

The lively needle

Picture a home on coasters

These house-shaped coasters make marvelous hostess presents, great house-warming gifts, and they only take a few hours to stitch.

You'll need a piece of 10-gauge plastic needlepoint canvas, felt or ultrasuede for backing, yarn colors to match your house, and a tapestry needle.

Cut the canvas so that it contains 32 threads in one direction and 42 in the other. Smooth plastic muffs from all edges. Count eight threads in from any corner and cut one diagonal roof edge as diagrammed. Repeat the cut on the second corner of the 42-thread side.

Edge your house with Binding Stitch, first working sides and bottom with sliding-colored wool. Follow the Binding Stitch diagram, always pointing your needle toward you as it enters all edge holes in the order graphed. The yarn will wrap itself around the canvas edge.

Work Binding Stitch around the roof, using roof-colored yarn.

Stitch windows, as diagrammed in Window A. I used a mixture of pale blue-gray and off-white wools. An unshuttered window is diagrammed at the lower left.

If you want shutters, these are stitched in two steps. First make a large, slightly slanted stitch as shown in Shutter B. Then work short, horizontal stitches over it as diagrammed in Shutter C.

If window boxes appeal to you, these are worked in the same manner as shutters (see Window D). Fill them with colorful French knots.

If your house is as pale as your window color, (mine was light yellow), outline any unshuttered window edges with Back Stitch over two threads, using single strand of trim colored wool. All windows are diagrammed in this manner.



By
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Work the door as diagrammed. Stitch a sill at the bottom as if it were a window box (D). Use roof-colored yarn, and wrap it around the canvas edge so that no Binding Stitch shows.

Complete the roof with Brick Stitch worked horizontally over four threads.

Fill in the house with clapboards as diagrammed. If you have a brick house, work Brick Stitch horizontally over two threads.

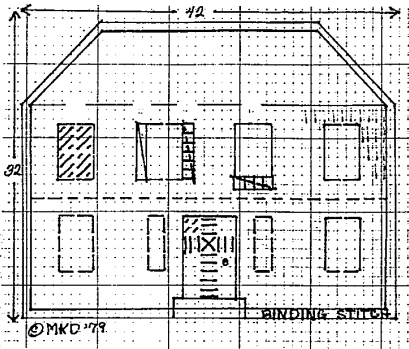
A Michigan colonial will have clapboards worked down to the dotted line, and brick beneath.

Shingles are produced by stitching clapboards as diagrammed. Then work a backstitch over two threads between the clapboard rows.

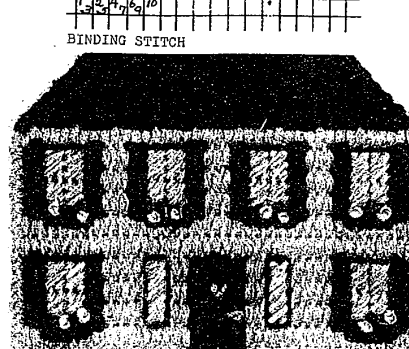
Stucco is achieved by filling the house with Basketweave or Tent Stitch.

Have fun embroidering vines over brick or stucco, adding door knockers from a single Chain Stitch, or doing whatever tickles your fancy.

Cut felt or Ultrasuede slightly larger than the canvas and stitch to the Binding Stitch border. Then trim to fit exactly.



By following the diagram you can stitch your house into a set of coasters.



League seeks volunteers for shop

A spacious new gift shop now is open under sponsorship of Our Lady of Providence League, the volunteer organization at Southfield's Providence Hospital.

The gift shop, adjacent to the hospital's main lobby, was expanded to more than twice the size of the previous facility to enable the volunteers to better serve patients and visitors. The decor combines a dark blue color scheme with natural woods.

The added space permits the shop to offer a greater variety of gift items, including babywear, toys, women's apparel, stationery and gift items for the home. One section of the shop is a garden center where planters, pottery, wind chimes and patio items are available along with fresh flowers and plants.

All proceeds from the gift shop are donated by the league to the hospital for medical equipment, community education and facility expansion.

With the expansion of its gift shop service, Our Lady of Providence League has openings for men and women interested in serving as hospital volunteers on weekdays, weekends and in the evening.

The gift shop's evening and weekend hours provide an excellent volunteer opportunity for working people and married couples who wish to serve as teams.

All volunteers are required to be over 18 years old, in good health and able to commit approximately four hours once a week on a regular schedule.

In addition, volunteers also are being recruited for the league's gift shop

in the new medical office building which is scheduled to open this fall.

For further information about the opportunities for service as a Provi-

dence Hospital volunteer, contact Dorothy Wood, director of volunteer services, at 424-3300 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays.

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