

Fun With Fabric

(Sewing Ideas 1)

It's as much fun to sew for your room as it is for yourself.

Cotton fabrics--percale, gingham, muslin, sailcloth and denim--are suitable for articles described in this unit. Choose washable, colorfast, sturdy fabrics. Ask your mother or 4-H Home Improvement Leader to tell you what labels mean. Learn the meaning of the words vat dyed and sanforized.

Tools for Working With Fabrics

Thimble	Ruler or adjustable gauge
Needles	Tape measure
Dressmaker pins	Tailor's chalk
Pincushion or box	Pencil
Scissors	Thread

Here are some helps for smoother sewing.

1. Straighten one end of fabric by tearing, or by pulling a thread and cutting along the thread line.
2. Measure the length and width you need for the article you are making. Mark with tailor's chalk or a snip in the selvage.
3. Tear off the piece, or pull a thread and cut along the thread line.
4. Square the cut or torn piece by stretching.
5. Press torn edges to remove ripples.
6. When you measure, pin or baste, work at a table, and keep fabric smooth and flat.
7. Stitch seams without basting. (Place seam edges together and insert pins about three inches apart at right angles to edges. Use a seam guide or cellophane tape on bed of machine as a gauge for stitching. Press seams open after stitching.)
8. Stitch hems without basting. (Measure, turn, and press folds for hem. Insert pins about 3 inches apart at right angles to hems.)

9. Set stitch length control for 12 or 14 stitches per inch unless otherwise indicated.

10. At beginning and end of seams and hems retrace stitching 1/2 inch.

11. If necessary, baste seams and hems. Baste slightly inside stitching line. Remove basting after you stitch.

12. When you finish your article, press it carefully. Articles for a club exhibit should be clean and well pressed.

PILLOW CASES

Pillow cases are easy to make and require little, if any, trim.

Buy pillow case tubing of good quality. You will need one yard for each case, or the length of the pillow plus 2 to 3 inches for hem. Allow another inch or more to hang over the end so the pillow does not show. A one-yard length allows for a 2 1/2-inch hem.

1. French seam the bottom of the case. The finished seam should be no wider than 3/8 inch. Ask your leader how to make a French seam.

2. Turn under 1/4 inch along the other raw edge. Pin. Press. Then machine stitch as close to edge of fold as possible. Make spot where ends of stitching meet inconspicuous.

Trim

If pillow cases are to be trimmed, keep trimming simple and harmonious with the other decorations in the room. Soft, subdued and light colors are always best on linens. They are more beautiful with age and seem to wear better than bright colors. Also, white and soft-colored trims are always in good taste.

Apply trim on the right side. Trim should go most or all the way across the end of the

case.

1. Ric-rac. Tuck 1/2 width of ric-rac under fold and machine stitch on the edge.

2. Decorative tape. Sew decorative tape over hem line. Select patterns and colors that seem a part of the case when it is completed. Make sure the tape is washable for the life of the article.

3. Embroidery. Use a simple embroidered design. If you use a commercial design, don't hesitate to cut out parts of it before stamping it on to your cloth. Try using thread that matches the fabric.

Use no more than two or three different colors, each in two or more different tints. Since pillow cases are cotton use mercerized cotton embroidery thread.

4. Crochet. Crochet edge of simple design.

LAUNDRY BAG

A laundry bag will help you keep order in your room by giving you a place to put your dirty clothes.

The size will depend on the place where you hang the laundry bag and how much you put into it. A suggested finished size is 17" wide and 26" long.

Materials

2/3 yd. or 3/4 yd. fabric, needle, thread, wooden hanger, scissors, tape measure.

How to Make

1. Fold cloth in half lengthwise.
2. Wrong sides together, stitch 1/2" from edge, along selvage, leaving 10 inches unstitched.
3. Press seam open.
4. Refold material so that seam is in the center.
5. Wrong sides together and holding bottom edges even, stitch another seam 1/2 inch from bottom edge.
6. With pencil, mark on the wrong side of the bag the curve of wooden hanger. Stitch along this line.
7. Turn bag right side out. Press.
8. Insert hanger -- your laundry bag is finished.

