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Handicrafts

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Title

HANDICRAFTS

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CROCHET

Crochet is a young lace; its inspiration came from Ireland and is no older than the great exodus of people from Ireland to the New World in the 1840s. Here it became wholly American as they did. Crochet derives its name from the French word for little hook.

Crocheting isn't limited to lace. You can make tablecloths, rugs, afghans, and the new style of today, the shrink. You saw many of these on teenagers this winter and even now if it is a chilly day. It is worn as a short vest.

I decided I wanted to learn how to crochet and the shrink was a good place to start. I learned to slip stitch, to double crochet, and single crochet and how to read directions in "crochet language". This shrink in the picture is similar to the one I made. I spent \$4.00 on the yarn and needles, and I worked off and on for a month on it.

Strunk



EMBROIDERY

Embroidery is the oldest universal artcraft.

Prehistoric peoples often created patterns when they stitched skins together for clothing. American Indians sewed feathers, quills, and beads in elaborate patterns on their clothing. Ancient Egypt, Persia, Syria, Greece and Italy produced embroidery using linen, silk or metallic threads. The people of these countries decorated hand-woven cotton, linen, and silk fabrics for their wearing apparel or their home furnishings.

During the Middle Ages, embroidery reached its highest development. Nuns in convents and ladies at home embroidered rich designs on linens for church alters, priests' robes, wall hangings, and clothing worn on state occasions. Craftsmen began to embroider with pearls during the 1300s. They also combined embroidery with lace for some of the finer fabrics. In the 1600s and 1700s girls between the ages of 8 and 12 made samplers to display their skills in various embroidery stitches. A girl often embroidered her name and the date at the bottom of her sampler.

There are many different kinds of stitches in embroidery, and I used the cross-stitch. You make a row of slanting stitches, which forms a row of the first half of each cross. Then work back over these stitches forming the cross of the x.

I bought the material for this tablecloth and the pattern to iron on it about four years ago, but I never got much done on it. So I wanted to relearn how to do embroidery and to make the tablecloth. I couldn't even begin to estimate how long it took me to do it, except to say many, many hours.

SACHET

Handmade sachets smell as sweet as a country garden. When grandmother was a girl, these perfumed packages of sachet tablets covered with pretty fabrics and ribbons were strategically secreted in closets and drawers for their scent.

Fashioning your own sachets is easy and relatively inexpensive. Just get remnants of fabrics, ribbons and old lace. These sachets, approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ X $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, required a piece of fabric 4 X 10 inches. Fold fabric in half lengthwise and position trimming as you choose. Pin trim on, then open fabric to lie flat and stitch trim in place. Then fold fabric in half with wrong side facing up and stitch the two sides closed, leaving the fourth side open so that you can insert the sachet filling. Turn case right side out.

For the sachet stuffing you can use either sachet tablets, or create your own sachet blend by using powdered petals, herbs and spices along with civet, orris root, ambergris or musk. If you use sachet tablets, use 2 in each case and stuff with cotton.

I used scraps of material and ribbons from home and bought a box of sachet for \$1.25. Thus it wasn't an expensive project and I made 12 sachet pillows for gifts.



THREE-DIMENSIONAL PICTURE

For my birthday a friend of mine made me a three-dimensional picture and I thought it was so cute so I decided to learn how to make one. You get two cards and a board, which cost me around \$2.00. Glue one of the pictures on the board, and with the other card choose parts of it which you want to raise the object, start from the top of the picture and go down. And when you finish it looks like 3 dimensions.

I just love to do it, and have two to make for presents before school's out.

