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# And So To Sew

## No 1a

**S**EWING is creating—creating all kinds of different articles. Little things to wear—presents to give away—ideas for your bedroom. It's quite amazing to think of all that can come out of the rag bag with the help of a pair of scissors, a needle, thimble, reels of thread—and of course, a good idea.

You all want to have new ideas—you want to make and wear clever accessories—so look out in future for this bulletin, which your teacher will be receiving regularly. Soon you'll have a whole book of designs—and more still, you'll have information on all the stitches and methods of construction.

**Before you begin to sew, look through your work box, and see that you have all the following things. They are an absolute necessity.**

### For Cutting

**Dressmaker Shears :** These have long cutting blades and different sized handles. Never use them for cutting paper.

**Scissors :** Medium size pair with sharp points, for cutting small shapes.

### For Measuring

**Tape Measure :** A 60" oil cloth tape, with metal tips at each end ; this will not stretch.

**Ruler :** A 6" or 12" ruler, for marking seams.

### For Marking

**Tailor's Chalk :** Get the chalky kind in a flat piece.

### For Sewing

**Needles :** The sizes of needles are indicated by numbers. Low numbers for coarse needles ; high numbers for fine. For most sewing use needles called "Sharps," which are medium length and have small round eyes. "Betweens" which are the same in diameter and eye but shorter in length, are used for fine handwork.

**Threads :** These are very important. Look up the chart that follows for size of thread and needle suitable for the different types of fabric.

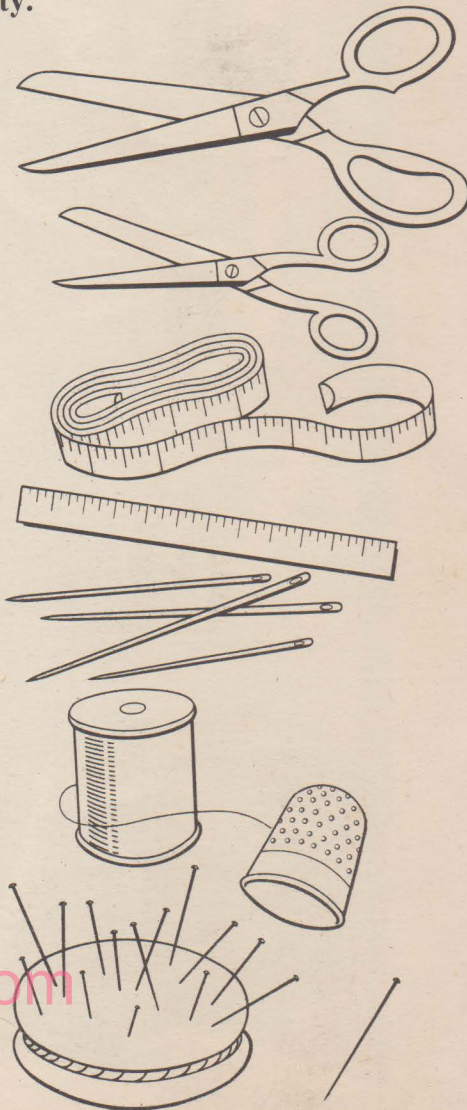
**Thimble :** A thimble is a "must" for sewing—to protect the middle finger when pushing the needle. Get a good quality one that fits well—metal (preferably silver) or plastic. Sizes 3, 4 and 5 are the average sizes, No. 2 being large and the others progressively smaller.

**Pins :** Always buy fine quality *steel* dressmaker pins (size 5 or 6) with sharp points. They will not mark the fabric.

**Pin Cushion.** You need this to keep pins within easy reach.

Always make sure you have the use of an iron, ironing board and sleeve board, and keep at hand a clean muslin pressing cloth.

When you start to stitch, you should see you are in a good position for light ; in day time sit as near as possible to a window and in the evening be sure to have a good light, preferably sending its rays over your left shoulder, as a light in front of you is likely to glare in your eyes. When you sew, sit in an upright position holding your work at least 9" to 12" away from you.





