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DECORATIVE STITCHES AND HANDMADE FLOWERS

by

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DECORATIVE STITCHES

The decorations of a garment need not be elaborate or expensive. The elaborately decorated dress is often in poor taste. Simple embroidery or self-trimming add to the appearance of garments. A simple little hand touch will usually add distinction and charm. The most expensive gowns from the most exclusive shops are extremes in simplicity. The more decoration used on ready to wear garments usually the cheaper the garment. Decoration is too often used to hide inferior workmanship and poor quality. The decoration may make or mar the dress. The trimming used must look as though it belonged to the garment.

Self-trimming - A garment may be made very attractive and money may be saved if the trimmings used are of the same material as the garment itself. The following is a suggested list of self-trimmings:

Pipings
Folds
Bindings
Cordings

Shirrings
Tuckings
Pleatings
Pockets

Bound buttonholes
Buttons
Ruffles
Reversed hems

Simple embroidery - If the right colors and materials are chosen, a touch of simple embroidery often adds to the distinctiveness of a garment.

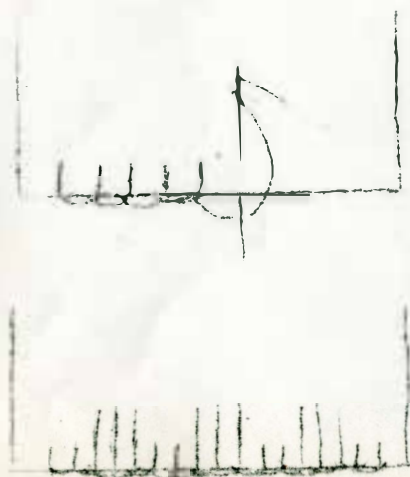
1. Chain Stitch.



Work toward you. Bring needle up from wrong side. Hold thread in place with left thumb. Put needle down in same hole where it came up and bring out a short distance in advance and over the thread. Continue in same manner.



2. Blanket Stitch.



This stitch is used to finish the edges of flannel or other woolsens or for scalloped edges or decorations. The stitch may be made any desired depth or combination of depths and any desired distance apart. For making scallops when embroidering, the stitches are made as closely together as possible. The edge of the material is held next to the worker and the stitch is made from left to right. Fasten the thread and bring the thread out as near edge as possible. Let thread fall materially to the right or hold it down with the left thumb. Put needle in at desired depth and bring it out at the bottom, so that the thread is underneath the point of

the needle. Pull the needle through. The thread should be continuous along the edge.

3. Outline Stitch.

The outline stitch is made from the worker. Put the needle in almost straight with the line that is being worked and take up just half the length of stitch wanted, bringing needle out each time at the end of the previous stitch. To start the stitch take several small running stitches along the line on which the outline stitch is to begin, ending them at the starting point.

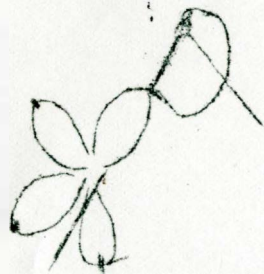


4. Heningbone or latch stitch.

Work from left to right. This stitch can easily be made by looking at illustration.

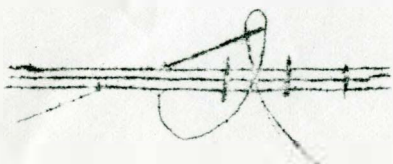


5. Lazy daisy stitch.



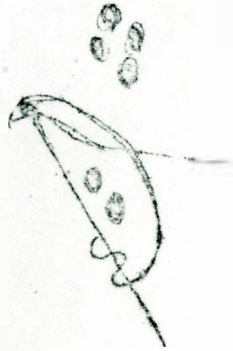
This stitch is a variation of the chain stitch. Two stitches only are needed for each petal of the daisy. The first is a chain stitch, the second is taken through the material at the top of the petal but just outside of the chain stitch to hold the first in place.

6. Couching.



Couching is a decorative stitch which may combine different shades or colors very attractively. Either one or several threads are held in place on the material with the left hand. A second thread is used in making the stitches which hold the fast threads in place. These stitches are made over the first threads and at right angle to them.

