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# Party Favors & Decorations

When you make a party "pretty" and create your own unusual decorations and favors, you are telling your guests that you like them enough to make special plans for their pleasure.

The ideas and patterns given here are mostly basic--to inspire you to express your own ideas, once you have acquired the elementary skills. Often the <u>party-giver</u> has more fun than any guest. If you like people, you like to entertain them to show them so. Have fun with this book!

Through the following pages you may find some designs you'd like enlarged. Here are three methods.

#### How to Enlarge Designs

# Square method.

To keep your original design unmarked, trace it onto tracing paper—then mark off the tracing Fig. 1 paper into squares. Use 1/8" squares for small, intricate designs, and 1/4" to 1/2" or even 1" squares for proportionately larger designs. Take another piece of paper the size you wish your enlarged design to be. Divide this piece of paper into exactly the same number of larger squares. Draw the lines that appear in each square of the original design in the corresponding squares of the larger paper.



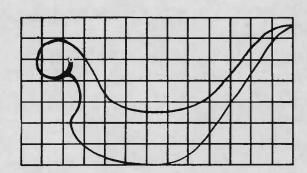


Fig. 2

#### Diagonal method.

Draw a rectangle around your tracing of the original design. Draw a diagonal line from corner to corner of this rectangle and continue drawing it until it is long enough to serve as the "diagonal" line through the desired size pattern you are working toward. Subdivide large and small rectangles by first making opposite diagonals to find the center. Then draw lines which quarter both rectangles. Copy outlines of design from smaller areas to larger areas. An easy way to divide rectangles into spaces just described is to fold the paper in halves, quarters, and eighths, and then draw dividing lines into the folds.

#### Pantograph method.

This is a mechanical device that may be purchased from any store carrying art and engineering supplies, from mail-order houses, and from many art and hobby shops. It consists of four light rigid bars jointed in parallelogram form. As the point on the left-hand corner of the frame traces the design, the pencil point on the right-hand corner reproduces the design to any scale to which you have previously set it. Pantographs may be purchased for almost any price, but the cheaper ones are too wobbly to be of much use. The more expensive ones are needed only by engineers. One in the very moderate price range is adequate for the layman's needs.



Fig.



Fig. 4

Many techniques for making favors are repeated again and again, although the items being made are very different. Learn these basic techniques first, and you will then have unlimited possibilities at your fingertips.

### Grain of Crepe Paper

When crepe paper is slipped out of its wrapper, the fine lines run the width of the folded strip. These lines form the grain and must always run from tip to base of a flower, from top to bottom of a ruffle, or any narrow strips that are to be used for making "raffia" or for wrapping wires.

When instructions say "cut a strip of crepe paper across the grain", pull crepe paper from the wrapper, mark the desired width and, using the wrapper edge as a guide, cut through entire thickness with sharp scissors. See figure 5. To avoid the crepe paper's slipping as it is being cut, run several thin dressmaker pins straight through the wrapper and the crepe paper.

# Wrapping Wires

The strip of crepe paper used for wrapping a wire should never be more than 1/2" wide. Touch the end of the wire lightly with casein-type glue and attach the strip at an angle. Stretch the crepe fully as you wind. Hold the wire and strip as shown, twirling the wire with the right hand. At the end, again touch the wire with glue to paste down the strip and cut off the excess. Casein glue does not stain crepe paper. See figure 6.

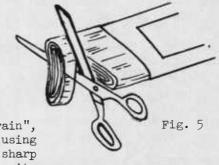




Fig. 6

# Twisted Petals

Cut a width of crepe paper across the grain. Unfold, starting with the two ends together, refold the strip into as many thicknesses as you can cut through cleanly. Stick pins down through in several places to keep paper from slipping. Make straight cuts along one edge the desired depth and distance apart. For nutcups and favors your strip across the grain should be cut 3/h" deeper then the nutcup itself, and the netals

be cut 3/4" deeper than the nutcup itself, and the petals should be approximately 3/4" wide. Round off the corners of petals thus formed. Be sure to leave at least 5/8" uncut at the bottom of the strip.

