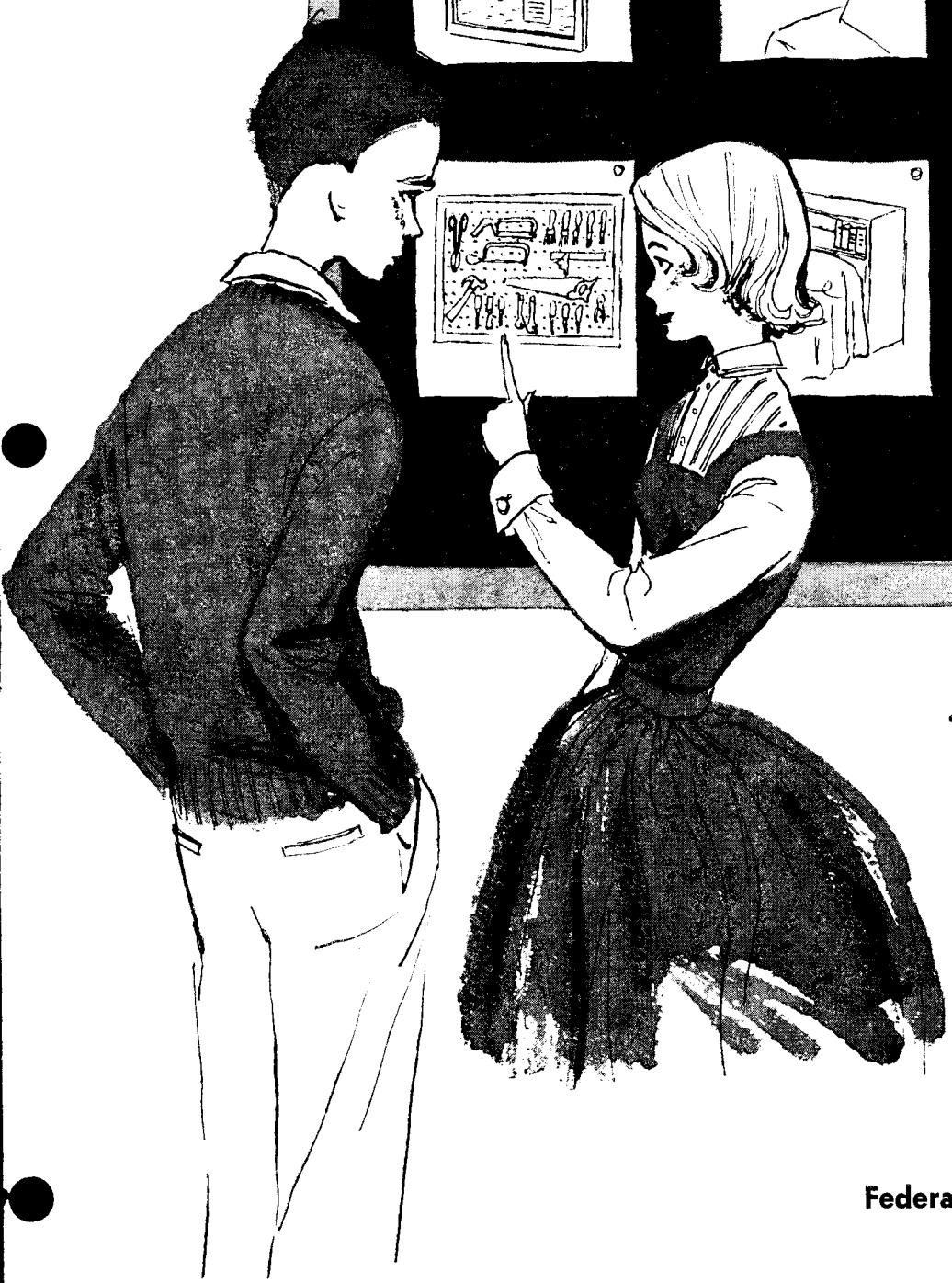
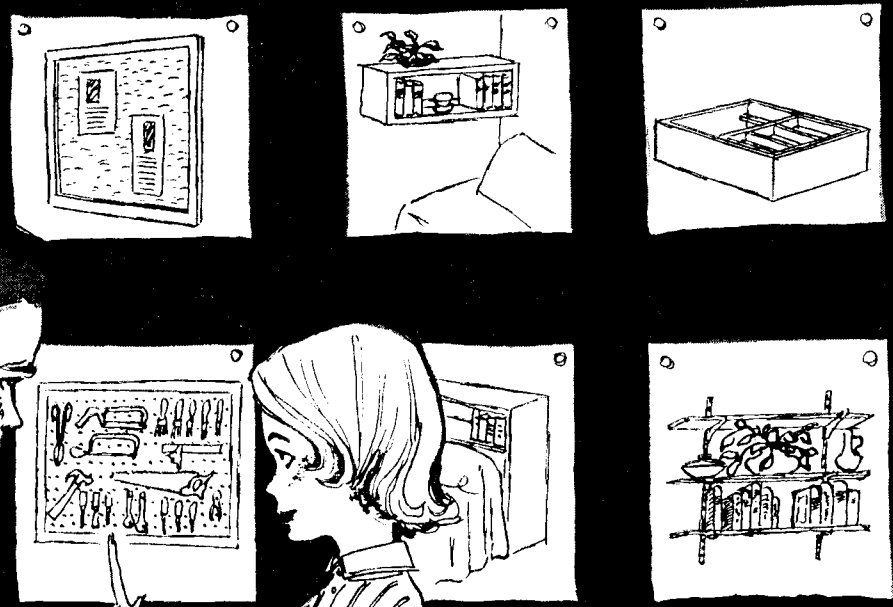


71.4
Dr. 620
no. 21
C.S.

EXTENSION LIBRARY

Storage Ideas



DISCARD
 4-H CLUB WITH
 Club Series K-21
 July 1957

Federal Cooperative Extension Service
 Oregon State College, Corvallis

Storage Ideas

	Page
Closets	5
Dressing Center	10
Bathroom Storage	12
Study Area	14
Sports Equipment	16
Hobbies and Collections	18
Toy Storage	18
Tool Storage	19
Cleaning and Repairs	20

Acknowledgments

Appreciation is expressed to the members of the Home Living Project Advisory Committee for the many helpful ideas used in the development of this material. This committee is composed of volunteer leaders, older club members, and Extension Service personnel.

Credit is given the following for materials used in preparing this bulletin: **The Key to Good Storage**, Agricultural

Extension Service, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; **My Wish Book of Furnishings**, Agricultural Extension Service, Iowa State College, Ames; Housing and Design Department, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; **Closets and Storage Spaces**, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C. The section on "Sports Equipment" was prepared by Andrew S. Landforce, Extension Wildlife Management Specialist.

By Myrtle Carter

**Extension Home Furnishings Specialist
Oregon State College**

THIS BULLETIN is intended to give you ideas rather than specific solutions to individual storage needs. These ideas may be adapted in two ways—you may make most of the articles yourself, or you may make a few and buy other articles. The important thing to learn is to recognize your needs, and how to go about meeting them.

“A place for everything” makes it easier for you to be neat and orderly. Once you have a convenient place for things, either in your own room, or in any other room in your home, the next step is to form the good habit of putting things away. Then Mom and Dad won't keep reminding you. The easier you make it for yourself, the easier you'll find it to keep your home attractive.

This bulletin is about you, your habits, and the waste space about your home. Take a good look at your own room. Now think about your habits of orderliness. Do you think they would stand an inspection? What about other rooms in your home? Perhaps you could make some changes that would help the appearance and efficiency of your home.

It's storage we're thinking about. Storage is a place to put things. It takes good planning, and needs a lot of “doing,” but you'll find that it's worthwhile.

Maybe you've joined the laughs when you heard Fibber Magee having trouble with his closet. When he opened the door everything fell out and buried him. If you store things this way your life can be hectic, just like Fibber Magee's.

Many of us have trouble finding the right places to put things. Some of us have good storage places, but don't arrange them well, or don't put them to work for us.

Perhaps you're one of these folks who just has too many things. How long has it been since you went through your **stuff** to see what things you should discard. Some-

times all of us just need to "clean house."

Even if you live in a rented house, you can do many things to improve storage. You might design portable units or specially built pieces that you can take with you when you move.

Make your golden rule—"Put the right things in the right place at the right time."

How to Plan Your Storage

For Your Own Room

- ▶ Make a list of things that need to be stored in your room.
- ▶ Sort out those things that you do not use often. Store these elsewhere, or discard them.
- ▶ Plan to store articles as near as you can to place where you use them most often.
- ▶ Store together similar items or articles of similar use.
- ▶ Store much used items where you can quickly and easily reach and return them to storage.
- ▶ Make sure you're really using all available storage space before building any new ones. Try to arrange flexible spaces. These will "grow as you grow" and can be changed easily to new uses.
- ▶ If all available space is being well used, look around for extra space. Place built-ins or portable storage here.
- ▶ Work for good lighting and ventilation.
- ▶ Remember your room needs frequent cleaning. Think about ease of cleaning this storage unit, and the articles in it.
- ▶ Try to store each item in an appropriate place:

Location by **use** means to have everyday garments stored where you can find them quickly.

Storage by **need** means to have seasonal clothes at hand, out-of-season clothes put away.

Location by **safety** means to store each thing so it will be kept in as perfect condition as possible.

For Other Rooms

Approach any storage problem in much the same manner as given under "For Your Own Room." Always keep in mind the following:

- ▶ Keep things in good condition.
Have a place for each thing, instead of stuffing many things into a jumbled mess in a box or drawer.
Control moths and other insects.
Good ventilation is necessary to avoid odors, and damage from moisture. Good light will help you see articles easily.
- ▶ Store items appropriately—
By **use**. For example, store winter coats near the outer door; hot pan holders near the stove; mixing pans near the mixing center; toys near the play area; etc.
By **safety**. Store frequently used articles at a convenient height; put well labeled poisons out of reach of children; store children's coats where they can get them without climbing, so they will not run out in the cold without them.
- ▶ Sort and discard regularly.

