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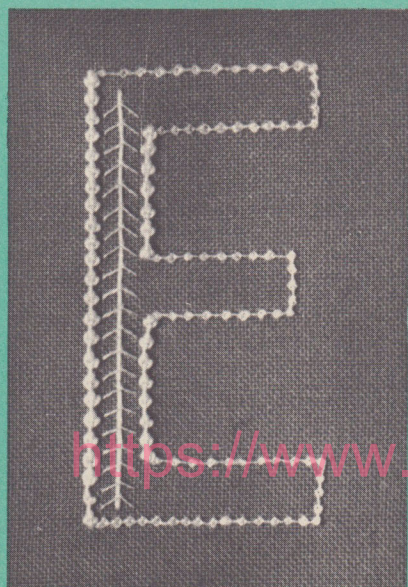
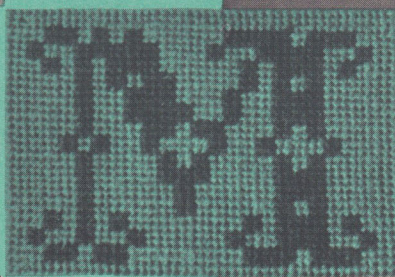
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EMBROIDER

DESIGNING WITH LETTERS

• BULLETIN 28B



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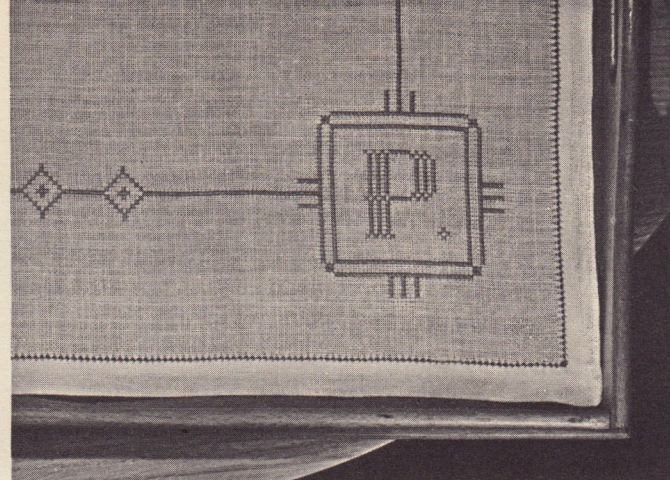
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Designing with Letters

There is, at present, a general revival in the art of hand-writing, and we thought, therefore, you would be interested to see examples of the use of lettering in embroidery.

The inscription cut in stone on the Trajan Column in Roman times has always been accepted as representing perfectly proportioned capital letters. Various types of lettering have been developed from this, and many books are available which include details of the formation of these different alphabets. You should consult one or two of these books before selecting the basic design for decorative initials or monograms. Some letters are naturally easier to combine than others, and it is important that a feeling of good proportion, without undue distortion, should be retained. Remember to choose a method of embroidery suitable for your fabric and use a type of lettering which can be satisfactorily embroidered in that method.

Bulletin No. 29B "Designing with Flowers" will contain ideas for the treatment of flower forms in embroidery.

Cross Stitch is perhaps the most simple way of working letters in embroidery. Any of the evenly woven fabrics can be used, and gingham with a very small check is also suitable. The size of the letters can be varied according to the size and number of Cross Stitches used.

Cross Stitch alphabet. This is easy to follow and the simple block letters can be used singly as initials, or combined to make a name.

Hand Towel. The word "Needlework" embroidered in Cross Stitch decorates this towel, intended for use in the Craft Room. When combining a number of letters in this way, space them carefully to produce a regular effect

so that one part of the word does not look more cramped than another. By adding a small motif between each letter, we have made an attractive border design which is a decoration in itself.

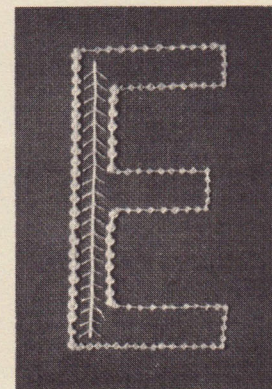
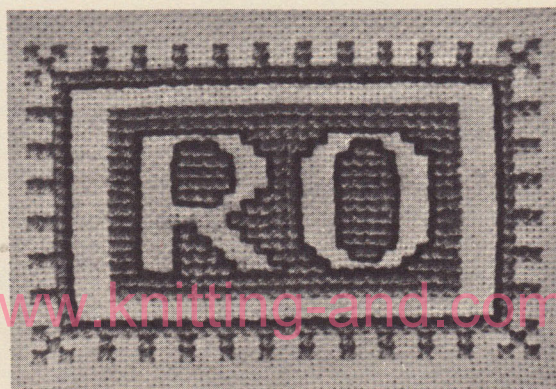
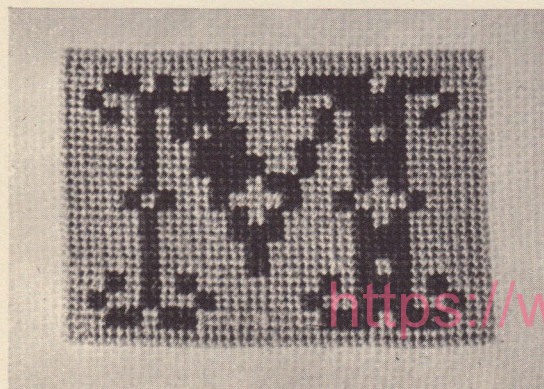
Traycloth with initial "P." This is worked in Cross Stitch on a fine linen. The letter is more elaborate than those used in the hand towel, and form part of the geometric design. Graph paper is very useful when planning variations of the Cross Stitch alphabet in this way.

