Hanging WALLPAPER

baking soda, sal soda, borax or ammonia added to the water will aid in softening up the old paste. By the time you have finished soaking, the paper where you first started should be loose enough so that it can be taken off in sheets with a scraper blade. When all the old paper has been removed, wash down the walls with a sponge and let dry. A little carbolic acid added to the clear water will make a sanitary job of it. Any defects or cracks in the walls, of course, should be filled smoothly with a prepared patching compound. Porous plaster as well as new plaster should be glue-sized preparatory to papering. The size should be rather thin and applied hot in a warm room, using a large brush to apply it quickly before it jells, Fig. 5. As a rule, one coat will suffice.

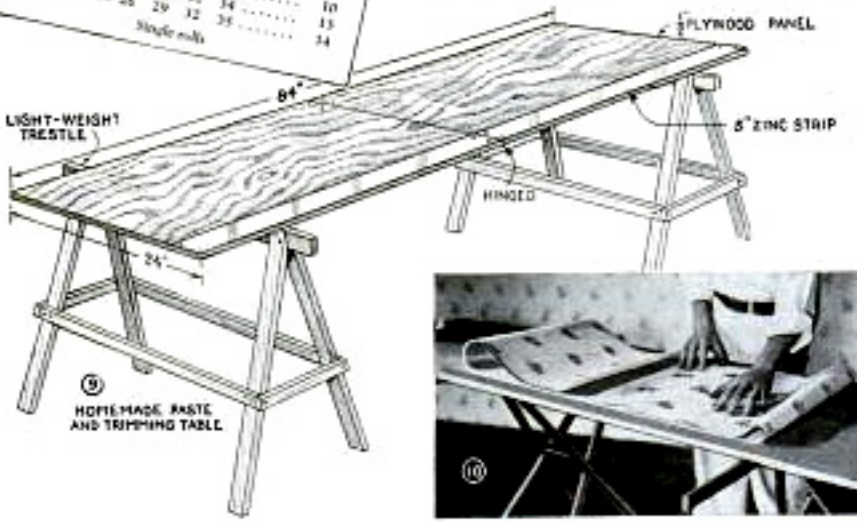
If the walls you intend to paper have been painted previously, it will be necessary, in order to make the paste stick, to kill the gloss and oil in the paint by first sanding with rough paper and then washing with a weak solution of sal soda and water, Fig. 4. Follow this with a size of plain vinegar. In the case of particularly rough walls such as a sand finish, you must first cover with a lining paper available especially for the purpose or, if you should have a number of odd rolls of paper you wish to use up, you can use this instead, placing the figure of the paper next to the wall. For lining papers the paste should be fairly stiff. Use a wide, stiff, smoother

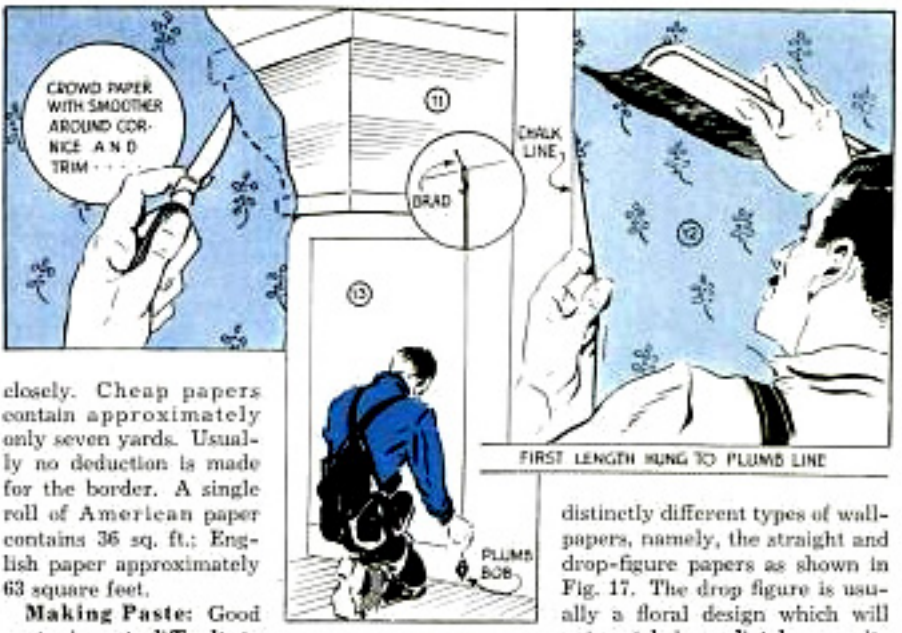
ROLLS OF PAPER FOR ROOMS ⑧

Lineal ft. of walls	Height of room 8'	9'	10'	11'	Rolls for ceiling
48	12	13	15	16	2
52	13	15	16	18	2
56	14	16	17	19	3
60	15	17	18	20	3
64	16	18	20	22	3
68	17	19	21	23	3
72	18	20	22	24	4
76	19	21	23	26	4
80	20	22	24	27	4
84	21	23	26	28	4
88	22	24	27	30	4
92	23	26	28	31	4
96	24	27	30	32	8
100	25	28	31	34	10
104	26	29	32	35	13
Single rolls					14

brush and brush the paper down hard to assure a firm bond to the sand particles.

