



HOW TO DO HUCKABACK WORK.

By JOSEPHA CRANE.

ORDINARY huckaback towelling, which can be had in coarse or fine grain as well as bleached or dead white, can form the foundation for very pretty fancy work, suitable for the decoration of tea- and side-board cloths, bed-spreads, and all articles of that kind, as well as the formation of sachets, borders for table-cloths, etc. Huckaback has been used for ordinary cross-stitch, which can be done very easily upon this material, the regularity of the weaving forming a safe guide for the execution of that to me most uninteresting work.

As tastes differ, however, it is not because of my own dislike to cross-stitch that I have not here given any example of it, but because any reader who wishes to use huckaback for that purpose has only to get a cross-stitch design—procurable in any fancy shop—and work it at her pleasure. The space being valuable, I only give illustrations of what cannot be so easily executed without learning from picture and text alike.

Any kinds of patterns do for huckaback

work provided that they are very clear and distinct. In the border before you one of Briggs' transfer designs is used, and it serves admirably for this particular embroidery.

As many persons find that these transfer patterns suit their purposes, I may mention that it is better when you are transferring them to place your material upon a board or hard surface. This, with the use of a cool iron, ensures their coming off in a far more satisfactory manner than when there is a layer of anything soft between the table and the material.

Now it is quite free to the worker either to do the darning first and the pattern second, or begin with the latter. I have tried both plans, and prefer doing all the darning first of all. I find it easier to see exactly where the darned lines come in between the interstices of the design, and these details require attention if the work is to be good; and a second advantage is that the embroidered design does not get so much handling and consequent rubbing.

The leaves here are worked in filosselle silk of four shades of green, long and short stitch, well known in all art work, being used for the leaves and rope-stitch for the stalks. The leaves all shade to a dark centre, the veining being done in stem-stitch of the lightest but one shade of the filosselle, four threads of which being used at a time.

The darning here is done in a terra-cotta coloured filosselle, four threads being used at a time, and the lines run lengthwise, which is more suited than crossways to a design such as the one before you.

Before placing a design on your huckaback, you should always decide which way you intend to darn, and examine the way of the stuff before tracing or transferring the pattern.

There is a right and wrong side to huckaback, and though there is not much perceptible difference in the weaving, it is easier to darn the right than the reverse side. Fig. 1 shows you another way of working huckaback. The pattern is a very simple one, worked in satin stitch, with an outline of dark green stem stitch, four shades of red being used.

The darkest shade of red is used for the darning, which, as will easily be seen, is done vertically.

There are many assortments of colour which could be used for this work.

Old gold is very beautiful for darning with, and throws up reds, some blues, and some shades of green. A design done in old gold can be darned in almost any colour.

Filosselle is a very good silk for darning with, but the design can be executed in tapestry or rope silks very well.

Gold outlines can be used with advantage in this work, and for them Japanese gold, which, though inexpensive, never tarnishes, is the best for this purpose.

There is a cotton called "cotton filosselle," which is like silk filosselle, inasmuch as the strand is composed of several threads. This is very good for huckaback work, though, of course, not so effective as the silk.

The leaf design given here, if worked in several reds and a few touches of orange and green, would be very charming, for the leaves are those of Virginia creeper. The darning could be done in one red or some shade of old gold.

Now for the stitches which can be used in this work. Of course for the design itself you



can employ any you please—satin, crewel stitches, plait stitch, any Mountmellick or stitches that you prefer. Heavy embroidery is the best for this work. I do not much care for open-work designs done in it.

In Fig. 2 you will see a double herring-bone stitch worked in two shades of green. This would be very suitable for a border in the darned work, or for rows of the stitches forming a design of themselves.

An examination of the example will serve better than many words to show how this is done. The needle, you will notice, does not go through the huckaback, but is passed simply through those regular threads which form part of the woven pattern.

I generally use a rug needle for this work, as the blunt point passes well under the little threads and does not catch in the huckaback by the way.

When the first row, which is nearly an inch deep, is finished in the lighter shade, the second is worked in the darker in the manner clearly shown by the needle left in as a stitch is being made.

Fig. 3 is another pattern.

Here the four lines graduate, and could, if completed, finish off in the point of a V. These could be done in different colours with good effect. The rows, on the other hand, if desired to be parallel, could be made to begin and end nearly in the same place.

Here the needle is passed from right to left, the same threads serving for the two rows.

Single herring-bone on a smaller scale and in isolated rows is seen in Fig. 4.

In Fig. 5 darning is seen.

Take long needlefuls and avoid having to end and begin again in the middle of a line. If you have to do so, let it be under the threads through which you darn.

It is best to use a darning-needle for darning, as the work can then be done very much

more quickly than when a short needle is used.

By these examples it will be seen that huckaback admits of many possibilities, and that various very beautiful articles can be made with it.

