

HOME AND GARDEN

Portable CDs latest in entertainment technology

(From page 10) although in the average home about 100 watts total power is perfectly adequate. Remotes for stereo systems are becoming a popular option, he notes. "Probably one of the next big things is the portable ghet-

to blaster which comes with a CD player as well." Other innovations in CDs include double and six-pack players, which allow you to play more than one disc at a time, advises Michael DeCaspro of Video World. "The multi-players have

become a big part of the market. If you've got a six-pack, you can load it up and it can give you six hours of uninterrupted music, which is great for a party." With the surround sound amplifier processor developed

by Pioneer, sound reproduction has reached new heights. "These receivers have become a precedent setter; they're number one in the audio-video system," notes DeCaspro. Because they can be hooked up to a variety of equipment, "they're not going to be obsolete next year. Unlike the old stereos, you don't have to keep upgrading all your equipment, you can just add to it."

Stonehouse. Not only can you play five or six, without changing the discs, "you can pick and choose the specific tracks you want," he points out. "These are a really popular choice."

There's a major swing to remote control operation with all manufacturers, reports Dave Stonehouse at Wellington Way Stereo, and this has led to the development of "learning" remotes for integrated audio-visual systems. "With all the different pieces of equipment, people don't want their coffee tables cluttered by remotes. Now you can get one which can 'learn' what the others know." With the capacity to replace up to eight remotes, everything from your CD to your dishwasher can be operated through a single unit. CD players with multiple disc capabilities are becoming a big seller at his store, adds

Use psychology of picking paints

The psychology of color is never more important and fascinating than when it's applied to children's rooms - from the nursery to the teenage retreat.

"It's been found that children respond to color as early as four months, and it's now well-known that the bright primary colors create a stimulating environment, rather than the baby blues and pinks we've tended to associate with children's rooms in the past," says David Beech, Manager, Color and Design, Para Paints Canada Inc.

Because children's color preferences evolve through a number of stages as they mature, the best method of introducing color is with paint.

For not only does paint come in every color of the rainbow, it is also the most inexpensive and practical way to decorate a child's room.

A good quality paint that dirt and stains can be wiped off easily, is essential. And when the child grows out of one stage, it's also easy to change the decor.

This applies to furniture as well, for the furniture that grows with a child can be given a variety of different looks with paint - a super tough semi- or high-gloss alkylid is best.

When the nursery decor is outgrown, bright, primary colors, for the most part, continue to be the choice in the three-to-six-year old age group - red, blue and orange, being perhaps the most popular colors.

Overall, there is a very definite preference for red, for it's been shown that if a group of children are asked to draw a fruit tree, they will almost invariably draw an apple tree with bright red fruit.

Younger children tend to be very uninhibited when it comes to choosing color, and apart from preferring the brights, they also like wild color combinations.

This doesn't mean that you have to live with a purple, orange and lime-green bedroom. The dominant colors can be introduced in small areas, in a mural, for instance, which is an ideal way of decorating a child's room, or on painted furniture.

As they reach their early teens, children tend to have many more inhibitions, as their influences become controlled by their peer groups, fashion trends, or the latest blockbuster movie.

But the desire for color usually remains, even if the walls are covered in posters highlighted with black lighting.

