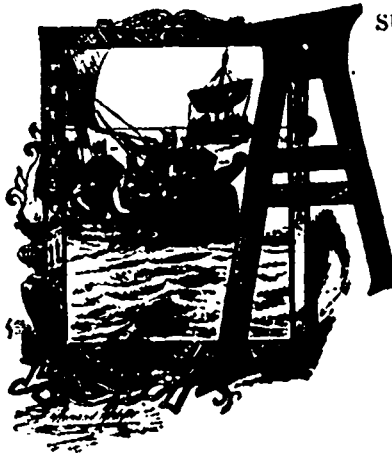


CREPE PAPER FOR WINDOW DECORATION.



SUBSCRIBER who informs us that in his small town he is often unable to procure the manufactured crepe paper now used so extensively for decorative purposes, asks us as to a possible and easily procurable substitute for the genuine article. In reply we would say that if our correspondent has sufficient leisure and deftness of hand a good imitation of the

he can make for his own use, a fairly crepe paper of commerce. A sheet of any good firm tissue paper can be transformed into crepe by folding in small plaits across the sheet, and then gently rolling between the hands.

To be more definite, fold a sheet of tissue paper into folds about $\frac{1}{4}$ " to each fold as shown in Fig. 1. There is no necessity of observing great care in the folds being even, as this does not materially affect the crepe effect. The sheet is then gathered into a bundle so the plaits run lengthwise of the bundle as shown in Fig. 2, where *A* represents the tissue paper bundle. The "long wad" of tissue paper is rolled between the hands for some time when innumerable tiny folds will be established, giving that crepe look which adds so much to the appearance of that paper for decorative purposes.

For plain effects pure white is very desirable; but any color of tissue paper can be creped in the manner described. Those who crepe their own paper have scores of advantages over those who buy the ready-made article, especially in flower decorations, as they can stain their paper before creping it in a thousand fanciful ways. For instance, in imitation of balsam and petunia blossoms, paper can be "blotched" by sprinkling with a solution of No. 40 carmine in strong ammonia, and afterwards diluted with water, from intense red to pale pink. This is done before creping.

Greens for leaves can be variegated by means of diamond dyes, from grass-green to a blotched brown-edge so much like nature's handiwork. Such color is best applied with a broad, flat brush like that employed with letter-copying presses. The colors can be splashed on the paper in almost any careless fashion, and a combination of green, brown, yellow and autumn-

red and gorgeous leaves stamped from the sheet as will be explained later on. Striped petals for a great variety of flowers can be made by quick, decided strokes of a small pencil brush of red or brown sable, well filled with pink madder color mixed with water to the proper shade.

Cutting out of petals and leaves can be much expedited by means of punches very simply formed by taking a piece of thin, old French clock spring, annealing it and filing one edge sharp. Such pieces of the spring are bent to the forms shown at Figs. 3, 4 and 5 for cutting out the crepe tissue to make flowers.

To fit up the cutters so they can be used to advantage, lay the sharp edge down on a piece of very soft pine board, and placing a flat plate of metal on the bent spring drive it down, into the wood as shown at Fig. 7, where *a a* represents the bent spring, *L L* the pine board; *a' a'* the portion of the bent up spring driven into the wood, and *D* the heavy metal plate laid on the spring on which we pound to force the bent spring into the wood. The top of *D* is struck with a hammer or mallet. The cut shown at Fig. 6 is a plan of the board and bent spring and accessories; and Fig. 7 a vertical section on the line *b b* of Fig. 6; in this cut the dotted lines at *a' a'* show approximately how far the spring is driven into the wood.

After the spring is secure, temporary pieces of board are placed about the spring *a a*, as shown at *B*, and melted soft solder or old type metal is poured in (after removing *D*) to fill the space *F*, Fig. 7, up to the line *f*. As soon as the metal cools it is removed from *F* with the edge of the bent spring *a* protruding. To use this device for cutting out petals, etc., the soft solder or type metal back is laid on a flat heavy plate of iron, the paper to be cut out is spread over the sharp edges of the bent spring and a block of soft wood, presenting the end of the grain, placed on the paper, when the block is struck with a mallet. The plan will be understood by inspecting Fig. 9, where *G* represents the iron plate, *F a* the spring cutting-out device, *e* the paper, and *H* the block of soft wood. Fig. 8 shows the cut-out paper bent up to the cup shape of a flower, *d d* showing the petals seen edgewise.

The form of the petals cut out by the cutter, shown at *a a*, Fig. 6, can be utilized for many flowers; but one particularly beautiful and striking effect is to fashion a camellia with the petals cut from pith (some call it rice) paper, and place in the centre a fairy incandescent electric lamp of about two candle power. Such lamps, white and colored, and the batteries to run them, can be had at little cost in any electrical supply house.

Not only tissue paper can be cut out in this way, but heavy glazed paper, a dozen thicknesses at a time. For producing a dead white appearance on white flowers a thin coating of white

