Christmas Gift Ideas for 1948

Mabel Bryan
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Compiled and written by Mabel E. Bryan*

Here comes Christmas with its almost unbearable excitement—The stockings crammed with goodies and toys, important packages in gaudy be-ribboned paper—the tree a wonder of tinsel and bright ornaments. To help you make merry, in these pages you will find ideas for happy giving.

The heart of Christmas is the shining quality of warm friendliness that reaches beyond the narrow safe island of a family to other families and peoples. It’s the loving kindness that can live all year long. It’s the Christmas spirit tucked into the gifts and trimmings that makes Christmas.

*Assistant State Home Demonstration Leader
Christmas Gifts for the Baby

Knitted Jacket

To keep a new baby nice and warm you can knit a woolen jacket. The jacket has a ribbed yoke and band around the sleeve. It is knit all in one piece.

You start knitting at one side of the front and work around ending at the outer edge of the opposite side front. The ribs in this knitting run from the top to the bottom. The size of the sweater depends upon the size of yarn and needles used. Number 2 needles and 2-ply baby yarn make a suitable size for the very young baby. To knit the jacket follow these directions:

- Cast on 70 stitches on one needle and knit across.
- Knit 55 stitches, knit back.
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- Continue until there are 35 ridges on the side front of the jacket.
- This takes you to the sleeve opening. Knit up from bottom 45 stitches and run thread through them.
- Knit up and back on remaining 25 stitches to neck line.
- Cast on 30 stitches for long sleeve or 15 for short sleeve.
- Knit back and forth leaving off 10 stitches at bottom of long sleeve and 5 at bottom of short sleeve every other time.
- Continue the yoke in the same manner (leaving off 15 stitches every other time).
- When there are 25 ridges on the cuff of the sleeve, bind off the 30 stitches cast on for the sleeve. Pick up the 45 stitches put on the string.
- Knit until there are 60 ridges on the back of the jacket. Be sure to continue the yoke at the top of the jacket.
- Alternate knit 55 stitches—work back; knit 70 stitches, work back. When there are 60 ridges on the back, knit up from the bottom 45 stitches and put on a string. Make sleeve as before and then pick up the 45 stitches and knit the other front. Bind off. Seam sleeves together. Crochet shell. Stitch around the bottom and up the front, around the neck and sleeves as follows:
  - 3 single crochet in 2 holes and 6 double crochet in one hole. Repeat.

Baby Shoes

Make soft, felt shoes as an ideal gift for baby’s first Christmas.

Laced Baby Shoes

Make a pair of shoes from ⅛ yard of white or pastel colored felt. Punch holes with a paper or leather punch ⅛ inch
from the edge and 1/4 inch apart. Lace the pieces together with narrow silk ribbon. Make a design of french knots with colored felt circles to decorate the toes of the shoes.

Materials: 1/8 yard of felt
3 yards of 1/4 inch ribbon
3 strands of embroidery floss

Baby's Buttoned Shoes
You can make button shoes of pastel colored felt that are attractive in appearance. Stitch the pieces together with a button hole or feather stitch. Finish the front flap with three button holes. Fasten the three buttons on the opposite side of the shoe. Arrange a design of french knots on the toe of the shoe.

Materials: 1/8 yard of felt
6 small buttons
Embroidery thread either cotton or rayon

Baby's One Pieced Slippers
Make one pieced slippers of washable or felt materials. Cut the slipper in one piece. Button the points together to form the slipper. Pink the edges if the slippers are made of felt. Bind the edges with tape if made of washable material.

Materials needed: Cotton material—10 inches
3 buttons
Tape to bind edges

Christmas Gifts for Girls and Boys

Child's Pinafore
You can please any little girl with a crisp and dainty pinafore which has a sash tied in a big bow in the back.

