

over carefully and then follow them. This may seem unnecessary advice, but truly, I have known people who failed to do so until the dyeing had proved more or less of a failure; they had used a few colors and thought they knew how to use them all.

When you mix dyes to obtain different colors, never mix a dye that needs vinegar with one that calls for soda or salt, but you may mix together those that have salt and soda. Fast Pink dye for Cotton and Yellow for Cotton, if mixed in the proper quantities, will make a lovely salmon.

I am always careful to have all goods evenly moist before putting into the dye. I partially dry, in the shade, all articles to be dyed, and those that are dyed, and press when very moist.

I keep all goods well covered with nice, soft water, adding dye until the required shade is procured, taking out the goods before adding the dye, and putting them back when the dye is thoroughly dissolved.

Where I wish to be specially careful, I strain all dyes, after they are well dissolved, before using. A flannel cloth is best for this purpose.

I get two or more shades from same color by making a strong bath and adding goods for the darker shade first, and after a few minutes putting in goods for another, and so on; thus I have two or more shades from same color, with very best of results.

I usually add salt to the rinse water, as it aids the colors in retaining their brightness.

I can truthfully say, by closely following directions for use of the Diamond Dyes, and the above plans, my goods have always come forth without spot or blemish. I have used different dyes, but none so successfully as the Diamond.

Braided Mats.

A well made, three-strand braided mat will wear as long as any mat that you can make, and is very pretty if good colors are used. Braided mats may also be made with four and five strands in a braid. To make a really handsome mat, the braids should be quite small. The smoothest work is made with medium thick woolen cloth that is cut almost three times as wide as you want your strand. When it is folded this way, turn in one-third the width of the cloth on one side, then turn the other edge under and over it, catch it in place with a few stitches at the end, turn in two other strips and fasten all together, keeping the smooth side of the cloth up. Now begin your braid, and be sure to keep the smooth side of the strand always on top. Never turn the strand over, but turn it from one side to the other. Very heavy cloth may be turned under to meet in the middle of the strand on the under side; cotton or any other thin goods must be just wrinkled up, taking care not to let the raw edges come on the right side of the braid.

When sewing braided mats, great care should be used to sew the braid so the mat will stay flat. To do this the braid must be fulled on around oblong and round mats, also around all corners. It is best to keep the mats on a table while sewing, as you will be more sure to keep them flat.

There are two ways of sewing braided mats; one is, sew over and over, and the other way is to sew through the sides of the braids, that is, put the needle through both braids towards you, then turn the needle, and put it through from you, leaving only a short stitch between where the needle comes in and goes out.

Be sure the thread you use is very strong. Carpet thread is best. Buy it in store two,