

• *Building a Refrigerator* • • •

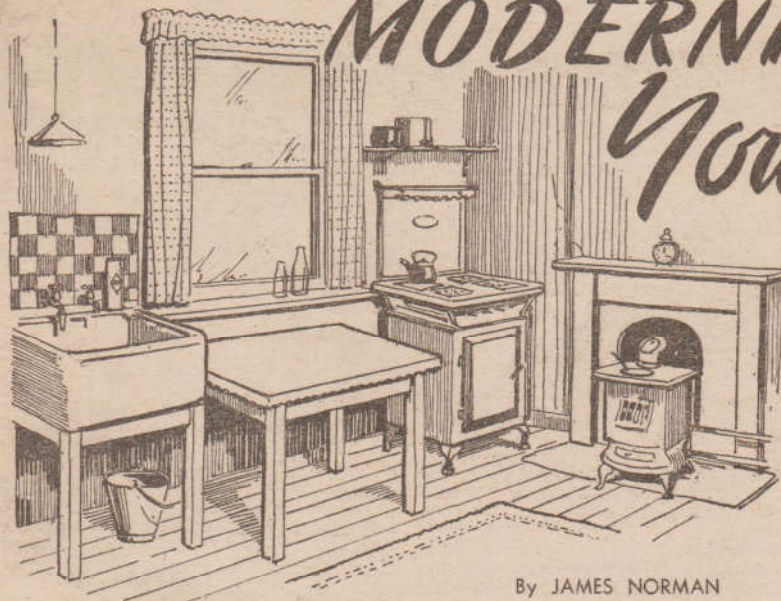
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# *The* PRACTICAL HOUSEHOLDER

Editor: F. J. CAMM

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# MODERNISE Your Kitchen

## FROM THIS -

### Cork Compound Floors

Concrete is unsuitable because it makes dust. Chemicals can be added to the mix to prevent this or it can be painted with a special paint which lasts about a year. Cork tiled floors may be used in a kitchen but a sealer is needed. Linoleum is still a popular covering and should preferably be stuck down with a special adhesive. Cork compound flooring can be laid

By JAMES NORMAN

**B**UILDERS and equipment manufacturers are giving more attention to-day to the improvement of the kitchen than to any other part of the house. When a prospective purchaser of a new house is being shown round the show house by the builder, you will observe that he is very careful to take the lady into the kitchen first, and to point out the modern fittings and other improvements introduced for her comfort and convenience.

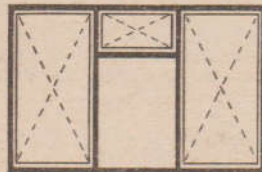
### Good Kitchen Sells House

A good kitchen often sells the house. No longer need a kitchen be the den of drudgery which it was a few years ago. Whether a kitchen is spacious or on the small side it can, by simple modifications, be brought completely up to date and the illustrations accompanying this article give an indication and a guide as

to how this may be carried out. Labour saving is the order of the day and cleanliness and proper ventilation, so that there is absence of condensation and cooking smells are points to which attention must be given.

### Choice of Floor Covering

The choice of a floor covering is almost of



The dotted lines indicate the windows that open

Windows above and right, measure 6'-0 3/4" long by 4' high. The three below are all 4'-0 3/4" by 4' high

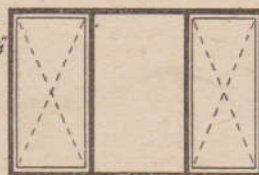


Fig. 3.—The three most popular types of kitchen tap in use to-day. First the sink pillar which gives ample space for filling buckets, etc. This is followed by the bibcock which can be placed at any desired height. Finally, the mixer tap which allows water to be delivered at any given temperature.

