

PAINTING

Before buying any paint, make absolutely sure that it is safe to use on things that children are going to handle and use regularly. This is very important as some paints contain poisonous ingredients. Always follow the manufacturers' instructions to the letter and use a brand which dries quickly. Always have a place ready where freshly painted work can be left to dry without the fear of it being touched or becoming dusty. If possible find a dry and well-ventilated place. Drying lots of small pieces of wet wood is always a difficult problem to solve, but some of the ideas illustrated do help to overcome them. Surface preparation need not be a long and tedious job if the wood has been carefully selected, and the various pieces of equipment such as the sanding board are made.

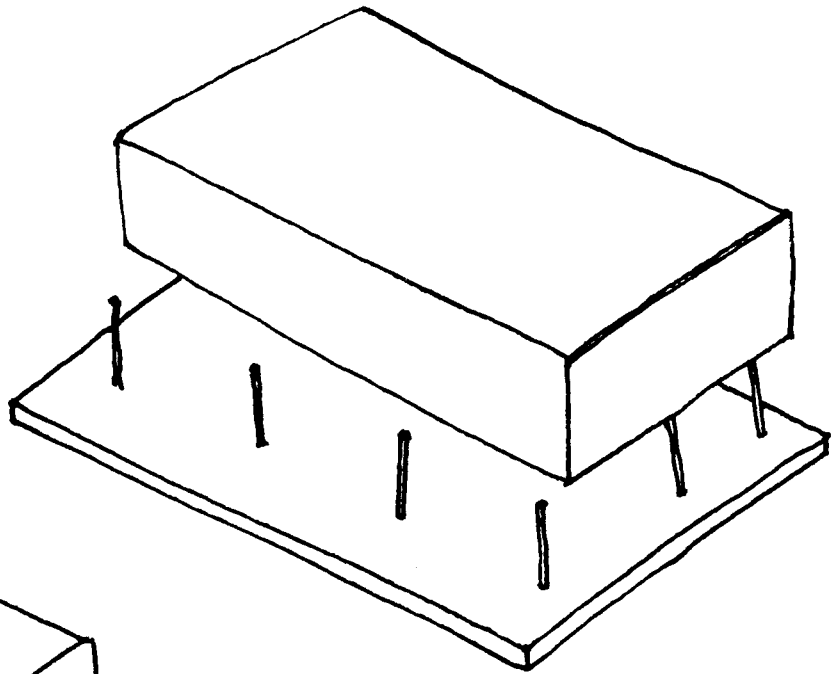
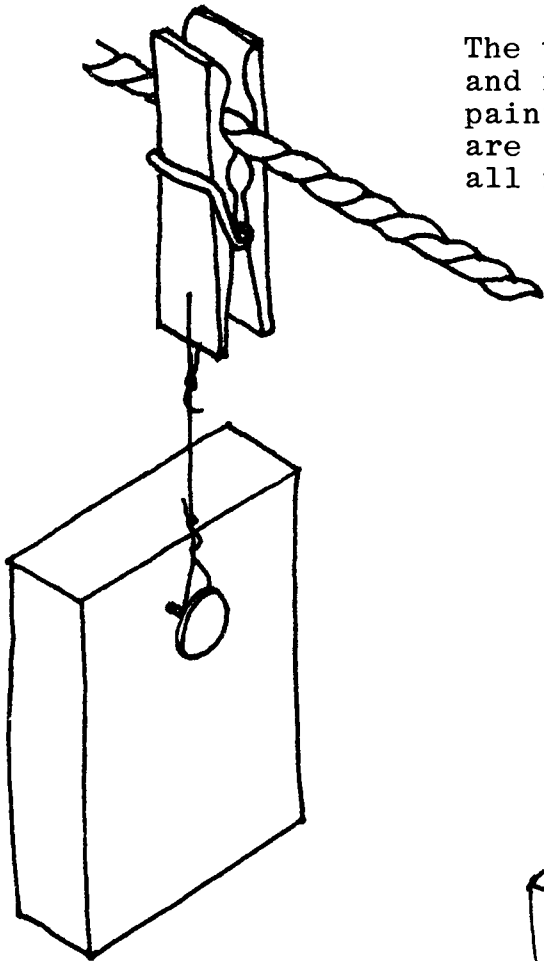
Thoroughly rub down all side with glasspaper to remove all roughness, sharp corners and edges. Fill any holes or bad joins with putty or a proprietary brand of wood filler.

Like hand tools, there are no good cheap paint brushes, so buy the best you can afford. Remember to clean the brushes thoroughly after use.

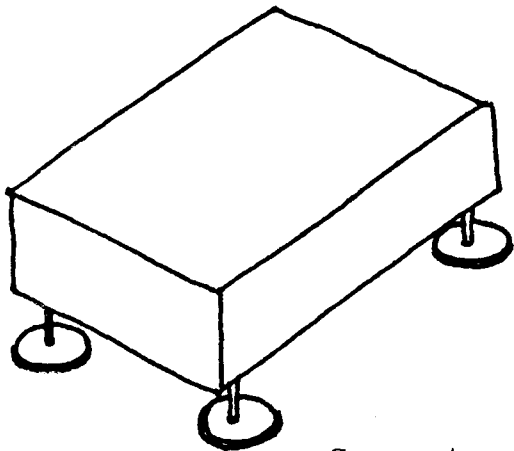
Before using the paint always stir well with a clean stick, making sure there is no solid matter left unmixed at the bottom of the can. An occasional stir should also be given while painting if a good quality finish is to be maintained. When applying both the undercoat and top coat, it is always better to brush on two thin coats rather than one thick coat, as this will reduce drying time, and there will be no runs, which sometimes never dry completely.

