Small Articles for the Girl’s Home
(Home Furnishings I)

Figure 1.—A group of well chosen small articles.

Every girl appreciates a cheerful, well ordered home, and enjoys having a part in making it pleasant and attractive. One of the most practical means of improving a room, is through the selection and use of small articles that give color and individuality to the furnishings.

Prepared by Madonna Fitzgerald and Louise Woodruff, Home Management Specialists, in collaboration with Jane Hinote, State Club Agent.
Simplicity of furnishings is always in good taste. A room which is crowded with furniture or confused with decoration is not comfortable.

Color plays an important part in every room, so the girl should carefully plan for the choice of color to be used in the articles she is to make in order that they will fit in with other furnishings in the room.

Colors may be divided into two general groups—warm and cool colors. Red, yellow, red-yellow, peach and colors related to them are known as the warm colors and are cheering and active. These are particularly pleasing to use in a rather dark room.

The cool colors—blues, blue greens and violets—are restful, quiet and refreshing. To achieve the most pleasant effect with color, it is wise to use both warm and cool colors in a room. A safe rule is that the larger the amount used, the softer the color should be, while the smaller the amount, the more brilliant it may be.

Very often, the only possibility for room improvement is in the use of fabrics. For this reason it is interesting to see what effects a girl may obtain through the use of small articles, many of which may be made from materials on hand. After the essential furnishings have been assembled, it is well for the girl to make a plan for a few suitable articles which may be added from time to time.

It is rather difficult to draw a line between the “necessities” and decorative articles for a room. For example, many of the most necessary bedroom linens, and fabric articles for other rooms, add much to their attractiveness and comfort.

The selection of the small decorative objects and articles for a room affords an opportunity for creative expression and reveals the personality of the owner more than other furnishings.

Whether the articles are to be purchased or constructed, the girl, in making her selection, should consider the following points: suitability to purpose, usefulness, type of material, color, design, workmanship and beauty.

**Pillow Cases**

Pillow cases should be made to fit the pillows on which they are to be used. If they are too small, the pillow seems hard and lumpy, if too large, the pillow case becomes wrinkled more readily and will not fit smoothly. Pillow case material, percale, muslin or tubing, should be torn to insure straight edges. If tubing is used only the end seam is necessary. With other materials there will also be a side seam. Plain seams, neatly overcast, or double rows of machine stitching are best for pillow cases.

They may have straight or shaped hems, plain or decorated with simple stitches, white embroidery motifs, or hemstitching. A two-inch hem is recommended.
Unless the bedding is to fit into a definite color scheme for a room, all white will be most satisfactory, because of laundering and general use. Any design should be adapted to the size of the pillow case and to the shape of the space on which it is to be applied.

For a score card to use in judging pillow cases refer to page 17.

The standard sizes of pillow cases are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillow Case</th>
<th>Pillow Case</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 x 26</td>
<td>42 x 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 x 28</td>
<td>45 x 36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Protector for Comfort or Blanket**

Comfort protectors are used to keep the top ends of comforts and blankets from becoming soiled. They should be made of smooth white or light colored cotton material, such as light weight unbleached muslin, sheeting, dimity or cotton broadcloth, as it is necessary to launder them frequently. Little or no decoration should be used for utility coverings.

The comfort protector should be cut 16 to 18 inches double width so the finished protector after hemming will be 6 to 7 inches wide, and long enough to extend across the end of the comfort. A plain or shaped hem or binding may be used on the edges. The ends may be left open with tape ties or finished with a plain seam overcast. The comfort protector may be fastened to the comfort with loose basting stitches which are easily clipped when removing it for laundering.

Another type of blanket protector may be made by cutting the material in the desired width and two inches longer than the width of the cover. Narrow hems should be turned along the lengthwise edges and sewed with machine or simple decorative stitch as shown in Figure 3.

A tuck may be stitched on the wrong side just inside the top hem. The ends may be finished with a one-inch hem. This protector is basted over the top of the blanket, sewing through the
tuck to the under side. In this way, the basting stitches are inconspicuous and the decorative hem finish is smooth and attractive.

