



SEWING TIME SAVERS

Quick repairs are easy at the ironing board when you make a felt pin-up sewing kit that can be pinned to the padded top. Fit the piece of felt with a pin-cushion, loops for scissors, black and white thread. A little pocket with snap fastened top takes press studs, shirt buttons, hooks and eyes.

PEELING PAINT

Peeling paint on walls or ceilings is often the result of dampness or surface grease, or of insufficient preparation.

With some paints, especially the oil type, painting is best done during dry mild weather. Any type of moisture forms a barrier which prevents the paint adhering properly.

Grease or dirt on the surface also causes trouble, especially in kitchens. Washing down with household detergent will remove it.

NEW AXE HANDLES

New axe handles should be treated to give longer life. Bore a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch hole in the centre of the saw-cut, about 3 inches deep. Fill with raw linseed oil each day for a few days, after closing the outer edges of the cut with putty or soap. The oil will penetrate the wood, making it pliable.

When fitting handle into the blade don't bang handle end on ground to make the head slide on. This burrs the end of the handle, causing it to split.

Hold handle firmly in a wooden vyce, and drive head on with a short, solid piece of hardwood. If the head fits too tightly and raises a burr on the handle, this is easily rasped off.

WHEELBARROW WISDOM

Wheelbarrows are now expensive items and need some care. If of wood, keep it painted to resist decay and warping during hot or wet weather. If metal, don't leave the barrow standing for months on wet soil or grass. If fitted with a rubber tyre, keep the barrow under cover when not in use, and use a block to jack up the tyre so that it is not always resting on concrete which may cause a flat patch. Keep the axle well oiled and no matter what the barrow is made of, galvanised iron or wood, paint it every year to lengthen its life. The writer has an iron barrow that is now 30 years old and still giving good service.

Repairs to Window Shade Rollers

Occasionally a window shade roller refuses to hold and is discarded. In most cases the roller is re-usable if the spring inside is not broken. Usually, the trouble is caused by ratchets sticking at the spring end of roller, due to rust or corrosion. Since oil picks up dust it is not advisable to use oil on the ratchet pins, but ordinary talcum powder will do the trick. Just sprinkle talcum powder around the ratchets at the spring end of the roller and move the ratchets on it back and forth a few times. Then replace the roller in its brackets.

Fitting Corks

Corks are sometimes difficult to fit, so here are several suggestions. New corks should be thoroughly softened before using. This can be done by rolling them between two wooden surfaces or by tapping them with a hammer all around.

Corks may be made to give an air-tight fit by treating them with paraffin wax. Melt paraffin in a pan at a temperature of about 158 degrees Centigrade and throw in corks, covering them with weighted wire gauze so that they will remain submerged. At the end of ten minutes the corks may be removed. When cold, it is possible to cut them like wax and they will fit tightly.



Pretty little Beryl Johnson of Cootamundra