Make this pinafore of colored dotted swiss material with the front of white eyelet as a contrast. Use a sweetheart neck line and buttoned closing in the back. Join the bodice and gathered skirt with an inset belt. Stitch the tie ends which form the bow in back, to the inset belt at the center sides. Cut the front bodice long enough to extend over the inset belt in front, giving the effect of a long waist line. Finish the bodice with an embroidered ruffle to make a pretty trimming. Wear the pinafore as a sun dress, as an apron or with a blouse.

(See cover page for illustration.)

A 4 year old size requires: 1 3/4 yards of material
12 inches of eyelet for contrast
1 1/3 yards of ruffling
7 buttons
Delight a little girl with a bright red felt purse.

Child's Felt Purse

You can delight any little girl with a bright colored purse. A small coin purse slipped inside of the large one makes the gift a joy.

Use six side sections and one bottom to make the purse. Leave the seams of the first and last section open. Pin the seamed sections to the base easing in as necessary. Stitch together. Sew the seam left free together. Tack small bone rings to the center of each side section even with the top end of the seams. Draw ribbon ties through the rings. Make a small envelope coin purse for the inside.

Decorate the sections with stenciling, embroidery or felt applique if desired.

Materials needed: 8 inch strip of felt
6 bone rings
1 1/3 yards of 3/4 inch ribbon

Cowboy Shirt

A real cowboy shirt is the nicest thing you can give a boy for Christmas. Make it of a practical material such as gabardine or soft wool or washable cotton. Embroider attractive designs in bright colors on the cuffs and yoke. Select colors that are becoming to the child who is to receive the gift.

Use two colors in making the shirt. The lower part and sleeves may be a darker shade and the cuffs and shoulder of a harmonizing light color, or you might reverse the order with the larger area the light color and the smaller the darker.

You would delight a boy of any age with a cowboy shirt and even father might like one too.

Commercial pattern companies have suitable patterns.

Materials needed for the 6 year old size:
35 inch material — 1 1/2 yd. (long sleeves)
Contrast material—3/8 yd.
12 buttons
Colored embroidery thread
Place Mats for Children

You know how children like things they can call their own. You can make any little girl or boy enjoy eating their meals if you make a place mat and napkin designed to represent their favorite animal.

Design the mats to represent a rabbit, dog, chicken, lamb, kitten, or pig. Finish the design with simple outlining stitch, crayola lines or textile painting. Indian head, linen, muslin and other washable cottons are suitable materials for the mats.

Materials needed: 1 7/8 yards of 36 inch material for six place mats
2/3 yards for six napkins

Gifts for the Teen Age Girl

Colored Yarn Belts

Decorated belts add charm to many young girls' costumes. You can make them of plastic mesh banding and colored yarn.

The mesh belting is a plastic band with round holes. It comes 14 holes wide. To make the wide belt pictured, select three harmonizing colors of yarn and make according to directions.

Select three harmonizing colors of yarn. Cut 2 strips of 14 holes wide mesh belting as long as desired for the belt. Allow 3 or 4 inches for lapping when drawn through the buckle.

Cut one end at an angle. Use 2 strips together to give more firmness to the belt.

Step 1. Thread a darning needle with a 2 1/2 yard strand of dark colored yarn and knot one end. Work in running stitch around entire belt on outside row of holes. Finish off yarn.

Step 2. Thread needle with a 2 yard strand of second colored yarn and bring needle up in hole No. 1, put needle down in 2, up in 3, down in 4, work in running stitch in this manner until 12, working to left, bring needle up in 13, down in 14, up in 15, down in 16, working in running
stitch in this manner until 24, up in 25, etc., work in this manner to end of belt. Finish off yarn.

Step 3. Thread needle with a 2 yard strand of light color, bring needle up in 30, down in 31, etc., to 33, up in 40, down in 41, etc., to 50, down in 24, up in 51, etc., to end of belt. Finish off yarn.

Step 4. Thread needle with a 2 yard strand of second color, bring needle up in 60, down in 61, etc., to 68, down in 69, etc., to 76, up in 77, etc., to end of belt. Finish off yarn.

