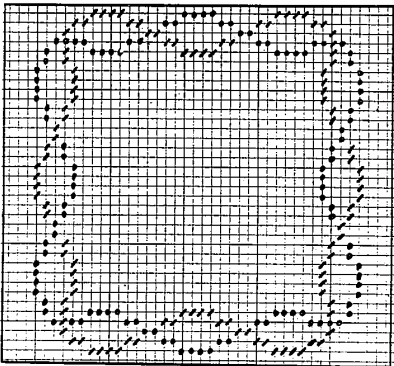




the lively needle

Mary Kay Davis

## Stitch pin cushion for Mother's Day

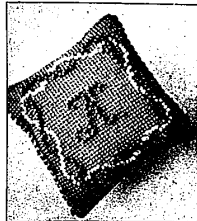


Long ago, a beaded pin cushion was the perfect present to give your mother on Mother's Day or any other day. It still is. Here's how to stitch one for your mother, as I worked this for mine.

You'll need a five-inch square of 14 gauge "tween" or quilting needle, two colors of seed beads, and waxed thread or Johnson and Johnson's waxed dental floss.

Waxed thread is the better of the two, but it may be hard to find. Do a little phoning before you pop out to buy it. Dental floss works well, but I don't know if it will last for a hundred years.

Work the beads into the border design, as diagrammed. Dots are one color bead, slants are the other. Use the "tween" needle and waxed thread. It beads and holds one bead in place while you're working on the next one. Unwaxed thread wouldn't keep enough tension on the beads already worked.



Why not make a beaded pin cushion as a Mother's Day gift?

Fill in the background with basketweave in wool, tucking stitches beneath beads when necessary. Surround the border with the long armed cross.

Place the needlepoint upside down on a square of backing material. Machine stitch around four corners, but only three sides. Leave the fourth open. Trim seams to 1/4 inch.

Turn the pin cushion inside out. Stuff with polyester fiber fill. Hand stitch the fourth side closed, and Happy Mother's Day!

USE THE continental or tent stitch, rather than the half cross, for attaching. All beads should slant in the same direction.

Bead an initial in the center, if you wish. Any initial or monogram book is full of appropriate letters. Consult the public library if you don't already own such books.



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Joseph G. Molner, M.D.,  
Master Public Health

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