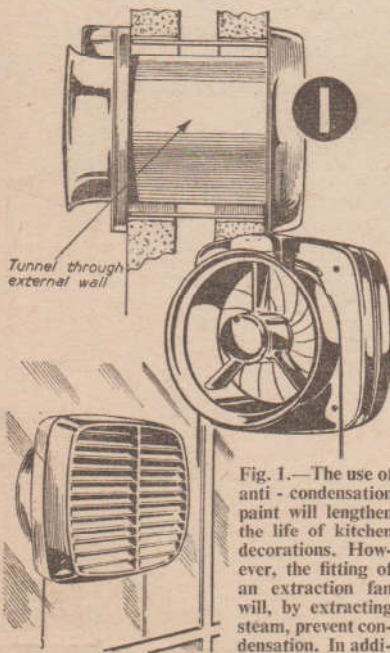


Fig. 1.—The use of anti-condensation paint will lengthen the life of kitchen decorations. However, the fitting of an extraction fan will, by extracting steam, prevent condensation. In addition, unpleasant odours will also be extracted.

Fig. 2.—A few of the many types of metal-framed windows obtainable to-day. These designs are highly suitable for the kitchen, where maximum light and ventilation are desirable.

equal importance, for it gets more wear in the kitchen than any other room. It is important that a material should be chosen which does not stain or absorb grease. It must be easily cleaned and durable; thus asphalt and mastic are unsuitable for kitchens because they readily stain with oil and grease, although they are especially invaluable where rising damp is anticipated. Some favour clay tiles which are extremely useful where dirt and mud are brought into the house, whilst composition flooring or jointless flooring as it is sometimes termed, is much in favour. They may be used, however, for all rooms.

on existing stone, brick or concrete, or on new concrete, if it is laid before the surface concrete has set. It is quiet, resilient, warm and waterproof, and may be obtained in a variety of colours.

Plastic sheet is available in the form of a skin of plastic with a smooth or grained surface on a felt backing. Like cork compound it is quiet, resilient and easily cleaned.

Then there are thermo-plastic tiles made with a thermo-plastic binder with asbestos fibres, fillers and pigments which are non-slip, easy to clean but are affected by grease and fat. The vinyl tiles and sheet are much in vogue. They are made in 9in. and 12in. squares, 1/16in. and 1/8in. thick. It is sometimes supplied in 36in. wide pieces. It is flexible and resistant to grease, hygienic, non-slip and easy to clean. There are, of course, many other materials obtainable, and most can be obtained in a variety of patterns.

### Condensation

Condensation in the kitchen has been a bugbear for many years, but we are well on the way to eliminating it. Steaming and dripping windows can cause much damage and

disfiguration. The use of anti-condensation paint, of which several are on the market, will undoubtedly lengthen the life of kitchen decorations. It is beyond all doubt, however, that the fitting of an extraction fan is the best solution, because by extracting steam it will prevent condensation and,

**- TO THIS**

additionally, cooking odours, often unpleasant, will also be extracted (see Fig. 1).

Proper ventilation of the kitchen is important, too, from the point of health.

**Windows**

Metal windows are more and more coming into vogue for kitchens and an illustration shows a few of the many metal frame windows obtainable to-day. They permit maximum light and ventilation. For preference the blind should be of the metal venetian type which can be readily cleaned and save the labour of the frequent washing necessary when curtains are fitted (see Fig. 2).

**Taps**

Fig. 3 shows three of the most popular taps in use to-day. First there is the sink pillar tap which provides ample space for filling buckets. Some taps in the past have been installed at too low a height to admit the bucket to be held vertical so that it is impossible to completely fill it.

Then there is the bibcock tap which can be placed at any desired height. The mixer tap allows water to be delivered at any given temperature. It is beyond all doubt that those

taps where the washer can be removed without turning-off the main are a decided advantage.

**Sink Tops**

Fig. 4 shows three types of sink unit tops. The upper is a single draining board in easily cleaned vitreous enamel covered pressed steel. The centre illustration shows a modification to an existing deep type of earthenware sink using two aluminium draining boards, with supports removed to give a built-in appearance. The lower sketch shows how a hardboard top can be made up to which one of the many famous steel bowls available can be fitted.

