. Before you make an arrangement, you will need to decide:

- Where it will be used.
- Whether you need a low one or a tall one.
- Whether you need a small one or a large one.
- What colors to use. (The colors should repeat some of the colors in the room. It is usually better to use only a few colors in one arrangement instead of mixing a lot of different colors together.)
- Whether the arrangement will show from all sides. (If so, you will need to make the arrangement look good from all sides.)

Remember: Use a plain container with a holder to keep the flowers in place.
You cannot expect to learn all about flower

arrangement in one easy lesson. Through practice and trial and error you can have fun out of your creative efforts.

Places to Visit

Local flower shows

Garden tours

Demonstrations to Give

Containers You Can Use for Flower Arrangements

Holders for Your Flowers

Simple Flower Arrangements for Your Table

Berries and Fruit Arrangement

How to Dry Flowers for Winter Arrangements

References

Magazines containing articles on flower arrangements (may be found in libraries)

Books on flower arrangements (may be found in libraries)

Fun With Fabric

Home Environment Project 3

Introduction

The purposes of the fun with fabric project are: to learn about fabrics, to learn to sew, and to make something useful.

You know, it's as much fun to sew for your room as for yourself. Some of the things you can make with fabrics are: a dresser scarf, a laundry

bag, a cushion cover, place mats, napkins, and a bulletin board. You can think of other things you can do. There are many activities at the end of each section that you can do. But to complete the project, do all that is required at the end of the section on projects.

Fabrics

Cotton fabrics like denim, Indian Head, gingham, muslin, percale, and sailcloth are suitable for articles for your room. Look for labels that say "vat-dyed" and "sanforized." Your leader or mother will tell you about those labels and other labels to watch for.

Select a fabric that goes well with other colors and patterns in the room.

TOOLS YOU WILL NEED

Thimble
Needles

Dressmaker
pins

Pincushion
or pin box

Basting thread

Shears

Ruler or
adjustable
gauge

Tape measure

Tailor's chalk

Pencil

1. Straighten one end of fabric by pulling a thread and cutting along the thread line. (Fig. 1)

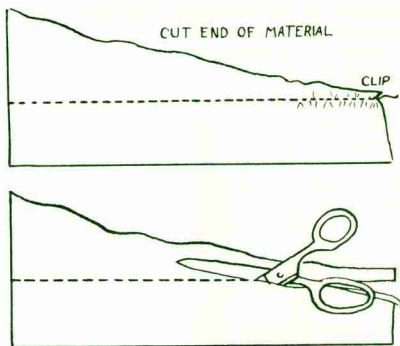


Fig. 1

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. Pull a thread and cut along the thread line.
4. Square the cut piece by stretching.
5. Press cut edges to remove ripples.

PREPARE YOUR FABRIC

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

6. When you measure, pin, or baste, work on a table and keep your fabric as smooth and flat as you can.
7. Place seam edges together and insert pins about 3 inches apart at right angles to edges.
8. Baste seams slightly to the side of the desired stitching line. (Do not stitch through basting.) Remove pins before stitching. (Make $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch seams unless otherwise indicated.)
9. Set stitch length control for 12 to 14 stitches per inch unless otherwise indicated.
10. At the beginning and end of seams and hems, retrace stitching $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
11. When you finish the stitching, remove basting and press carefully. Articles for a club exhibit should be clean and well pressed.

ARTICLES YOU CAN MAKE

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 1 or 2 inches smaller. The directions below tell you how to make a dresser scarf which will be about 1 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 Tools

How to Make a Dresser Scarf With Hems on All Sides

- Straighten fabric as outlined in steps 1 through 6 on pages 11 and 12.
- Machine stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from cut edges on all sides. This stitching will help you turn even hems.
- On each of the four sides, turn along the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch stitching line. Pin and press. Turn one-inch hem, pin, baste, and press. (Fig. 2)
- Miter the corner. (Fig. 3)

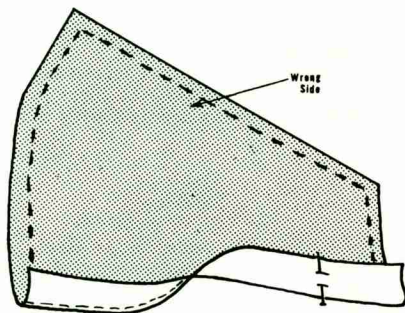
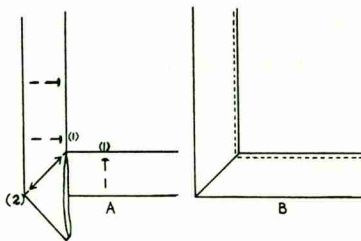


Fig. 2



MITERING CORNERS ON HEMS

Fig. 3

- Stitch hems by machine or hem by hand.

