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# Designing with Fabrics

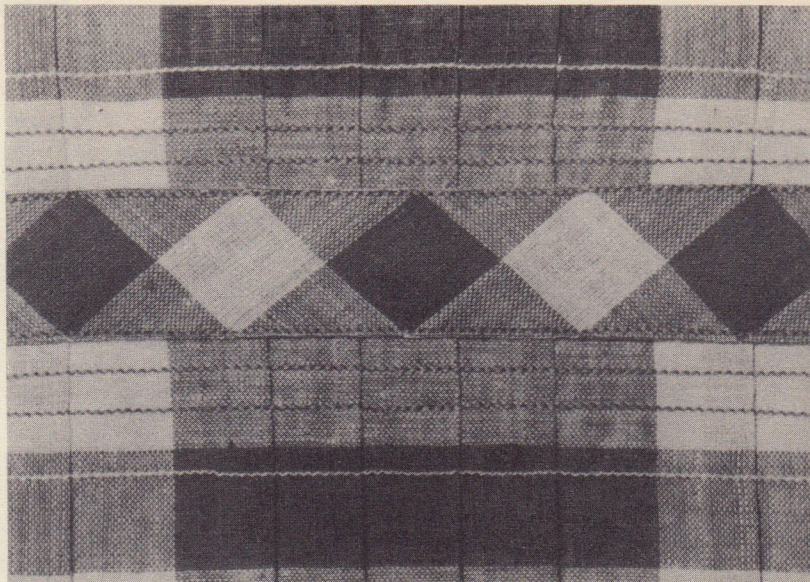
IN PLANNING this bulletin we have been thinking of the long summer days, especially summer holidays spent in the garden or in the country, so we are showing you an apron, a cushion and a sunbonnet. The apron has big pockets to use when you are gardening whilst the small gingham cushion is ideal to tuck behind your head in a deck chair. You can make the sunbonnet for yourself or you can adapt it for a little sister.

Crisp cotton fabrics which look so fresh and wash so easily are just right for summer days, so we have chosen cotton for the articles we illustrate. Checked gingham, striped or spotted cotton can all suggest variations of pattern arrangement and do not need elaborate stitchery to make them attractive.

You will remember how, in Bulletin 7B, we decorated a workbag using the spots on the fabric as a foundation for our embroidery. The samplers illustrated in this bulletin show other ways in which fabric can suggest pattern and design. In some, machine stitching only is used, whilst others are enriched with embroidery using stitches which you already know. You will be able to think of many more ideas for yourself. A collection of samplers of this kind, kept by you for reference, is just as useful as the sketchbook is to the artist. Each sampler or "sketch" can be used as the inspiration for something which you are going to make. An apron, a cushion, a workbag, a dress, can all be the outcome of these experiments with fabrics.

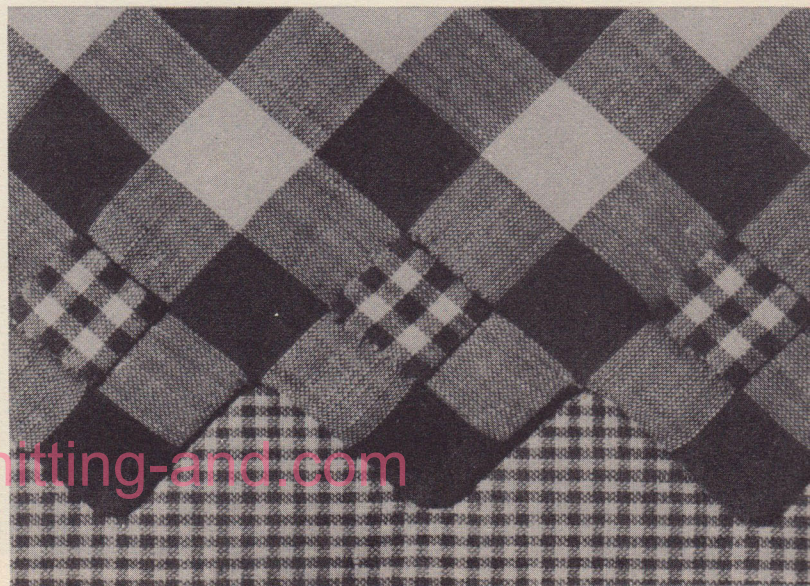
Choosing your fabric is always exciting whether you are going to make a simple apron or an elaborate embroidery. Take your fabric and see what it will do before you make your final plan. Different kinds of fabric call for different ways of decoration and nearly always the final choice is suggested by the texture, colour, or pattern of the fabric itself.

