

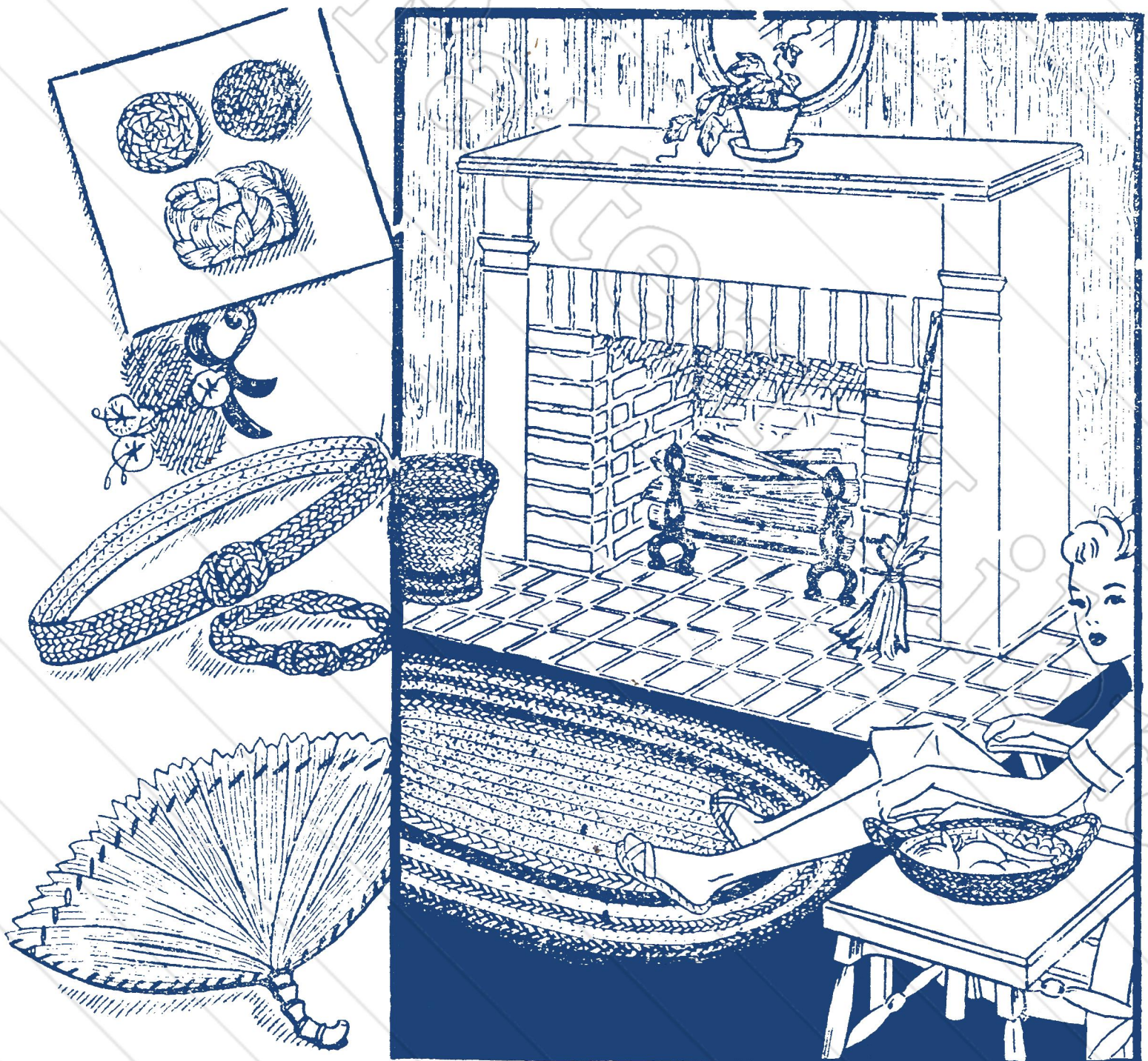
The Work Basket

HOME AND NEEDLECRAFT
For PLEASURE and PROFIT

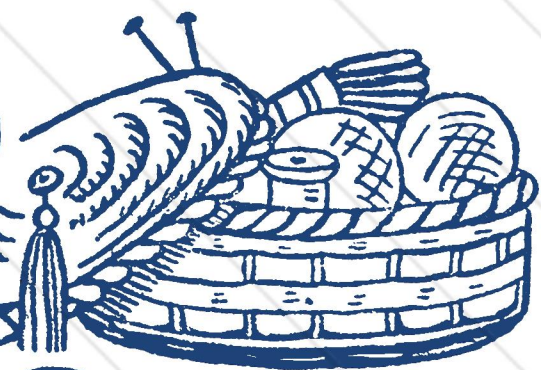
VOLUME 8

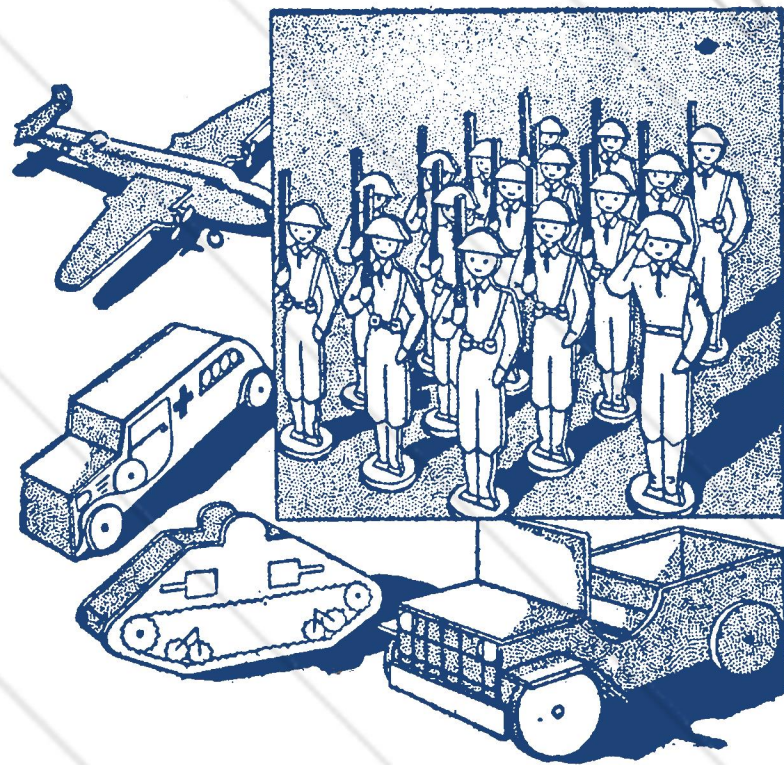
(1986)

NO. 2



**IDEAS for the Bazaar, the Home,
Gifts and Sparetime Money-makers
— with Many Inexpensive, Easily
Made Articles that find a Ready Sale.**





The next transfer will bring outlines for cutout toy soldiers, a bomber, ambulance,



tank and jeep. There will also be miscellaneous motifs suitable for guest towels, pillow slips, luncheon sets, etc.

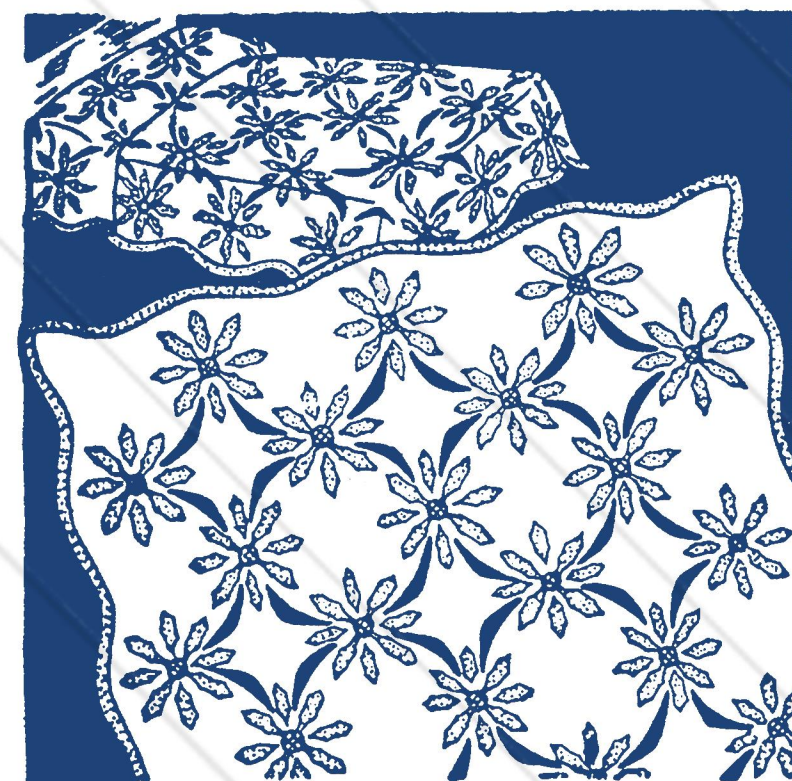


A pair of cozy crocheted house slippers is an acceptable gift. These have felt soles and may be made in any size.

In the booklet we will tell you how to make adorable dolls from old hose or lingerie, with directions for a crocheted



wardrobe as well as patterns for clothes of material. The donkey is also made from a stocking.



The quilt is a Poinsettia—applied on 15 inch blocks.

Corn Shuck Novelties

There is almost no end to the list of useful and attractive articles which may be made from corn shucks. Here we give you a varied group of items—some of which are sure to appeal to everyone.

Select clean inside shucks for the smaller items such as buttons, belt, bracelet, etc. For rugs and larger articles the outer shucks may be used and the darker ones dyed for contrast. Last year's thoroughly dried shucks may be used as all shucks must be soaked before

they are worked up. If new shucks are to be used, all of the natural moisture must first be allowed to dry out then they must be soaked.