7. French knots.



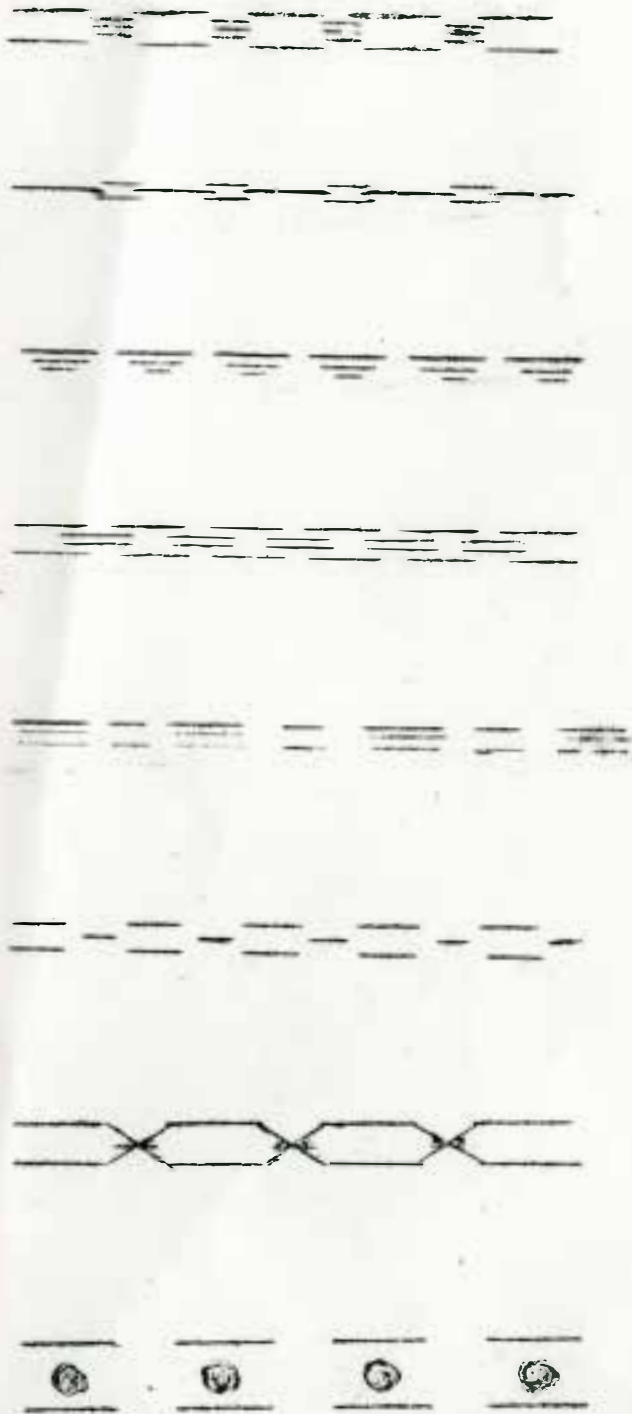
Bring needle to the right side of material at point where knot is desired. Hold the thread near the material with the left hand and wind it two or three times around the point of the needle. Stick the point of the needle down into the material very near to the point where it came out before. Push the coil of thread down close to the cloth and hold it there with the left thumb, while the needle is drawn through to the wrong side. The coil of thread forms the French knot.