Closets

Do you have a personal closet? Or maybe you share one with a brother or sister. Is this closet arranged so you can find your things easily and quickly?

Check on yourself --

Do this

Check here when done

- ▶ Sort out those garments not in season ()
- ▶ Lay aside the outgrown ones. ()
- ▶ Sort anything needing special care (coat, sweater, fur cap, etc.), things needing repair or mending. ()
- ▶ Sort by use (out-of-door sports, dress clothes, sleeping garments, etc.) ()

1. Which clothes can go on or in drawers?
2. Which ones should be hung?
3. Find appropriate places.

Rods for Closets

The size of clothes rods varies depending on how you want to use them. If you're adding rods as a part of your project think about these four things:

- ▶ Length of the rod—Must it be 2 or 4 feet long to meet your needs?
- ▶ Weight the rod must carry—A smaller rod can be used if you plan to hang only light articles, such as blouses and skirts. For heavy coats or other heavy garments, you must use a heavier rod. If the load is mixed, then compromise.
- ▶ Diameter of the rod—Plan the size of the rod so your coat hangers will slide easily on it. Coat hangers vary, so best measure several types.

▶ Type of rod --

Galvanized pipe

For a 2-foot length a ½-inch pipe (inside measurement) may be used.

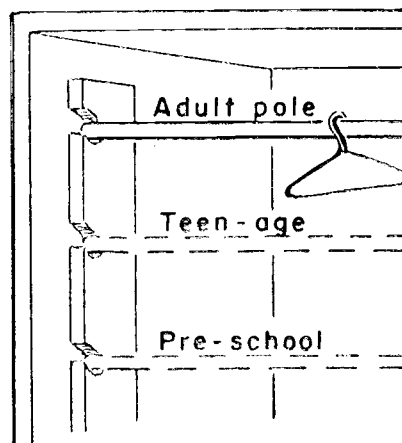
For a 3-foot length a ¾-inch pipe is needed.

For a 4-foot length use a 1-inch pipe.

Wooden doweling

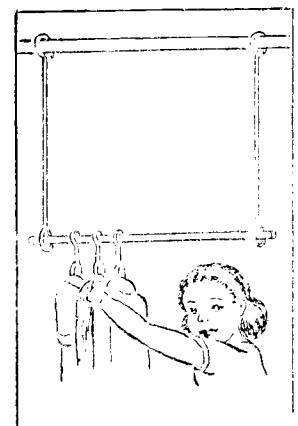
1 to 1½ inch diameter (outside measurement).

In this picture, you can see that hanging rods can be adjustable as you grow. Plan a height that is convenient for the person using it.



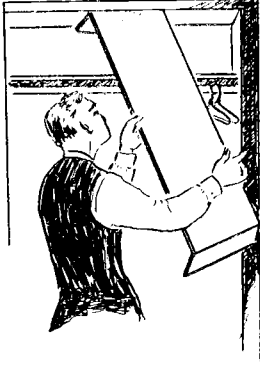
Adjustable clothes rod.

Junior clothes rod. Rod hangs down 23 inches from grownup level. Easy for children to hang up their own clothing. Short garments hang above to double closet space.



For major work on closet space, check with your leader for additional suggestions and references.

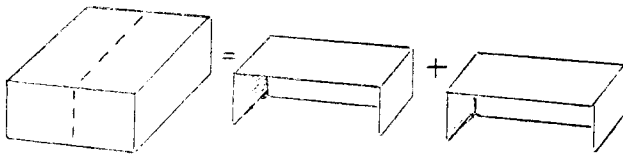
Stepshelves for Closets



Wood stepshelf.

To use "waste space" on your closet shelf, make a stepshelf. This may be as long as the entire shelf as shown in drawing, or it can be shorter, depending on your needs.

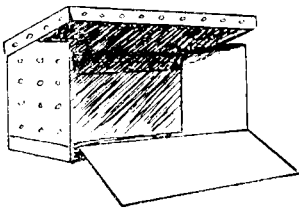
Maybe Dad will help you make one of plywood. If you want to put only lightweight articles on these shelves, you may use an ordinary cardboard carton. Cut one side of the box off. Now cut the box in two to make the size half-shelves you want.



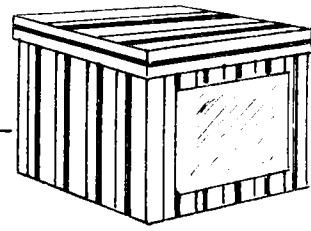
Heavy cardboard stepshelf.

Hat Boxes

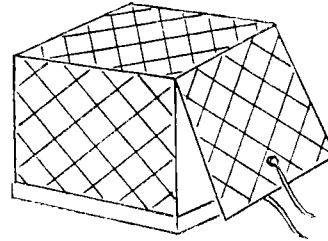
These boxes may be covered with adhesive-backed plastic materials, wallpaper, fabrics, or painted to blend with your planned color scheme. Or you can buy them readymade. Notice they're all easy for you to see what hats are stored in each box, and easy for you to remove the hats. Covered boxes protect your hats from dust and soil. Watch not to crush hats in the box.



Front side and top of box opens.



A hat box with plastic "window" lets you see easily inside box.

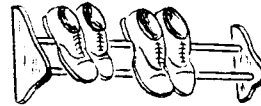


"Upside down" box with front that opens.

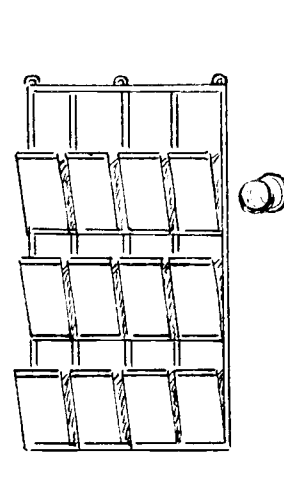
Garment Bags

These bags protect clothing against dust, and are an excellent way of storing out-of-season clothing. They can be purchased, or made at home, to hold from one to six garments.

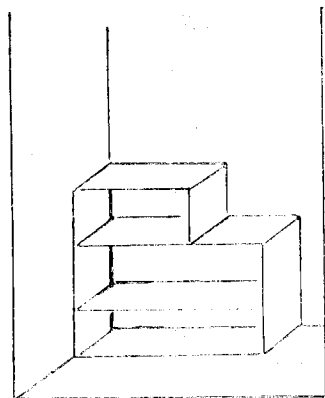
Shoe Storage



Shoe racks for use where wall space is less limited than floor space.

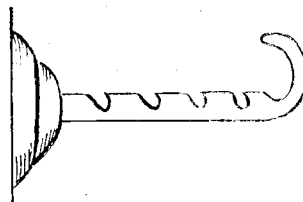


Fabric or plastic shoe bag to hang.



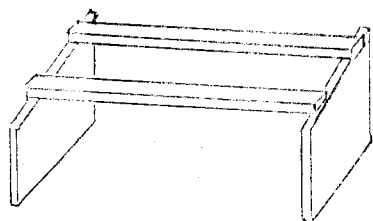
Wooden stepshelves for shoes.

Other Ideas for Closets

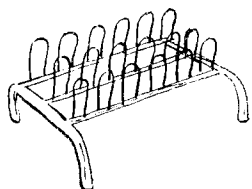
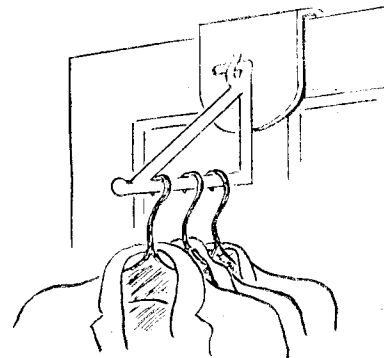


Hanger for four garments.

Solid ends of a fruit box cut sloping at top and joined by wooden strips to make a shoe rack.

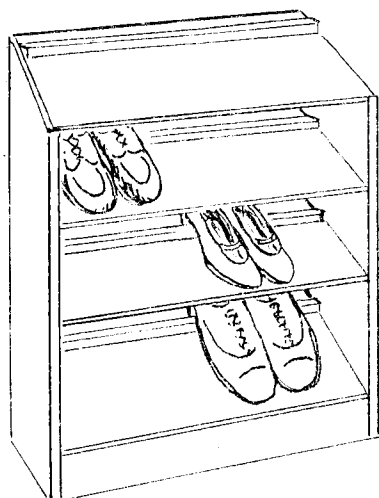


Portable door hanger.



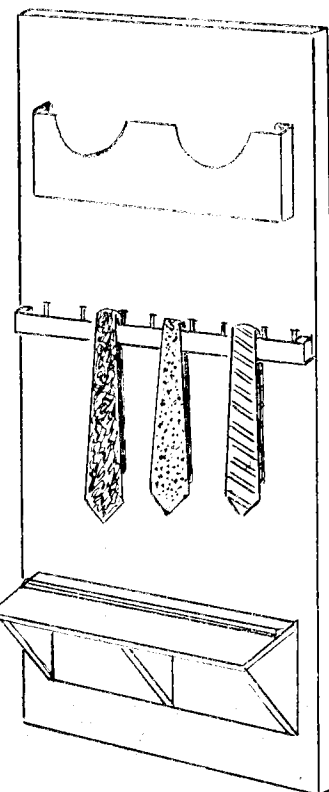
Chrome plated shoe rack.

Hat rack holds 2 hats.