DRESSER SCARF

You may want a dresser scarf for decoration or to protect the top of your dresser.

Material

Use linen, toweling, Indian head, theatrical gauze, dimity, burlap or feed bags. Consider using a fabric of color or a neutral tone rather than white.

To get the size, measure the width and length of your dresser top, subtracting two inches from the length and two inches from the width. A scarf looks best when about one inch of the dresser top shows around each edge. Be sure to allow for hems, if you decide to use a hemmed finish. Before you cut out the rectangle, straighten the material by pulling a thread. Cut on grain.

Finishes and Trims

Fringed edge. A fringed edge is best made from material of even weave with threads that are not too fine.

Measure in from edges of rectangle 1/2 to 3/4 inch to get the width of the fringe. Use the narrower width on smaller scarves. Draw a thread along the lines you measured.

Set the sewing machine to make about 20 stitches to the inch. Using matching thread, stitch along the line left by the drawn thread. Start near the center of one side. Stitch to the corner. With the needle in the cloth, lift the presser foot and turn the cloth to stitch along the next side. Continue around scarf. Double stitch where ends meet.

Cut in almost to the line of stitching about every four inches to make fringing easier. Pull out threads to stitching line. Brush fringe smooth and press.

Hemmed edge. The width of a hemmed edge will vary from 1/2 inch to 1 inch, depending on the material used. Measure the width you want your finished hem to be and add 1/4 inch to turn under. Fold, pin and press.

To make a corner perfectly square - miter the corners.

Follow these steps:

1. Open the hem and cut off the corner of material 1/8 inch outside the point at which the creases cross each other.
2. Make a 1/8-inch fold across the cut edge. Fold hem again just as it was before. Folds will meet at the corner.
3. Sew the folded edges together with a tiny hemming stitch. Stitches should not show. A hand hem is made this way:

1. Thread the needle with matching thread and run it under the hem fold just far enough to hide the knot.

2. Bring the needle out of the hem and under one thread of the material exactly beneath it.

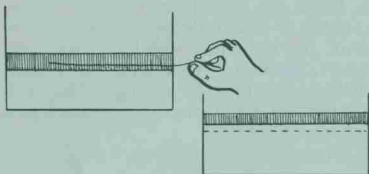
3. Again put the needle into the folded edge, bringing it out $\frac{3}{16}$ inch from the last stitch.

4. Continue to the end of the hem. The hemming thread should scarcely be visible. Fasten the thread at the end.

Plain hemstitched edge. Hemstitching is a decorative hand finish for hems. If the hem is $\frac{1}{2}$ " or more, the corner should be mitered.

To prepare a hem for hemstitching measure twice the width of the finish hem plus $\frac{1}{8}$ " - $\frac{1}{4}$ " for the turn under.

Draw out the first thread at this point and pull.

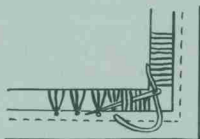


Pull out as many threads as desired, one at a time. The weight of the material and the width of the hem will determine the number of threads you draw. Too many threads taken out will weaken the hem.

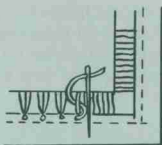
Pin and baste hem to lower edge of the drawn space, taking care to keep lengthwise threads in line with each other.

Hold bulk of material away from you and hem toward you with wrong side of material up.

Hide a tiny knot under the folded edge.



Bring needle from right to left separating out from 3 to 5 threads and allowing the loop of thread to fall below the needle.



Draw the needle through and then take a small stitch through the upper edge of the hem with the needle at right angles to the hem and the thread thrown to the left of the needle.