8. Smocking.

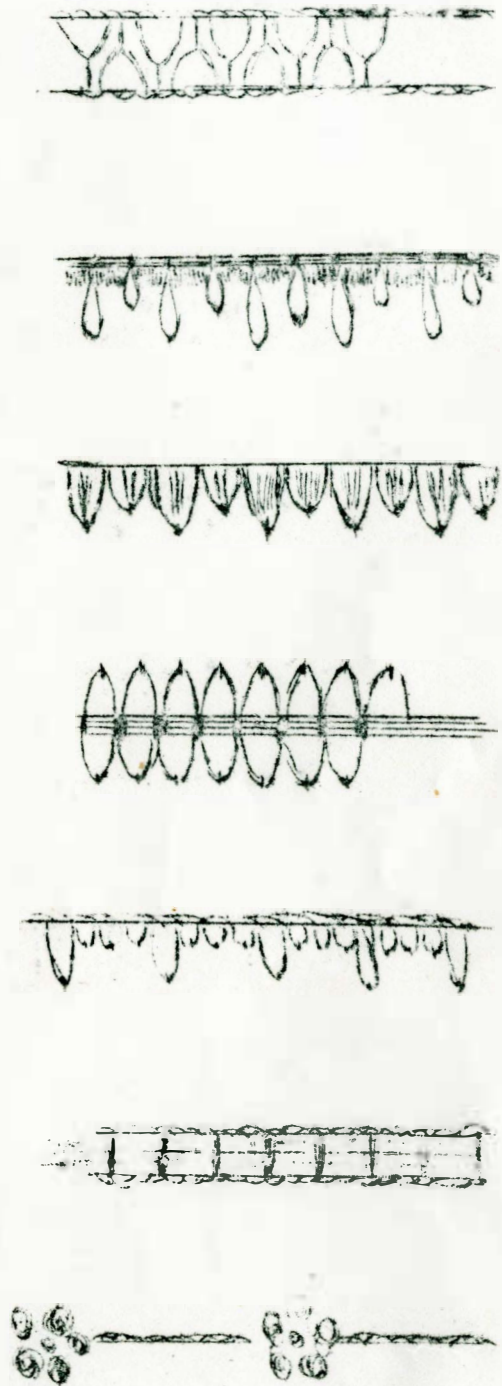


To prepare the material for smocking, spread it out on a table. With a transfer pattern mark the straight lines of dots spaced at even distance apart. The rows of dots for the smocking are so arranged that they form perfect squares. Keep the lines absolutely straight on the grain of the goods. Soft loose embroidery silk is used on silk or woollen materials, embroidery cotton on wash fabrics. On the rows of dots place lines of uneven basting, the short stitch of the dot. When all the rows are in, draw the threads up and fasten securely. Take embroidery thread and catch the material at the first and second dots of the first row with two or three neatly made over and over stitches. Then passing the thread under the material, bring the needle out at the second dot of the second row and do the same there. Continue across the row to the depth desired for the smocking. In the second row of stitching the alternate dots of the second and the corresponding dots of the third row are caught together. Always keep the diagonal threads but not enough to draw.

Running Stitch



Lazy Daisy Stitch



WAX ORNAMENTS

Many dress accessories and hat ornaments may be made at little cost by the home-maker with sealing wax.

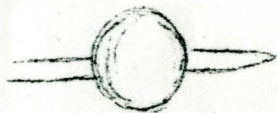
NOTE: Extracts from the booklet "Sealing Wax Art."

Sealing Wax Beads.

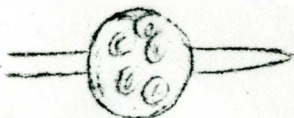
Select the color of wax for the bead, using for the foundation the color which is to predominate, if more than one color is to be used. Break the wax into pieces almost the size desired for the finished bead.



Heat the end of a steel knitting needle over an alcohol lamp and press into a piece of wax. When quite large beads are to be made, use two pieces of wax, one on either side of the needle.



Allow to cool, return to the flame and revolve slowly, being careful that it does not melt too quickly. As the bead is taking on the correct shape put into a tumbler of water to cool. Shape with the fingers.



When the bead is the desired shape, if colors are to be blended, heat the ends of the sticks of wax and dot on the cool bead.



Hold the bead over the flame and revolve slowly. The wax when heated will flow around the bead intermingling and forming attractive designs.

Hold the needle over the blaze at the back of the bead and again at the point, but do not let the flame come in contact with the bead itself. As the needle is heated the bead will be loosened and may be slipped off easily. Slip the bead back and forth a few times before it is finally slipped off, so that the hole will be clean cut.

Fancy Shaped Beads.



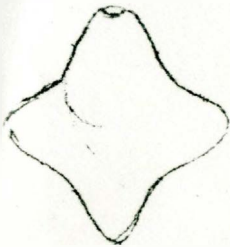
The foundation is a round bead. After the bead is formed and the colors blended, while it is still warm enough to shape, and before it is removed from the needle, first press on side and then upon a piece of glass.



Use a piece of wax about two inches long for the foundation of the long bead, and press the heated needle into it the long way.