Step 5. Thread needle with a 2 yard strand of light color, bring yarn up in 80, down in 81, etc., to 90, down in 91, etc., to 100, up in 101, etc., to end of belt. Finish off yarn.

Step 6. Thread needle with 2 yard strand of second color, bring needle up in 110, down in 111, etc., to 118, down in 119, to 126, up in 127, etc., to end of belt. Finish off yarn.

Step 8. Using dark color, work in single crochet stitch in each hole around entire belt. Make 2 stitches in each corner hole. Sew on buckle.

You can make many variations by using narrow widths and designs.

**Silk Scarf**

You can please any teen age girl with a bright colored, striped scarf. Sew bands of colored materials together to make a strip 10 inches wide and 60 inches long. Fold one end over parallel to the side edge, and stitch a fourth inch seam across the end. Continue stitching the side edges together to opposite end. Turn the tube thus formed inside out. The unfinished seams will be inside and the strips of color will be on the diagonal. Press and fold in the lower diagonal edge and blind stitch the edges together.

Wear the scarves tied in a knot or with a metal tie fastener.

Taffeta, ribbon, satin, and rayon are suitable materials for these scarves. Make belts and head bands by the same method, using narrower bands of materials.

**Stocking Cases**

Four separate pockets are good protectors for precious nylons.

Make the pocket of small scraps of material such as prints, taffeta, rayon, plastics, or quilted materials. Line each pocket with contrasting material. Checked taf-
feta with a bright red lining was used in the one pictured.

\( \frac{1}{4} \) yard of material of each for the outside and the lining will be required.

Make each pocket separately, then fasten together on inner edges to make one unit. For each pocket cut a piece of material of 10 by \( 8\frac{1}{8} \) inches for the outside material and the same size for the lining. Fold each piece, bringing the \( 8\frac{1}{8} \) inch sides together at the top.

Stitch the ends of each folded piece together. (5 inch ends.) Leave one end of the lining open.

Seam the outside and the lining together at the top. Turn the raw seams to the inside. Turn the open end edges in and stitch by hand together. Fit lining down into the outside to form the pocket. Make four pockets in similar way. Over hand inner edges of pockets together. Make a tie by cutting a strip of material 27 inches long and 1 inch wide. Seam the long sides together and turn inside out. Over hand ends. Fasten the center of tie to the center of the outside pocket and tie around the chain of pockets.

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**Portable Sewing Kit**

The handy sewing kit pictured is an aid to travelers. All the necessary sewing equipment is put into a compact case which folds up like a small purse. It is made of felt, wool, taffeta, chintz, print or quilted material. The one in the picture is made of taffeta.

In making the kit of material, start with one piece 20 inches square for the outside. Another piece 9\( \frac{1}{2} \) inches by 20 inches for lining. To give more body to the case when made of material, interline with a piece of outing flannel cut the same size as the second piece or lining 9\( \frac{1}{2} \) inches by 20 inches. Cut two strips of material each 1\( \frac{1}{2} \) inches wide, one 15 inches long and the other 10\( \frac{1}{2} \) inches long. Stitch the long sides together of each strip making the finished band \( \frac{3}{4} \) inches wide.

Place interlining on under side of lining. 6 inches from the top of the lining mark 1 inch intervals across. Mark 2 inch intervals on the 15 inch strip. Stitch strip to lining at intervals, matching the marks. Fasten the 10\( \frac{1}{2} \) inch long band onto lining 2 or 3 inches below top band, stitching at intervals to make loops for scissors, darners, needles, and pins. Cut a piece of material 9\( \frac{1}{2} \) inches long and 8\( \frac{1}{2} \) inches

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*A sewing kit for the traveler.*
Shoe bags to protect your shoes.

wide. Fold through center making the outside of a pocket measuring 8½ inches by 4¾ inches. Baste this double piece across the bottom of the lining piece. This makes a pocket for holding buttons, snaps and mending materials.

