

Are you pro-frame or anti-hoop?

By MARY KAY DAVIS

Stitchers fall into two categories — those who wouldn't stitch without a hoop or frame, and those who wouldn't be caught dead with one. If you haven't made up your mind which type you are, here are a few frame-facts.

Hoops and frames stretch the fabric you're stitching. This reduces crumpling and distortion of the ground material and tends to give you better control over your stitches.

On the negative side, work on frames or hoops goes slower than unstretched stitching. Each stitch must be worked with two motions — up and down — instead of dipping the needle in and out with one stroke. Some embroidery stitches, such as the stem, cannot be well-worked on stretched fabric.

EMBROIDERY hoops come in two versions — simple circles and those with stands of one kind or another. Stands are useful to free both hands for stitching. Otherwise you work with one hand and hold the hoop with the other.

Wood or plastic are used to make hoops. These come with mechanisms for tightening, such as springs or screws. Wooden hoops are more flexible than plastic, but you pay more for them. Screw tighteners are preferable to springs, which can't seem to keep the cloth taut.

Properly stretched cloth should resemble the top of a drum and not sag anywhere. Always stretch your fabric on the straight of the gain so that you don't unintentionally warp it while putting it in the hoops.

One trick to keep stretched fabric



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from sagging as you work is to coil a long, bias strip of one inch wide muslin tightly around the inner of the two embroidery hoops. This padding gives your cloth the friction it needs to stay taut. An extra advantage is that fabrics crease less when worked over a padded inner hoop.

IN NEEDLEPOINT, stretching is advisable to prevent diagonal stitches from pulling the canvas out of shape.

Stretching allows stitch tension to be controlled and makes blocking easier.

Needlepoint frames come in two versions — roller frames and canvas stretchers. Oblong roller frames have adjustable rollers on opposite sides, held in position by rigid side bars. You roll finished needlepoint on one side while unrolling new canvas from the other. One disadvantage is that you can't see your whole project as you stitch a section at a time. A second is that the stretch is in two, not four, directions, which could allow some warping of the canvas.

Canvas stretchers are purchased in art supply stores. These are the inexpensive wooden frames around which artists stretch their canvases. Needlepoint canvases are tacked on them, and stitchers work through the hole in the center.

Advantages are that the canvas is stretched on all four sides, and that you can see your whole project instead of a slice of it. The disadvantage is that the frame is as large as your needlepoint, which may make you a little unpopular at crowded club meetings.

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Support series to start

SPACE, a service of the Greater Detroit Section, National Council of Jewish Women, has announced a new series of support groups for the widowed, divorced, and their youngsters. Each series will run for four consecutive weeks.

Programs for the widowed begin on Tuesday, March 13, and sessions

for the divorced start on Wednesday, March 14. Both men and women are encouraged to participate. Beginning Thursday, March 15, a seminar on career and life planning will be offered. This series is open to anyone looking for a new direction, either in education or job opportunity.

On Monday, March 19

a spring support group series will begin for youth and teenagers from single parent families. All sessions will take place at 8 p.m. at the NOJW Office, 16400 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Southfield. There is a \$5 charge for each four week series. To pre-register, telephone the council office 557-9904.

Expectant parents get classes

The Oakland County Health Division will offer eight-week expectant parent classes beginning next week.

Classes are scheduled for 7:30-9:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday at Oakland County Health Division, 27725 Greenfield, Southfield.

There is no charge for the classes, but pre-registration is necessary and enrollment is limited. Call 424-7058, to register.

Topics to be covered include mental health of the family unit, growth and development of the baby before birth and immediately after birth, labor and

delivery, and care and feeding of the infant.

Films and other audio-visuals are used to illustrate some of the topics. One of the class sessions will be a tour of one of the local hospitals.

The classes are taught by a public health nurse and are co-sponsored by the Oakland County Medical Society and various adult education departments throughout the county.

Pioneer Women to hear critic

Israel Chapter, Pioneer Women, will hold its monthly meeting at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 17, in the North Park Place clubhouse, 16400 N. Park, Southfield.

Mordecai Teiler, will speak on Nobel Prize winner Isaac Bashevis Singer.

A social period will precede the meeting. Friends and guests are welcome.

Purim fete

The Livonia Jewish Congregation Sisterhood will present its annual Purim carnival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 11 at the synagogue, 31840 W. Seven Mile Rd., Livonia.

Games, food, prizes for children of all ages will be offered.

Class Reunions

LIVONIA BENTLEY 1959

Graduates of the class of 1957 of Bentley High School in Livonia are beginning plans for a 20-year reunion in August at the Plymouth Hilton. Those interested in doing organizational work or attending may call Yvonne Colter at 464-1617.

DETROIT CHADSEY 1954

The class that graduated from Detroit Chadsey High School in 1954 will hold a 25-year reunion May 12. Those interested in attending should call Junita Mason Wells, 342-0334.

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