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Homemade Conveniences

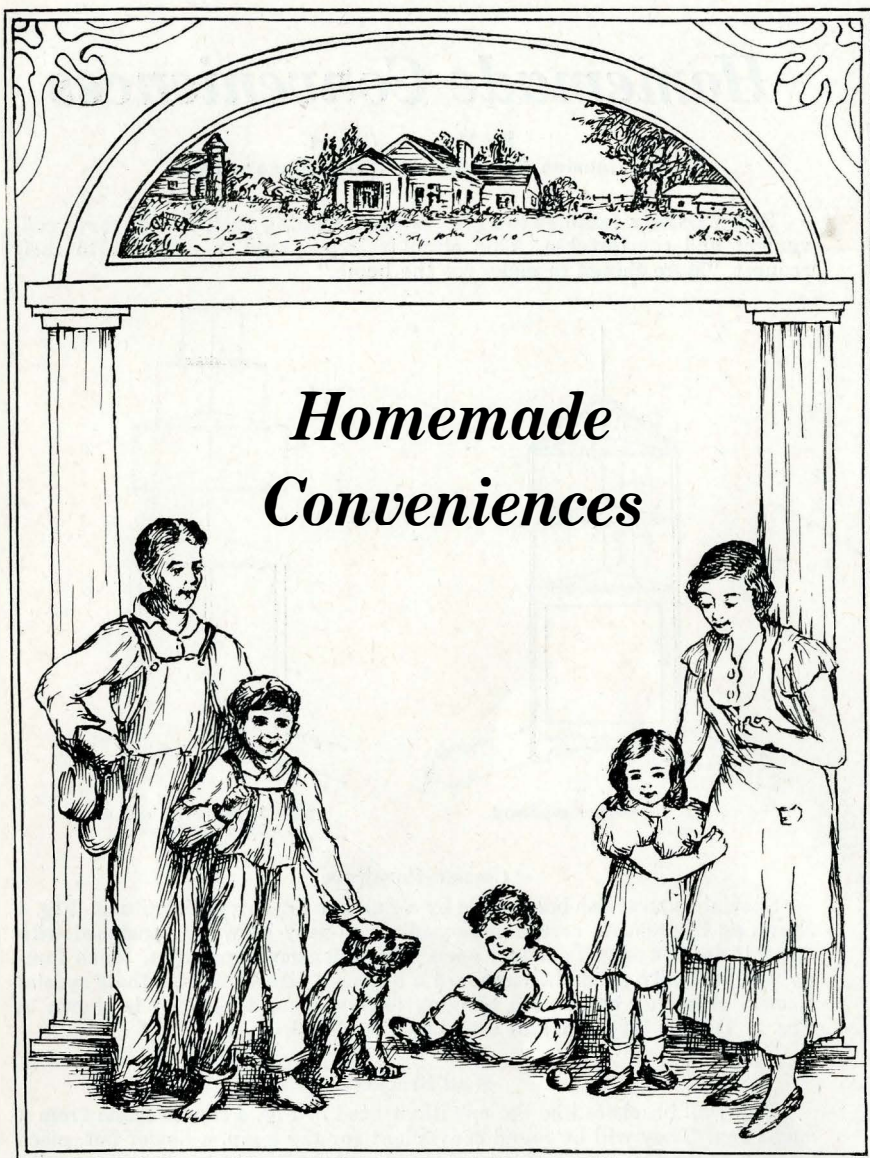
Mary A. Covert

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Homemade Conveniences

**Safeguarding South Dakota Homes Program
Conserving the Family's Time and Energy**

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE
EXTENSION SERVICE
Brookings, S. D.**

Homemade Conveniences

By Mary A. Covert
Extension Specialist in Home Management

South Dakota families are interested in making their homes more convenient and comfortable. This circular is prepared in response to their request, "More things to make for the home."

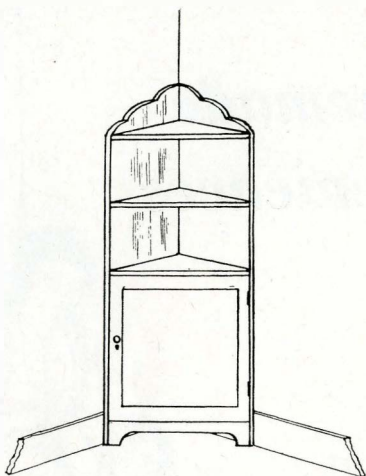


Fig. 1.—Corner cupboard.