Buttons of any desired size may be made. For very small ones cut or tear a strip $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide by length of shuck. Shuck must be wet—tie a knot in the center of the strip and continue tying one knot over the other by wrapping the loop of each new knot around the knot already made (see Fig. 1). Make button about the size of the end of your little finger, or larger, as desired.

When button is as large as you wish, cut ends about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from button, lap over, turn ends under and tuck out of sight. Thread a needle with strong thread and sew ends securely to back of button, bringing needle out near center back. Insert needle in back of button again and bring out on top making a small loop or eye on the back of the button. Hold loop and bring needle back through button so thread does not show on top. Buttonhole closely over loop (see completed button in Fig. 1).

Buttons may be shellacked, varnished or painted. Sew them on by the loop or use a small safety pin to attach to garment, as they must be removed if garment is to be laundered or cleaned.

ROUND BUTTONS—The pair of buttons shown at the top is made from a small braid of shucks. Cut or tear strips $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, select 3 strips of varying lengths—this is important so that additional strips will be joined one at a time to avoid heavy places in the braid. Gather the small pointed ends of the 3 strips together and tie together in a knot at point where each becomes about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. Braid tightly to about 3 inches from end of shortest strip (see Fig 2). Insert small end of another strip in center of short end, wrapping the larger end around it, then twist to hold firmly in place. Continue braiding—hold the end in carefully until it is firmly caught, braid to within 3 inches of end of next length strip. Add to each strip in the same way.

A 7-inch braid makes a button 1 inch in diameter. Thread a needle with strong thread, begin winding braid around knot—wind so it covers the knot. Sew firmly so the stitches will not show (see Fig. 2). Continue winding braid around center and sewing the edges of braids together. Draw each row a little tighter than last to cup the bottom and

make a convex surface. When button is desired size turn end of braid back under edge of button, catch firmly, press ends of shucks solidly into hollow inside button and cut off any surplus.

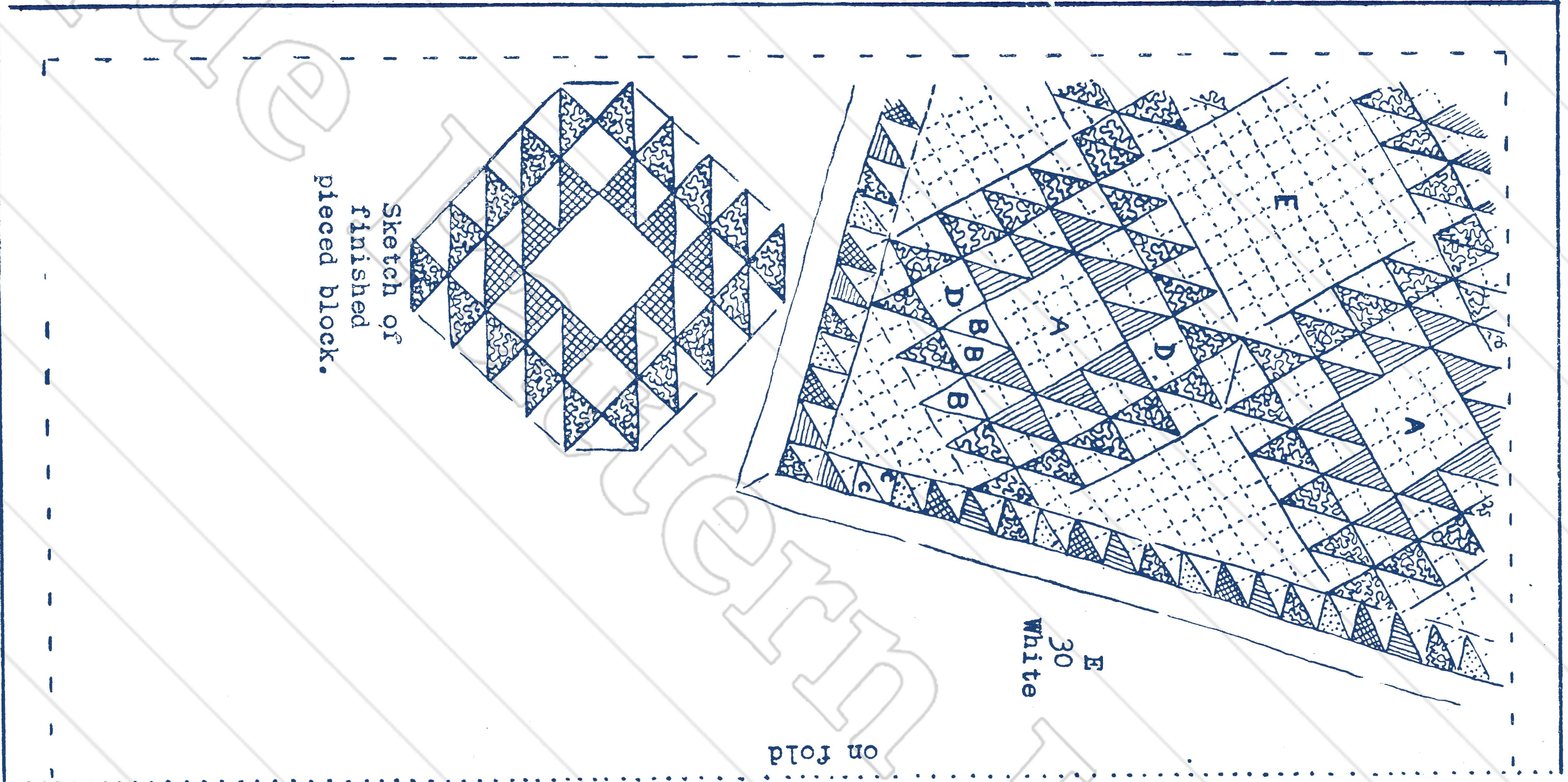
Back of button may be finished by working back and forth from side to side with needle and thread, then weaving back and forth in the opposite direction as when darning—or you may cut a small circle of material, turn edge under and whip to back of button. Make a loop at back, going through the top of button for strength. Buttonhole over loop as for small button. These buttons may be used in natural color and shellacked, or you may varnish or paint them.