![Fig. 3.—Finish for blanket and comfort protector.](image)

If the sheets are long enough to turn back over the edge of the cover, the comfort protector will not be necessary, but is an added protection.

**Covers for the Dresser**

Well chosen covers for the chest, dresser, or dressing table add much to the appearance of the room. They should be neutral enough in color and design to make a pleasing background for articles that are to be placed on top of these pieces. Linen, print, percale, cotton poplin, crash and soft muslin are suitable materials.

A scarf or doily may be perfectly plain with well proportioned hems, borders or bindings, or they may have a decorative finish such as simple applique or stitchery.

The decoration should match the background or blend into it, so that the cover will harmonize with the furniture upon which it is to be used.

A scarf which fits the top of the surface leaving about an inch of wood showing in front and back and an inch and a half at the ends is nicely proportioned.

For score card to use in judging a dresser scarf refer to page 17.

**Cushion Covers**

Cushions give a comfortable homelike atmosphere to a room. The covers should harmonize with other furnishings, and often, the scrap bag may supply just the right combination of materials for good looking, usable cushions.

![Fig. 4.—Covers for the dresser.](image)
Gay patch work, applique, quilting or plain tailored finishes are in good taste and give accent to a seat, chair or couch.

Cushions should be filled with a feather or down pillow that has a ticking or firm muslin cover. The end of the cover where the cushion slips in should have an inconspicuous closing. Snaps or bastling stitches may be used. The outside cover should be heavy enough to conceal the inside cushion.

The seam at the edge may be plain or it may be finished with a French seam turned to the outside. Other serviceable edge finishes are cording, fringe and the double hem as shown in the front cushion in Figure 5.

Among the suitable materials for cushion covers are monk's cloth, homespun, gingham, cotton crash and percale. Many attractive cushions are made undecorated and depend for their interest upon the color or design or both in the material itself.

Washable Chair Seats and Backs

A plain straight chair with the regular high back, or with the back cut down, may be made to harmonize with other furnishings by the use of removable slip covers. Heavy cretonne, denim, gingham and other firm cotton materials make suitable chair covers.

A quilted pad made of a layer of cotton in a cover of muslin or sack material, or of two thicknesses of old comfort or blanket, will soften the lines of the chair and make the seats more comfortable.

A paper pattern for both the pad and slip cover should be made so the material may be cut without waste.

The pattern for the pad should be cut to fit the size and shape of the seat or back, without seam al-
allowance, so that when the seams or edges are turned in the pad will be slightly smaller than the surface it is to cover. Two pieces of material should be cut by each pattern, these are seamed together, leaving one side open so that the padding may be placed in the cover and the open seam finished. The pad will be more durable if it is tacked or quilted by machine or hand.

Narrow straps of material or tape with snaps on the ends sewed to the back corners of the pad will fasten the pad to the chair securely.

The pattern for the slip cover should be made by placing the paper over the padded surface and creasing around the edges to get the exact shape of the seat or back. One inch should be allowed on all sides for seams. When the pattern is cut, the notches around legs and other markings should be shown.

Luncheon Cloth or Set

The luncheon cloth or set should be designed to fit the size and shape of the table on which it is to be used, and be in keeping with the dishes and glassware to be used. The table linen should also harmonize with the other furnishings of the room in color, pattern and texture.

Plain white, colored, pattern on white, or solid colored materials,
may be used for the luncheon cloth or set. White is always in good taste, but colored material often is used to emphasize the color in the china, table decorations or dining room.

A wide choice of hem finishes and decoration is available for table linen. However, to give the best service the hems and corners of the cloth and napkins should be flat and securely sewed, so they will stand frequent laundering.

The Luncheon Sets.—Luncheon sets are especially desirable as they permit variety in table settings and are easily laundered. A set consists of one runner for the center of the table; four, six or eight place mats and the same number of napkins. Unbleached muslin, print, crash, dotted swiss, linen or homespun are suitable materials for luncheon sets.

The sizes may vary to suit the size of the table, but the following cut sizes are generally practical and allow for fringe or narrow hems. If a wide hem is desired the number of inches should be added all around. To insure a straight edge when cutting linens always draw a thread and cut along it.