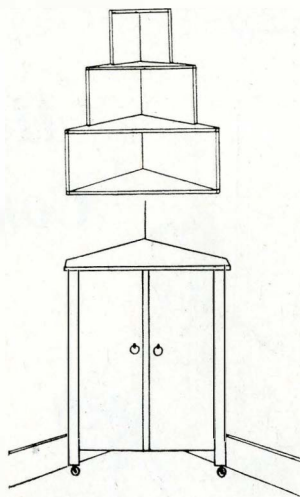


Fig. 2.—Corner chest and hanging shelves.

Corner Furniture

Special request has been made by a number for corner furniture. Fig. 1 shows an interesting corner cupboard which may be wholly enclosed with doors if desired or left entirely open. No dimensions are given. Each family will probably want the cupboard a different size to fit into their special corner. A corner chest with hanging shelves placed above it is shown in Fig. 2. Details for the frame are shown in Fig. 3.

Wall Brackets

Two wall brackets like the one illustrated in Fig. 4 can be made from a small box. They will be found convenient for the lamp, a flower pot, piece of pottery, books, cleaning or cooking supplies. The box is cut diagonally through the sides as illustrated. A facing strip about one-half inch thick is nailed across the upper edge of the back. Two strips (same thickness) are nailed on the diagonal edges of the sides. One or two screw eyes are placed in the upper edge of the back for hanging.

The body may be painted to harmonize with the walls and the edges painted in a harmonizing or contrasting color. If bright color accent is needed in the room the inside may be some warm bright color.

Fuel Box

An attractive convenient fuel box is illustrated in Fig. 5. It is on castors so that it may be moved to the door for filling. The fuel compartments are convenient in height so as to avoid unnecessary stooping. The bins slope so as to make the scooping of coal or cobs easy. They may be lined with metal. The lower compartment is used to store papers. The one above it formed by the sloping front of the bins is used for stove cleaning and shoe polishing equipment.

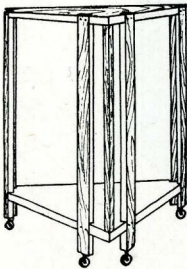


Fig. 3.—Details of chest frame.

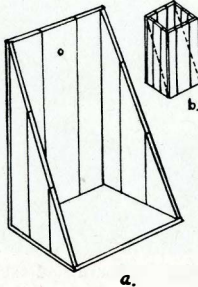


Fig. 4.—Wall bracket.

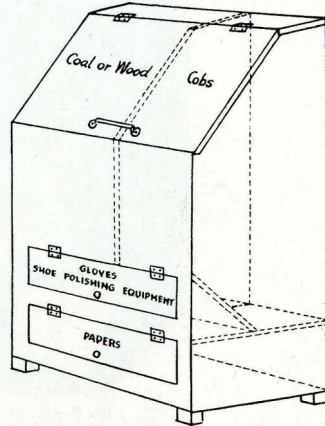


Fig. 5.—Fuel box.

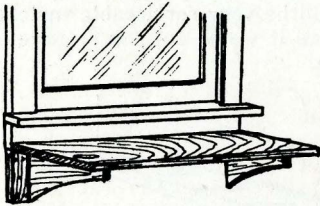


Fig. 6.—Drop window shelf.

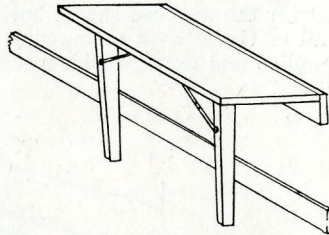


Fig. 7.—Folding leaf table.

Drop Window Shelf

The shelf shown in Fig. 6 can be used for plants in winter. In summer when not in use the brackets fold against the wall and the shelf drops out of the way. One board 1" x 12" wide and as long as the window sill is needed for the shelf, two pieces $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $7\frac{1}{2}$ " x 9" are needed for the brackets and two pieces $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $1\frac{1}{2}$ " x 7" for the cleats. Six hinges are needed. The shelf is hinged to the lower edge of the window apron. The brackets are hinged to the cleats so as to fold toward the center. The cleats are nailed in place under the ends of the shelf as illustrated.

Folding Wall Table

A folding wall table provides the extra working surface so frequently needed in the kitchen or laundry. The one shown in Fig. 7 is ample in size and well supported by two legs. One leg is placed a little farther from the front edge of the table than the other so that they will not interfere with each other when folded. The size and height of the table should be adapted to the specific space and worker.



