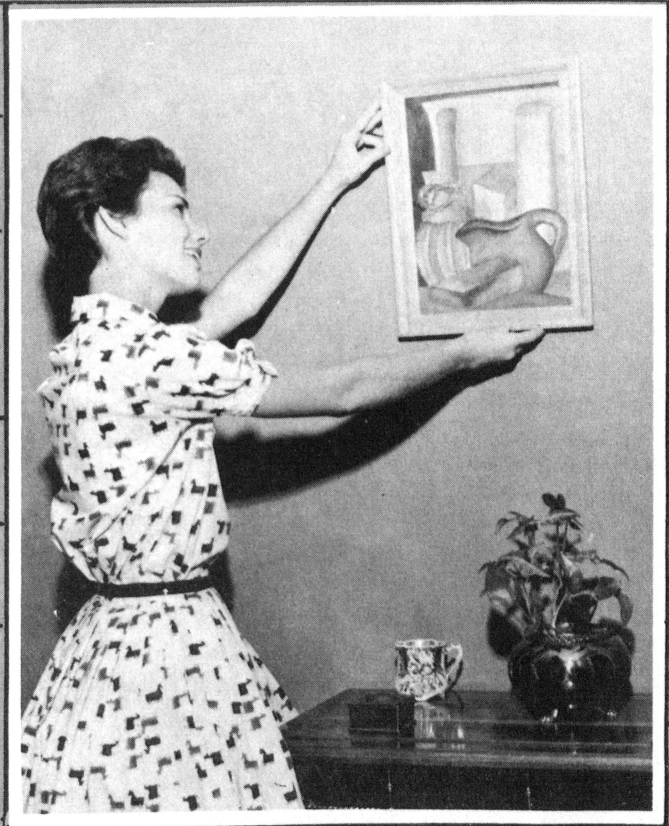


147

BRIGHTEN A SPOT!



4-H Home Management Series



When You Brighten A Spot

Every boy and girl appreciates a cheerful, orderly, and attractive home and enjoys having a part in making it pleasant. This may mean assuming responsibility for keeping things neat and tidy as well as adding articles that you make or buy.

Your own touch in the little things—the way you arrange furniture, choose interesting colors, decorate tables—makes your house different from everyone else's.

As you carry out the requirements of this project listed below, you will be most successful if you always consider the following points:

Will the finished product be attractive and do the job?

Are my materials well chosen and of good quality?

Have I done my best?

Your Project Requirements

1. Make four of the articles listed under "Ideas for Things to Make." Select and buy as many additional articles as you wish or that your pocketbook allows.

2. Select at least three things to do from the "idea list" on page 4.

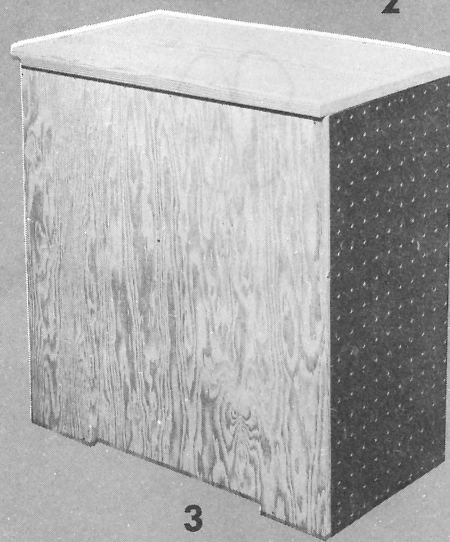
Add Your Own Ideas

In this leaflet, exact directions are not given for making the articles listed. The pictures should suggest some ways you can make them. Your leader will have some suggestions and reference materials are available which will be helpful—see page 4. You can also get ideas from books, magazines, store displays and interesting homes.

—By Alice Mae Alexander



2



3



IDEAS FOR THINGS TO MAKE....