A long bead similar to the one above—only while it is still slightly soft, flatten on both ends.

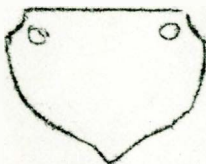


This is a round bead when first formed. After it has been flattened on both sides the shape is made by pressing with the thumb and fingers.

PENDANTS

Many of the fancy shaped pendants are made on a cardboard foundation. After the required shape is cut, the holes that are to be used to fasten in the ribbon or cord must be cut or punched. They should be larger than will be required when the pendant is punched, as the wax will fill up the holes quite a little. Many styles of pendants are much more attractive if the design is repeated on the back.

Heat a stick of wax and dot generously on the cardboard foundation, hold over the flame to allow the wax to melt and run smoothly over the entire surface. Allow to cool then cover the other side in the same way. Cover the edges carefully. After the foundation is made the design is lightly drawn and the flowers made. A heated spatula is required to help shape the petals. The pendants are strung on cords or ribbon.



Color Combinations for Wax Beads and Ornaments.

The variety of effects that may be obtained by blending different quantities of sealing wax together is almost without limit. The results are also very much varied by the amount of heat applied. In adding the colors to be blended, use very small quantities, otherwise the foundation color will be too much covered and the correct effect cannot be gained.

Following are some suggestive color combinations:

<u>Foundation</u>	<u>Color to be Blended.</u>
Alice Blue.....	Orange, White, Silver
American Beauty.....	Gold, Navy Blue
Blue Bronze.....	Light Jade Green, Gold
Blue Bronze.....	Apple Green, Silver.
Black.....	Gold; Orange.
Cobalt Blue.....	Gold, Geranium
Copper Bronze.....	Jade Green, Yellow.
Copper Bronze.....	White, Jade Green.
Fawn.....	Copper Bronze, Gold
Green Bronze.....	Lt. Jade Green, White, Silver
Jade Green.....	Navy Blue, Gold, Black
Lilac.....	Verdure Green, Purple, Silver
Lt. Rose Pink.....	Gold; Silver, White
Lt. Azure Blue.....	Gold, Black.
Yellow.....	Jade Green, Gold, Black.

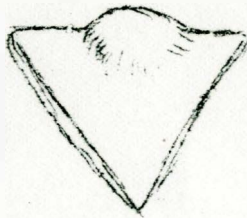
HAND-MADE FLOWERS

Berry Cluster.

Cut -
3 - 1 inch squares for leaves.
10 - 1 inch squares for berries.



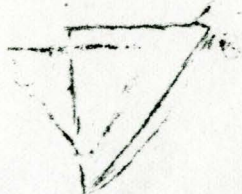
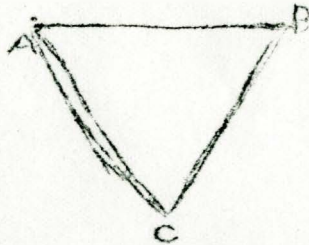
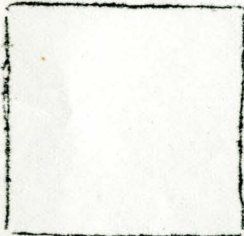
To make a berry cluster place the pieces of silk in a damp cloth. Roll a small amount of cotton into a ball. Place the ball of cotton into the center of a piece of moist silk and fold silk diagonally. Pucker all the silk to one point at the base of covered ball. Catch in place with winding wire. Do not wrap these stems with tape.



To Assemble:

(1) Beginning at top, group three berries, place one with two below; (2) wrap winding wire high and tightly about base of berries; (3) add a fourth berry below last two and secure; (4) add fifth and sixth berries, one on each side of fourth and secure; (5) add 7th under 4th and wrap with winding wire; (6) add 8th and 9th under 5th and 6th securing again; (7) add 10th berry under 7th to finish the cluster; (8) leave the longest wire to form the stem; (9) cut away the remaining fine wires at an angle. Never clip the off in one bunch or one place on the stem.

