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Mats Motifs Mailboxes Made of Felt

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Approaching holidays, especially Christmas, may send the homemaker, or the future homemaker, into a frenzy as she considers the time- and money-consuming task of decorating. If you are one of the many who “just can’t think of a clever idea” for party, tea, or home, we have a tip for you—DO IT WITH FELT.

Felt is a relatively inexpensive fabric which, combined with a few easy-to-find materials—sequins, shells, and stones or beads from discarded jewelry—lends a new delightful flavor to your holiday festivities. On the practical side, it is easy to work with and your creations can be used again and again.

One popular idea is for a decorative Christmas tree apron. This can be used year after year and may become a part of the family tradition. The entire apron is made with felt, decorated with sequins and beads.

Another Christmas favorite is the mail mitten. Two pieces of felt are cut for each mitten, sewed together with plain or fancy stitching, and decorated with glued-on bells, trees, Santas, or other holiday motifs. Letters for “Holiday Mail” or “Mail for the Smith’s” can also be cut from felt. A button is sewed on each mitten, and a pair is held together by ribbon looped around the buttons.

Christmas bridge parties and other small affairs sometimes find the hostess at a loss for a clever, inexpensive favor. It’s felt again to the rescue. For this occasion it covers boxes of penny matches—with one edge left open for striking. The top of the covered match box can be decorated with miniature Christmas ornaments—tiny bells, sleigh and reindeer, Christmas tree, and/or holly leaves and berries.

Holidays aren’t the only time you can be creative with felt. A new idea in table decorations is placemats cut from white or solid-colored felt—the edges can be pinked, finished with fancy stitches, or left unfinished. Designs similar to those illustrated here are cut from felt, and a small piece of sandpaper is pasted on the back of the designs. They are fastened to the mat simply by pressing with a warm iron. When the party is over or the holiday is past, the designs can be pulled off. The placemats then put on a new face for the next event.