

At last we agreed that I should have one made according to my fancy, and she would trust my taste, and let me put it where I liked. A week later I told her that her closet was ready to put up, and she allowed me to select the place. I chose the upper hall, between two doors, and it was carried up the stairs and set up. It was very nice, reaching from the floor to the ceiling, and was thirty inches wide and fifteen inches deep.

There were three drawers at the bottom, and then a door reached from the upper drawer to the ceiling. This closet was fitted with shelves — it had about five, I think. It was made of white wood, and stained to imitate black walnut.

My friend was delighted. The entire closet, set up, cost her only five dollars, and she says that she has had fifty dollars' worth of pleasure out of it already.

FANCY BOXES—LARGE AND SMALL.

RUTH HUBBARD.

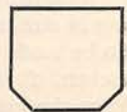
MANY have a horror of boxes, that is, the home-made kind, and no wonder, for a more forlorn looking article, to be classed in the category of fancy work, cannot be found than a box poorly made. We all have been disgusted and discouraged more or less with our attempts in this line. Try ever so hard, it seemed as though the box had seemingly no backbone, and no ribs, as if for want of proper strengthening, it had, so to speak, caved in and weakened in the joints. Now all this can be overcome if the proper material is used, and the work is done in the right manner. The first essential is heavy card-board. This is the most important part of the box, for if ordinary pasteboard is used, it will soon have that dilapidated appearance which is to be avoided. Making a box is something like building a house. The foundation and frame play the important part, and though they may not show when the structure is complete, we know that the substantial character is due just to these good beams and walls. So with our box — no matter how elegant the plush, and beautiful the adornment, if the foundation and sides are weak, we will always look upon it with contempt, and handle it as though it might come to pieces at any moment.

A box that was made for the holiday season, and one which has elicited much admiration, not only from the ladies, but also from the sterner sex, will be a good one for us to take to pieces and see how it is made.

This box is made of bright olive marbled

plush, bordered with heavy chenille cord, pink in color. It was intended for a collar and cuff box, but was thought to be rather fine for that purpose, and being a little larger than necessary, it was promoted to the parlor and now adorns a little ebony table, and has an excuse for its existence, in that it holds stereoscopic views. Indeed, it is not a bad idea, to have a nice box for these views, where they can be kept together away from the dust.

This box is composed of eight pieces, and the measurements must be accurate. The top and bottom pieces are alike, only it is a good plan for the top which forms the cover to be made a trifle larger, so as to shut *onto* the sides. I have seen boxes where this precaution had not been taken, and in consequence the cover was always sinking in the box. These pieces are nine and one-half inches square; but the front is cut off on each corner. The back edge is nine and one-half inches long; the sides seven and three-quarters inches, and the front five and seven-eighths inches in length; the corners being cut across two and one-half inches, forming a shape like diagram. The side wall for back is nine and one-half inches long by five and one-half inches wide. The two sides seven and three-quarters inches long, same width. Front five and seven-eighths inches long, and same width. The two corner pieces two and one-half inches by five and one-half inches.



Now the pieces are all cut, and you will find

the best way in cutting, is to lay them all out with pencil lines and cut with a sharp knife.

The covering of the pieces is the next in order. Heavy Canton flannel is nice for this purpose, there being more body to it than ordinary silesia. Cut the material half-inch larger than pieces, then using linen thread, cover neatly by catching sides together. After this is done, take sheet wadding and put three layers smoothly on the other side of pieces, covering up the thread that holds the Canton flannel, and stretching thin muslin smoothly over this, of course remembering sachet powder. Now comes the lining; in this case it is a bright pink. The Canton flannel side of these pieces are for the outside, the padded side for the inner part. Instead of using cotton and satin, one could use quilted satin which is not expensive, and is very pretty and much less work than the other. The lining must have the edges turned in and neatly hemmed with fine silk. It is well when covering anything of this character, to pin the corners securely, so that the lining will not get all awry. Take the cover and put the plush on the Canton flannel side in the same manner as the lining, sewing with dark silk. Put the rest of box together, overhanding securely with very strong linen thread, fastening the sides to each other and sewing on the bottom last. You will wonder why the plush is not cut and put on each piece before joining; but this is the improvement, which forms a more finished piece of work. After the sides are all fastened—the box is complete, excepting the lid—take a tape measure and find the number of inches it will take to go all around the box, then cut the plush in one continuous piece that length, one yard long and six inches wide. You see this makes one joining only, and that can be on one of the back corners. A more economical way, if plush

is limited, would be to cut it long enough for the front portions, and a separate piece for the back, making two joinings.

