

Furnish with Hand-me-Downs

Chances are newlyweds will not be purchasing all of their furniture before they settle in their first apartment. In fact, they'll probably be filling in with pieces borrowed from parents and relatives. If this situation applies to you, here are some handy do-it-yourself decorating hints:

Imaginative rewards

With time and imagination, decorating with such "conversation pieces" can be fun and rewarding.

To begin, use common sense and tips from experts and be sure to take advantage of the excellent products currently on the market to help save time and work.

Large bureaus or dressers can take on new life by simply refinishing or repainting them. First, sand down and clean the surface. Then apply paint, antiquing base or stain, followed by appropriate sealer. Using a kit makes

the job a cinch, and the results will amaze you.

Wall-to-wall decor

Often, decorators will blend such a piece with the walls so it seems to disappear. This can be accomplished by painting walls with geometric lines or patterns, extending this pattern onto the dresser. Or paper the dresser with the same wallpaper you are using on the walls, then cover with varnish or a plastic sealer.

That rug you borrowed for your livingroom can be easily spruced up by using a convenient rug-cleaning product like Spray 'n Vac that lets you shampoo your carpet while you vacuum. Just spray the foam on the rug, wait until it dries and then vacuum away the dried foam and dirt.

Sew it up!

Slipcovering can be accomplished by the home sewer without much difficulty. There are a number of excellent publications on the market that give step-by-step instructions. However, if you are not that handy, colorful pillows strewn on old furniture can do wonders.

Borrowed mirrors can be modernized by refinishing or by covering borders with fabric glued over a bit of padding and stretched over to the back.

Cover-ups

And dinette sets can either be repainted or, if you prefer, covered by a pretty linen cloth that reaches the floor. (Then cover your chair cushions to match!)

Decorating with hand-me-downs is a challenge and really a convenience, too.



"Make someone happy. Get married!"

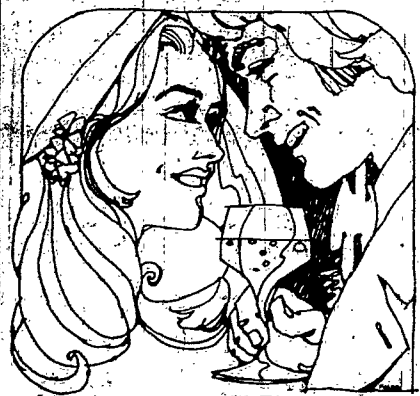
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