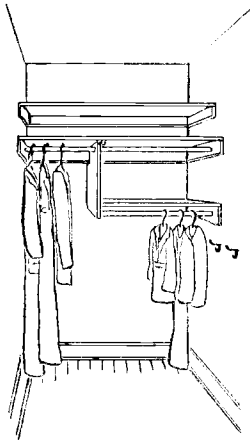


Each shelf of shoe rack will hold at least two pairs of shoes.

Tie rack.

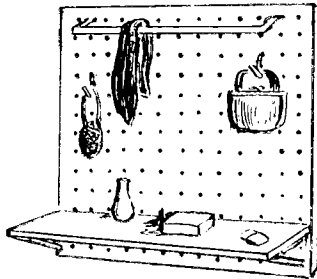
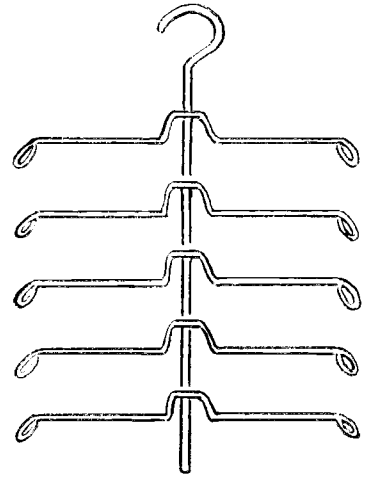


Shoe rack.



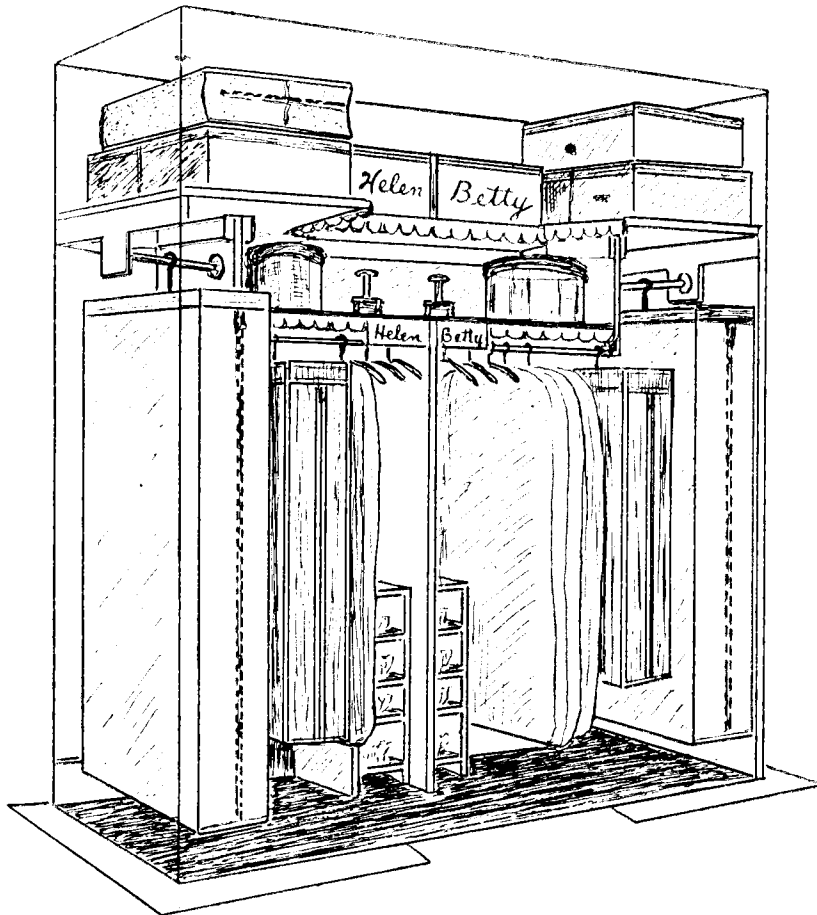
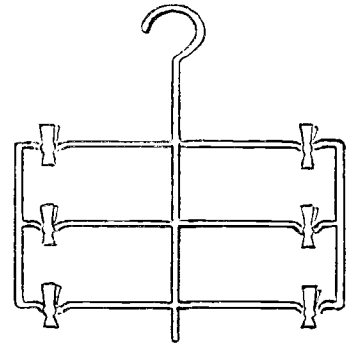
Plan tall spaces for long garments and shorter spaces for shirts, skirts, and blouses. The sketch shows you how a suspended shelf adds usable storage space above the floor where dust will be less likely to harm articles.

Blouse rack holds five blouses. Rack takes same space as required for one blouse.



Perforated hardboard may be added to closets or other walls for convenient storage. You can buy many adjustable fixtures to use with this board.

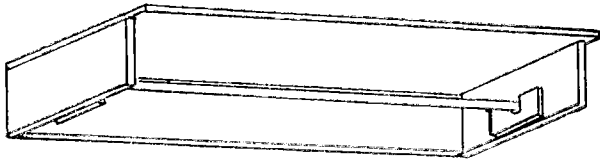
Hanger for three skirts.



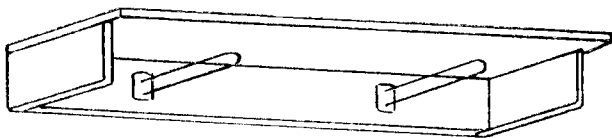
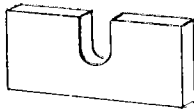
This closet is planned for two girls. (Two boys may share in same way.) Each girl's dresses are stored in duplicate garment bags. Boxes are marked by name. Both girls have a complete set of accessories — hat boxes, hat racks, shoe boxes, and blanket cases.

Closets You Can Make

Here are suggestions for making a closet if you do not have one. There are any number of arrangements that you may use for a closet. Only a few are suggested on this page.



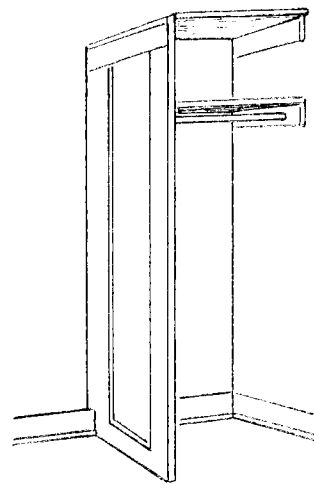
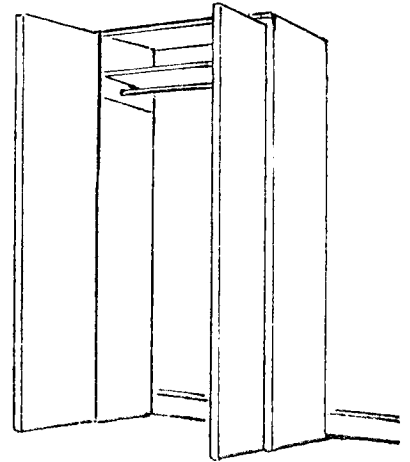
Build a shelf and anchor it to a corner of a room. Prepare blocks of wood as shown to hold your rod. Make a gathered or pleated curtain of plastic or preshrunk cotton fabric and hang to edge of shelf.



Metal fixtures instead of a wooden rod may be used for hangers in a shallow closet.

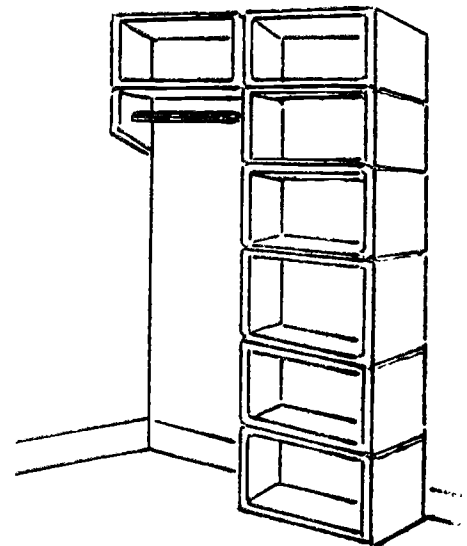
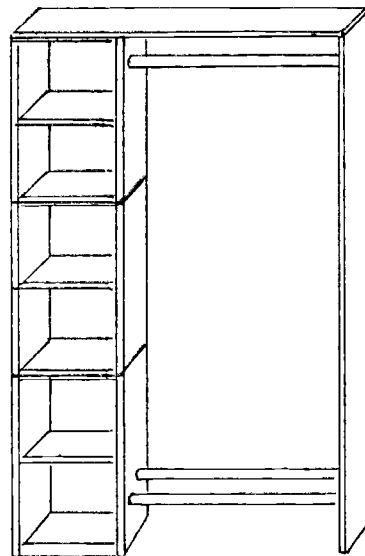
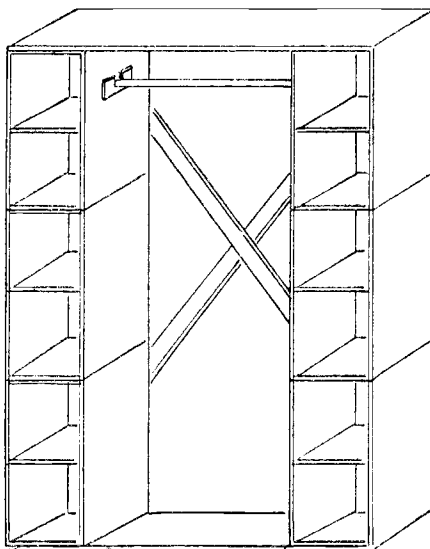
Closets of Fir Plywood

A convenient closet may be built of fir plywood.