How to Make a Dresser Scarf With Fringe on Short Sides

- Do steps 1 through 6 to straighten fabric (pages 11 and 12).
- Fringe only coarse fabrics such as Indian Head. Do not fringe percale. Fringe should not be more than 1/2-inch long.
- Pull out one thread 1/2 inch from cut edge on short sides. Machine stitch along this line. Use a small stitch, 16 to 18 stitches per inch.
- Pull out crosswise threads up to stitching line.
- On each long side, stitch 1/4 inch from cut edges. This stitching line will help you make even hems.
- Now turn along the 1/4-inch stitching line, pin, and press.
- Remove pins. Turn 1/4-inch hem, pin, baste, and press.
- Stitch hems by machine or hem by hand.
- Press scarf and brush fringe smooth.

Place Mats and Napkins

Who doesn't like to set a pretty table? If you have taken a foods and nutrition project, you will remember that you needed a place mat when you exhibited the products you prepared. You know foods even taste better when the table is attractive. How would you like to make place mats and napkins for your family?

First, take a look at your dishes and glasses. If the dishes or glasses are patterned, then you'll want to choose a plain-colored place mat. If the dishes are plain, then you may still want plain mats or maybe you will want a patterned one.

Figure 4 shows how you may cut four mats and four napkins from 1 3/4 yards of 36-inch fabric. The mats should be cut 20 inches long and 13 1/2 inches wide. The napkins should be cut 13 1/2 inches square. An extra inch in length has been allowed so you can straighten the end of the fabric before you begin. Finish hems by one of the ways given in the section on *making dresser scarfs*.

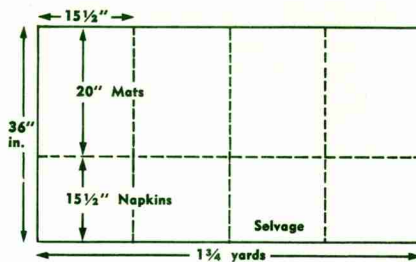


Fig. 4

Laundry Bag

Your personal laundry bag will help you keep your room neat and clean. Use sturdy cotton fabric 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

3/4 yard (27 inches) of fabric 36 inches wide
Matching thread Wooden Sewing tools
clothes hanger

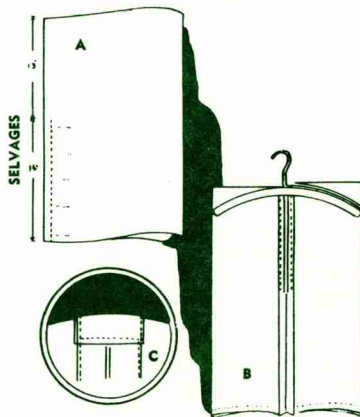


Fig. 5

How to Make a Laundry Bag

- Do steps 1 through 6 to straighten fabric (pages 11 and 12).
- Bring selvages on long edges together with right sides inside.
- Measure 13 inches from one corner along selvages for opening. Pin remaining part of selvage or long edges together. (Fig. 5)
- Pin, baste, and stitch a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam. Retrace stitching $\frac{1}{2}$ inch at bottom and top.
- Pin and press a $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch fold on each side of opening. Stitch along selvage edges.
- Refold bag putting the seam in the center front. (See Fig. 5) Press seam open.
- Lay hanger on upper edge. Mark round top curve with pencil. Cut on this line.
- Pin, baste, and stitch $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seams across top and bottom of bag. Retrace stitching $\frac{1}{2}$ inch at each end.
- To make the upper and lower ends of the opening stronger cut two pieces of cloth $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch square and fold in half.
- On the wrong side, place raw edges of folded square along raw edge of top seam. The folded edge will be at the top of the opening. Stitch near the edge on 3 sides of the folded square. Pin the other piece across the seam at bottom of opening, with folded edge turned toward opening. Stitch neatly.
- 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 rooms. Select a color that goes with the bedspread or sofa color.

