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Designing Curtains

BULLETIN 13B

And 40



to Embroider

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Designing Curtains

IN THIS BULLETIN we illustrate three different sets of decorative window curtains and pelmets, the designs for which originated from methods and techniques described in previous bulletins. Checked gingham and striped cotton are used so that the woven pattern of the basic fabric plays an important part in the creation of the finished designs. The smaller curtains are enriched with an embroidered border.

When you select the fabrics for your curtains be sure to choose those which will wash and wear well and which will be a worthy background for your embroidery. This does not mean that the fabrics must be very expensive – good firm cotton is economical and always looks fresh and charming. In our bulletin “And So to Sew” No. 13A you will find much useful information which will help you to plan your room.

All the curtains illustrated here hang in straight folds from their pelmets and so, in designing them, we have emphasised the hemline in order to give weight to the lower edge. This emphasis, in the case of the gingham and the embroidered curtains, is achieved by means of decorative borders placed a little above the hemline. In the striped curtains the applied motifs are graduated in size, the larger ones being placed near the hem and the smaller ones towards the top of the curtain.

The checked gingham curtains would look very

well in a tailored bed sitting room and a cushion can be made to match for the divan bed. The attractive appearance of these curtains depends upon the way in which the fabric is used – pleating and stitching alter the sequence of the checks so that the darker tone is emphasised. The decoration on these curtains is carried out by machine and is, therefore, comparatively quick to work, but it is well to remember that very careful preliminary planning and basting are necessary when creating designs of this kind as the finished effect must be crisp and accurate.

The striped curtains would look charming in a bedroom especially in the country. The blue and white cotton fabric is enriched with applied white sprays similar to those which are shown in greater detail in bulletin 11B which also describes the method for working appliqué embroidery.

Trees, butterflies and birds were the inspiration for the border which decorates the curtains made from plain fabric. The motifs were first of all created in cut paper shapes and arranged in position on the curtain as described in bulletin 12B. Other ideas and arrangements can be used equally well – a row of trees each one different in shape, or animal forms instead of birds. Cut out a number of different motifs and try them on the curtain before making your final choice.

Bulletin 14B will illustrate some attractive embroideries which you can make for your bedroom.

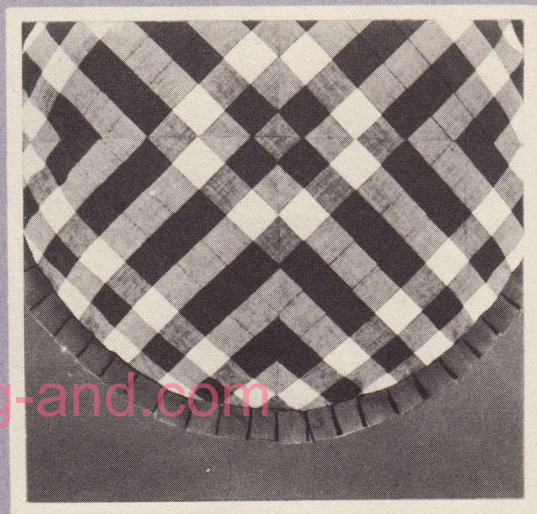
Box-pleated Trimming for the CHECKED GINGHAM CURTAINS

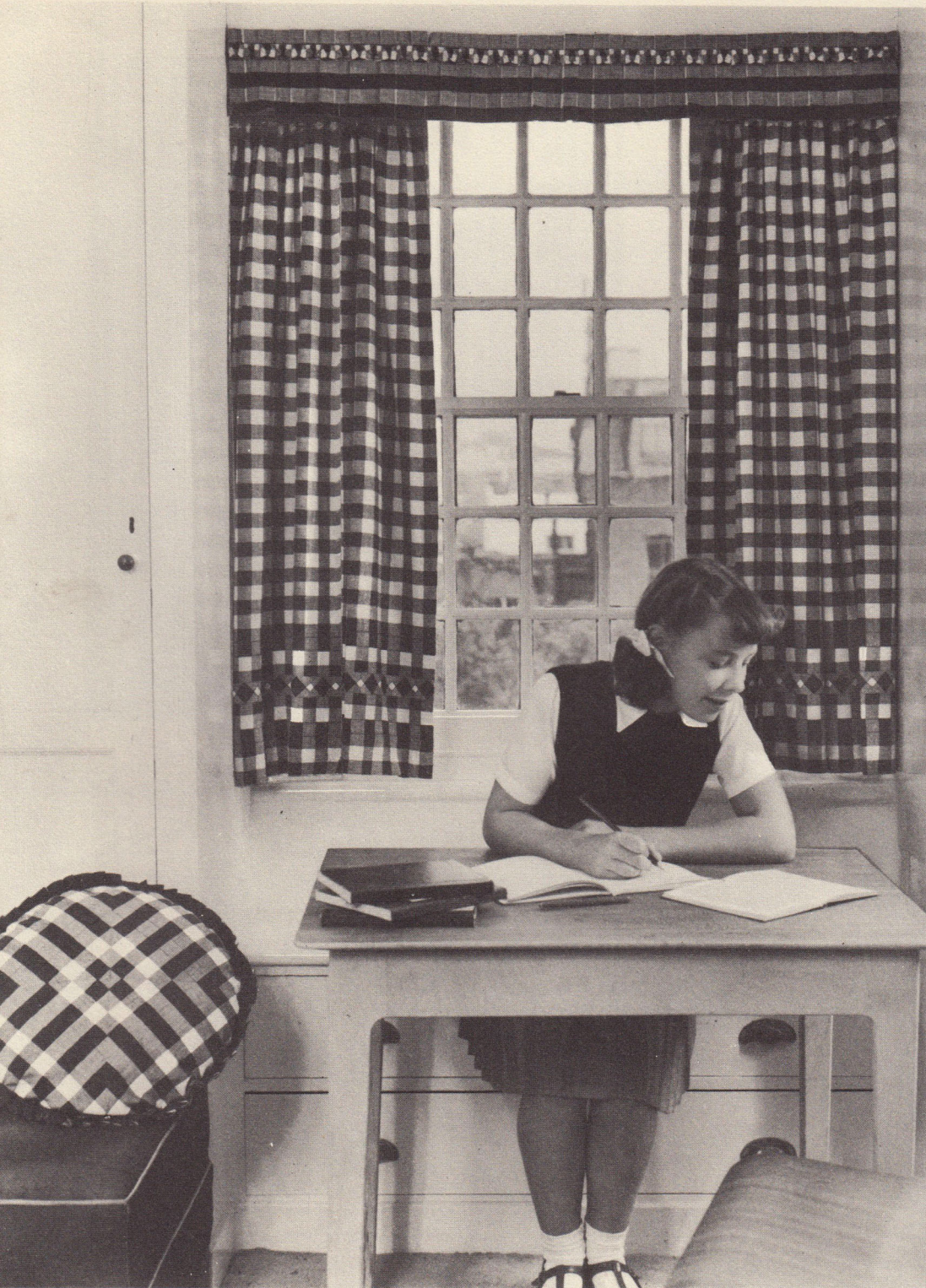
A one inch trimming requires a straight strip of fabric $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide.