Now hold the top of a petal between the thumbs and forefingers of both hands--thumb of right hand and forefinger of left hand on top; forefinger of right hand and thumb of left hand on the bottom, and twist toward you with one hand and away from you with the other, giving the paper a complete turn, figure 7. Repeat until all petals are twisted, figure 8. When two-color effects are desired, fold, cut, and twist two contrasting colors together. When three colors are needed, fold, cut and twist each color separately. For example, a most attractive nutcup is made by pasting a row of yellow twisted petals at the top of a cup--a row of red-orange petals just below it, and a row of red or green petals at the bottom.

Try red and green for a Christmas nutcup; green and white for St. Patrick's; red, white, and blue for patriotic days, and so on. Try a ruffle under a covered nutcup composed of one strip cut  $2\ 1/2$ " wide, one strip 2" wide, and one strip  $1\ 1/2$ " wide. Make twisted petals on each. With needle and thread, gather all three strips together; draw up into a circle; fasten threads and paste nutcup on top.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

#### Hawaiian Leis

These exceptionally beautiful leis are made with the twisted petal technique and look so much like real flowers that one almost needs to touch them to find out. Three colors of crepe paper are used. Two harmonizing colors are used for the petal strips -- such as dark pink and pale pink, or red-orange and pale yellow. Contrasts are often striking, too--such as red and white,

purple and pink, or deep blue and pale yellow. Cut two strips of two colors, each 2 1/2" wide. Lay one on top of the other, and then refold them so you have no more than 8 thicknesses. Pin here and there to keep from slipping. With a ruler, mark off both edges at 3/4" intervals and then cut petals as shown in illustration, making each petal 3/4" wide. Be sure to leave a 3/4" uncut pathway down the center.

From the yellow crepe paper, cut a 1 1/4" wide strip through the entire fold. Open it up and stretch slightly. Then refold it to 8 thicknesses, pinning occasionally to prevent slipping, and slash both edges into a fine fringe. Be sure to leave at least a 1/4" width through the center

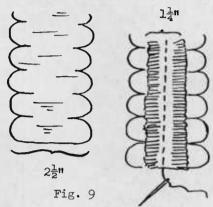


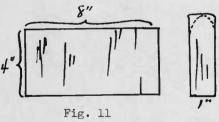
Fig. 10

Now lay the fringed strip on the petal strips and sew the three together down the center with long basting stitches. Crochet cotton about 4 feet long and a long darning needle work most satisfactorily. As you complete a foot or so of sewing, stop and twist the petal edges. When all the strips have been gathered on, measure around your neck for length. Then tie the threads together securely and cut off excess. See figure 9.

Finally, twist the strips around and around until they look like the exotic Hawaiian flower

These leis are not only fun to make and fun to get at a party, but they are good money makers for PTA carnivals, church bazaars, and the like.

Artificial Bouquets -- and corsages, from large centerpiece size down to tiny placecard size are also made from twisted petals, figure 10



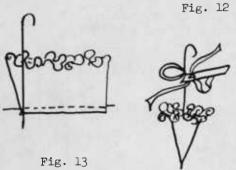


Fig. 14

Petal-edged Shower Parasol Tray Favor -- Use a 4" x 8" strip of crepe paper, the 8" length cut

across the grain, figure 11. Fold three times so you have a piece 4" long by 1" wide, 8 thicknesses through. Cut down 1" through all folds at the top and round off edges into a petal shape, figure 12. Open out and twist each rounded section with the petal twist. Gather lower edge of strip with needle and thread, figure 13.

Wrap an 8" length of No. 7 wire with a 1/2" strip of crepe. Stretch crepe well as you wind down on a slant.

Now gather strip tightly around the handle wire--1/2" up from the bottom, wrapping the remaining threads around gathering to secure it, figure 14. Cover wrapping with a short 1/2" strip of crepe. Bend top of handle into a cane shape, and tie a dainty narrow ribbon bow on the handle to which is attached a name tag.



Fig. 18

### Crepe Paper Cord or "Raffia"

Without removing crepe paper from its wrapper, cut strips of the desired width across the fold. Width of strips may vary from 1/2" to 2". Strips up to 1" wide are run through the smaller hole in the twister, and strips from 1" to 2" wide are run through the larger hole.