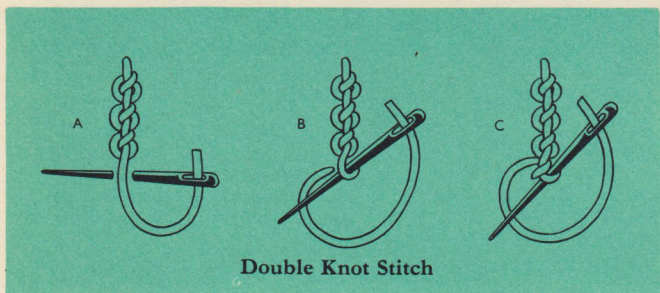
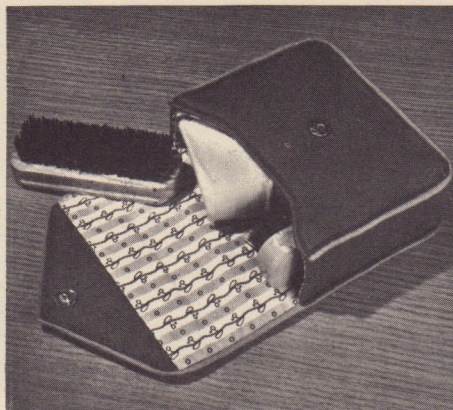
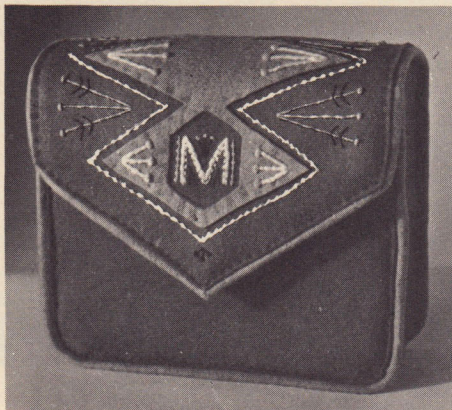
Letter "M". This example is embroidered in Tent Stitch, using three strands of stranded cotton.

Initials "R.O." in Assisi work. This is a method of embroidery in which Cross Stitch is used to fill in the background, while the design is left plain and outlined in Holbein Stitch.

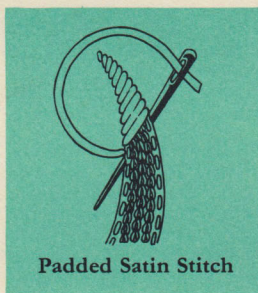
When lettering is required on fabrics, such as felt, organdie or cotton, which do not have pronounced weaves, the letters should be drawn out first of all, then carefully transferred to the fabric by a suitable method. (See bulletin 24B for methods of transfer.)

Letter "E". The thick and thin contrasting outline effect of this block letter is obtained by working Double Knot Stitch in coton à broder and one strand of stranded cotton. Thorn Stitch is added for further decoration.





Double Knot Stitch



Padded Satin Stitch

Case for shoe-cleaning equipment. This is made from tan and pale grey felt. Notice how the letter "M", being incorporated in the design, is not at once apparent. The embroidery is worked mostly in Couching, Double Knot Stitch, French Knots and Back Stitch. For practical purposes, the case could be lined with plastic or one of the new fabrics which can be sponged.

Case for coat hangers. The decorative letter "R" on the front flap is worked in Coral Stitch, Running and Whipped Running Stitch. The case is made from red cotton fabric, backed with one of the new synthetic stiffening materials. It would make a charming gift, marked with the appropriate initial.

Scarf with initials "G.L." The attractive border designs on this scarf are made by repeating and reversing the letters to form a pattern. The

embroidery is worked in Double Knot Stitch and Stem Stitch in white and pale green stranded cotton. Rows of Hemstitching and Running Stitch complete the borders and the ends are finished with a fringe.

Initials "H.A." This example shows lettering in Shadow Work on organdie. We have used one strand of stranded cotton and worked the fine lines in Back Stitch.

Initials "L.D." An example of the traditional way of marking household linen in padded Satin Stitch. The padding is formed by using Running Stitch for the outlines and Chain Stitch to fill in between the double lines. Satin Stitch is then carefully worked over the padding, the stitches being kept always at the same angle. The fine lines are embroidered in closely worked Stem Stitch.