F

or this first bulletin we have

And  
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Sew

**Materials :** 1 15" Square, felt. 1 reel 6 cord No. 40 Sewing Cotton to match. Stranded Cotton.

2 Curtain Rings, a few coloured

beads. Cotton Wool. 1 "Sharp's" needle No. 6 (for sewing). 1 Crewel needle No. 6 (for embroidery).

**Pattern :** Make this by placing a folded sheet of tracing paper over the diagram, with the fold line lying along the straight line. Trace off the diagram, then turn the paper over to trace the other half so that the complete pattern is then formed. Trace the face supplied or draw your own

**Cutting Directions :** **Body :** Lay pattern on felt and pin in position, then cut round pattern. Repeat for back of puppet.

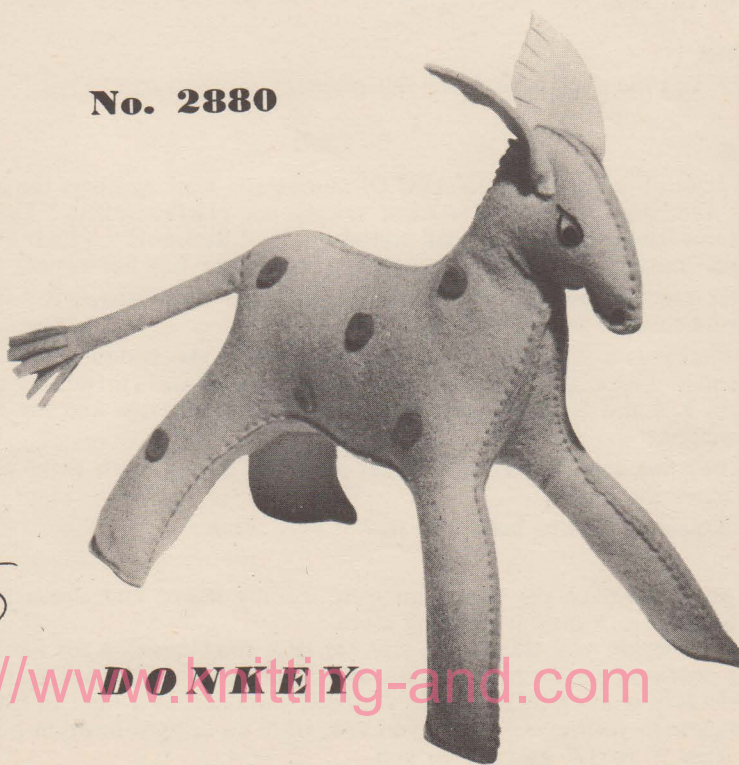
**Face :** Take pattern and lay it on an odd piece of felt. With a needle, prick carefully round all lines of the features. Place the pattern in position on the puppet (front) and rub a little powdered chalk through the holes. Take great care that the pattern does not move. Using a paint brush and white paint, draw in the lines of the face.

**Sewing Directions :** 1. Embroider features on face with a Crewel needle No. 6 and three strands of black Stranded Cotton. 2. Lay the two body pieces together, right sides out, and baste. 3. Sew together with a running stitch, using the 6 Cord sewing cotton and the "Sharp's" needle No. 6—but remember to leave the lower edges open. 4. Stuff

a little cotton wool into the head and hands—but leave room for your own fingers. 5. Sew curtain rings to the ears. Thread beads and tie round neck.

Variations: try adding clothes to your puppet using embroidery, or sew on felt clothing before stitching the two pieces together. Use fabric scraps to make a skirt, scarf, or other clothes for your puppet to wear

No. 2880



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# DONKEY

**Materials :** 1 piece felt 9"×25". 1 reel of 6 cord No. 40 Sewing Cotton to match. Odd scraps of felt in contrasting colour. 1 skein of Stranded Cotton to match felt scraps. 1 "Crewel" needle No. 6 for embroidery. 1 "Sharp's" needle No. 6 for sewing. Kapok for stuffing.

**Patterns :** Make these by placing a sheet of tracing paper over the diagrams. Trace off each shape and cut out patterns. Pattern A=body ; Pattern B= gusset (Striped part of pattern cut from dotted line). Pattern C=Ear.