Estimating Material: The prepared table of estimates in Fig. 8 gives the number of rolls required for both ceiling and walls of various sized rooms. These figures are based on the standard single roll of 8 yds. length. Since nearly all papers are now put up in double rolls, you need purchase only half of the specified amount. In figuring individual requirements not covered in the given table, one of the simplest methods is to multiply the running feet of the walls by 12 and divide by 18 which gives you the required number of strips around the room, running from ceiling to baseboard. For example, if the room is 8 ft. high, you will be able to get three strips from a single roll (which contains approximately 8 yds.) or six strips from a double roll. This, of course, figures the room as a solid with no deductions made for openings, unless they are exceptionally large such as double doors, etc. In such cases, you will be safe in deducting one-half single roll for each. Other openings are figured to take care of the waste consumed in cutting and matching and it is always best not to figure too

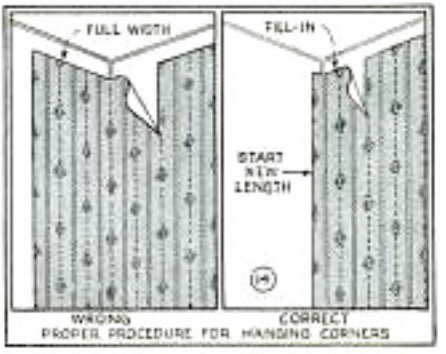




closely. Cheap papers contain approximately only seven yards. Usually no deduction is made for the border. A single roll of American paper contains 36 sq. ft.; English paper approximately 63 square feet.

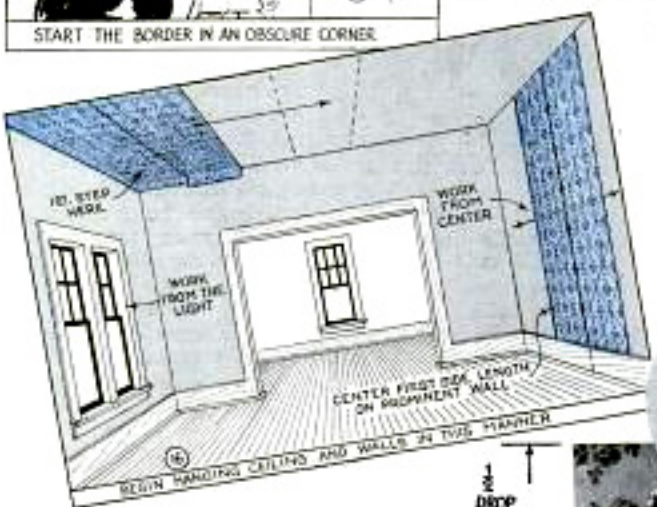
Making Paste: Good paste is not difficult to make, yet it requires some pains. The worker can use either a commercial ready-made paste sold in 5-lb. packages or he can make his own, following the formula given in Fig. 6. Mix your flour with cold water until it has the consistency of thick cream. Be thorough in beating the batter smooth. Any lumps present in the mixture can be removed by straining through a fine sieve. The addition of alum makes the paste firmer, preserves it from spoiling and makes it easier to spread. Place the mass over a flame and boil, stirring continuously; then remove and add cold water until about like cream. Let the paste stand until perfectly cold before using. A tablespoonful of Venice turpentine to a pail of paste, added while the mixture is hot, will increase its adhesiveness considerably. The proper consistency of the paste, of course, depends upon the quality of the paper to be hung. If delicate, lightweight paper is to be used, make the paste fairly thin, while with heavier material use the paste quite stiff.

Cutting the Paper: Prior to cutting the paper to length, you must first examine and study the pattern to be able to cut it with the least waste. You will find two distinctly different types of wall-papers, namely, the straight and drop-figure papers as shown in Fig. 17. The drop figure is usually a floral design which will not match immediately opposite and consequently must be dropped or moved downward to match the adjacent strip. This drop measures one-half of the full figure and must be cut accordingly. For example, if your pattern is 18 in. long, the opposite length of paper must be lowered 9 in. Along the margin of commercial papers you will find equally spaced markings which indicate where the pattern should be cut. This makes it simple for the worker as he will cut one strip the required length by cutting on the "join here" mark of the paper and the next strip he will cut half-way between the "join