*Bulletin 9B will show  
how design can be suggested by  
the texture of fabric and stitch*

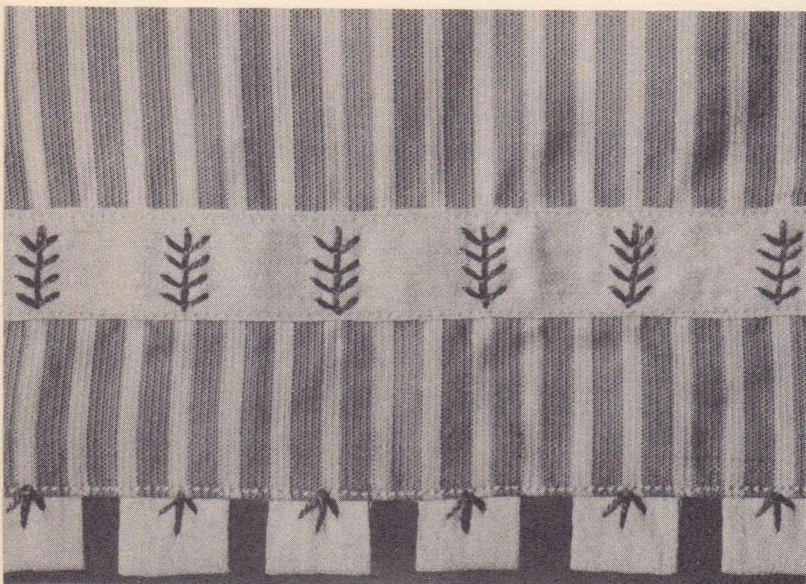


The checks are pleated together to form a blue panel flanked by narrower white panels. A bias strip of the gingham, just wide enough to enclose a row of diamonds along its length, secures the pleating with rows of machine stitching on each side. Notice the way in which white machine stitching is used on the blue checks and blue on the white. The idea suggested by this sampler is used in making the cushion which we illustrate.

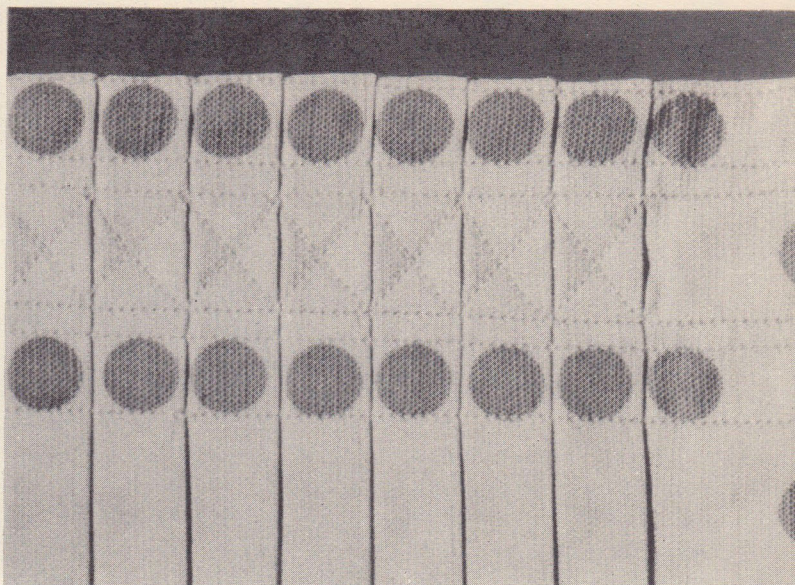
Blue and white checked gingham, in three sizes of check, is used for this sampler. The large check is cut on the bias of the fabric and the pointed edge is laid over a fold of gingham which has a very small check. A slightly larger check is used for the motif which is applied in each point.





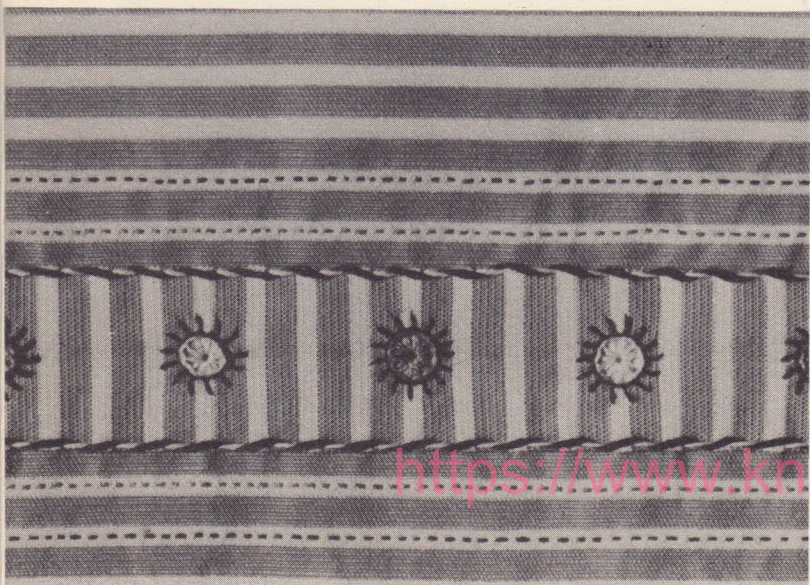


Blue and white striped haircord fabric is decorated with white tape. The horizontal band is machined in place and Fly Stitch is worked vertically at regular intervals. Loops of white tape trim the hem line and they also have a tiny decoration in Fly Stitch.