Cut one end of strip across the grain on a sharp diagonal, figure 15, and twist into a fine point or thread that may be threaded through the twister, figures 16 and 17.

Hold twister in your left hand, holding the crepe between your thumb and index finger so it stretches fully going into the twister. Having the crepe paper fully stretched is very important. With your right hand, pull the crepe paper through, giving it an extra twist as it comes out, figure 18.

If large quantities of "raffia" are needed, you may speed the process by using an electric mixer. Use only one beater. Wrap masking tape around cross spokes to prevent

sharp metal edges from cutting the crepe. Turn the mixer on a medium slow speed and keep backing away as it twists. Crepe twisted in this manner will be much more even and firm than handtwisted.

Crepe "Raffia" Dolls (They also may be made of yarn.)

Learn the basic technique for this doll and you can make big ones or little ones for most any purpose or occasion, figure 19.

Crepe paper strips should be cut 1/4" to 1" wide according to the size of the doll. A "strip" of crepe paper is one strip as it is cut through the entire thickness of the package. A "strand" is this same strip after it has been made into "raffia." Select flesh or light tan crepe for the first wrapping.



Fig. 19

Wrap "raffia" strands made from 1/2" strips around a piece of sturdy cardboard approximately 5" square. The number of times you wrap will be determined by the weight of your "raffia" and the size doll you want. For a place-favor doll, about 15 times around will do. Slip a piece of spool wire under the top loops. Twist the wire tightly to hold all loops together, and then cut free of cardboard at the bottom edge, figure 20.

To form the head, slip a ball of cotton, marble size and wrapped in the flesh paper, under the wire at the top loops. Spread the crepe "raffia" evenly over the head and tie tightly again with spool wire, figure 21. Cut 12 strips of flesh "raffia" 4" long; wire at one end, divide into thirds, and braid and wire at the other end. This braid forms the hands and arms. Separate the body strands and insert arms just beneath the head and wire again at waist, figure 23.

Now divide the remaining strands in half and braid each half for legs, wrapping with wire at the ankles, figure 24.



Fig. 20



Fig. 22

3955555555555

Fig. 21

The blouse may be made by wrapping the upper body with the desired color "raffia," criss-crossing it over the shoulders, around the neck, and down just below the waist front. Paste down ends, figure 25.

Wrap the desired skirt color "raffia" around a piece of cardboard l 1/2" wide, 20 times. Slip spool wire under the loops at the top but instead of fastening the strands tightly as above, the wire that is slipped under the strands is used to fasten them evenly around the waist--or the neck if desired. After they are evenly in place, twist wire very tightly and cut off excess, figure 26.

Features may be pasted on, and hair also may be pasted on from fringed crepe. Curl the edge of fringe by pulling it gently over the  $\underline{\text{back}}$  of a table knife.



Fig. 23



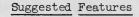
Fig. 24

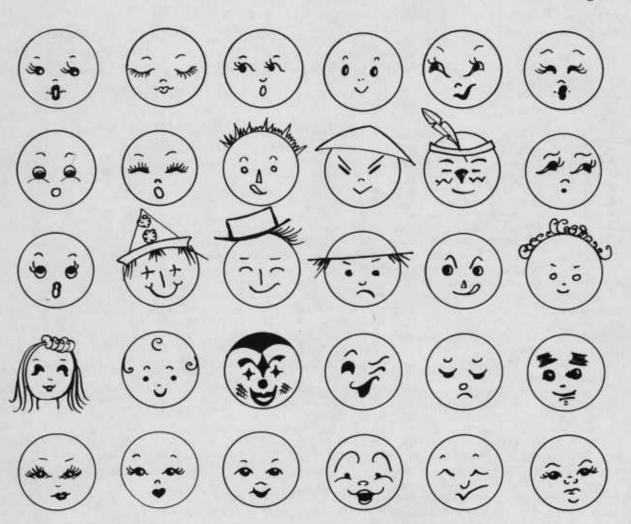


Fig. 25



Fig. 26





#### Figure Doll Favors



Fig. 27

Cut a 2 1/2" radius circle from sturdy paper. Cut to the center. Measure off two radius lengths on outside of circle from cut and overlap to this point, forming a cone. Staple. If possible, use a pair of pinking shears to cut the "dress skirt." Use a circle pattern 1/8" larger for the skirt. Accordion pleat the skirt by folding it first in half, then open and fold in half the other way, then open again and fold in half between each fold. If dress is being made from fabric, it may be necessary to press in the folds with the tip of an iron.

