

Ida Kisser

Sixteenth birthdays can be something extra special. My daughters birthday fell on the day of the flood and so the plans for a surprise party had to be cancelled.

I'd like to tell you about her friends party which was held at our house several months ago. The big thing at this party was a huge box in the corner of the room. The other guests just couldn't wait to have her open this one particular gift.

From the kitchen, I heard the squealing and giggling in the living room and arrived in time to see her boyfriend crawl out. He was the something "extra special" at the party.

We've been having unusual bouquets on our breakfast table. Our row of dianthus, a carnation-like flower, is blooming profusely. One child added carrot leaves as the greenery and another used endive leaves. I felt

they were as attractive as the hemlock twigs which we normally add to flowers such as my dwarf dahlias. There is nothing like using your imagination when making a pretty bouquet.

xxx

The Pacific Coast must have something that we here in the East don't have. My daughter's been living in the state of Washington for a year now, while getting her Master's degree in nursing, and tells us she wants to get a job there. She loves the skiing, camping and hiking in the mountains.

She has a house on Mercer Island with a wharf on Lake Washington and a view of Mt. Rainier. The boats are starting to catch salmon now. One of her neighbors rented an aqua-plane and used her wharf to ferry his guests.

She has many friends from the University and also from a church group, known as the

"Couriers", so she is happy. However, we are really looking forward to her flying home for a few weeks in September.

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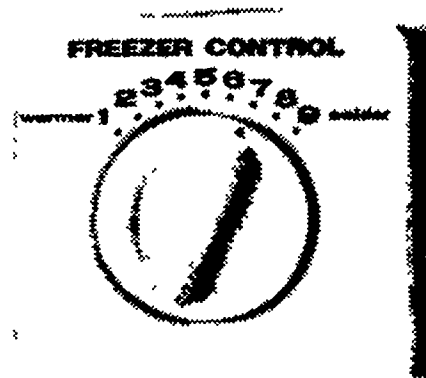
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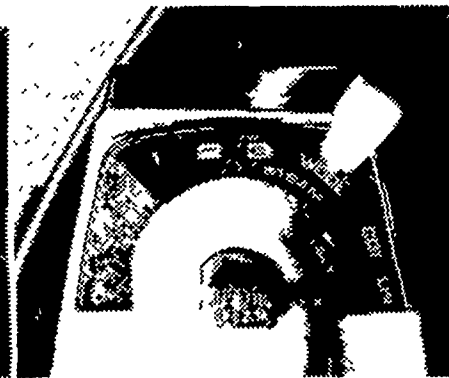
How you can use electricity more wisely.



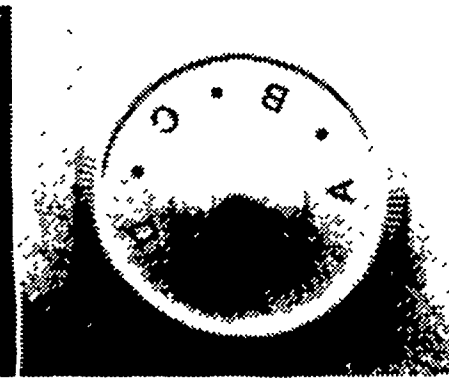
Electric blanket—when your alarm rings in the morning, turn off the blanket first, then the clock.



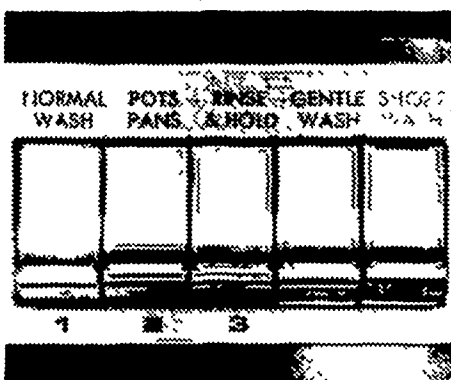
Freezer—make sure your freezer is not running colder than recommended by the manufacturer. Replace worn-out or broken door gaskets to prevent warm air from leaking in.



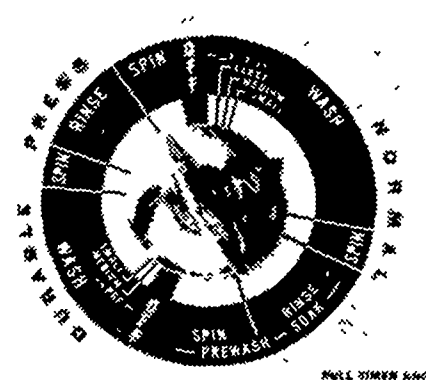
Iron—getting an iron hot enough to take out wrinkles takes electricity. So once it's hot, do a whole batch rather than one or two items.



