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Hearts and Flowers

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Thinking of weddings? Then you’re thinking of music, wedding cakes, rings, bouquets, flowers, gifts and many other things. If you’re also thinking of your checkbook, then think twice in selecting the flowers for your wedding and the wedding gifts for your friends.

by Donna Read
Home Economics Freshman

With a little bit of ingenuity and a needle and thread you can make wedding gifts for your friends or add a touch of individuality to your own home.

A linen slip-on washable cover can turn your ordinary asbestos hot pad into a decorative table piece. The cover is made like a pillow slip so it is easy to remove for washing. For variety, crochet around the four sides of the cover.

Decorative pillows are easy to make, and anyone will welcome pillows that are serviceable as well as pretty. Any durable fabric may be used. These instructions are for making a lapped-back-pillow top for an 18 by 18 inch pillow.

1. Cut two pieces 18 by 14 inches for back.
2. Cut one piece 18 by 18 inches for front.
3. Hem one of the 18 inch sides of each back piece. (1½ inches allowed for each hem).
4. Lay top of pillow and back pieces right side to right side. The back pieces will overlap each other.
5. Stitch around the edge leaving a ½ inch seam allowance.
6. Turn right side out and press—then place on the pillow.

Huck toweling, purchased by the yard, can be turned into attractive guest or hand towels with the snip of a scissors and the pulling of a few threads. The toweling should be cut to its desired length plus an allowance for a fringe or hem. Add a design to your guest towels by threading a blunt needle with pearl cotton or embroidery thread and run the thread under the double loose threads. Use your imagination, creating either a simple or an elaborate design.

Aprons are always appropriate and there are a wide variety of types from which to choose. A hostess apron can be made from ½ yard of 72-inch net. The

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net is hemmed and then gathered at the top to join a velvet ribbon at the waist. The net may be decorated with small velvet bows or sequins. Here again let your imagination guide you.

Permandas impart a spicy flavor to your closet or your dresser drawer. The fragrant permandas are made by sticking whole cloves into an orange and then sprinkling the orange with cinnamon and nutmeg. The cloves should be placed about ½ inch apart. Allow the orange to dry for about two weeks and then tie the permanda in a bit of net.

There are many other things which can be made. Why not try some knitted or crocheted dishcloths, pillow slips with embroidered or crocheted edges, crocheted doilies or place mats with napkins. Mats and napkins can easily be made out of any durable material and then fringed to finish. A hot pad shaped and fitted like a mitten is practical for taking those hot dishes out of the oven.

If you make the gift, it will seem much more personal to the receiver, or if you are making things for your own home, your home will have that special touch of individuality that is yours.

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spikes of delphinium and larkspur are just what the bride ordered for the big basket arrangements in the church. Their colors are cool blue, violet and purple. Garden roses are also in season.

Glads, dahlias and asters are combined for an early fall wedding. Glads are one of the showiest flowers and they are available in an array of colors. Late fall weddings make use of chrysanthemums and fall foliage in the golds, bronze and copper colors of autumn.

The floral print dresses featured this year for bridesmaids pose a problem in the selection of flowers. No new flower other than one in the print should be introduced into the floral decorations of the wedding. A simple bouquet of the same flower or a foliage bouquet would be appropriate. Types of foliage suitable are the English ivy, philodendron vine and fern leaves. These may be used in a natural vine position or made to look like a bouquet.

Flowers are a lovely addition to any wedding and with careful consideration and choice of garden flowers you can have a simply beautiful wedding suited to you.