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BULLETIN 23B • EMBROIDERY ON WOVEN TEXTILES

# ... AND SO TO EMBROIDER



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# Embroidery on WOVEN TEXTILES

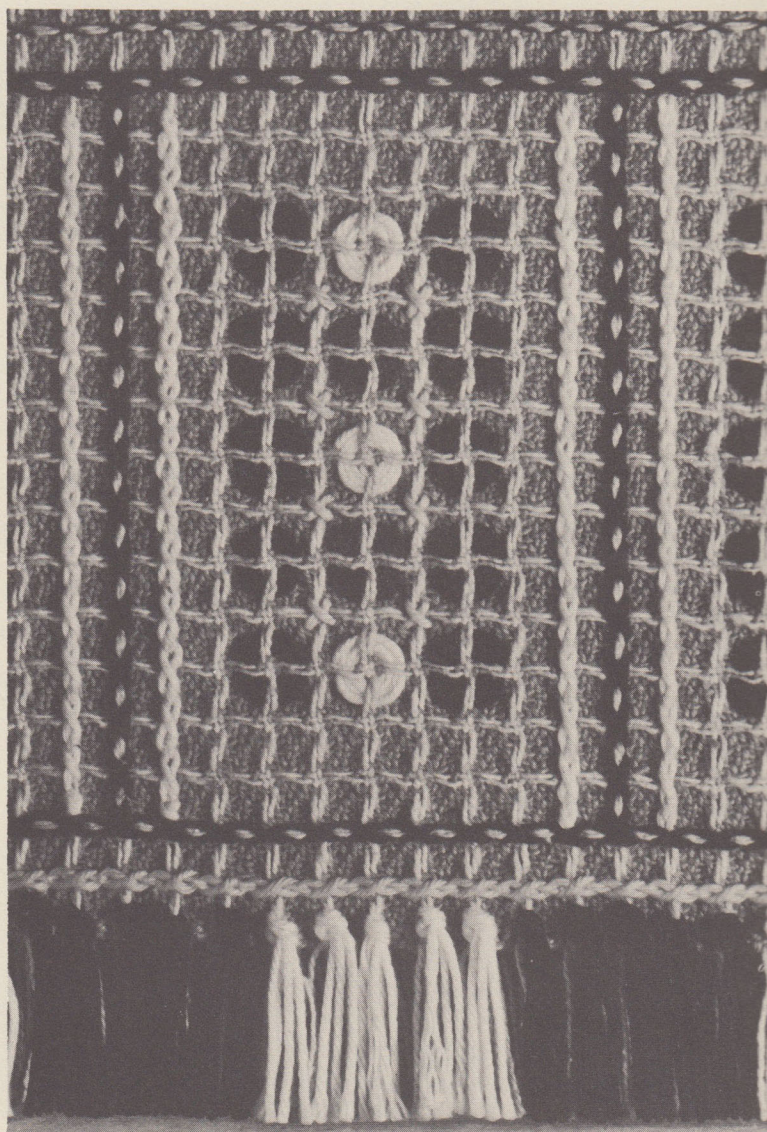
IN THIS BULLETIN we suggest ways in which various types of woven textiles can be used as a background for embroidery.

If you look carefully at many linen and cotton fabrics, you will see that they are very often made with an even 'tabby' weave—a term used in weaving meaning that each weft or horizontal thread passes regularly over and under each consecutive warp or vertical thread. Other fabrics may have been given an interesting texture by the use of different thicknesses of thread in the weave; for instance a thin warp thread might be used together with a thick weft thread. Another way in which the appearance of a fabric can be varied is by taking the weft thread over and under two, three or even four warp threads at a time and a pattern is then formed by the resulting groups of threads. Or perhaps a spot of bright colour is introduced into an otherwise plain weave. If you have ever used two colours when knitting you will realise this will give the back of the fabric a different appearance from the front. Look into your piece-box and try to find examples of these and other variations in the weave of fabrics.