START THE BORDER IN AN OBSCURE CORNER

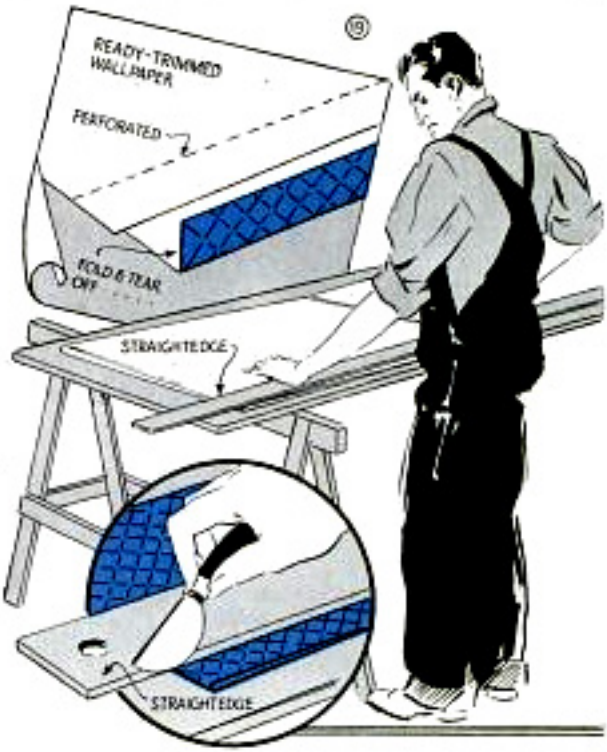
Pasting and Trimming: Fig. 2 shows three types of joints or seams which can be used; namely, the butt, lap and wire edge. Of the three, the lapped seam is the simplest, requiring only the trimming of one edge. On some papers the edge is trimmed, that is, the edge is perforated so that it can be folded over and torn off. A ready-trimmed edge is only suitable for a lapped seam. For a butt seam both edges of the paper must be trimmed by hand regardless of whether it may be ready-trimmed. This type of joint is preferable as the seam is visible only upon close inspection and therefore makes a neater job. The wire-edge seam is more or less a lapped joint, which resembles a butt joint with less skill required in keeping the joint closed. Trimming is done after the length has been pasted. Here the pasted ends of the paper are temporarily folded over midway as shown in Fig. 10, keeping the edges perfectly even, after which the straight edge is laid parallel to the edge of



here" marks. You should cut from two rolls of paper in case of a drop-figure pattern, cutting on the marks from one roll and between the marks from the other roll.

The straight-figure paper, however, does match immediately opposite and all lengths are cut on the marks. If you notice your particular pattern has half figures on the margin of the paper, this is also termed a straight-figure pattern, and it, too, can be cut on the marks. In measuring the length of strips for a 9-ft. ceiling, there is no need of cutting the paper full 9 ft. long as you have a border at the top and a baseboard at the bottom. For a 9-ft. room, cut the paper in 8½-ft. lengths.

the paper to guide the knife in trimming the selvage (Fig. 19). When only one edge of the paper is to be trimmed, first make sure you are trimming the correct edge. In pasting thin and delicate papers you will have to work a little faster as the paper will become overly wet and if left too long it is apt to tear while hanging. Also, above all, get the habit of wiping your paste board off each time. Otherwise you will have some objectionable stains on your finished paper.



Hanging the Paper: Papering the ceiling is looked upon by many as the most difficult part of the whole job but, through actual experience, you will find this to be easier than fitting paper around window and door cornices, fixtures, etc. The whole secret of the job is the manner in which the paper is prepared prior to hanging. With a butt-type seam it makes little difference whether the paper is run the length or width of the room. But with a lap seam, it is important to work from the lighted side of the room, as shown in Fig. 16, for the reason that if not done, shadows will be cast from each seam, making the ceiling very noticeable upon entering the room. As the length of paper is gradually pasted, it is folded back and forth in loose folds as shown in Fig. 7 and is carried up on the scaffold with a roll stick or an odd roll of wallpaper. If the angle of the ceiling is not true, you first strike a guide line about 16 in. from the wall and hang to this. "Tack" the end of the strip in place with the smoother brush, allowing it to extend down the side wall about ½ in. As you continue across the room, the paper will unfold. Brush it out smoothly and avoid blisters. Follow this strip with succeeding ones. The seams are rolled down firmly as shown in Fig. 18. After the ceiling has been completed, the first consideration in hanging the first side wall strip is having it plumb. Select a prominent wall on which to center the strip, Fig. 16. A plumb line from the ceiling to the baseboard is snapped as shown in Fig. 13. The starting length of paper is hung to this line as in Fig. 12, working each way from this center strip. If a lap seam is employed, it is not necessary to trim either edge of this first strip. In entering a corner, do not continue a full width strip around the angle as shown in the left detail of Fig. 14. Instead, cut a "fill-in" strip of the proper width as shown on the right. Use your trimming knife in cutting the paper to length at the baseboard. At window and door cornices, crowd the paper around the molding with the smoother and trim carefully with a knife as in Fig. 11. Finally the border is hung, starting in an obscure corner of the room, Fig. 15. Keep the pasted side off of the lower side wall while hanging to avoid staining.