LARGE BUTTON—This is suitable for heavier garments such as woolen dresses, suits and coats, and is also made of braid. Cut 3 strips 2 inches wide from shucks about 12 inches in length. Bind the heavy ends together tightly with strong thread, clip ragged ends.

Braid tightly to end and tie braid into a large knot about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from end where shucks were tied (see Fig. 3). Fold tied end over edge of knot and sew down at back. Bring other end of braid up to top of knot and put the end down through center of knot and sew at back of button as indicated by arrows in Fig. 3, clip end. Work a heavy loop at back. Shellac buttons, paint in color to match garment, or enamel them black for use on a black suit or coat.

CORSAGE—Shucks which are to be used for flowers may be colored with crayons, water colors or oil paints. If using crayons color one side generously with crayon. Place a damp cloth over shuck and press with a warm (not hot) iron. Repeat on other side to color thoroughly. These shucks must be well soaked in very warm water to soften before being cut or used.

Ordinary school water colors or the kind which comes in round pats in children's paint sets may be used. Soak the dried shucks thoroughly then paint the surface of the wet shuck with a brush. As some shucks will absorb the paint more readily than others, a quicker method of coloring the difficult ones is to rub the paint into the wet shucks with the fingers. This gives a well-coated even surface. Shucks may be tinted by soaking them overnight in water which has been colored with paints or dye. Additional color or shading may be added after the flowers have been as-



Sketch of finished pieced block.

Material—about 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ yds. white, 3 yds. print, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yds. color