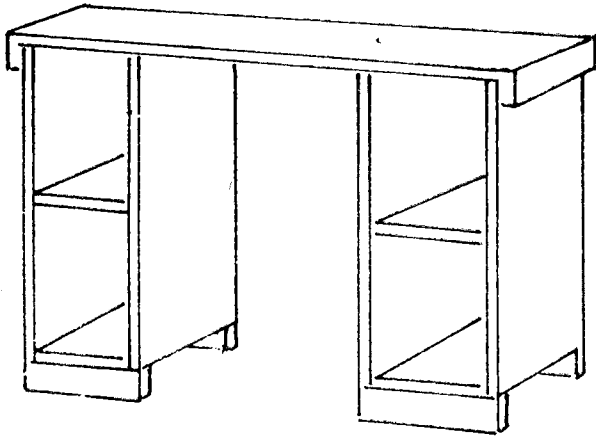
A plywood closet placed in the corner of a room. Add wood door or fabric to protect clothing.

Closets of Packing Boxes

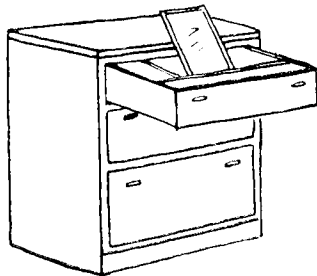


Dressing Center

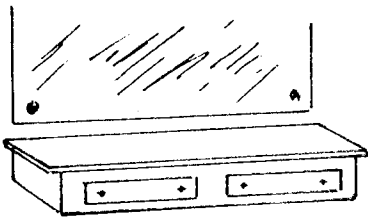
Dressing Tables



Dressing table made from two packing boxes mounted on a base for ease in cleaning. Top is covered with a smooth piece of wood. Cover boxes with a fabric skirt. (Ask your leader for directions.)



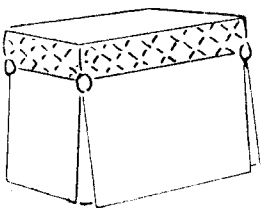
Top chest drawer used for grooming accessories.



Two small drawers of an old dresser used as a dressing table.

Stools

You can make inexpensive stools for a dressing table or wherever needed. Here you see several inexpensive ideas.

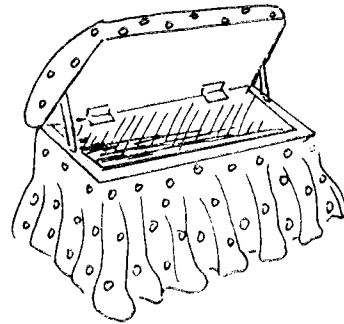
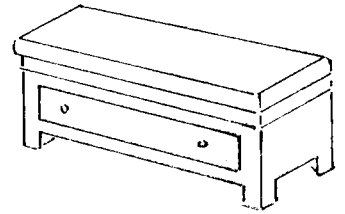


A padded-top stool.



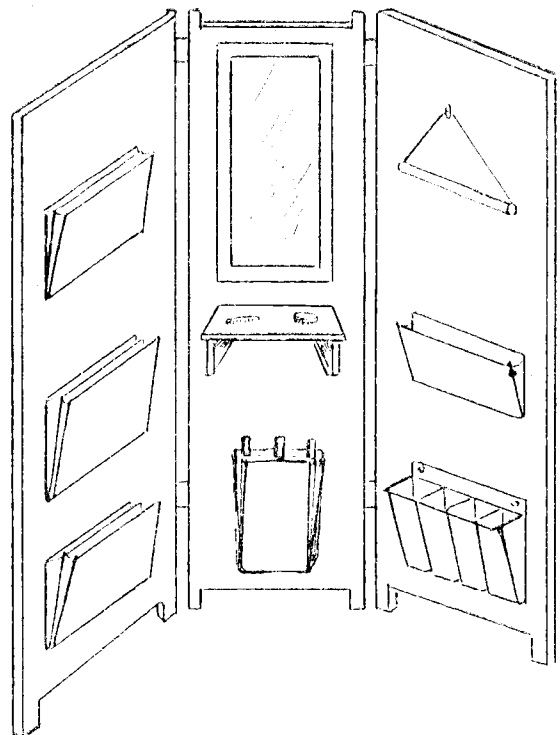
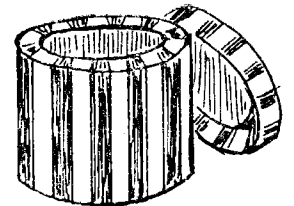
A slip-covered nail keg.

A window seat or chest with hinged lid, or the cut-down base of an old drawer.



A storage stool or bench from a slip-covered box with seat section padded and upholstered.

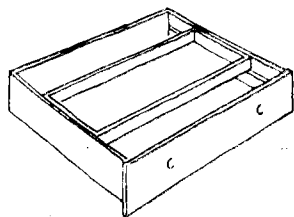
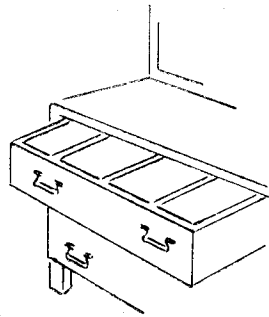
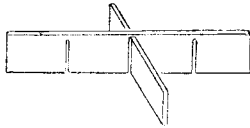
Covered storage box stool.



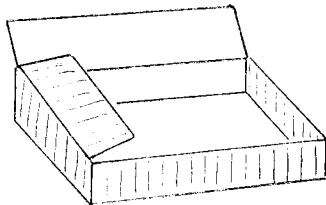
A folding screen used as a grooming center.

Organizing Drawers

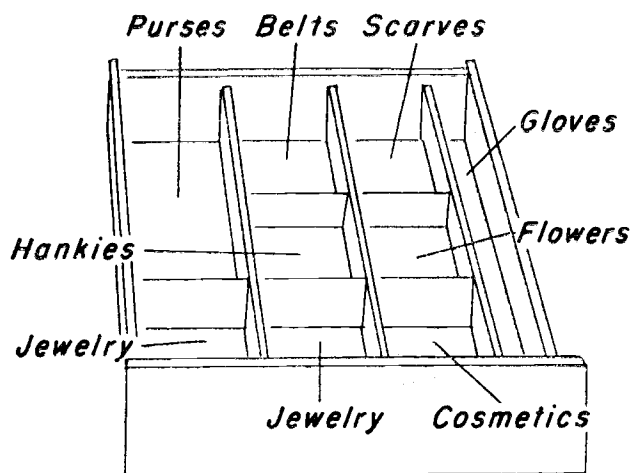
Add dividers to drawers to keep space orderly. These may be made of plywood, lightweight wood, hardboard, or of heavy cardboard.



For deeper drawers add a half drawer or sliding tray as shown.



Miscellaneous boxes can be covered in adhesive-backed plastics, wallpaper, or fabrics to form attractive drawer dividers.

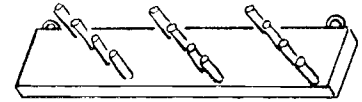


Decide what you keep in each drawer. Then measure the space needed for different articles to tell you how to divide the drawer.

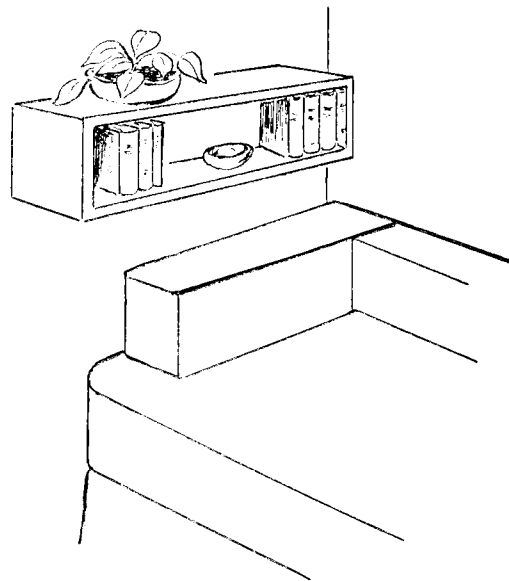
Tie and Belt Hanger

You can buy many types of tie and belt holders. These will help you to be orderly, and keep your clothing in good condition.

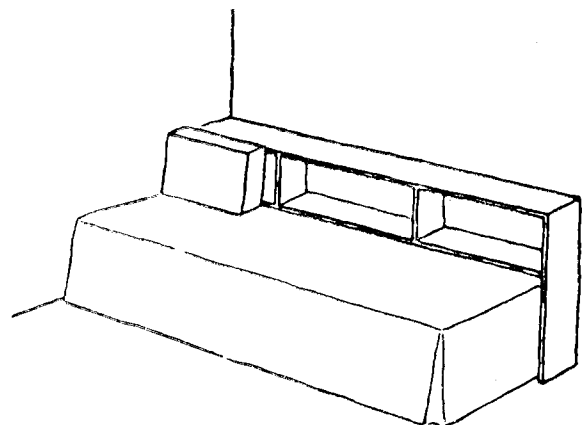
Shown is a home-made tie and belt hanger using wooden set-in dowels or finishing nails to hold the ties and belts.



Area for Relaxing



Hanging shelf over a bed.

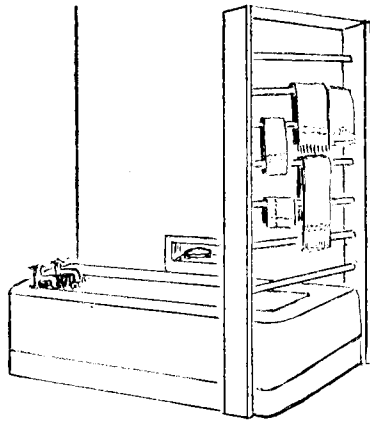


Wooden backrest for tailored bed treatment. In daytime, bed slides underneath and pillows are placed against it to reduce width. At night, bed slides out from under it.

