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Christmas Gifts From My Christmas Paint Shop

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A Japanese print may be framed close in a narrow black moulding, or it may be mounted on a piece of silk which is interesting in texture and of a neutral color harmonious with the print. The silk needs to be first stretched over a pasteboard. To paste the print upon the mount, place paste on the upper edge of the print only and place it upon the silk so that the top and side margins are about the same width, while the lower margin is wider. Then frame in a black or gray frame.

A black moulding brings out the color of a print and ties all of the colors together. The gold frame which is dull and soft is almost neutral in color. The polychrome frames of gold and colors are particularly good with some of the Madonnas or religious pictures by the old masters, but the bright gilt frame is very trying to most pictures. Even oil paintings are frequently more beautiful in stained wood frames. A small line of gold or color around the inner edge of a moulding is sometimes good.

In hanging pictures, the center of the picture should be on the average level of the floor and one half foot from the floor. Either the upper edge of the frames or the lower edges of the pictures should be on the same horizontal line—the same distance from the floor. Nothing is more unesthetic than to see pictures placed in step-ladder style. If a small group of pictures is desired near a desk, they may be grouped so as to form a whole. The distance between pictures of a group, should be less than the width of the frame, so that they will not appear scattered. The shape of the picture should conform to the proportion of the wall space. A vertical picture is best in a long narrow space, and a horizontal picture in a wide, long space.

The screw eyes should be placed high enough on the back of the frame so that the picture will hang flat against the wall. Since the structural lines of the room are horizontal or vertical, the wires or cords supporting the picture should be vertical. The triangle frequently formed by the picture wires and the point of support at the moulding is in harmony and therefore satisfactory.

A fine oriental rug, a tapestry, a Paisley shawl, a piece of Chinese or Japanese embroidery or a modern textile may take the place of a picture.

For the college student, who has few framed pictures, a well chosen magazine illustration, fine in color, may be well mounted and attached to the wall by means of a small piece of gummed paper or cloth, without danger of marring the wall. A new print may be substituted on the mount from time to time as desired, but the note of color will add much to the appearance of the room, especially if the colors of the room repeat the colors in the picture.

Christmas Gifts From My Christmas Paint Shop

By MILDRED ELDER

TEMMPTING SHOP window displays, have come to thrill us with the lingering charm of Christmas and before we know it we are wondering what we are going to give our friends this Christmas. It is not always a question of what we would like to give, for sometimes we must decide on something quite inexpensive. It is fortunate that a gift which we may not have been able to show nor have the opportunity to purchase, and therefore desirable, may be obtained in a variety of colors, and be just as attractive as a gift which we can buy.

For the last few weeks I have turned much of my attention to my work shop and instead of presenting my friends with some bits of needlecraft, this year I shall surprise them with something from my paint shop.

I am using enameleac paint, an air drying enamel with a heavy body which makes the application of a second coat unnecessary. This paint dries quickly, is quite easily applied and is waterproof. It may be obtained in a variety of colors, but if one has had any experience in mixing paints it is only necessary to buy the primary colors—red, blue and yellow, and of course a large amount of black and white for the background. This paint may be obtained in different sized cans and is quite inexpensive.

The first things I found to paint were some old fashioned cheese boxes that my grandmother had stowed away, and I wish you might see what clever little cookie boxes they are now. I painted four of them. One has an old blue background with tiny little conventional flowers in bright colors, dotted around the sides and top in a promiscuous fashion. Another is of shiny black enamel with tiny little silhouettes of quaint old fashioned figures in ivory paint, which I am sure will please an aunt of mine. The other two boxes are almost alike and have daring black and white stripes up and down their sides and a top of shiny black with a little basket motif in the center.

This black and white striped effect is very attractive for flower pots in the sun parlor or in the kitchen. An ordinary tin coffee can may be converted into a most attractive cookie box too and there are many lovely motifs which might be used on a background of grey, rose, green, and even bright yellow.

One of these bright boxes will look very attractive in a friends room at boarding school or in a sister's guest room.