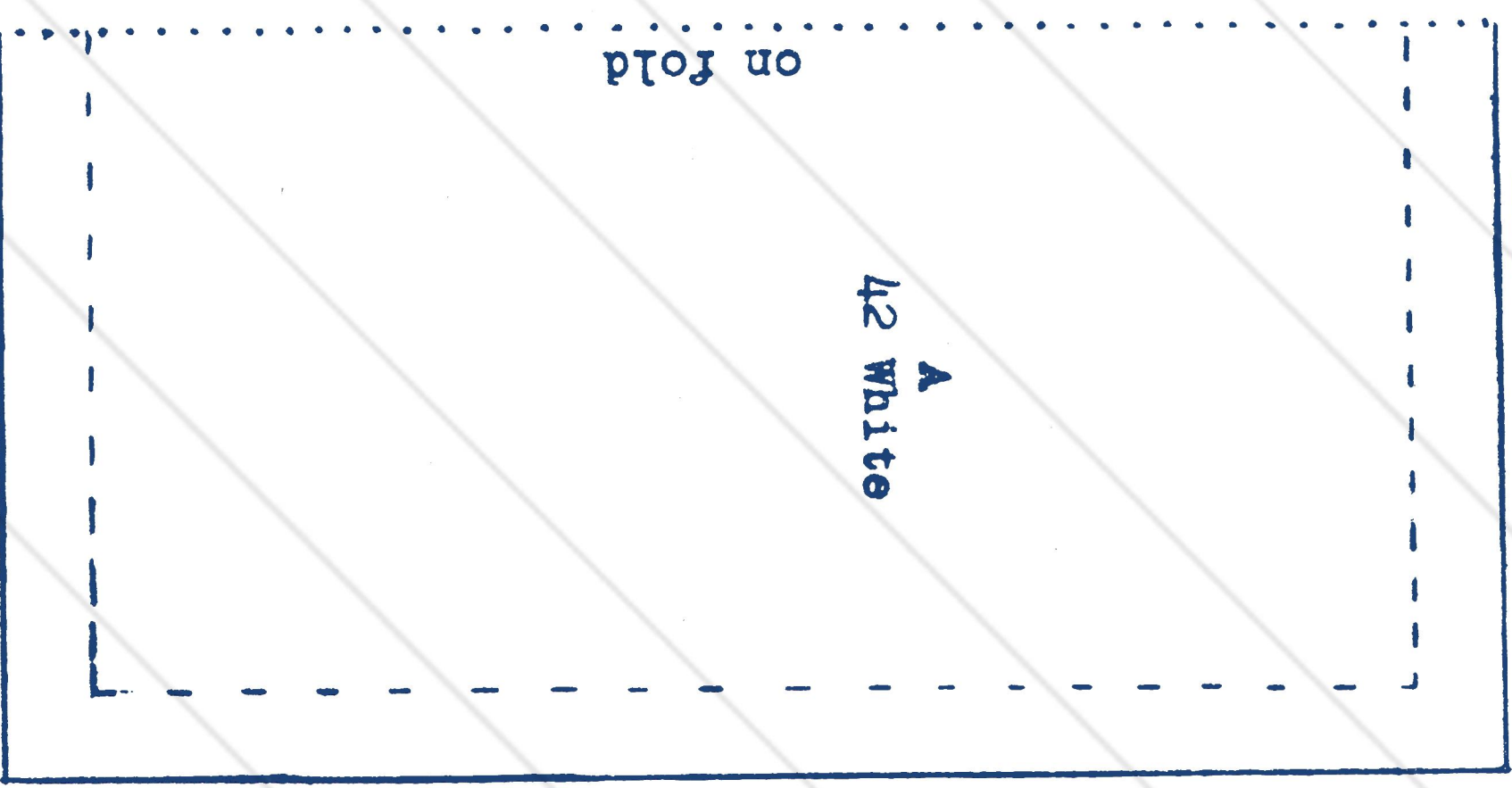
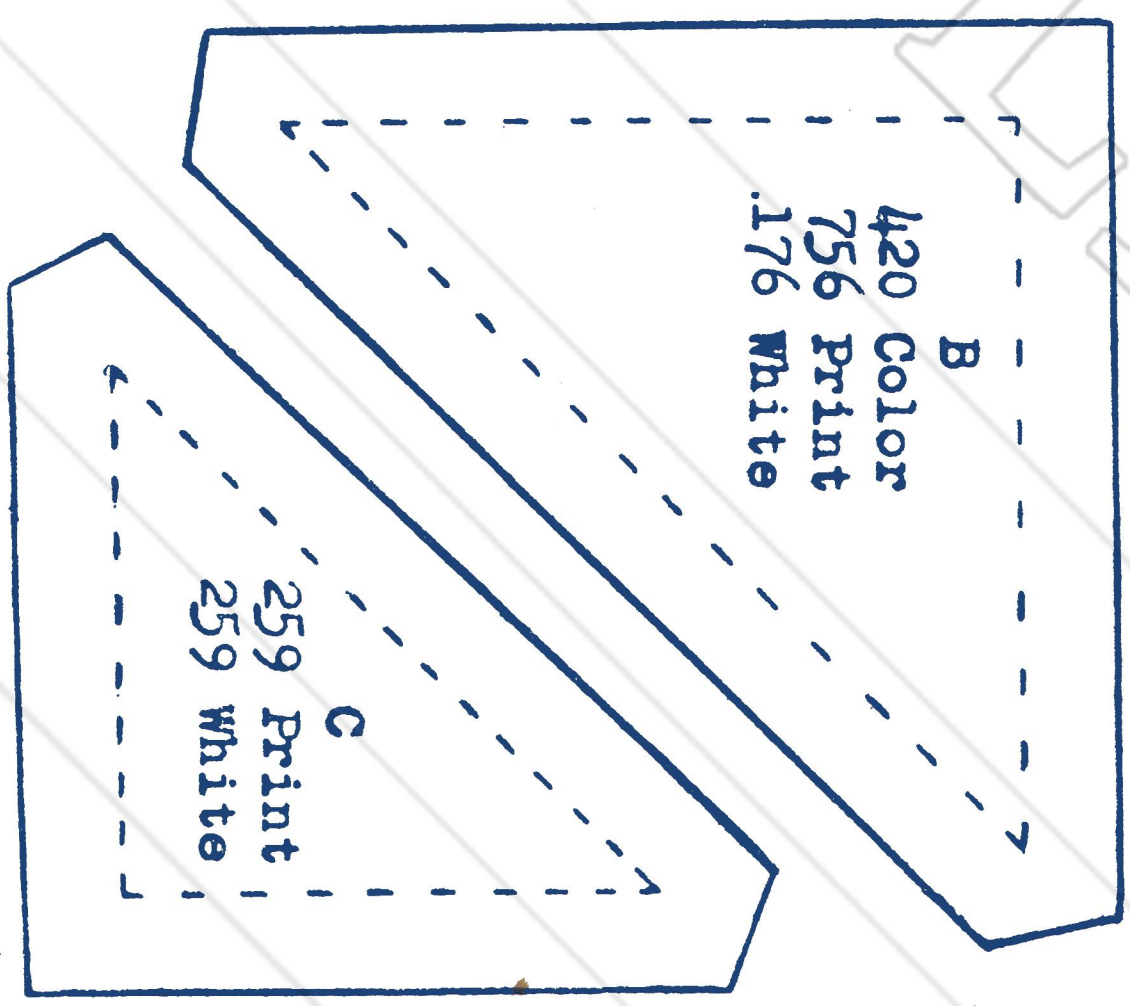
