1924

Only 39 More Days Until Christmas

Rhea Ferne Schultz
Iowa State College

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

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Schultz, Rhea Ferne (1924) "Only 39 More Days Until Christmas," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 4 : No. 8 , Article 8.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol4/iss8/8

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.
Only 39 More Days Until Christmas

By RHEA FERNE SCHULTZ

For the woman who likes fancy work, Italian hemstitching offers many variations and uses. It is lovely for luncheon sets, table covers or scarfs, and for finishing guest towels, and is especially effective on colored linens. In making towels one end might be finished with Italian hemstitching, and the other with plain hemstitching. One variation of the Italian work is to pull out two threads of material, leave four, pull eight, leave four, and pull two. Save the drawn threads and use them in making the hemstitching. In the rows where two threads were pulled, make plain hemstitching, in the other, catch each four threads together, then go over and fasten two of these groups together to form crosses.

If you can do leather work, a set of collar, cuffs, and belt to match forms one of the newest accessories, and would be especially appreciated by the college or high school girl. One set is made of suede leather with notched edges and perforated trimmings. A razor blade is the only tool necessary to make such a set as the above, and if tools are lacking for putting on snap fasteners, one can usually have these put on at a glove repair store. For a belt buckle, use any large metal buckle and wrap spirally with a narrow strip of leather until the buckle is entirely covered. Other sets may be made of kid leather or of other fine leathers in bright colors. Instead of perforated trimmings, a bit of flat tooling, and ground off so there are no sharp edges to cut the leather, makes a good tool for plain tooling. Such a set would give a final touch to the sport dress.

If you'd like to make some attractive gifts from scraps, find your kitting bag and select some bright colored yarns for wool flowers. These flowers add a bright, attractive touch to the sport coat or suit or to the sport hat. To make them, cut a card board frame with eight points—a good size is 3-1/2 inches from one point to the next, and 4 inches for the outer one, the points filling in the distance between the two. Make a hole in the center of the star and thread a long yarn on a darning needle. Then bring the needle up through the center hole, leaving the end of yarn extending about three inches; then form a loop over the first point and back thru the center; come up thru the center again, leaving a two or three inch loop (which later forms the stem) and cover the second point. Continue this until all eight points are covered, each time leaving a loop of yarn on the wrong side of the center. Bring needle to right side push it under two threads and over the loop of yarn and draw up close to the center, follow around and around in this way until the inner circle is filled. (It is necessary to change the thread go down under the yarn and thru the center, and bring the new thread in the same way, leaving the end long on the back.) When the circle is filled, take thread thru to the wrong side, remove from cardboard by bending points and pull the long loops at the center, gently but firmly. This causes the flower to double over and assume a shape much like a morning glory. Finish with stems of bright threads and knots. The loops may then be wound with mending tissue to form a stem. Made of silk chiffon, these form very pretty trimmings for the silk dress or hat. Made of raffia, they are pretty for finishing bosoms.

A novel belt is made of flat silk braid—narrow military or flat middy braid, and as many rows as the desired width requires. Then these are overworked with silk and wool yarn in designs which occur at regular intervals, leaving the braid loose between. The ends might be finished with fancy metal buckles or a large button.

For the girl who is clever at sketching, the individual Christmas card is a happy way to solve the Christmas problem. Use correspondence cards or make folders of French note paper of various colors, put a little thumb sketch at the top or side and write your Christmas greeting or letter.

Are you looking for something easy to make and practical, too? Then try these pillow cases. They are very attractive. Use fine white pillow tubing of the length and width desired, and fast color gingham, either plain or checked. Scallop or point one end of the tubing and the gingham to match and face the tubing back with the gingham on the upper edge, turn the edge under, baste and have it hemstitched, either in a color to match the gingham or in white. With the points, use two rows of hemstitching, the second about an inch in on the white. At the top of the points or scallops, finish with a monogram.

A doll's cradle for the tiny tot is easily made with a few scraps of cretonne, some gingham, and a round cardboard oatmeal or salt box. Cut the box in half lengthwise, leaving cover and bottom to form head and foot of cradle. Glue the cover in place.

Cut two circles of cretonne for the outside of head and foot, allowing a surplus to turn over the rim. Glue in place. Cut a strip of cretonne as wide as the cradle and long enough to fit inside and outside, and to lap a quarter of an inch in the middle of cradle inside. Glue smoothly, slashing where rim and body meet. Line the inside rims with strips of cretonne wide enough to turn up over the edge of the top outside and to extend a quarter inch on to the head or foot inside. Slash at corners and turn raw edges in across body of cradle. Join strips at bottom. Finish head with a bow. Plain, undecorated shoe trees are rather ugly, but may be made as attractive as dainty party slippers by spending a few moments in covering them. For the toe and heel pieces, use satin ribbon about three inches wide. Cover toes first with a bias piece, drawn tightly around. Finish with folded ribbon arranged in spiral fashion. Then cover the heel.

Fasten the end of narrow ribbon in place and wind the spring, decorate with ribbon bows.

Coat hangers may also be decorated in attractive ways. For a club or high school or even a college remembrance, a novel way of decorating is to use the college (or other) colors and wrap spirally, so that each color alternates.

Would you rather cook than to design or sew? Then make Christmas cakes and candes. Fruit cakes may be baked in square or oblong pans or even in pretty star shaped pans which may be purchased very cheaply. They are then frosted and decorated with pretty little candies or by using a pastry tube.

Nearly every housewife has her favorite Christmas cakes and candies and it will not be necessary to give recipes here. When the cake or candes are finished, wrap them neatly in plenty of white tissue paper and ribbons, then with holly paper or put in a holly box, as much of their Christmas message comes in their attractive wrappings.

Just a word about the finishing of your Christmas gift. Remember that even a tiny remembrance, if wrapped neatly with white or holly paper and tied with attractive bows, brings a thrill of anticipation and joy which the poorly wrapped gift loses.