

each bottle, by the way, bears the greatly desired pontil mark! The basket which contains them has two compartments, but the reed separating them does not divide the basket all the way. It is lined with straw, not crammed in, but woven. The basket is sixteen inches high and twelve inches wide.

The spread of Berlin work in America set its seal upon basket decoration. Imported baskets were used for the work, and gay garlands and nosegays of flowers were picked out in gaily colored wools. During the early Victorian period the art was as popular as that of beading bags. Just where the baskets were purchased we do not know, but the following advertisement from *The Boston Almanac* of 1846 may throw some light upon the subject:

"S. Herman, 166 Washington Street, keeps constantly on hand a good assortment of Tin, Wooden, Iron and Shaker Wares, Japan, Canton, French and Common Baskets, Fancy Goods and Toys. Also Manufacturers of Willow Carriages, Cradles and Baskets."

It was during this period, too, that bead baskets and alum baskets were made for household decorations. Alum baskets did I say? Certainly! Look in Godey's *Lady's Book* for 1859 and you will find that their success depended somewhat upon chance for "crystals will sometimes form irregularly."

"Dissolve alum in a little more than twice as much water as will be necessary for depth of basket," the directions for the popular handicraft of our grandmothers continue, "Put in as much alum as the water will dissolve, using an

earthen jar. Boil solution until half evaporated. Suspend the basket from a little stick laid across the top of the jar in such a manner that both basket and handle will be covered by the solution. Set in a cool place where not the slightest motion will disturb the formations of the crystals."

The basket-frame was made of wire or of willow and every portion of it was wound with worsted. The modern craftsworker will find interest in the suggestion for coloring the basket by boiling gamboge, saffron or turmeric in the solution to produce yellow, and logwood for purple.

We must not leave the subject of baskets without speaking of the lovely little cap-baskets in which my lady carried her dainty trifle of silk and lace when "she a-visiting did go." And when she arrived at her destination off came her street bonnet and on went the cap which she had preserved so carefully in her little basket.

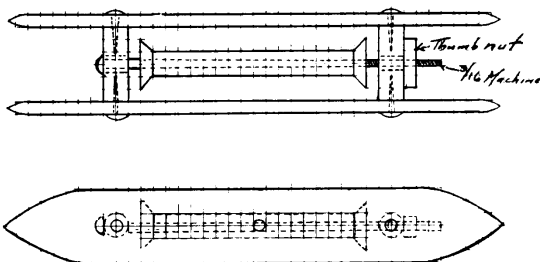
A friend of mine recently came into possession of the prettiest cap-basket I have ever seen. It consists of two hollow ovals, each about twelve inches long and nine inches wide, and made of narrow oak splints, interlaced with brown reeds and curving decorations of pale blue. Each section is lined with blue-gray watered silk, banded with purple. When the oval sections are closed together they make a safe nest for a fragile and expensive cap. And this particular cap-basket belonged, if you please, to a certain Miss Anne Grant, who was a famous belle and one of the great ladies of the South. She lived "next door" to Mrs. Jefferson Davis, and was, my informant assured me, her most intimate friend.



## A Suggestion for Using a Rag Shuttle as a Spool Shuttle

BY RALPH A. HALL

TAKE some one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) inch dowels and cut them in pieces to fit between the sides of the rag shuttles; bore one-quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) inch hole in the center of each piece.



Fit them in the rag shuttle the proper distance apart to fit your shuttle spools with the holes in line.

Obtain some three-sixteenth ( $\frac{3}{16}$ ) inch machine bolts with thumb nuts to fit and use them to hold the spools in place.

Bore a one-quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) inch hole in the center of the side of the shuttle to lead the thread through.

Use a roll of adding machine paper and lay your color scheme out on a strip of it as long as your weaving is going to be (border and center). Attach one end of it to your weaving where it starts and let it roll up with your work. Both ends will be similar and equal.