**Runner**

12" x 24"

or

14" x 36"

**Place Mat**

12" x 18"

**Napkin**

16" x 16"

Finishes for Table Linens.—If a plain edge finish is used and further decoration is desired, appliqué, simple embroidery stitches or monograms may be used.

The Damask Hem.—The damask or napery hem is most suited to fine table linens. It is made by folding a hem on the cloth from $\frac{1}{2}$-1 inch wide. (See Figure 7). Crease hem back to the right side at the fold of hem. Catch both creases together with a small overhand stitch made at right angles to the fabric edge, as shown. Two threads of the material is enough to take up in each stitch.

The hem on the napkins should be $\frac{3}{4}$-1 inch wide.

If the material for the cloth or set is heavy, the corners should be mitered. In mitering, the material is cut out of the corners. This makes smooth, flat corners which are easily ironed.

To miter a corner, unfold the creased hem on the four sides and fold each corner on a true bias just as deep as the hem. Cut the material $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the crease.
When finishing a miter by hand, turn in the \( \frac{1}{4} \)-inch along the corner edge, turn the hem, bringing the mitered corners together and finish with a slip stitch. The stitches should not show on the right side. (Fig. 9).

Fig. 9.—Finishing corner by hand.

To finish a miter by machine, fold the corner, crease in half, center exactly at point of inside corner (on wrong side), and stitch by machine on the \( \frac{1}{4} \)-inch crease. Press the seam open and fold the hem down. (Fig. 8).

For the corners in narrow hems, in which the hem is too narrow to cut out, the surplus may be clipped away as much as possible, and the open end of the corner whipped securely to prevent fraying.

The Fringed Edge.—If a fringe is to be used it may be made by measuring carefully and marking the desired width back from the
outside edge. Stitch on the machine all around at that point. The threads of the material are then taken out, leaving the fringe.

A two-colored fringe may be made by selecting a solid color which will harmonize with the cloth. Measure the width the fringe is to be made, then cut a strip of the solid colored material for each side of the cloth or napkin the width of the fringe plus \( \frac{3}{4} \) inch for a turn back.

Fold down \( \frac{1}{4} \) inch on one side of the strip and pin to the wrong side of the cloth with the outside edges even and the \( \frac{3}{4} \) inch turn down next to the cloth. Baste in place and stitch on the machine. Fringe both pieces, making a heavy fringed edge. The contrasting color makes the under fringe. (A—Figure 10).

**Decorative Stitches.**—Applique or applied decoration is suitable if the edge finish of the cloth is plain. Petals, leaves, and simple straight-line designs may be cut from a contrasting color of fabric and applied with various types of stitches.

For best results, the motifs must be cut out very carefully, then the raw edges should be turned back about \( \frac{1}{8} \) inch to the wrong side, pressed and basted. The design is then pinned in place and basted to the cloth. The edges may be whipped down, stitched in place by machine or applied by tiny blanket or running stitches.

To prevent the stitches from showing, the thread should match the material, but if an interesting color effect is desired, thread of a contrasting color may be used around the edges. Straight line applique may be stitched on the sewing machine. (See Figure 10, section C.)

Simple, decorative stitches in white or color are an effective finish for cloth mats and napkins. Some stitches such as variations of the running stitch are suitable hem outlines, while more elaborate stitches may be used only at the corners of the article.

Mercerized six strand cotton thread is very satisfactory for decorative stitches, as all strands
Threaded machine stitching
Couching stitch
Single feather stitch
Treble feather stitch
Chain stitch
Wheat stitch
Blanket stitch
Overcast blanket stitch
Banded catch stitch

Bundles stitch
Hand stitched rick-rack

Single hemstitching
Italian hemstitching

Fig. 11.—Simple decorative stitches.
HOME FURNISHINGS I
4-H Record
Small Articles for the Girl's Home

Name ____________________________ Age __
Address ___________________________ County ___________
Name of Club ____________________________