Now turn circle over and make creases one-half

to press in the folds with the tip of an iron. Now turn circle over and make creases one-half way between each crease in the opposite direction. This will give an accordion pleated effect, figure 28.

Next, cut a circle with a 1 1/4" radius for the peplum, another of 3/8" radius for the collar, and two more of 1" radius for the hat. Also cut a 1" square for the blouse. Fig. 28 Cut a tiny hole out of the center of <u>all</u> pieces except the two hat circles. Fold a



Fig. 29

pipe cleaner in half and push it up from the under side through the cone, skirt, and peplum. Then run another pipe cleaner through the protruding cleaner and wrap it around it 2 or 3 times to form the torso. Leave both ends extending for arms, figure 29. Slip the 1" square and the collar over the cleaner, and then tip the cleaner top with glue and finish off with a 3/4" bead for a head. Hair may be made of sealing wax, yarn, embroidery floss, curly scouring pads, or paper. When hair is in place, glue hat on. Face suggestions may be found on page 7.

#### Suggestions for Bridal Parties



Fig. 30

The Groom -- Figure 30.

Bend a 12" black pipe stem in half. Insert one-half of a second black stem (arms) through the first stem about 3/4" from the top. Wrap arms two times around body. Form trousers from 2 pieces of black crepe cut 1 3/4" x 2 3/4"--the 1 3/4" across the grain. Roll each piece smoothly around a pencil to form a tube, and paste. Cut both tubes at a sharp angle at one end. Slip tubes over pipe-stem legs and glue in place at waistline, having the slant cuts facing each other to form a crotch. Cut coat and tails from black mat stock or construction paper. Cut on all solid lines. Bend lapels back on dotted lines. Paste white

construction paper under front to make shirt front. Draw two tiny black buttons and paste a black tie in place at neck. Slip coat on groom and paste to body at waistline--front and back. Staple feet to a small but sturdy cardboard base. Add 3/4" bead for head, and finish with features and hair, figure 30.

Bride and Bridesmaids -- Use pastel organdies or taffetas topped with net for bridesmaids, dresses. For the bride, use all white, and instead of a hat, a circle of net for a veil, gathered together at the center and secured at the back of doll's head. A tiny "bridal crown" (cut from a lace paper doily) may be glued just in front of the veil.

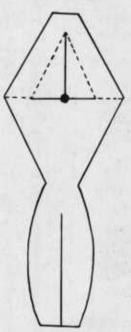


Fig. 31

A wee sprig of artificial flowers, backed by a lacy paper circle (from a doily), forms a lovely bouquet. Follow directions for figure dolls throughout.

Square Dancers -- Cut all pieces from tiny-flowered cottons. Make two tiny holes on the right side of skirt midway up. Put pipe-cleaner hands through these holes to draw up skirt. Paste 1/2" crepe paper ruffles on exposed cone beneath. Omit hat.

#### Correct Way to Cover a Nutcup

Cut a strip of crepe paper across the fold, 1/2" wider than the nutcup you are covering, and long enough to go around it with a slight lap. Brush down one side of cup lightly with casein-

type paste. Attach crepe strip firmly at this point, so one edge just touches bottom of nutcup and the upper edge extends over top of cup. Stretch crepe paper gently but firmly around upper edge of cup, but do not stretchit at the bottom. It will then conform exactly to the shape of the nutcup. When cup is completely encircled with crepe, paste down final edge.



Fig. 32

If you wish the nutcup to resemble a flower heart, such as a daffodil, the strip of crepe should be cut a little over twice the depth of the cup. Follow above instructions for covering, and allow all surplus at the top to fold in over the top and clear down into the bottom of the cup. A small circle of crepe may then be pasted over the ends in the bottom of the cup. Covering a nutcup in one of these ways is the start to innumerable party favors. Only a very few are shown here. The sky is the limit.

