

## ★ ★ ★ ★ Spread Luster ★ ★ ★ ★

A COMPARATIVELY new type of paint, called *Spread Luster*, has recently been marketed. It is a widely-advertised paint of the synthetic resin emulsion type, the type which became very popular during the period of shortage in the supply of linseed and other drying oils. A test of this paint conducted by CR indicated that *Spread Luster* could be easily thinned with water as the directions stated and that it brushed easily at normal spreading rate. When applied, this paint had rather high hiding power, but its hiding power after it was dry was somewhat low. (This effect is just the opposite of that which is noted with a good oil paint, which usually shows better hiding power as it dries.) *Spread Luster* produced a very hard coat after drying, and its coat was quite brittle. When used to cover a previously painted surface which was showing slight cracking, it did not fill the cracks very well, and its surface was not as smooth, compared with a similar wall enamel. However, it did not produce a crack or peeling surface itself during the test.

While being applied and while drying it gave off very little odor and dried rapidly. (In the absence of care was taken, it showed lap marks for this reason when painting up to a surface which had only been dried a minute or two previously.)

When samples were marked with various staining materials, it was found that marks made with lead pencil (graphite), a ballpoint pen ink, and black ink were easily and com-

pletely removed by washing, without any observable wearing away of the paint and without any alteration in the smoothness of the surface. An exception, however, was with a severe type of stain made with iodine. The removal of this required the use of an abrasive which altered the surface thickness and gloss. The painted panels were judged to wash as well as the average

semi-gloss wall paint, made of the usual ingredients with linseed oil.

Although the label on the can said that warm soapy water would do a good brush-cleaning job, it was found necessary to use mineral spirits after first washing the brush in the soap and water.

Finally, age tests, which were made to determine color fastness, showed that yellowing took place at a faster rate with this paint than with a good wall paint.

CR feels that *Spread Luster* which is said to require "no undercoating or sizing," coat, does not give as satisfactory a job as wall primer and semi-gloss paint of the usual oil type. It may be somewhat less expensive in use due to present shortages and high prices of paint materials. However, for the general run of interior house painting, where the highest standards of quality are not necessary, particularly on surfaces rather poorly adapted to high-grade painting, such as wallboard, *Spread Luster* seemed to be a very practical paint and it would have the decided advantage over some other types of paint that it can be brought back to its original good appearance by washing several times, unless it had been stained with one of the more difficult stains. It is not possible to say at this time whether this paint will stand up well over a long period of years.

### B. Intermediate

*Spread Luster* (The Glidden Co., Cleveland, Ohio) \$4.98 per gal. (makes 5 qt. when thinned). Available in 11 different shades.

### Please. . .

Be patient. As this goes to the printer, it is only the last week in September, but already our mail looks like the mail-order division of a big-city department store the week before Christmas.

Even if it were possible to secure on short notice help of adequate competence to handle orders and correspondence as promptly as we should wish, we wouldn't have space for desks and other office equipment for them. Our earlier plans for expanding our present quarters could not be carried out, because of governmental restrictions on building and today's prices for building materials and labor make new construction of office space impracticable at the present time.

We ask you to keep in mind the fact that, because of the rush of orders, it will often require at least four weeks to complete the processing of a subscription order after it is in our hands, and to send the initial material.

The answering of requests for information may at times require as long as three to four weeks. The inquirer will facilitate the handling of such requests if he will enclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

General Electric from 71° to 85°; and under the Simmons from 66° to 80°. (The Woolco was not tested in this series of measurements.)

### Folding Test

A section of each blanket was subjected to a folding test to determine, as nearly as possible, the effect of wear on the electrical characteristics of the blankets. The fold, made cross-wise to the heater wires, was repeated 31,000 times for each blanket at a rate of 20 folds a minute. Electrical continuity measurements were made before, during, and after this folding test. None of the blankets were found defective

as a result of the folding action. In order to discover if there was a possibility of damage to or weakening of the heating wires themselves at the fold, two radiographs were taken of the Simmons blanket showing the complete area of the 18-inch fold. This picture did not show any weakening or fraying of the heater or control wires.

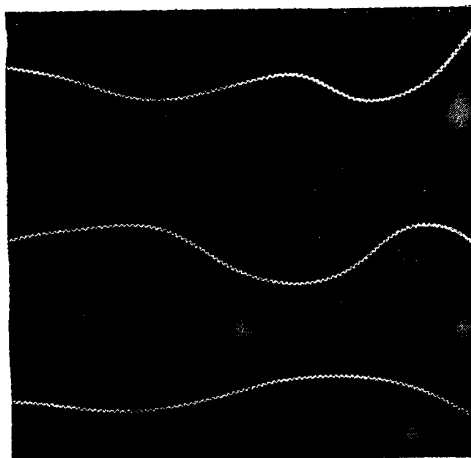


Figure 2

X-ray photograph (negative) of part of folded section of Simmons blanket.