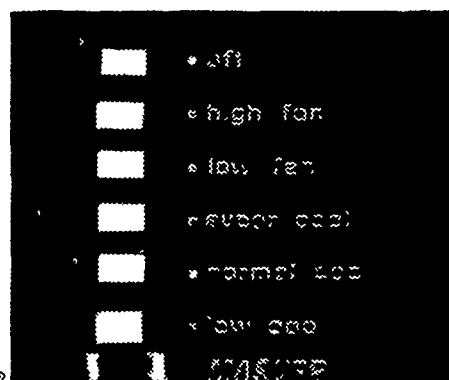
Refrigerator—the cold stays in when the door is closed. Keeping your refrigerator defrosted will keep it performing efficiently.



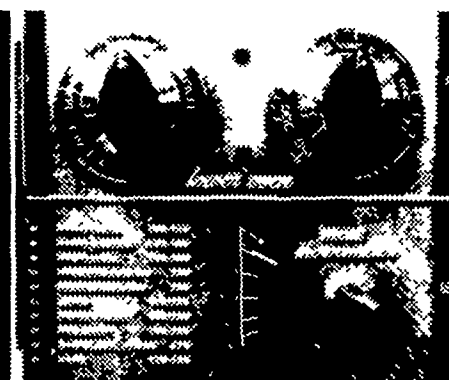
Dishwasher—for machines that don't have partial load settings, rinse and hold your dishes until there is a full load



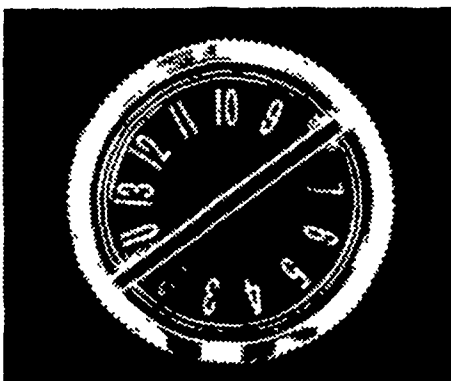
Clothes washer—use the full cycle setting only for full loads. Colored and slightly soiled clothes can be cleaned in warm rather than hot water



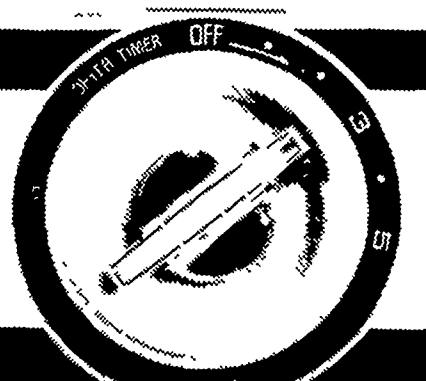
Air conditioner—closing draperies, blinds or curtains to keep out direct sunlight can cut heat coming into your house by 50 percent, substantially reducing your air conditioner's workload



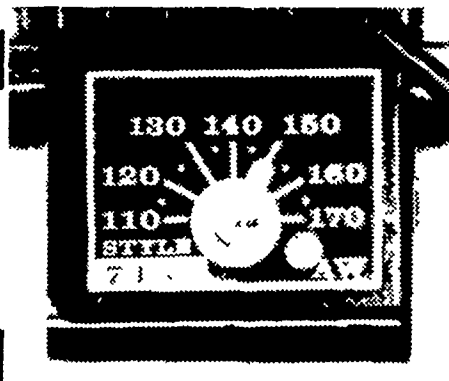
Electric oven—make the best use of a warmed-up oven. Bake several dishes together which require slightly different heat settings, and remove as each is done.



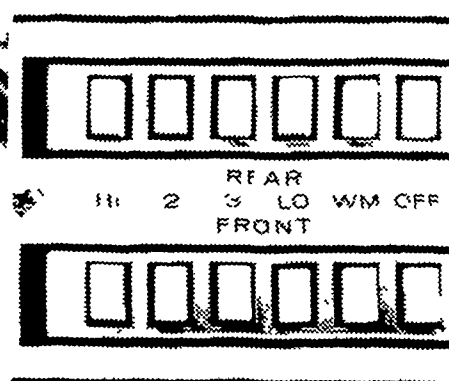
Television—if nobody's watching, it should be turned off.



Clothes dryer—you can save drying time by taking clothes out while they are slightly damp and just right for ironing



Water heater—repair leaky hot water faucets. A leak of one drip per second for one year will pour 2500 gallons of hot water down the drain. And remember, showers take less hot water than baths.



Electric range top—lower heat settings can be used if you cook in covered pots and pans.

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