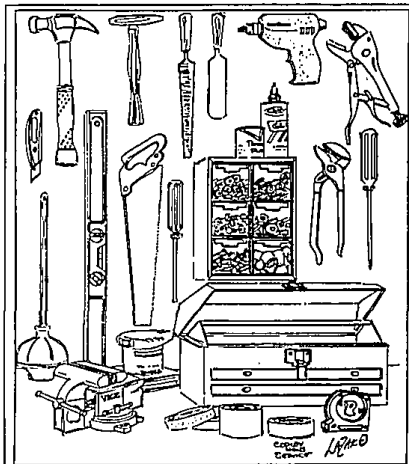


Creative Living



Monday, January 11, 1988 O&E

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Tool checklist for do-it-yourselfers

YOU WOULD like to hang the new, custom-made blinds that you just purchased. But you can't find a screwdriver.

The pipes underneath the kitchen sink need replacing. You don't want to wait another day, but you might have to — you've turned the house upside down without locating your monkey wrench.

Sound familiar? It should. It's a problem experienced by all unorganized do-it-yourselfers. But the solution is an easy one: Get a toolbox or organize your tools in an area of the garage.

What tools should a do-it-yourselfer have at her disposal? That's a tough question because it's rare to find any two handymen who will agree on which tools are "musts" for the toolbox.

But following is a list of the most-used tools according to a survey by The Register in Orange County, Calif. While this may not constitute a complete toolbox, the tools included will enable the do-it-yourselfer to take on a variety of home improvement projects.

HAND SAW: Most hand saws are designed for specific purposes. Rip saws cut with the wood grain and crosscut saws cut across it. For general purposes, crosscut saws are best since they also can be used to rip with reasonable success.

ELECTRIC SABER SAW: Versatility makes this a valuable tool. With a large-toothed blade, it can cut through heavy lumber; with a fine-toothed blade, it cuts light materials. It also can cut fairly straight or freehand cutouts. Although many models are equipped with guides, they are not recommended for finishing work.

ELECTRIC DRILL: Get a reversible, variable-speed model capable of operating at a relatively high speed. A drill with a 3/8-inch chuck (the device that holds the drill bits) and a one-third horsepower motor is adequate for most basic home uses. A set of 13 high-speed drill bits from 1/16-inch to 5/16 inch should cover most home jobs.

ELECTRIC PAD SANDER: Get one that has a back-and-forth motion (as opposed to rotary) since it works best on most kinds of wood. A 4-horsepower, 3 1/2-by-7-inch sander is adequate for most purposes.

LEVEL: A 24-inch level is big enough for most jobs and still small enough to store conveniently. It will keep do-it-yourself projects from registering "tilt."

CRESCENT WRENCH: WRENCH SET: A full set of wrenches isn't a necessity, although it wouldn't hurt. In its place, a 10-inch adjustable "crescent" will do for most jobs.

PLIERS: A slip-joint pair (one that can adjust to a variety of widths) is best. If you don't have or don't intend to purchase wire cutters, make sure your pliers have one built in.

HAMMER: There are many types of hammers, but the trusty old claw hammer is best for multi-purpose use. It comes in a variety of lengths and weights so pick that one that feels most comfortable to you.

CROWBAR: It's often, but erroneously, called a "prybar." Get one that's at least 10 inches long with an opening for gripping nail heads.

SCREWDRIVERS: The kit should include a selection of straight-bladed and Phillips-head screwdrivers, or a combination tool that can use a variety of heads, usually stored in its handle.

PLUMBER'S HELPER: Some people know it better as a good old toilet plunger. For reasons you'll just have to imagine, don't get one with a handle less than 2 feet long.

TAPE MEASURE: It comes in many sizes, but a 16-footer is adequate for most jobs.

PUTTY KNIFE: It also comes in many sizes, but one with a 1 1/2-inch-wide blade is good for all-purpose use. A putty knife is handy for spreading a variety of substances (paste and spackle, for instance) but is useful for numerous other jobs, including scraping windows and floors.

FILE/WOOD SPOKE: One that is flat on one side and rounded on the other is good for most rough jobs.

COMBINATION SQUARE: This is a metal foot-ruler with a movable right-angle and a 45-degree guide. It's a necessity to make corners square and lines straight.

UTILITY KNIFE: This all-hand knife with a tiny triangle blade showing is handy for all types of heavy-duty cutting.

FASTENERS: These include nuts and bolts, nails and screws, and your supply should include a wide variety — especially those sizes that are used frequently in your home.

GLUE: The choices are almost endless, but many people swear by plain, white household glue. But two-part epoxies (the slow-curing type) are good for safety's sake and they bond to most materials.