1. Join length ways and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from edge to form a Tube. Turn. Press with seam to centre of strip.
2. Pleat strip as in diagram. Baste in position on pelmet. Stitch along centre of strip.
3. Bring upper surfaces of pleats together in pairs and secure these with a few firm stitches.

GINGHAM CUSHION

The top of this cushion is made from four triangular sections of gingham. Before joining the sections together pleat each one so that three rows of checks meet to make a dark band. When the sections are finally joined together the dark bands form a square. The completed cushion may be square or cut to a circular shape like the one illustrated. The edges are finished with a pleated frill with the pleats so arranged that all the dark squares are brought together. A cushion like this must be planned very carefully before the fabric is cut.

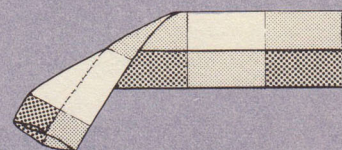




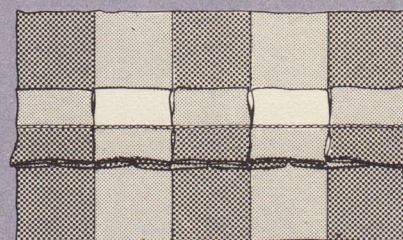
CHECKED GINGHAM

Curtains

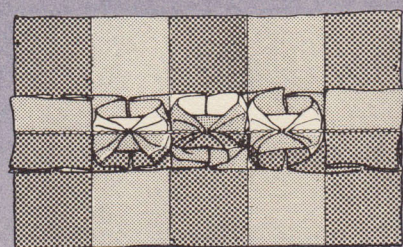
1 BOX-PLEATED TRIMMING



2 BOX-PLEATED TRIMMING



3 BOX-PLEATED TRIMMING



THE CHECKED GINGHAM CURTAINS

Pleating and bias cut fabric make an attractive decoration for the hem of these gingham curtains. The dark bands are formed by bringing two of the darker rows of the pattern together whilst the bias strip which forms part of the border is pleated at intervals to decrease the size of the white diamonds along its length. In making the box-pleated pelmet the fabric is so arranged that the lighter checks are concealed in the pleats and these pleats are secured in position with a narrow decorative box-pleated trimming as shown in the diagram.



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EMBROIDERED CURTAINS

On soft, pale blue fabric the embroidery is carried out in three strands of stranded embroidery cotton in two tones of blue and of cream with dull pink and deep red. The stitches used are Running Stitch, Back Stitch and variations, Chain Stitch, Herringbone Stitch, Surface Button-hole Filling, Chevron Stitch, Couching, Straight Stitch, Rosette Stitch and French Knots. The tree, butterfly and bird motifs which can be seen in greater detail in the close-up illustration are linked together with a decorative scrolling line which is couched in a heavier cotton thread. A similar line enclosing simple circular motifs decorates the pelmet.



STRIPED CURTAINS

Each applied motif which decorates this blue and white striped curtain is enriched with embroidery in white, two tones of silver grey and a very pale pink. The stitches used are mainly Stem Stitch, Chain Stitch, Couching and Straight Stitch. The lower edge of the curtain is shaped in points which are made in a similar way to the scalloped edge which decorates the workbag illustrated in bulletin 7B. The smaller white points which trim the pelmet can also be made in this way from a strip of white fabric or else from squares of white fabric folded as shown in the diagrams and inserted in the lower seam of the pelmet.

POINTED EDGING FOR STRIPED CURTAINS

Each point is made separately from a square of fabric.

1. Fold square of fabric diagonally.
2. Fold again at dotted line to form triangle. Press.
3. Lay triangles on right side of pelmet edge so that they overlap each other $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the edge. Take care that the open sides of the triangles all face in the same direction. Baste. Place pelmet lining in position. Baste. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from edge. Turn to right side. Press.
4. Completed edging.

