

HOME HINTS

Instead of throwing away empty cotton reels, nail a few onto the kitchen wall, and use them for pegs for teatowels and dishcloths. They are not as likely to tear the material as metal hooks, and can look quite attractive if painted either the same colour as the kitchen tiles and walls, or a bright colour to match your door handles.

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When cutting out fragile material for dressmaking—such as chiffon, georgette or voile—place your scissors in hot water for a few minutes before you use them. Then they will cut the material much more cleanly, and not slip around and give ragged edges.

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Old aluminium saucepans can still be put to useful work in the kitchen, if you convert them into colanders. The easiest way to do this is to punch holes on the inside of the saucepan, at even distances apart. Punch from the inside and use a file to wear down the rough edges on the outside. You'll find the handle of the saucepan makes the "colander" easier to handle.



Mrs. J. Gerrard of Tingha poses in the rocks.

For shelling hard-cooked eggs easily, it is a good idea to crack the shell all over and roll between the hands. When the shell is loosened, peel from the airpocket end of the egg.

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In summer, it is very difficult to keep out tiny flying insects which swarm through the screen mesh of wire screens on your doors and windows. Wipe the mesh with castor oil, the gummy constituent of the oil will catch most of the insects trying to penetrate the wire. When cooler weather comes, clean the castor oil from the mesh, wiping the screen with turpentine.

To renew old paint that has become lumpy and thick use a small air compressor and a tube and pipe the air to the bottom of the paint can. Dissolve the lumps with some thinner and force the air through for about ten minutes, very carefully so that it does not splash everywhere.

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Making jam? As a precaution against mildew, seal your jars whilst the jam is hot, with a circle of tissue paper which has been dipped in milk and place smoothly over the jar.

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Those who are embarrassed by moist and clammy hands should add a little spirit of camphor to their washing water. Then rinse in cold water and dry well.

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If you think your stockings are wrecked because they are tar stained, you are mistaken, because a small pad of butter left on the stockings for an hour or so will make the tar disappear like magic. The next step is to wash and rinse them in warm water.

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Give a new look to your old cane chairs by applying a clear lacquer. First, clean the dust off the cane, give the coat of lacquer and then after about an hour apply the second coat. All the natural markings on the cane will appear again.

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It happens to most—a cork which snaps in the middle while pulling it out of the bottle. To guard against this, stretch a piece of tape across the bottle opening, put the cork in firmly leaving the ends of the tape hanging, so that you can pull the cork out easily.

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Have you ever noticed that the last of the coffee in a jar has lost some of its original strength. This is because the flavour of coffee always rises. With your next lb., turn the coffee jar or tin upside down and it will retain its strength right to the end.

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How to utilise sour milk left over from the night before is a problem. It's a pity to throw it out though when you can put it into the making of delicious scones and pancakes.