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BULLETIN 13A

## Designing and Sewing your own

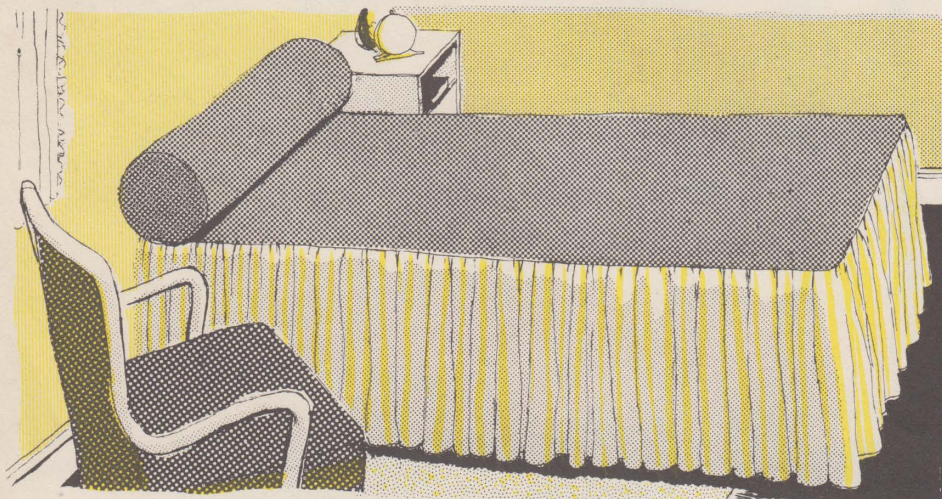
# SOFT FURNISHINGS

IN OUR FIRST TWELVE sewing bulletins we have covered most of the stitches and processes you will need to know. Now we should like to show you how to bring colour and pattern into your home or school, with the use of a needle and some gay cotton or rayon fabrics. In this first bulletin on furnishings, our theme is the bedroom and we follow up in Bulletin No. 14 with ideas for the lounge and dining room.

Many points must be considered before the fabric is purchased—the type of house, the general colour scheme of the room, the furniture and, of course, all the existing furnishings. The use of checked, spotted or striped fabric is fun, but if you have a heritage of floral fabric curtains or a boldly patterned carpet, self colour is essential. Gay chintzes, bold checks and polka dotted fabrics will give a friendly air, while rich fabrics in plain colours, formal stripes or geometric patterns will lend dignity. In most rooms a happy compromise between the two extremes is desirable. When a room appears to be too riotous with checks or stripes, add some plain fabric for chairs, curtains, etc. On the other hand, if a room is too formal in appearance, curtains or chair covers in some gay flowered fabric or in bold stripes will give new life.

Refurnishing is not necessarily expensive. Make use of all you have first, before you consider buying any new fabric. Faded curtains, plain or floral, may be dyed new shades and trimmed. Worn cotton sheets may be cut and pieced to make cushions, chair covers, etc., then dyed a gay colour and trimmed with contrasting checked or striped fabric.

The fabrics used in this Bulletin are striped cotton, plain toning cotton and heavy furnishing linen. The exact yardage for each design will depend upon the respective size of the furniture used. Take the measurements stated in the individual instructions and then calculate the amount of fabric required, upon seam allowance is included, except where otherwise stated. Seams can be finished on wrong side by overcasting or by folding a larger seam allowance over a smaller, and slipstitching. (See \*).



DIVAN COVER with FRILL

If frills are to be the feature of your soft furnishings, be consistent and apply them where suitable. Care must be taken not to overdo the application of frilling and so give an over-decorated and fussy effect. The contrast and balance necessary can be achieved by various plain surfaces.

**Materials:** Striped cotton fabric; plain cotton fabric (to match one of the stripes); piping cord; 6 cord sewing cotton No. 40 to match fabric; 1 machine needle No. 16; 1 Sharps needle No. 7.

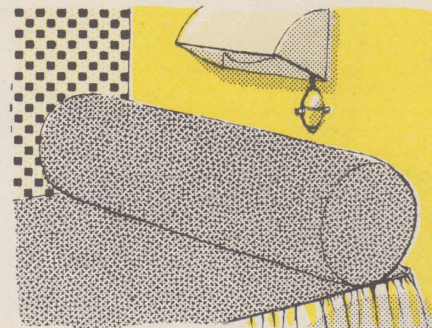
With divan bed *made up*, take the following measurements—length, breadth and height.