You will enjoy using your cushions if you choose sturdy cotton fabric that is easy to wash. You can use corduroy, glazed chintz, denim, sailcloth, Indian Head, gingham, or other suitable cotton fabric.

How to Measure Amount of Fabric for a Cushion Cover

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

Cushion _____ inches _____ inches
For seams add $+ \frac{1}{4}$ inches $+ \frac{1}{4}$ 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 6 to straighten fabric (pages 11 and 12).
- Place right sides of fabric together and pin along three sides.

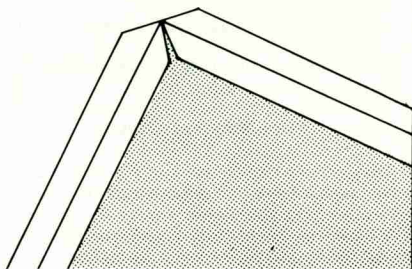


Fig. 6

- Stitch $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seams. Retrace stitching $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Clip corners to remove bulk. Press seams open. (Fig. 6)
- At open end press and pin a $\frac{5}{8}$ -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 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge. Carefully slipstitch edges together.

Bulletin Board

What You Need to Make a Bulletin Board

Two wooden clothes hangers painted to match the wall, woodwork, or furniture, or finished in its natural color.

Fabric—denim, sailcloth, Indian Head, or other firm fabric in a solid color.

Width—Measure width of lower rod on clothes hanger and add 2 inches for side seams.

Length—36 inches is suggested, but will depend on the size of your wall space. Have 2 pieces 36 inches long or one piece 72 inches long.

Ruler, thimble, needle, scissors.

Fine sandpaper.

Paste wax, soft cloths (like cheese cloth) or a water-base paint, brush, rags, and newspapers.

To Finish the Clothes Hanger

- Sand with fine sandpaper till the hangers are smooth. Always work with the grain of the wood. Test to see that wood is smooth by rubbing an old nylon stocking over the entire hanger. If it catches or pulls the stocking, sand some more. (Fig. 7)

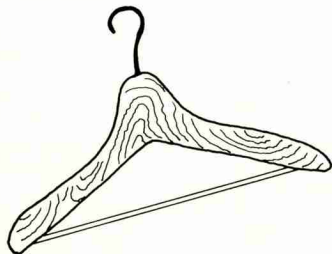


Fig. 7

- Use a clean cloth dampened with turpentine to remove all dust.
- Place a ball of paste wax, about the size of a walnut, between 4 thicknesses of cheesecloth. Hold it in the palm of your hand until the

wax is warm and soft. Rub lightly over the entire hanger.

- Allow to dry about 30 minutes and then rub with a soft, clean cloth until there are no dull spots when you press your fingers against the wood.
- Apply three or four coats of wax.

To Finish the Fabric

- Cut each end and the sides of your fabric with the grain. If you are using two strips of fabric 36-inches long, lay the right sides of the fabric together. (Fig. 8)
- Join the two strips at one end with a plain $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam. Pin, baste, and stitch with sewing machine. Press seam open.

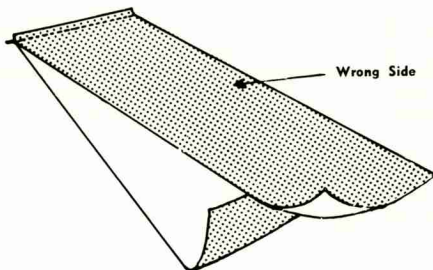


Fig. 8

- On the wrong side, turn down raw edges on both sides about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; pin and press. Remove pins.
- Now turn under again $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; pin, baste, press, and stitch on the sewing machine, using matching thread. You may hem both sides by hand if you prefer. Press the side seams.
- Slip the fabric through the hangers.
- Place right sides of free ends together. Now, sew these two ends on the wrong side with a plain $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch seam. (Fig. 9)

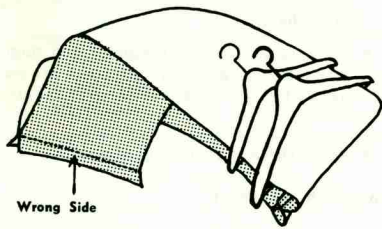


Fig. 9

- Press the seams. Hang your bulletin board with a hook or screw on your wall. (Fig. 10)

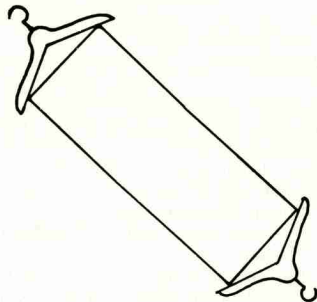


Fig. 10

Places to Visit

Sewing centers

Notions counters

Fairs

Demonstrations to Give

How to Prepare Fabric for Sewing

How to Make a Dresser Scarf

How to Make a Shoe Bag, etc.

