

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Ideas for Hand-Embroidered Presents

IF YOU want to make a really acceptable present to a friend this season let it be embroidered by hand, whether your gift take the form of a hatband, a Directoire sash, a pincushion, a dressing table scarf, a work-bag or some even more practical and useful article, such as close friends and relatives may present to one another. A braided or embroidered coat or vest is something which every woman will hail with delight while the beautiful workbag for Eunice comes in very handy to hold William's collars and cuffs at college if he is at all neat about keeping his laundry where the floor does not have to be wiped up in search for it.

Handbags and workbags are indispensable to the Directoire gowns which are being worn indoors and out of doors this season. Silk ones, richly embroidered, serve for a variety of purposes; they hold lorgnettes and such other trifles as one requires at matinee or theatre; they contain dancing slippers and their pretty accompaniments when wanted for a party, and, if built for street use they contain all the things necessary to a vanity bag, and a few more besides. The pattern offered for such a bag may either be braided or embroidered, according to the use for which the bag is intended, and the work may be done in raised French embroidery or in rope-stitch, with course twisted silk. When intended to wear with a gown it should be made of the color and, possibly, of the material of the dress and the embroidery should harmonize with that upon the dress on which it swings. A work bag, pure and simple, is constructed of brighter and lighter hues than one would select for personal wear. The splash of bright color makes one's costume for the house look so cheerful, as the gay bag lies in the lap and its owner wields a needle in some delicate fabric taken from it.

Black and gold would make up a very handsome embroidery combination to be used with a black or yellow gown, while dark wine color, worked with many tints of rose and pale pink forms a beautiful combination for a workbag. Gold and silver embroidery upon white or pale blue is effective for evening wear, for, when one goes to a party one does not want to swing a bright silk reticule against a costume of some contrasting color.

The design shown for bags is equally handsome for use as a waist front, dress panel or overskirt corners pattern. The work may be done with silk, metal threads, sequins sewed down upon the tracery, beads, put on in the same manner, or soutache braid. A good embroidery pattern comes into play for many objects and this decoration worked on the end of a bureau scarf, with cotton floss, by no means looks the same as when the work is done on velvet or satin with other materials.

The jewelry case has one end finished with scallops and the other made like an envelope flap and embroidered with satin stitch embroidery, outline or rope-stitch or even trimmed with beads or sequins. A good many women do not learn embroidery easily, but anybody can sew beads or sequins down upon a traced design and this form of embroidery is very attractive.

Jewel cases should be interlined with wool or a flannel strip, whatever the lining material may be—and it is usually silk or satin. The outer side is easily made of satin or silk, although velvet and thin kid are much employed for this purpose. It is easy to bead or braid designs on kid and velvet but by no means so easy to make effective needle embroidery with silk floss in the usual French stitch. This is so fashionable that it would be best to select a stout quality of peau-de-soie or satin for the jewel case as these are admirable to work upon. This design would be very effective if embroidered in the end of a necktie or Directoire sash, the corners of a dressing table cover, pillow shams, baby pillows, dress cuffs and waist motives, and as a finish on the top of a mouchoir or glove case. It is one of those dainty, easily worked patterns that serve for many articles of both useful and decorative quality.

Every season sees some new fancy in the way of pincushions but ever, with the novelty pincushion doll, tambourine or tinted apple, there appears the ever-popular regulation cushion with its detachable top which may be laundered and so kept always fresh and charming. With such a top one has only to add silk or lace ruffles around the colored silk of the cushion and pin the top in place. In this case the cushion top would be pretty made of satin or silk and worked with French raised embroidery, or, if the top is to be laundered, it should be made of sheer lawn and worked with mercerized embroidery floss. As in all the designs where the needlework takes this character, first outline the design with a thread run in large stitches upon the tracery. A double thread is best if the design is to be raised. Fill in the pattern by running soft filling floss back and forth in the design till it is raised to the desired height, and then work crosswise, over the filled-in pattern, with fine mercerized floss. The work cannot be too close and even in this part of it, as the design will depend for its beauty upon the regularity of the crosswise threads. Colored silk floss also makes a pretty finish to a lawn cushion top, but one has to be careful and select only floss that will launder, as colors that run will spoil the prettiest embroidery ever accomplished.

The outside scallops may be worked in the same way as the other outlines of the design, or they may be buttonholed over a filling thread, if one prefers. The embroidery edge is prettier than buttonholing for this kind of article, although buttonholed edges are desirable when an object has to be frequently laundered.

There are several methods of working the butterflies shown in the cushion design. These dainty butterflies, by the way, would make charming motives to embroider upon a dress front, collar tabs and cuff panels, and they might be worked effectively in the ends of ties and Directoire belts and sashes. In this case they may be worked solid or else the outlines of the butterfly could be worked in over-and-over stitch across a filled-in tracery and the inner portions of the wings might be done in tiny French knots, darned work, appliques of silk or filet lace, or in velvet, if the cushion top is made of silk or satin. In any case the dots on the wings should be worked like the edges of them, and, if colors are used, these dots want to be of a rich hue that will contrast handsomely with the coloring of the butterfly.

Omitting the butterfly center a very attractive doily design may be made of the cushion top pattern, and the housekeeper knows no more acceptable gift than a nice set of hand embroidered doilies.

It would be hard to mention anything in the way of a Christmas gift that it is not now the fashion to embroider. Slippers and hosiery, hatbands and crowns, parasols and Directoire sash ends—all demand embroidery.

Many mingled hues of silk threads are to be seen in the new embroideries. Broad hatbands are worked in flowers colored in all the hues that nature knows and many that she never heard of. One fad is to get a broad band of gold or silver or even straw-colored filet net of a very large mesh, and work upon that raised patterns of flowers and leaves in metallic or raised silk embroidery. Sometimes this embroidery is rapidly and effectively accomplished with narrow ribbons, made for embroidering purposes. Such a hat band appears very dressy and adds much to the beauty of the towering domes of feathers and drygoods that now surmount women's heads.

Lace waists, embroidered with silk flowers, are among the articles which women need to adorn for a winter campaign of gayety, and embroidered waists and dress yokes and collar sets are not to be overlooked among the family Christmas gifts.

Crocheted waistcoats and neckties for men are among the needlework novelties which women are preparing to give their brothers and fathers for Christmas presents, while no girl forgets to knit or crochet an automobile scarf for her men friends. Embroidery, however, is what every man wants upon his smoking jacket and it is not much trouble for skilful fingers to place it there. What with embroidered picture frames and photograph cases, to say nothing of cushions, pretty things for use and ornament in the den, and the smoking outfit, a man manages to surround himself with plenty of the season's fashionable needlework and not a few men are deft with the needle and can embroider most exquisitely.