Stitch lining strip in place on 20 inch square. Put a narrow hem around the first 20 inch square which makes the outside of the case. Fasten pocket shut with tiny snap. Then cut strip of material about 4 inches long and 2¾ inches wide. Seam long sides together and turn making a strip 4 by 1¾ inches wide. Stitch this strip onto upper edge of the bag at the center point. This forms the (tongue) or fastener. Sew fasteners on tongue and on the outside of bag.

The lining covers only center panel of outer piece. 5¼ inch borders remain on each side. To close kit, fold border sides in, bottom up and flap down. Snap tongue in place.

Protector for Shoes

A plastic bag which holds a pair of shoes can solve a packing problem and protect the new “shoe shine.”

Make the bag pictured from glazed chintz or cretonne or woolen materials. Line the bag with harmonizing colored plastic material. Stitch the seams to the right side. Bind each seam with bias tape. Complete the outside edges by binding with bias tape. Sew a loop at the center point of the seam of the flap. Put 2 fasteners on the flap so that the length of the flap can be adjusted to take care of the space needed for any type of heels on the shoes.

Materials needed for two bags: 12 inches of outside material
12 inches of lining material
6 yards of tape for binding seams
8 fasteners
Woman's Crocheted Scarf

Warm and fluffy, just right for a winter suit or coat are crocheted scarves made from wool and rayon yarns in white or pastel colors. To crochet this scarf use two balls of wool and rayon yarn and a No. 2 crochet hook. Make according to the following directions:

1st Row—Chain 38 stitches, turn.
2nd Row—Make a double crochet in the fourth stitch of the chain, and a double crochet in each stitch to the end of the chain, chain 3 to turn.
3rd Row—Make a double crochet in the second stitch of the second row, working on the back loop of the stitch, continue across, working in the back loop of the stitch, chain 3 to turn.
4th Row—Double crochet in the back loop of the second stitch, continue on across.

Continue in this fashion until the scarf is 24 or 26 inches long. When scarf is desired length be sure there is an even number of rows in scarf.

To make knot fringe edge:
First Row:
Pull thread up until you have a loop about 1½ inches long. Crochet through this loop with single crochet. Then, holding the single thread of the three strand loop just formed, with left hand, double strand loop to the right, crochet one single crochet, this makes the knot.

Pull up second loop from knot, about 1½ inches, fasten to scarf in second ridge; continue on around scarf, skipping every other ridge. This forms a series of loops, with a knot in the center of each loop around the scarf.

Second Row:
Slip stitch up to knot in the first loop of fringe in the first row. Pull up loops as explained for first row, fastening in the knot of the next loop. Continue on around the scarf, fastening loops in the knots of the first row:

Third Row:
Ditto second row.

A Variation of the Body of the Scarf

1st Row—Ditto above
2nd Row—Ditto above
3rd Row—Ditto above
4th Row—Work on the front loop of the stitch, entire row.

Alternate this way, working, first on the back of the stitch, next row front of the stitch, entire scarf. This gives a lined or ridged effect on the right side and a plain effect on the reverse side. The scarf will be smoother when done in this fashion.
History of Embroidery

Cross Stitch

The art of embroidery of representing scenes and figures with the needle is probably the oldest art in existence. It existed even before the time of painting and sculpturing. Embroidery seems not to have been a past time of only royal and noble ladies but the principle occupation of the women of the middle classes. Needle work is done for fun. It is a lasting evidence of your ability to make something beautiful with your hands.

One of the older types of embroidery was the simplest of all embroideries known as cross stitch. The best examples of cross stitch embroidery hailed from Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Macedonia. This has been a form of work done by the peasants for hundreds of years. Cross stitch can be worked on almost any article of clothing, household linens, curtains, cushions etc. There are many variations of the cross stitch. Described you will find the simplest.