Just here I would like to say one word concerning plush. I find that this material, when made up nicely, is more satisfactory than satin. It wears fully as well, besides having such a pile, it will not show stitches, if neatly made, and admits of rich adornment without being gaudy.

Before we commence the decorative work, the under side of the box must be covered with dark green silesia. Next the cord; this is quite heavy, because the box being large, would not look well with a smaller cord. This outlines the lower edge as well as the cover. The back of cover is securely fastened to back of box. Two small bows on either corner, with a small loop fastened on the front beneath the cord, to lift the cover by.

The box has a painted vine of wild clematis around the sides, as well as a spray of same on the cover. Artistic license allowed the vine to be pink, instead of white as the vine is naturally. In painting on plush, if white and yellow are used freely in the high lights of the leaves, they seem to show up nicely, and have a prettier effect. If one cannot paint, embroidery will be quite as pretty only more work; the needle-work being completed before the plush is made up. There are many other pretty vines for decoration. The wild woodbine in Autumn colors, looks nicely on olive. The box is handsome with only the cord. If nice material is used, and the work is well done, articles made thus will always present a good appearance, and when made of smaller proportions, is suitable for gentlemen's collar and cuff box. Of course other colors are just as pretty. Peacock blue and lemon yellow, mahogany and cream color, or delicate apple green, all form pretty combinations.

In preparing designs cut from cretonne for appliqué work, I have found the following method the most satisfactory: I block out the flower or figure, leaving at least a half inch margin; then I baste or run it into silesia or

any soft cotton cloth with thread. I embroider over all tendrils, stems and small flowers; this keeps it from ravelling when it is finally cut down close, and it is much easier to apply. — *Mrs. J. B.*

FANCY BOXES—LARGE AND SMALL (Continued).

RUTH HUBBARD.

WITH good material and some ingenuity there is no end to the pretty boxes that can be made. All good workmen require good tools and material. If these requisites are lacking, the pleasure of working is gone, and that would be too bad, for when a person is making a thing of beauty, one likes to see it grow beautiful as it progresses.

A charming handkerchief box is made of olive and pink, though other contrasting colors are quite as pretty. Blue and cream, mahogany with salmon pink, or apple green, are all good combinations. Of course the bureau accessories have to be consulted and something in harmony with the prevailing color of the room is always appropriate. The size of our box is six by eight inches, and two inches deep. The pieces are covered separately, and the manner of working just the same as the box described in previous article. Only for a handkerchief receptacle it is well to have the inner portion of the box nicely rounded, and one can be very sure that the dainty linen will be well perfumed after it has had a sweet repose within its well sacheted walls. The cover is rounded quite high, and if wished, it can be easily converted into a pin-cushion. Jewel boxes are often made this way. Ten long scalloped points are slightly full on the edge of box over which the cover closes. These points are of plush, lined with satin, and pendant little pink tinsel balls hang at the lower parts and where they join at the edge of box. Right here are fastened pink silk tassels as long as the depth of the box. These are partly concealed by the plush points. This style of border is very pretty for the large pin-cushion. The cover is outlined with gold cord twined with pink ribosene. This material is very nice for this purpose. And now we are ready for the brush, *i. e.*, if the embroidery needle has not already done the decorative work: The cover would look well with two triangular pieces of plush and satin put diagonally across it, and then there would be no need of either brush or needle. However, our box happens to have a spray of old-fashioned grass pinks for its bit of suggestive

sweetness. These are pretty and easily painted, though daisies are just as easy, and have the good quality of being satisfied to decorate anything and any color. Buttercups and wild grasses, as well as forget-me-nots are sweet little decorators.

An elongated box made similar, would serve for the companion glove box. Twin jewel boxes for holding bracelets in one and pins in the other, could be made square and placed diagonally together, with a bright bow where they join, and from which the covers lift, being fastened to the box only at that corner. These, of course, are well padded on the inside, and are better for jewelry when lined with chamois, which is used extensively just now for all decorative work. The top of cover is pretty made of this material, the edge hanging over in odd shaped points and squares, the whole either prettily painted or embroidered. This would be the easiest way to make these little cases. If plush is used, then the cover can be simply bordered with cord; or if a more elaborate trimming is liked, either a full ruching of silk or a fall of lace are appropriate.