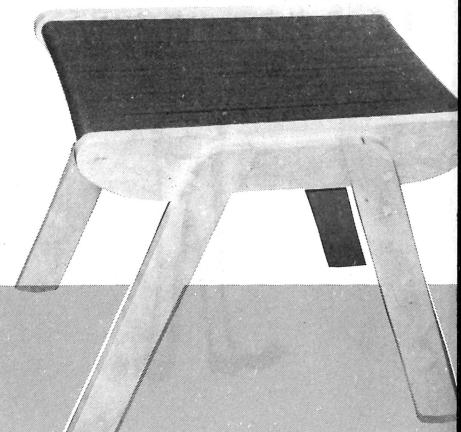
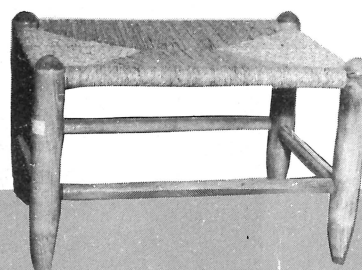
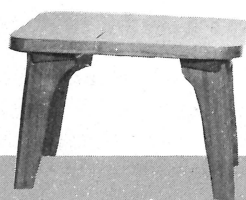
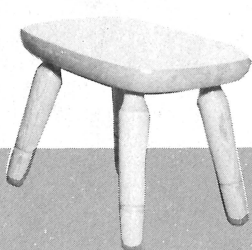
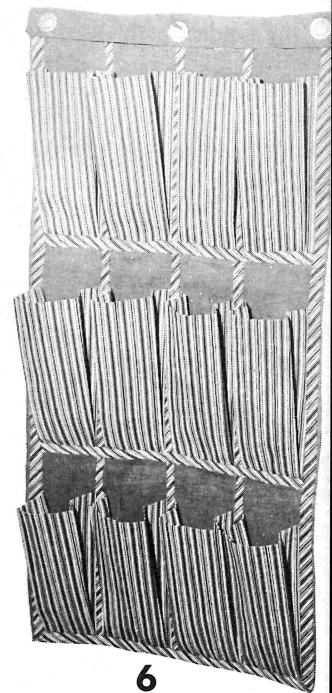
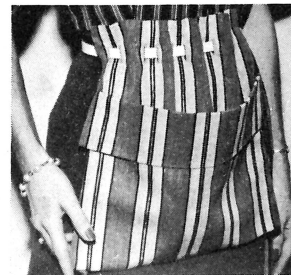
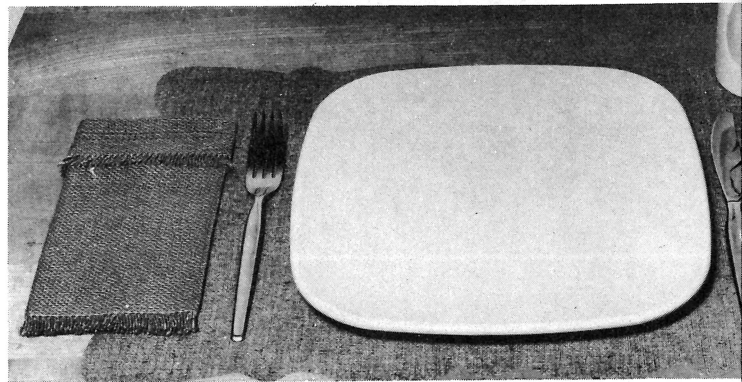
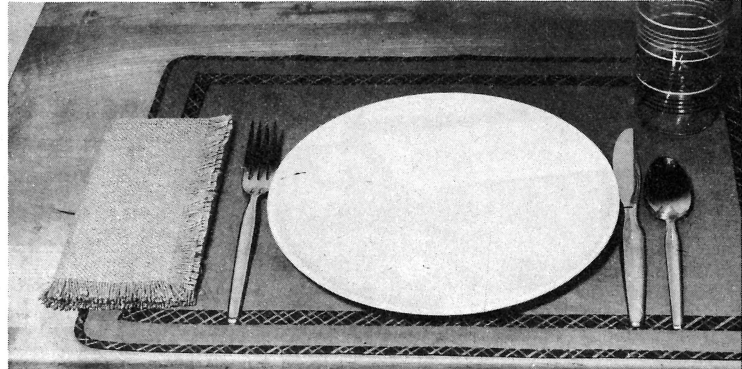
1. Brighten a spot with a well chosen picture such as Priscilla is doing on the cover. She painted and framed hers! You could do this, too, or else frame a picture that you already have. Frames to refinish may often be found in Grandmother's attic or at a second hand store, or you could buy an unfinished one. Other things can be used to decorate a wall. You might like a bulletin board for your room made of insulation board, cork, peg board or other material. Mirrors, wall hangings, maps, decorative shelves, and shadow boxes are possibilities, too. Can you think of any others?

2. Make some colorful pillows to decorate a bed or divan, to pad a stool or bench, or for on-the-floor-sitting. Cover a stuffed or foam rubber pillow with easy-to-care-for material such as denim, felt, plastic, or upholstery material. Priscilla used corduroy. The seam at the edge may be plain, or finished with a french seam turned to the outside, cording, brushed fringe, or a wide hem. Various methods of closing the opening may be used—zippers, tape with embedded snaps, a simple over-lapping at the back, hand stitching taken out each time the cover is removed, eyelets for lacing, or gripper snaps. The size and shape of the pillows are up to you.

