



THIS BOLD CURLICUE MOTIF on all cotton area rug is reminiscent of Spanish iron grillwork. The homespun casement draperies, painted chest and X-legged chair also reflect early Spanish designs.

Spain Inspires Fabric Design

As spirited as the click of the castanets is the developing trend toward the Spanish accent in home fashions. Added to the furniture collections (reported earlier at the summer markets) which show their kinship to early Spanish and Mexican designs are new fabrics and floor coverings also carrying the Iberian stamp.

One of the largest synthetic fiber manufacturers sponsors a collection of decorative fabrics this fall in which Spanish designs are outstanding. In the vanguard of designers who are translating Spain's rich treasury into textile designs for American homes are John and Earline Brice. This young husband-and-wife team on a recent trip to Spain snapped up dozens of articles used in the everyday way of life to suggest motifs and colors for fabrics and floor coverings.

According to Earline, the decorative elements found in carved wood furniture, in metal and in ceramics are handcrafted. Even contemporary pieces copy the old designs.

In the countryside the Brices found the grays, beiges and gray-greens of weathered wood and stone buildings sharply accented by the relentless black of Spanish dress. A clear, serene note is added, they say, in the sky blue that paints Madrid's doorways.

Quite apart from the bold colors of bullfight posters and dancers' costumes, the Brices feel the real Spanish look is one of dignity, simplicity and graciousness. They feel, too, that it is very adaptable to the informal American suburban living.

This adds up to more emphasis on the homespun, handcrafted look in textiles.

Lacy iron grillwork which flourished in Spain has a pronounced influence on the new designs in fabrics and floor coverings. You'll see it in many variations—spaced in delicate scrolls on drapery fabrics and stamped in bold terms on area rugs. In the Brices' new collection of area rugs, one in all-cotton has a great scrolled central motif that stretches from one fringed end to the other.

Use of area rugs is also an old Spanish custom, the designers say. Bare and polished floors of tile, marble or wood are often highlighted by a small rug used in the center of the room or before a piece of furniture.

While this is a new trend, it's not limited to the custom-made carriage trade. Needle-tufted cotton and acrilan rugs and machine-produced fabrics are in mass distribution, priced for moderate budgets.

Packaged Home Repair Aids Now Include Plastic Rubber

There's something new in a tube for you. Termed a "plastic rubber," it joins the ever-increasing family of ready-to-use repair substances now on hardware and building supply dealers' shelves nationwide.

Don't confuse this material with rubber cement, which is an adhesive substance only.

The new product is putty-like in nature as it is squeezed from the tube or dug from the larger size cans.

It dries to a tough, elastic state and looks and feels just like rubber.

Thin applications dry to the touch in about 30 minutes; thicker coatings of the material dry overnight. Maximum strength is reached in 24 to 48 hours. Once completely set, extremes of temperature do not affect it. So says the manufacturer.

It is said to bond itself to any type of rubber product without application of heat.

Water soluble before it hardens, the plasticlike rubber can be thinned, and used to coat previously dampened fabric as a waterproofing agent.

Application is simple. Surfaces are cleaned thoroughly and enough material is squeezed from the tube to fill the space or area indicated. After a few moments for partial setting, it can be smoothed with a putty knife or the fingers. Among uses suggested for the product are the following:

It can be used to repair gloves, hot water bottles, tubing, galoshes, raincoats, sink mats, garden hose, tennis shoes and a host of other rubber based items.

Possessing good insulating qualities, the material is declared useful in furthering electrical repairs. It can be used to repair cracks in rubber lamp cords, and to cover base terminals in light cord plugs. Properly applied, it helps to eliminate the hazard presented by bare terminals when the conventional cardboard shield is misplaced or worn out.

Used as a coating on the handles of pliers, wire cutters and screw drivers, it helps to protect the handy man from shock when making electrical repairs.

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Handy Men Depend On Tape To Uphold Their Reputations

The saying, "If it doesn't fit, get a bigger hammer," is out of date.

It would be more accurate these days to say, "If it won't stay put, tape it together."

Cellulose, friction, adhesive and masking tapes are those that come first to mind, but the varieties of tape in the market grows day by day.

Better adhesives, stronger, more flexible base substances and a wide range of sizes make tapes more than materials for making temporary repairs.

They're sticking around as permanent additions to your belongings.

Have you an old book whose binding has seen better days, or a Venetian blind that has tapes which could stand recovering? A wide variety of cloth tapes are available in many widths and colors that will do these jobs.

They'll also prevent scratches if you attach them to the base of a heavy lamp or vase, and are useful in making emergency repairs to auto seat covers, kitchen chairs, and other plasticlike surfaces.

Are you still using a combination of friction and rubber tapes on electrical work? In many installations, plastic electrical tape can serve both purposes. It has good insulating properties and is waterproof.

You can use it for emergency repairs on the garden hose. And it's quite effective as a wrapping for a baseball bat or tennis racket handle. Wrap some of this tape around the handles of wire cutters and pliers to lessen danger from shock when making electrical repairs.

Another plastic tape, made of vinyl and very similar to the electrical tape, is available in a

thinner form and in a variety of widths and colors. Next time junior tears a hole in his wading pool, slap on a piece of this tape.

Use it for decorative effects around the recreation room, guide lines for table tennis or shuffle board. Repair anything made of vinyl or similar materials with it.

Nearly every handy man is familiar with masking tape. That's the tape that keeps the paint from getting on the woodwork when painting the walls. Next time you want one color of paint to end along a straight line, use masking tape and be as shaky as you like. When you pull off the tape,

the straight line will be there.

When you move, use some wide masking tape to hold drawers shut. It pulls off easily without marring the finish.

Tapes are available that have adhesive on both surfaces. Use them for mounting snapshots in albums, or hanging lightweight items on the wall.

Did you ever grope for a light switch, or stumble over a door step, or search for the keyhole or hunt for the phone in the dark? A bit of tape that glows in the dark will make vital points in the home conspicuous at night. Put some on the first aid kit in the medicine chest, too.

Another tape reflects light in the dark. It's suitable for use on bumpers of your car, on the children's bikes and on the garage door.

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