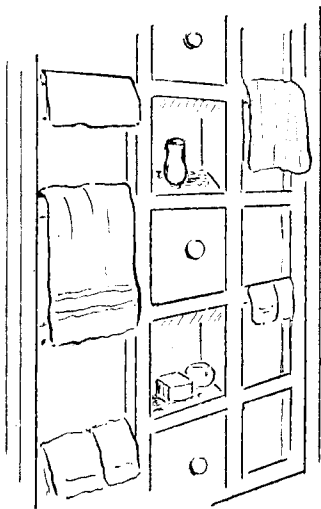
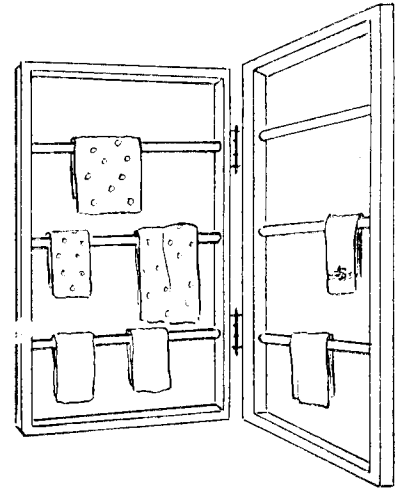
Bathroom Storage

The bathroom is probably the most used room in the house. Most bathrooms are small, and quickly become disorderly if storage is short. Here are a few ideas.

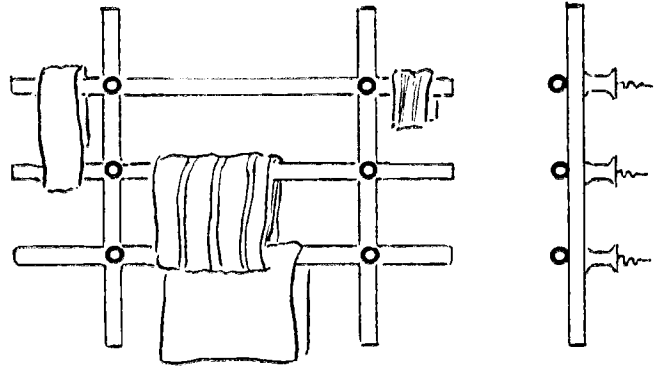
Wall hugging rods used for towel storage.



Portable towel holder. Frame is a folding screen, with inserted wooden dowels to hold towels.

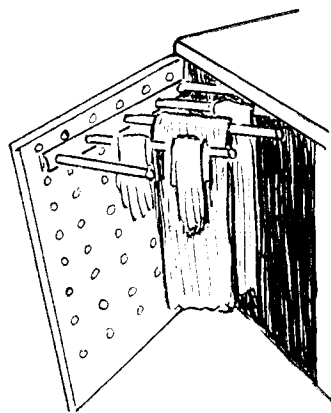


Rods and shelves are "naturals" for useful, decorative storage.

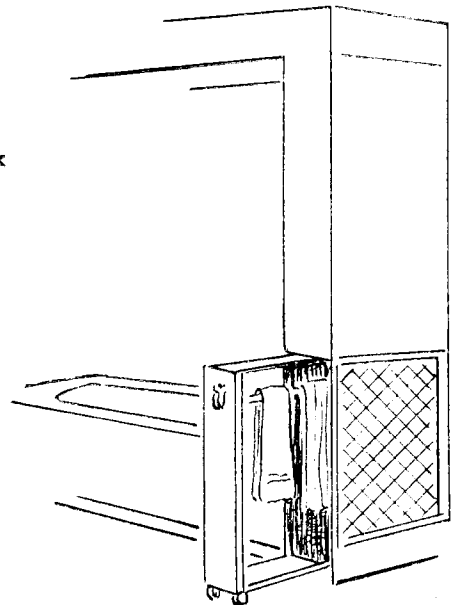


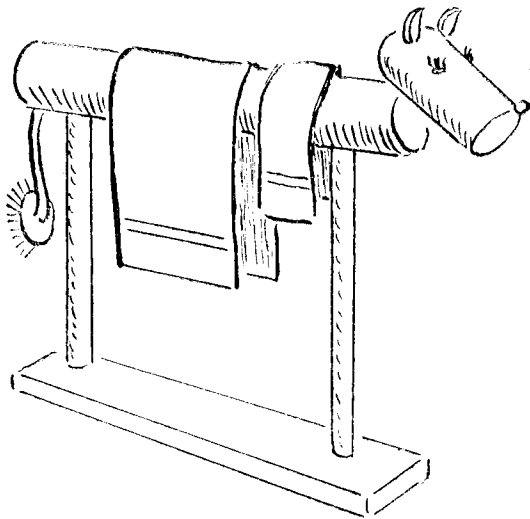
Towel rack made of dowels and spools.

For towel drying space, try rods on the door of a counter.

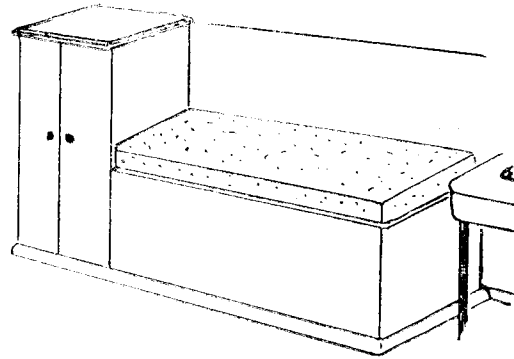


Sliding rack to use in a ventilated wall or partition.

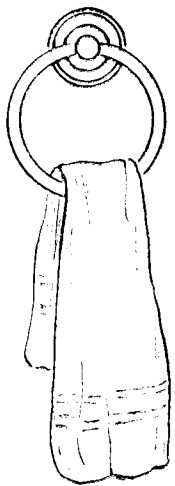




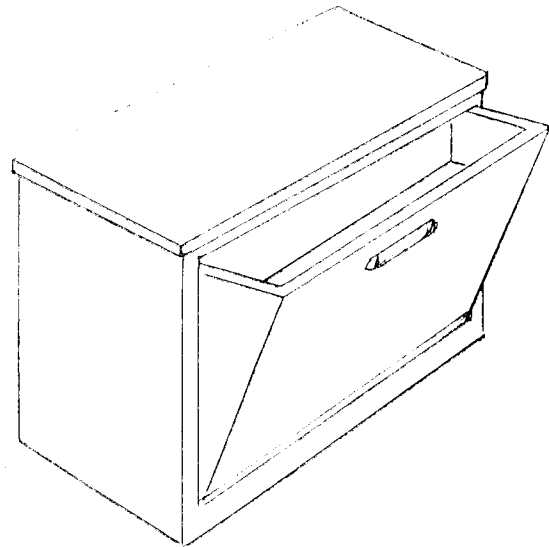
Wooden-horse towel rack for "junior."



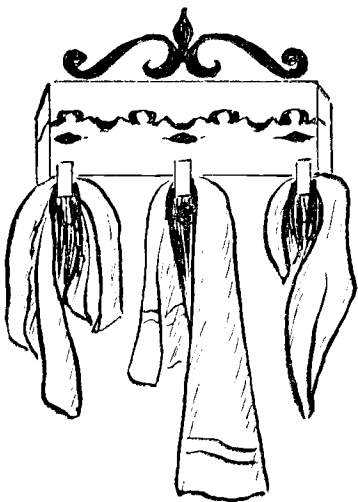
A padded, built-in seat hinged at the top to give storage below.



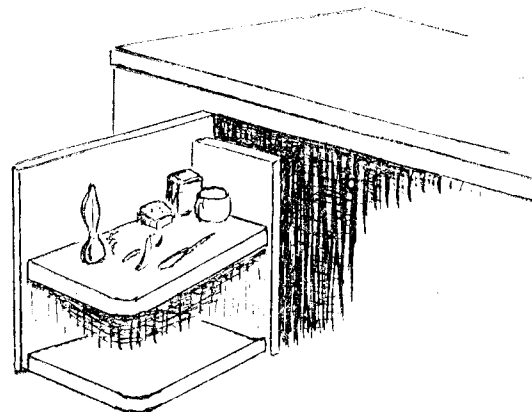
Towel ring of plastic, metal, or painted wood.



Clothes hamper bench for bath or bedroom.



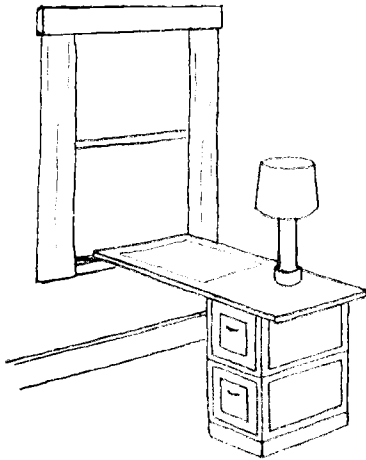
Children enjoy using a painted-mailbox towel rack.



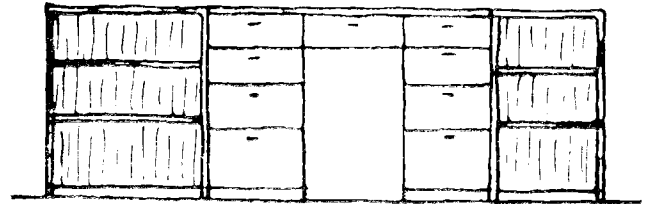
A swing-out panel keeps your manicure equipment out of sight. Manicure supplies may be kept in a special box that can be carried about.

Ask your leader for helps on kitchen storage ideas.