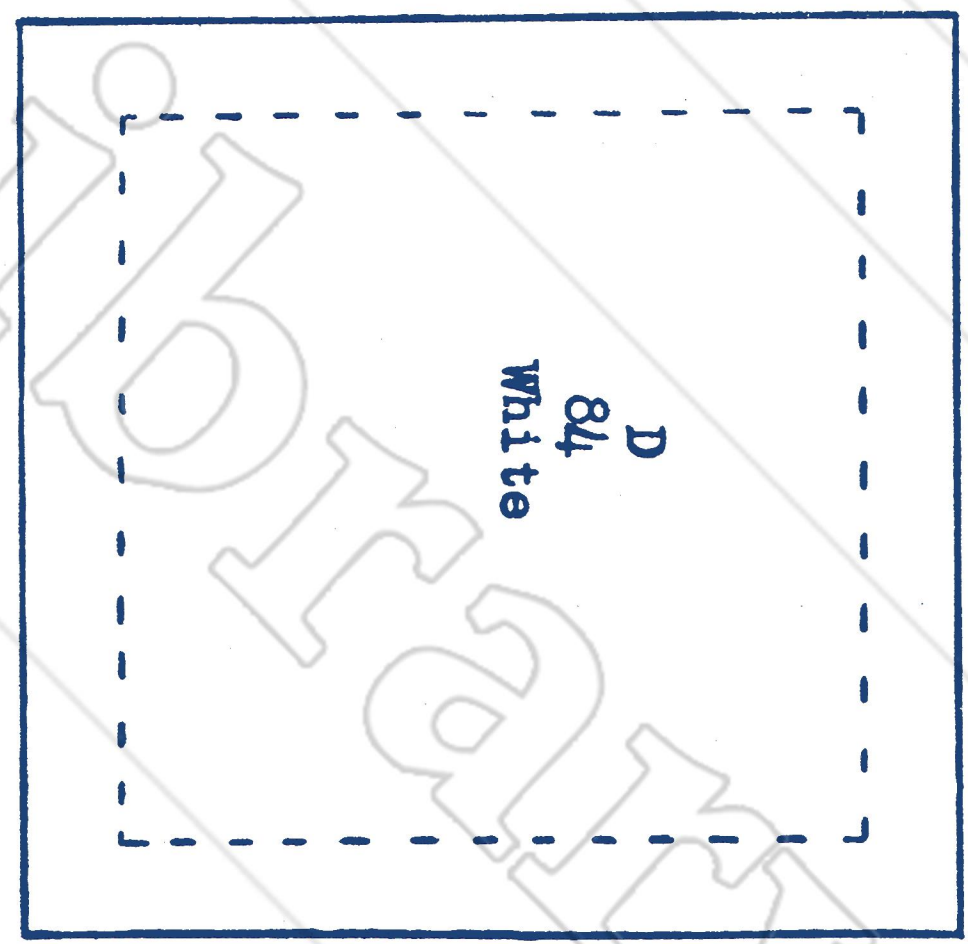
Indian Plume