A dainty, sweetly perfumed box for holding visiting cards, is very pleasant to have. Then when the lady of the house is in a great hurry, which she generally is when about to make her social calls, she will not cause a small cyclone to go through her *lingerie* and ribbons in a vain search for those dreadful cards; but will always have them ready to slip into her card case, "A place for everything," especially a sweet one, is more likely to have "everything in its place," than some corner, or old dilapidated box.

There are numerous boxes for bon-bons, stationery, etc., now made of grass, reed and willow. To say the least, these are pretty, and have one merit, in that they are easily trimmed; some needing only a gorgeous bow to render them elegant and attractive.

Other boxes, for shoes and scraps, made of wooden boxes, such as soap and cracker boxes, can be so wonderfully converted by using cretonne, sateen, raw silk with fringe, etc., that they will forget their former duties,

and rejoice in holding *Harper's* or perhaps INGALLS' HOME MAGAZINE, and condescend to take care of our shoes, or may be, hold baby's playthings. These make pretty window seats, and with the cover hinged, baby can open and make one dive, and rummage to her heart's content. For keeping one's periodicals in order, nothing can be better.

If closet room is scarce, a square box to serve as an ottoman, can hold the weekly mending and patches, stockings, etc., doing duty for that dreadful old terror—a patch bag. A window seat box can be covered on the side with Brussels carpet, and have a small sized Smyrna rug tacked on the top, looking quite like a Turkish divan on a small scale. Lincrusta is extensively used now in decoration, and when properly gilded and painted, is very handsome.

A long box for holding potted plants, when covered with this material, makes quite an addition to a bright sunny window. For the kitchen, there is the good old wood box, with its bright wall paper, and a box similarly covered, will not be amiss for holding dust-ers, brushes, etc.

One good woman we know, has a great faculty for converting her husband's cigar boxes (which he kindly bestows upon her when they are empty) into all sorts of pretty boxes, by covering them with embossed paper that comes in sheets, and which is really very pretty; but my advice is let cigar boxes alone, for no matter how much washing they get, that tobacco odor will somehow cling to them, and that is a perfume we poor benighted women do not, as a rule, like to have our dainty handkerchiefs and laces scented with; though we sometimes do have to inhale a little of the smoke. However, cigar boxes are very nice for holding the silver cleaning appliances, and tacks and hardware do not mind the smell at all, and even garden seeds will stay in there cosily.

The old-fashioned wooden chests, that our mothers and grandmothers all rejoiced in, when upholstered with springs and sateen, make comfortable seats, and their capacity is wonderful. What memories the dear old chests awaken; with what childish curiosity we handled the keepsakes and olden garments of a long bygone day, that they contained.

Table-Scarfs and Washstand-Splashers.

TABLE-SCARFS and bureau-scarfs are still popular forms of covering. A very effective table-scarf is composed of maroon felt cloth finished at either end with a deep fringe of felt, cut in very narrow strips. A bureau-scarf of cream momie has for ornamentation at either end two bands of dull blue plush bordering a twelve-inch insertion of loose meshed linen, which is embroidered in golden olives, partly filled in lotus blossoms, with buds and foliage in the same colors on a ground darned in with pale blue. The ravelled momie below the plush forms a fringe with a deep-knotted heading; bunches of blue and olive silk tied in with the ravellings brighten the fringe. As to the splashers; much handsomer than the Japanese splashers with their mechanically painted flowers, are the pretty splashers made of a breadth of Canton matting suspended by small gilt rings from a brass rod banner-wise, and, if desired, painted artistically with branches of wild roses.

If you have any old cane-bottomed chairs which want re-caning, you may make the seats useful with thick colored wool twine. Cut away the old cane first, and thread a long stout darning needle with the twine. Knot the ends, loop it through the holes backwards and forwards, crossways from side to side, right and left, and, every hole being filled, work them back again, weaving as you would for cloth, so you must be very careful not to draw the threads very tight the first time over, or it is more difficult to weave. Finally, press the pair of threads together.

If you care to have everlasting flowers for Christmas decorations, plant the seeds now. The helichrysums are the best. When the flowers open, they should be cut with a long stem, and hung head downwards in an airy place, and then put away free from dust in a dry place.

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