## Abridged Cumulative Index of Previous 1947 Issues Consumers' Research Bulletins

|                                             | Month and Page                                                       |                                                                  | Month and Page                                        |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Automobiles, battery chargers.....          | Jan., 12-15                                                          | Dishwashing machines.....                                        | Aug., 18-20; Oct., 14-16                              |
| 1947.....                                   | June, 27-32, 39                                                      | Disinfectant, pine oil.....                                      | May, 38                                               |
| jacks.....                                  | June, 13-14                                                          | Disinfection by ultraviolet lamps.....                           | Sept., 26                                             |
| new, distribution.....                      | Sept., 3                                                             | Editorial.....                                                   | each issue, page 2                                    |
| Tucker Torpedot.....                        | Apr., 8-9                                                            | Fans, electric.....                                              | Apr., 9                                               |
| Willis 1947 6-cylindert.....                | Apr., 7-8                                                            | Film, motion picture.....                                        | July, 24                                              |
| Beater, electric (Whirlbeater).....         | Mar., 37                                                             | Fire extinguishers.....                                          | Jan., 18-21; May, 22-26; Sept., 10                    |
| Beef, retail cuts, relative economy.....    | Sept., 22-24                                                         | Fluorescent lamps.....                                           | Jan., 3; Feb., 5-7; May, 15-18                        |
| Blankets, comforter, electric.....          | Feb., 8-11                                                           | Food mixer (KitchenAid).....                                     | July, 19                                              |
| Camera, miniature.....                      | July, 23-24                                                          | Fountain pen.....                                                | Feb., 17-18                                           |
| Camera (Speed-O-Matic).....                 | Oct., 16                                                             | Furniture polish (Cellowax).....                                 | Apr., 30                                              |
| Cameras, folding band.....                  | Feb., 14-15                                                          | Gardening, soil management.....                                  | June, 15-16; July, 15-16; Oct., 22-24                 |
| and stereof.....                            | Feb., 14-15                                                          | Golf ball.....                                                   | July, 9                                               |
| "pictures in one minute".....               | May, 14                                                              | Heaters, electric.....                                           | Jan., 5-8; Apr., 19-23                                |
| Speed Graphict.....                         | June, 23-24                                                          | Heating equipment, domestic, post-war statust.....               | Mar., 22-25; July, 16                                 |
| Carbon tetrachloride, danger to humans..... | Oct., 37                                                             | automatic control.....                                           | Apr., 13-16                                           |
| Caulking compound (Sterling Elastic).....   | Aug., 29-30                                                          | Ice cream, packaged, quality.....                                | Aug., 3                                               |
| Cleaner, floor (Bruce).....                 | Jan., 30                                                             | Ice crushers.....                                                | June, 9-10                                            |
| furniture (Ultra Gloss).....                | Feb., 7                                                              | Irons, electric.....                                             | Oct., 18-21                                           |
| hand (Dif).....                             | Oct., 38                                                             | Juice extractor.....                                             | June, 5-6                                             |
| household (Ethyl).....                      | Apr., 30                                                             | Killing germs with lamp.....                                     | Feb., 19-24                                           |
| (Speedite Universal).....                   | Aug., 30                                                             | Lawn mowers, power.....                                          | July, 5-8; Aug., 21-22                                |
| paint brush (Prestorer).....                | Feb., 30                                                             | Lenses, high-speed.....                                          | Aug., 23-24                                           |
| silver.....                                 | June, 38                                                             | Mattresses, innerspring.....                                     | June, 7-8                                             |
| waterless, hand.....                        | May, 37                                                              | Mildew prevention in rug backings.....                           | Oct., 3                                               |
| Cleanser, household (Miner's).....          | Mar., 38                                                             | Motion picture equipment.....                                    | Sept., 8-10                                           |
| Clocks, post-war.....                       | Aug., 11-15                                                          | Motion pictures.....                                             | each issue                                            |
| Coats, fur, how to select.....              | Sept., 11-15                                                         | Obesity, use of potent drugs dangerous.....                      | Oct., 4                                               |
| Coffee makers.....                          | Sept., 5-7                                                           | Oil, fuel.....                                                   | May, 32-33                                            |
| "Cold cures".....                           | Oct., 29-30                                                          | motor (Prestone).....                                            | May, 27-28                                            |
| Cooker (Dogmaster).....                     | June, 11-12                                                          | Oil burners, domestic.....                                       | Oct., 5-8                                             |
| Corrections, errandations.....              | Jan., 22; Mar., 21; May, 28; June, 18; Aug., 10; Sept., 21; Oct., 13 | Oils, motor, year-round.....                                     | Oct., 25                                              |
| Diet for gastric ulcers.....                | Oct., 3                                                              | Permanent wave, home (Smart-Kurl Infra-Red Heat).....            | July, 29-30                                           |
| Dishwashing, mechanical, compound.....      | May, 37; Oct., 38                                                    | Phonograph needles, jewel-tipped.....                            | July, 17-18                                           |
|                                             |                                                                      | Phonograph pickups.....                                          | Jan., 23                                              |
|                                             |                                                                      | Phonograph record.....                                           | each issue                                            |
|                                             |                                                                      | record noise, new eliminatort.....                               | Apr., 4                                               |
|                                             |                                                                      | shellac substitute.....                                          | Sept., 4, 29                                          |
|                                             |                                                                      | wear.....                                                        | May, 29-31                                            |
|                                             |                                                                      | Photographic developing and printing, commercial mail-order..... | June, 12                                              |
|                                             |                                                                      | Plier-wrench, lever-lock or toggle-lock.....                     | Oct., 34                                              |
|                                             |                                                                      | Pressure saucepan.....                                           | Aug., 5-7                                             |