TAPE: Masking tape, plastic electrician's tape and silver duct tape will cover almost every home improvement job imaginable.

PATCHING MATERIAL: There are many varieties available. The best recommendation, at least for beginners: Use canned paste instead of a powder — it's easier to work with.

Now that you know what you need, you have to decide where to buy your tools. Hardware and lumber stores probably are the best places to shop because they consistently offer a wide variety of products. Those looking for bargains may have success in the hardware departments of some all-purpose stores or discount warehouses. But the selection usually is more limited.

But regardless of where you shop, make sure to buy quality tools. The adage, "You get what you pay for," certainly applies when it comes to tools. A good hammer, for instance, can cost \$15 or more, but is definitely worth it in terms of getting better results and pleasure of use when compared to a \$2 special.

Where does one store all this equipment? A toolbox is obviously for the smaller items, but ideally can't handle the bigger ones. If space in the garage permits, wall hooks or shelves look good and make it easy to find whatever tool or tools are needed for a particular job.

No need to scrimp on ideas

GREETINGS from Sarasota, Fla., and happy new year to everyone.

Shortly before I left, I received a frantic SOS from a former client who knew I would be spending time in Sarasota. "We've just purchased a condo and want to move in for the winter season and must work within a budget," she said.

My client had purchased a two-bedroom convertible garden apartment. Garden meaning on the ground floor. They inherited lovely carpeting from the previous owner. They were not happy with the color but decided to keep it because of the quality and condition. The carpet color is an azure blue and an iridescent quality — the blue changing depending on the natural or artificial light.

The carpet covers the foyer, living-dining area and the convertible (bedroom). The previous owner obviously loved any color as long as it was blue. Variations on a theme of blue extended into the kitchen vinyl flooring as well as the tile in the bathrooms.

The living-dining area is 14-by-24. The dining area is off the foyer with living room beyond. The living room opens to a lanai which has a great view of a golf course and canal. The doorwall, which opens to the lanai, was covered with vertical blinds which we decided to keep.

THE WALLS HAD BEEN freshly painted a warm cream color. With that in mind, I decided to carry the cream in the upholstered pieces. We now have an eight-foot camelback contemporary sofa with wide rolled arms and upholstered legs. The fabric is cotton twill.



designing ways

Eve Garvin

Sitting in front of the sofa is a mica table in a new texture that resembles the twill of the sofa. The background of the mica is white with the graining in almond. Two tub chairs that swivel face one another on opposite sides of the table. These are covered in a vanilla textured fabric. Facing the sofa are two French Louis IX Bergere pullup chairs. The wood frames are a whitewashed bleached oak. The seats are covered in a stripe tone-on-tone again. Vanilla in color. The seat and arms are finished with antique nailheads.

Against the wall, opposite the sofa between the living-dining area, I placed two wall units that house a bar and provide storage for whatever. The units are almond lacquer with sleek brass and vanilla lacquer pulls.

THE EFFECT OF THE cream on the walls is lovely — you have the feeling that this was done with a purpose rather than living with something because it was there.

The sofa is flanked by a square table on the side. The finish is bleached oak. On the other side sits a cream color lacquer chest with a swing arm lamp mount to the wall over it.

With budget in mind, we decided against the conventional dining table. A local cabinet shop made a

table by putting a 48-inch particle board top on a block of wood. On this, we placed a natural duck fabric table cloth. A smaller cloth with an insert of lace 16 inches wide was inserted, giving the effect of a runner placed over the full skirted cloth.

We then added a glass top and now we have a table for all occasions. Six chairs surround the table for intimate dining. For larger groups, the table serves a buffet.

The base of the lamp that sits on the table next to the sofa provided us with a clue for accent colors. Shades of blue, mauve and green are gently woven into the cream color pottery basket. The shade is coiled shape in natural linen.

I FOUND A NAVY chintz fabric with a ribbon pattern. The colors in the lamp flow through the ribbon design. Two large throw pillows with jumbo welts were made of this crisp fabric to sit with the two pillows overed in the sofa fabric.

Using the room arrangement as described gives an open airy look. One room flows into the other making the room seem larger than it is. There is seating for 11.

The convertible den (bedroom) has a sleep sofa covered in a cream chenille fabric, contemporary in style with wide rolled arms, balloon cushions and upholstered legs. Street lamps facing each other provide the

light on either side of the sofa. The effect of the height of the lamps is spectacular. The cocktail table is pickled pine. On opposite walls we have placed a television set and a white formal drop-lid secretary unit. The drawers to the unit provide storage for guests.