3. Turn carpenter and make a plywood and peg board clothes hamper for your soiled clothes such as in Figure 3. If you can't use a hammer and saw maybe you could add the finishing touches to Dad's handiwork. Or if you're a seamstress, make a laundry bag like Nancy's. She used denim. Keep in mind that the bag should be attractive, durable, easily laundered, and simple to make. Nancy used a wooden coat hanger to shape the top. She finds the side seam opening desirable since she hangs the bag on her closet rod. The pocket is handy for socks and hankies.

4. Try your hand at making or finishing one of the T.V. stools pictured below. Hobby shops carry ready-to-build kits. Directions are available for making the stools with woven tops. Choosing and applying the correct finish for the wood is most important! A dull surface is usually better than a shiny one. The wood should feel like satin when you have completed your handiwork.

5. Design a magic pocket or cleaning apron to make your housekeeping tasks easier. Figure 5—top—A strip of material 12 inches wide and 36 inches long provides generous hems for a pocket 12 inches deep. This magic pocket is finished at the waist with a plastic apron ring woven through buttonholes. A small belt could be used. Of course washable material is a must. Denim was used for both of these aprons.





8



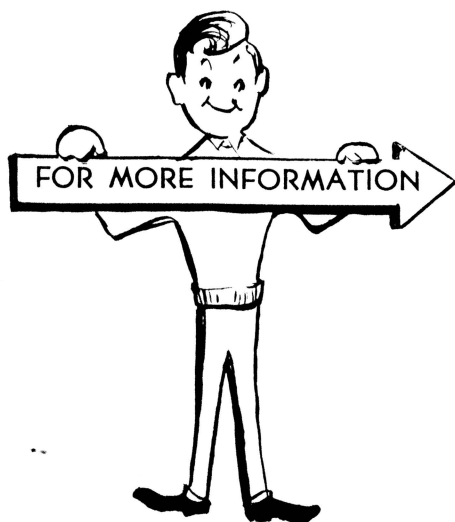
9

6. Dress up your closet with a shoe bag that fits into your decorative scheme. Material should be washable, stiff enough to hold its shape, strong enough to be durable, and easy to handle. Materials such as denim, pillow ticking, Indian head, and quilted plastic are all good. Look at a ready-made shoe bag for suitable measurements and ideas for construction. If you would rather have a shoe rack, you will need to get out your carpenter tools.

7. Shop for interesting materials to make table linens (place mats, luncheon clothes, napkins, and lapkins.) Keep in mind dishes and glassware to be used as well as other room furnishings, when choosing color, pattern, and texture. Size depends on your table. Pictured are two ideas for mats—one of easy-to-care-for plastic with a tweedy look that's cut in a scalloped design. A plaid bias tape decorates the Indian head place mat. You have a wide choice of finishes to choose from. Just be sure that the hems and corners are flat and securely sewn so they will stand frequent laundering.

IDEAS FOR THINGS TO DO....

1. Imagine you are a stranger and go on a picture inspection tour of your home. Need any changes? New ones? How about the way they are hung?
2. Are you afraid to open the closet doors? Does close examination reveal space that is not used to good advantage? Rearranging may be all that is needed. If permanent storage items cannot be obtained, see what you can do with boxes. This can be fun!
3. Does your home have an inviting spot to read or study? Try arranging a desk or table for convenience and attractiveness. Matching blotter, bookends and wastebasket were purchased for the desk in Figure 8. David used boxes as dividers in his desk drawer.
4. Nothing could brighten a spot more than a good lamp properly placed. By following any of the recipes found in "See Your Home in a New Light," you'll be pleased and your eyes will be grateful.
5. Food seems to taste better when served from an attractive table. Surprise the family by setting the table as if for company. Arrange a center piece of flowers or fruit.
6. Work out an arrangement with Mother to assume responsibility for cleaning certain parts of the house. Learn to use equipment such as vacuum cleaner and attachments.
7. Keep a scrapbook of ideas that you could use in the future in decorating your room or other rooms in the house.



You may get the following material at your county Extension office.

BULLETINS—

Extension Cir. 519—Weaving Chair Seats
 Extension Cir. 542—Selection and Use of Home Accessories
 Extension Cir. 564—Refinishing Furniture
 4-H Circular 106—Growing and Sharing Flowers
 See Your Home in a New Light
 Especially for the Girls

MIMEOGRAPHED MATERIAL

How To Frame Pictures
 Wood Finishes Applied to Picture Frames
 Directions for making T.V. stools
 Directions for making a shoe rack