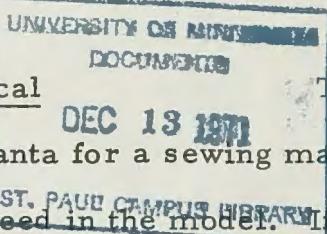


AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE - UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

December 10, 1971

Ask Santa To Be Practical



If you're asking Santa for a sewing machine, be sure you know exactly what you need in the model. If simple garments and mending may be your only use for the machine, why ask Santa for the expensive model?

Thelma Baierl, extension clothing specialist at the University of Minnesota, indicates that a straight stitch machine can be amazingly versatile with just a few attachments. With a zig-zag attachment and buttonhole maker, it can do almost anything most homemakers sew.

The most expensive zig-zag machines have a number of cams for embroidery. You can go as deluxe as you want or buy a minimum of attachments in a less expensive zig-zag model.

If you buy a cabinet model, you are buying a piece of furniture as well as a machine. Decide how much of the purchase price is machine and how much is cabinet. You may want to buy a portable with a special sewing cabinet instead. Or, have a cabinet made.

Ask for demonstrations of several models. Then, take time for your decision...considering cost, your needs and the machine's performance. And if Santa hasn't been clued in, maybe you ought to accompany him shopping.

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Unordered Merchandise Becomes Gift

Time: 45 sec.

Unexpected packages in the mail can be a pleasant surprise-- or a real headache. Unordered merchandise can be considered a gift, according to Edna Jordahl, extension home management specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Anything sent to you unsolicited is not your responsibility. You may use it, give it away or dispose of it. Since you are not legally bound for unasked merchandise, you needn't be badgered by companies seeking payment. Federal law protects you from a barrage of bills and allows you to keep or get rid of the package.

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FTC Proposal On Prepaid Mail Orders

Time: 1 min.

The number one consumer complaint stems from nondelivery or unusual delays with mail orders. A regulation has been proposed by the Federal Trade Commission to protect the consumer. Full refunds would be required on all prepaid merchandise not shipped within 21 days.

The seller doesn't have to adhere to the 21 day period if he has disclosed the estimated shipping time in the ad. Written consent from the buyer could also be obtained in case of a delay. Magazine subscriptions aren't subject to the 21 days, except for the initial shipment. Trading stamps are treated as money and must be refunded if ordered merchandise is not shipped.

This Federal Trade Commission proposal is not yet a regulation. January 17 is the deadline for the public to file written comments or request an opportunity to testify. Send complaints on nondelivered mail orders to the Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington D.C. 20580...by January 17.

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