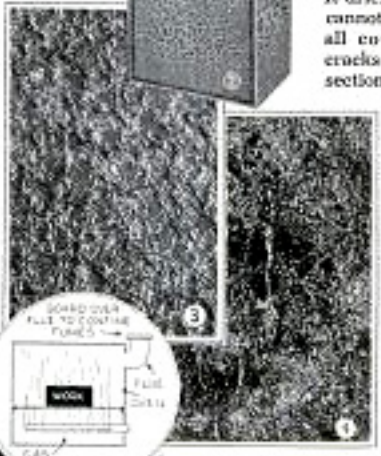
NOVELTY FINISHES
with Brush and Spray

Crackle, crystal, spatter and veiled finishes, as well as wrinkling, shading, smutting and many others applied to furniture and novelties

NOVELTY finishes of interesting textures and color combinations can be used to advantage in the home or professional shop. They are smart and distinctive, cost little if any more to apply than the usual smooth finish of one color, and can be applied readily without previous experience. Most of the effects require a spray gun for successful application, although some can be brushed or dipped.

Crackle: Crackle enamel is available either clear or in standard colors, and is applied over a lacquer undercoat.



It dries almost instantly and cannot hold its original overall coverage, but instead cracks into numerous small sections, as can be seen in Figs. 1 and 2. Red crackle over black lacquer is commonly used to produce a Spanish vargueno or oriental effect. Other good combinations are brown over ivory, green over gold and blue over gray. After the under coat has dried, the crackle coat is sprayed on. The lighter this is applied, the smaller the cracks will be. Some experience is required in order to get a uniform surface. For pleasing, transparent effects on polished metal, colored glass, or parchment mix clear crackle enamel, about 10 parts, to the desired color, 1 part. The base coat should be clear lacquer or a rich, yellow gold. In all cases, the crackle coat should be protected, when dry, with a coat of clear lacquer.

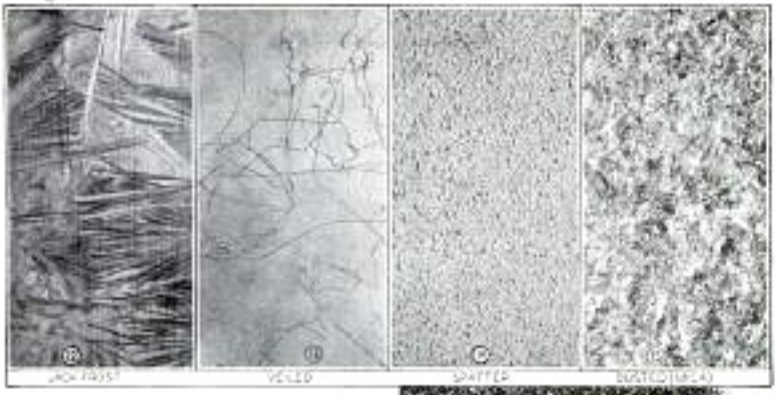
Wrinkling: One of the most popular finishes on all kinds of metal work is wrin-

kling. The lacquer used is somewhat heavier than the average spraying lacquer. It is also sprayed, being applied best with pressure feed. Like most texture finishes, a thick coat gives a heavy, pronounced pattern, while a thin coat gives a fine-textured effect. A medium heavy coat works best. After spraying, the work is placed in an oven to bake. The temperature should be between 180 and 220 degrees Fahr. Fig. 3 shows the appearance of the wrinkling lacquer coat after baking. The baking time runs about 2 hrs. at 220 degrees.

Crystal: Crystal or crystallizing lacquer is another baked-on finish. It comes in black and clear only. The general effect can be seen in Fig. 4, and consists of very small crystals. A light coat gives best results. Like wrinkling lacquer it is sprayed direct without undercoats of any kind. In baking crystallizing lacquer, it is necessary to confine the products of combustion inside the oven, as shown in Fig. 5. Baking time is about 30 minutes at 150° Fahr., Fig. 6.

Shading: Shading or two-toning offers one of the simplest methods of securing a novelty effect on small furniture pieces, kitchen sets and the like. It is done by first applying a base coat, and then shading various parts of the work with a gun, as shown in Fig. 7. In a natural finish with clear lacquer, a special brown shading lacquer is used to secure the desired effect. Color shading can be done with lacquer enamels or with paste pigments ground in japan. The fluid should be of very light body so that it can be applied in a fine mist coat. Effective color combinations include black on light green or red, gold on black, tan on ivory, green on natural light wood, dark blue on light blue, etc.

Jack Frost: "Jack-Frost" lacquers come in all colors, both opaque and transparent. The fluid is applied directly to bare wood, metal or glass. A fairly heavy coat works best. The texture starts forming about 2 min. after application and appears somewhat as shown in Fig. 12 although the exact pattern may vary considerably. The transparent finishes are especially effective on polished metals, glass



bottles, Fig. 8, light bulbs and lighting fixtures.

Side Shading: An interesting effect on any raised finish is applied by spraying a contrasting color with the gun held almost parallel to the surface, as shown in Fig. 9. The job being worked in this picture is a wrinkle finish in bright green. The top color being applied is red, and, because of the position of the gun, the red color is deposited only on the sides of the wrinkles. The finished job appears green when viewed from one side and red when viewed from the opposite side.