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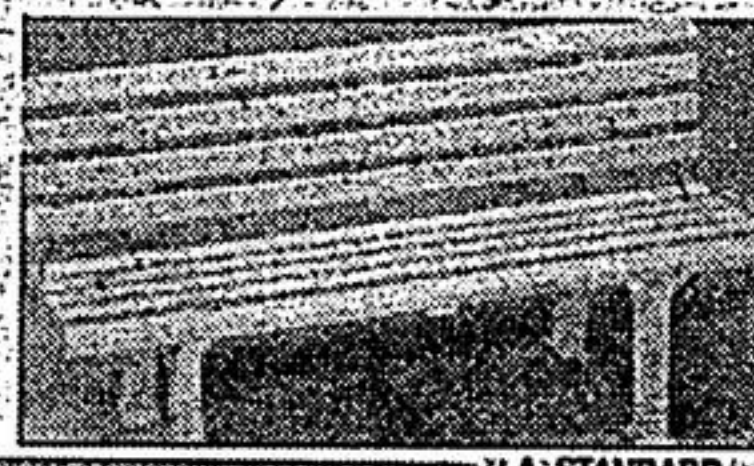
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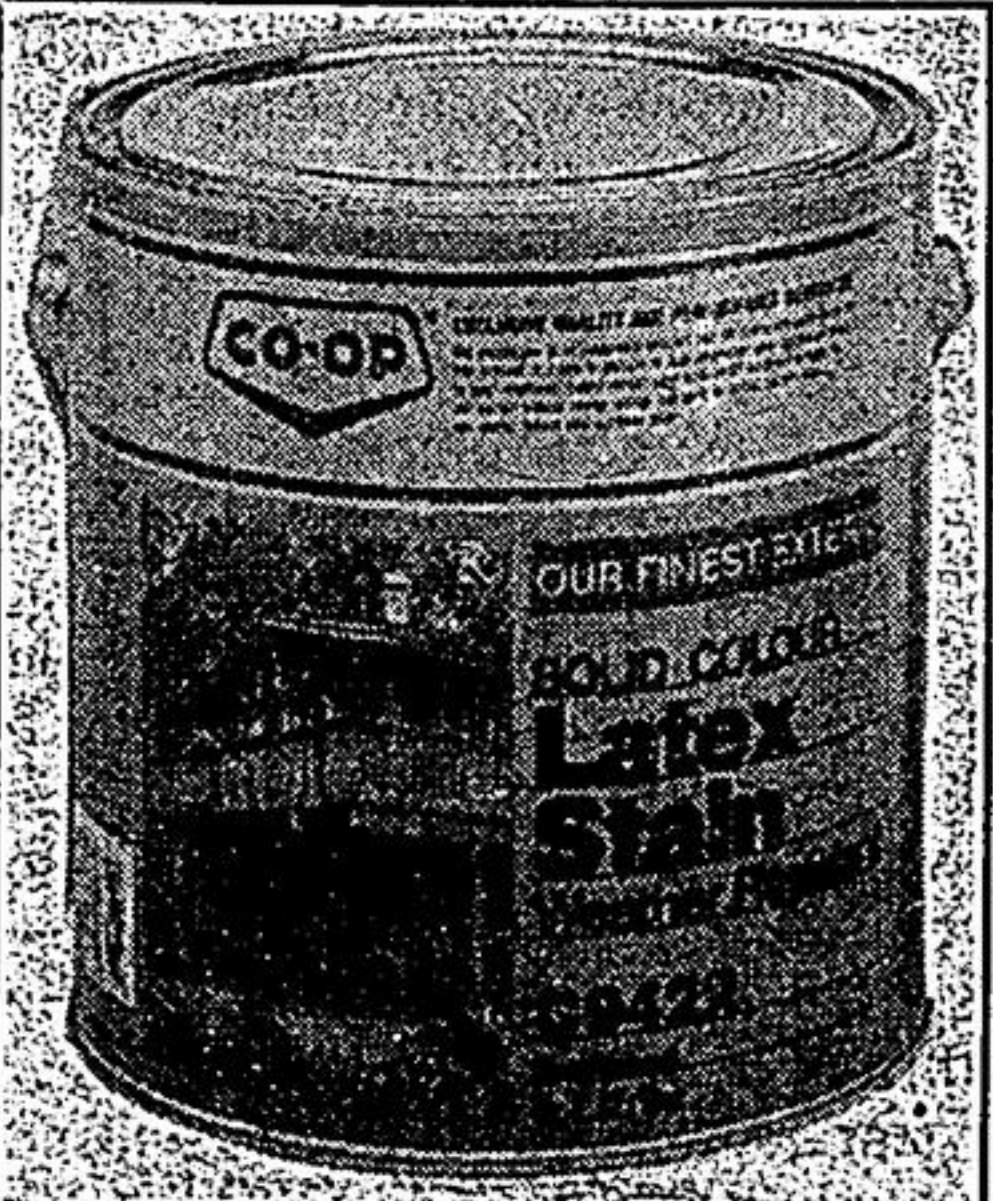
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