To obtain a really professional finish, and one which will last a long time, rub down the surface between coats so that the last one is applied to a very smooth and receptive surface.

The use of drawing pins, clothes pegs and nails for supporting work during painting and drying means all surfaces are free to dry, as air can circulate all round.

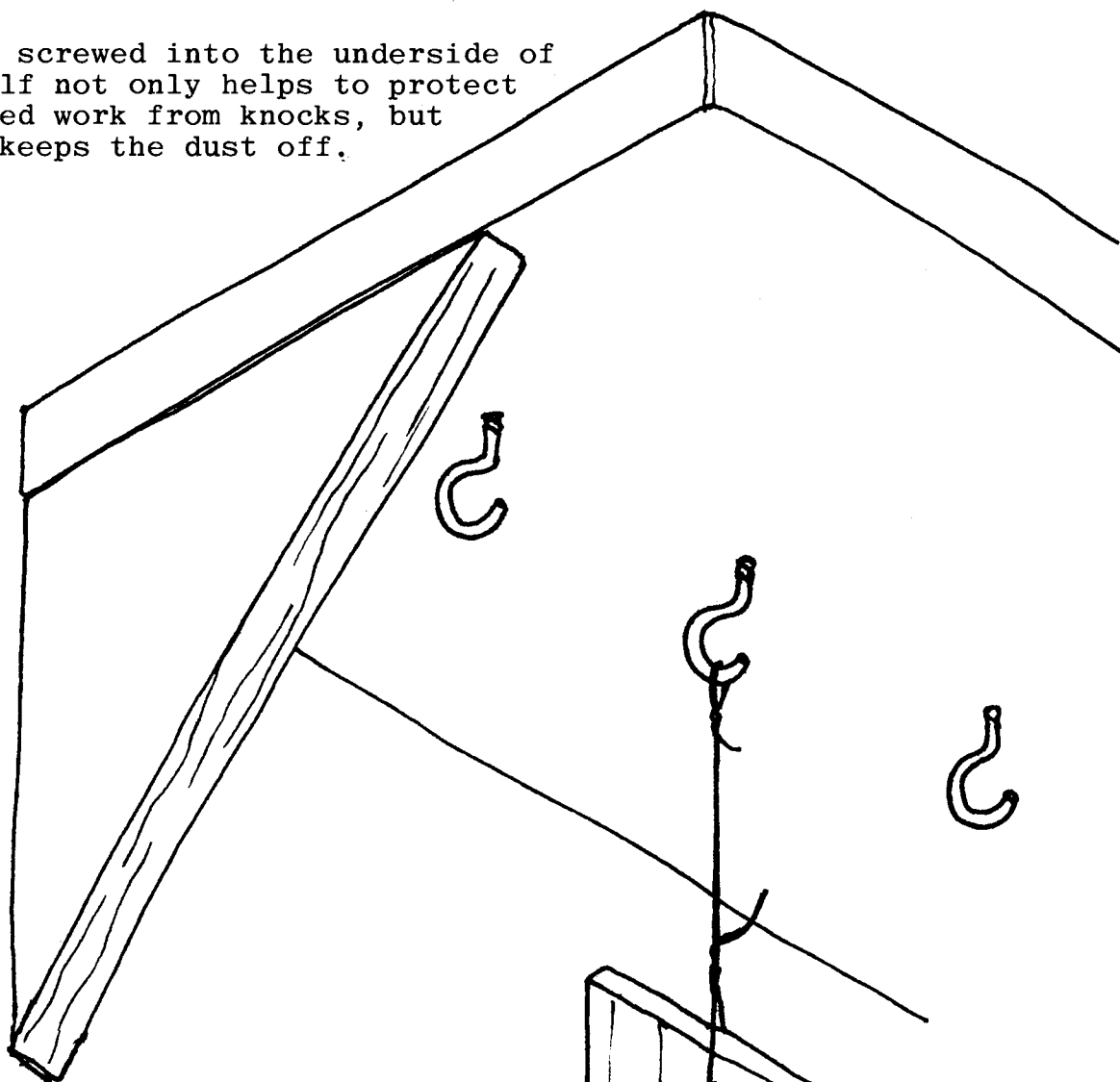


A pin board will act as a support and will only leave pin point marks. Carefully knock pins through pieces of thin wood or cardboard.



Support wet pieces of wood on drawing pins pushed lightly into the surface before painting. Always paint pin side first.

Hooks screwed into the underside of a shelf not only helps to protect painted work from knocks, but also keeps the dust off.



A piece of wood nailed to a shelf will support a piece of wood which has a hole in it.