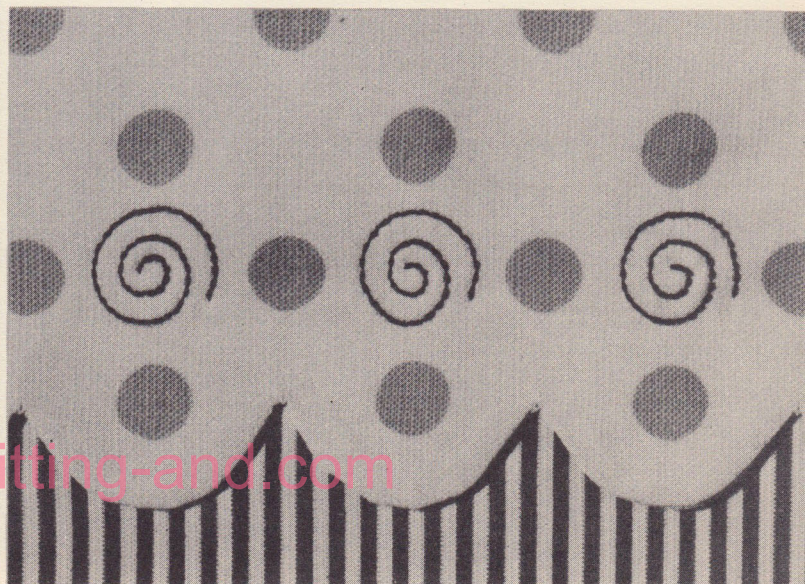


This sampler shows how the arrangement of spots can be altered by pleating the fabric. This fabric has a pink spot on a white background. White machine stitching secures the pleating and makes an interesting decoration. What a charming idea this would be for a child's dress!

Blue and white haircord with the stripes used horizontally is trimmed with a band of similar fabric in which the stripes are used vertically. Running Stitch in white is used to attach the strip and this is whipped with navy blue. Wheels of Buttonhole Stitch in pale yellow and vermillion are arranged at regular intervals along the strip, each being outlined with Buttonhole Stitch in navy blue. Small Running Stitches in orange, yellow and navy are worked on each side of the band.



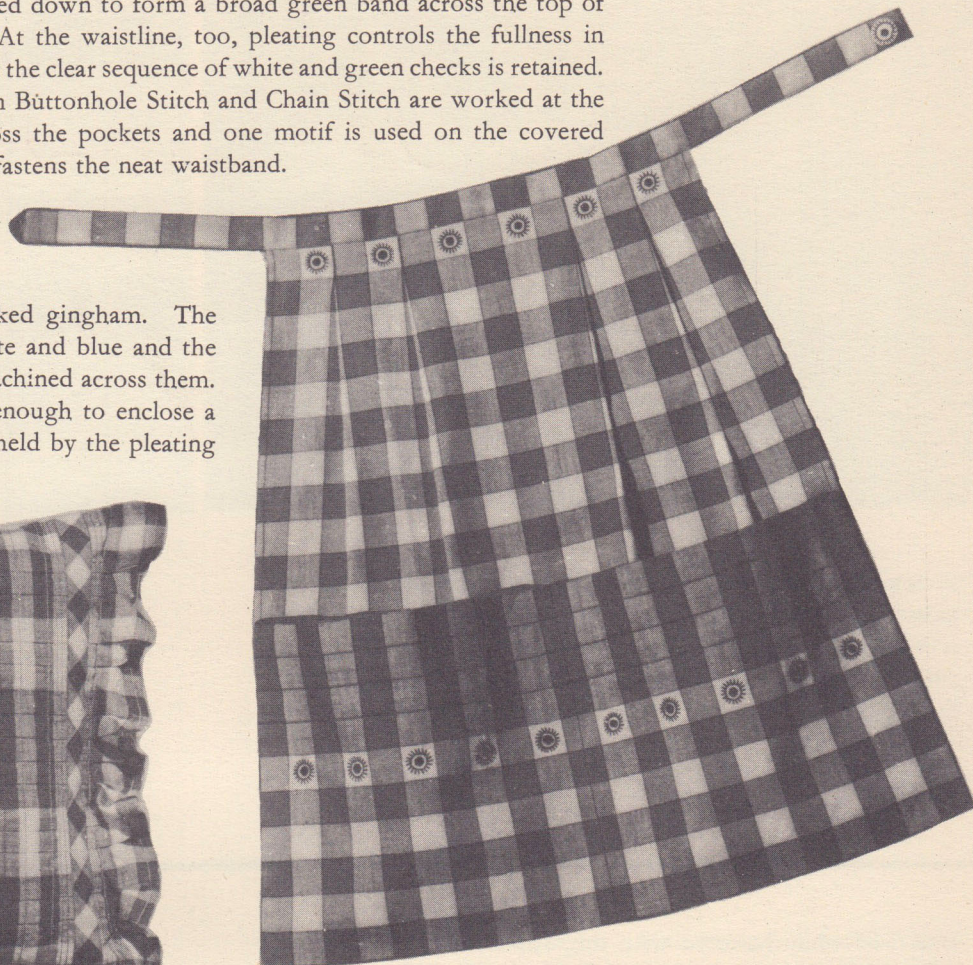
Pink and white spotted and blue and white striped cotton are combined in this sampler to make a decorative hem. Spirals worked in navy blue Back Stitch give added interest and weight to the border. You could use this idea for the hem of a dirndl skirt as well as for the bonnet which we illustrate.





