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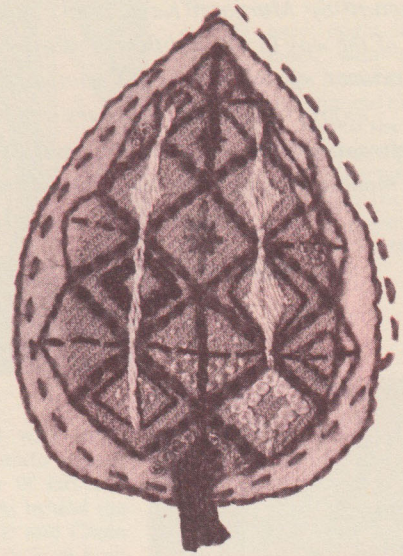
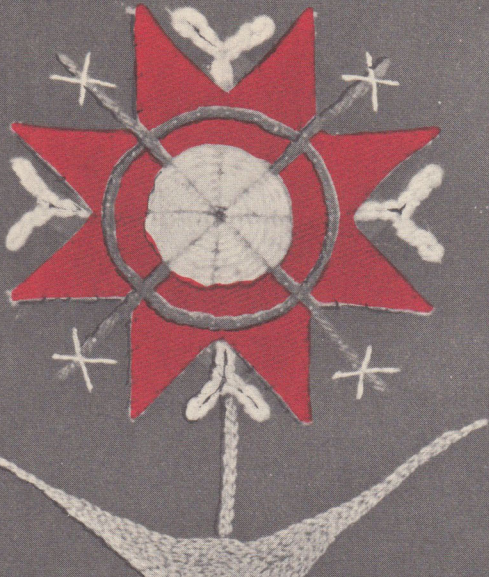
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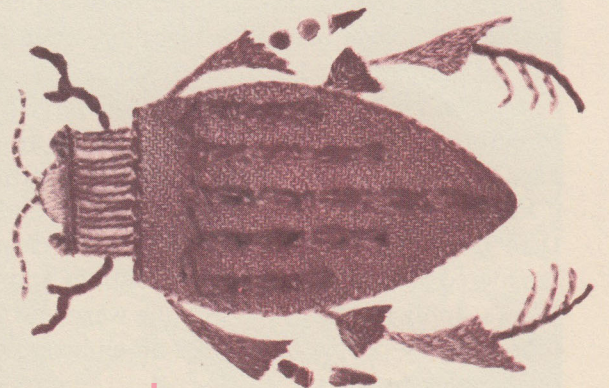
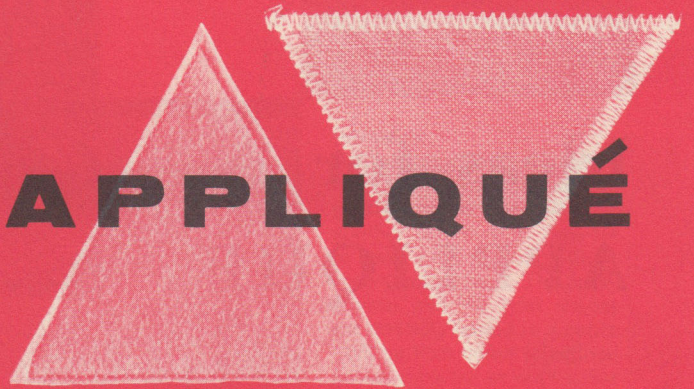
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And so to embroider



IDEAS FOR

APPLIQUÉ



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Bulletin 37

'Tiger and Birds'. This fabric collage picture by Margaret Kaye, is an example of the way in which different weaves and textures of fabric can be combined to express an idea. Stitchery is added afterwards for further interest and detail. When mounted under glass this picture forms a lovely wall decoration.



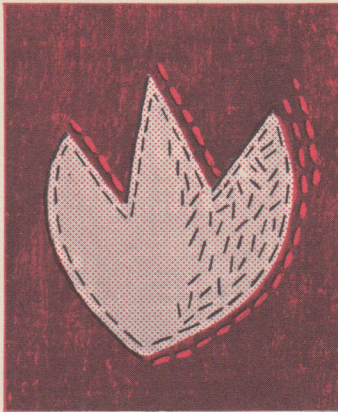
Ideas for APPLIQUÉ

Appliqué is one of the most versatile methods of embroidery. Although its chief advantage is the way in which it can create a quick, bold and colourful effect, it can also be used successfully to decorate table linen and delicate lingerie, for example. The technique of appliqué varies according to the type of article being made and the material selected, but the basic principle of applying one fabric to another remains the same in every case.