Finished quilt measures about 87x101.

There are 42 pieced blocks—6 across and 7 up and down. Follow sketch closely while piecing since the position of each triangular piece is most important in the design of the quilt. Piece block in strips, then join these around center A. Set pieced blocks diagonally with white

blocks (E): fill in edges with halves cut diagonally from 8 11/16" white squares. Corners are diagonal fourths of one 9 3/16" white square.

A pieced strip of mixed prints and a 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ " strip of white or color make the border. The latter is two pieces 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ "x87" for ends and two pieces 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ "x101 $\frac{1}{2}$ " for sides. Miter border at corners.



sembled. Oil paints may be used before or after assembling.

SMALL FLOWERS—These may be red, blue or any desired color. Cut a yellow center 3 inches long by 1/4 inch wide and shred one end. Fold a colored shuck through the center—across grain, leave fold rounded (do not crease) as illustrated in Fig. 4. Arrange this around the center and shape, tie tightly about 1 inch from fold. Ends of shucks should extend about six inches below flower. Cut off one end just below where it was tied. Split the other end leaving one strip which is about 1 inch wide to be used for basis of stem. Trim the 2 inch strip down on the diagonal (see Fig. 4).

The small sketch at right in Fig. 4 shows the shape of the calyx—this is not a pattern. Cut a green calyx from tip of a shuck and coat one side with rubber cement or glue (rubber cement preferred). Wrap calyx around the lower part of flower and hold in place until cement is set. Cut a strip of green 1/4 inch wide by length of shuck and coat one side with rubber cement, wrap the stem tightly with this for about 3 inches, clip ends of stem. Make another flower in the same way. Make a third flower and join the ends of the stems of the first two to the third flower when wrapping the calyx (see Fig. 5). Wrap this stem for half an inch, tie two leaves to stem with thread and wrap over ends of leaves and to end of stem.

