

What looks like Gene Prandine's Gene Prandine's family gallary in the background is really an example of the personalized needle work that can be done with a computerized ImagePoint kit.

Travel tales are 🗦 hassle-free way of hitting road

VE taken a lot of trips this summer. I've explored the Great Smokey Mountains a the Far there was a summer. I've explored the far the far the far the far the summer of the far the fa



book break Victoria

there: marvelous travel books -some of which I purchased, most of which I found on the shelves at my

Travel books do several things for me. From the snug harbor of my fa-vorite at-home reading spot, they not

Making a point Hi-tech dramatizes field of needlcraft

special writer

T DOESN'T take a painter to
create a beautiful picture
these days.
Image Point, 23155
Northwestern Highway in Southfield, has developed needlepoint
kits in which photographs have
been turned into computerized
graph patterns. The kits even have
the appropriate colors of yarn.
"Needle craft is an age-old hobyi." Image Point president Gene
Prandine said. "This concept is tochally exciting because it has
brough high-technology to something that has gotten along for centuries without much change."

When a customer brings in a photograph, a video camera and computer translate the pattern into a
needlepoint or crees stitch graph.
The process causes no alterations

'I think the personalized aspect is important to people."

> Gene Prandine ImagePoint president

or damage to the original photograph.

THE GRAPH PATTERN that is formulated from each photograph has symbols that indicate the color of yarn that should be used for each area of the canvas. "I think the personalized aspect is important to people," Prandine said. "It's not just any picture. It's their bouse, their dog, their child. That's what seems to make it special."

Prandine opened the company in 1988 after a friend came up with the idea of the custom work.

"The idea was a great idea," Prandine said. "But the technology just was not there. We did a lot more research and improved the kits immensely."

Needlepoint kits include a personalized graph pattern, Persian wool yarn, yarn organizer, deluxe canvas, ruler, marker and needle. The price of each kit is \$49.95. imilar graph," Prandine said. But no one sells the complete kit

similar graph," Frandine said.
"But no one sells the complete kit with the carrying bag, yarn organizer and symbols on the chart which correspond with the graph."
"A lot of people are doing needlepoint these days," he said. "Needlecraft in general is the biggest bobby in the U.S. One out of every six families have someone who does needlepoint or cross stitch."

The company's kits are sold throughout the country. Local stores that carry them include laceboon's, the Berkley Knit Shop and Jean Lawer's Needlepoint.
Frandine said he plans to develop new products such as a paint-by-number kit using the same technology to formulate a personalized painting and a ceramic tile kit to display a company emblem on a table top or floor.



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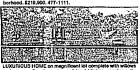
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