Fig. 8.—Combination cupboard and table.

Combination Cupboard and Table

The convenience illustrated in Fig. 8 can be adapted to many uses. It is ideal for the purpose shown but would be very serviceable fastened to the wall of the kitchen or laundry where it would furnish storage space for supplies and extra working surface.

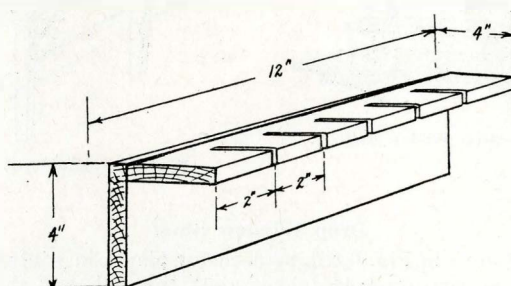


Fig. 9.—Knife rack.

Knife Rack

One can never have sharp knives when a number are carelessly stored together. The rack shown in Fig. 9 holds each knife separately protecting the edge. It can be fastened to the wall or inside of a cupboard door.

Floor Polisher

It doesn't take long to wax the floor when the polisher illustrated in Fig. 10 is used. It is made from scraps of 1" lumber; two pieces 2" x 12" are needed for the sides, two pieces 2" x 6" for the ends, and two pieces 8" x 12" for the top and bottom. The sides and bottom are fastened together as illustrated. A thick pad of newspaper is nailed to the bottom, then covered with a 10" x 14" piece of carpet, felt or heavy woolen cloth which is tacked to the sides. A bag of sand is placed inside to weight the polisher. The top is securely nailed to position. A large screw eye is fastened to the end of the broom handle and attached to the top with a staple.

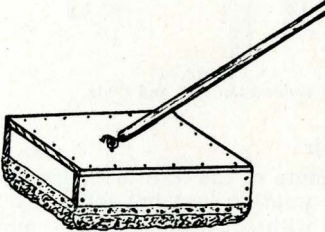


Fig. 10.—Floor polisher.

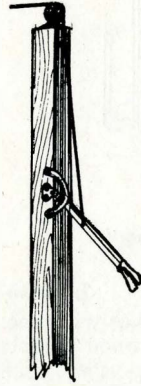


Fig. 11.—
Device to tighten
clothesline.

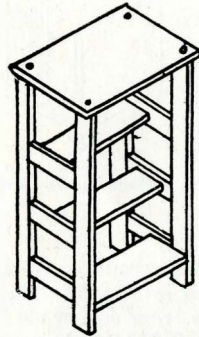


Fig. 12.—Combination
stool and step ladder.

Brake Lever Used to Tighten Clothesline

An emergency-brake lever from an old model-T Ford, or a lever from a discarded machine, makes a good clothesline tightener. The lever and ratchet are fastened to the post as shown in Fig. 11. The clothesline is run over the pulley mounted on top of the post and is fastened to the lever at the point indicated. In use, the lever is raised to slacken the line, and the clothes hung up, then pulled down to tighten the line.

Combination Stool and Step Ladder

The handy piece of equipment in Fig. 12 is shown as a kitchen stool. Inverted it becomes a sturdy step ladder. The material needed for making it is as follows: seat—one piece $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 14" x 14"; legs—four pieces $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2"; sides cross braces—6 pieces 1" x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11"; three pieces for the steps.

Magazine and Book Rack

This little piece of furniture illustrated in Fig. 13 can be made from scraps of lumber about the home. It is a real convenience when placed near your easy chair or end of your davenport. It serves as an end table as well as furnishing storage space for your favorite books and magazines.

Combination Seat and Table

The piece of furniture shown in Fig. 14 may be made for indoor use or for the lawn. The hinged seat lifts up disclosing a compartment for storing things. When the back is lowered it makes a convenient table. The table top is 28" x 46". The ends are 28" high and 16" wide, they are spaced 34" apart. The seat is 18" high.

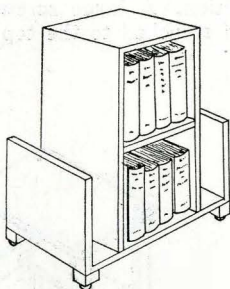


Fig. 13.—
Magazine and book rack.

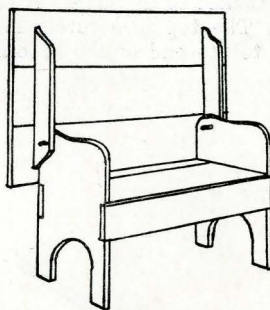


Fig. 14.—
Combination seat and table.

