Aunt Martha’s Work Basket

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For PLEASURE and PROFIT

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

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Spring Preview

An issue brimful of the very newest needlework and handicraft ideas is in store for next month's WORKBASKET readers.

Luncheon Mats

These mats are made in rows of graduated stitches which form diamonds and are worked one upon the other. The different effects are obtained by the way in which the colors are combined.

The following directions will result in a mat about 10x14, but may be altered to make a larger or smaller piece. Twelve sts are required to form one diamond, so to increase length of row, add 12 sts to ch for each additional diamond desired; 12 sts less will decrease one diamond (about 1½ inches). The beginning chain (ch) of each mat is at the bottom in the illustration.

Mercerized crochet thread about the size of No. 5 perle cotton was used with a number 4 hook. Approximately 300 yards of thread are required for one mat, or about 5 yards for one row of 7 diamonds.

Ch 86, sk 1 st of ch. *1 sl st in next st, sc in next, 1 hdc in next (hdc wrap thread over hook, insert hook in next st of ch, draw a loop through, thread over and draw through all three loops on hook), then 1 dc, 1 htr (htr—wrap thread over twice, insert hook in next st of ch, draw a loop through, thread over, draw through two loops on hook, thread over and draw through all three loops on hook, 1 tr; the next and longest st in the diamond (which will be called hdt) is made by wrapping thread around hook 3 times, insert hook in next st of ch, draw a loop through, thread over and draw through two loops (twice), thread over and draw through all three loops on hook. Reverse the order of sts and work 1 tr, 1 htr, 1 dc, 1 hdc, 1 sc. Repeat from * all along ch, ending with 1 sl st in last st of ch. There will be 7 diamonds. If the second row is to be of same color as first—as in the mat at top—ch 4, turn to begin 2nd row—this ch 4 and yellow. The second from top has one row of red, one white, one blue, three white and the red, white and blue repeated. The third mat from top has three rows of green, two white worked together to make the wavy effect, two green and two white. The fourth or bottom mat has one row of dark blue, one of a lighter blue and one of white, repeated three times, with the last white as first row of center.

About 60 rows are needed to make the mat 14 inches long. Two of the borders are composed of 8 rows and two of 9 rows, and the corners should have about 40 and 42 rows respectively. For longer mats or scarfs add number of rows in center.

In working the border on second end of mat, be sure to begin in a row which corresponds to the border on other end. If border rows began in half diamonds as in mat at top, begin the second end the same way. If whole diamonds are used as in the next mat, begin other end this way. In this mat the red and blue are reversed on the second end so the colors will correspond from ends in to center of mat.

For the third mat, begin border on second end in half diamonds to correspond with last row on first end. The mat at bottom follows same procedure, but colors must be reversed on second half.

If desired, the border rows may be repeated at regular intervals throughout the entire mat. In this case where more than one color is used in the border, the order of the colors must be reversed after the center of the piece.

When starch clings to your iron sprinkle salt on piece of brown paper and run iron over it.

To prevent window from frosting, apply a very thin coat of glycerine on both sides of glass. This will prevent the formation of moisture.

Carpets will be greatly brightened if gone over with cloth wrung from water to which vinegar or ammonia has been added.

To sharpen machine needles stitch into sandpaper about 20 to 40 stitches, then run rod into curtains easily over the brass rod with an old glove finger. A screw or nail will penetrate hard wood much easier if first rubbed with soap.

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Chair Set of Square Medallions

About 330 yards of ecru or white number 10 mercerized cotton and a number 10 steel hook are used in making this set.

Each medallion is about 1½ inches square. 85 medallions are required for the chair back: 11 for width and 9 for length in the longest row. 30 medallions are needed for each arm rest: 4 for width and 8 for length in the longest row.

These medallions may be joined to form a variety of other articles—place mats, bedspread, tablecloth, scarfs, etc.

CHAIR BACK:

1st medallion: ch 7, join into a ring.
1st rnd: ch 5, 1 dc in ring, * ch 2, 1 dc in ring. Repeat from * 5 times around ring, ch 2, sl st in 3rd st of ch 5 to close, sl st in next two sts. 2nd rnd: ch 3, 2 dc in first space with the 2 sl st just previously worked at end of 1st rnd, * ch 3, 3 dc in next space, ch 1, 3 dc in next space. Repeat from * all around, ending with 1 ch, sl st in top of 3 ch at beginning of rnd. Fasten and break thread, weaving end in carefully.