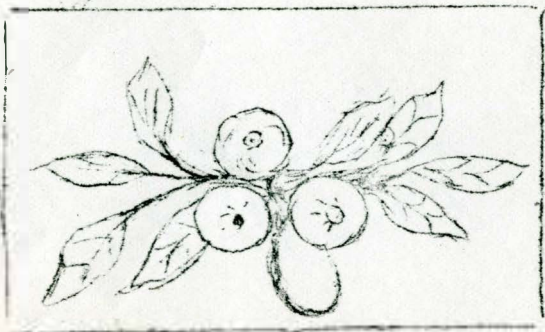
Leaf

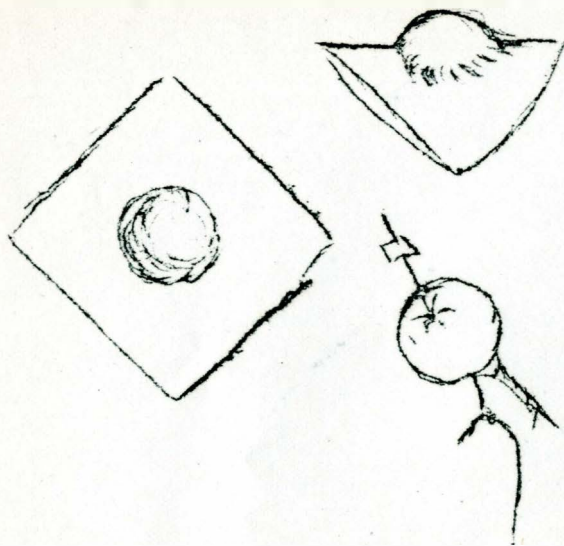


Fold silk diagonally, bring the left hand corners A to right hand corner B. The raw edges are now on the open side. Gather raw edges at the base. Wire with tying wire. Wrap the stems of the leaves with tape, place them back of the berries so that the leaves only will show. Wrap all wires in one stem and twist stem around artistically.

Apple Spray

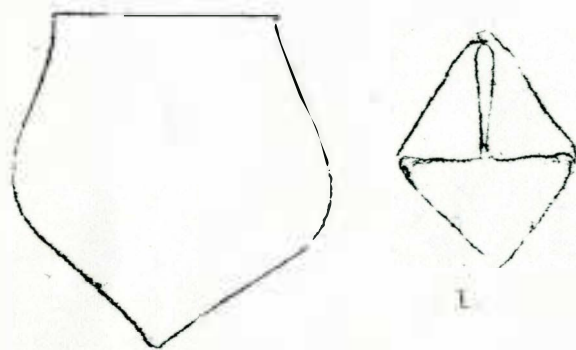
Cut:
3 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares
8 - leaves (pattern according to diagram)
Cut the pieces of silk and place in damp cloth. (1) Take enough cotton to make apple desired size; (2) place cotton in center of silk; (3) fold silk diagonally; (4) bring corners down and work in the rest of the fullness (5) secure with winding wire; (6) cut away the bulky silk.





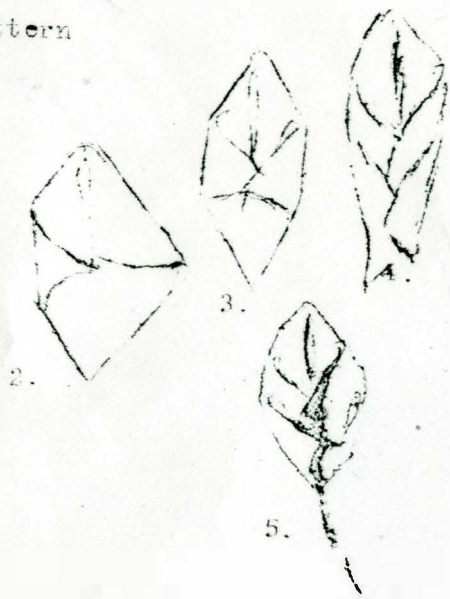
Make a dimple for the blossom by bringing a needle and thread through the cotton and silk two or three times pulling tightly to form the dimple. Take a piece of dark colored silk (1/4 inch square) and sew in center. Trim off all but a tiny amount. You also may use 1/4 inch brown yarn or 1/4 inch green embroidery silk for little color at the blossom end. Wrap each stem with winding silk or tape 1 inch only on the stem.

