

APPLIANCE DOCTOR

Brands can be identified by complaints

I would ask that you would read this column with an open mind and not feel that the product names associated with particular problems are an inference by me that these products are of inferior quality. It is just that after so many years of answering consumer questions, we in the appliance repair business can, in the majority of cases, identify a brand of product by the consumers com-

plaint or inquiry.

This doesn't mean that it can't happen to another brand which I don't mention in this article, because it most certainly can.

An example of what I mean is the homeowner who calls and says, "My refrigerator is making this screeching sound inside the freezer section which sounds like a cat who has had his tail

stepped on." My response to the question usually comes out in a statement such as, "You have a Whirlpool, Kenmore or Frigidaire refrigerator, don't you?" At this point the customer is looking at the kitchen window expecting to see my face peering in."

This problem occurs in every brand of product, but the design of the three mentioned names is such that when the bearings get dry in the freezer fan motor, it begins to screech. I don't think this was designed by the producers of these products, it just happened that way. The nice thing about it is that homeowners have learned what is wrong with their refrig-



JOE GAGNON

erator without the need of a service technician. Maybe someday, we will have appliances built so consumer-friendly that a little computer board will display what's going wrong.

No, no just perish the thought of anyone being that thoughtful, how could a manufacturer make money on the service end of the business.

I'll bet you that if you and I produced a major appliance with an indicator of every conceivable problem that could occur given to the homeowner and an instruction sheet on how to repair each of these problems, we could outsell every other manufacturer.

Let's take a gas valve on a clothes dryer which fails to put out any heat. Mrs. Jones gets on her hands and knees and observes that the ignitor glows bright red and goes off and on, but

See GAGNON, C7

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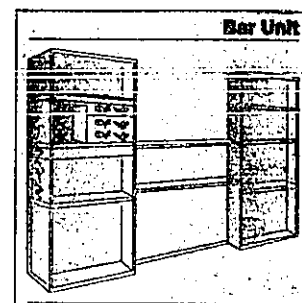
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Levy from page G5

The interiors of several of the open boxes can be spray painted one color, giving depth and contrast to the patterned boxes. At a minimum of cost you have created fabulous storage with style. It will be an incredible addition to a room, rather than an "ugly duckling."

We can go to a furniture store and find very handsome wall space units, which will vary in price according to their quality. Traditional or contemporary in style and design is your choice. These are available with drawers and/or cabinet doors, and many combinations thereof. They are often executed in colored lacquer, diverse elegant wood finishes or even in mirror. Storage with flair!

A dry bar, accommodating glasses and liquor bottles, might be a segment of this storage area. Liquor bottles generally require 14 inches of interior height space. Be certain you haven't blocked off access necessary to function.



Naomi Stone Levy, a Franklin resident, is an interior designer and a former secretary of the American Society of Interior Designers. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1897.

MODERN KITCHEN & BATH

and BATH ideas

Presented by Carl J. Cheski & Mark Bronoff

HOW TWO GOES INTO ONE

One of the most popular trends in kitchen design is the two-cook kitchen. According to the National Kitchen & Bath Association, about 25% of the kitchens being designed today are planned for use by two or more cooks. While a kitchen with that much capability may seem to require an abundance of space, the need not necessarily be the case. Consideration of a two-cook kitchen can start with a 13-by-16-foot space, without intrusive doorway. Typically, kitchens of this design have two main work areas, each with its own sink, which at the most frequent stage during meal preparation and cleanup. The main work area may be composed of a sink, refrigerator, and stove or cooking, while the second work area may have an additional sink, specialty appliances, and a cutting area for preparing salads and vegetables. The second sink makes it possible for the secondary area to work

without intersecting the primary work area.

If you're interested in remodeling your current kitchen, consider the benefits of the two-cook kitchen described in this week's column. Regardless of your tastes or budget, MODERN KITCHEN & BATH will help you plan, design and install a kitchen that is both practical and beautiful. Some recent trends we have observed include lounges and sitting areas and recycling centers in the kitchen. We offer Computerized Kitchen and Bath and Ames Truly Crafted Cabinetry. Visit our showroom at 819 E. Fourth Street in Royal Oak, or call us at 810-546-0660.

HINT: The second sink in a two-cook kitchen should be as large as possible with a waste disposer.

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