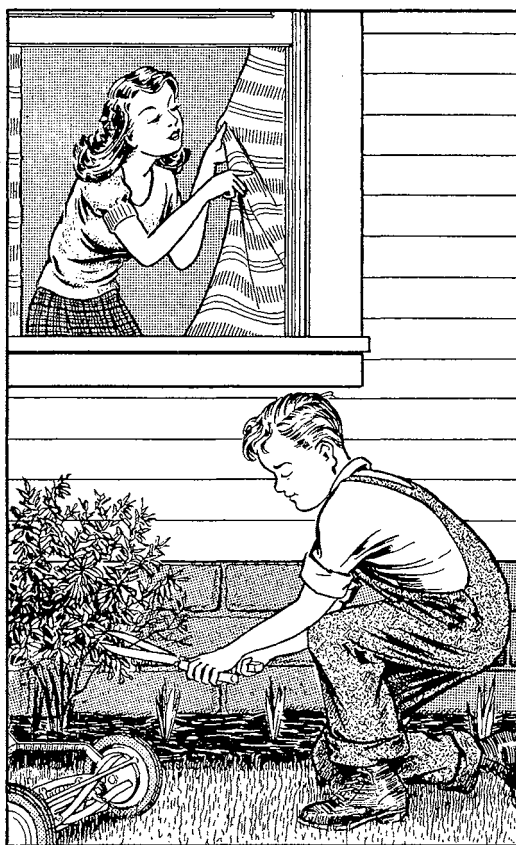


stp, gov's
MN
2000
FHB
29

4-H Home Improvement

Charlotte Kirchner
and State 4-H Club Staff



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Serve on the Home Front
Help Pave the Way to Victory
MAY 25 1943
ST. PAUL CAMPUS LIBRARIES

This archival publication may not reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations.
Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>

Arrange the Furniture for Use

The four rules of furniture arrangement are:

- Keep it simple
- Make it convenient
- Plan for comfort
- Work for balance

Plan the arrangement of furniture to take care of the family's activities. Have one or all of the following:

- A reading or study unit—chair and table lamp for as many members of the family as possible.
- Lounging and visiting unit—chairs and couch. This may be worked in with one or more of the reading units.
- A game unit—table, chairs, and a game storage cabinet.
- A music unit—piano, music storage cabinet, small instrument storage cases, and comfortable chairs. This may be worked in with one of the above.
- A dining unit (if a family eats most of its meals in the kitchen)—table, chairs, wall shelf, and windows.
- Dressing unit—dressing table or chest, chair or stool, and a good light.

Remember that:

- Crowded rooms seem small. Sort out the furniture and move some to another room if necessary.
- Large rooms with not much furniture seem smaller and cozier if furniture is moved out away from wall.
- Don't place furniture cater-cornered, it makes a room look busy and small.
- If wall space is limited, set desks and larger tables at right angles to the wall, or to a window.
- Keep center of room clear.
- Hang pictures, shelves, etc., so that they make a unit with a furniture grouping.
- Don't always be ready for a club meeting. Move the chairs away from the wall and group with other furniture.
- Don't put all the heavy pieces in one end of room.

Some Pointers on Care and Repair of Furniture

If we keep our furniture in good repair we make our homes more attractive, give a lift to our family morale, and save the money new things would have cost to buy War Bonds.

WHENEVER

Scratches appear on chair and table legs—Apply a small amount of walnut oil stain to scratches with a pad of soft cloth. With a clean cloth polish the entire piece. Oil stain polishes as well as conceals.

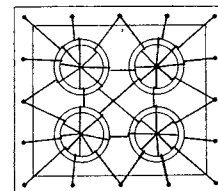
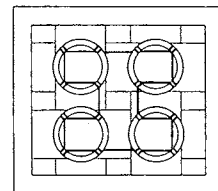
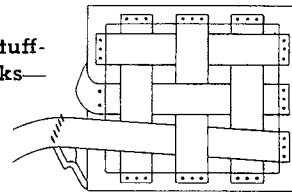
Fingerprints, foggy finish, general soil appear—Wash the furniture with warm soap suds, then wipe with a cloth wrung out of clean warm water. Wipe with a dry cloth and apply a coat of polish. A good polish for oiled or varnished furniture consists of $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vinegar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup boiled linseed oil, and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup turpentine. Put in a glass jar and shake until it becomes blended. Apply a very little on a clean cloth. Rub well into furniture. Polish with a clean soft cloth.

