

Be Creative - Try Batik

by Susan Brice
Have you ever dreamed of designing your own dress fabric? You can quite easily by using an old oriental craft called Batik. Batik is a Japanese word meaning wax painting, an art developed in that country almost two thousand years ago and being used extensively today.

Other items that could be made are decorative pillow cases, scarves, wall hangings, place mats, napkins, aprons and other articles of clothing.

Let's give it a try. You may want to practise first on old cotton sheeting. For this technique the natural

fibres—cotton and silk are best as synthetics tend to repel the dyes. If the material has any sizing present it must be removed by washing with washing soda. The fabric must be pressed free of wrinkles before starting Batik.

The dye required must be transparent and effective in cold water (hot water will melt the wax). The 'M' range of Procion dyes are best. Other materials required are paraffin wax (may be combined with small amount of beeswax), paint brushes, hot plate and double boiler to melt the wax, newspapers and iron (not steam).

Firstly, the design and color scheme must be decided upon. Work out a preliminary design on paper first, or block design directly on fabric with a soft pencil. Perhaps this is the most difficult part for some. Once the design is on the fabric, the next step is waxing.

Stretch the fabric taut on an old table covered with newspapers. Melt wax in the double boiler. Apply the wax generously to the cloth wherever you want no color. The wax should permeate the material through to the other side. For a veined appearance,

crack the fabric before dipping in the dye.

Prepare the dye baths. You would only need the three primary colors—(red, blue and yellow) other colors would be formed from overlapping these on the fabric. For example red and blue make violet, red and yellow make orange, and blue and yellow form green. Always use the lightest color first then proceed to the darker ones.

Use any combination of colors you wish. Dip the fabric into the first dye bath, all but the waxed areas will be the color of the first (lightest) dye bath. Let this dry thoroughly. The first wax application need not be removed unless it is necessary to have the second color applied over the white fabric. Wax is then applied over those areas in which the design is required to remain in the first dyed color. When the wax has hardened the fabric is dipped in the second dye bath. The unwaxed white areas will be the second color.

The newly waxed areas will remain the previous color and the unwaxed areas which were the color of the first dye bath will remain a mixture of the two. Let dry. Working in this way, area by area and color by color the entire fabric is dyed.

The dyes must then be "fixed" which is done by leaving the fabric exposed to the air for 24 hours. Then to finish the process

first rinse the fabric in cold running water until it runs clear. The wax is removed by immersing the cloth in hot boiling water.

For a stiffer fabric, for example for a wall hanging, leave some of the wax in the fabric, then rinse again in cold water. Dry and press the fabric.

Now you have created a unique design of your own that will receive many compliments. Go ahead and try it!

If you are interested in learning more about the Home Economics Branch has a new project entitled "Batik". Your women's group may be interested in this course next year. Contact the home economics teacher at the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food in Cayuga.

PORK SHOULDER CHOPS

The economy-minded homemaker should take a good look at pork shoulder chops. These chops are tender and very flavorful, and can be prepared by the same cooking methods as the more expensive loin or rib chop, say home economists at the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food.

There are two types of shoulder chop, the blade and the round bone. The blade chops are cut from the Boston butt. They are larger than loin or rib chops and contain a small portion of the blade bone. The round bone shoulder chops are cut from the picnic

shoulder, and are about the size of a rib chop. They have a small bone and a fine grain. The blade chops are one chop per serving and three servings to the pound.

Pork shoulder chops can be panfried or broiled. They are at their best when braised. Braising is easy. To braise, chop three or four chops on each side over medium heat, add a small amount of liquid (water, apple tomato juice, apricot etc.), reduce heat, simmer, cover pan, allow 15 to 20 minutes to cook.

Message From The Queen

Eva Young, the "Queen of the Furrow" competition is a new, it has gained in popularity during the years to become the most colorful events offered by the province.

entering the competition are judged on appearance, talent, personality, and knowledge of plowing.

The girl who wins the "Ontario Queen of the Furrow" competition becomes the representative and ambassador of the Ontario Plowmen's Association and will be asked to travel across the province for a period of one year, representing her association, and advertising the International Plowing Match.