I happened to find some very inexpensive trays in a little variety store and have decorated them also. The first one is round and is just the thing to serve lemonade on in the summer. I painted it with a background of ivory, bordered with a group of black lines in varying widths, and a novel Indian design in the center. The other tray is a dull grey and just blends with mothers tea set so I shall give that to her to serve sandwiches on at teas. The decoration on it is an artistic little group of conventional flowers in bright colors in the center with a tiny ivory band around the edge.

It is not at all difficult to put these little designs on the boxes. The colored enamels are opaque so it can be put right over the background paint, and will not show thru. If you are able to do free hand sketching, it will be easy for you to sketch the more simple designs with a
A BIT of yarn, a piece or two of faded old gingham, a yard or so of unbleached muslin and lo—as though some fairy had waved her magic wand, the Christmas tree is turned into a fascinating bower from which peep characters of fairyland and Mother Goose fame.

The endless supply of toys which is taken from the sheltering arms of the tree will never cease to fill the little tots with wonderment and thrill. Hush, don't wake any Christmas angels, and will make Christmas last not only for a day, but for a whole season, Christmas will not end with a bang then as so many Christmases have done, but will last long after the day is over.

Why let old “Mister Hard Times” or the inevitable “High Cost of Living” interfere with the children’s happiness at this time of the year? Try a touch of originality, combined with just a small amount of invenuity and a few cents, and behold, the problem is solved. Besides the very nicest toys and the very best beloved ones are those funny, comforting ones, made by mother and cherished through babyland, childhood and even beyond.

There is a whole realm of fairyland and a whole lore of secrets from the land of make-believe that can be brought near and dear to the children, and will mean something more to them than mere bisque bodies and purely mechanical apparatus, which are too far advanced for their powers of reasoning. Entire doll houses can be made and a story of human interest told to draw and bind the family together in the child’s mind. Likewise when stories and tales from fairyland may be made realistic to him.

Too often toys are of one or two types. They are either too realistic or they are too decorative. The first class amuses the children while fancy lasts but they soon become weary of the placid faces of the dolls or the monotonous workings of the toys. The second class amuses and scares them by gruesome details or queer countenances. There is a happy medium in toys and the best way to obtain this medium is to make the toys at home.

The manner of making these toys is very simple and requires but little time. Patterns of a dolls body may be cut out, according to the proportions desired. Unbleached muslin serves as a good foundation for the body, but any plain material or an old stocking will serve the purpose as well. When the two portions have been sewed together on all sides except one, cotton batting or rags may be used to stuff the body, and the open part may be sewed down by hand. Top clothing of little gingham petticoats and striped dresses can be made. The simpler they are the better. Decorative faces of pleasing proportion and relation may be either embroidered on or sketched and hair can be made by using bits of yarn and placing them on top of the head in such a manner as to suggest their purpose.

Fancier and lovlier dolls may be made in the home, likewise. A lovely Titania with her jewels and flowing hair, a quaint Red Riding Hood in her pretty cape, and a winsome Marjorie Daw may grace the Christmas tree in all their charm and splendor. Even a ragged Topsy may beam a happy welcome on the whole scene from her place in the top most arms of the tree.

For these dolls it is advisable to use a white or near-white material for the body. Care must be exercised in making the faces. This does not mean that they are to be made realistic for that would spoil the whole purpose—they must look as tho they had just stepped out of fairyland. Finer yarn or silks will make a better head dress for these dolls, while bits of satins left over from sister’s new party dress or a piece of fine mull from mother’s dressing gown will make Titania’s costume. Red calico can transform a plain little doll into a bewitching Red Riding Hood. Scraps from last summer’s frocks will serve as a trilly and piquant dress for Marjorie Daw while any bit of black cloth combined with some black yarn will set forth a provoking and maddening Topsy.