If the design is planned with cut out paper or fabric shapes, it is possible to have second thoughts about the final placing and balancing of the main applied areas. Remember that it is often easier to judge the effect of a design if it is held up, with shapes pinned in position, and looked at from a distance. At this stage the shapes can be unpinned and moved about to obtain the best arrangement before they are finally sewn in position. The curtain in bulletin No. 34 and the large hanging in bulletin No. 36 were planned in this way, with lengths of embroidery threads pinned down also, to suggest where stitchery could be added to unite and soften the hard outlines and to introduce new and contrasting textures.

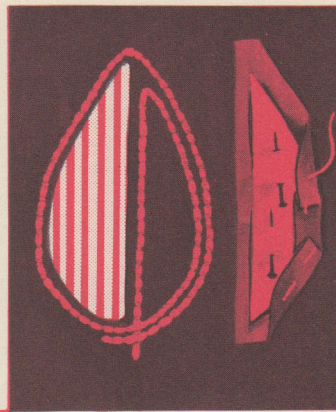
Embroideries which are to be mounted under glass can be treated in a more free and spontaneous manner than those which will require frequent cleaning and laundering. When making something which will be laundered always be sure that the fabrics and threads used are washable and colour fast and, where the design allows, apply the shapes so that the warp and weft threads run in the same direction as those of the background fabric. Many people like to use an embroidery frame for appliqué work, particularly when undertaking large or complex projects.

Notice that the examples of appliqué shown in this bulletin use embroidery stitches to add interest and variety to the design and to soften the hard outlines of the various shapes. Often it is this combination of embroidery and applied areas which produces the most interesting results.



Simple Appliqué

This method is used for picture-making and for other work which will not be frequently handled or washed. No turnings are allowed and the fabric shapes are attached to the background with tacking or running stitches, or Herringbone Stitch, or even with a little paste. Embroidery, beads, sequins etc. can be added where variation in texture is required, but these should be used with discretion to avoid producing too gaudy an effect.



Hemmed Appliqué

This is one of the most frequently used methods. The fabric shapes, with turning allowance, are basted to paper template patterns and the turnings folded over to the wrong side. After pressing, the basting threads and paper templates are removed, then the fabric shapes tacked in position and finally hemmed down carefully to the background.

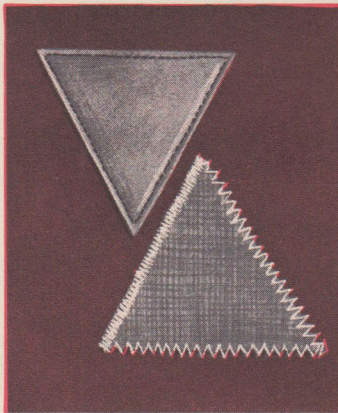
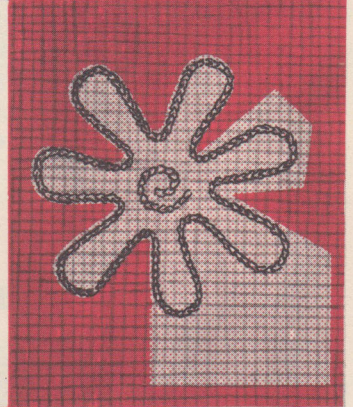
Hemstitched Appliqué

This method is very effective on household and table linen if square or rectangular shapes are included in the design. A single thread is withdrawn from the background fabric and the applied shapes hemstitched to this. For appliqué in fine fabrics such as those used for lingerie, a similar effect can be obtained by working Three-sided Stitch (see diagram, back page) without removing a thread.



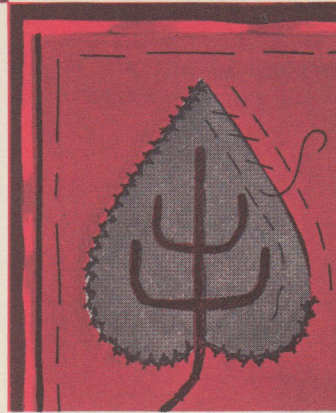
Shadow Appliqué

A method used with semi-transparent materials, including net. A piece of fabric is tacked in position behind the background fabric and Chain Stitch is worked through both materials, outlining the shape of the design. The surplus fabric is then cut away from the back of the work.



