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EMBROIDER

BULLETIN 25B

NDS

DESIGNING FOUR APRONS



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DESIGNING Four Aprons

An apron is one of the most useful articles you can make and although it is primarily intended for protection, it should also look gay, charming and fresh.

From early times the apron, or some type of protective garment, has had a place in our wardrobe. For instance, the craftsman and countryman of the 19th century wore serviceable but beautifully embroidered smocks and during the reign of Queen Anne, the dress of the ladies of the Court included a most elaborately embroidered apron. These bright and colourful aprons, however, were not intended to serve any practical purpose, being purely decorative as are the gay and festive aprons still to be found in many European Peasant Costumes. Why not try to trace for yourself the changes which have taken place in apron design and decoration by looking through books illustrating costumes of various periods in British history?

In this bulletin we show you several different apron styles. There is a white cookery apron with matching headband, and the same patterns for these have been used to make an apron and headband from red cotton seerloop fabric embroidered in simple stitches. With this second set go matching oven gloves and a shopping basket cover. Both these aprons and accessories would be useful to you in the school housecraft flat or when helping at home.

We think you will like the adaptability of our other two embroidered aprons which can be worn either as waist aprons only or with their detachable bibs. A tiny checked gingham has been chosen for the one and the other is in a crisp yellow cotton. You could, if desired, quite easily adapt the pattern for the waist aprons to make for yourself an attractive embroidered dirndl skirt.



Cookery Apron and Headband.

Only one yard of a fine white cotton fabric is needed for this apron and headband. Make your paper pattern from our squared diagram and, as no turnings are allowed for, leave $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. at the top of the bib, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. for the bottom hem and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. for the side seams.

Remember that this apron will be laundered frequently to keep it looking fresh and clean so that this must be your first consideration when planning any decoration. We have chosen tiny points made from blue and white striped fabric which are stitched in position with two rows of machining in blue. These points are made by doubling the fabric over, wrong side out, marking the outlines of the points with the use of a paper template, stitching then trimming to within $\frac{1}{4}$ in. of the stitched line and snipping down between each point. Finally pull the fabric through to the right side and press. Bulletin No. 7B shows this same method used for working scallops.

You will be able to think of other ways of decorating your apron—for instance, you may insert rick-rack braid or plan a narrow border of applied fabric as illustrated.

Now, to position the points, baste a guiding line $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. down from the top of the apron, turn the top hem over on to the right side to a depth of $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. and baste to hold the points firmly in place before the final rows of machining are worked.

Next machine or hand stitch the sides and turn up the bottom hem. Draw up the gathers at both sides as indicated in the diagram, then bind the bib edges with a crossway strip of self fabric.

The straps, which are worn crossed over at the back and slipped through loops at each side, are decorated with a single point of the striped fabric at both ends. The patch pocket is also decorated to match before stitching in position.

A cookery headband is very useful to keep

your hair neat and tidy while at work. The finished band measures 17 in. in length and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. in depth at the centre front reducing to 2 in. at the ends. A piece of elastic $\frac{3}{8}$ in. wide and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. long is inserted at the back to keep the band firmly in position.

We have decorated our headband to match the apron, but you might like to embroider your monogram or the school badge, for instance, in the centre.

Matching Set of Apron, Headband, Oven Gloves and Basket Cover.

Red cotton seerloop fabric has been chosen for this entire set. All the articles are decorated with heavy bands of embroidery worked in a thick soft cotton thread. The stitches used are Whipped and Threaded Running Stitch and Sheaf Stitch. Before making up the specimens, complete all the embroidery then lay the fabric face down on a thick soft pad and press carefully through a damp cloth.

The apron and headband are made from the same pattern as the white cookery set.

The oven gloves require lengths of red cotton seerloop and white cotton lining each measuring 6 in. x 45 in. Allow an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ in. for turnings. If you have not a long enough piece of fabric from which to cut this length you could, of course, make joins at the two folds. Pad each end of the lining with a piece of old blanket to a depth of 16 in. and quilt in position with machine stitching. The outer fabric and the lining are then slip stitched together, and a tape loop inserted in the centre of one side so that the gloves can be hung up tidily after use. Next, turn over 8 in. at each end and oversew the sides in two directions to form a Cross Stitch.

The basket cover measures 18 in. x 15 in. At the centre of both longer sides are sewn tapes with which the cover can be tied to the handle of your shopping basket.