If you wish a lid for the cup, either a single or double ruffle of crepe paper may be attached at the side of the cup with a staple. If a single ruffle lid is wanted, the ruffle should be pasted at the center to a lightweight cardboard circle to give it body. The center should then be decorated with an appropriate sticker, flower, ribbon,

or gadget.

Double-ruffle lids are sturdy enough to require no cardboard base. Cut a strip of crepe across the grain 2" wide and 15" long. Fold it in half across the grain. Run the back of a table knife under the fold, and gather the length of crepe. Slip a length of fine spool wire along the inside length of the fold and withdraw the knife. Push crepe together tightly

into a closed circle, twist wire ends together firmly, and cut off excess. Where ruffle-ends meet, overlap slightly and staple to side of nutcup. This type of lid is especially suitable for heads of various kinds.

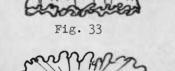


Fig. 34

Fig. 35

(1) Clown heads may be made of pecans with features painted on and clown cap added.

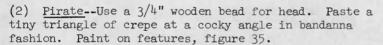




Fig. 37



Fig. 36

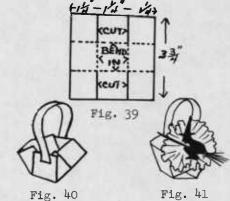
- (3) Birthday or Anniversary. Fashion numerals from colored pipe cleaners or bright paper, figure 36.
- (4) Bride--Cover cup in white. Make white lid-ruffle. Make hair of crepe paper or embroidery floss. Paste circle of net at top of head for veil. Paste a few tiny flowers at one side of nutcup under ruffle to suggest bride's bouquet, figure 37.



- (5) Groom--Cover cup in grey, and make ruffle of black. Paint features and hair on 3/4" bead. Sealing wax makes excellent hair. Tie a miniature grey or black bow under chin, figure 38.
- (6) Possibilities for adapting this nutcup idea to specific themes are limitless, i.e., Santa head, graduate, Dutch girl or boy, bunny head, and so on!

## "Do-it-Yourself" Nutcup

If nutcups are hard to find, try making a little basket like figure 41. It may be adapted easily to any occasion by your choice in color and trimming. The foundation is a square of firm colored paper such as construction paper or mat stock, cut and folded as shown in figure 39, and fastened together with staples. A handle 1/4" wide and 6" long may be added to convert it into a basket, figure 40. A small ruffle with an appropriate seal may be pasted on either one or both sides over the staple. These are very inexpensive favors for large parties.



Versatile Nutcup Here is another basic and unusual nutcup form you may make yourself. Choose mat stock or lightweight cardboard for its construction. Lay your chosen material face down on the table and trace the D pattern, figure 42. Bend all tabs toward the Fig. 43 OA OC Co

Fig. 42

center on dotted lines. Lap tabs A and B over tabs C and staple at the dots. You will then have a nutcup looking like figure 43. To decorate, cut a circle of your basic cardboard, 2" in diameter, and staple it to tab D which has been creased downward. To this circle paste a ruffle of

> crepe paper made from a strip 1 1/2" wide by 16" long and gathered either

by sewing machine or by hand close to one edge. In the center of the circle paste an appropriate sticker or tie on a sprig of artificial flowers.

This nutcup, cut from silver mat stock and decorated with a white crepe ruffle and a sprig of lily-of-the-valley tied with white or silver ribbon, is a most attractive bridal favor.