Cross stitch may be worked according to the lines formed by the warped and woofed threads of the material or by following a stamped design. If the material is fine and threads difficult to follow cross stitch canvass may be used.

When making cross stitch, begin usually at the left side. Bring the thread diagonally across a unit of threads which form a square. All the stitches on the right side fall in regular diagonal lines slanting in the same direction and drawn equally tight. The stitches on the under side fall in regular vertical order.

To make the second row of upper stitches, reverse one end of design and make regular diagonal stitches over the top of the first and slanting in the opposite direction. The beauty of cross stitch lies in the evenness in which it is done.

Checked Apron

Delight grandmother by giving her a checked apron with a cross stitch design for Christmas.
A cross stitched apron is a reminder of days of long ago.

Make the skirt 22 inches long with a 3 inch hem and 34 inches wide with narrow hems on the sides. Gather the top into a 20 inch waist band. The waist band is 2 inches wide when finished. Fasten ties 4 inches wide and 34 inches long to the ends of the waist band. Stitch in place large patch pockets which measure 71/2 inches deep by 7 inches wide when finished. Embroider a 1 1/4 inch cross stitched border above the hem line, along the waist band and on the two sides and bottom of the pocket. Work the cross stitch designs before the apron is completed. Use the squares of the gingham as a guide in making the design.

Materials: 1 yard fine checked gingham
1 skein black embroidery cotton
Decorate towels, handkerchiefs, luncheon cloths and other household linens with cross stitch designs that can be stamped from a pattern.

Shadow Embroidery

Among the many forms of embroidery popular in the 18th century was that now known as shadow work. It consists of stitching worked on the back of transparent materials to produce a shadow effect on the right side. The work was thought to be of Indian origin and was usually worked in white on white material. It has been modernized by the use of colored thread. This type of work is suitable for lingerie, decorating children's dresses and household linens. Shadow embroidery is done in the following way:

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Trace the design on the wrong side of the material. Work from left to right on the wrong side. Use six strand thread for the work. Use one strand in the needle at the time. Form the pattern by taking a short stitch on one side of the design, another short stitch on the other side bringing the colored thread across the space between. Make the stitches that show on the right side uniform. Bring the needle out in the same hole used for the previous stitch on the line of the design. The color shows through on the right side giving a shadow effect. The back of the design resembles close cross stitches.

**White Organdy Luncheon Cloth**

Work an organdy luncheon cloth, in a dainty design of shadow embroidery as a welcome gift for any homemaker.

Finish a square of organdy with a hem of a desired width. Stamp a suitable design on the wrong side. Work the shadow design with a harmonizing colored thread on the wrong side. Make 12 inch napkins with a part of the design used on the luncheon cloth.

**Felt Craft**

Use felt for a practical medium for making attractive gifts. Use it for trimmings and basic materials. Felt comes in many attractive colors. It is easy to work with because it does not fray.

**Book Cover and Book Mark**

Give to the friend who enjoys books, a decorated felt book cover.

Make the book cover by measuring around the book to be covered allowing 4 additional inches at each side and 1 inch at the top and bottom. Fold each end over 3½ inches and stitch 1 inch from the edge across the top and the bottom. Put a chain stitch above the line of stitching for added decoration. Pink the edges if that type of finish is desired.

*A gift for the book lover.*
Make the design of small circles of felt and leaves. Cut the circles from a variety of colors of felt with paper or leather punches. Cut the leaves to shape with scissors. Arrange the circles and leaves in an attractive design and stitch into place with one stitch of black thread through each section of the design.

Make a book mark to match the cover. Cut the book mark 12 inches long and 1 3/4 inches wide. Cut one end with a point. Arrange a design matching the one on the book cover.

Materials suitable for book covers are: felt, plastic, print materials, paper, oil-cloth and leather.

Gifts for the Home

Luncheon Cloth with Rick Rack

Trim a luncheon cloth with rick rack, and you have a gift suitable for your friends.