When planning a new piece of embroidery do not forget to look carefully at the fabric you have chosen as a background to see what inspiration you can find in it. Examine both sides as the back may be quite different in colour and weave from the front and so suggest a completely new idea.

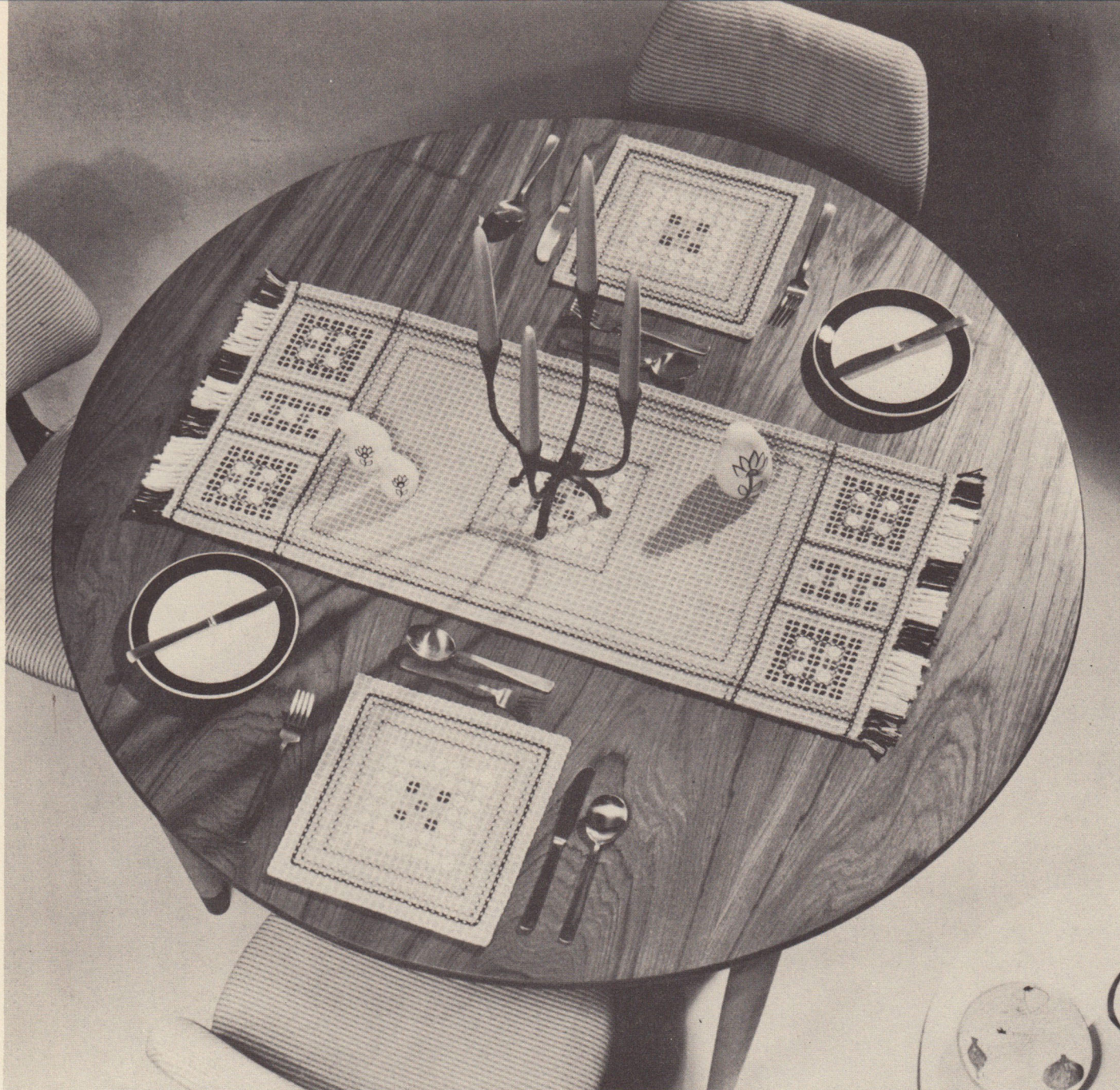
In your school there may be a special room which you like to make really charming for entertaining visitors. We show in this bulletin some ideas for making furnishings which we think would look equally well in this room, in your housecraft flat or in your headmistress's study. The weave and texture of the fabrics we have chosen suggested to us the ideas for embroidery. It is interesting to note that the right side of the fabric is used for the curtains and stool top, while the wrong side was selected for the mats and cushion.