**Cutting Directions—Top Section:** Cut a piece of plain fabric—length by breadth, plus 1 in. all round. ( $\frac{1}{2}$  in. for the seam allowance and  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. for the piping).

**Frill:** Cut a piece of striped fabric approximately twice the perimeter of the Top Section  $\times$  height plus 2 in. (hem and seam allowances). Seam where necessary to form

one long strip.

**Sewing Directions:** (1) Join short ends of frill strip. (2) Run two rows of machine gathering along top edge. (3) Turn in 1 in. all round top section, mitring corners, and enclosing the piping cord. Baste the cord securely in position. (4) Pull up gathers of frill to fit piped perimeter of top section. Space gathers evenly. (5) Place top section over the frill, so that the line of basting lies on the lower row of gathering. Pin and baste in position. (6) Top stitch along line of basting, using a Piping Foot. (7) Finish off inside edges neatly. \* (8) Place cover on divan; measure and mark length of hem. (9) Baste hem in position and stitch.



CYLINDRICAL PILLOW CASE

**Materials:** Plain cotton fabric; two 8 in. circles of buckram; one slide fastener 20 in. long; kapok for stuffing Inner Padded Ends; 6 cord sewing cotton No. 40 to match fabric; one machine needle No. 16; one Sharps needle No. 7.

**Cutting Directions:** Cut six circles of fabric 9 in. in diameter. Cut one piece of fabric the width of divan cover plus 2 in. (for seam allowances)  $\times$  27 in. (circumference of buckram circle, plus 2 in. for seam allowance). Cut two pieces of fabric 26 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. by X (X depends upon the width of the divan cover. How to take this measurement is explained later in the instructions for the Inner Padded Ends). (See \*\*).

**Sewing Directions—Case:** (1) Fold largest piece in half lengthwise, right sides together. Baste long edges together, 1 in. from edge. (2) Find the centre of long raw edges. Measure along 10 in. on each side of centre and mark. From these two points, machine stitch outwards. Press seam open. (3) Insert slide fastener in the 20 in. space. (4) With case turned to wrong side, baste one fabric circle to one end of case. (1 in. seam allowance on case,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. on circle). Machine stitch all round. (5) Finish seam neatly. \* (6) Repeat with other end of case and turn to right side. Put pillow into case, close slide fastener and measure length of unfilled space. Add 5 in. to this measurement, then halve final measurement. \*\*

**Inner Padded Ends** (These are added to keep the case taut and in shape). (1) Join the short ends of the two pieces of fabric, the above final measurement  $** \times 26\frac{1}{2}$  in. to form tubes. (2) Join a fabric circle to one end of each tube. (3) Lay one buckram circle to one fabric circle (centres matching); baste in position, machine round edge of buckram circle through both thicknesses. Turn fabric  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. inwards over buckram and baste. Turn raw edge of tube  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. inwards and baste. Place this stiffened circle in position at end of tube and slipstitch the two together, leaving a 4 in. opening. (4) Stuff pad with kapok and slipstitch opening. (5) Make up second pad the same way. (6) Insert pads into case with stiffened ends outwards. Insert the pillow between these padded ends.

## DRESSING TABLE with FRILLED CURTAIN and PELMET

This dressing table would be a useful addition to your room, and is very simple to construct. It is made from orange boxes, wood and a fine curtain rail. A diagram is given for half the kidney-shaped top, 1 sq.=1 in. Trace complete top on a piece of tracing paper, measuring 42 in. x 23 in. This shape can then be cut quite simply from wood. The working drawing gives all other measurements. A curtain rail has been attached to the under outside edge of the top.

To make the Curtain and Pelmet, take the following measurements first—length round perimeter of dressing table top and height of dressing table.

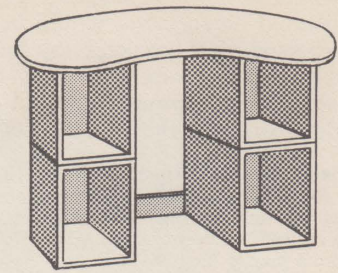
**Materials:** Striped cotton fabric; plain cotton fabric (to match one of the stripes); Rufflette tape and hooks; buckram. 6 cord sewing cotton No. 40 to match fabric; 1 machine needle No. 16; 1 Sharps needle No. 7.

**Cutting Directions—Curtain:** Cut a piece of striped fabric approximately twice the perimeter of the top x height plus 3½ in. (for hems); piece where necessary.

