

Home Repairs Made Easy with Power Tools

The rising costs of labor are turning many homeowners into enthusiastic do-it-yourselfers.

Sanding, an essential step in most home repair projects, is an easy task when the right tools are used. Small power tools such as the drill sander (a drill with a sanding attachment) and the finishing sander, are being used by female do-it-yourselfers to fix things around the house. Many find them as easy to operate as an electric mixer, especially when used with "Press'n Sand" sandpaper sheets. There are no clamps or screws to adjust; the "sticky-back" sheets adhere

tightly, preventing tearing or ripping while sanding.

Here are some easy home-repair and maintenance tips:

• *If a drawer sticks or doesn't slide easily, use a finishing sander to sand wherever the drawer is sticking. (Places where a drawer binds often look dark and shiny.) Apply a silicone spray on the tops and bottoms of drawer runners.*

• *When a door binds, remove it from the hinges and examine the outer edges. Use a finishing sander to take off a little wood wherever the edge is chafed.*

• *Use the finishing sander for light sanding jobs and to give a fine finish to wood and veneers.*

• *Painted Furniture*—It's a good idea to periodically renew painted furniture. The finishing sander is ideal for preparing the furniture for repainting.

• *Prepare stair treads for a painting or varnishing.* A good workout with a drill sander will clean them and make for better adhesion of the new finish.

• *Remove peeling paint.* Before repainting any surface, eliminate bits of flaking paint with the drill sander. You'll get better results!