LARGE FLOWERS—These may be yellow or pink, depending upon the colors used for the small flowers. Cut two strips 3 inches by width of the shuck. Cut points on one side to a depth of 1 inch (see top sketch in Fig. 6), this does away with some of the bulk. Gather ends together and tie tightly just above points. Draw a needle through the other end to shred finely (see Fig. 6). Make two of these and sew to stems between the 3 smaller flowers. Bouquets of artificial flowers may be made from these merely by inserting the end of a small twig or branch in the bottom of the flower before the calyx is added, wrap this stem as for small flower.

BELT—This is made from one long braid. Cut strips 1 1/2 inch wide. Make braid slightly more than three times your waist measurement.

Turn one end back neatly and whip down at back. Measure exact length desired for belt, fold braid back and sew the two braids together to end (see

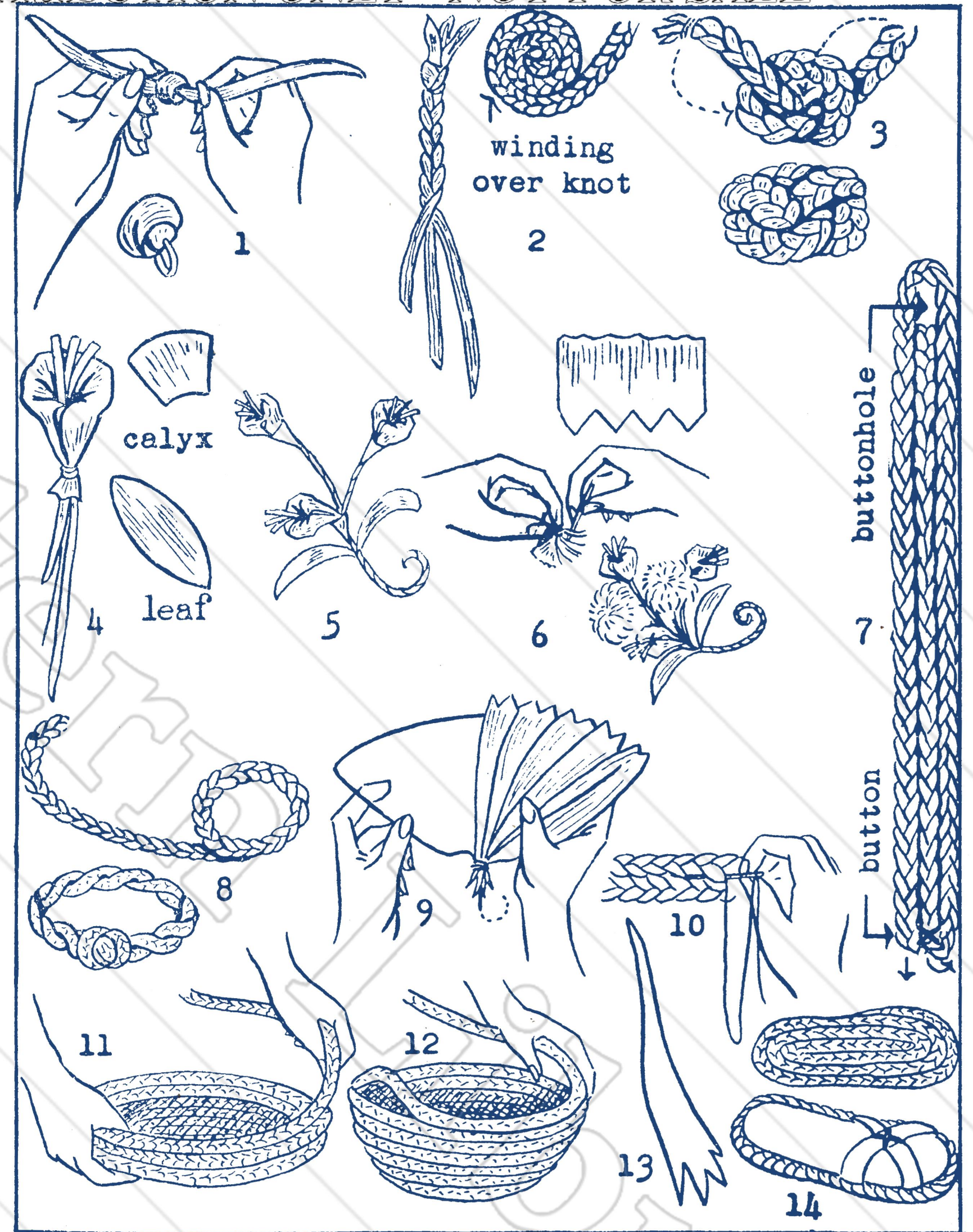
Fig. 7), turn, making a loop on end of belt large enough to go over a large button which has already been described. Sew braid down the other side and to end of center braid. Tuck end of braid under end of belt and sew at back. Sew a large button on this end.

BRACELET—This is made from one braid. Use one-inch strips for this and make the braid about 30 inches in length. Make a circle at one end of braid (Fig. 8)—this should be large enough to pass over the hand with room to spare. Sew the end to braid then twist the remaining braid around through the circle, shaping the two braids so they seem to be wrapped around each other. Try bracelet on for size, as the twisting takes up some of the original circle, and the size of this may need to be adjusted.

