

For the INDUSTRIOUS NEEDLEWOMAN

By ADELAIDE BYRD

AN IRIS CENTERPIECE

DESIGNED BY E. J. BUCKMAN

THE Japanese love the iris in its decorative beauty, and here it is for my western sisters in a design for an oval traycloth or centerpiece.

The flowers are large, but you will notice that the work is of our "quickly finished" character, and the effect is quite like that in the sketched design.

This centerpiece should be done on medium-weight linen and worked in either white or colored threads. Cotton or silk can be used. In this day of advanced commercial art, silk is brought to a degree of practical perfection that is most pleasing.

If you use all white for your effect, outline the petals while there is a single line. Use long-and-short stitches on the edges, as shown. Work the center in solid stitches, filling in with French knots, and use seed stitches or tiny backstitches for the two petals that are dotted.

Outline the stems with outline stitch or fine stemstitch. Work the slender leaves solid, after padding with darning cotton.

In padding the scallops, work in buttonhole stitches, and work again in the same stitch to strengthen and prevent any fraying of the edges.

Another successful way to pad is to use soutache cotton braid, holding it along the scallops as you buttonhole. It

gives a very heavy foundation and is very easily done. Try this.

If a color scheme be your wish, use the pale shades of lavender, with a darker purple for the long-and-short stitches. Yellow should be used in the center and a very silvery, pale green for the stems and leaves.

Yellow is also lovely darkened by deep orange, with light brown in the center. Gray or tan linen is always a good background for colored flowers. And I shall say goodbye, my friends, till next week.

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For Birthday Gifts

ONE of the daintiest things I have seen recently in the way of a birthday gift was a little bow for the neck that represented the floral emblem of the month in which the recipient was born. It was made of green and white ribbon, the green cut in long slender loops, represented the leaves of the snowdrop, for the month was January, and five tiny loops of white ribbon formed the dainty little flowers, which were attached to the green bow by slender threads of silk.

What a charming idea it is to make up these bows to pin on the front of the collar, or in the form of a cravat that encircles the neck, and send one to your friends as a remembrance of the day of their birth.

February is represented by the crocus, and for this we use green and yellow or pink ribbon. Make the neckband of narrow moss-green velvet ribbon, with several long loops either side of the central bow in front. This is formed of pale yellow-green satin ribbon tied in a small bow, having three loops on either side. From threads of green silk hang three little crocus flowers made by sewing three loops of pale satin ribbon together at one end.

The violet, for March, is developed in green satin and narrow violet-colored ribbon. The bow is made of the satin cut to form leaves, four on either side of a small cluster of the blooms, made by tying the narrow ribbon in five little loops for each flower, placed in the center. This is an extremely attractive ornament when finished.

April gives us the Easter lily. This is more difficult to make, requiring five

shaped petals for each flower and a cluster of yellow stamens in the center, which can be bought at a milliner's shop.

Two small flowers form the center of the bow and two long pointed leaves are placed under each flower. You can buy both lilies and leaves, if you wish, and mount them at home on a small piece of buckram. The lily-of-the-valley blooms in May. This also must be purchased at the milliner's. Just a spray of the dainty blossoms and four leaves tied in the center with a soft knot of pale green ribbon and fastened to a bit of buckram to hold them secure.

For June the rose. Make two full-blown roses and one bud by folding rose-colored ribbon around a tiny ball of cotton covered with satin for the center. Sew the ribbon securely underneath and match them to a stock collar of lace or pink ribbon, with two loops of ribbon at each side and two long ends that cross in front and are held in place by the rosebud.

The carnation for July. Make this of many pinked ends of ribbon in any color you like. The ribbon in ten or twelve loops and then cut the looped end irregularly, so it will resemble the saw-tooth edges of the natural flower. Attach this to a band and several long loops of black velvet ribbon for a pretty cravat.

August gives us the flaming poppy. Four large red satin petals with irregular edges are sewed to a center of yellow satin surrounded with black French knots. Three loops of dark green velvet ribbon are caught in under the brilliant flower.

The merry black-eyed susan or the yellow-and-white daisy tells us that September is here. For the former use orange-colored velvet for the petals and golden-brown velvet centers. The latter are developed in white satin and yellow centers. One row of these circling the neck and a cluster in front complete the cravat.

A white lace collar with three rows of deep red-purple velvet ribbon around it and a flower in front made of many loops of the same given us the dahlia, and tells us that October is our birth month.

The dahlia shows so many colors in nature that it can be made up in almost any shade or color combination. November's flower is the chrysanthemum. Here, too, we have a wide range of colors to choose from. The flower itself is made almost like a full rosette of narrow ribbon, and the leaves are of green satin cut with irregular edges.

December, with Christmas, brings the holly berry and its dark waxy leaves. Make the stock and a front bow of leaves of dark green satin, and in the center place a cluster of bright red buttons to represent the berries. Several red ball buttons or beads hanging by very narrow ribbon from the center adds to the attractiveness of the collar. Each one can be carried out in silk, satin, velvet and ribbon, and can quite easily be made at home at small expense.

Is it not a charming idea that will please every girl?

In hand embroidery and make a delightful edging for a collar and cuff set. The design is stamped on the linen with the ends of the wings meeting at the edge of the collar.

This is worked with the buttonhole stitch, while the wings are marked with great embroidery.

A dainty little linen handkerchief with the bride's monogram worked in the center and three butterfly embroidered on the lower edge will serve to carry her handkerchief, coin purse and vanity box in when she dons a lingerie frock and sets forth for a round of calls.