### Apron

The gardening apron is made from heavy green and white gingham with a large check. The deep pockets would make it a useful sewing apron, too. The white checks have been pleated out horizontally and machine stitched down to form a broad green band across the top of the pockets. At the waistline, too, pleating controls the fullness in such a way that the clear sequence of white and green checks is retained. Small motifs in Buttonhole Stitch and Chain Stitch are worked at the waist and across the pockets and one motif is used on the covered button which fastens the neat waistband.



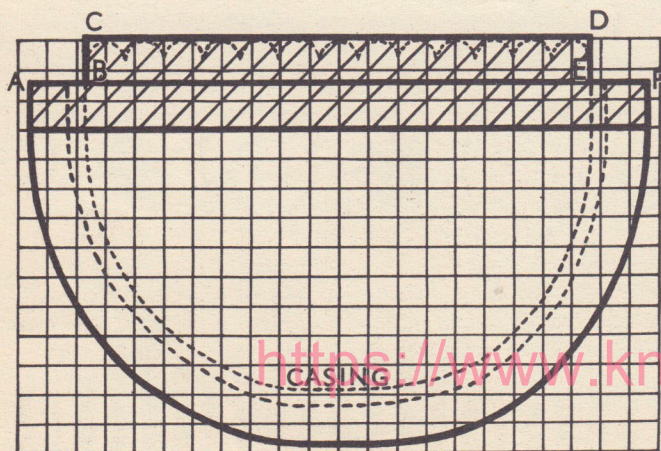
### Cushion

The cushion is made from blue and white checked gingham. The fabric is pleated to give horizontal bands of white and blue and the pleats are held in position by rows of stitching machined across them. At each end a bias strip of gingham, just wide enough to enclose a whole diamond, is stitched down. The fullness held by the pleating is released at each end to form a frill.



### SUNBONNET

*The fabric used for the sunbonnet has a pink spot on a white background. The scalloped front edge is turned back and behind this a fold of blue and white striped cotton is slip stitched. A narrow bias binding of the striped fabric trims the curved edge which forms the frill.*



**PATTERN:** Make this from the diagram—1 square=1 inch. The shaded part represents the facing which is cut out from the same fabric.

**CUTTING DIRECTIONS:** Cut whole section first then the facing section. Allow  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. turning on the front edges (AB, BC, CD, DE, EF) of bonnet and facing.

#### SEWING DIRECTIONS

1. Place right sides of bonnet and facing together and make scallops where indicated as shown in Bulletin 7B.
2. When you have turned the facing to the wrong side, secure the edge to inside of bonnet by slip stitching.
3. Embroider the front edge using Whipped Running Stitch for the curving line as illustrated. The stars used in alternate spots are made from six straight stitches which radiate from the centre of each spot.
4. Turn back the front edge and press.
5. Place a two inch wide fold of striped fabric behind the turned back edge and slip stitch in position.
6. Bind the curved edge from A to F. with a bias strip of striped fabric as shown in Bulletin 3A.
7. Make a casing by stitching a strip of bias binding two inches away from the outer curved edge where indicated in the diagram.
8. Make a rouleau of spotted fabric as shown in Bulletin 4A and thread this through the casing. Draw up the fullness to fit the head neatly.