

Here's how to hatch an Easter egg

Our Easter baskets are stuffed with cellophane grass and jelly beans. The grocery store is awash with hyacinths and tulips. What could be more appropriate than stitching an Easter egg right about now? You can stuff it and make a pin cushion or mobile decoration, or leave it flat and have a spring coaster. Any way you finish it, the egg means Easter and April. Here's how to go about working it.

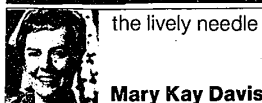
You can use one of three kinds of canvas; plastic, interlock or cross stitch. Ten gauge plastic canvas makes good, firm coasters. Stitch them with wool, since it won't water spot. Silks, flosses and pearl cottons will give a dramatic gleam to these eggs, but they may not wear too well. Use leftover yarns in any colors that you like.

Any gauge interlock canvas will do for a pin cushion or Egg-In-The-Round. Bead it, work it in wool, or use any combination of fibers that appeals

to you. Jewels and beads of all kinds can be added to increase the glitter. If the Russian czars and Faberge can do it, so can you.

USE CROSS-STITCH canvas (also called waste) based on any kind of cloth from gingham to velvet. Stitchery is worked through the canvas mesh, using any fibers in a sharp, crewel — not a blunt, tapestry — needle. The waste canvas is then dampened with a spray of water and limp canvas threads are pulled out from behind your stitchery. Needlepoint embroidery is left on the cloth. Of course you don't have to work backgrounds with this technique.

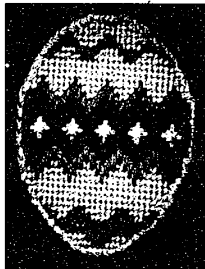
For all of these projects, trace the egg shape on canvas or cloth. Leave a minimum extra margin of 1½ inches on all sides. Stitch as you wish, using Bargello, creative stitchery, Lazy Daisy flowers, scattered pearls, or whatever turns you on.



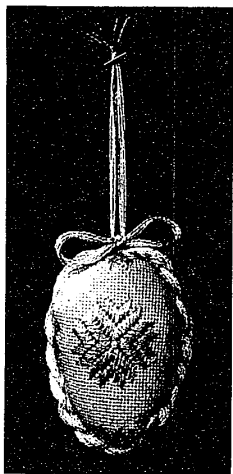
the lively needle

Mary Kay Davis

When the stitching is finished, follow the finishing directions within the egg shape and Happy Easter.



You can vary the materials and the stitches to create an Easter egg pin cushion or mobile.



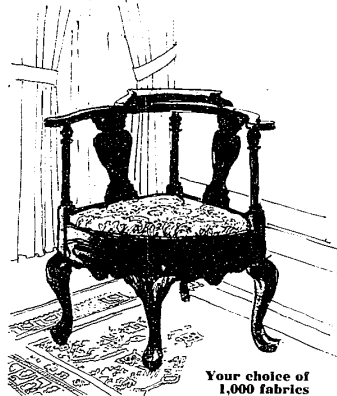
Trace An Egg shape Onto Canvas or Cloth using a Waterproof Marking Pen. Stitch as you wish. When completed, finish Coaster by cutting close to needlepoint. Stitch Long-Arm-Cross Edging over raw edge, as diagrammed. Back with non-woven fabric or felt. Finish the Egg-In-The-Round by placing stitchery and backing together, right-sides-facing. Machine or hand-stitch layers together, along the outline. Leave a hole to turn right side out. Trim salvages to ½ inch and clip curves. Turn egg right-side-out. Stuff with polyfill. Sew slit closed. TIS SPRING



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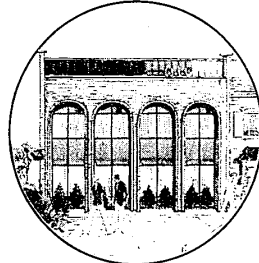


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