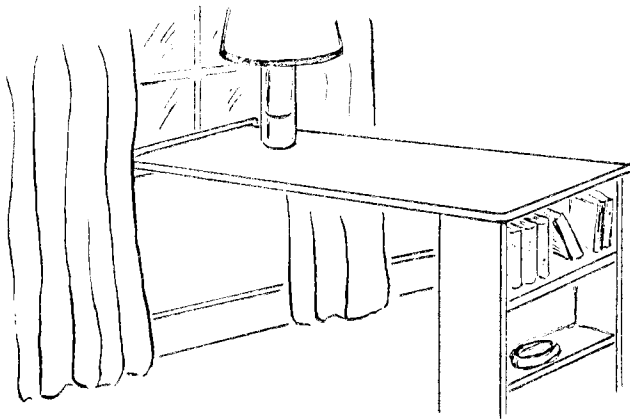
Study Area



If a window sill is the right height, you can make a "window" desk. Support one end of a piece of plywood on the window sill. For drawers, use old cabinet drawers, or wooden file cases can be painted.

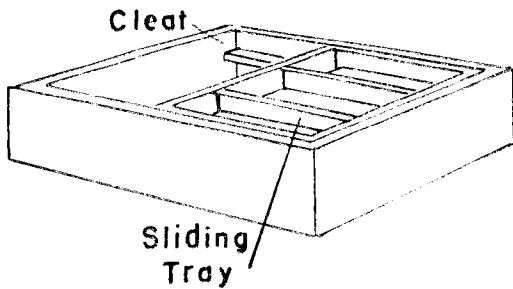
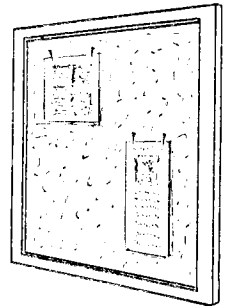


Bookcases flank either side of a study desk. The shape of the bulletin board is pleasing with the horizontal line of the furniture grouping.

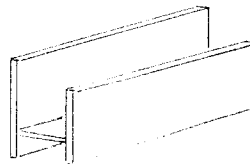


You may prefer open shelves to hold books only.

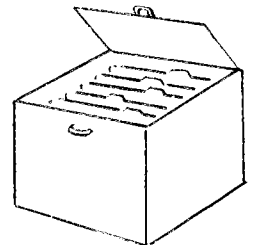
Bulletin boards may be made of cork, insulation boards, corrugated cardboard covered with cloth (especially flannel), etc. Size and shape depends on its use and the space the bulletin board is to occupy. (See "Color and Room Arrangement.")



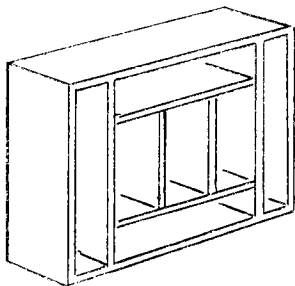
Add a sliding tray to deep desk drawers.



Letter rack.



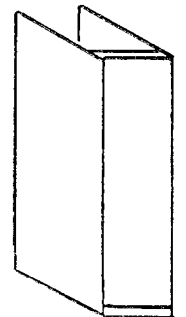
Expandable file.



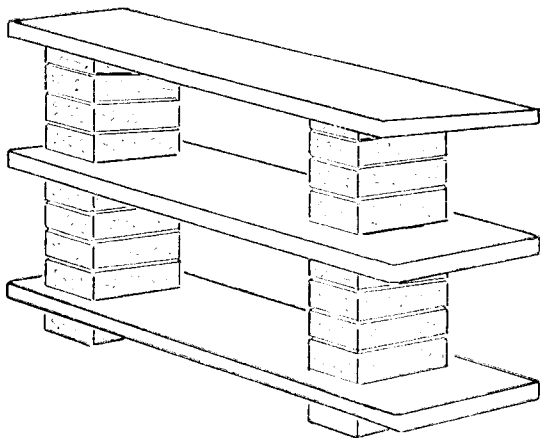
When drawer space is short, place a partitioned storage unit on or above desk top.



Covered or painted pencil holder for desk.



File box for miscellaneous bulletins will help keep small booklets together.



Bookcase made from bricks and well-finished lumber.



Brick bookcase is an idea for your living room, too.

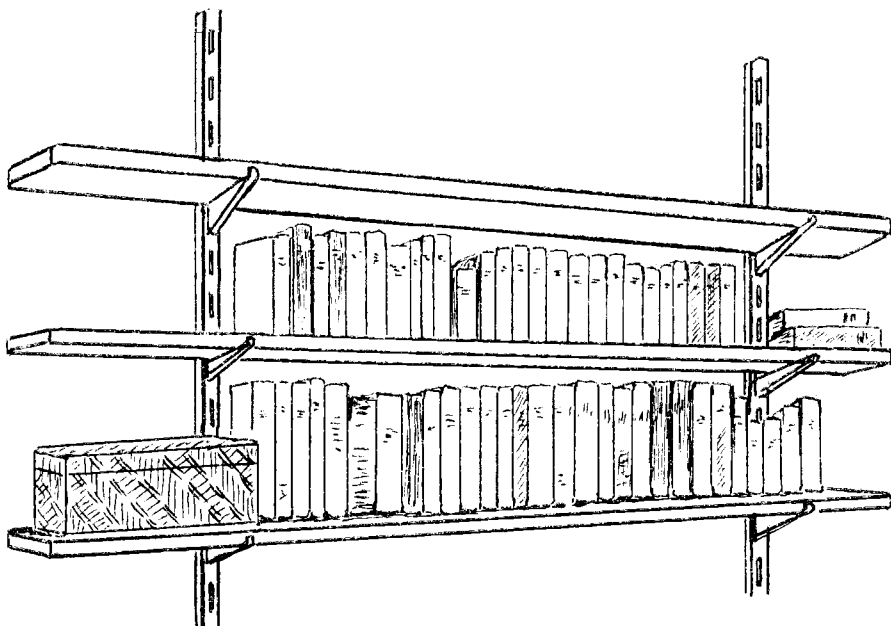
Bookshelves or other open-front shelf units may be placed on adjustable shelf brackets, as shown below. The upright strip is sold by the foot. It is available in standard and heavy-duty weights for shelves varying from 4 inches to 16 inches deep. The hardware is plated steel and is available through cabinet shops and some hardware stores. Lengths of the upright pieces vary from 24 inches to 144 inches.

Check with a commercial cabinet shop on proper width, length, and method of hanging

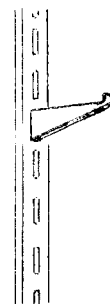
shelves to meet your needs. Screws must be placed in the studs of the building to support heavy weights.

Cut the wooden shelves to desired length. Finish the wood. (Check with your leader for instructions.) When the finish is thoroughly dry, set the shelves in place on the brackets.

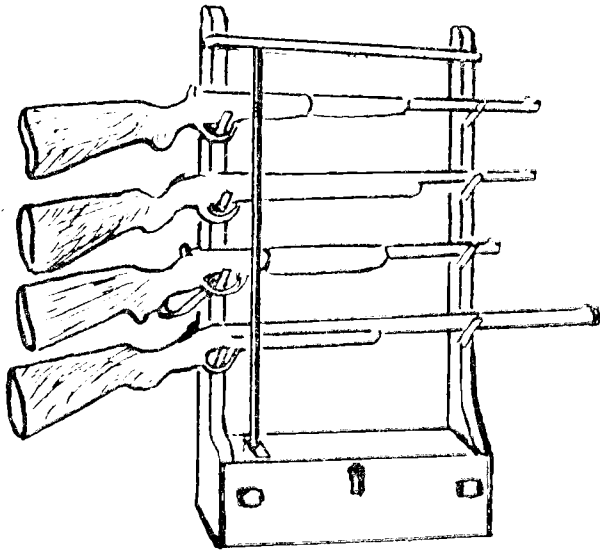
This type of shelf may be used in any room in the house for extra storage space, books, planters, records, cabinets, toys, and wall TV.



Bookshelves supported on projecting, adjustable shelf brackets.



Sports Equipment



For a boy without a better gun rack, this type can be used. Notice that the drawer can be locked. Keep extra ammunition, gun patches, gun oil, brushes, and cleaning rod in this drawer.

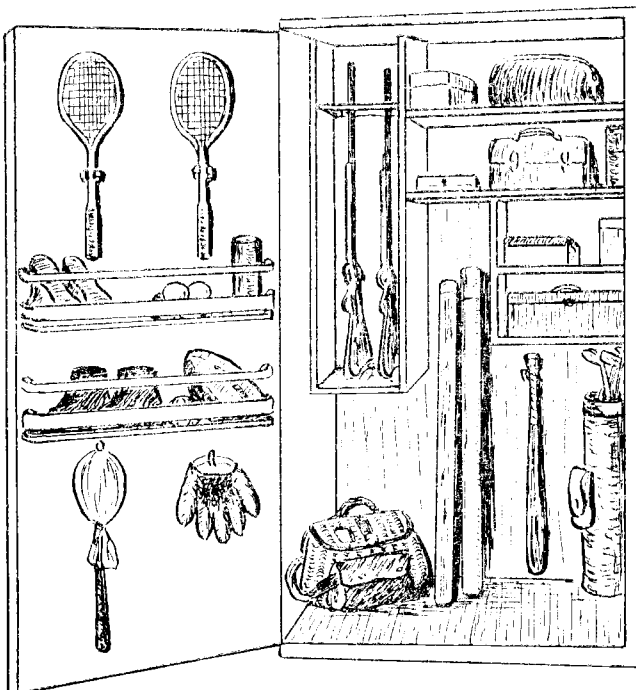
Guns

Keep guns in a dry part of the house. Do everything possible to keep them from rusting inside the barrel.