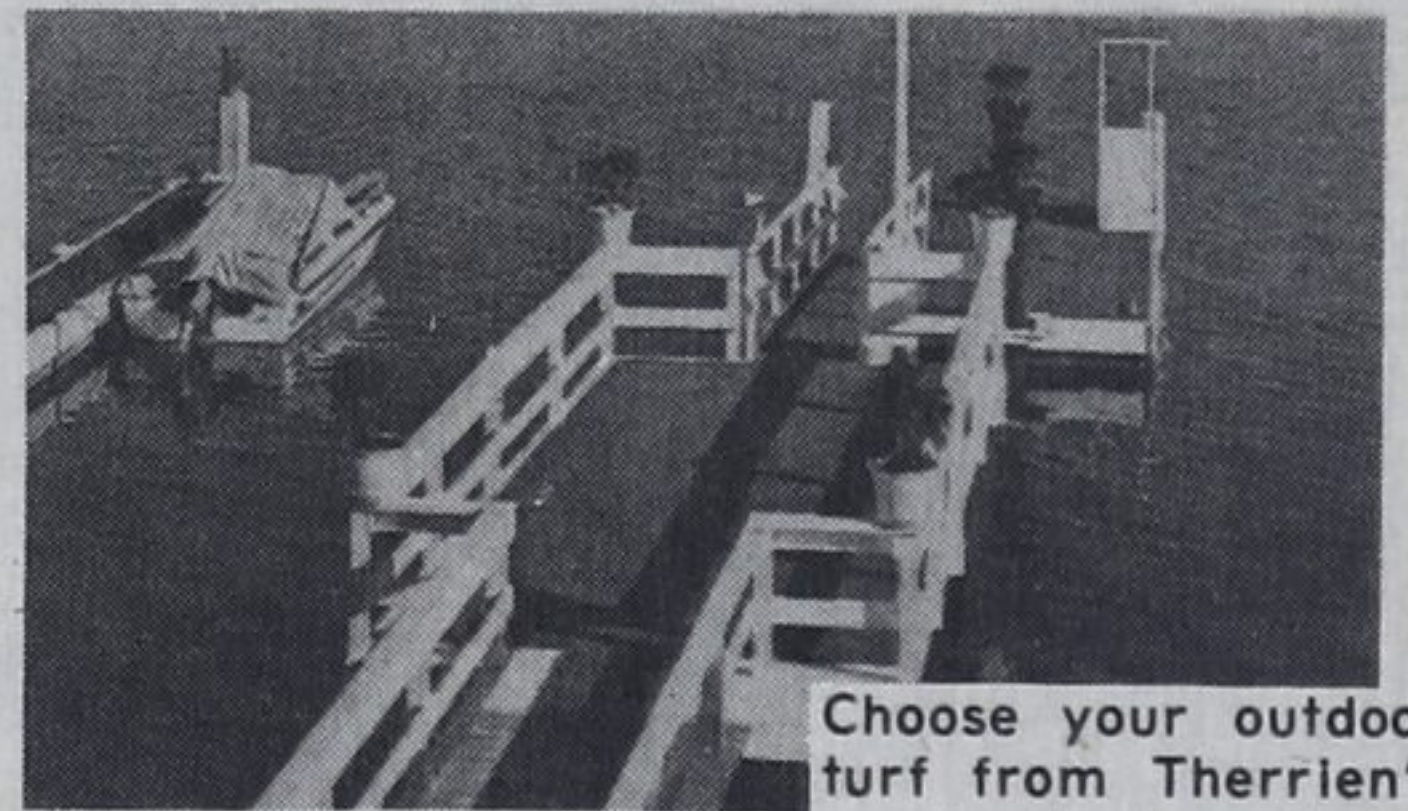


DESIGNER ALLEN SCRUGGS' ECLECTIC LIVING ROOM is planned around the owner's two main interests—music and his collection of Mexican pottery. This tiny, early 1900s home, originally a farmhouse, had a long, narrow living room. Functionally broken in two for living and dining, the room is all-white with old shutters stripped to natural wood.

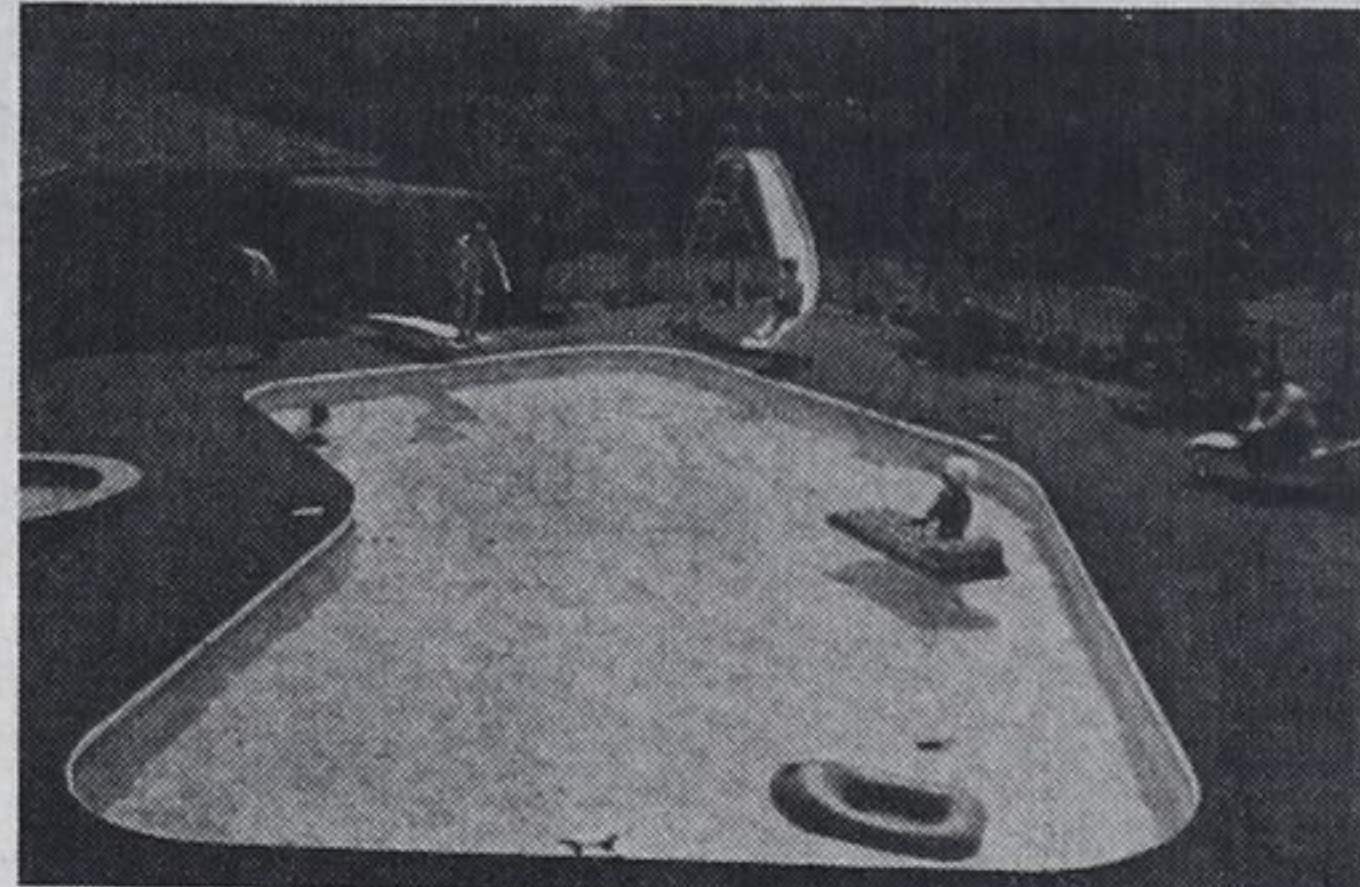
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