Hem a square of material with a 1/8 inch hem. Stitch the rick rack along the edge so that half of the scallop extends beyond the edge of the cloth. Use a running stitch which crosses over each section of the rick rack to hold it secure. This thread should be the same color as the background material. Place a long and a short stitch above the upper edge of the rick rack with thread of the same color as the rick rack used.

Place the long stitch above the point of the scallop, the short stitch between the 2 scallops. Keep the lower edges of the stitches even.

Make the center band of decoration by arranging 3 rows of the rick rack 5 inches above the outer edge. Stitch each row in place in the same way as on the outer edge. Place the rows one above the other so that the points of each row almost touch. Turn square corners.

Finish the napkins with a row of rick rack on the edge as on the cloth.

Amounts of material needed:
1 square of material for luncheon cloth
9 inches of 36 inch material for 9 inch napkins
Larger napkins require more material
21 yards of rick rack
2 skeins of each color of thread

Holders With Rick Rack Trimming

Holders are a popular gift for homemakers who like to crochet. You can make a holder of carpet warp or cotton

Rick rack trims a luncheon cloth.
tieing cord. Make a holder large enough to serve as a protector. It should be heavy enough so that the heat will not penetrate very quickly. A practical holder can be made according to the following directions:

Chain 8—Join in ring.
1st Row—Chain 3—19 D. C. in ring.

2nd Row—Chain 3—D. C. in same stitch. 1 D. C. in next D. C., 2 in next D. C., continue around.

3rd Row—Take rick rack and hold in place and crochet over it 1 stitch in front and 2 in back, repeat around.

4th Row—Chain 3—1 D. C. in each of previous row.

5th Row—Chain 3—1 D. C. in same stitch. 1 D. C. in each of next 2 stitches. 2 D. C. in next stitch. Continue around.

6th Row—Same as row 5.

7th Row—Same as row 3.

8th, 9th, 10th, 11th Row—1 D. C. in each D. C. of preceding row.

12th Row—Same as rows 3 and 7. Fasten thread. Back. Crochet same as front only omitting rick rack. Crochet front and back together with a single crochet, form loop for hanging by making a loop of a chain of 18 and covering with S. C.

**Pictures Made of Wall Paper**

Make an attractive picture by selecting suitable designs in wall paper, mounting them with a mat in a simple frame. This is one way of changing a picture in your own home from time to time. It is also a simple way of selecting pictures that will harmonize with the color schemes of the room in which they are to be used.

**Old Christmas Cards Put To Use**

Cut usable designs from old Christmas cards and mount on pieces of harmonizing colored paper. Attach to folded sheets of white paper with bits of ribbon. The
white paper furnishes a means for writing the Christmas message. Make enclosure cards inexpensively this way.

**The Christmas Candle**

Make a safe Christmas candle for outdoor decoration by painting a length of stove pipe a bright red. Fit a wooden disk in the top. Put a light socket in the center of the disk with the extension cord through the side of the pipe. Place a flame shaped light bulb in the socket. Fasten the bottom to a stand so that it may be placed beside a doorway or on a step rail.

**Aprons Solve the Problem**

The crowning gift for any Christmas is a dainty apron. An apron’s so easy to make. Anyone can use an extra, from the most practical kitchen cover-up to the most frivolous of tea aprons. Use imagination when you choose your fabrics. An unusual print will make your apron a pleasure to make and a joy to receive. The apron should be suitable to the wearer both in style and fit.

*Look! It’s just like mother’s.*

**Mother and Daughter Aprons**

You can make a mother and daughter happy by giving them a dainty apron made exactly alike. Choose a small figured print and trim with matching bias tape.

The pattern is made up of five panels in the skirt and a bib with straps over the shoulders. Slip the ties through a loop which extends from the shoulder piece.

