



1 The Declercq family has been producing passementerie in Paris since 1852. Its recent collection includes these 'Metropolis' braids, based on designs from the Twenties. The trimmings come in 12 colours, including this classic blue and brown. From £35.95 per m. Pierre Frey, 251 Fulham Rd, London SW3 (020 7376 5599).

2 Aleksej Iskos, owner of Lightstories, believes 'almost anything can be made into a light'. His experimental approach therefore includes transforming everyday objects into unexpected light sources. A neon coat hanger becomes the bulb in 'Night Ghost', with a white shirt as the lampshade (£190). This surreal gesture is one example from an switched-on collection incorporating everything from frosted-glass wine bottles to fusilli pasta. Ring 00 45 329 63255.

3 The open weekend at Cockpit Arts is fast becoming a rival to Chelsea Crafts Fair. Six years ago this charitable organisation was set up to create space where up-and-coming craftspeople could thrive in a supportive environment. Today there are over 100 designer-makers under one roof, including furniture designers, potters, milliners and silversmiths. Twice a year open studios are organised, enabling the public to buy, browse or just check out the latest talent. 21-24 June, 12-7; admission £4. Cockpit Arts, Northington St, London WC1 (020 7419 1959).

4 The Windsor chair, with its distinctive oval seat and doweled ribs, dates back to the mid-17th century, when it was popular in both rural and royal households. Its importance in the history of the chair has been explored by eight Swedish furniture designers who, by transforming its familiar proportions, have created a range of innovative seating. This 'Seat of Honour' by Märten Cyrén (£410) is one worth marking out from the rest - its unusually long ribs provide a modern and elegant alternative to the rustic original. Ring: 00 46 8 643 6460.

5 Mail-order catalogue Toast has rejected the cashmere throw in favour of pastel-coloured gingham. Think English Rose, with a collection of floaty floral dresses, fern-embroidered linen and stylish gingham pyjamas. This quilt (2.5 x 2.6m) costs £290. Ring 0870 240 5200 ■

