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Designing with Cut Paper



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NDS

BULLETIN IIB

NDS *Designing with Cut Paper*

EMBROIDERY DESIGN, we discovered in our earlier bulletins, can be suggested by the texture of the fabric which is used, or it can be evolved by arranging different stitches side by side to form a pattern. In this bulletin we show you how cut paper shapes can be used as a basis for your designs.

In making a design for embroidery, it is often necessary to create areas and shapes in which stitches and stitch fillings may be used to the best advantage, and it is sometimes easier to cut out these shapes in paper than to draw them with a pencil or brush. Try cutting a simple shape, such as the one which is pinned on the leaf sampler. This is the basic shape for all of the embroidered leaves, and yet each one is quite different because the choice of stitches has been varied. One of the leaves is used to decorate the lid of the small round box illustrated in this bulletin.

The other illustrations show how more elaborate, flowering sprays can be built up by the same method. It is best when creating these to cut out stems, petals and leaves separately and lay them on a differently coloured paper background. The shapes can be arranged

and then pasted in position when you are satisfied with the design.

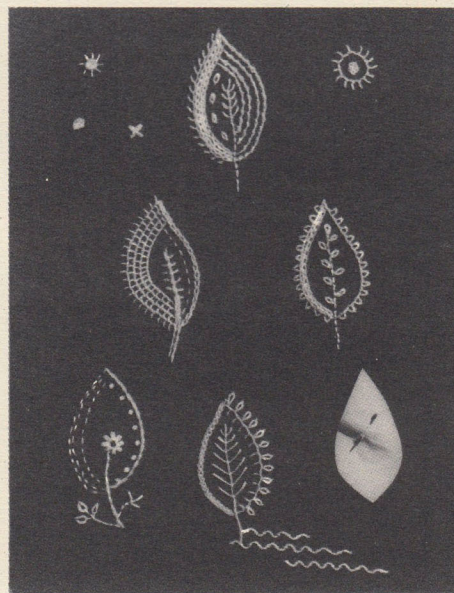
Cut paper shapes suggest that fabric shapes can be cut out in a similar way and applied to a fabric background. This method of applying fabric to fabric is a quick and easy way to achieve a bold and decorative effect. It is a very old method of decoration, and some historians say that it probably began when primitive tribesmen had to patch their tents. At first the patch might be a rough shape just serving a useful purpose, but gradually the shapes took the form of plants or animals or people. We know, too, that the Crusaders used to apply the shapes of birds and beasts on their own and their horses' trappings so that they could easily be identified in battle.

The book holder illustrated in this bulletin has been specially designed to hold the Embroidery Stitches Books published by Needlework Development Scheme, and the front and back covers are decorated with applied motifs. You will enjoy making this holder, and it will form a worthy setting for your collection of books, as well as being a very good way of keeping them together for easy reference.

Bulletin 12b will illustrate ways in which one cut paper motif can be adapted to make three different embroidery designs.

EMBROIDERED BOX

This box is covered with dark grey cotton fabric and is embroidered in white and black. A small leaf motif, similar to those shown on the leaf sampler, decorates the lid. Notice the way it has been arranged to make a pleasant filling for the circular shape by the addition of small spot motifs and lines. The stitches used are Back Stitch, Threaded Running Stitch, Chain Stitch, Buttonhole Stitch, Single Feather Stitch and Coral Knot. Upright lines of Fly Stitch worked in white decorate one side of the box and spirals worked in Whipped Chain Stitch in black and white the other. The edge of the lid and the base of the box are finished with a thick line of Couching. Notice the button which is made from the grey fabric stuffed with a small amount of kapok and decorated with a star worked in Straight Stitch.