Lean-to Chair

Make your yard inviting with one or more of the lean-to chairs illustrated in Fig. 15. Hard wood withstands weather best but they may be made from soft wood if kept well painted with out door paint or enamel. One by 12" stock is used for the back seat and brace. The back is 5½' long, the seat 16½" and the brace 16". Three pieces 1" x 2" x 12" are needed for cleats to hold the seat and brace firmly in place.

The upper end of the back is notched or cut so as to hold the chair in place when set against a corner or tree. The chair may also be leaned against the side of the house. The lower end of the back rest may be left straight instead of being cut out in center to form feet. The sides of the brace may also be left straight. The curved lines make the chairs more artistic but no more convenient. If the lower end of the back rest is shaped for feet, the feet should be as broad as possible to prevent them sinking into the yard, leaving holes.

Notches in Screen Frame Provide Exit for Flies

Screens having notches cut in the upper rail of the frame for fly exits were specified by government inspectors for a large packing plant in Philadelphia. After extensive research, it was found that flies on the inside of a screen will walk upward and escape through these openings, but will not come down through them from the outside.

Device for Watering Plants

House plants need not be neglected when the family is away from home for a number of days. A self watering device is made by elevating a pail of water above the plants and extending a wick made of old cloth from the pail to the ground at the base of each plant. The wicks must

not touch each other. The end in the pail may be held in place by small stones. The ends at base of plants can be staked down with toothpicks.

Sand Box

The children will be happily occupied for hours with a sand box like the one illustrated in Fig. 16. Old window shades form the awning.

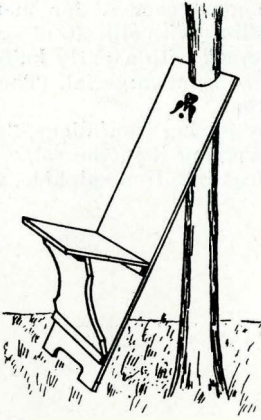


Fig. 15.—Lean-to chair.

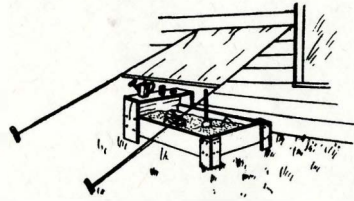


Fig. 16.—Sand box.

A Preparation for Leveling Rough Floors

A rough floor soon wears the floor covering. Irregularities in the floor may be leveled by troweling on a mixture made in the following proportions: $2\frac{1}{2}$ pounds venetian red; 8 pounds whiting; 4 pounds dry white lead; 4 pounds zinc oxide; $1\frac{1}{2}$ quarts raw linseed oil; $\frac{3}{4}$ pint Japan drier and $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints of turpentine. More or less may be prepared as needed.

Shellac Holds Handles on Tools

Tool handles that have a tendency to come off can be kept tight by filling the hole in the handle with heavy shellac. Heating the tang of the tool before it is pressed into place will cause the shellac to dry more quickly.

Blackboard Made at Small Cost

A good blackboard can be made of plywood, wallboard or even cardboard by applying a coat of the following mixture. To cover about 40 sq. ft. of surface, mix 4 tablespoonfuls of finely pulverized air-slaked cement or pumice in $\frac{1}{4}$ pt. of quick-drying black or dark green enamel. This mixture must be stirred often while it is used and should be applied with a brush. If the surface is too rough after the coating has dried, it can be rubbed down with fine sandpaper.

Water Proofing Canvas

Canvas can be waterproofed by dipping it in a solution consisting of 50 gr. gum tragacanth, dissolved in 1 gal. of water, and adding 2 oz. lead acetate. The gum should be allowed to swell in the water several days before adding the lead acetate.

Iron Cement

It is much more convenient to mend cracks in stoves at home than to take the stove somewhere for repairs. A good cement for mending cracks in cast iron is made by mixing iron filings with silicate of soda to form a thick paste. This is forced into the crack with a putty knife and the surface over and around it covered with the same material. The heat hardens the cement making it almost like iron.

Another good iron cement can be made by mixing iron filings, flowers of sulphur and water to a stiff paste and applying it in the same manner. The mixture burns when heated and turns into iron sulphide, which fuses onto the iron of the stove.

Extension Service

**South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts
Brookings, South Dakota**

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