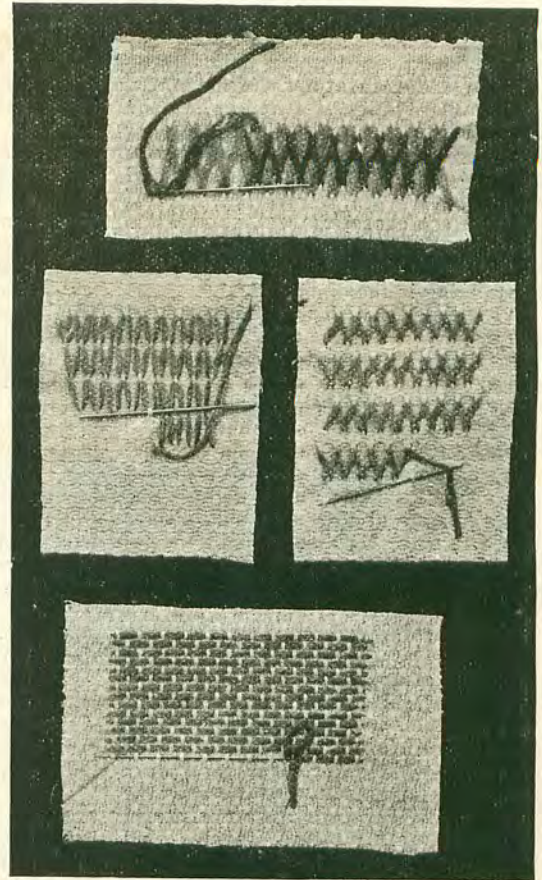
Darned boarders could be mounted on to plush or Roman satin curtains, and look extremely well.

Strips of darned huckaback alternating with strips of plush or velvet or some other material would form nice cushion covers.

When done in strips, of course the work is much more convenient to carry about; and at the seaside a good deal might be done if a strip was at hand in those many idle moments which often fall really rather heavily. A large piece of work would be too cumbersome to carry about and managed in strips or sections.

Overtowels are used in many bedrooms to throw over the towel-horse during the daytime. Huckaback work would be very pretty indeed for an overtowel, and a deep border might be worked at each end and darned, while a medallion might be made at one end of a circle, in which was a big monogram or initials on darned ground.

Toilet-mats are very nice in this work, and, indeed, it would be useless to attempt to exhaust the list of all that could be done with this cheap material which can be had so easily in almost any place.



"IF LOVING HEARTS WERE NEVER LONELY—";

OR,

MADGE HARCOURT'S DESOLATION.

By GERTRUDE PAGE.

CHAPTER XVI.

HOME.

It was late in the evening when Madge and Guy arrived in London after their honeymoon.

They had been abroad nearly three months, wandering from place to place, and both were glad at the prospect of a rest from their journeyings.

Madge leaned forward with yearning in her eyes as they drove through the busy streets to their flat in Kensington. For the change of scene and the new life had failed utterly as yet to lessen her bitter sense of loss, and all she thought of now she was in London was, that it was the place Jack had loved so much.

Guy sat back in the hansom and remained silent. He was beginning to understand her now, and knew when she did not wish to be spoken to. At the same time the expression of her face hurt him, and he would have liked it otherwise. He would have liked her to show some interest and pleasure in the little home they were now going to for

the first time, and her apparent indifference chilled him. However, he decided that it was only natural she should feel low just at first, and hoped for a brighter state of things presently. He could afford to be hopeful, for, in spite of a few drawbacks, the honeymoon on the whole had been very enjoyable. It had been a real pleasure to him to win a look of genuine interest to her face, and then, if very undemonstrative, she had always been grateful to him for every effort he made to entertain her.

It seemed as if they were admirably suited to each other, for both disliked fussing, and for the rest she had no objection to his carrying on many of his beloved bachelor habits, indeed, she encouraged him to do so.

And yet, in spite of the general smoothness, that slight chill of disappointment he had experienced when he first kissed her, remained in his heart.

He tried to shake it off, but, however well he succeeded for a time, it invariably came back. He could not understand it, because he thought he had everything

he wanted, and yet, in his heart, he was vaguely conscious of something missing. He was wondering a little about it as he sat back in the hansom, and a grave look rested on his usually careless face. Had Madge seen it, she might have chased it away with a word, but she was far away, dreaming of Jack.

When they reached their destination he alighted quickly with a sense of relief, and gave Madge his hand. Then, while she made her way indoors, he remained to settle with the driver and see to the luggage, both wearing such a matter-of-fact air as would have baffled the keenest observers to detect they were returning from a honeymoon.

When Guy finally ran upstairs Madge had already gone to take her things off without looking round, while he, on his part, hung up his coat and hat, told the servant to bring in the dinner, and sat down at the head of the table with his elbows resting upon it.

In a few minutes Madge returned, and, casually remarking that she was hungry, sat down opposite to him.