The little bag is lined with the palest pink satin, that shows through the embroidery, adding a touch of color to its pure whiteness. Would not a set like this be an ideal gift for the June bride?

How to Transfer

HERE are suggestions for transferring the pattern before you to any material before working.

Perhaps the easiest way is the "window-pane" method. This is successful when the material is thin, like batiste, etc. Pin the sheet of paper and the material together and hold them up against the glass of a window. With a sharp pencil draw on the material the design, which can be easily seen through the goods. If one-half of the design only be given, unpin the paper and turn the other side to the fabric. The strong light behind will make it plain.

If you have carbon paper, you should place the sheet between your fabric and the newspaper. This latter is on top. With a sharp pencil go over the outline of the design. The impression will be left in fine lines and will last until worked. This method is successful on heavy material.

The last way is also easy. On wax paper or ordinary tissue paper trace the pattern before you. When the design is completed, turn over the paper and outline the pattern with a heavy lead pencil. Then place the design down on the fabric and redraw the outline, pressing hard with the pencil. The pattern will be transferred without difficulty.

A Dainty Collar

TO WEAR with colored linen dresses, a sailor collar of sheerest mail is most effective.

It requires a half yard of material. After cutting the collar out finish the edge with an inch-wide frill of finely pleated net.

Cuffs to match may be made with rounded or square corners and edged with the pleated net.

If a touch of color is desired, a row of featherstitching where the net is joined to the collar supplies it.

For June Brides

THERE are any number of dainty little things you can make for the June bride if you happen to be one of her girl friends and want to put a personal touch in your gift to her.

Now that the boudoir cap has become a part of every bride's outfit why not make her one of these?

One yard of net, allover lace or the sheerest of French cambie, two yards of ribbon in the color she loves best and one yard of lace edge are the necessary materials.

Cut from the material used for the dainty cap a circle fourteen inches in diameter, turn in the edge and run a darning thread all the way around. Fall this up so that it will fit your head, then make a ruffle of the lace edge and sew it to the gathered edge of the cap. Around the joining point put a band of ribbon tied in a small bow on one side and directly opposite the a larger bow of the remaining ribbon. Sew this on securely and the cap is ready for use. Small flowers made of ribbon are frequently used to trim these little caps, while other more elaborate ones are trimmed with lace motifs set into the plain material.

An attractive one of this description has a row of small lace butterflies arranged around the crown in a circle, and another row edges a narrow ruffle around the crown band. Two ruffs of lace are sewed in under this ruffle and a rose of satin ribbon is caught in the folds of the lace on one side.

The butterfly design may be developed

To Use Old Stockings

DON'T throw away your old black stockings when the feet are worn out. Cut the feet off and rip the stockings open at the seams. Then sew them together, keeping the narrow parts together, and of them make the top of your petticoats.

They make excellent stockinet tops for silk-ruffled underskirts that would cost considerable if bought.

After you have sewed the stockings legs together, fit them about the hips, sew on a waistband and trim off even around the bottom.

Now make a corded silk ruffle the necessary length and attach it to the stocking top by a French seam. There you have it—a perfectly fitting petticoat at about half the cost of the same ready-made.

A hint that the economical woman will be sure to make use of.

Odds and Ends

WITH a little time to spare the girl who loves to sew can fashion many different dainty things with odds and ends of lace and ribbon, velvet, silk and chiffon.

The most fascinating little bows that can be worn with stiff linen collars, are made by sewing a narrow lace edge on two strips of fine white lawn or linen eight inches long and two inches wide. Gather these, or, better still, lay them in very narrow pleats and join together with a fold of the material or a soft knot of brightly-colored ribbon.

Small pieces of allover lace may be cut to resemble the wings of a butterfly. Bind them all around with either very narrow ribbon or little French folds of satin. Work several dots of colored floss on each "wing" and join them with a twisted fold of silk to represent the body of the butterfly.

From several different shades of ribbon you can make small rosebuds by

folding the ribbon around upon itself and catching it underneath with needle and thread. Sew these little flowers to three lengths of inch-wide ribbon, the longest being not more than eight inches. Graduate the lengths of ribbon and sew them to a small bow, which is to be pinned at the neck of your gown.

An enterprising young woman made quite a deal of pin money by making her friends each a pretty little coin purse out of bits of lace and satin. Some were round and others square, with the lower end curved, and all were lined with white or some light-colored satin.

For the round ones she cut the lace in two circles 2½ inches in diameter.

They were lined with the silk and sewed together on the wrong side, turned right side out and fastened at the opening to curved clasps of plated silver.

This same young girl showed me a box full of flowers and buds she had made of small bits of chiffon. They were beautiful, and in many sizes; she had made use of the thinnest pieces of chiffon, but each bud and blossom was attached to a fine green leaf.

This multicolored mass of bloom was used as trimming for a big white lace hat and a dainty lingerie gown.

A length of heavy white lace that had been left from the trimming of an evening gown was pressed into service to an-

ciple the crown of a black hat, while several pieces of black satin, leftovers from a blouse, made an upstanding bow for the side. The only expenditure necessary for this stylish hat was the price of the hat itself.

From odd pieces of embroidered batiste a dainty set of cuffs and a sailor collar were made. Both were bound with pale blue batiste, which was edged with lace. The collar was fastened in front with a pale blue bow. The effect was extremely dainty.

Now, hunt up the odds and ends picked up in the sewing room and see what a number of really lovely accessories you can make to your summer toilet.

