



CRAFT CORNER

Cross-stitch with ribbons

For a new twist to counted cross-stitch, why not use ribbons instead of threads? With ribbons, even-weave cloth and needle, it's easy to cross-stitch a colorful place mat and napkin set.

Although all ribbons are wider than embroidery threads, some ribbons are slim enough to stitch through even-weave cloth. One-sixteenth-inch satin ribbons, for example, work well with 6-count aida cloth.

Other classic needlework projects also are possible to do with ribbons. According to a free booklet from the Offray Ribbon Co., skinny satin ribbons also are ideal for candlewicking, embroidery, pulled thread embroidery and fashion trims.

Here are the booklet's directions

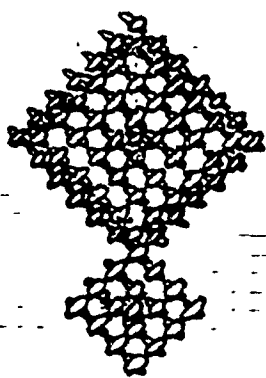
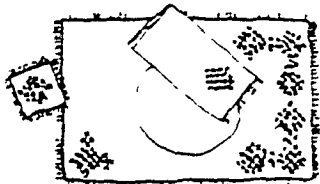
for ribbon cross-stitch place mats:

MATERIALS: 6-count aida cloth, three colors of ribbon, blunt tapestry needle, scissors. Optional: embroidery hoop.

Use any chart desired, or copy the diamond-shaped motif shown. For each motif pictured, you'll need 1½ yards dark ribbon, ½ yard medium-colored ribbon and 1 yard pale ribbon.

CUTTING: 1. For each place mat, cut a 12-by-19-inch rectangle from aida cloth. 2. For each napkin, cut a 15-by-15 square from aida cloth.

STARTING TO STITCH: 1. Counting one square of fabric for each square on the graph, count fabric squares to find the top of your design. 2. Optional: position fabric in hoop.



CROSS-STITCHING: 1. Embroider crosses as illustrated. 2. Be sure, when stitching, to keep ribbon flat on front and back sides of fabric. 3. Work all crosses in the

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Summer is the time for reunions of all kinds. We held a family reunion last month. This year, the job of finding a place to hold it fell to me, and I chose a Community Park. About thirty members of my late parents' family were able to attend. The 19 grandchildren are scattered from Alaska to Florida and New Jersey to Washington.

Our son, Philip, made the effort to come from Wisconsin for the Sunday gathering. Only half of the cousins were there as this generation is simply living too far away from Lancaster county.

I got to thinking back as to how and when this July gathering all started. It seems that my father and uncle both had birthdays in July and so we got together to

celebrate.

I'd guess this was almost fifty years ago. The first years we set up a table in our meadow and had our picnic there. At that time, the sheep kept the grass nice and short like a lawn. There was a fireplace of native limestone along the edge of the Conestoga Creek. It was a peaceful place without the present day motorboats.

But how things do change. The Conestoga is not called a river. And, this same river has flooded many times over the years and sent muddy, swirling waters over everything. The trees along the bank are all gone and we've dumped big rocks, from highway construction, there to try and hold some of the ground. The sheep have given way to hundreds of cow hooves that turn the meadow into an uneven muddy mess at times. The entire fireplace has been swept away too.

So, even though only five of the seven girls my parents had are living, we realize that family ties are important and so we continue the tradition of meeting each summer.

same direction by first working one-half cross in one direction and then working back in opposite direction.

FINISHING: 1. Ravel edges to create fringes, or else hem edges. 2. Lane mats if desired with any lightweight fabric.

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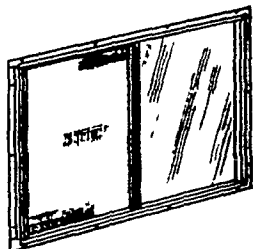
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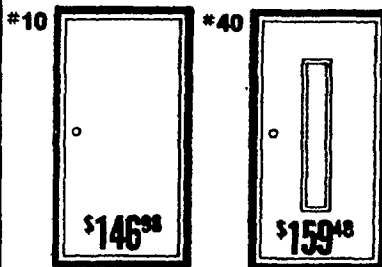
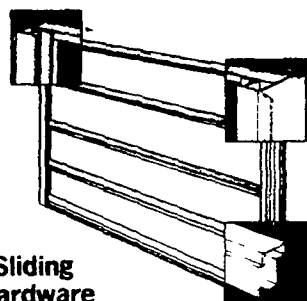
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