

CRAFT CORNER

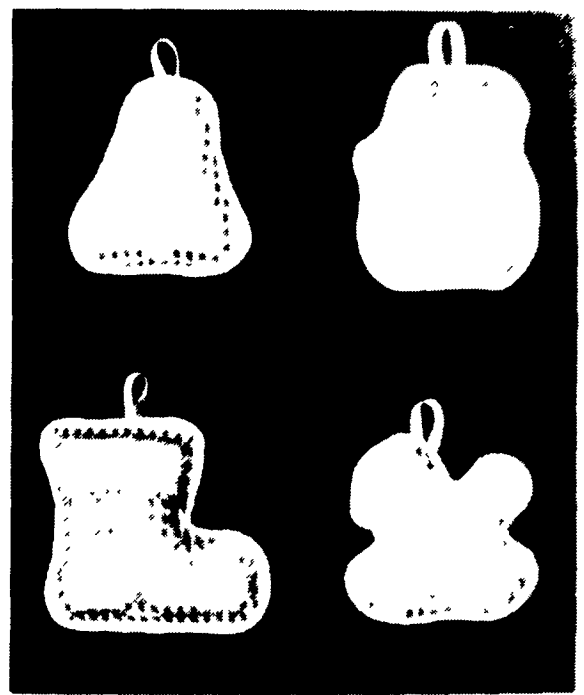
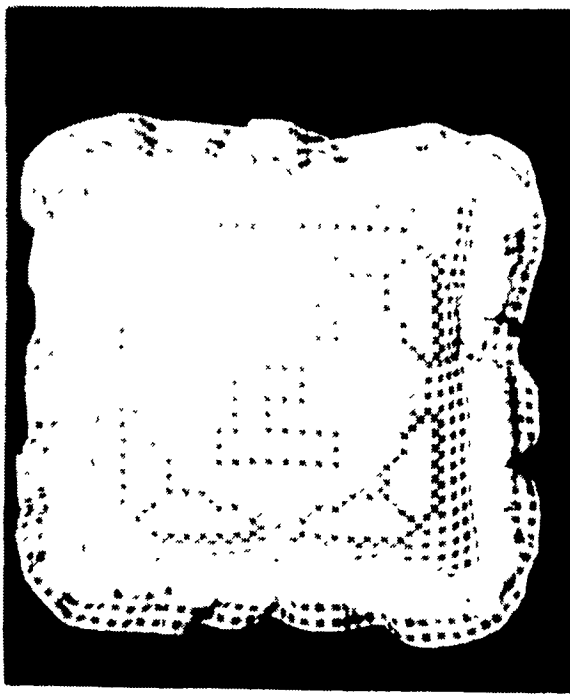
'Chicken scratch' gingham lace

No matter how the name sounds, "chicken scratch" has nothing to do with chickens. Instead, chicken scratch is a needlecraft that lets you turn original gingham into lace.

Although chicken scratch is its most popular name today, over the years the craft has been known as

depression lace, mountain lace and snowflake embroidery. No matter what you call it though, you can create lace designs, or even monograms, with nothing but simple embroidery stitches.

Both the monogrammed pillow and Christmas ornaments shown are examples of chicken scratch.



The projects are available as kits and may be ordered by writing to the address that follows this column. To learn the technique,

just read on.

In chicken scratch, the basic stitch is a double cross-stitch, in other words, one cross-stitch over another cross-stitch. All other stitches are simple circles and straight lines.

Since chicken scratch is worked on gingham, the boxes serve as guidelines for the stitches. To make a design, you can either follow a chart or just improvise.

Lacy borders, hearts, circles, diamonds and monograms all look beautiful in chicken scratch, especially on aprons, potholders, pillows and Christmas ornaments. No matter what you make, however, the craft is fast and fun to do.

Here are directions for chicken scratch:

MATERIALS: Gingham fabric; white and colored floss; embroidery needle; design chart or graph paper and pencil. Optional

but recommended: embroidery hoop.

DESIGN: Work from a special chicken scratch chart or draw your own design on graph paper as follows:

1. Mark the squares in your graph that correspond to the dark squares in the gingham. 2. Mark the squares in your graph that correspond to the white squares. 3. Draw an outline for your design by connecting white squares. 4. Mark the center of your chart.

PREPARATION: 1. Fold gingham lengthwise and widthwise to find center. 2. Counting one square of gingham for each square in your chart, count gingham squares to find the top of your design. 3. Count left to find first square of design. 4. Position fabric in hoop.

OUTLINES: 1. Thread needle with three strands of colored floss.

(Turn to Page B15)

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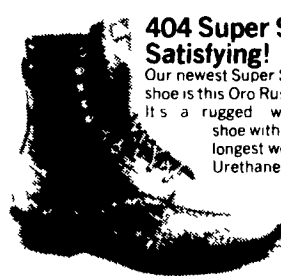
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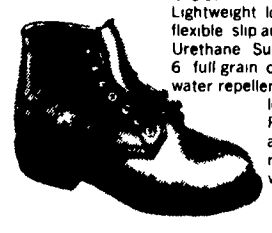
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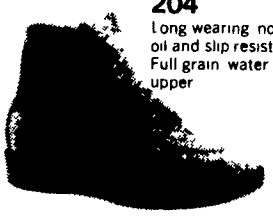
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