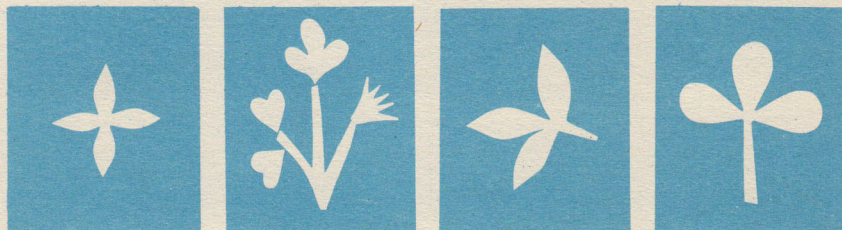
LEAF SAMPLER

A cut paper motif is pinned on the fabric at the bottom right hand side, and this is the foundation pattern for the five embroidered leaves. The shape may be easily transferred to the fabric by basting round the edges through the material. The stitches used in this sampler are Running Stitch, Threaded Running Stitch, Stem Stitch, Chain Stitch, Detached Chain Stitch, Back Stitch, Pekinese Stitch, Buttonhole Stitch, Vandyke Buttonhole Stitch, Fly Stitch, Coral Knot, Rosette Stitch and French knots.

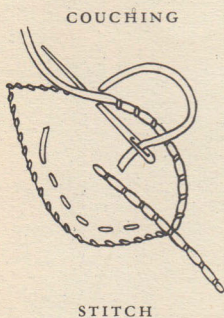


SAMPLER C

This sampler illustrates the way in which cut paper motifs can be used as a foundation for small and delicate embroideries. Some of the shapes are applied, whilst others are developed entirely from embroidery stitches. The stitches used are Couching, Stem Stitch, Chain Stitch, Detached Chain Stitch, Straight Stitch and Running Stitch. These tiny motifs are dainty enough to decorate lingerie or you could embroider one on the corner of a handkerchief.

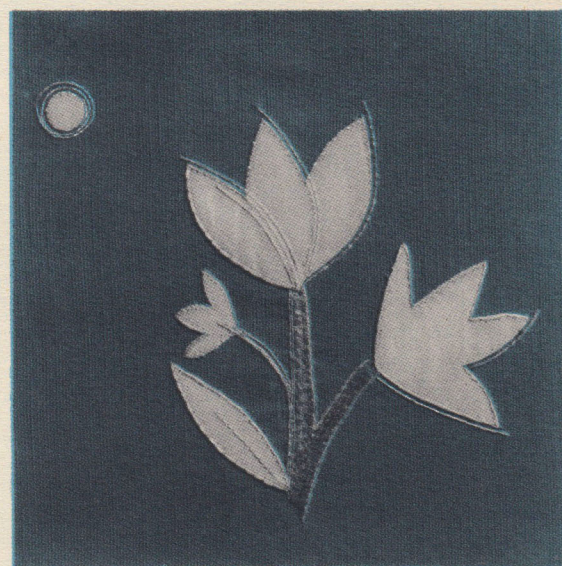


APPLIQUE



In embroidery applied work or appliqué means the application of fabric to fabric in a decorative manner. If you are going to use this kind of enrichment on something which has to be washed frequently, the fabric to be applied should be similar to that of the background and the edges of the shapes must be turned in before applying. When cutting the shapes it is important to remember that the warp and weft should correspond to that of the background fabric.

Diagram: The edges of the fabric shape are turned in and it is laid on the background and basted in position. The edges are then secured with small stitches in a very fine matching thread. When this process is complete, take out the basting stitches, then the edges can be treated decoratively with lines of Couching, as shown in the diagram. This method of treating edges is used for the motifs applied to the covers of the book holder, but it is possible to use a variety of other stitches for this purpose.