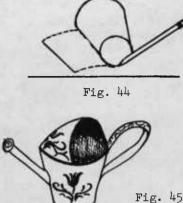
### Watering Pot in Provincial Style

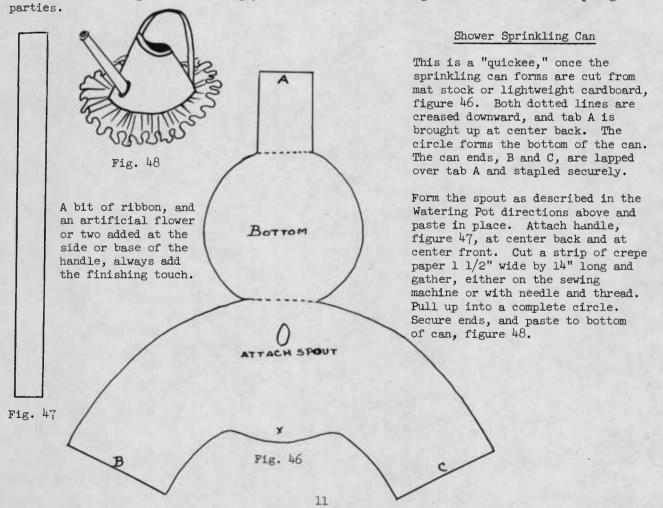
Use the smallest size paper drinking cup available. Draw around top of cup on a piece of black mat stock. Then describe a circle 1/4" larger all around than the top of the cup. Cut this circle out and cut in half to make two tops. Paste half circle in place over top of cup. Roll cup on its side on a piece of plain paper, following with a pencil the arcs it makes both at top and bottom, figure 44.

This circular strip, when cut out, should serve as a perfect pattern for cutting a piece of black mat stock to fit around the drinking cup. Paste down and add a handle 1/2" wide and 6" long as shown in figure 45.

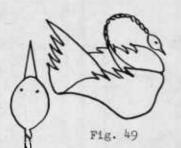
For the water spout, cut a piece of black crepe paper 2" wide and 3" to 4" long. Roll this strip up on itself into a tight little cylinder about 1/4" through. Cut off the excess crepe and paste seam. Flare one end out with your thumb nail to form the spout. Cut other end at a slant and paste in position as shown in figure 45.

This is most attractive decorated in early American fashion with "brush stroke" designs or bits of flower stickers, and a gold paper border. Done in silver and white, this makes a lovely bridal shower nutcup. Or done in gay colors it is ideal for garden club affairs or spring





#### Swan Nutcur



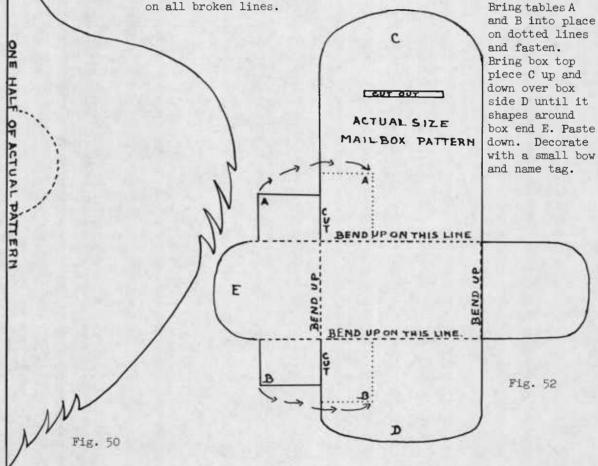
The swan nutcup is of especial beauty and grace. It requires the sturdier duplex type of crepe. Only one-half the pattern is shown in figure 50. Make a complete pattern out of other paper to use as a cutting guide. Wrap a 9 1/2" length of No. 7 wire in the same color as cup, and glue down center of swan on under side. Glue a medium size nutcup in center (top) as shown on diagram. Brush sides of cup with paste, and pull and stretch and paste the crepe up around it. Bend head and tail sections toward center until they almost meet. Then curve the protruding wire into the graceful swan neck shape, figure 49.

One-half inch from the tip of wire, wrap enough cotton to form swan's head. Rewrap the crepe paper and finish off by painting a tiny black dot on either side for eyes. Wrap beak in orange or yellow.

#### The Mail Box

Cut a cardboard pattern of figure 52 to trace around. To assemble, lay face down on table; bend forward

Fig. 51



#### Party. Hat

This particular type of party hat is basic, since it may be adapted to many occasions by changing the colors and slightly varying the brim. The hat itself is made from a colored nutcup, such as found usually in variety stores and in most markets. The brim is made from a circle of construction paper with a 2 3/4" radius. Two very small holes are punched on either side of nutcup, and cut ends of a 1 yard length of yarn are tied at sides of nutcup through small holes. A colored bead is slipped up over the long loop to adjust hat under the chin. A hole is cut in the center of the construction paper brim just large enough to admit the nutcup, figure 53.

Fig. 53

For a Mexican variety, roll edge of brim over a lead pencil in three places and use vivid contrasting colors, such as a black brim with red nutcup hat and yarn, and a bright yellow ribbon encircling the nutcup.