We hope you will enjoy carrying out experiments for yourself and finding out the endless possibilities for designing which lie in the actual way in which a fabric has been woven.



Bulletin No. 24B, will include methods of transferring designs to fabric, also information on the choice of needles and threads.





### TABLE RUNNER AND MATS

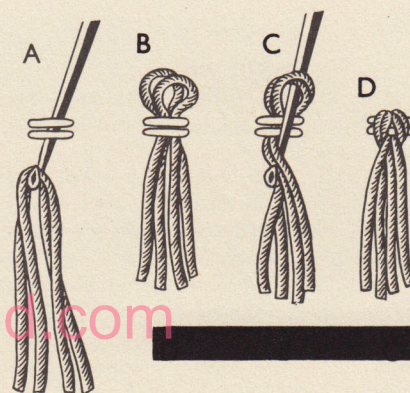
These have been made from a grey furnishing fabric with a woven check in white. The mats are 10 in. square and the runner is 14½ in. x 33½ in. The embroidery is worked in navy, white, green and a little yellow.

When examining the weave of this fabric on the wrong side, it was found that the white check threads could be used as a foundation for interesting experiments with stitchery. The straight lines in the design are made by whipping along the white threads from left to right with a soft embroidery cotton in navy then working back again from right to left. The embroidery is worked on the surface of the fabric and does not show on the reverse side. Notice that the same stitch, when worked in cotton-à-broder, gives a much finer line.