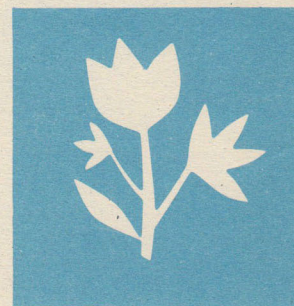
SAMPLER A

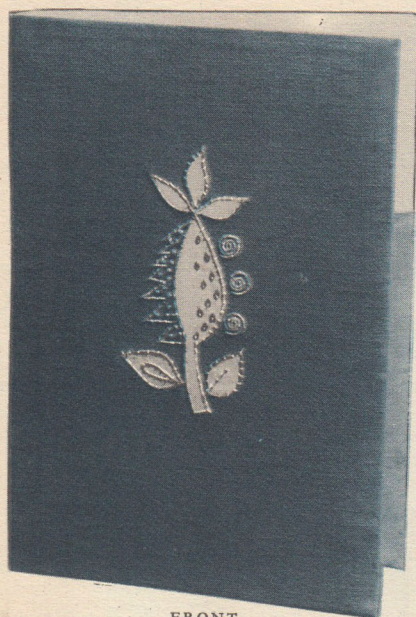
This flower is developed from one of the cut paper motifs which are illustrated and the larger shapes are applied in fine white linen to a blue background. Couching, Straight Stitch and Stem Stitch are used to decorate the edges of the shapes and the stems are worked in Stem Stitch in tones of silver grey. This motif, together with some of the others which are illustrated, could be repeated to form a charming decoration for a bedspread. When finished, it measures 5 in. x 4½ in.



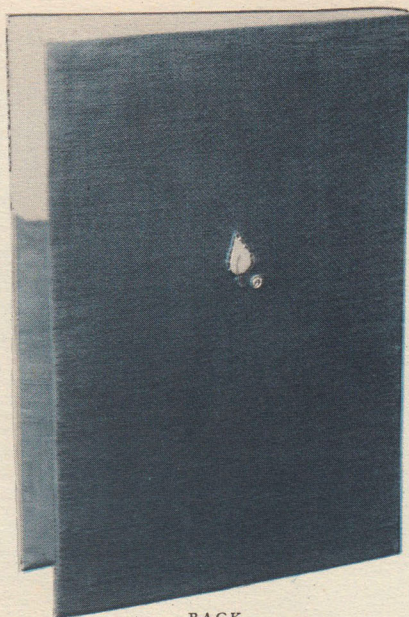
SAMPLER B

This flower spray in fine white linen is applied to a blue and white striped cotton background. The embroidery is worked in Stem Stitch, Couching, Chain Stitch and Straight Stitch. Tones of silver grey with touches of pale pink are used in the embroidery. Several repeats of this spray could be applied on a cushion cover or one spray could be enlarged to make a central motif. This motif measures 6 in. x 4 in.

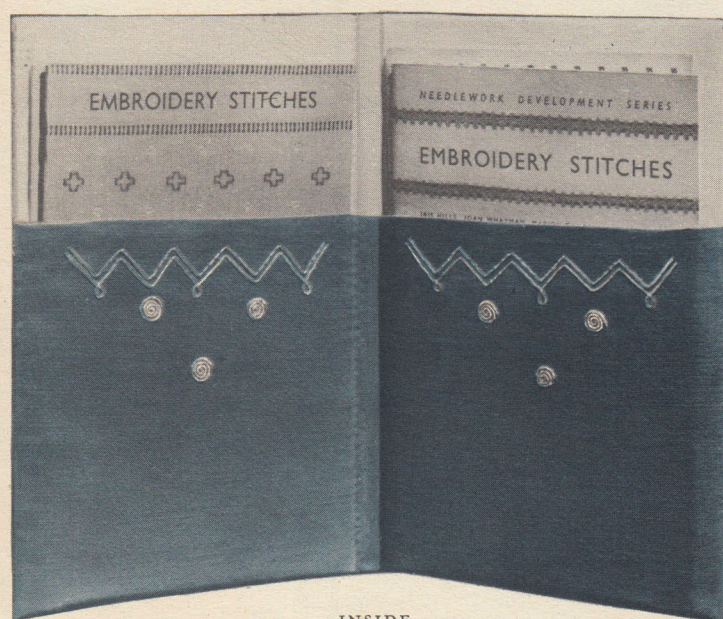




FRONT



BACK



INSIDE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING THE BOOK HOLDER

Materials : You will require one piece of firm cotton fabric and one piece of thin cotton for the lining each measuring $17\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 15 in. *These measurements allow for $\frac{1}{2}$ in. turnings all round.* You will also require two pieces of cardboard, measuring 10 in. x $6\frac{3}{4}$ in.