Upholstery fabric becomes soiled—Dissolve $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of mild soap flakes in four cups of water. Add 2 table-spoons of household ammonia and cool the solution. When ready to use, put $\frac{1}{2}$ cup in a large bowl and with a dover egg beater beat up a dry suds. Apply the suds with a firm brush to the upholstery in small areas at a time and scrub well. Rinse with a cloth wrung out of warm water and then rub with a dry, soft cloth to take up any moisture. Don't get upholstery fabric any wetter than you can help.

Springs come untied, the stuffing wads, or the webbing breaks

If a chair or couch is in very bad need of repair of this kind it is best to take the covering off, remove the springs, etc., and start from the beginning.

1. Retack the webbing. Tack one end of webbing with two tacks letting the end extend $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Using web stretcher, pull opposite end as tight as possible, turn end back, and tack three times.
2. Sew on the springs. A curved upholsterer's needle will help.
3. Tie the springs. Plan to tie each spring with four cords, making eight knots on each spring. Tie a knot in one end of the diagonal cords and tack



down through the knot at one corner. Draw the twine diagonally across the spring, working toward you. Press the spring down even with the sides of the chair and, holding the twine firmly in place along the outer edge of the spring nearest the corner, tie a figure eight knot. Pull the cord across the spring and tie again in the same manner. Continue to the next spring and so on to the corner where a knot is tied and tacked securely to the frame. When the springs have been tied diagonally both ways, tie them in the same manner lengthwise and crosswise so that each spring is tied eight times.

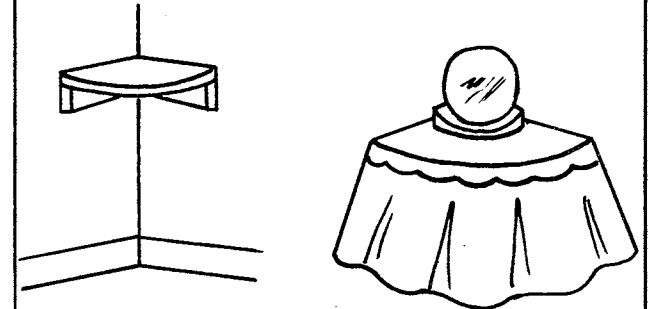
4. Cover springs with a feed sack or muslin.
5. Pad well. If old stuffing is used, it should be shaken and aired. Moss for stuffing may be bought. Sew securely to the muslin covering the springs, using the curved needle again.
6. Cover padding with upholsterer's cotton and tack securely at edge of frame.
7. Cover padding with unbleached muslin or sacks before re-covering or slip-covering the entire piece of furniture.

Renewing Old Wood Finish

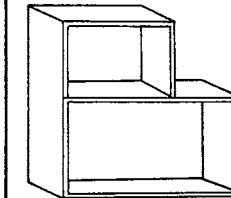
1. Apply a commercial varnish remover or, if desired, use a homemade varnish remover. Dry before sanding.
 2. Fill nail holes, gouges, and other similar mars with plastic wood. Let dry thoroughly before sanding.
 3. Remove stains with oxalic acid solution. Purchase 10 cents worth of oxalic acid crystals at the drug store and dissolve in one pint of water. Wash onto the stain and let stand until dry. (Be careful—this solution is poison if taken internally.)
 4. Sand until clean and smooth. Use in this order—sandpaper No. 1—No. 0—No. 00.
 5. Wash with turpentine to remove all dust.
 6. FOR WALNUT, MAPLE, BIRCH, OR PINE apply 6 to 7 coats of boiled linseed oil. Let each coat dry 2 to 3 days. Sand lightly before applying next coat. Sand last coat until satiny.
 7. FOR OAK OR ANY OF WOODS listed above apply one coat of best varnish obtainable. Let dry 48 hours. Sand lightly before applying second coat. Let dry and then rub down with a cloth pad dipped first in boiled linseed oil and then in powdered pumice.
- If you prefer blondes, follow steps 1-5, inclusive, and
8. Thin a white, semigloss paint one half with turpentine. Paint on furniture surface and wipe off excess paint immediately.
 9. Let dry 24 hours. Apply finish as in step 7.