How to Make a Laundry Bag

How to Make a Cushion Cover

How to Make Place Mats and Napkins

How to Make a Bulletin Board

References

Pattern catalogues Sewing centers Farm
magazines

A Place for Everything

Home Environment Project 4

Introduction

The storage project is intended to give you ideas on storage. You may make some of the articles or you may buy them.

The purpose of the "place for everything" project is to make it easier for you to be neat and orderly. Once you have a convenient place for things, either in your room or in any other room in your home, the next step is to form the good habit of putting things away.

Maybe you've joined in the laughing when you heard Fibber McGee having trouble with his

closet. When he opened the door everything fell out and buried him. If you store things this way your life can be hectic, just like Fibber McGee's.

Many of us have trouble finding the right places to put things. Some of us have good storage places, but don't arrange them well, or don't put them to work for us.

Perhaps you are one of these folks who just has too many things. How long has it been since you went through your things to see what should be discarded? Your parents really can't do this for you. Everyone needs to "clean house" sometime.

PLAN YOUR STORAGE

For your own room

- Make a list of things that need to be stored in your room.
- Sort those things that you do not use often. Store these elsewhere or discard them.
- Plan to store articles as near as you can to the place where you use them most often.
- Store together similar items or articles of similar use.
- Store much-used items where you can reach them and return them to storage quickly and easily.
- Make sure you're really using all available storage spaces before building any new ones. Try to arrange flexible spaces. These can be changed easily for new uses as need arises.

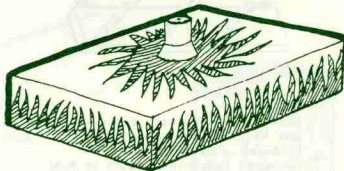
- Your room needs frequent cleaning. Think about ease of cleaning your storage unit and the articles in it.

Location by *use* means having everyday garments and school materials stored where you can find them quickly.

Storage by *need* means having seasonal clothes at hand, out-of-season clothes put away.

Location by *safety* means storing each thing so it will be kept in as good condition as possible.

IDEAS FOR STORAGE

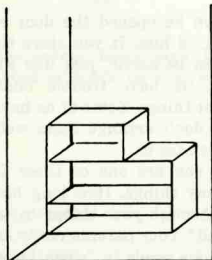


Covered boxes may be used for cosmetics, hair rollers, pencils, etc.

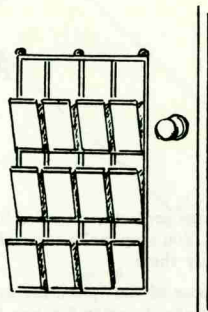
Shoe Storage



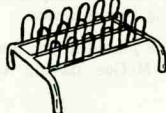
Shoe racks for use where wall space is less limited than floor space



Wooden stepshelves for shoes and boxed storage

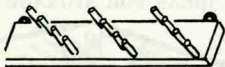


Fabric or plastic shoe bag hung on closet door

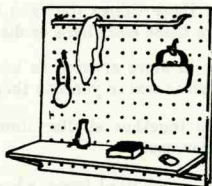


Chrome-plated shoe rack

Tie and Belt Hangers

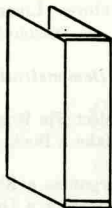


Shown is a homemade tie and belt hanger using wooden set-in dowels. Cup hooks or finishing nails can be used to hold ties and belts.

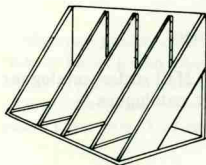


Perforated hardboard may be added to closets or other walls for convenient storage. You can buy many adjustable fixtures to use with this board.

Study Area

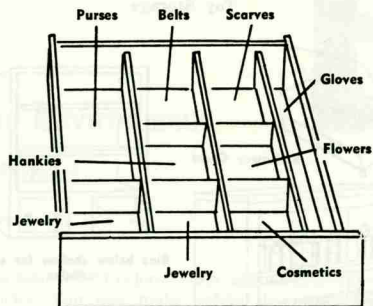


File box for miscellaneous bulletins will help keep small booklets together.



