

PLAITED RIBBON WORK.

WORK with plaited ribbons enjoys such constant favour that readers to whom it is little known may well be glad to hear of it.

There is no doubt but that the growing popularity of the work is largely owing to



Fig. 1

the beautiful and tempting ribbons which are now to be found in so great a variety. No great expense is entailed by pursuing this fascinating little craft, as in patterns which need many yards of ribbon, a plain material is sufficient, brocaded and fanciful varieties being employed but scantily, since they are themselves so decorative that extra elaboration seems superfluous.

Some of the easiest plaiting patterns are also the most effective. A check or draught-board design can be made with two colours only of ribbon of the same width and make. The weaving can be done either in an embroidery frame, the rim of a slate whence the inside has been removed, or even on a board. Whatever support is chosen must be covered with braid lashed over and over, or, for a board with any soft thick fabric to which the strands can be pinned. Many pins must be provided, especially for a large piece of work, as each strand of ribbon used needs pinning down at both ends.

Having ready then the frame and two colours of ribbon, the next thing is to cut the latter into lengths suitable for the piece of weaving to be done. A little extra must be allowed than will be required for the finished work, as the ends have to be cut away, it being impossible to weave quite up to the limits of the ribbon.

For the chequer design as many strips as will be required for the width are to be cut



Fig. 2

from one coloured ribbon and stretched in the frame side by side, fastened at each end with a pin as before mentioned.

To perform the actual weaving a special needle is to be bought, but where small

should be placed side by side, touching one another, just as were the others, and they should be fastened down to the frame at both ends in the usual way. This pattern is the easiest of all to execute, all that is necessary

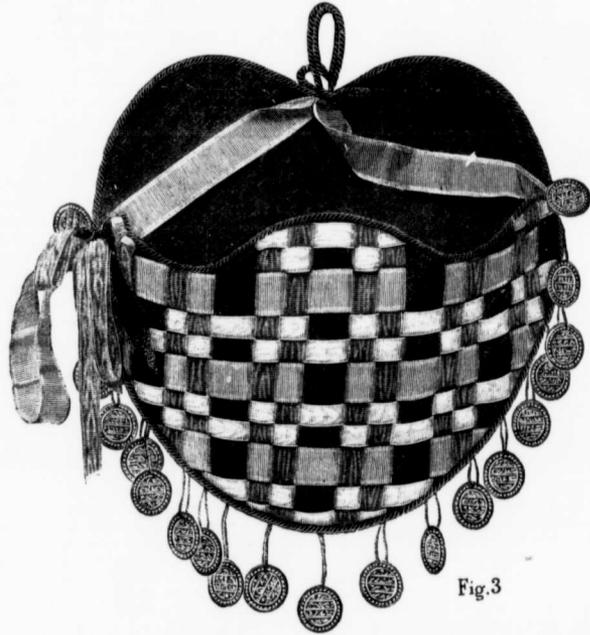


Fig. 3

quantities only of the work are likely to be done a large-eyed flat bodkin or no-crease ribbon threader answers well.

To continue the chequer-pattern, thread each one of the other strands of ribbon through the bodkin in turn, and pass it alternately over and under the first set of ribbons to form the weft. The second ribbons

to remember being that the weft ribbon must in every line be passed under the warp ribbon which it passed over in the preceding row, and *vice versa*. Fig. 1 shows a small piece of the pattern worked.

The result of the weaving should be a firm interplaited (and therefore double) piece of work, which can be released from the frame

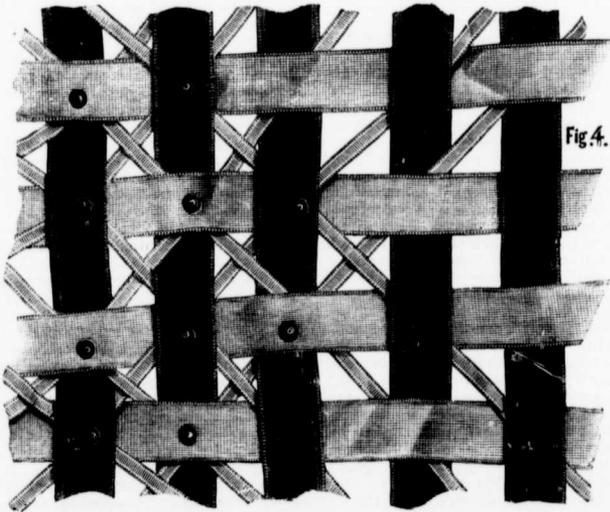


Fig. 4.

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