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## Handcraft ( favorite gifts

Every now and then a couple comes along who are so special that not just any gift will do. That's the time to take out your needle and stitch a special, one-of-akind gift, straight from your heart to theirs.

It's great fun to dream up special gifts for special people. Whether you choose embroidery, needlepoint or sewing, there

are ideas here for you.

The top of the line in handcrafted bridal presents has to be the bridal quilt. Traditionally, a group of bride's friends worked the quilt for her. Each appliqued, embroidered or pieced together one quilt block and signed it. Then all gathered at a bridal quilting bee, sewed the blocks together and quilted them.

This was the start of our bridal showers today, with quilt blocks substituting for tableware.

If this idea appeals to you, here are a few up-to-date hints that may speed the job. First, buy all the material for the quilt at one time, and give the fabric to the stitchers. These quilts look better if

there are not too many conflicting colors.

A good, basic quilting book is "The Standard Book of Quilt Making and Collecting," written Marguerite Ickis and published by Dover.

You needn't quilt the coverlet if you haven't the time or the inclination to do so. Try tying the quilt every few inches with pretty yarn or floss. Very clear tying directions are to be found in the "Sunset Quilting and Patchwork" book. This takes much less time than quilting, wears well, and gives a lovely, puffy effect,

The ultimate in embroidered gifts may be a framed needlework wedding announcement. These usually are derived from Pennsylvania German fractur presentation pieces. They show a bride and groom, their names and the date of their

wedding.
Go to the library, where you'll find designs in books of Pennsylvania German folk art and early American samplers. Whether you work needlepoint, crewel or cross stitch, the announcement picture will be delightfully original.

Needle workers have the ability to take an ordinary, commercial object and make it special. Try embroidering pillow cases and sheets. The bride's new monogram makes a very personal decoration. And, to me, white embroidery on white sheets is the height of luxury.

A luggage rack will be a useful gift for (Continued on Page 28)

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