Make Some Furniture Yourself TRY THESE

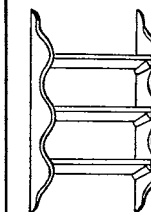
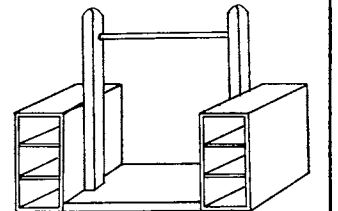
A corner dressing table or book shelf when you haven't much room.



A bookcase and end table combined.

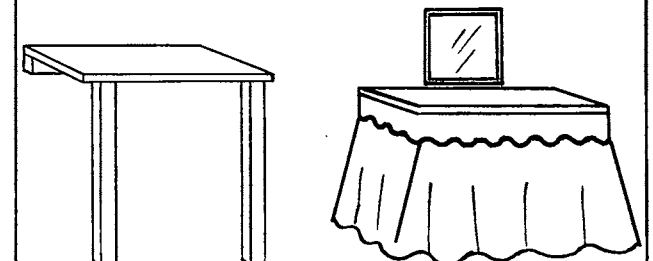


No closet space? Try this. Or use it in the kitchen or hall for wraps, over-shoes, and mittens.



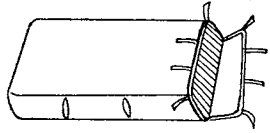
Shelves for the kitchen for your books or for your treasure collection.

A shelf dressing table.



Sleep Well

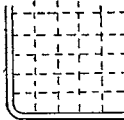
During these days when every member of the farm family is working harder than usual, it is as important to have sufficient restful sleep as it is to have enough nutritious food. Comfortable, smoothly made beds will help to secure such sleep.



Mattresses

A mattress cover made from unbleached muslin will keep the mattress fresh and clean.

A mattress pad of quilted cotton will give added smoothness. These can be made at home of unbleached muslin and cotton or can be bought ready-made.



Turn the mattress once a week—end for end or side for side—to avoid depressions. Strip the bed and air the mattress once a week.



THIS

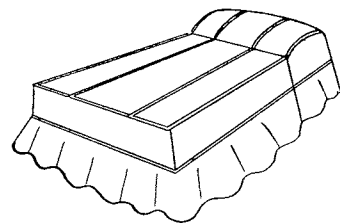
NOT THIS

Pillows

Keep pillows soft and fluffy, not limp and hard. Air them. Wash them. Put them in new ticks.

Sheets and Pillow Slips

Make sheets long enough to tuck under well. 81 x 108 inches are good measurements. Use one short sheet to add length to other short ones. Make same width hem at either end of sheet. Undecorated sheets and pillow slips are more practical. Save time for more important things. Sleep in sheets laundry fresh. Hang them straight on the line, fold carefully when dry, and use without ironing to save time.



Spreads

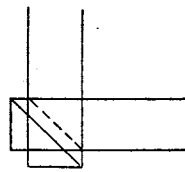
Keep spreads simple and easily laundered. If you buy them, select cotton crash, seersucker, tufting, or unbleached muslin. If you make your own, use checked gingham, dress prints, seersucker. Make them so that necessary seaming becomes part of the spread design.

