

## The lively needle

# Stitch up an ornament

Thanksgiving is over and it's time for your Christmas present. Here's a reversible Christmas ornament that doesn't need any finishing.

You'll need a 3½-inch square of 10 gauge plastic needlepoint canvas. Since plastic canvas isn't exactly even, you'll notice that threads in one



By  
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DAVIS

direction are farther apart than threads in the other direction. Your square will count 34 threads per side in the wide direction and 36 threads per side in the narrow. Cut the canvas and trim off any rough nubs on the edges.

Gather red, green and white stranded needlepoint yarn, a tapestry needle, and assorted beads and sequins.

Whip a single strand of green yarn around the outside edge of the canvas. Each stitch should encircle only the outer thread, and enter every fifth or sixth hole. Since this needlepoint is reversible, you can't start and finish yarn wherever you please. Begin and end all yarns beneath these whipped stitches. We'll hide the messy tail in the work. The entire ornament in red and white houndstooth check using the Chottie's Plaid directions published on

Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. (If you missed them, reprints are available from me in care of the Birmingham Eccentric. Send a quarter and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Or look up the back issues in the library.)

Use white yarn to work two white foundation (horizontal) rows. Change to red yarn and work two more foundation rows. Continue alternating red and white every two rows until the foundation is finished.

Turn the canvas a quarter turn to the right so that the foundation stripes run up and down. Work cross hatching stripes, beginning with two rows of red. Alternate red and white rows until the square is filled.

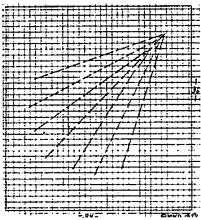
Stitch the seven ribs of the Christmas tree right over the houndstooth check, as diagrammed. They are worked in the Holbein stitch where each row is stitched twice. Use two strands of green wool. Begin and end yarns between the tree ribs where the ends will be covered by the tree itself. Since the Holbein stitch is reversible, you will finish with identical tree ribs on both sides of the ornament.

Weave needlefuls of green yarn over and under the tree ribs from the top down until the tree is completely woven. The needle never penetrates the canvas while weaving. Pack wool tightly so that the tree hides the check beneath. When one side is finished, work the reverse in the same way.

Trim the trees as you wish with French knots, sequins, strings of beads, crocheted popcorn, gold stars or whatever. I attach sequins with a

tiny French knot worked with one strand of wool and a crewel needle.

Cover the whipped stitches and yarn ends on the outside edge of the ornament with a Gobelin or satin stitch. Use four strands of green yarn, keeping them flat and untwisted. This will cover everything. Loop green yarn through the top corner of the ornament and hang it wherever you like.



## Senior citizens need learning opportunities

With U.S. census forecasts of increasing numbers of older and healthier seniors in the American population, institutions caring for them should make sure they live interesting and absorbing lives, suggests Mildred B. Erickson, Ph.D., assistant dean for Lifelong Education Programs at Michigan State University.

Speaker at a recent meeting of the Michigan Non-profit Homes Association, Dr. Erickson said the old myth that the peak of learning capability was reached at age 20 probably originated because educational opportunities used to end about then.

"Now," she said, "there is lifelong education. Universities, colleges and communities offer an array of credit and noncredit courses on campuses, in community settings, in peer group gatherings and in a number of other ways."

"Knowledge is building so quickly now," she added.

## Science symposium set for March

Teachers and students from high schools in Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties may participate in the 14th annual Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, March 3 and 4, at Wayne State University.

Guest speakers include Lt. Col. James Vick, Office of the Surgeon General, Washington, D.C.; Dr. James Van Gaudin, a nationally recog-

nized geneticist from the University of Michigan; Dr. Robert H. Hines, renowned explorer of the Loch Ness mysteries; and Dr. Stephen R. Davis, dean of the School of Engineering, Lawrence Institute of Technology. Further information may be obtained from Louis Panush, coordinator, Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, Room 289, College of Education, Wayne State University, phone 377-6955 or 369-1219.

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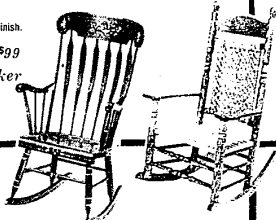
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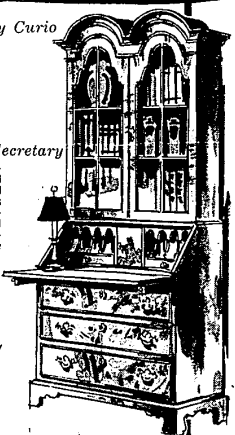
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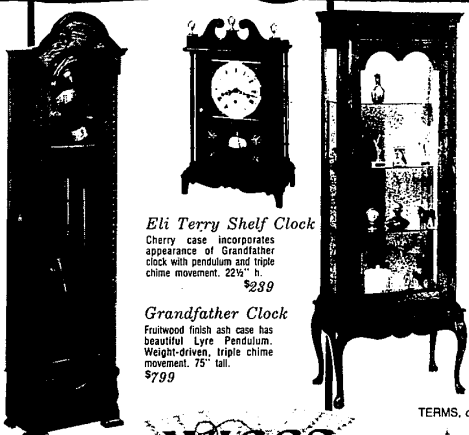


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