

1923

A Yarn About Yarns

Irene Christian
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Christian, Irene (1923) "A Yarn About Yarns," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 3 : No. 12 , Article 13.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol3/iss12/13>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

A Yarn About Yarns

By
Irene Christian

THE STYLES for spring are gradually evolving and with them comes every woman's desire for "something different" in her wardrobe.

Individuality may be expressed in many ways. The materials we use and the lines we choose are, of course, determining factors but they are of no more importance than the kind and color of trimming we apply.

Yarn easily solves the decorative problem. It may be obtained in a multitude of colors, it is inexpensive, it is easy to apply and it lends itself readily to any material because of its softness of texture and its excellent wearing and laundering qualities.

Commercial braids and bead ornaments on the market are very expensive and yet not durable. Then, too, you never know when you buy these decorative touches how many of your friends are using the same thing on their dresses. If yarn embroidery is used there need be no fear of duplication in trimming. Even if the same stitches are used you would rarely find two people using the same colors in identically the same manner.

All the stitches and combination of stitches used in ordinary embroidery work are applicable to yarn stitchery, for example: the cross stitch, the blanket stitch, the couching stitch, the chain stitch and many others. Good looking designs may be formed by a combination of these stitches and a combination of effective colors. The designs need not be as elaborately worked out as the design on the smock, in the illustration, yet they may be equally as interesting if you choose the shape and the color of the design with reference to the garment.

Decorative yarn flowers made by using the lazy daisy stitch for the petals of the flowers and French knots of a contrasting color for the stamens may be grouped together to form an attractive decoration for hats, bags, sashes, scarfs and dresses. They are featured in the form of corsages on many of the silk and wool dresses this season, and since they are so colorful they furnish practically the only trimming necessary for a garment.

Other flowers may be made in equally as simple a manner. By wrapping yarn five or six times around your thumb then



Yarn may be used in many ways to express charm and individuality.

by taking this small circle which has been formed and couching it down four or five times, at regular intervals, around the circle a simple yet decorative flower is produced. These flowers, if used alone or in groups, are much enhanced if leaves made by using the lazy daisy or the solid embroidery stitch are combined with them.

Flowers made of solid embroidery with centers of French knots or long crossed stitches, as shown in the illustration above, offer another good suggestive touch for your spring wardrobe. These flowers, when made of yarn, do not need to be all the same shape. They may be square, oval, rectangular or round just as you desire or as the space, in which they are to be placed, suggests.

Yarn flowers do not take as long to make and apply as do applique flowers and they are often times much more artistic than the stiff applique or commercial flowers.

The satin stitch, using yarn, may be embroidered on strips of linen glass toweling to form simple yet strikingly attractive trimming. The squares of the toweling are filled in with this stitch to form a motif design or a border design. The dress above shows this idea plainly. It is advisable to work out the design on squared paper before embroidering as this serves as a working guide.

If milady is busy or if she is not adept at using the needle she need not become discouraged as there are still ways of applying yarn. The sewing machine solves the problem simply and easily.

Yarn may be stitched on as tho it were braid without the use of a machine attachment. If you will note the directions which follow, you will find the process simple. Thread the machine as for ordinary stitching, using the same color of thread as the yarn you are going to use. The yarn may now be placed behind one of the thread guides and

down between the prongs of the presser foot of the machine. Stitching the yarn on is the next step in the process. This you stitch as tho you were finishing an ordinary seam. You will find that the yarn feeds down in just the proper amount without any pulling. You can turn corners as easily as you can stitch in a straight line if you will remember to always insert your needle in the material as you do so. Since it is possible to turn corners it is needless to suggest that you can use this method to develop designs.

Cable stitching may also be made by the use of the sewing machine. For this decoration, which resembles the couching stitch, the yarn must be very fine, it must be wound on the bobbin, and the stitch lengthened. After the machine has been threaded in the usual way, you begin the stitching process being sure that the right side of the material is next to the bobbin. If you do not heed this precaution the decorative stitch will appear on the wrong side of the material.

Yarn stitchery solves many problems when you are remodeling a dress since it is decorative, inexpensive, and since it covers "tell tale" seams so nicely.

Wool embroidery may be used on any kind of material or on almost any garment from street dresses to the formal party frocks. If the wool is applied nicely it is extremely attractive.

Inspirational ideas regarding the colors to use in yarn trimming may be obtained from magazine advertisements, from well known pictures and from bright colored silks and cretonnes. Machine made embroideries and braids on "ready-to-wear" dresses may give us new ideas and suggestions as to the placing of trimmings.

Let yarn help you solve some of your perplexing trimming problems for no other dress decoration offers so great a variety and so much individuality.