Sewing Directions : Work the embroidery on the outer fabric, as shown in the illustration. Press carefully on the wrong side.

Diagram 1 : With right sides together, join cover fabric and lining with a plain seam on three sides, as indicated in Diagram 1. Trim seam to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. Snip top corners to within $\frac{1}{8}$ in. Turn to right side and press.

Diagram 2 : Insert cardboard pieces as indicated by dotted lines and secure in position by outlining them with basting stitches through cover fabric and lining, but not through the cardboard. Sew across from A to B with small firm stabbing stitches. Turn in the edges of the remaining open side and slipstitch.

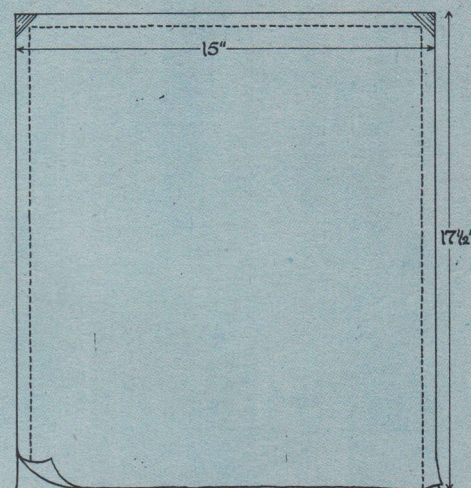
Diagram 3 : Fold up material at A-B to make pockets. Whip the sides together. Stab stitch close to the edges of the cardboard through all thicknesses of fabric to make the spine of the book holder.

Note : Stab stitch is a running stitch, but each stitch is worked separately with a stabbing movement because the stiffness of the cardboard makes it impossible to work in the usual way.

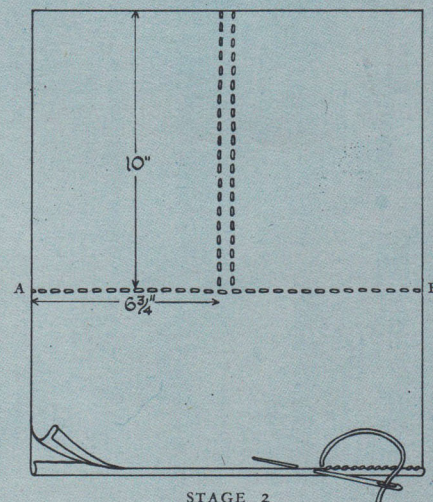
BOOK HOLDER

This book holder is made from coarse blue cotton fabric and is lined with white cotton. The covers are stiffened with cardboard and deep pockets inside hold copies of the N.D.S. Stitch books. The front cover is decorated with a white motif and is embroidered in blue and white. A tiny leaf shape is applied to the back cover and a simple couched border is worked along the edges of the pockets on the inside.

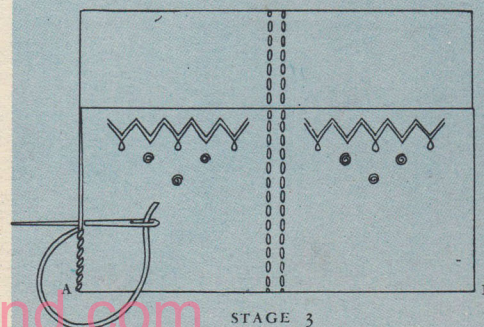
BOOK HOLDER DIAGRAM



STAGE 1



STAGE 2



STAGE 3