



HELP YOURSELF

A sandwich cake filled with jam is doubly delicious with a thin layer of butter spread on the sides of the sponge to be joined. The jam soaks into the cake and adds to the flavour. And to make the icing stick firmly on the top, spread a thin layer of jam before icing.

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When you have fires, save some wood ash from burned-out logs. This, applied with a damp cloth, will quickly remove stains from metal and china.

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Though we clean our shoes regularly, our handbags so often suffer from neglect. Colourless shoe polish used frequently, will greatly lengthen the life of your handbag and will not soil your gloves or frocks if well rubbed in. And don't forget to give your leather suitcases and belts a little attention, too. Shoe polish that is drying and becoming hard may be freshened up by mixing it with a little vinegar. It will go on more easily and give a good shine.

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Don't throw away that old felt hat. It can be made into cosy bedroom slippers for children. And if you have no children yourself, help your pet charity. Such things sell readily at fete stalls.

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When stuffing a cushion, shake the contents of a pleasantly perfumed sachet into it. The moths will avoid it.

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Now for a couple of sewing hints—keep a small magnet in your work basket. It will help you to retrieve dropped needles.

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Do not tack silk, satin or velvet with cotton. Use fine machine silk instead. Also it is false economy to buy cheap pins; use good plated pins if you do not want an unsightly pin hole to remain. And don't store your pins in a tin box, it may discolour the pins.

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To clean coloured suede gloves; put on the hands, rub well with Fuller's earth applied with a small brush. Shake well after a while.

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Rubber sink mats are difficult to keep from becoming discoloured. These can be best cleaned with kerosene or turpentine. Use this, too, for cleaning the rubber rollers of a wringer.

Now that straw brooms are expensive, we need to preserve them as long as possible. An old stocking pulled over the straw will prevent spreading and make them last longer.

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When you are unfortunate enough to break glass it is amazing how the pieces scatter far and wide, tiny pieces eluding the sweeping broom. A pad of dampened absorbent cotton wool is an excellent way of picking up the minute fragments.

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Speaking of breakages, plaster of Paris, mixed to a smooth paste with white of egg may be used to mend broken china.



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