It is certainly a rewarding and educational experience, and I would not hesitate to recommend that any girls who are between the ages of 16 and 25 and interested in opportunity and challenge consider participating in the competition. At present, our county has two Queens of the Furrow: Miss Nancy Farrell, of RR 3, Caledonia who represents the Oneida Plowmen's Association, and Miss Janice Fox, of RR 5, Cayuga, who represents the

Haldimand Plowmen's Association.

Both these girls will be competing this fall at Harewood, and will try to bring the Ontario Queen title back here to Haldimand!

The present Ontario Queen of the Furrow, Miss Mary Dolson of Brampton was chosen at the recent IPM at Lindsay and has already been travelling to various functions throughout Ontario in her new Barracuda convertible (one of her prizes) advertising our upcoming International match and inviting people to attend.

As the 1969-70 Ontario Queen, I was able to learn many things about agriculture, people, Ontario, and about the International Plowing Match. I know that the coming of this year's International Plowing Match to Haldimand will mean a tremendous amount of work for a great many people, but I also realize that it will provide our county with the opportunity of being in the spotlight this fall as hundreds of thousands of visitors flock to our county from all parts of Canada and even the world. It will be our chance to show these people just what kind of farmers, communities and Canadians that we are.

As someone who has grown to love and respect our county I feel that we should all work together to give these people an impression of ourselves and our homes that they will remember favourably to their friends and families back home. It will be up to our local plowing match committee to ensure the success of the Match itself—and they have already begun working towards their goal—but it will be up to each of us as individuals to take our own part in ensuring the overall success that our county can experience by making our visitors feel as welcome and impressed as possible by the type of communities and personalities that we offer and show them.

Just as certain parts of the world regularly benefit from the riches and rewards offered to them as a tourist region, 1971 and the International Plowing Match will make Haldimand County and all its talents, resources, and businesses a "tourist attraction" this October.

Let's show these visitors our best sides! One of the most rewarding and important individual contributions we can make is through the improvement and renovation of our own homes, farms roadsides, lawns, buildings, etc.

These things are immediately noticeable and instantly appreciated by passers-by. I'm sure that almost all of us have been wanting to do something around the house or garden to improve their appearance but have been waiting for something to come along to get us started. That "something" could very well have been the International Plowing Match—and here it comes!! Let's get to work.



1970 Queen of the Furrow, (right), Mrs. Eva Young of Cayuga, crowns Ontario's 1971 queen. (ODAF Photo)

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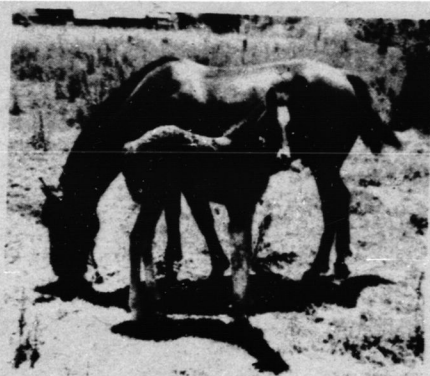
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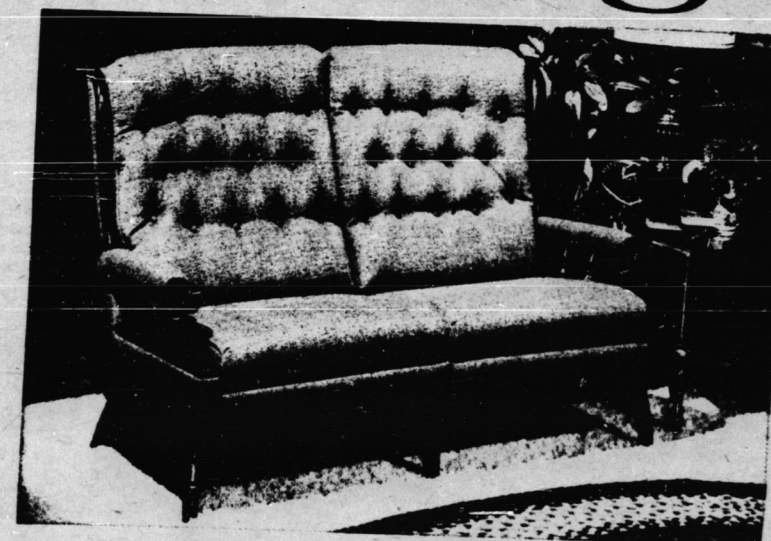
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