2nd medallion: ch 7, join into ring, work first rnd as in first medallion. 2nd rnd: ch 3, 2 dc in first space, ch 3, 3 dc in next space, * ch 5, draw last loop of chain through 6th st of 11 ch of first medallion, ch 5, 3 dc in next space, ch 1, draw last loop of ch through 2nd ch between two groups of dc of first medallion, ch 1, 3 dc in next space, ch 5, draw ch through 6th st of next ch 11 of first medallion, ch 5 and finish 2nd rnd as in first medallion. Follow directions given for this second medallion, joining each one side by side until there are 11 across.

After this first row when medallions must be joined on two sides, the same procedure is followed, working in joining st of two or three 11 chs at corners.

Using these same directions work next 5 rows even. 7th row: ch 2, skip one medallion at each end and continue, working 9 in this row. 8th row: skip two medallions at each end of 7th row and work 5 in this row. 9th row: work even. This completes chair back.

ARM REST:

Follow same directions given for chair back in making arm rests, but connect only four medallions for width of first row. Work 7 rows even. In 8th row, skip one medallion at each end. This row completes arm rest. Work the other by these same directions.

Advice

Before heating milk in a saucepan, rinse the pan with water and it will not scorch so easily.

To freshen shredded cocnut, soak it in sweet milk a few moments before using.

When filling jam pans, leave one of the small sections empty and fill with water—the gems will never scorch.

To hasten the cooking of vegetables, add a small pinch of baking soda to the water.

To economize on laundry soap remove wrapper and allow soap to dry at least a week before using.

Add sugar (one tablespoon to the egg) before beating egg whites and your meringue will never fail.

Pour boiling water on oranges and let stand for five minutes. This will make the white lining come away from the skin and it will be easier to prepare.

When using a new dishcloth sew a large bone button at one corner. In scraping dishes and pans use the button instead of a knife.

When large quantities of fruit or vegetables must be peeled, protect the finger which directs the paring knife with a piece of adhesive tape.

Lemons can be freshened if old and dry if placed in hot water (not boiling) for about two hours. Keep water hot at temperature.

An American History Quilt

Important dates in American history are recorded on the twelve blocks of this embroidered quilt. 1492—and America's discovery, 1607—the Jamestown settlement of Capt. John Smith, 1620—the Plymouth colony, 1776—Paul Revere's famous ride, 1777—the stars and stripes born of Betsy Ross's nimble fingers—on through the turbulent formation of a young country go the scenes of this unusual quilt. Alternate quilted blocks bear an eagle emblem, and the quilt is set with red and white stripes and blue squares appliqued with white stars.

Transfer for the 12 embroidered blocks and the quilting motif comes as C9260. 25c. Or the quilt may be had already stamped on fine white material as C9260M, $1.95. 25c blocks in 12½x12½ size bring 12 for embroidering and 13 for quilting.
Crocheted Wash Cloth

Mercerized crochet cotton no heavier than number 5 perle cotton is used in making this cloth. About 250 yards are needed. Use a size 4 bone hook. This hook will seem large for the thread, but it is necessary so that the work may be done very loosely. If you prefer, use a number 2 or 3 steel hook and do the work even more loosely. White or any color may be used—sample was salmon with turquoise trim.

For a cloth 12" square, ch 70, sk 2 sts of ch, sc in each remaining st of ch. These sc MUST be made so loosely that the hook barely touches the loops as it moves in and out. Ch 2 at end of row and turn. If a smaller cloth is desired, make fewer sts in beginning ch (gauge—about 6 sts to an inch). The rest of the cloth is actually worked in sc, but it differs from regular sc in the way in which each row is worked into the previous row. For instance, in regular sc, you would work the 2nd row into the threads along the edge of first row. In making this cloth, however, the sc in 2nd row are worked in between the two up and down threads of sc in previous row. This will explain why work must be very loose—if it is not, the hook will not go into this stitch.

If the first row was worked loosely enough the two up and down threads of the sc will resemble a loose knot. Insert the hook in between these threads and work one sc VERY LOOSELY, repeat in each st of row, work last sc into 2 ch at end of previous row. You will notice that in this work the first and second rows overlap more deeply than regular crochet, and that in working the 2nd row the 1st row becomes closed and firm. The same thing will occur when the 3rd row is worked into the 2nd. After working a row or two you will see just how loose the sts should be.

Ch 2, turn at the end of each row, and work last st of each row into 2 ch at end of previous row. Continue working rows until cloth is square. The last row should be worked with a STEEL HOOK size 3 so that it will make a firm edge. Fasten end clip end.

With same or contrasting color, fasten in where beginning ch was started. Work a row of sc across this edge of wash cloth, making a st into center of each st in first row of cloth. Work 2 sc, ch 1, 2 sc in corner, sc in end of each row on next side, 2 sc, ch 1, 2 sc in corner, sc in center of each st on next side and continue around wash cloth.

Initials may be worked in rows of chain stitch after the cloth is finished.

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