**Kitchen Units**

Fig. 5 shows the timber framework which

forms the basis for most built-in kitchen units, the left-hand unit being suitable for a double draining board type of sink unit top with drawers and cupboards underneath. The inset shows a simple type of drawer front design of neat appearance. Various aluminium edging sections are shown: A, half-round type; B, plastic insert type; C, plain edging strip with ribbed face.

**Venetian Blinds**

The great advantage of the venetian type of blind mentioned above and shown in Fig. 6, is that it gives complete protection from the sun without impairing ventilation. They are obtainable in metal and can be supplied finished

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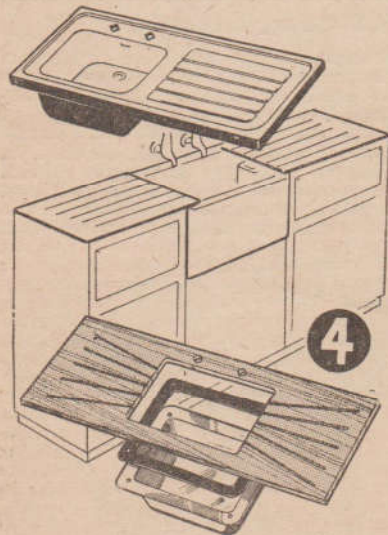
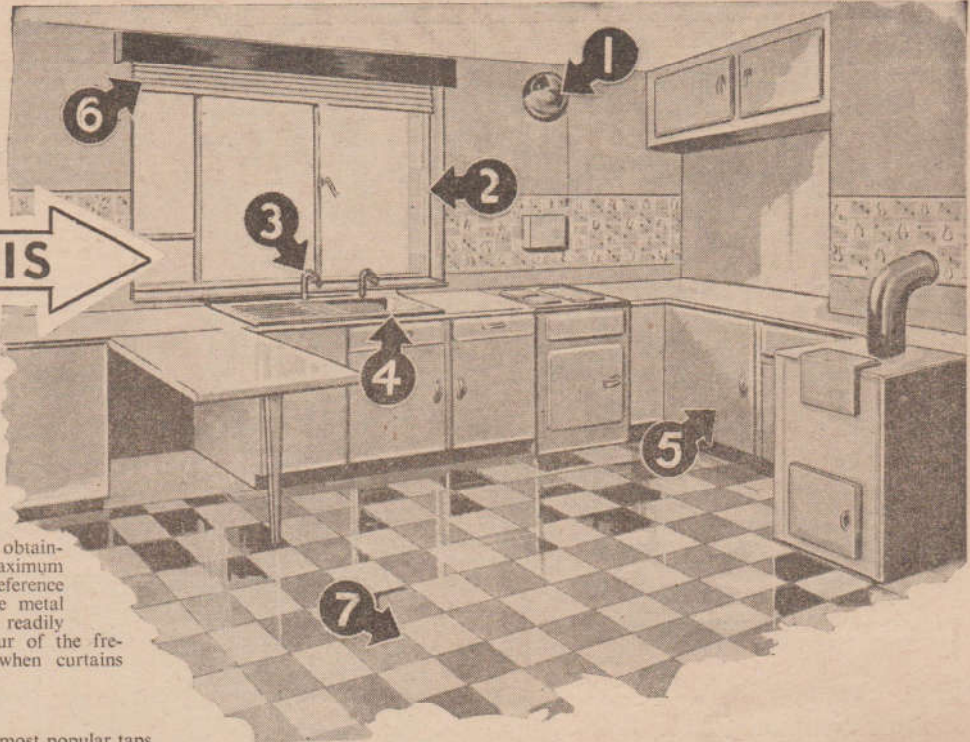


Fig. 4.—Showing three types of sink unit tops. The upper is a single draining board type in vitreous enamel covered pressed steel. The centre shows a modification to an existing deep type earthenware sink using two aluminium draining boards with supports removed to give built-in appearance. The lower sketch shows how a hardboard top can be made up to which one of the many stainless steel bowls available can be fitted.