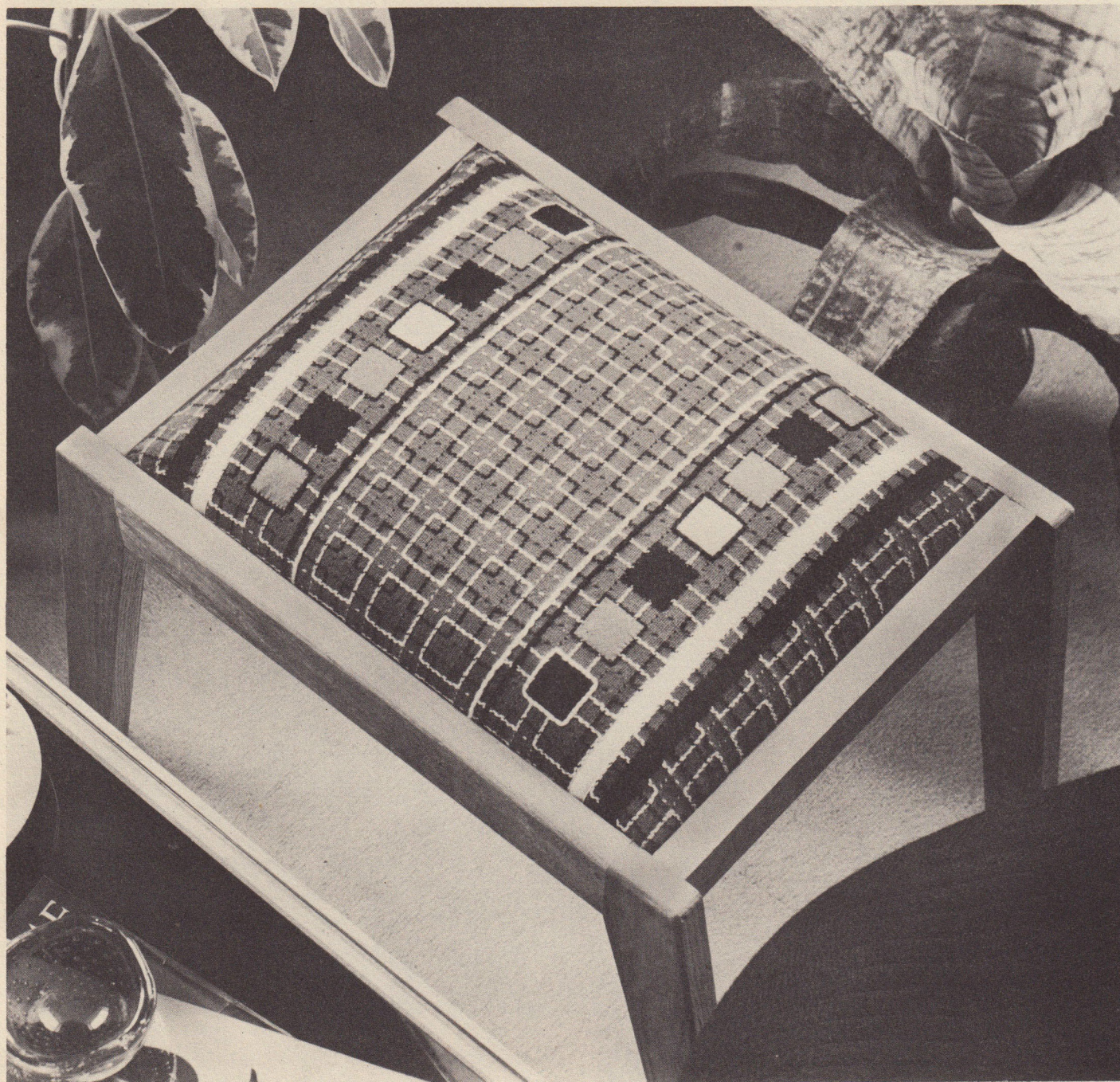
The spots or circles are made by interlacing a thick soft embroidery cotton through the loose threads in the weave of the fabric. The method can be seen clearly in the photograph. Each circle consists of four rings of thread starting from the centre and working outwards. After completing one spot, the needle can be slipped through to the reverse side of the fabric and brought out ready to start the next.

The runner is fringed at each end, the fringe being made thicker by adding extra strands of navy and white embroidery cotton carefully knotted in place (see diagram).

The set of runner and mats can be neatened on the wrong side with a facing of bias binding or alternatively completely lined to give greater protection on a polished table.







### CHAIR BACK

Size 16 in. x 26 in.—using a black and white woven fabric which has been embroidered on the wrong side.

Some of the black lines in the weave have been removed and in their place rows of soft embroidery cotton have been drawn through in a contrasting colour.

The main design consists of small circles of thread interlaced through the weave of the fabric in the same way as has been described for the table runner and mats. A facing of black bias binding has been used to neaten the back.

### CURTAINS AND PELMET

We have chosen an exciting red furnishing

fabric to make these curtains. It has a black and white squared pattern in the weave. The applied decoration is simple and bold so that it stands out well against the strong background. The geometric border is made by applying squares of felt in black, white and grey arranged to form an interesting design. These are first hemmed in place and then the centre square in each group is decorated with a couched outline in black. Lines of couching and bands of tape enclose the border. The tape is machined in position.

### STOOL TOP

We have made a new cover for an old stool top to match the curtains. It also is decorated with felt and bands of tape. Perhaps you would like

to make chair pads to match, or a cushion, with any left-over pieces of fabric which you may have.

### CUSHION

This cushion is 11 in. square and has a 2 in. gusset of felt. It is made from a black and white woven fabric and is decorated by applying squares of coloured felt which are carefully cut to fit in with the weave of the fabric. Some of these are embroidered with simple stars formed by straight stitches. Threads have been removed from the background and a thick soft embroidery cotton drawn through to form a plaid design. The edge of the cushion is finished with a black piping.