

DO-IT-YOURSELF

Acoustical Tile Will Cover Cracks In Plaster Ceilings

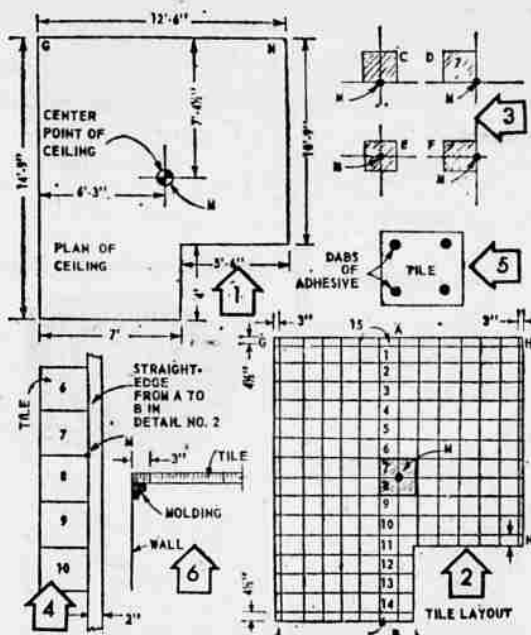
By J. RALPH DALZELL

When ceilings contain so many cracks that ordinary repair work cannot make them presentable, a new ceiling surface should be applied. Acoustical tile will make old ceilings look modern and will appreciably reduce sound transference as well. Tile is not expensive, and if the plaster is tight to the lath, the installation work is not difficult, especially when carefully planned.

The first step is to draw a simple plan of the ceiling. Suppose detail 1 in the picture shows the ceiling plan of a room. Measure the length of walls, then draw the plan to reduced scale substituting a

putty knife. Tile should be unpacked and exposed to the temperature and humidity of the room for at least a day.

Put four dabs of adhesive the size of a walnut on the back of each tile. See detail 5. Start with tile 7 against the ceiling. The grooved side of the tile should touch the straightedge. Apply uniform pressure and a slight weaving action. One corner of this piece should touch the center point of the ceiling as shown in details 2 and 4. Apply tile 6 next. Be sure the tongue-and-grooved points interlock. Then apply the remainder of the tile in the same manner. If care and time is taken, the ap-



quarter inch to the foot. Line GH would be drawn twelve and a half quarter inches long. Next find the center point of the room, as shown in detail 1. Locate that point and transfer it to the ceiling with a plumb bob.

In the second step, detail 2, plan the position of each 12x12 inch tile. Note the starting layouts shown in detail 2, by placing the first piece of tile as shown at C, D, E and F. The idea is to eventually plan the final layout so that any less than full-sized pieces of tile will be next to the walls.

In detail 2 the starting layout shown was selected at D in detail 3. Thus, in detail 2, the tile along wall GH will be about four and a half inches wide. They will be sawed. The same is true for wall JB. Along walls GJ and HN the tile will be about three inches wide.

Nail a straightedge lightly on the plaster from A to B so one of its edges touches the center point of the ceiling. See detail 4. Be sure that both ends of the straightedge are exactly the same distance from wall GJ.

Adhesive for sticking the tile to the ceiling is available at tile dealers', and can be applied with a

plication work will be easy.

Do not pre-cut the tile which will be smaller than a full square. Wait until the piece is needed, and measure the space it is to occupy. Variations in the wall make this procedure necessary. Install a cove molding around the tile as shown in detail 6.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q.—Is it safe to paint acoustical tile?

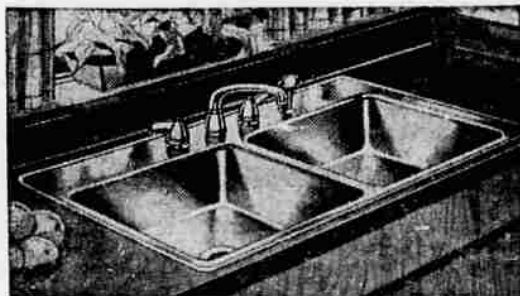
A.—Yes. Manufacturers recommend paints which have oil, rubber or water bases. These paints will not decrease the sound absorption of the tile.

Q.—Is it a good idea to wax various kitchen surfaces?

A.—Yes. Wax provides a hard, dry, soil-resistant film that keeps kitchen surfaces sparkling. It protects them from stains and wear, and makes them easy to keep clean.

OLD IRONSIDES?

During the War of 1812, an American frigate built of cedar, oak and pine could not be penetrated by British shot, so was nicknamed "Old Ironsides."



A STAINLESS STEEL SINK will blend perfectly with any color scheme; it is as easy to keep clean as washing a glass. There's no chance that it will chip or crack; rust or stain. This double sink is a popular item in kitchen improvement plans.



IT'S TOO BAD this picture can show only the shape of the flower, for these California blue bells are of the brightest, most vivid gentian blue you can imagine. It's new, it's a wildflower gone tame under culture of the Bodger Seed Company of California. Try it with yellow, pink or white contrast. —Bodger Photo



By RUTH KING

That robin in the crabapple tree and those first fragile crocus blossoms dotting the edge of the flower border, are no sure signs that spring is here. Don't let that balmy breeze on your cheek send you into the garden with trowel and flower seed.

The real test is a shovelful of soil. The experts say, if the ground is so wet that it sticks together when you turn over a lump of earth, 'tis too soon, have patience. Next week, if it still can't be crumpled when you bat it with the shovel, clean the tool and hide it away a bit longer, it's still too soon.

Just about the only exception to preparing a seed bed now, is for the sweet pea row. We did ours last fall after pulling the dead vines from the wire fence. Dug the trench about one foot deep, put in about six inches of floor cleanings from the hen houses which contained finely pulverized shavings, what sheep droppings we could find around the buildings, shoveled in a layer of the top soil and mixed and mixed. Scattered in a little bone meal and some fine wood ashes, stirred and stirred, put back most of the remaining soil and watered it all down with the hose.

On St. Patrick's Day, or maybe the day before, we'll soak our favorite brand of sweet pea seed for a couple of hours, wheedle a leprechaun to stand by and we'll plant . . . at least three inches deep so the tender roots won't suffer from summer sun. Last year we put a generous layer of compost in the ground instead of chicken droppings, used lawn clippings

CHAMPION PRODUCER

An acre of forest land will produce five times as much cellulose in a single year as an acre of land planted in cotton. An average acre of land in the rain-rich Douglas fir forest belt of Oregon and Washington will grow as much as 700 board feet per acre per year. Fourteen acres will grow enough wood in one year to make the lumber to build an average-size home.

Forest Fires Down In 1957

Fires in national forests dropped 42 per cent in 1957 from 1956 with man-caused fires hitting a new low, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced.

There were 7,200 fires in national forests during 1957, according to preliminary reports from field offices of USDA's Forest Service. This compares with 12,454 fires in 1956 and a five-year average between 1952 and 1956 of 10,996. The area burned also dropped from 249,859 acres in 1956 to 133,447 in 1957.

Man-caused fires dropped from 4,775 in 1956 to 3,274 in 1957, establishing the lowest record since 1933 when 3,081 man-caused fires were reported. Foresters point out that man-caused fires rise with increased use of the woods. In 1957 recreation use alone was almost six times what it was in 1933.

The reduction in man-caused fires, therefore, indicates forest fire prevention campaigns have paid off. Forest Service officials say much credit goes to the Smokey Bear campaign conducted by state foresters and the U.S. Forest Service with The Advertising Council, and the Keep America Green programs conducted by the states and forest industries.

The South reported the greatest drop in man-caused fires with 55 per cent less in 1957 than in 1956.

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