

A welcome gift for hostess

Hostess gifts and stocking stuffers always come in handy. Here's a little "Come In" sign for the front door that fits both categories. You'll find it very useful when answering doorbells in the top of your list of things to do.

Collect the following materials: 14 gauge canvas measuring 6 1/2 inches by 3 1/2 inches, two colors of wool, felt to match one of the wool colors, and polyester fiber fill for stuffing.

Mark the center of the canvas. This corresponds to the little circled cross on the diagram. Stitch "Come In" following the diagram with the center of

the canvas positioned correctly. Fill in around the words with basketweave in your second color. The basketweave area extends beyond the words for three threads on each side, giving a total of 63 by 17 threads, as diagrammed.

WORK ONE ROW of Hungarian stitches around the edge of the word area. Change the color of your yarn and work a second row around the oblong. Continue alternating colors with succeeding rows until the Hungarian area covers eight threads top

and bottom, and four threads on each side, as diagrammed.

Edge the sign by working the long-armed cross around the outside edge. This needlepoint should not need blocking, but if it has become distorted, now's the time to block.

Trim away excess canvas, leaving five empty threads on each side. Place needlepoint face down on felt and stitch by machine—or hand—around 3 1/2 sides. Turn the little pillow inside out through the unsewn half side. Stuff with polyester fiber fill and whip stitch the remaining edges closed.

COLLECT THREE strands of each of your colored yarns and braid them like a child's pigtail until you have a strand long enough to hang the sign. Use a crochet hook to pull the braid through the canvas at both top corners. Secure the yarn neatly with needle and thread. And that's all there is to it.

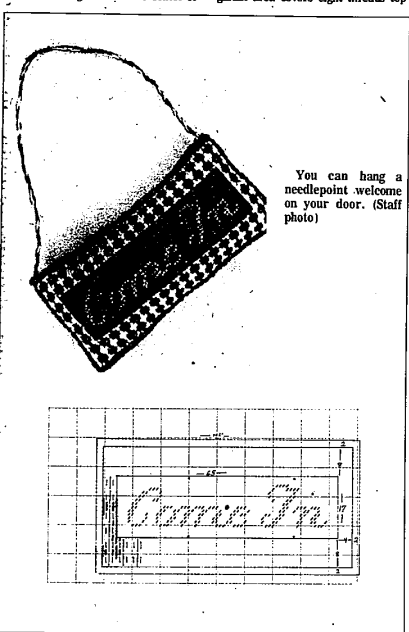
If a square pillow appeals to you more than an oblong one, draw your-



By
MARY
KAY
DAVIS

self another graph. Place the "Come" over the "In", lining up the small x's above and beneath the 'm' and the 'n'.

Leave five threads above, between and below the words, and one thread on each side of "Come". This will give you a square measuring 37 threads per side. Fill it in with basketweave, and add Hungarian in two colors until the sign is the size you wish. Finish as directed above.



You can hang a needlepoint welcome on your door. (Staff photo)

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