RENOVATING

HINTS FOR FRESHENING OUT MILLINERY MATERIALS
OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS

For Renewing Crêpe and Silk

Steam is the only thing that will positively restore and renew old crêpe. If you have not a steamer of the improved pattern, resort to this old and primitive method which never fails: Place an upturned flat iron between two bricks, cover this with a dampened cloth. Place the veil on top of it and move it back and forth and from side to side, gently and carefully brushing in the meanwhile. Crêpe should be brushed gently or merely patted lightly. Raising and dropping the brush in quick succession is quite sufficient.

To Freshen Flowers

Flowers can be dipped into the paint and gasoline dyes and usually come out like new, or the petals can be touched up with a small camel’s-hair brush.

All flowers whether of silk, muslin, sateen or velvet can be made to look as good as new if they are gently shaken over the steaming cloth. Aigrettes will straighten and lose their curl under treatment of this sort, and may later be made to look as good as new by the use of the feather curlers.

To Make Straw Hats Look Fresh

If you have any badly soiled or faded straw shapes it will be wise to buy some of the coloring preparations for renovating hats for sale by all jobbers.

Renewing Straw Hats

For the faded colored straw hat there are dyes which can be diluted in gasoline or water and which, if properly applied to a hat, will give the desired color. When a hat cannot be given its original color it can be colored black, and black is always practical. To restore the natural straw color, clean the hat with lemon juice and sulphur. Wash white straw with oxalic acid, which has been diluted with water. A
leghorn hat can be cleaned with water or acid-dampened cornmeal. Brush it lightly and place it over burning sulphur to bleach the straw. The sulphur may be burned in a can in the bottom of a barrel and the hat may be suspended at the top, where it will not scorch.

Scouring a Felt Hat

When light felt hats become dirty rub the surface with the finest sand paper that can be found. Strange to say, this does not roughen the felt and does remove the dirt.

To Restore Color

Ammonia is a good color restorer, and colored hats, unless very much faded, may be freshened by covering with a cloth wrung out of half a pint of hot water, to which a teaspoonful of ammonia has been added.

After this treatment a warm iron is placed over the cloth and the brim pressed into shape.

When the color is too far gone to restore by this process, a tube of oil paint and gasoline will form a dye that is simple to apply.

How to Renovate Old Laces to Look New

A woman who is clever with her needle can do quite wonderful things with old bits of lace, for pieces useless alone, may be turned into beautiful trimming by taking from them a motif or two.

Before any sewing is done the lace must be thoroughly cleansed.

The motif on net that is to be saved, is carefully cut from the background, taking great pains not to stretch it. This is then neatly sewed on a piece of perfectly smooth muslin that has been previously shrunk. The shrinking is most important, otherwise the muslin will draw and pull the lace out of shape. Stitches in this work must be fine and close, using very thin thread that will rip easily.

This done, the lace is ready for washing in soapy water, the bath being made by putting scraped soap into boiling water to dissolve. This makes a jelly, which is put into warm—not hot—water and thoroughly stirred.

Suds are formed into which the lace is dropped, when it is gently and repeatedly squeezed under water. No rubbing or pulling is done.
As soon as the water is soiled a fresh bath must be prepared, repeating the cleansing until no more dust remains. Then several rinsing waters are used.

To dry, the muslin must be stretched upon a smooth surface and tightly pinned. It will then stay in shape, and just before the last dampness is gone it may be ironed, using a warm rather than a hot iron, pressed over the muslin background, and gently untacked from the background.

To Renovate Ribbons

Black ribbons are renovated with a sponging of one-third alcohol and two-thirds water; when partly dry, iron under a piece of black crinoline with a moderately warm iron.

Dip colored ribbons into a bowl of naphtha to clean them, remembering that naphtha is very explosive when exposed to fire or a light.

Ribbons of good quality will wash if carefully done. There is the dry cleaning process for ribbons, using gasoline instead of water. This is satisfactory if the soil is only slight, and there will be no necessity for ripping the bow to pieces, as ironing is not required when the article is washed in this way.

To Freshen Silks

Japanese, China, India, and pongee silks are freshened by washing in warm soapsuds, rinsing quickly and drying in the shade; roll in a sheet when not perfectly dry and then iron on the wrong side.

Colored silk fades and white silk yellows after washing, but this may be avoided by using medium warm soap and water and rinsing well; wrap in a large cloth (an old sheet is fine) for half an hour, and then iron on the wrong side with a moderate iron, using a bit of thin lawn between the iron and silk. Do not let the light and air get to it while wet, as this yellows and fades the fabric.

When black silk or satin begins to shine, sponge on the right side with a mixture of two parts of gin and one of water, and iron while damp on the wrong side.

Old Ruchings Renewed

If ruchings are only soiled they may be washed in gasoline and
made to look like new, for it does not take out any of the little crinkles. They remain as dainty and fluffy as ever.

**Black Straws**

Black straw hats may be made to look like new by brushing over with a simple polish made from pulverized black sealing wax and alcohol, in the proportions of an ounce of the former to half a pint of the latter. This mixture should stand in a warm place, and when about the consistency of cream should be used. The bottle containing it should be frequently shaken while the contents are dissolving.

**Black Chip**

Black chip needs only wiping with an old soft silk handkerchief followed by a light application of pure olive oil.

**To Freshen Velvet Bows**

Velvet bows may be given new life without removing them from the hat by using a curling iron.

It should be made quite hot, then covered loosely with a wet cloth. This done, the iron is inserted in the loops, opening the curler as wide as the loops demand. The steam will cause the nap to rise, and when quite dry every particle of dust can be removed by a velvet brush, so the bow will look as good as new.

A trimmed hat or bonnet that shows signs of crushing should be held over steam and the fingers used for adjusting and reshaping loops or folds, as found necessary. When perfectly dry an improvement will be apparent.