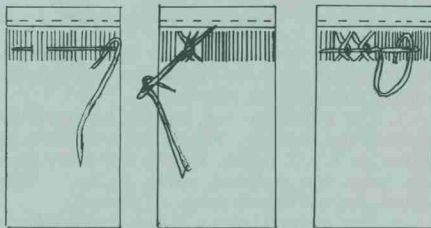
Draw up the thread. Separate the same number of threads as before and repeat. **Cross-drawn stitch**

A cross-drawnstitch makes an attractive decoration and may be used with a hemmed or a fringed edge. Here are the directions:

1. Pull a thread $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the end of cloth if you want a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch hem, or $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches for a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch hem. Pull enough more threads to make about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch drawn work.

2. Thread needle with 2 threads of six-ply embroidery floss or other thread that is nearest like the thread in your material.

3. Start on the end of the drawn section nearest you. Put the threaded needle between the eighth and ninth threads. Place it under the first 4 threads and over the ones nearest you. The needle is now pointing toward you.



4. Turn it so it points in the opposite direction, and put the thread through the hole made by twisting the fabric threads. Continue the full length or width of the cloth. Anchor the end of the thread around the last "X" made. When you have completed this decorative stitch, hem the sides, then the ends with a hand-hemming stitch.

Score Card for Judging Needlework

Workmanship	40
Design--beauty and originality	20
Suitability of articles to purpose	15
Harmony of colors and material	15
Cleanliness, pressing and blocking	10
Total Score	100

DECORATIVE PILLOW



Pillows may be any shape. For material look at the remnant table in the fabric and drapery departments.

First, make a muslin case exactly the same size and shape as the outside covering. Leave an opening large enough to insert the filling. Suggested fillings: bits of foam rubber, down, selected chicken feathers, cotton, kapok or molded foam.

Be sure corners are well filled and surfaces are perfectly smooth before stitching the closing shut. If you use a foam rubber pillow, no muslin cover is necessary.



Following are instructions for covering a square or rectangular pillow, but they may be applied to any shape pillow:

1. Cut fabric for top, bottom, boxing (side panels) and cording. Fabric for both sides of pillow is 1 1/2 inches longer and wider than you want the finished pillow to be. This allows for a 3/4-inch seam all around.

2. Cut material for a 2-inch finished boxing 3 1/2 inches wide and long enough to go around 3 sides of the pillow, or about 3/4 the circumference if it is round. Cut two pieces of material 2 1/2 inches wide and the

length of one side of your pillow plus 1 1/2 inches for seams. With right sides together stitch a 3/4-inch seam 1 1/2 inches long at each end. Open and press so there is a 3/4-inch seam fold on the entire length of each side. Stitch zipper to this section so opening is exactly on seam line.

3. Re-measure circumference of pillow. Stitch the two sections of boxing together so measurements of boxing is exactly that of pillow top, measured in from edge 3/4 inch.

4. Make cording. Cut material to cover cord allowing extra 1/2-inch to stitch on pillow. Material should measure twice the length of the distance around the pillow plus seam allowances. It may be cut either on the straight of the weave or true bias. Cover cording, using cording foot. Machine stitch as closely as possible to covered cording.

5. Sew cording on seam line around top and bottom of boxing. Join ends with a straight seam if cording is cut on the straight, and with a bias joint if cut on the bias.

6. Mark the center front and center back, then center of each side of both top and bottom sections. Do the same with the boxing. Match markings. Baste. Then machine stitch top and bottom sections to boxing. This may be done from the right side if you stitch exactly along base of cording.

7. Press cover and insert filler.



Sew covered cord, fringe or other trim into the seam of a pillow cover without boxing. After deciding on the size and shape of your pillow, cut 2 pieces exactly the same size. Allow for 3/4-inch seam on all edges. Sew trim around the top section on the seamline. Make a narrow hem along one side of the bottom piece. Then pin top section to the bottom. Sew exactly over line of first stitching around 3 sides. Leave side you hemmed open for inserting pillow.

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