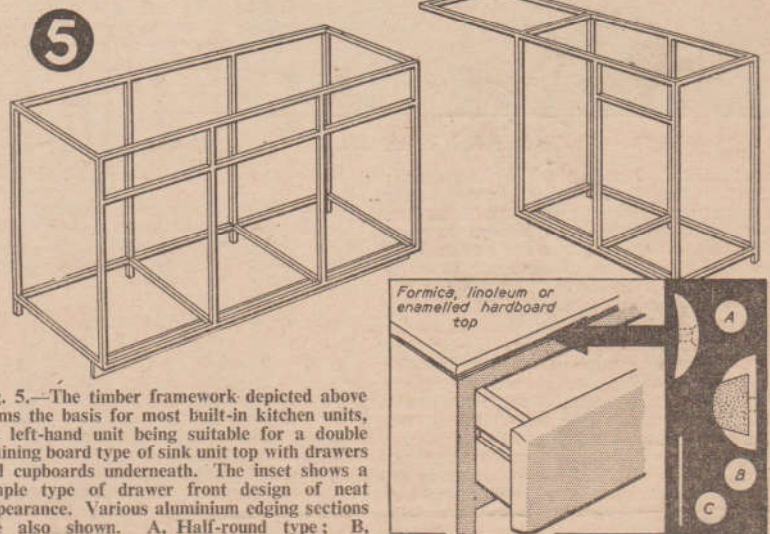


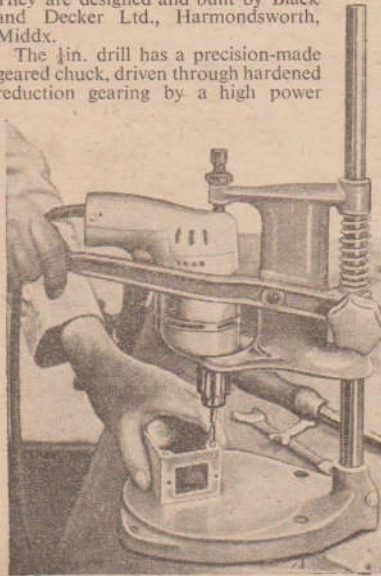
Fig. 5.—The timber framework depicted above forms the basis for most built-in kitchen units, the left-hand unit being suitable for a double draining board type of sink unit top with drawers and cupboards underneath. The inset shows a simple type of drawer front design of neat appearance. Various aluminium edging sections are also shown. A, Half-round type; B, Plastic insert type; C, Plain edging strip with ribbed face.

# The Home Mechanic's SHOP WINDOW

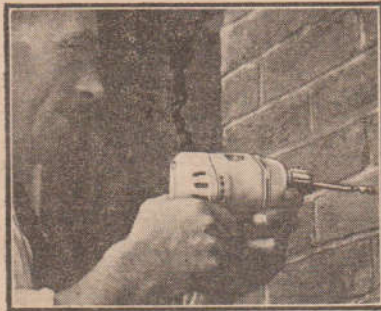
## Two New Drills

TWO new drills are now available to the home handyman. They are the  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. De Luxe (No. U.3) and the  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Drill (No. U.15). They are designed and built by Black and Decker Ltd., Harmondsworth, Middx.

The  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. drill has a precision-made geared chuck, driven through hardened reduction gearing by a high power



The Black and Decker  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. De Luxe drill.



The  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. drill (No. U.15).

motor. It offers high speed and accuracy in all types of drilling operations, and the retail price, complete with chuck, chuck key, and 3-core cable, is £9 10s.

The  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. drill is designed for the larger and heavier jobs associated with repairs and constructional work about the home. This is priced at £10 10s.

## Dragonfly Electric Fan

THE illustration shows the new Dragonfly, which is a small electric fan of advanced design and modern appearance. Noiseless and efficient in operation it is ideally suitable as a personal fan and should find extensive use in offices, workshops, restaurants, etc. In addition its moulded blades make it safe for use in houses and nurseries.

