



A HOME MADE DOLLHOUSE is a Christmas gift to be enjoyed by generations. A special Christmas exhibit at Henry Ford Museum in Greenfield Village, Dearborn, features dolls and toys from the 19th century. The items in the display which delighted earlier generations of children will be an inspiration to today's do-it-yourselfers.

Old-Fashioned Porch Serves Dual Purpose

Is your old-fashioned screen porch still "bugging" you?

If so, why not decide once and for all to iron out the bugs by transforming the porch into a year-round dual purpose room.

With just a little bit of imagination intermixed with a minimum of time and materials, you can convert your porch into a combination office-sewing room.

Not only will you derive the benefits of getting two rooms for the price of one, you'll also gain additional living space in your home without building an addition.

There are many ideas you may want to consider.

For example, decide whether the room will be more functional as an open area, or are partitions or see-through dividers more practical?

You'll also need to consider such essentials as storage areas and shelving, what type of windows you'd like, and a general decorative theme.

If you decide to panel the walls, select a material that is durable, easy to install and maintenance free.

For instance, prefinished hardwood planks withstand hard wear, can be installed quickly, and only an occasional damp wiping is needed to keep them looking like new.

This "mini-paneling" comes in 16 inches x 8 feet planks, featuring tongue-and-grooved edges to simplify fitting.

It can be applied over old walls or new framing, using concealed metal clips and wallboard adhesive for a strong bond. Instructions for installing the planks are included in each carton.

If an open, more spacious area suits your needs, you may want to consider the installation of a one-piece counter top to serve both as a sewing surface and as a spacious desk top.

Adjustable shelves could be put in and shared by a mixture of sewing books and office materials. If additional storage space is required, metal file cabinets, which are ideal for storing patterns and paper work, could be located below the counters.

But no matter what you decide, let the room reflect the personality and taste of both you and your wife.

Candles Are Made In A Milk Carton

Exotic floating candles that look lovely in a holiday centerpiece are easily made in your own kitchen.

A paperboard milk carton, some sand, candle wax and care in handling melted wax are the necessary ingredients for candlemaking.

"Bill Webster, master candlemaker and author of 'The Complete Book of Candlemaking' says a milk carton is one of the best molds for an amateur candlemaker to use.

He points out that it is inexpensive, can be filled with either molten wax than commercial molds, doesn't have to be cleaned after use and can be used for a wide variety of rustic finished candles.

"To make a floating candle," says Webster, who also teaches at the Philadelphia School of Art, "you start by cutting off the bottom half of a half gallon milk carton. Then place in the bottom about one inch of sand. Pack the sand down with a spoon, filling the corners, and shape the sand to form a hollow rounded bottom and sides.

"Next, melt your wax and pour it in slowly to the height that you prefer. As the wax cools, insert a small piece of coat hanger wire where your wick will be.

"When the wax has cooled replace the wire with a wick and repour the top of the candle and the wick canal.

"After the candle has completely hardened, tear off the milk carton, scrape the sand off the bottom and you are ready to float your candle," he concluded.

Webster also explained that milk cartons, ranging in size from half-pint to gallon sizes can be used to make decorative candles including tall square candles, ice candles and intricate hurricane candles.

The variety is limited only by your imagination.

Toys Injure

A poorly-designed toy - or a toy in the hands of a child too young to handle it - can cause permanent injury or even death, warns the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Last year there were over 500,000 injuries related to toy, tricycle and bicycle use.



Just about every home gardener has a clump of Lavender or "Lavender."

Flowers and foliage of these perennials are pungently aromatic, and even if you cut and dry the stems, the fragrance lasts for years. Some people call Lavender "Queen of all Herbs."

This plant has woody stems, and in some areas it dies back partly during the winter. It does best in a light, sandy soil and in full sun. If the soil is heavy, or full of clay, or too rich, growth gets softer and the plants are not as hardy.

Lavender has purplish flowers in summer, adding to the beauty of the ornamental foliage. If yours hasn't had any flowers on, perhaps it's because you've trimmed it too much. When trimming is needed, do so after flowering otherwise you'll remove the flower buds.

Lavender is easily started by digging up the plants and dividing them in spring. Or take cuttings in summer.

If you're having trouble rooting slips of Impatiens (Impatiens plants), Coleus, geraniums or other house plants, maybe it's because there's something wrong with your water.

If plants rot instead of root, try boiling your water first, then letting it cool, before putting cuttings into it. A few pieces of charcoal in the water helps to keep it sweet and favors rooting.

Impatiens root better in a window without direct sun. A bright, sunless window is best for this shade lover. The place where you make the cut on the stem is not important with geranium, coleus or begonia. Rooting will form anywhere on the stem.

If plants still will not root

'Recess Kit' Rejuvenates Bathroom

It isn't necessary to draw your shower curtain to hide the deteriorated walls in the tub area.

There are new tub recess kits on the market that will rejuvenate the tub-shower area. It contains the necessary pre-cut paneling, harmonizing molding, adhesive and caulking to do it yourself right over the wall.

A subtly-patterned paneling available in four soft luster colors, is featured in this kit. Moisture and heat do not affect the prefinished hard board which can be damp-wiped clean.

The tub recess kit is available with instructions at local building materials dealers.

Helpful Hints

Ideas for adding side deck, entry, rear patio, carport and storage to mobile homes are shown in full color for 15 cents in coin from Western Wood Products Assn., Dept. 543-P, Yeon Bldg., Portland, Or. 97204.

Scouts To Sell Christmas Trees

A sale of Christmas trees to aid local scouting programs is being conducted by the Clinton Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America.

The trees will be available near the Telegraph Rd. entrance to the Pontiac Mall from noon to 9:30 p.m. until Dec. 21.

All proceeds will go to support council programs which serve more than 16,000 youth in Oakland and Macomb counties.

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Use this on your decorative interior or exterior for easy identification. The panel is made of a clear plastic material, is smooth-sanded, ready to paint or stain, and is easy to install.

WAX IS POURED into a cut-down milk carton to form a short square candle.