**Pelmet:** Cut a strip of plain fabric the perimeter of dressing table top plus seam allowances x 10 in.; piece where necessary. Cut a strip of buckram the same length, minus seam allowance x 3¼ in.

**Sewing Directions—Curtain:** (1) Narrow hem short ends. Turn down one long edge 2 in., baste. Next place rufflette tape over this raw edge and machine stitch in position. (2) Pull up cords and insert hooks on rufflette tape. Attach curtain to rail; measure and mark length of hem. Remove curtain from rail and complete hem. (3) Place curtain on rail and adjust gathers so that all fullness is at front and sides.

**Pelmet:** (1) Fold in half lengthwise, wrong sides together and press along fold. (2) Insert buckram along fold line and turn one edge of fabric over buckram. Machine stitch close to this folded edge through buckram and folded fabric (leaving other half free). (3) Narrow hem the other long edge. (4) Turn in all raw edges and slipstitch. (5) Slipstitch stiffened section flat in position. (6) Insert drawing pins at equal intervals on underside of single fabric just below stiffened section. (7) Push drawing pins into dressing table, as shown in diagram, starting and finishing at centre back.



DRESSING TABLE



## STOOL COVER

An old piano stool can be covered successfully to form a useful addition to your bedroom. Take the following measurements—length, breadth and depth of upholstery.

**Materials:** Striped cotton; plain cotton (to match one of the stripes); buckram; elastic; bias binding; 6 cord sewing cotton No. 40 to match fabric; 1 machine needle No. 16; 1 Sharps needle No. 7.

**Cutting Directions—Top:** Cut one piece of plain fabric (length plus twice depth) x (breadth plus twice depth) with ½ in. hem allowance added all round.

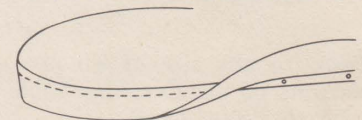
**Side Band:** Cut one strip of striped fabric the perimeter of top plus 1 in. x 9½ in. Cut a strip of buckram the same length x 4¼ in.

**Sewing Directions:** (1) Place top section evenly over stool top. Mitre corners and slipstitch. (2) Remove from stool and turn up raw edge. (3) Make a casing with bias binding, covering raw edge. Thread elastic through casing.

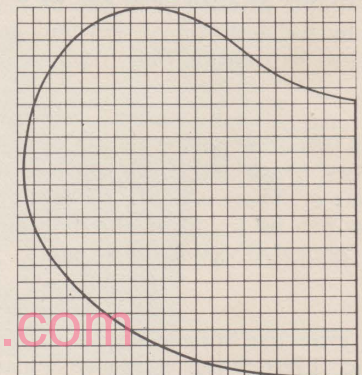
**Side Band:** (1) Join the short ends of fabric right sides together, to form a circle. Join buckram in the same way. (2) Fold fabric in half lengthwise wrong sides together. Insert buckram. (3) Bind along the top raw edge with bias binding, stitch through all thicknesses.



## DRESSING TABLE PELMET



## TOP OF DRESSING TABLE



1 SQ.=1 IN.

## DIVAN COVER (PLEATED)

This pleated divan cover would be suitable for a bed-sitting-room. There is a 2 in. inverted pleat at each corner and 2 in. inverted pleats are placed with equal spaces between, along each side—three on each short side and nine on each long side. A common denominator should be found for length and breadth in order to decide the spacing between the pleats.

**Materials:** Heavy furnishing linen (burgundy for the main piece and citron yellow for the piping); piping cord; mercerised sewing cotton No. 24 to match main fabric; 1 machine needle No. 18; 1 Sharps needle No. 6.

**Cutting Directions—Top Section:** 1 piece burgundy linen, length by breadth plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. all round.

**Gusset—Short Ends:** Cut two pieces burgundy linen, length  $\times 4$  in. plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. all round.

**Sides:** Cut two pieces burgundy linen, length  $\times 4$  in. plus  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. all round.