**Cutting Directions :** **Body, Gusset, Ear :** Lay these patterns on the felt, pin in position and cut each out twice. Remember to mark eyes, nose and mouth as explained for the Puppet—also X's which mark the position of the ears. **Tail :** One piece of main colour felt 5"×1". Fourteen small spots in the contrast colour felt.

**Sewing Directions :** 1. Embroider features, with 3 strands of stranded cotton, on each face piece, using stem-stitch for mouth, chin and outline of eyes ; satin stitch for nose and pupils of eyes. 2. Using three strands of stranded cotton, sew the spots in position on the body with a small cross stitch in the centre of each spot (as shown in photograph). 3. Use 6 cord No. 40 Sewing Cotton for all sewing. Oversew the two gusset pieces together, along the top edge. 4. Place gusset piece in position between body pieces (with the gusset seam inside). Sew these pieces together with a running stitch. Stuff legs with kapok. 5. **Tail :** Fringe one narrow end of the tail and roll up strip, lengthwise. Slip stitch the seam. 6. Sew up the rest of the body with a running stitch, insert tail in position and leave an opening for stuffing. Stuff the rest of the donkey and sew up the opening. 7. **Ears :** Fringe one side of each ear and fold each lengthwise. Sew in position on head with fringes inwards.

e chosen these attractive

# TOYS

*which you can make  
for Christmas  
presents*



**PUPPET**

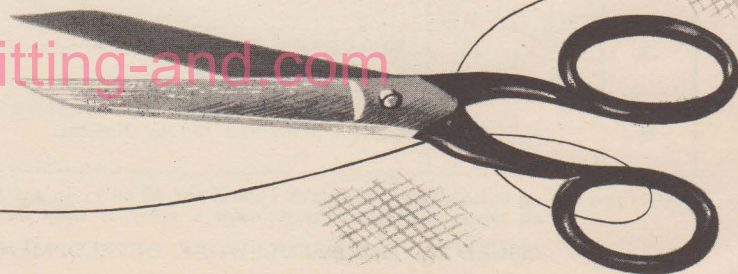
They are quickly and easily made from felt and will appeal to you no matter what your age. In our future bulletins we intend to have one section for the juniors and one for the seniors.

**Felt :** Felt is a thick, firmly packed material made of wool, hair, fur or a combination of fibres that have been matted—then pressed with moisture and heat. The best felt contains rabbit or beaver fur. Felt is used for toys, hats, bags, belts and various accessories, and also for appliqué on suitable fabrics.

**Sewing Instructions :** For sewing felt, use a “Sharp’s” needle No 6. Felt is a material which is easy to sew, as it does not fray, and so it is not necessary to hem the edges. Always use a strong thread—a six cord Sewing Cotton No. 40 is most suitable, because its construction ensures strength and regularity. A six cord sewing cotton can be untwisted to show three individual strands, each one of which in turn is made of two fine strands closely twisted together. See diagram.

Always take great care when pressing felt. Use a hot iron and a *slightly* damp cloth. *Never* use a wet cloth as this will shrink the felt. All articles made from felt must be *drycleaned*—so if you are to make something that will see a lot of use, be sure the felt is not too light in colour.