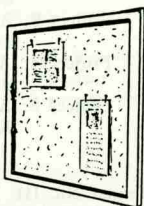
When drawer space is short, place a partitioned storage unit on or above desk top.

Organizing Drawers



Decide what to keep in each drawer. Then measure the space needed for different articles to tell you how to divide the drawer.

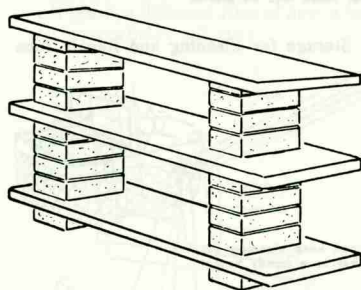
Bulletin Boards, Etc.



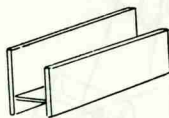
Bulletin boards can be made of cork, insulation boards, and corrugated cardboard covered with cloth. Size and shape depend on its use and the space the bulletin board is to occupy.



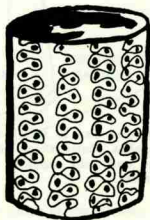
Covered or painted pencil holder for desk



Bookcase made from bricks and well-finished lumber (inexpensive, easily made, and movable)

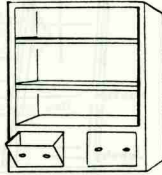
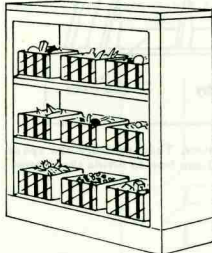


Letter rack



Wastepaper baskets can be made from oil cans or wooden boxes. Paint or cover with wallpaper for a colorful finish.

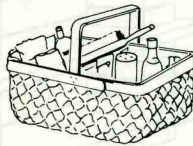
Toy Storage



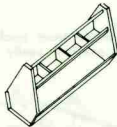
Bins below shelves for small articles

Paper boxes covered with plain or patterned wallpaper used to store various small toys on shelves

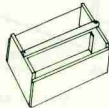
Storage for Cleaning and Repair Jobs



You can keep cleaning supplies together in a handy basket.



Make a partitioned tool box. Adapt dimensions to your needs.



Make a tote box in which to keep tools and supplies. Carry these any place you like and your supplies will always be together.

Places to Visit

Department stores Linen shops Hardware stores
Discount houses

Demonstrations to Give

How to Select Tie Hangers (Shoe Racks, etc.)
How to Make a Bookcase (or any item in this section)
How to Organize a Study Area
How to Organize a Dressing Area
How to Organize a Drawer

References

Building magazines Mail order catalogues
Building supply catalogues

Continue Your Home Environment

Manual No. II, A PLACE TO CALL MY OWN, includes:

- Project 1: A Place to Call My Own to Read and Study
- Project 2: A Place to Call My Own to Store
- Project 3: A Place to Call My Own to Dress
- Project 4: A Place to Call My Own to Sleep
- Project 5: A Place to Call My Own for Recreation

Manual No. III, BE YOUR OWN ROOM DESIGNER, includes:

- Project No. 1: Planning Your Room on Paper
- Project No. 2: Background for Your Furnishings
- Project No. 3: Furnishings to Live With

Manual No. IV, INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Science of Color in Home Environment

Home Environment Project 5

Introduction

Nature splashes color all around us. We see it in flower beds, green plants, and the beautiful fall colors of leaves. We also see it in man-made clothes, automobiles, and in decorating your room. Lights affect color, too. You can learn many things about

the behavior of colors. There are many interesting tricks. You can make colors disappear or apparently change. Carry out four of the Exercises and write them up using the Science record at the end of Project 5.

EXERCISE 1: WHAT IS COLOR?

Why Study This? We study this exercise to learn six basic hue colors as found in the rainbow from a glass of water.

What You Will Need:

1. Two or more different kinds of clear, straight-sided water glasses
2. $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" strips of white, deep red, deep blue, yellow, and deep green cloth and paper. The paper should be non-glossy or too much light will be reflected.