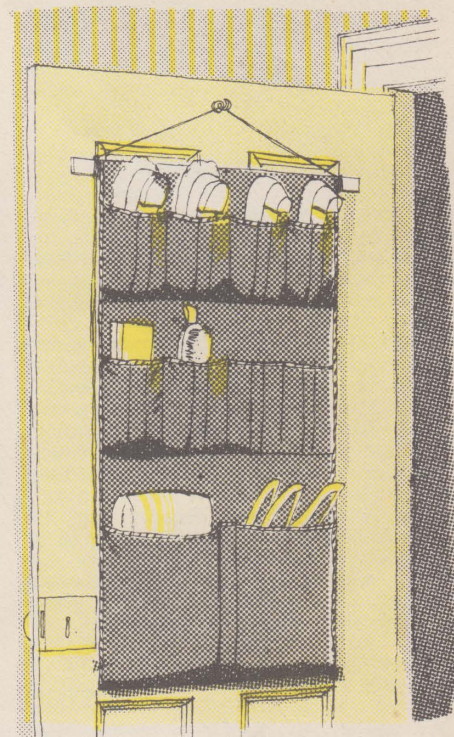
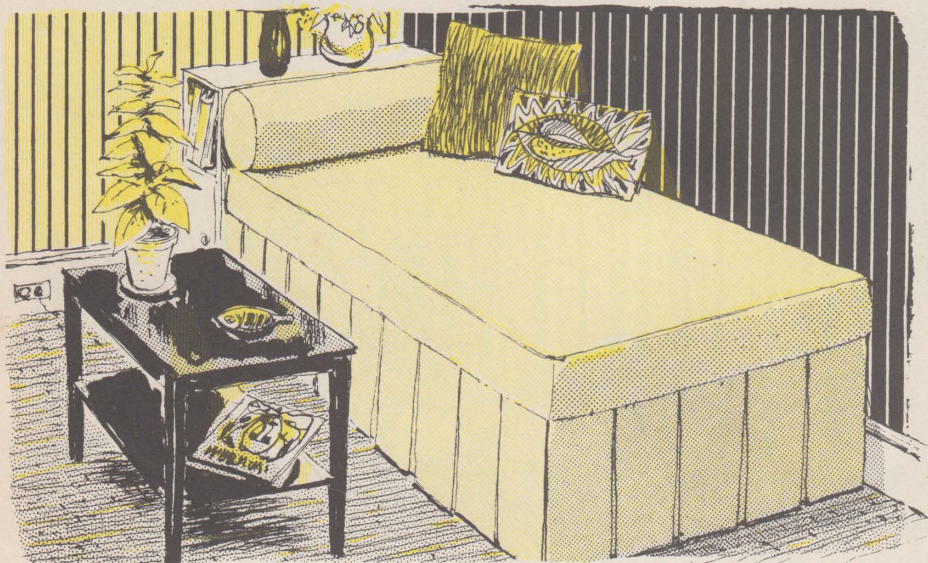
**Pleated Section—Short Ends:** Cut two pieces burgundy linen, length plus 16 in. (for pleats)  $\times$  height minus 2 in.

**Sides:** Cut two pieces burgundy linen, length plus 40 in. (for pleats)  $\times$  height minus 2 in.

**Piping:** Cut a strip of citron yellow linen,

perimeter of divan plus 1 in. seam allowance  $\times 1\frac{1}{2}$  in.

**Sewing Directions:** (1) Pleat ends and sides evenly, so that the centre of an inverted pleat lies at each corner of cover. (2) Machine stitch gusset sections, right sides together, to form a continuous strip. (3) Machine stitch gusset to top section, right sides together. (4) Fold piping strip in half lengthwise, wrong sides together. Insert piping cord along fold. Baste. (5) Place piping on the right side of pleated section, raw edges together. (6) Turn in seam allowance along edge of the gusset and place this edge to the piping. (Corner of cover, gusset seam and centre of an inverted pleat should be in line at each corner). Top stitch along turned in edge of gusset, using a Piping Foot. (7) Finish off inside raw edges\*. Place cover on divan; measure and mark length of hem. (9) Baste hem in position and stitch.



## CURTAINS

Curtains for any size of window can be made quite easily by adapting the instructions of the Dressing Table Curtain. It is advisable to allow at least 2 in. for the lower hems.

## CHAIR SEAT and BACK PADS

Any simple wooden chair can be made more attractive and also more comfortable by the addition of seat and back pads. They are simply small cushions, attached with fabric ties. Piping can be used as a seam finish if desired.

## DOOR POCKET

Hang this door pocket on the inside of a cupboard door, so that your bedroom slippers, brush and comb, shoe-cleaning equipment, etc., can always be readily available. There is a large pocket at the foot to hold soiled linen. All measurements can be found on the diagram. There is a strip of Paris binding behind each pocket division for strength.

## LAMP SHADE

This attractive frilled lampshade is made very quickly from a straight strip of fabric. Elastic inserted in a casing along the top gathers the fabric to the correct size. The lower edge is pulled taut and caught down on the underside.