|                                             |                                                                      | Prices, increased.....                                           | Oct., 4                                               |
|                                             |                                                                      | Projectors, photo-alidet.....                                    | July, 21-23                                           |
|                                             |                                                                      | Putty, plumber.....                                              | Sept., 30                                             |
|                                             |                                                                      | Radio receiver for the deafened.....                             | Jan., 26                                              |
|                                             |                                                                      | Radio-phonograph combination.....                                | Jan., 25                                              |
|                                             |                                                                      | Radio-phonographs, high-priced, plans for tests.....             | Feb., 26                                              |
|                                             |                                                                      | Radios, table-models and radio-phonographs, etc.....             | Feb., 3; Mar., 13; Apr., 23-25; May, 8-14; Oct., 9-11 |
|                                             |                                                                      | Razor blades.....                                                | Apr., 18; June, 17-18                                 |
|                                             |                                                                      | Recorder, magnetic.....                                          | Oct., 17-18                                           |
|                                             |                                                                      | Refrigerator.....                                                | Sept., 16-21                                          |
|                                             |                                                                      | deaths from gas fumes.....                                       | Aug., 3                                               |
|                                             |                                                                      | Scales, weighing.....                                            | Oct., 26-29                                           |
|                                             |                                                                      | Shampoo, hair.....                                               | May, 4, 37                                            |
|                                             |                                                                      | Shavers, electric.....                                           | Aug., 11-13                                           |
|                                             |                                                                      | Soap.....                                                        | May, 38; June, 38                                     |
|                                             |                                                                      | Soap substitute (Softex).....                                    | Sept., 30                                             |
|                                             |                                                                      | Soaps, laundry.....                                              | Jan., 15-17                                           |
|                                             |                                                                      | Socks, men's.....                                                | Jan., 9-11                                            |
|                                             |                                                                      | Stains, oven, removal.....                                       | Sept., 29                                             |
|                                             |                                                                      | Step-stools, kitchen.....                                        | Apr., 5-7                                             |
|                                             |                                                                      | Stove, electric, table (Everhot).....                            | July, 31                                              |
|                                             |                                                                      | Sunlamp.....                                                     | Mar., 28-33                                           |
|                                             |                                                                      | Table stoves, electric.....                                      | Apr., 16-18                                           |
|                                             |                                                                      | Telephone attachment.....                                        | Oct., 30-31                                           |
|                                             |                                                                      | Television sets, popularity.....                                 | Oct., 4                                               |
|                                             |                                                                      | Toasters, automatic.....                                         | Apr., 11-13; June, 6                                  |
|                                             |                                                                      | Trees, damaged, treatment.....                                   | Sept., 25                                             |
|                                             |                                                                      | Typewriters, portable.....                                       | Aug., 8-10                                            |
|                                             |                                                                      | Vacuum cleaner.....                                              | Mar., 5-10                                            |
|                                             |                                                                      | Vaporizers and bottle warmer.....                                | May, 5-7                                              |
|                                             |                                                                      | Vitamins.....                                                    | Feb., 4; Mar., 3, 4                                   |
|                                             |                                                                      | Washing machines.....                                            | Feb., 15; Mar., 14-21                                 |
|                                             |                                                                      | Water heater, electric.....                                      | May, 18                                               |
|                                             |                                                                      | Water softener, midget.....                                      | Oct., 24-25                                           |
|                                             |                                                                      | Water-softening equipment.....                                   | July, 10-15                                           |
|                                             |                                                                      | Weed killer, 2,4-D.....                                          | July, 17                                              |
|                                             |                                                                      | Wool, high prices.....                                           | Oct., 37                                              |
|                                             |                                                                      | Wrench, jar.....                                                 | Oct., 8                                               |

indicates that listings of names or brands are included.

CONSUMERS' RESEARCH has recently completed a series of tests of a mechanically operated and nine electrically operated door chimes, which are pleasant-toned appliances, now widely sold to replace the old-fashioned loud-ringing bell or buzzer. The tests included comparative operation on dry cells as a source of current and on the usual step-down transformers. Tests were also made with an adjustable source voltage. The sound levels, or loudness, produced by the chimes were measured and an appraisal made of the tone and carrying quality of the chimes. The possibility of dampness having an unfavorable effect on the chime mechanism was also studied by operation in a humid atmosphere. Finally, life tests were made to determine durability and disclose any mechanical weaknesses that might not have been evident during the engineering examination. It was found, in general, that dry cells gave better operation than transformers. Moreover, the transformers used with door chimes consume a great deal more energizing current than the transformers that perform a similar function with the ordinary electric bell, and thus their operation may require about 10 cents worth of electricity per month as compared with something less than 1½ cents worth, on the average, for the ordinary bell transformer. The chime transformer needs to have proper power output. It cannot be selected