LOCAL ART SHOPS were used to find the posters that were framed in brass or chrome depending upon the poster. Accessories for the tables are oriental.

The master bedroom has a queen-size bed with a brass and painted headboard. The headboard is a replica of an antique. The night stands and dresser are country French and the chair white wicker. Duster and coverlet are quilted white cotton with eyelid trim. Shams are white with throw pillows reflecting colors used in the living room. The look is charming.

This project took a total of 1 1/2 days. Cities in the "sun belt" are set up for "instant decorating." In most furniture stores whatever is displayed on the floor is in their warehouse.

My client has a lovely home in Birmingham and feels as good about their second home. "This takes no back seat to my home" is what they tell me. I loved doing it — they are pleased and it's made my little vacation that much more enjoyable.

Currently a Southfield resident, Eve Garvin has been an interior designer in the area for several years. She welcomes comments and questions from readers. Send those to her in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.



organizing
Dorothy Lehmkuhl

Q. Every year I make New Year's resolutions with intentions but rarely fulfill my objectives. How can I do better this year?

A. There are two often overlooked ingredients to New Year's resolutions:

1. A time frame. Too often people decide to do something — say, clean out filing cabinets or lose 10 pounds of weight — but do not set out the cleaning or weight loss into increments nor set a specific deadline. Without much planning, they work on first one file and then another, or go on a starvation diet, instead of systematically cleaning out on a schedule or deciding to lose one or two pounds a week for a number of weeks.

A goal or resolution is something that you accomplish; it is an overall result for which you plan. It is important to understand that you don't "do" a goal. You must first plan to "do" activities to achieve a goal. Therefore, after the resolution is made, you must "do" such activities as figuring out how to limit yourself to X number of calories by doing meal planning and writing down calorie intake.

2. Motivation is also often overlooked in carrying out New Year's resolutions. At the new year, you are highly enthused about your great resolutions, but as time goes on, your fervor ebbs. Motivation is like a meal; as time passes you get hungry again. You must therefore provide yourself with enough continuing incentives to accomplish your objectives.

OUR SON, WHO HAS never been able to hold still for long, was recently hospitalized with a broken leg. How can an active youngster lie flat on his back in traction for six long weeks? The answer is easy: When moving hurts bad enough, anyone can lie very still. That's motivation.

Physical therapy was so painful at first that our son insisted he couldn't walk. When he was reminded that he couldn't go home until he did so, he took those painful steps. That's motivation.

It's too bad that sometimes we let situations in life become painful before we finally correct them. Why do we wait until we are threatened with heart disease, loss of a relationship or some dire result before we finally "shape up"? Remember the old cliché, "A stitch in time saves nine," it's easier to take off three or four pounds now, for instance, than 10 or 15 pounds later.

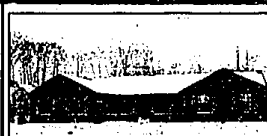
Regardless of what your goals are, write them

down, set out your time-frame and start motivating yourself: read lists to tapes, make bets, set up planning times with either friends or in classes, set aside specific times to work on them, offer yourself rewards (not food, drug or alcohol-related), or think up some other creative way to get yourself going — and stick to it. If

your incentives are strong enough, the sky's the limit to what you can accomplish. Good luck.

Dorothy Lehmkuhl welcomes questions and comments from readers. Send those to her in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

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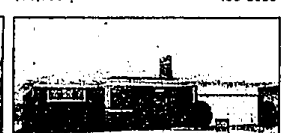
SUNFLOWER SUBDIVISION QUAD-LEVEL
Lovely home, court location, four bedrooms, two and a half baths, large family room, fireplace, deck off back leading to pool, security system, first floor laundry.
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NEWBURGH LAKE CONDO, LIVONIA
Pride of ownership reflected in this two bedroom condominium, recently remodeled kitchen offers generous cupboard space, all appliances stay, master bedroom with private bath.
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PLYMOUTH TWO BEDROOM CONDO
A rare find, walk to downtown, attached garage, full basement, cathedral ceiling, skylights in kitchen, quick occupancy is available.
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LIVONIA BRICK RANCH
3 bedrooms; 2 baths, full wall fireplace in living room, remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors under carpet, finished basement, walking distance to elementary school.
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LIT offers designs program

High school juniors and seniors, and adults who have "designs on the future" can explore their talents during two special design programs being offered on Saturdays by the Lawrence Institute of Technology (LIT) School of Architecture.

The Design Discovery and Pre-College Programs will be held on LIT's campus in Southfield, Jan. 23 through May 21.

For further information contact the LIT Admission Office at 358-0200, Ext. 3178.