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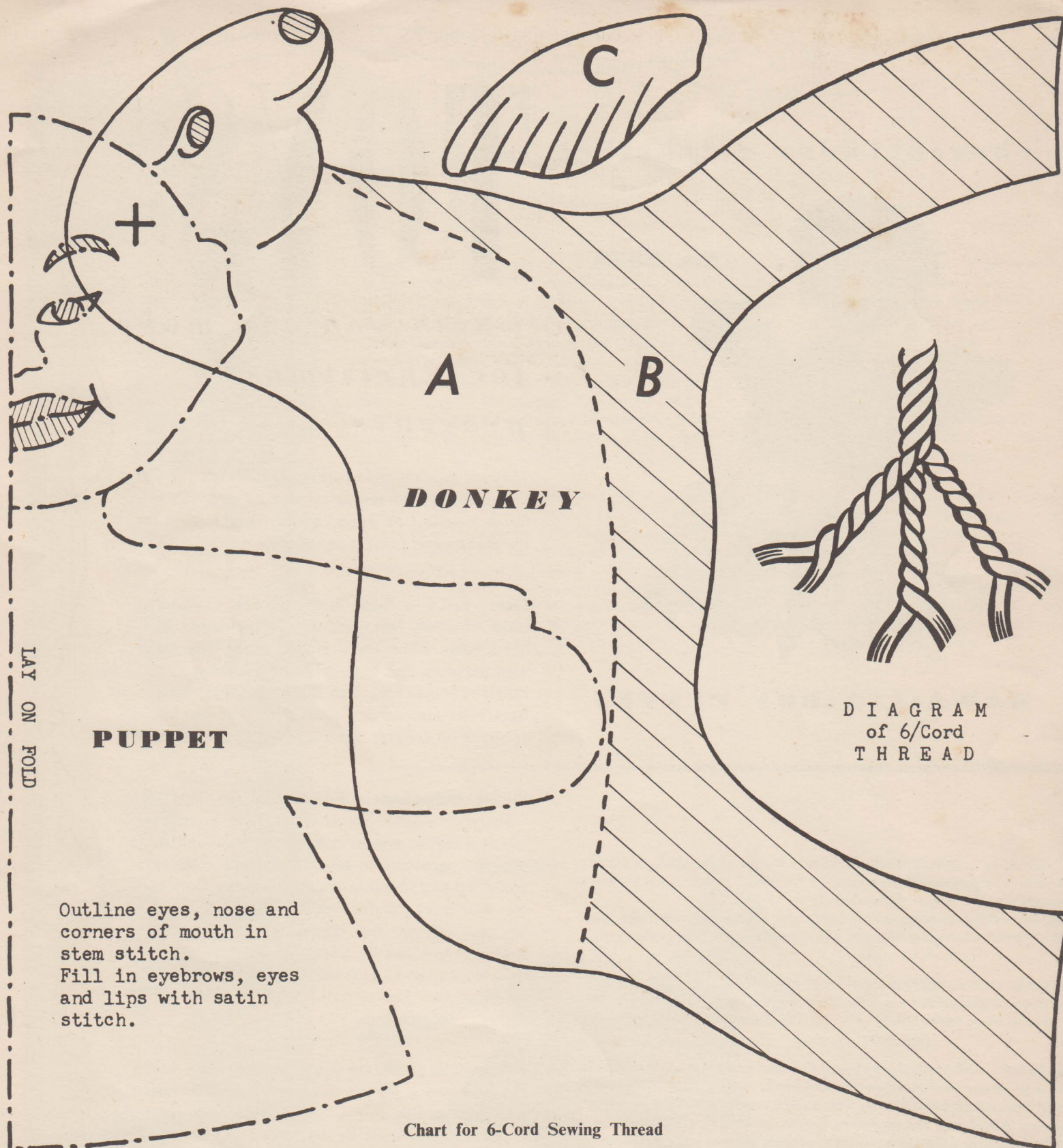


Chart for 6-Cord Sewing Thread

Thread No.	Hand Needle	Machine Needle	MATERIAL
10 16	3 4	21	Industrial Clothes, Canvas, Rugs, Gym-Shoes.
24	5	19	Heavyweight—Furnishings, Cretonne, Coatings and Suitings.
30 36	5	18	Heavy Woollens, Serge, Boys' Clothing, Corsets, Shirt and Blouse Buttons.

Thread No.	Hand Needle	Machine Needle	MATERIAL
40	6	16	Dress-weight cottons, sheets, pillow cases, winceyette, flannel. Light-weight woollens, suitings, tweeds.
50 60	7	14	Gingham, Cambric, Fine Cotton, muslins and heavy silks.
80	8 or 9	11	Voiles, lawns, organdie, chiffon, georgette, lingerie, infants' clothes, lace and net. All delicate and gossamer fabrics.

Mercerised sewing cottons are available in Thread No. 40 only—in a wide range of fast colours and are suitable for medium and light-weight materials of all types, particularly those with a shiny or silky finish and which have to be sewn with a fast dyed coloured thread.

ISSUED BY THE NEEDLEWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, 89 WELLINGTON STREET, GLASGOW, C.2.