Materials: 1½ yards of material to make both aprons

Tape to bind the seams
An Apron of Glazed Chintz

Give protection plus charm in a dainty chintz apron. Stitch the pockets on a frill which is sewed into the side seams of the front panel. The skirt is made up of three panels. Gather the skirt into a waist band. Fasten the ties at the ends of the band.

Use one yard of material to make this apron.

Tie-Around Apron

You can give a tie-around apron made of dainty print, which is pretty enough to wear to a party.

Cut this apron all in one piece. Gather it across the front on to the waist band. The waist band is overlapped at the center front. Stitch the ties to the end of the waist band. Finish the edges of the pockets with bias tape before the top is gathered and stitched to the band. Finish the apron with matching bias tape.

Material: ¾ yard of print
1 bolt of bias tape
An organdy apron is always welcomed.

**Organdy Apron**

Select white organdy with insets of colored organdy, a little lace and shadow embroidery design to make a dainty tea apron.

Make the skirt 21 inches long and 33 inches wide. Allow for a 3 inch hem across the bottom. Hem the sides with a very narrow hem. Stitch colored pieces of organdy 10 x 4½ inches, 9 inches from each side of the skirt. Trim the white organdy from under the colored insets. Gather the skirt into 2½ inch waist band 20 inches long. Hem the 24 inch long and 3¼ inch wide ties and fasten to the ends of the waist band. Put narrow lace over the stitched seams of the insets, hem and waist band to add a dainty touch. Embroider a design just below the insets. Shadow embroidery is attractive.

Material needed: 1 yard of white organdy
3½ yards lace
9 inches of colored organdy
Two Pocket Apron

You can make a dainty apron from crisp organdy and pleasing plaid material. Make this apron by placing an overall facing of plaid material over a background of harmonizing organdy. Cut away a portion of the plaid at the sides for the opening to the pockets. Bind the edge with bias pieces of organdy. Gather an organdy ruffle around the body of the apron. Trim the edges with narrow rick rack. Stitch through center front of the main part to form the two pockets.

Complete the apron with a 2 inch wide waist band and ties.

Material needed:
Scraps of plaid material
1/2 yard of organdy
1 bolt of rick rack

Cover-All Aprons

Make an apron that gives complete coverage against any spots to friends who have cooking to do.
Use two yards of material to make the apron with a skirt that goes all around to the back and ties with a bow in back. The over all bib extends down to the belt in the back. Make pockets with the design in contrast to the apron for an added interest.

Make a cover-all apron of print or sheer material with a ruffle as part of the front panel to meet the fancy of your friends. A three pieced skirt put onto a waist band with ties is topped with a bib extended around the neck to the back. You may iron this apron with ease.

1/2 yard of material will make this apron.

**Christmas Confections**

A box of stuffed dates will please any member of the family and add to the Christmas festivities.

Dates may be stuffed with fondant candy, chocolate fudge, nut meats, dried fruits or peanut butter.

To stuff dates make a slit along the side of the fruit and remove the pit. Fill the cavity left by the pit with the desired filling. Press together slightly, then roll in granulated sugar. Store in a covered container.

**Date Roll**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 cup milk</th>
<th>2 cups sugar</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 cup pitted dates</td>
<td>1/4 cup butter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 cup cocoanut</td>
<td>1/2 cup nut meats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cook milk and sugar to soft ball stage (236 degrees F.), add pitted dates and butter. Stir and cook until mixture leaves the side of the pan. Remove from fire, add cocoanut and nut meats. Beat until firm, pour out on wet cloth and roll. When into shape of a roll, sprinkle with cocoanut and roll again in wet cloth. Slice as you use it.

**Apricot Candy**

3/4 cup steamed dried apricots (without juice)
1/2 cup nut meats                      1 T. lemon juice
3/4 cup cocoanut                      1/2 T. lemon rind
1/2 T. grated orange rind

Grind all of these together. Form mixture into small rolls. Coat with sugar.