Fitted with 10-watt input motor and supplied mounted on a coiled, polished stand, complete with 6ft. of 3-core flex,

## A Monthly Review of the Latest Tools and Materials for the Handyman

the Dragonfly retails at £2 5s., plus 18s. P.T.

It is made by Jones and Stevens, Ltd., Long Lane, Littlemore, Oxford, who will supply free literature upon request.

## The Washable Electric Bedsheet

WITH the threat of winter already looming, thoughts are turning to heating appliances and the question of warm beds comes high on the list of priorities.

The Hurseal electric bedsheet has many advantages to offer, chief among them being its washability as the makers claim that it is easily laundered in warm, soapy water.

The two sizes of the bedsheets, single 60in. x 33in. and double 60in. x 51in., ensure overall warmth, leaving no unexpected chilly corners; the double bed size has the added advantage of being heat controlled in two halves so that warmth can be adjusted to suit individual needs.

They are thermostatically controlled and the actual heating elements in the sheet are completely encased in

a special insulating material which is heat resisting, waterproof and absolutely safe. A switch gives a choice of three heats (gentle, medium and full) to suit every requirement, and the whole, being designed for use next the top sheet, is exceptionally light in weight.

It is obtainable in white and pastel shades of pink and blue and is sold in a strong, transparent plastic storage case. Voltages from 200 to 250 are available at £8 19s. 10d. for single and £15 12s. 2d. for double sheets, both including purchase tax, and they are marketed by Hurseal, Ltd., 229, Regent Street, London, W.1.

## A New Plant-tie for Gardeners

QUICK and easy to handle, "Twist-ems" is the latest idea for tying plant stems to their supports.

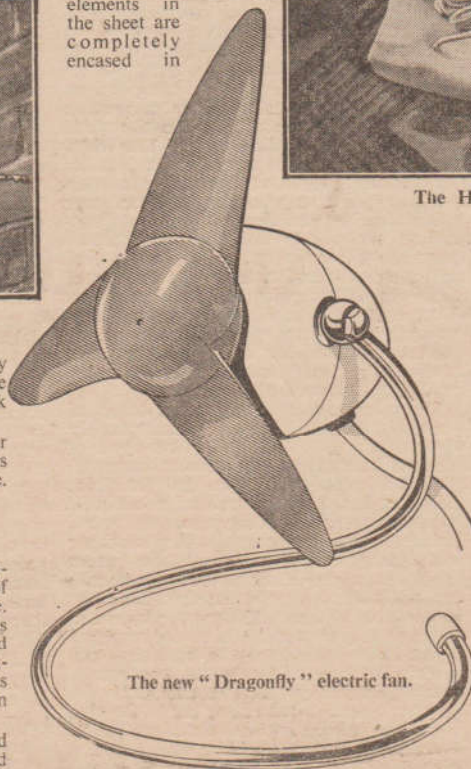
"Twist-ems" are pre-cut lengths of green plastic-covered wire, and can be kept and used season after season. They blend with the foliage and are proving a useful aid for overcoming one of the most tedious jobs of the garden. No tying, knotting or cutting is required; just twist and they are fixed.



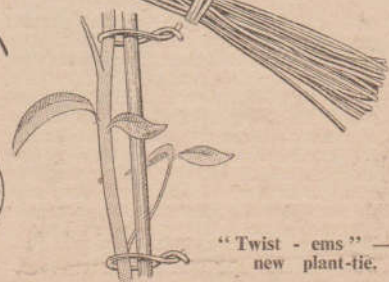
The Hurseal electric washable bedsheet.

They are ideal for chrysanthemums, sweet peas, rambling roses, raspberry canes, tomatoes—in fact, for every type of plant that needs tying to a support.

"Twist-ems" come in bundles of 50 in three different lengths—4in. (1s. 6d.), 6in. (2s. 3d.) and 8in. (3s.). They are available in hardware stores and leading florists, and are manufactured by Windolite of Harlow, Essex.



The new "Dragonfly" electric fan.



"Twist - ems" — a new plant-tie.