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Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 5, 1983-B5

## **Birthday sampler**

West

York

The word "sampler" is defined as "a pattern or work, an example," and the original sampler was just that. It was a reference guide for needleworkers in America's early days, when pattern books were scarce.

Although samplers varied, most people think of them as wall hangings with cross-stitched alphabets and familiar sayings. Today's needleworker, however, has greater flexibility. Samplers, and sampler-inspired stitchery, can be used for pillows, baby sweaters, quilts, tote bags, belts, rugs and a variety of other projects.

In her book, "Sampler Stitcher" (Doubleday Publishers), Jill Jarnow shows how to make all the projects mentioned above. She also includes creative shortcuts, such as working cross-stitches on gingham.

Using gingham panels, according to the author, a beginner can cross-stitch a samplerinspired birthday pillow in a few sittings.

FABRICS: For pillow front: four 5%x5% squares of cotton gingham fabric, 8 boxes per inch, in two different colors. For border: two strips of print fabric, each 101/2x21/4 inches plus seam allowance; and two strips, each 15x2¼ inches plus seam allowance. For pillow back: one 15x15-inch square of print fabric.

**OTHER MATERIALS:** Sixstrand embroidery floss in assorted colors; one package jumbo yellow rickrack; polyester fiberfill; graph paper; pencil; embroidery needle; iron; sewing machine; sewing supplies.

PREPARATIONS: 1. Iron all fabrics. 2. Copy design shown onto graph paper, or draw your own design. 3. Insert name and birthday using a cross-stitch alphabet, or lettering desired. 4. Mark designs with color of embroidery floss you plan to use.

CENTERING: 1. Fold each gingham square in wait lengunwise. Baste along edge of gingham boxes nearest the crease, 2. Fold fabric



in half widthwise. Baste along. gingham boxes nearest the crease. 3. Open fabric and press flat. 4. Find and mark center lines on graph.

STITCHING: 1. Cross-stitch designs on gingham panels and three strands of embroider floss. 2. On each panel, place first stit-ches nearest vertical and horizontal center lines. 3. Work back and forth, matching stitches on fabric to corresponding squares on graph. 4. As basting lines interfere with cross-stitching, cut away small areas of basting stitches.

ASSEMBLY: Pillow Front: 1. Lay all four squares, face up, in final position. 2. With right sides facing, join two squares with <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>inch seam. Press open seam. 3. Join two remaining squares. Press open seam. 4. Join both pieces together. Press open seam. 5. Stitch jumbo rick-rack over seams.

ASSEMBLY: Borders: 1. Lay borders around pillow front, face up, in final position. Place shorter strips at top and bottom, longer strips at sides. 2. With right sides facing, join longer stips to pillow front. Press open seams.

FINISHING: 1. With right sides facing, join pillow front to pillow back, leaving 3 inches open for turning. 2. Clip corners; turn pillow to right side. 3. Stuff pillow with fiberfill. 4 Sow opening closed