How to Do It:

A. Break up the sunlight into colors.

1. Choose a day when the sun is shining.
2. Select a window on the sunny side of the house.
3. Mid-morning or mid-afternoon gives the best results. (The sunlight must come in the window at an angle.)
4. Fill the glasses with water within $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the top.
5. Place the glasses on the edge of the window sill.
6. Look at the spectrum (rainbow) on white paper on the floor. See Fig. 1. (If you have

difficulty in getting a spectrum, try a different glass, a different time of day, a higher or lower window sill, etc.)

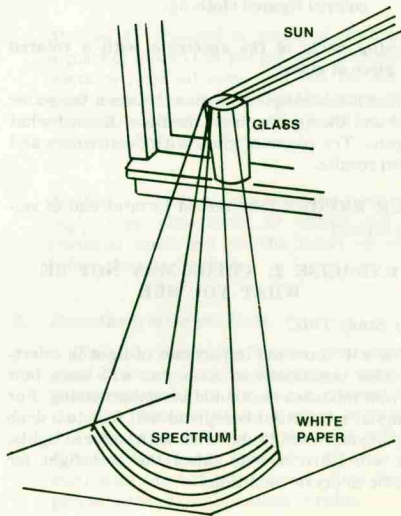


Fig. 1. Showing how a glass of water in the window sill can break sunlight up into colors (spectrum)

7. Adjust water levels and positions of the glasses on the window sill to get the clearest spectrum.
8. Select the best spectrum and discard the other glasses.
9. Raise the paper up from the floor until you get the clearest spectrum.
10. Place a stool or table to hold the white piece of paper at the position chosen in step 9.
11. Draw the spectrum on a piece of paper.
12. Name the colors you see in the order they appear to you.

B. What color do you see?

1. Place the $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 3" strips of different colored paper (red, blue, green, etc.) in the light of the spectrum on the paper in "A".
2. What effect does different parts of the spectrum (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and purple) have on the apparent color of the strips of paper?
3. Record your observations.
4. Repeat steps 1, 2, and 3 with strips of colored cloth.
5. Repeat steps 1, 2, and 3 with brightly-colored figured clothing.

C. Stop parts of the spectrum with a colored piece of glass.

Place a colored piece of glass between the water glass and the spectrum on the floor. Record what happens. Try pieces of glass with other colors and record results.

YOUR REPORT (See record form at end of science series.)

EXERCISE 2: COLOR MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU SEE

Why Study This?

You will learn the importance of light in selecting color combinations. Also, you will learn how to avoid mistakes that could be embarrassing. For example: a beautiful bedspread will fade to a drab gray in your room illuminated with soft, red lights. You will learn how to select the best light for specific colors or conditions.

What You Will Need:

1. Small sections (about 6 inches square) of red, green, and blue cloth or *non-glossy* paper

2. Three or more pieces of bright-colored fabrics, including two or more colors in the same piece of cloth
3. Flashlight
4. Red, blue, and green crepe paper (6 inches square). (Red, blue, and green pieces of glass or photographic filters would be better than crepe paper.)

How to Do It:

1. Attach the red, blue, and green pieces of cloth or paper, to a cardboard, piece of plywood, etc.
2. Look at the three colors under different lights. Record the color you see for each of the three colors. Include lights such as sunlight, lighted parking lots (with mercury vapor lamps), under the red glow of an exit sign or the tail-light of a car, in different areas of a supermarket, etc.
3. Repeat step 2 with the bright multi-colored fabrics.
4. Record in your notebook the apparent color of the pieces of cloth when viewed in a dark place with:
 - a. The light of the flashlight.
 - b. With red crepe paper over the glass of the flashlight.
 - c. With blue crepe paper over the glass of the flashlight.
 - d. With green crepe paper over the glass of the flashlight.
 - e. With red and blue paper over the glass of flashlight.

YOUR REPORT (See record form at end of science series.)

**EXERCISE 3:
COLOR AND TEMPERATURE**

Why Study This?

The color of an object determines the amount of the sun's rays (heat and light) that are absorbed or reflected. You will learn which colors to use in sunny rooms to make them appear cooler and the ones to use in cool rooms to make them appear warmer.

What You Will Need:

1. A thermometer that will register up to 120 to 150° F.
2. 6-inch squares of different colored cloth, including black and white
3. Magnifying glass

How to Do It:

Show the high amount of heat in sunlight.