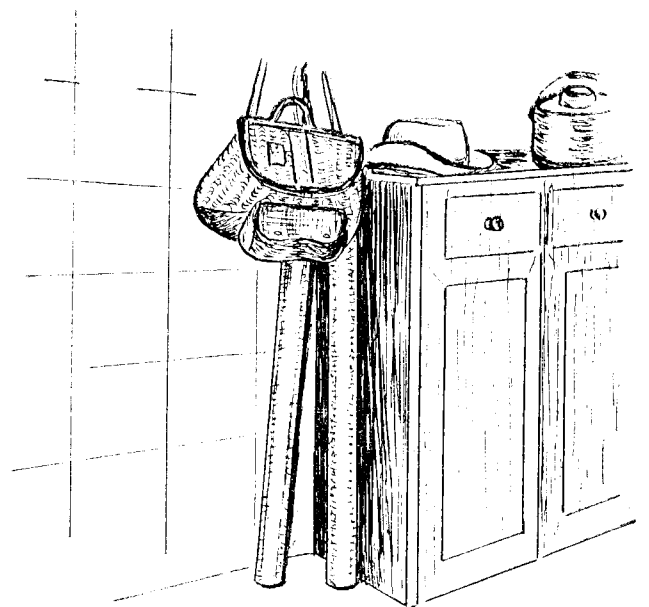
Gun cabinets and racks are good to hold firearms and ammunition, especially those with swinging doors and drawers that can be locked. Locked doors and drawers help prevent brothers and sisters from getting either your guns or ammunition when you don't want them to do so.

Clean and oil your firearms after each time you use them, before you put them away. Give the bore of your gun special care. Be sure it has oil all through it. However, never shoot a rifle that has oil or grease in the barrel. Run a dry gun patch through the bore several times to thoroughly dry it before shooting.

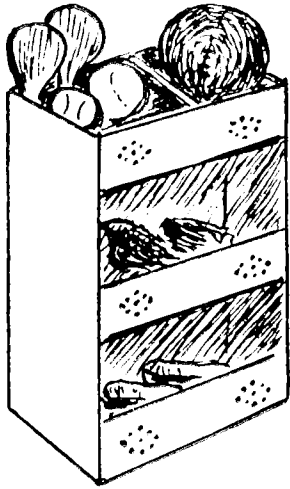
Have a special place for ammunition boxes to hold your extra cartridges. Be sure to put them back each time you bring your gun in.



A place for everything and everything in its place. Here is a closet in which to keep your fishing tackle and guns. In addition, it has spaces for other types of activity equipment.



If you cannot have an entire closet for storing your sport equipment, store your fishing equipment in a special corner, as shown. Keep reels, lines, leaders, hooks, spare knife, and sinkers in the basket. After using, be sure to put them all back in the same place.



A metal vegetable bin is a convenient way to store sports gear, rubbers, etc. The ventilated divisions permit quick drying of wet things. Too, you can easily wash soil from the shelves.

You can lose lots of good ammunition by not taking care of it.

It is best to clean and oil a seldom used gun every 4 months. To become a good shot, you need to shoot your gun at various intervals during the year.

Fishing Tackle

Fishing tackle and equipment can be used for years if you can keep from losing it. Here are a few tips to help you keep your tackle on hand and at its best.

Keep bamboo and glass fishing rods in tubular cases. An aluminum case is good. Standing the case in a corner or supported on wall pegs is fine. However, bamboo rods must be kept in a cool, dry place. Never leave rods inside cases in direct sunlight. It gets too hot inside the case.

Rods left put together or single-piece ones should be hung by the tip from a nail or peg.

Store your reel, extra lines, leaders, and hooks in a small box. Old stationery boxes and cigar boxes may be used. Keep the tackle box in a cool, dry place. Make a place for the box in your fishing basket, closet, or a convenient drawer.

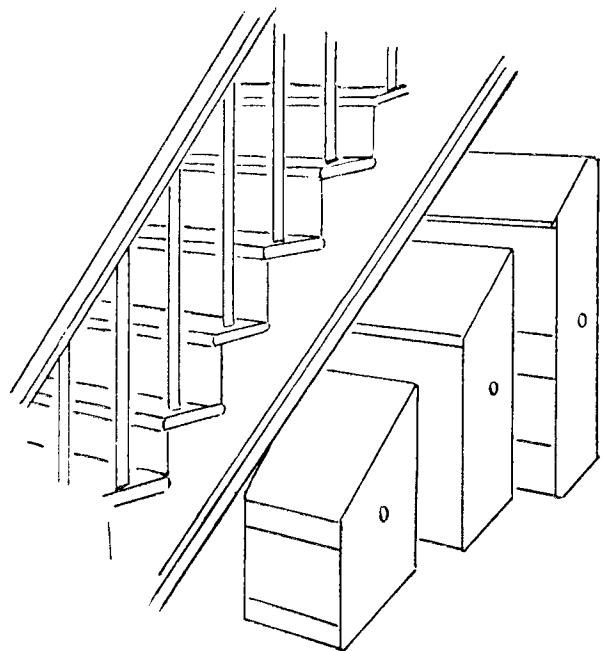
Creels should be washed out with soda water several times a year. Be sure to wash your creel before storing it between fishing seasons.

Keep hooks in small bottles or plastic boxes. Dry after using if they get wet or damp. Keep them in creel or small boxes until you use them again.

Nylon lines and leaders can be stored wet. Silk lines must be dried before storing, otherwise the dressing gets sticky and decay slowly sets in.

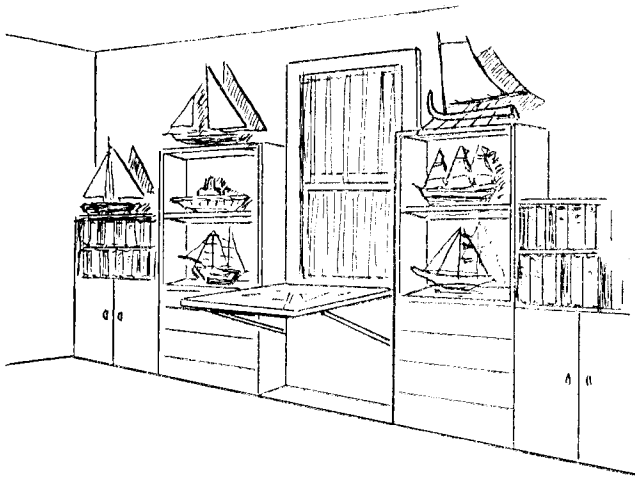
Wrap spinners and spoon in paper and store in small containers. The paper wrapping keeps them from being scratched. For stream-side use, it is a good idea to hook spinners and spoons in an old rotten piece of canvas or cloth. The hooks hold the lures secure, yet they can be removed easily.

If you come home with a partially used jar of salmon eggs, you can save them for a couple of weeks. Light a match and drop into the jar. Screw lid on quickly. The match burns up the oxygen, creating a slight vacuum which partially seals the lid. Store in refrigerator until the next trip.



Waste space beneath a stairway is used to store umbrellas, overshoes, and sport equipment. The three bins pull out for easy storage.

Hobbies and Collections



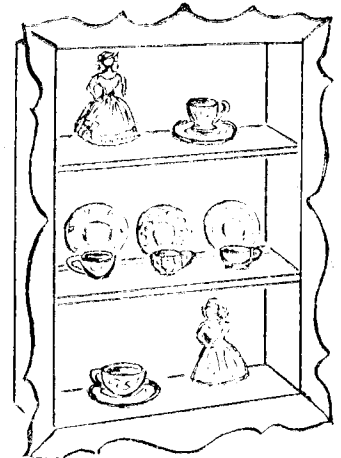
A ship or airplane collection form a pleasing pattern in this wall arrangement.

Store your hobbies or collections to keep them out of the way and where they won't catch dust. Fragile and easily soiled things are best kept behind glass in a dustproof case. Old-

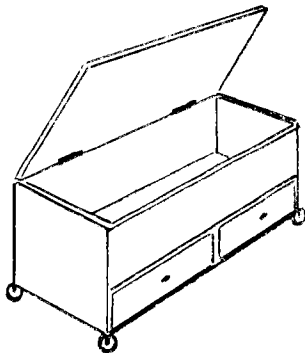
fashioned glass front bookcases can be used here.

Some collections can be more easily stored than others. Give your own problem some thought. A few interesting and meaningful items are a wiser selection than a large collection of common pieces.

Picture frame shadow boxes are attractive settings for some collections.

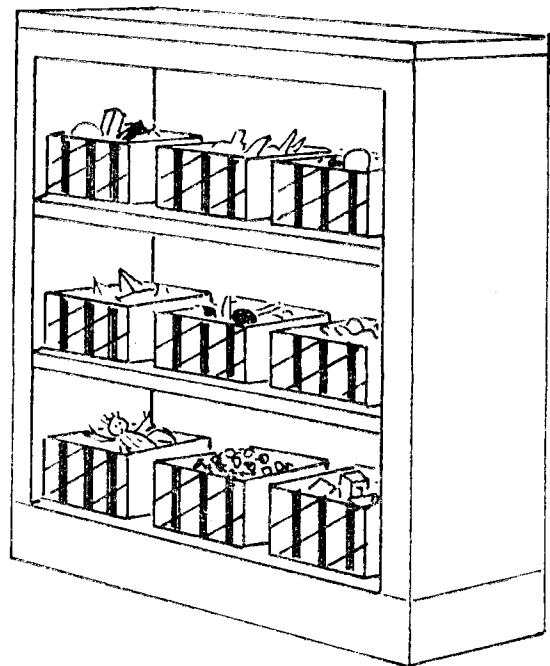
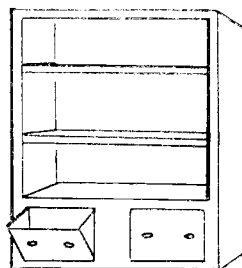


Toy Storage

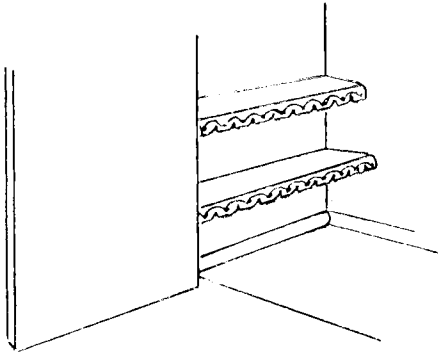


Roll-a-way chest.