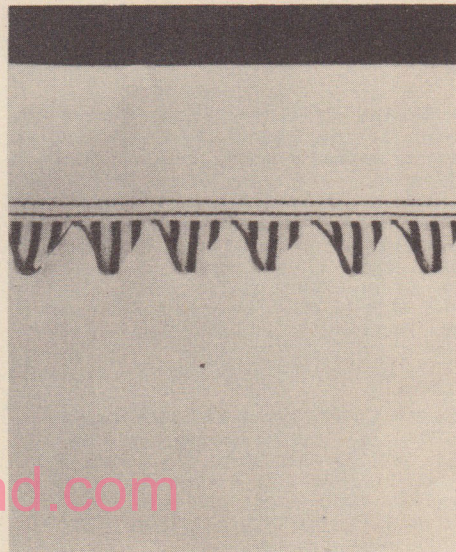
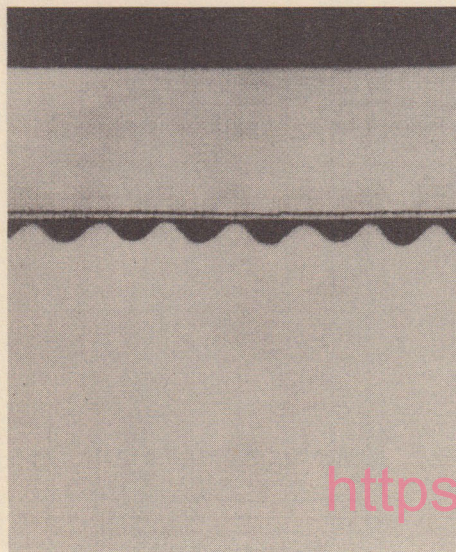
Pink Check Gingham Apron with Detachable Bib.

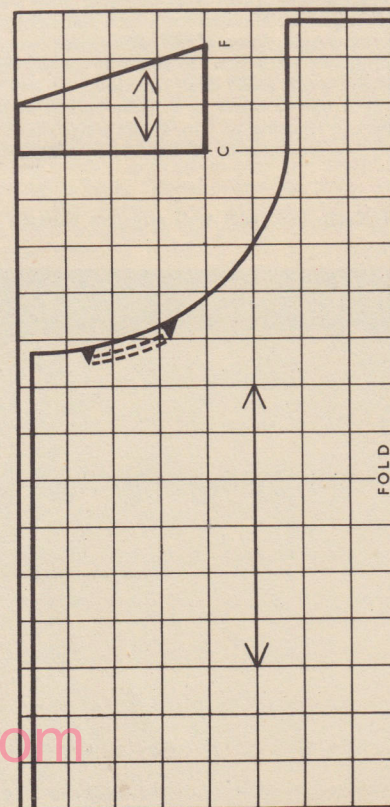
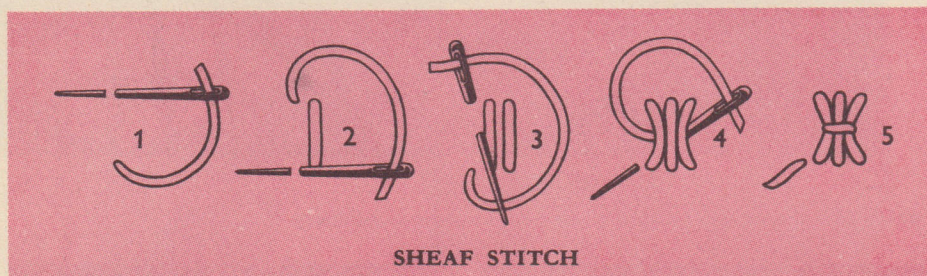
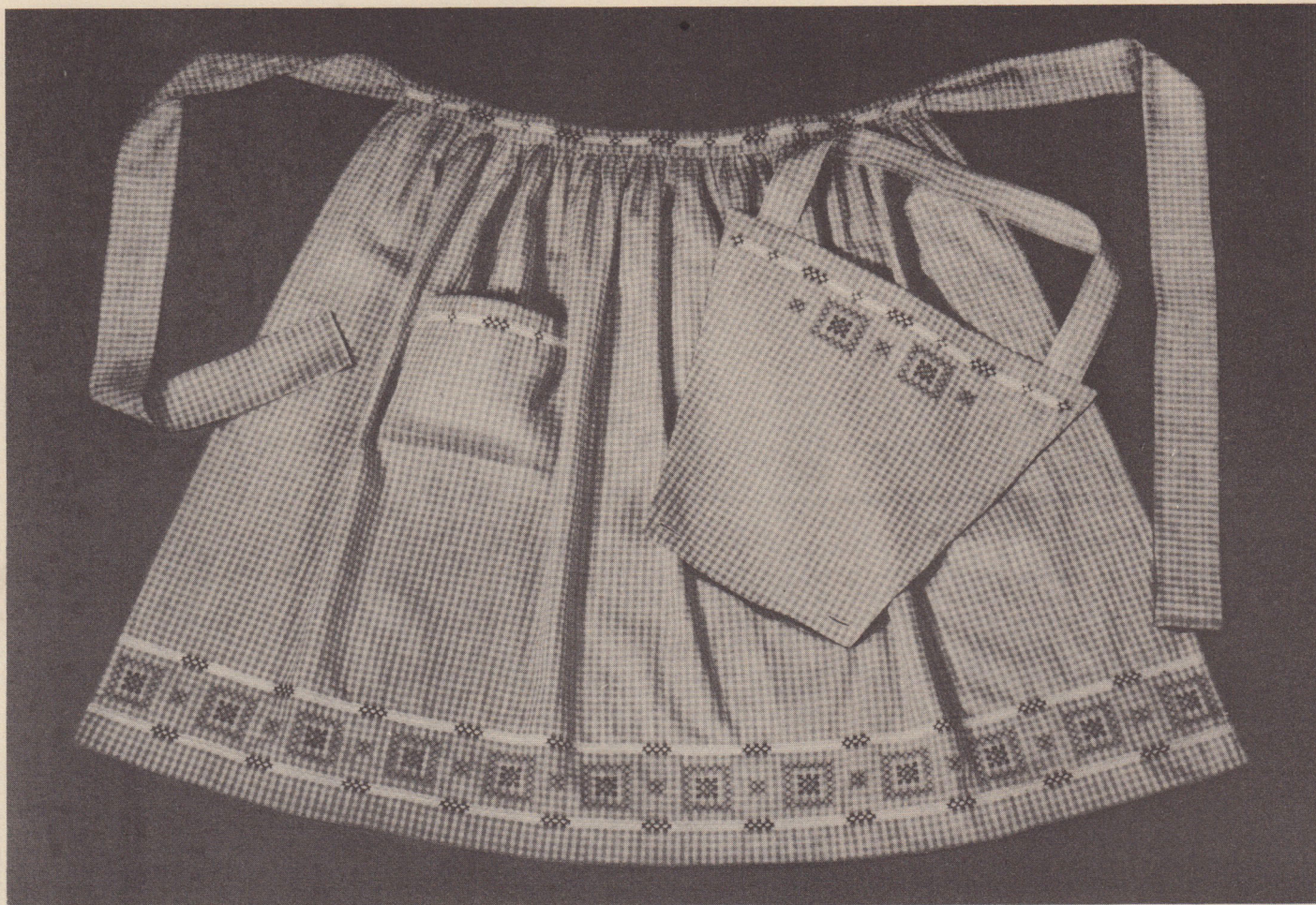
This can be made from $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards of fabric. The finished apron is 23 in. long from waist to hem, and we allowed for a hem sufficiently deep to be caught down at the back to the last row of embroidery stitches. In this way the wrong side of the work looks neat and tidy.