Smutting: To add color and depth, smutting is commonly employed. A typical example is shown in Figs. 10 and 11. The project being finished is a cigarette box, which has been coated

Many interesting effects in wall treatment are possible with the use of plastic paint

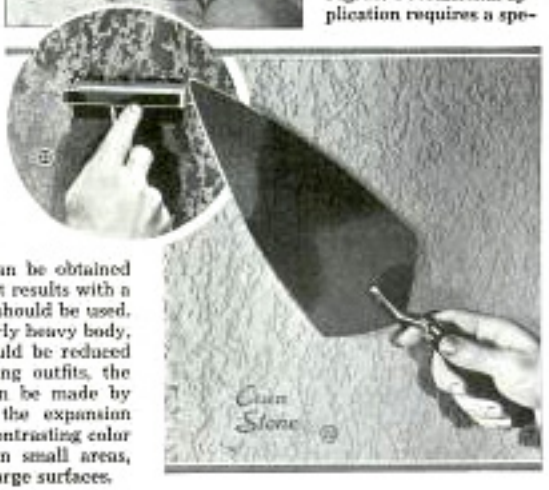
with red Jack-Frost lacquer. After this has dried, a smut is made by mixing paste pigments with japan or oil. Ordinary paint or enamel also can be used. A coat of the smutting color is applied, as shown in Fig. 10, and then immediately wiped off with a clean rag, as in Fig. 11, leaving the smut color in the depressed portions of the design.

Spatter: The familiar spatter effect is easily obtained by loading a large brush with the desired color and then striking it sharply against the hand to spatter the drops of color, as shown in Figs. 14 and 16. Similar effects can be obtained with a spray gun. For best results with a spray gun, pressure feed should be used. The paint should be of fairly heavy body, and the air pressure should be reduced greatly. On small spraying outfits, the reduction in pressure can be made by releasing the valve on the expansion chamber, as in Fig. 17. Contrasting color effects should be used on small areas, never for walls or other large surfaces.

Oxidizing: Imitation oxidizing, extensively used on metal products, is done by spraying black lacquer on polished metal, as shown in Fig. 18. A round spray pattern is required. Novelty effects using bronze powders mixed with bronzing liquid or clear or colored lacquers can be obtained easily. Where bronze powders are mixed with colored lacquers to secure a metallic effect, the proportions should be about one tablespoonful of powder to a pint of lacquer.

Dusting: In this process, the work is first coated with varnish. After the varnish has dried to a "tacky" stage, the top coating of bronze powder, pulverized felt, colored ground glass, etc., is sifted or dusted on. Figs. 15 and 19 show mica crystals being applied in this manner. Finish with a top coat of clear varnish.

Veiling: Giving the appearance of a string of color looped again and again on the surface of the work, veiling lacquers give an interesting effect, as shown in Fig. 13. Professional application requires a spe-



cial spray-gun nozzle, but a good novelty effect similar to spatter but with comet-like tails can be obtained by using this material in an ordinary spray gun.

Plastics: Plastic paint is commonly used for wall surfaces, but can be applied to flower boxes, vases and other products where a rough texture is desired. It is of heavy body, and is best applied with a brush. After it has set up slightly, the material can be worked in a number of different ways to secure the desired texture. One method commonly employed is to use a wooden float, pressing this into the finish and then pulling straight out, as shown in Fig. 20. Other textures can be obtained with a stiff brush, crumpled newspapers or with a towel.

Spread-Spatter: An effective variation of spatter work is obtained by using plastic or other paint. This is spattered in the usual manner and when slightly set up is brushed lightly, as shown in Fig. 21. The example shows a two-tone spatter effect of light red and green over cream, the two colors being spread at right angles.

Caen-Stone: As shown in Figs. 22 and 23, Caen-stone effect is a popular wall finish secured by using plastic paint. It is applied over a smooth base coat. The top coat of the same or a contrasting color is applied by knifing the plastic in place, then leveling it smooth with a trowel. Two-tone effects in this and other troweled finishes can be obtained by applying the color coat of pigment with a rubber roller.

Emery Cloth Gripped in Tool Post to Polish Lathe Work

There's no need for tired fingers occasioned by holding a strip of emery cloth on metal-turning work, when polishing it, as the job can be done just as efficiently in most cases by using the tool post. The end of the strip is inserted and tightened to the desired degree by the fine adjustment knob on the carriage.

—Don Heller, Pasadena, Calif.

Springs Grip Wrapping Paper on Shipper's Table

Stacks of wrapping paper are kept in orderly arrangement by the moderate pressure of two spring clips, which are screwed to the table top. Whether a full stack or only a few sheets, the pressure applied is always practically the same. If you can't find suitable springs for this purpose, they can be made from 4-in. spring steel of a gauge to obtain the desired pressure. Pieces of sheet rubber are cemented to the tips of the springs as shown or sections of rubber tubing may be forced over the ends.

Shop Broom Held in Hose

A serviceable holder for your shop broom can be made by cutting a section of discarded radiator hose as shown and tacking it to a wall at an angle. When the broom handle is inserted and lowered to a vertical position, the twisted hose sections grips it at opposite sides and holds it securely.

(When you are in a hurry to defrost a mechanical refrigerator, turn it off, empty the ice-cube trays, fill with boiling water and replace them in the freezing unit.