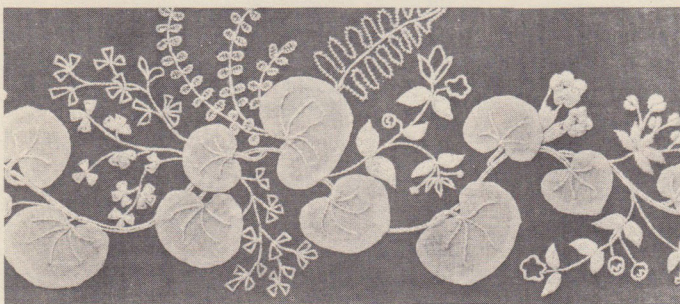
Felt Appliqué

No turnings are required when cutting out felt shapes. They can be hemmed down invisibly, attached by one of the many surface embroidery stitches, or machined in position with an ordinary or swing needle machine. Felt is an easy fabric to handle but the effect can become rather boring unless the design includes interesting stitchery, possibly combined with the use of different textured materials.



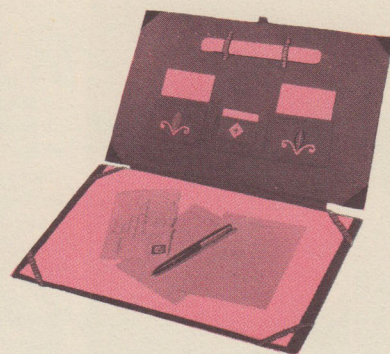
Inlaid Felt

By carefully cutting out shapes from the background and replacing them with felt of another colour, it is possible to make a flat pattern without any raised surfaces. The background and the inlet shapes are carefully basted to a paper backing then either joined together invisibly or with some surface embroidery stitch such as Cretan Stitch.



A charming small table centre from Denmark in grey cotton decorated with white embroidery and appliqué. Character is added to the design by the simple leaf shapes which are applied in graded sizes and hemmed carefully in place with white cotton.

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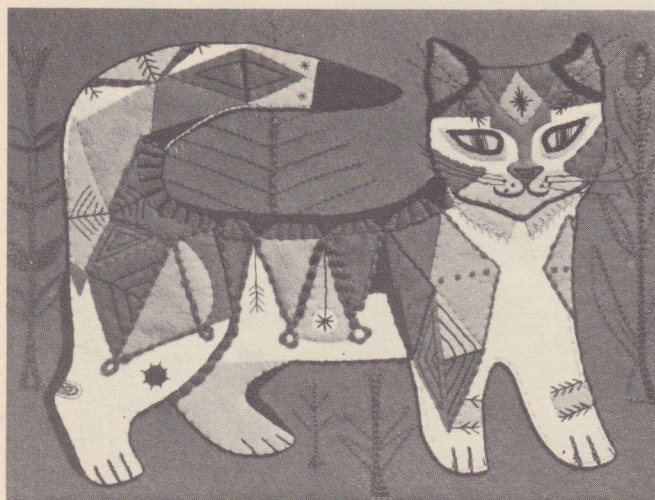


Blotter for a modern flat, decorated with a series of formalised plant motifs. Notice how the hemmed appliqué shapes are combined with various embroidery stitches to make an interesting unity. The blotter is made from firm black poplin with reinforced corners of suede.

Chair pad. White, shades of blues and greys are used for this practical example of inlaid felt. The stems and other details are added in navy blue and white embroidery.



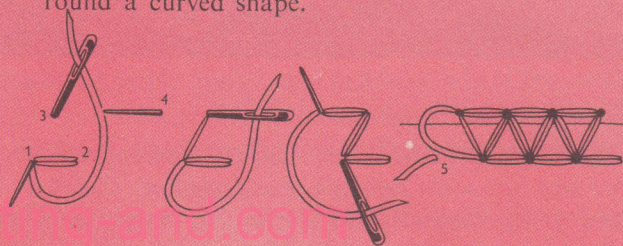
Child's rag-book, "The Enchanted Wood". Cream, lightweight flannel with areas of bold colour in hemmed appliqué.



Simple design to hang in a child's nursery. The rather hard quality of the felt is softened by the introduction of embroidery in different thicknesses of thread.

Three-sided Stitch or Punch Stitch (Appliqué)

This stitch is suitable for use on fine fabrics such as lawn, organdie, voile etc. and can be worked round a curved shape.



Bulletin 38 will provide ideas for embroidery on printed fabrics.