Fig. 54
For a George Washington variation, crease brim upwards sharply in
three places and attach to sides of nutcup with staples or glue. Cut paper cherries, stems,
and leaves, and paste at one side, figure 54.

#### "Gob" Hats

Cut a strip of white crepe paper 12" x 20" (the grain running the 12" way). Fold one long edge up 2 1/2" twice. Turn strip so this fold will be on inside. Paste the two short edges, overlapping about 1/2". Now gather the single edge, preferably with fine wire, using wire end as a needle and gathering paper as you would a strip of cloth, making each "stitch" about 1/2" long. Pull tightly and fasten. Turn inside out. Stretch band just enough at top edge and sides to make a correctly shaped "Gob" hat, figure 55.



Fig. 55

#### Sailor Hat

Cut a strip of dark blue crepe paper 10" x 21" (the grain running the 10" way). Paste the 10" sides together, overlapping 1/2" to form a tube. Gather at the top, as described above, and tie very tightly with spool wire or thread, figure 56. Turn inside out. Now make a crease all around hat 4" from bottom edge, figure 57. Place hat flat on table and stretch folded edge very carefully all around until a flat, round crown is formed. Don't be afraid to stretch carefully and slowly until a perfect circle is formed, figure 58. Cut a band of stiff white paper 1" wide by 23" long and paste to open edge of crepe paper, overlapping 1/2". Decorate at front with blue stars, figure 59.

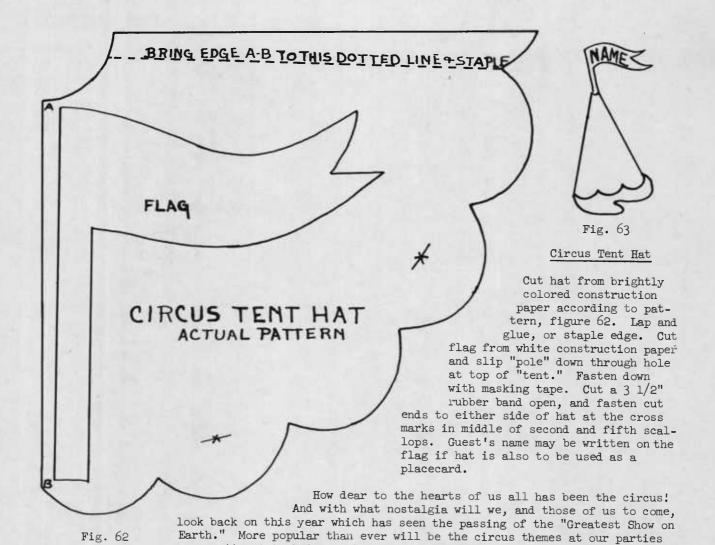


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Fig. 60

Petal Hat

Cut a length of your chosen color of crepe paper 15" x 21". Glue the 15" sides together to form a tube. Turn up a 2" cuff around bottom edge. Cut six 6" deep scallops around top edge of hat, figure 60, and tie in tightly at base of scallops with covered spool wire. For an added festive touch, brush scallops with casein glue (lightly please) and dust with sequins or glitter. This one the ladies love!



the smell of the sawdust ring.
Circus Tent Nutcup or Centerpiece

Put pleater attachment on your sewing machine, and pleat enough crepe paper to cover all the nutcups you need. Strips for pleating should be cut in 1 3/4" widths. Two sizes of nutcups are used for this favor--one being pasted to a circle or oblong of cardboard and the second cup being large enough to completely cover the first. Paste pleated strip around covering cup. Cut a 3" circle of a sharply contrasting color in construction paper. Cut to center of circle and overlap to form a low cone. Staple and glue to top rim of pleating. Insert a short length of pipe cleaner in top of cone for a flag pole, and attach a small pennant, figure 64.

as we attempt to bring back from memories the song of the calliope and

Fig. 64

The same idea may be enlarged to serve as a centerpiece. Cover with crepe-paper pleating a round hat box large enough to hide a birthday cake. Add ropes of pennants all around the top and just under the cone roof for added color. The possibilities are endless.

Have Jun!