Dolls must needs have companions and it is just as easy to make them as it is to make the dolls themselves. Of course the same simplicity from the fairy books will want their characters with them, Red Riding Hood will have to play with her old Mother Hubbard, who is as soft and not so horrid but not horrible; Titania will have a teasing, happy donkey to flap his ears at her and Old Mother Hubbard will have a lean, lanky dog who looks forward to homeless days all his life. In this way children will start to learn at an early age a great deal about stories and a great deal about placing characters together, as well.

Nationalities can also be portrayed in this manner and thus Russian peasants will play tag with French girls and with Belgian orphans.

Little boys must have their share too of these homemade Christmas toys and decorative nothing extremely mechanical can be made at home, yet many toys can be made there that will delight their hearts. These toys will hold interest for the boy as long as he is able to figure out in part how they are made, and satisfy that prying curiosity of “how” and “why” inherent in every lad.

Circular pieces of stiff paper or cardboard, cut in relative proportion and painted decoratively in many colors, when joined together will form the body of very charming boy toy in which button will constitute his bright eye and pieces of wire placed in button molds will make legs and feet. A bunch of bright colored feathers collected from old Sunday best hats will form a bewitching tail. Menageries of all the animals ever heard of or written about may be made in the same manner as the dolls with voluminous ears and twisted tails placed in precarious angles. Wooly lambs, whose composition consists of unbleached muslin bodies, thin cotton, striped gingham cats and spotted calico dogs will play peacefully together and not disturb the more ferocious lions, alligators, bears and elephants of the circus.

If any one is in the least way acquainted with manual training, quaint bits of wooden furniture may be carved in catchy decorative manner. An old apple or orange box, turned on end and painted and fitted up with the furniture just mentioned, quaint curtains at holes in the side of the box for windows and rugs made from left over carpets or braided from old rags makes a dolls house to delight the heart of any little girl.
BUFFET SERVICE MAKES HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT EASY
(Continued from page 19)

Epicurean Sauce

1/2 cup heavy cream 1 tsp. vinegar
3 tbsp. mayonnaise 1 tsp. salt
3 tbsp. grated horseradish root
few grains of cayenne pepper

Beat cream stiff with Dover egg beater. Stir in the other ingredients.

The scalloped potatoes may be cooked and reheated at the last moment.

Perfection salad, moulded in individual forms, put on a pimento cut in poinsettia form, the whole placed on a lettuce leaf, is most attractive for the color scheme.

Turkish Delight and Turkish Paste are made from recipes given elsewhere in this issue.

MY CHRISTMAS PAINT SHOP
(Continued from page 6)

box. I was fortunate in finding a pretty oval-shaped box, about ten inches high and about eighteen inches across, at a men's clothing store. I painted it in dark brown so that she might use it with her brown traveling suit. I tied the cover on with a gay ribbon of bright orange repeating the orange in a soft lining of china silk.

There are many other things that may be painted and made into charming Christmas gifts. Did you ever think of painting tiny pill boxes and putting small powder puffs in them—a most useful gift for the fastidious high school or college girl.

Shoe trees, dress hangers and many other accessories may be transformed from their plain ordinary appearance to a work of art.

Some other things which I have made in my little paint shop are some lovely Christmas candles. Just the plain tallow candles which are in themselves very inexpensive can be made really beautiful by painting them with enamelled paint in some pretty color, using some tiny little motif on them or perhaps dripping them with wax from another candle of contrasting color.

Making these gifts has been so fascinating that I fully intend to have another paint shop next year.

HOME ECONOMIC FELLOWSHIPS
By Eleanor Murray

For the first time the home economics division, this fall, has offered a fellowship in every department. The fellowship was in each case received by an Iowa State graduate.

Miss Frances Newell who received the household science fellowship has taught in the high school at Meridian, Idaho, since her graduation.

Miss Lois Rath who received the household art fellowship had her teaching experience at Charles City and Waterloo. She has more recently been a club leader in the agricultural extension department.

Miss Ruth Spencer who has done commercial designing in Kansas City since her graduation received the applied art fellowship.

Miss Lydia Jacobson received the teacher's training fellowship. She has taught in the Emmeteburg junior and normal training high schools and in the high school at Clinton.

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