The bib measures 11 in. deep and 12 in. across the top tapering to 7 in. at the waist. It is made of two thicknesses of the check gingham, the



Bulletin No. 26B will suggest various ways in which leaf shapes can be used when designing for embroidery.





embroidery on the front being worked first before the lining is added. Two buttonholes are worked on the bib so that it can be attached to the apron by the linen buttons sewn inside waistband. The halter strap is 18 in. long.

The embroidered design at the hem, on the waistband and on the pocket is planned by using the check of the fabric to build up a pattern worked in Cross Stitch in four strands each of pink, blue and white stranded cotton and couched lines of white soft embroidery cotton.

The apron fastens at the back with two waist ties.

Yellow Cotton Apron with Detachable Bib.

This apron and bib is made from 2 yards of firm yellow cotton fabric. The length of the apron from the waist is 22 in. and, as in the gingham apron, a sufficiently deep hem should be allowed so that it can be stitched to the back of the top row of embroidery.

The gay embroidered border, which is 3 in. deep, consists of interlacing lines showing an interesting contrast of threads and stitches which can be seen clearly in the close-up illustration. Couching, Stem Stitch, Running and Whipped Running Stitch and Chain Stitch are worked in coton-à-broder, soft embroidery cotton and mercerised sewing cotton in pale turquoise, white and black. Finally, a small woven cross is worked at intervals along the border. The apron fastens with waist ties and has two pockets edged with a line of couching.

When making the bib, work the embroidered outline first then line with a piece of self fabric. The bib fastens at the back of the neck with a button and loop and is attached to the front of the waistband by means of two covered buttons and worked buttonholes. You will probably be able to find a similar pattern to the one we have chosen by looking through the catalogues of any of the well-known trade pattern companies.