Club Activities

I attended ____________ Club meetings.
I attended ____________ Home Furnishing project meetings.
I gave or assisted in giving ____________ demonstrations at club and project meetings.
I exhibited ____________ articles and helped to make ______ Club exhibits.
I attended County Achievement Day ____________, Camp ______.
District Round-Up ________________ State or District Fair ____________.
Girls in Home Furnishings are to make 4 or more things in the following list. Then check only those that you have made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Check When Completed</th>
<th>If Additional Work Was Done, Give Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scarf for dresser, chest, table or sewing machine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pair of pillowcases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protector for comfort or blanket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washable cushion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picture (select and frame, or make)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple wall hanging</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washable chair seat and back</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box for hose, beads, gloves or handkerchiefs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wastepaper basket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footstool</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch cloth or set</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How I Made My Articles**

1. Dresser scarf will wash and iron easily
2. Dresser scarf fits the piece of furniture
3. Seams in pillowcases overcasted
4. Pillowcases made in all white
5. Comfort protector will launder well
6. Cushion cover easily removed for washing
7. Preshrunk material used or material shrunk before making the chair seat cover
8. Lunch cloth and napkins easily washed and ironed
may be used for coarse work or separated for fine material.

Pictures for the Girl's Room

Pictures are appreciated for the beauty of their color, line or shape. A few well chosen ones give interest and charm to a room. Each picture should be chosen for its meaning to the person who occupies the room.

A picture that is beautiful in color may serve as a guide in selecting colors for the room, especially for the accessories.

Good prints or appliqued pictures made of felt or print material and samplers embroidered
on cloth are very attractive if they are well framed.

The frame should bring out the beauty of the picture and not call attention to itself in color or decoration. Plain molding makes a very good frame. If it is not possible to frame a picture permanently when it is selected, it may be framed for temporary use with passe partout tape.

To frame a picture with passe partout, mount it on cardboard, with or without a mat, over which place the glass. The back cardboard, the picture and glass should be held together with clip clothespins while preparing to apply the tape around the edge.

Cut a piece of passe partout tape about an inch longer than the distance around the edge of the picture. Fold the tape through the center lengthwise. With the beginning end of the tape about two inches from one corner, place the center of the fold on the edge of the glass and moisten the glued side with a wet cloth. Then paste it carefully and evenly over the outside of the glass and back cardboard while holding the picture in place firmly on three sides with the pins. Remove one pin at a time on the side being pasted. Cut off any extra tape and join the edges neatly. Each corner of the tape should be mitered and folded flat as it is turned.

If a ring loop of cord, or other type of hanger is to be used, it should be placed directly in the center of the black cardboard just below the edge of the tape. But if the picture is to be hung from a wire stretched across the back, it will be necessary to measure down $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches from each top corner, depending upon the size of the picture, and place a screw eye at each side of the frame. The thin wire may then be securely fastened in the screw eyes.

![Fig. 13.—Print mounted on cloth.](image)

It is best to hang pictures flat against the wall and so that the wires do not show. The center of the picture should be on the level with the eye when a person is standing in the room.

If pictures are to be mounted with a mat, the margin should be in pleasing proportion. For a square picture make the bottom margin the widest, and the sides and top equal. In a vertical oblong make the bottom margin the widest, the top next, and the sides

Fig. 14.—Width of margins for mounted pictures.

Fig. 15.—A cretonne wall hanging.
the narrowest. For a horizontal oblong the bottom should be the widest, the sides next, and the top narrowest. (Fig. 14).

If the room is plain or the pictures are not suitable in size or type, a textile such as an India print or other decorative fabric may be selected. A hanging made from a firm fabric may be unlined. Side hems of from ¼ to ¾ inch are made depending on the side of the hanging. The bottom hem is wider, varying from 1 to 2 inches. A casing is made at the top for a hanging rod. (Fig. 15).

Light weight fabrics should have muslin or sateen linings. The lining is hemmed separately and left free at the bottom. It may be sewed in a seam to the hanging at the sides or caught loosely with a slip stitch.

A plain fabric hanging may be decorated in various stitches, applique, stencils or block printing. Conventional designs are most suitable for hangings. Sateen, crash, and monk’s cloth are satisfactory background materials. A stenciled wall hanging is shown in Figure 1.

