

For the INDUSTRIOUS NEEDLEWOMAN

By ADELAIDE BYRD

A Brambleberry Centerpiece

HERE is one-third of a large centerpiece for your table, and I am glad to suggest that there is quite a little space in the center for a bowl of flowers or a fern dish, with no possibility of covering up some previous work.

I advise heavy linen for this work, with a medium-weight embroidery cotton. The inner ring that wings into the stem of the design you will do in stem stitch, while the larger central ring that resembles the outer edge, you will do well to work with buttonhole stitch, the purling on the lower edge.

When working the leaves the quickest is the outline stitch, gone over a second time by whipping. This gives a corded appearance that is fascinating. In this case the stems must not be forgotten. But if time be not a consideration, the solid stitch for one-half of each leaf and the veins on the other half are excellent.

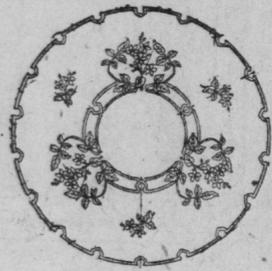
Solid work for the flowers and eyelets for the centers are very effective, the tiny rings of dots made of French knots. If you prefer more eyelet work, and the solid portion of this design can stand it, make the single ovals that are near the flowers in oval eyelets.

Do you like the edge? It's slightly different and lends itself admirably to the addition of torchon or cluny lace. You will pad this with darning cotton and work with buttonhole stitches. The little indentations are not difficult to work. Keep the needle pointed toward an imaginary central radius.

For a large centerpiece, which ought to figure in every one's dolly outfit, I think that this combines a delightful flower suggestion with an effective setting, and it is not too hopeless in the amount of needlework involved.

Of course, this can be done on natural-colored linen, in browns and greens, with pinkish white for the flowers, and the finished work placed upon the library table beneath the reading lamp. But in either case the gift to my readers is delightful.

Designed by
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Sketch of
Finished Work

One
Third of
Design



Sofa Pillows

THE sofa pillow, for gift or personal use, is always with the industrious needlewoman. It need not always be embroidered, however; it can also be stenciled or drawn.

Embroidered, it may range from the lingerie pillow to the knockabout college one. This has on it the seal or emblem of the owner's college or school.

The lingerie pillow, at the other extreme, is of sheer white goods over silk, and is embroidered in fine flower patterns, sometimes with lace insertions.

All sorts of flower patterns are common for colored embroidery on sofa pillows. Some designs not quite so usual are peacock feathers in the natural colors, dragons, butterflies, bamboo shoots and basket weave and arts and crafts patterns.

Among new stitches adapted to this kind of work may be mentioned lazy-dazy, broderie villette, hemstitching, Biedermeier and Richelleu.

Then there are ribbon work, plain and German applique, braiding and shadow work.

Edges may be plain or may be corded, ruffled, laced with ribbon or leather, beaded or trimmed with lace.

As to materials, there is space to mention only silk, burlap, linen, canvas, soaking, gingham and leather.

Stitching may be done in silk, vegetable floss, raffia or mercerized or plain cotton. As said before, baby ribbon may also be used to form patterns.

Then there is always the plain cushion, of some substantial material, unornamented, and used for hammock and porch chairs.

Whenever possible, have your pillow slip washable. If the pillow is a gift, the recipient will thank you doubly for this care later.

If the pillow is washable, stitch one side lightly, so that it can be easily ripped and sewed up again after laundering. If there is a pillow edge, such as cording, take account of that, too, in stitching this side.

The best filling for sofa pillows is feathers. A feather pillow of the correct sofa-pillow size may be purchased for \$2 or \$3, or a little less if the feathers are of second grade.

Among other fillers may be mentioned pine needles, grass, clover leaves, cotton batting, newspapers and cotton waste, which can often be obtained at a weaving mill.

In size the pillow may range from the big, heavy settle-back or Morris-chair seat to the tiny baby pillow or head rest. A graduated set of plain pillows, neat and washable, makes the finest of Christmas presents—for Christmas is not so far off, after all.

I have not yet spoken of the many pillow tops stamped in various designs, mottoes, pictures, etc., and to be worked in outline stitch. Sometimes these have colored designs, the stitching to be of the same shade. Or narrow silk cord may be used instead.

As to colors, try to harmonize. Do not give a lilac pillow to your friend when you know her drawing room is finished in salmon, or put a cherry pillow on your own sky-blue sofa. If you are afraid of clashing colors, stick to neutral shades, such as tan, gray, white and the darker tones of green and blue.

Denim Catch-All

THOSE of us who board or live in flats, and those of us who don't, for that matter—know how important is the condensing of space. Anything that will economize space where there is so little of it in any case is doubly welcome.

It is for this purpose that a clever flat-dweller has designed the denim catch-all, consisting of thirteen bags in one, and which can be conveniently hung behind a closet door, well out of the way. The completed bag is in seven layers of strong but not too thick denim, every pocket being stoutly bound with white tape. The backing is in envelope shape, 16 inches wide, 22 inches from the point of the flap to the bottom and 15 inches from the bottom of the flap to the same point.