Warm Quilts and Comforters

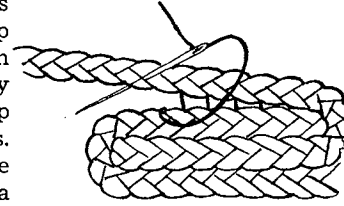
Utilize old wool or odd pieces of all kinds of cotton material to make attractive quilts. Use a wool or cotton bat between covers of a bright dress print. Tie with a harmonizing yarn.

Make These from Things on Hand

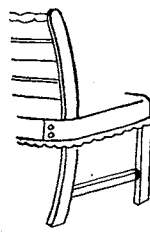
If you want to make a braided rug:



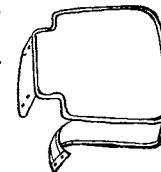
1. Use only wool that is past using for any other purpose, or use firm cotton material.
2. Cut strips two inches wide.
3. Fold like double bias tape and press or baste.
4. Join strips with a bias seam.
5. Weave or sew braids together with a strip of material or with carpet warp or heavy cord—using a slip stitch through strands.
6. Finish off strip of one color before starting a new one by weaving ends through braid.
7. Start new color at a different place on the rug than where previous strip ended.
8. Choose rich harmonizing colors.



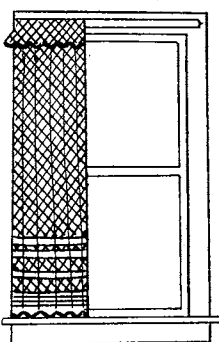
If you want to dress up your straight chairs:



1. Use a gay-colored dress print, printed or colorful feed sacks, or a small-patterned, attractive cretonne.
2. Cut pattern the shape of chair seat, cutting out for arms and splats as necessary.
3. Use a straight piece of goods for apron—extending side pieces to a length long enough to tie on or snap around and onto back.
4. Use a pleated flounce, ruffle, or cording to finish bottom edge.
5. Make a simple, fitted slip for chair back.



If you need to make curtains:

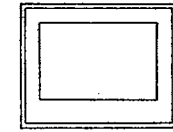
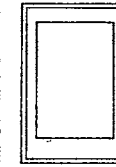


1. Try gay dress prints, unbleached muslin, checkered or plaid gingham, seersucker, or figured or gayly colored feed sacks.
2. Plan for a one-fourth-inch hem at each side, a two-inch hem at the bottom, and a one-inch casing plus a one-inch heading at the top.
3. Make them plenty wide so they will hang full and softly.
4. Make them sill or apron length.
5. Trim them with: white muslin ruffles on print; printed ruffles on muslin or plain-colored material; bands of material or bias tape.



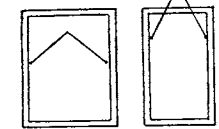
Accessories to Add That Special Touch

Choose Pictures



- That mean something to you.
- That are lovely in color.
- That are framed simply.

- That are framed with well-planned margins.
- That are impersonal. Avoid too many photographs.
- Hang pictures over a furniture grouping.
- Hang them at eye level as you stand before them.
- Hang them without any wire or hooks showing.



Use Table Covers

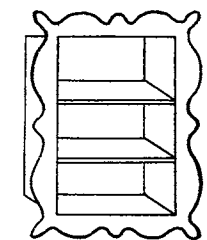
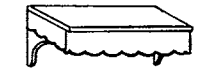
- Don't have them too bright or too light. White isn't so good, because it doesn't blend with wood finishes.
- Use a shape that is in harmony with the surface.
- Don't let covers hang over ends of tables; don't drape them cornerwise.
- Keep them simple—avoid too much embroidery, fringe, and shiny material.

Select Lamps

- Choose lamp bases that are in good proportion to surface on which they are used.
- Choose a plain but colorful base.
- Shades should be light in color and heavy enough so the shape of the bulb does not show through when lighted.
- Shades should be simply made.
- Avoid the too fussy.

Collections of This and That

- If it's figurines, plan a shelf or shadow box to house them.
- If it's glass, put up shelves in the sunniest window and watch it sparkle.
- If it's cacti, make a window garden.



Use only a few accessories and keep them simple