**Stools**

Several types of stools may be made at home. A dried fruit box or nail keg makes a useful occasional seat as well as serving for storage of shoes or sewing materials. Stools made from boxes or similar containers should be covered with colorful material, pleated or gathered into a full-length flounce. Light-colored covers should be made easily removable for laundering. A well padded top improves its appearance and usefulness.

A small wooden stool with a woven fiber top may be stained or shellacked. A stool with a solid top is most attractive with a hooked, crocheted, or braided mat made to cover the top.

A foot stool made from a dried fruit box with a hinged top gives a small storage space. The box is reinforced inside at each end with two by fours to give a firm base for the legs of the stool. The legs may be made from wooden door stops, wooden blocks, spools or metal gliders. The inside is papered or painted. The top is padded and the whole stool covered with print, cretonne, burlap or other durable fabric.

**Wastebasket**

A wastebasket is a very useful article for a bedroom. The size and shape should be in keeping with the dresser or table near which it will be placed.

Tin or wire baskets may be painted to harmonize with a room. Reed baskets should be shellacked for best use. Cardboard boxes may be cut to the desired size, covered and lined with wall paper or other decorative or plain paper which matches the room. A large cardboard ice cream container, obtainable from dealers, may be made into a wastebasket. The cover and lining should fit smooth-
ly and be pasted firmly to the box so that the corners and edges of the paper will not loosen. The top and bottom edges of the box, and the corners if preferred, may be bound with passe partout tape, heavy gummed paper or cloth binding. The paper-covered box may be shellacked, so it may be cleaned more easily.

**Orderly Dresser Drawers**

Well arranged dresser drawers provide more storage space for articles and add to the convenience of the occupant of the room.

Partitions made of cardboard may be used to divide the space for various articles, or boxes with or without divisions may be fitted into the drawer to hold hose, handkerchiefs, jewelry, and other small accessories. (Fig. 18).
Boxes from 2 to 4 inches in height are most suitable for dresser drawers. They may be plain or covered neatly with paper or cloth.

A pocket on one or more sides of the drawer keeps small articles orderly. It is made double and attached to the drawer with thumb tacks or very small carpet tacks on the inner side of the top of the pocket. A casing for elastic is made around the entire top. Fabric for the pocket is cut twice the finished depth plus the width of the two casings. In length it is 1½ times the length of the side of the drawer. The fullness which is taken up by the elastic increases the storage space.

A clean, orderly room is a joy to every girl, and she should have pride in keeping it restful, healthful and attractive.
SCORE CARD FOR PILLOW CASES

1. Suitability of materials ................................................................. 40
   A. Strong well-twisted yarns
   B. Firm, close threads
   C. Even weave
   D. Very little sizing
   E. Smooth texture
   F. Sewing thread, size and type suitable to fabric

2. Workmanship ................................................................................. 30
   A. Hems—suitable and even width
   B. Material torn or cut straight with the threads
   C. Stitching even and secure with satisfactory length of stitch
   D. Seams securely finished
   E. Decorative work neatly finished on right and wrong side
   F. All ends of thread securely fastened

3. Choice of decoration ................................................................. 20
   A. White
   B. Simple and appropriate
   C. Good laundering qualities
   D. Design conforming to the structural lines of the article

4. General appearance ................................................................. 10
   A. Cleanliness and pressing

SCORE CARD FOR DRESSER SCARF

1. Suitability ................................................................................ 35
   A. Desirable laundering qualities of fabric and decoration
   B. Color and texture suited to other furnishings
   C. Protects the surface and forms a background for articles on dresser

2. Construction (Workmanship) .................................................. 30
   A. Good machine and hand stitching
   B. Decorative work neatly finished on right and wrong side
   C. All ends of thread securely fastened

3. Combination of materials ......................................................... 15
   A. Texture
   B. Color

4. General appearance ................................................................. 20
   A. Simplicity
   B. Hems and finishes in proportion to the runner
   C. Design conforming to the structural lines of the article
   D. Cleanliness and pressing

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING
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Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, and June 30, 1914