Leaf



Pattern

To get a pattern of the leaf place tissue paper over the diagram and trace. Cut 8 leaves of silk, being most careful to leave the top edges on the bias of the silk. Place silk in a damp cloth. When thoroughly dampened; (1) turn the top edge down 1/4 inch and press edge; (2) find center of the straight folded edge; (3) fold right half in at right angles to left half; (4) fold the left half in, so that the edges of right and left halves meet in center of leaf.



Looking at the leaf one finds all the folds on the top surface. The back of the leaf will be smooth. (5) Proceed to fold as per diagram. Gather the leaves at the base and fasten with winding wire. Wrap with tape or winding silk. Assemble leaves so that there is a bunch of four on each stem. Place apices in center, hold with tape or winding wire.

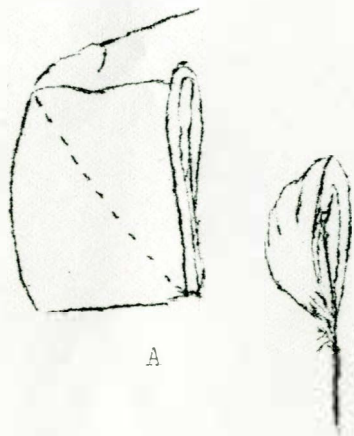
ORGANDY FLOWERS.

In making organdy flowers use the best quality of organdy, because it holds its shape and is always nice in color. A combination of a light and dark shade is effective. After the flowers are finished they may be touched up with water color. Cut the organdy on the bias as it rolls better and is more easily shaped. Before any patterns are cut, the top edge must be rolled between the thumb and the fingers. If rolled rightly the raw edge will not show and the rolled edge will keep its shape.

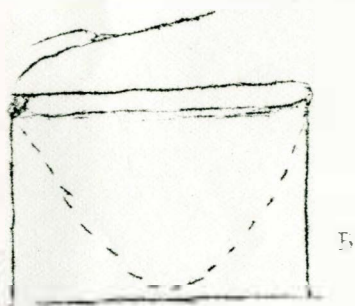
Organdy Sweet Peas

3 petals

- 1 - 1 inch by 2 inches
- 1 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch by 3 inches
- 1 - $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch by 4 inches.



To make sweet peas cut the desired length from the rolled bias piece of organdy. To make the small petal: (1) fold the smallest piece double and gather across the base with a needle and thread as in figure A. (2) Draw up tightly and tie with wire. The second petal is gathered as in diagram B.



Place the first made petal in the center of the second made petal and draw thread tightly and sew. Shape the petals by giving them a pinch at the top center. Always have rolled edge toward you in making petals. The third is made as the second, but flattened out and not pinched. Wrap the stem with a bias strip of organdy.

Organdy Apple Blossom



Cut a strip of organdy 1 inch wide and 10 inches long after rolling the edge. Measure 2 inches along the rolled edge and stick a pin, measure 2 inches more and 2 inches more until you have placed 4 pins. Gather with needle and thread from top edge to the base and then up to the pin as is given in the diagram.

Draw up the five petals and sew them together at the back. Tie with wire and leave some for stem. A few stamens can be sewed in the center or French Knots may be worked.

Organdy Rose

Cut a strip of rolled organdy 1 inch wide and six inches long. Start rolling at the bottom and have the rolled edge turned out. A few stamens may be used in the center. Fasten with wire. To make the rose larger, three petals may be placed around. The petals are made on the same principal as petals 2 and 3 in the sweet peas. The stems are covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch strips of green organdy cut on the bias. Turn in one edge $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and start at the base of the flower, and wrap. Winding silk or rubberized tape may be used.

VELVET POPPY

Place tissue paper over the diagram and trace off the petals. This flower measures 4 inches across the top. Turn the raw edge of each back $1/8$ inch and baste. Cut pieces of spool wire 2 inches longer than length around petal. Hold the wire against the petal and turn the edge over the wire and hem the edge on the wrong side. Take a tiny stitch so that it will not show on the right side.

Stuff a small piece of silk for the center. Assemble the stamens around this. Shape the petals at the base with two or three pleats and sew each petal to the stamens. Place the first with the second opposite, then the third and fourth. Commercial leaves may be used. These are fastened to the flower with winding wire and the stem wrapped with tape or silk.