Another piece the same size is stitched with this on three sides, thus forming a receptacle large enough for soiled clothes. The next layer reaches snugly to the bottom of the flap, and is stitched in two by a vertical line down the middle. Each of the four other layers is about three inches shorter than the last, dividing, in all, by stitching to the layer in back into thirteen bags, the bottom row small enough to hold clean handkerchiefs or stockings.

Brass rings to hang the bag up complete this useful article, which can be employed to hold everything from shoes to whiskbroom.

Paints and Dyeing

IF YOUR dress accessories do not quite match your gown, or you wish that they should, try painting with oil colors and gasolene. The effect is marvelous and the slight color soon goes off. Kid slippers can thus be made to match exactly any costume.

A spot on linen can be painted with watercolors to match the clean material, without changing its texture. It rubs off, however, and must be renewed every five or six months.

Church Embroidery

I HAVE been asked sometimes what can be embroidered for ecclesiastical use besides the conventional altar cloth. Among the articles that may be embroidered are presented articles, surplices, stoles and table covers. Yards, credences, Bible markers, purificators, of course know which of these are in use in your own church.

Embroidery of this sort should be heavy, and special colors are often necessary.

Initials

THE season of gift handkerchiefs is almost upon us, and thousands of patient embroiderers will proceed to put thousands of initials inside of thousands of little round wreaths without ever a thought of some other means of ornamentation.

What is the matter with making that "wreath" square? Or diamond or heart shaped? Or oblong, or cross or shamrock shaped? Or oval or elliptical?

What is the matter, again, with making it an unfinished spiral? With leaving one end open and longer than the other? With combining with it bow-knots or ribbons or tiny cornucopias? With making it double?

Why don't you vary the eternal forget-me-not and the nondescript leaf with chrysanthemums? With holly? With wild roses? With oak leaves? With conventionalized and dotted flowers of all sorts?

Why don't you substitute for the fore-ordained solid work the English eyelet? French laid? Venetian ladder? Ribbon embroidery?

Look this list over before you start; and if you don't take any of its suggestions, go out and get some new ones of your own.

Accessories

IT IS not too early yet to begin embroidering for the holiday season. If you are out of ideas for dress accessories for that purpose look down this list and see if there is not something new there:

- Crowns and brims for lingerie hats.
- Aprons.
- Linen handbags.
- Lace-edged or allover lace handkerchiefs.
- Fans.
- Collars and jabots, or stocks.
- Opera bags.
- Belts.
- Stockings.
- Lingerie and shirtwaists.
- Card cases.
- Handkerchiefs and laundry bags; also workbags.

These may be worked in shadow, French eyelet, solid, etc. Patterns for their making can be purchased in almost any known flower or can be drawn by the clever worker. All of them make most acceptable gifts.

Old Parasols

IT IS quite easy to renovate—or, rather, replace—an old parasol that has not been too elaborate. Simply rip the silk carefully from the frame by means of a sharp penknife, being careful not to cut it. Then use it as a pattern for cutting out a new one—which may be of cretonne, of chintz, of linen, of pongee or of any other easily worked goods—and stitch this stoutly on the old frame. It might be a good idea to give a fresh coat of black enamel to the ribs while they are uncovered.

And behold! A new parasol, at a cost of practically nothing!

Edgings and Borders

DON'T edge everything with the inevitable buttonholed scallop. Try a plain edge for a change, or a wall-of-troy design, or a lightning zig-zag. Then there are the scroll, the double and triple scallop, the paneled flouncing, the scalloped scroll. Then come the vertical and horizontal spirals and the two combined.

The lily border is another variation; also the wreath, basket weave and interwined edges; the dotted, the bow-knot, the eyelet, the featherstitch.

Here, then, is plenty of variety; make use of it.

Machine Darning

TOWELS and other household articles of the same sort often show thin places, which are precursors of holes and which should be mended before they get any worse. Darning a Turkish towel by hand is a tedious occupation, and not all of us have patent darners on our sewing machines. Here is one woman's way out of the dilemma: She removes the presser foot of her machine and darns the place by moving the towel backward and forward, holding it smooth by means of a small embroidery hoop. Of course, holding it with fingers will do just as well. This is a plan which will work also with other household fabrics, and is certainly a darn in time that saves nine.

Hint to Skirtmakers

IF YOU are making or altering a skirt, remember the advice from Paris that the shackled skirt is going out. The new skirts are fuller than before, and are free at the hem. They have, besides, narrow flounces of wide lace, quillings, tucks, puffs and cordings.

For Drawstrings

TO KEEP drawstrings from pulling out of underwear, always an annoying accident which occurs just as you are in a hurry, sew to each end

of the tape a brass embroidery ring slightly larger than the opening in the casing, sewing it on after the tape has been inserted. Buttonhole over the ring in the color of the tape. Use this method and your drawstring will never slip.