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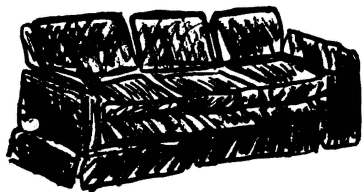
HOME ENVIRONMENT  
YOUR SPACE FOR LIVING  
UNIT III

DECORATING INFORMATION

Money isn't everything when it comes to so personal a project as decorating your own home. Although few people can afford to buy all the sumptuous little custom-looking items that transform a house into a home, there are ways of getting around such frustrations as having more taste than money. Making it yourself instead of buying it ready-made, for example, can be an inexpensive way of acquiring the things you need--and very satisfying from the standpoint of having an individual look as the result of your efforts.

When you make all your own curtains, slipcovers, pillowcases, and other accessories you can afford to buy the more expensive fabrics and trimmings that make the difference between the ordinary and the outstanding. Better quality fabrics come in the novel patterns and offbeat colors that make your home the most talked about spot in the neighborhood. So head for the sewing machine and beat the high cost of labor.

Slipcovers

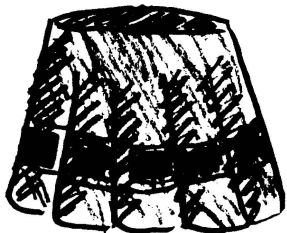


Slipcovers are a big item in the budget if you have them custom-made. Perfectly fitted slipcovers can be made at home if you are willing to follow instructions to the letter. For the special slipcover you might choose felt fabric which comes in extra wide widths and has the body necessary for a trimly tailored look. With a solid rather than a patterned material, no matching is needed. But you must check straight stitching--please. (Slipcovers, Publication 305.)

If you've never made a slipcover and are timid about braving a chair or sofa, you can improvise with something smaller, such as an ottoman, and coordinate it with curtains or another piece of furniture. (Hassock or Big Bean Bag, Publication 41.)



### Table Skirt



Sharpen your scissors and cut out a circle. Use felt or a sheet. This one is so easy it's almost unbelievable. For a real custom-look, add patterned fabric trimming, braid, or some ball fringe in contrasting colors. Use your table as a guide for size.

### Pillows

Pillows are important as a means of getting more color into your living room or bedroom, but using them as lavishly as you like can run into money. For economy, make several in all shapes and sizes. (Pads, Pillows, and Cushions, Publication 351.)

### Curtains

Very little sewing is required to duplicate the tie-back floor length curtains shown. It's even easier when you use ready-made pinch pleating tapes and other counter home sewing aids. (How to Make Cafe Curtains, Publication 96, Window Shades, Publication 253, How to Make Lined and Unlined Draperies, Publication 357.)

### Wall Art

The one of a kind look in accessories is not hard to come by if you put your imagination to work. Nothing could be easier or less costly than creating your own study in fabric. (What is a Picture, Publication 279, Notes in Creative Arts Notebook in agent's office, ask for desired copies.)

Now let's put these together in a space: this is a living center. A moderate amount of money can buy a lot of style, color, and pattern excitement thanks to the diligent use of a sewing machine. The slipcovers, ottoman cover, table skirt, pillows, curtains, and artistic framed wall art can be made by you. Oh, by the way, the round table and ottoman were rescued from a junk store; the sofa is an old one; the chic "painting" grew out of thrifty desire to use up a few leftover fabric scraps; the rug a piece of fake fur; the chair from a garbage truck; the parson table a hand-made item from childhood days--who would believe it on seeing the result. Just wish the picture was in color. You might want to color it with your colors.

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Home Furnishings

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