When completely around wrap the end of braid over the double braid, wrap it around again at another point to form a kind of knot (see Fig. 8). Sew end of braid at back of bracelet and clip. Shellac, varnish, or paint your bracelet. For a bit of color you may paint it with nail polish. Napkin rings may be made in this way also, paint them various colors.

FAN—A wire coat hanger is used as the frame for the fan—the lighter weight hangers are best. Cut or break off the hook and bend the hanger into the shape illustrated in Fig. 9, by pulling the top and bottom apart slightly. Lay wet shucks over one side of the frame with pointed ends at handle as illustrated. Overlap the shucks slightly, tie around the wire handle. Turn frame and shucks over carefully and repeat on other side.

A heavy colored crochet thread or yarn may be used to complete the fan. Thread a large needle and begin at handle, whip in large stitches over the wire frame along the side catching both layers of shucks with each stitch. Across the top the stitches are made through the shucks and over the wire, but the end of the shucks extend beyond and should be clipped as shown. Finish down the other side. It is important that the shucks be sewed to the wire frame, and that the stitches be large—3/4 inch in length. Make these on the diagonal so that the shucks will not split. The handle is made from that section of the corn which is at the base of the cob, and to which the shucks grow. Soak this, slip over the wire and allow to dry. The



ends of the shucks may be wrapped attractively with colored thread just above the handle.

RUGS—The rugs are made of braids—use strips 2" or more in width. A 3/4 inch braid is ideal. For color contrast soak quantities of the shucks in hot dye water. A rug having a center of natural color shucks with border stripes of brown or black is very attractive.

In making your rug each row or round may be separate or you may work with a continuous braid. The separate rounds make a prettier pattern as the ends meet perfectly, while with the continuous rounds there will be a jog of one row at the end of a round. Another advantage in the separate rounds is that after the rug becomes of usable size it may

be used and more rows may be added as they are ready.

For the oval rug illustrated, begin with a braid about 14 inches long, turn, sew braids together with heavy thread or cord so stitches do not show on the right side. If thread is waxed with beeswax it will be much stronger. Use a large needle and go under a fold of one braid then under a corresponding fold on the other braid (see Fig. 10). At ends hold the braid in rather full to give enough extra flare so that it will lie perfectly flat.

In making separate rounds sew ends of each round together securely, and as neatly as possible. In each new round make the joining at a different point, skipping from side to side so all of the joinings will not occur together and make them more noticeable. The rug will lie better if the braid runs in the opposite direction in each round.

If you plan to use a continuous round begin in the same way and sew the braid on round after round until the rug is of desired size. To add colored rounds change the three strands of braid to color as evenly as possible and sew the colored round in place. The ends of this round will not meet exactly—then change back to former color. For a round rug begin with a tiny circle made by twisting the end of the braid.

WASTEBASKET—The same size braid which was used for the rug may also be used for the wastebasket. Begin as for the round rug, make a circle about 12 inches across, then turn up for the sides (see Fig. 11). Sew the braids together on the outside, flare the top slightly. The basket should be about 18 inches tall.

FRUIT BOWL—This is begun just like the wastebasket, make a flat circle about 8 inches across then gradually shape up to bowl shape. The handles are made from loops of the last row of braid. Sew braid down as before for a distance, make a loop in keeping with the size of the bowl (see Fig. 12), skip over a cor-

responding space on the edge of bowl and continue with round as before, make another handle opposite this one.

HEARTH BROOM—This is made from a bunch of shucks attached to the end of an 18" length of cane pole. The smaller ends of the shucks are at top and the lower ends should be trimmed and split as shown in Fig. 13. Wrap with cord or yarn and tie.

SLIPPERS—The slippers have a sole made of braid. Use 2 inch strips for this. Stand on paper and draw around foot to determine width and length needed. The sole should be slightly larger than foot. The length of the center braid in the sole is determined by subtracting the width of sole from the length. Hence if you wish your sole to be 9" long and 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide, begin with a strip of braid 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long. See top sketch in Fig. 14.

Measure 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches from one end of braid, turn and sew 2 braids together, continue around until sole is desired size, turn end of braid in and sew down on one side of sole—use this side as top of sole. Old terry cloth towels and wash cloths make excellent lining and straps. Cut 2 thicknesses of the same shape as sole but slightly smaller, place over sole as padding. Cut another thickness of same shape but slightly larger than sole, turn this under all around, place over padding and pin in position (see lower sketch of Fig. 14).

Make two straps of the same material—cut these 2" wide and about 7" long, fold this over to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in width and whip down to form a firm strap. Slip one end of each strap under the lining at each side of toe (see sketch), cross over the instep and insert other ends under edge of lining at about center of sole. Fit to foot for exact length of straps. Sew the ends of the straps firmly to the sole, then whip the lining down all around. Fasten the straps where they cross with heavy thread going around the straps several times to make a large cross.

Address All Correspondence and Send Orders to

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