Hold the magnifying glass perpendicular to the sun. Focus the glass to get a fine point of light on each piece of cloth parallel to the light. See Fig. 2. Drape blue and green fabric on the furniture in a sunny room. Does it appear warmer or cooler? Try yellow, orange, and red. Can you "feel" any difference? Time each exposure using a thermometer to get the temperature after 2 minutes at focal point. Which colors take longest to get warm? **CAUTION**—The paper may catch on fire if the glass is large enough and the sun is warm. Explain why the fabric got warm at the point of the beam (focal point) on the fabric.

YOUR REPORT (See record form at end of science series.)

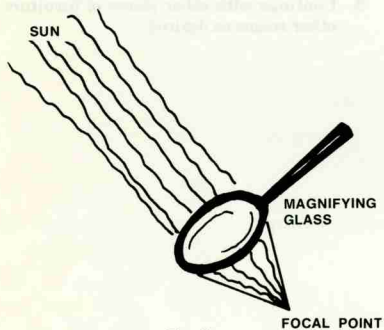


Fig. 2.

EXERCISE 4: COLOR IN THE FIREPLACE

Why Study This?

You will see how heat can produce the colors of the rainbow (visible spectrum). This is accomplished by putting chemicals into the fire of a fireplace.

What You Will Need:

Chemicals such as strontium chloride, barium chloride, copper sulphate, copper chloride, potassium chloride, sodium chloride (table salt), calcium chloride, and lithium chloride are needed. These can be obtained from school chemical suppliers and druggists as a rule. **Notice:** Handle all chemicals carefully. Wash hands after use and keep out of reach of children.

How to Do It:

A. Treat pine cones, sticks of wood, or other fuel with chemicals.

Where pine cones are used, they can be opened by heat. Place them on a warm oven or on top of a radiator or register until they open.

Use one of the following methods to get the chemicals on the cones, small sticks of wood, etc.

Method 1: Dip the pine cones or wood in self-polishing wax. Drain off the excess wax. Divide the cones or wood into equal amounts for each chemical. Label each lot according to the chemical you will use. Sprinkle each chemical on the cones or wood, labeled for that chemical.

Method 2: Dissolve two tablespoonfuls of powdered glue in one gallon of water. Dip the cones or wood sticks into the glue. Drain off the excess glue. Divide the cones or sticks into lots, label and sprinkle on each lot. Let the cones or sticks dry.

Method 3: Dissolve $\frac{1}{4}$ pound of chemical in a quart of water (1 lb. per gallon). (Use earthen container, old oil cans, and etc. Do not use good metal containers.) Dip the cones in the chemical solution, label and spread on newspapers to dry.

Method 4: Melt parafin wax and pour sparingly over pine cones or sticks. Sift the chemical sparingly on the cones or sticks before the wax hardens.

B. Burn the treated products.

Place a chemically treated pine cone or stick in the coals of the fireplace or campfire. Record the color of the flames. Repeat with the other chemically treated cones or sticks.

Fasten two cones or sticks with different chemical treatments together with an iron or steel wire (do not use copper). Note the apparent color or combinations of color.

YOUR REPORT (See record form at end of science series.)

EXERCISE 5: SELECTING A LIGHT FOR A ROOM OR AREA

Why Study This?

Light sources vary in the kind and amount of the different hues (colors). There must be the red hue in the light to give a red color, otherwise, the red will appear brown or dark gray. Carefully selected color combinations can become unattractive with some lights. You will learn a procedure for selecting the right light for specific conditions.

What You Will Need: (Use steps 3 and 4 below where fluorescent light fixtures are not available.)

1. A portable fluorescent light fixture
2. A selection of fluorescent bulbs (natural white, white, warm white, deluxe warm white, soft white, deluxe cool white, and daylight.)
3. Incandescent lamp or fixture
4. A selection of incandescent bulbs (white, blue, pink, and etc., from those available from your dealer). (Incandescent bulbs are "regular" or "standard" bulbs.)

How to Do It:

1. Select a time when the room is dark.
2. Place the lighted lamp near a chair or sofa.
3. Stand back and look at the quality of the colors. Note your reaction as to pleasing, exhilarating, depressing, or other effects.
4. Replace the fluorescent or incandescent bulb or bulbs with another kind. Note your relative reaction.
5. Continue with other bulb arrangements until you get the most pleasing effect.
6. Include incandescent white, frosted, and blue bulbs, and other tinted bulbs available in your comparison.
7. At this time you may wish to have two fixtures so that you can alternate the two best arrangements quickly to better analyze your reaction.
8. Continue with other pieces of furniture or other rooms as desired.





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