Needle-craft a wedding memory

In this era of mass production, handcrafted gifts certainly stand out as an expression of love, especially on a wedding day. A wedding gift, such as the sampler pictured here, may even be tailormade to the bride and groom, with their names enclosed in a handstitched heart.

The "Wedding Sampler" shown uses the fast, easy candlewicking technique. Aside from the French knots characteristic of candlewicking, the heart also features satin-stitched flowers, trellisstitched bells and lace trim around the heart.

To order kit C-04447, send \$9,

including postage and handling, to Ellen Appel Crafts, your newspaper's name, Box 1144, Laguna Beach, CA 92652. California residents, please add 6 percent sales tax.

In stitching names and dates on any sampler, you can try the lettering technique described in the kit. The technique is a simple one, assuring even, legible letters without marking up your fabric.

To learn the technique right now, here are directions:

MATERIALS: Pencil, tracing paper, printed alphabet or graph paper, scrap of organdy, muslin, candlewicking thread, sewing supplies, embroidery hoop. (Note: Supplies are not needed if you're working with a kit.)

PREPARATION: 1. Either use a printed alphabet or draw letters and numbers on graph paper. 2. Trace names and wedding date onto paper, spacing letters and words evenly. 3. When you are satisfied with the arrangement of letters and words, trace onto organdy.

STITCHING: 1. Position organdy over fabric. 2. Baste organdy in place. 3. Stitch letters and numbers through organdy and fabric, using evenly spaced French

knots.

FRENCH KNOTS: 1. Thread needle with one strand of candlewicking thread. Knot ends together. 2. Bring needle up through fabric. Twist thread around needle. 3. Return needle

close to same spot, pulling thread gently to keep it wrapped snugly around needle. Keep holding thread until it is almost through

FINISHING: 1. Remove basting stitches. 2. Pull away organdy, one thread at a time.



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