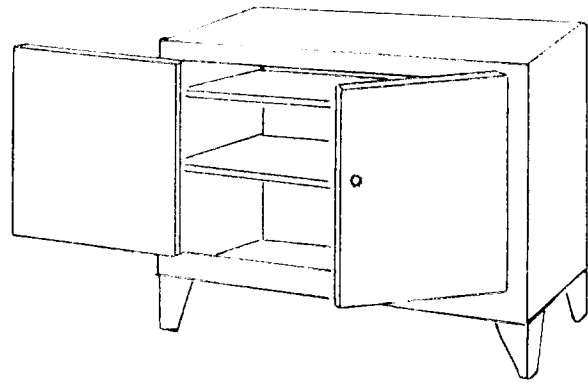
Bins below shelves.



Paper boxes covered with plain or patterned wall-paper used to store various small toys on shelves.



Low closet shelves are a good place to store toys for young children.

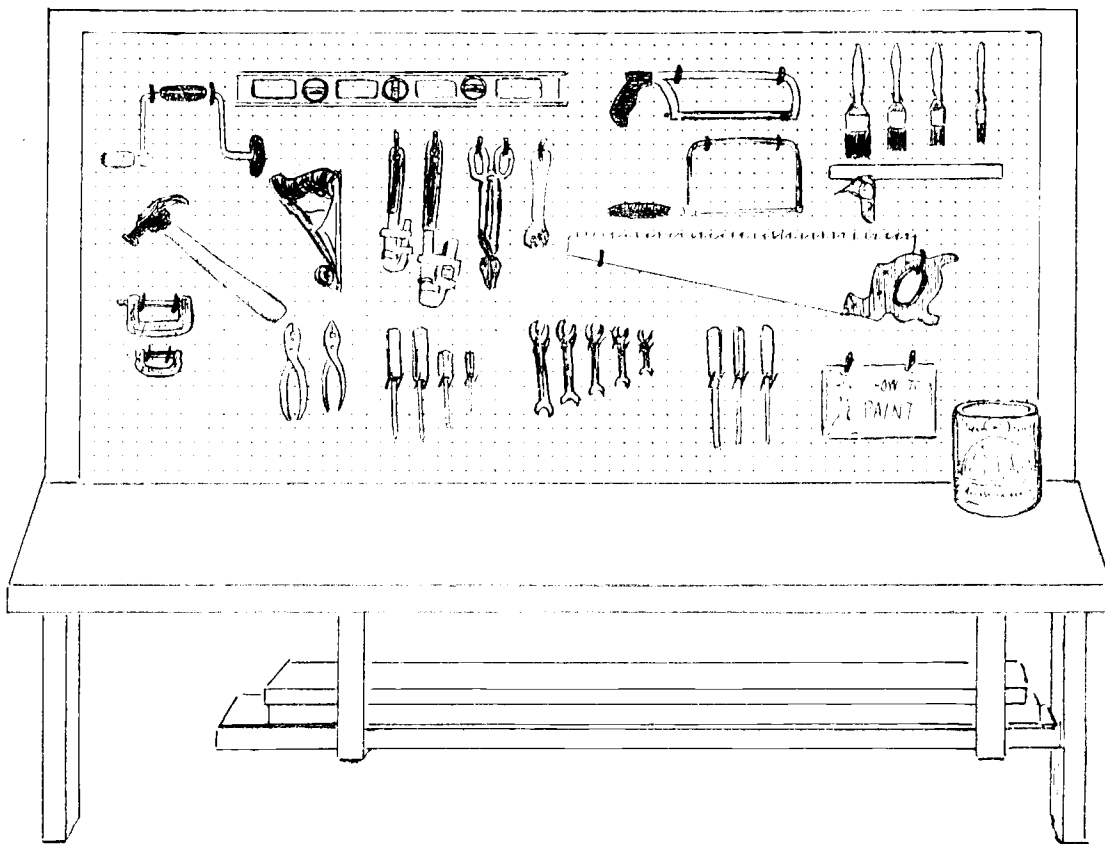
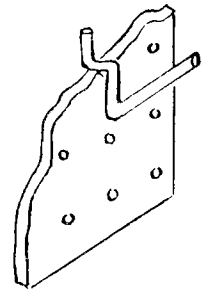


Old buffet cut down may solve a toy storage problem.

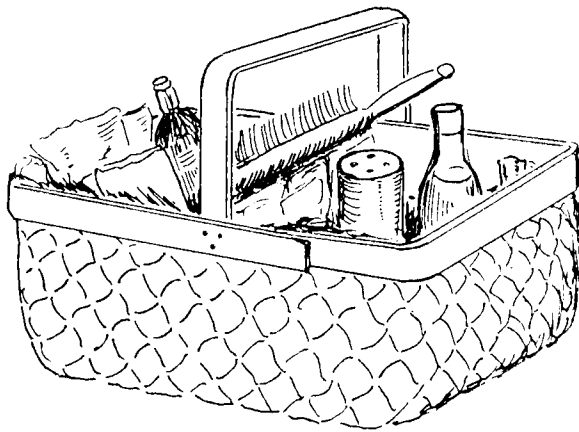
Tool Storage

A perforated hardboard panel can be used to keep tools and painting equipment in good condition. Tools are kept in place by hooks or pegs available for the purpose. Leave $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch space "behind" panel so shelf supports and other hardware can be inserted. Clothesline

wire can be bent to make simple "S" hook fasteners. Golf tees will support lightweight articles. Many different types of commercial hangers are available.

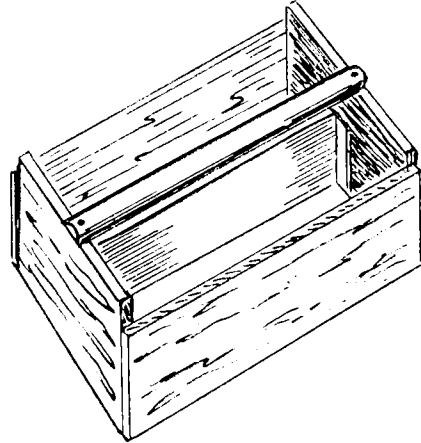


Cleaning and Repair Jobs

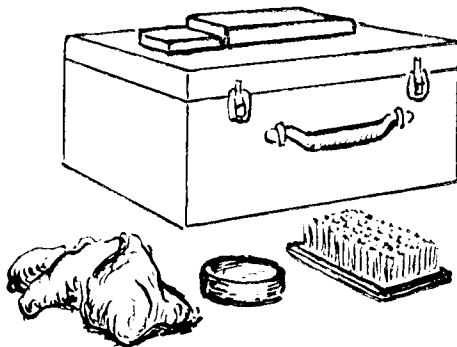


You can keep cleaning supplies together in a handy basket.

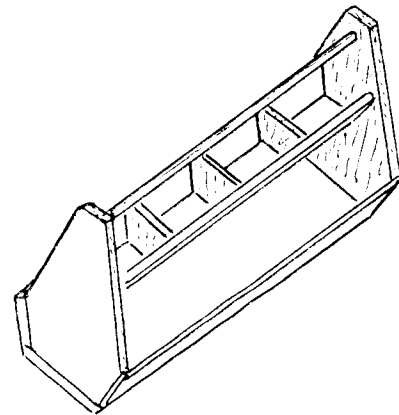
Make a tote-box in which to keep tools and supplies. Carry these any place you like and your supplies will always be together.



Directions for making the tote-box, plain or partitioned, are found in the "4-H Woodworking Project."



A hinged box is a handy place to store all supplies for shining your shoes. The raised section on the top of the box makes it easy for you to do the job.



Partitioned tool or tote box. Adapt dimensions to meet your needs.

Action

Let's just see how much improvement you can make with little or no expense.

1. What can I do to better organize my closet storage?

Make halfshelves

Hat boxes or other storage

Garment bags

Shoe rack or bag

Dispose of unused articles

Other

2. What can I do to make "dressing" more convenient?

.....

.....

.....

3. What can I do to better organize my "study center" storage?

.....

.....

.....

4. How can I improve storage in other rooms of my home?

Type

.....

.....

Rooms

5. Live by the motto—"Put the right things in the right place at the right time."

Do plan *major* storage work over a period of time. In this way you can budget both your *time* and *money*. Check with your leader for helps in making or buying storage articles for your home.

Demonstrations

Among other good things about the 4-H Program is sharing your experience with others. Think about the various things you have learned in this phase of your 4-H work. What interesting facts and experiences would you like to share?

How to go about organizing your material:

1. Some of the things I enjoyed learning in this project are:

- Storage ideas for storing my hats in the closet.
- Storage ideas for shoes.
- How to organize drawer space for convenient storage.
- Storage ideas for my "study center."
- Storage ideas for sports equipment or hobbies.
- Organizing cleaning supplies to make cleaning jobs easier in my home.
- Other

.....
.....

2. I would like to show others how to

.....
.....
.....

3. These are the steps for the demonstration:

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| 1. | 7. |
| 2. | 8. |
| 3. | 9. |
| 4. | 10. |
| 5. | 11. |
| 6. | 12. |

4. I must find out as much as possible about each step. For example:

- What equipment do I need?
-
- How long does it take?
-
- What are the advantages?
-
- Other
-

5. (a) What are some of the problems I had?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(b) How I solved these problems.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6. After I practice this demonstration, I can demonstrate at

.....

.....

Cooperative Extension work in Agriculture and Home Economics, F. E. Price, director, Oregon State College, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the State Department of Education cooperating. Printed and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.
