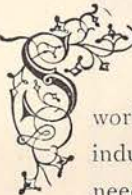


CHAPTER XIV

FOR AND ABOUT THE WORK-TABLE.

 SUGGESTIONS for work-bags and for such accessories of the work-table as busy women and their industrious sisters who ply the needle or crochet-hook for pleasure require, are in such demand, that this chapter is included to meet the requirements of many whose requests all hinge on the matter

answer for holding the pretty scraps she is collecting for a mosaic quilt—once she would have called it a crazy quilt; another asks for an illustration of some method for using to advantage short lengths of contrasting ribbons; still another utters the wish of many when she asks for designs for fancy-work receptacles that may be hung out



FIGURE NO. 1.—CATCH-ALL, OR WORK-BAG.

of combining the pretty with the practical. One wants ideas for a bag that will

of reach of inquisitive little people; a mother of several boys asks how to make a darning

bag that will have space for the unended hose, as well as for the implements needed in their renovation. That none have been forgotten the following pages prove.

Catch-All, or Work-Bag.

FIGURE NO. 1.—The foundation of this pretty bag is an oblong basket, which may be

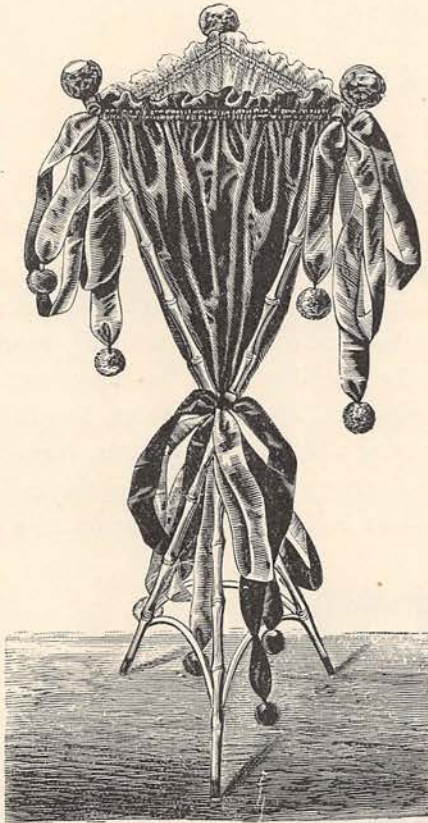


FIGURE NO. 2.—FANCY-WORK BAG.

gilded or tinted or left its natural color. The bag is formed of upright strips of ribbon of different colors, joined together and fastened about the top of the basket; its top is turned under deeply and sewed to form a casing a little below the top. In the casing are run ribbons, which draw the bag in and form the top into a frill. Orange and black, scarlet and black, olive and pale-blue, olive and gold

or orange, or two shades of any color will combine prettily in the bag. Sometimes but one color will be used, and the contrast will be developed with two kinds of ribbon.

Fancy-Work Bag.

FIGURE NO. 2.—This dainty bag has for its foundation a tripod of cane, each stick

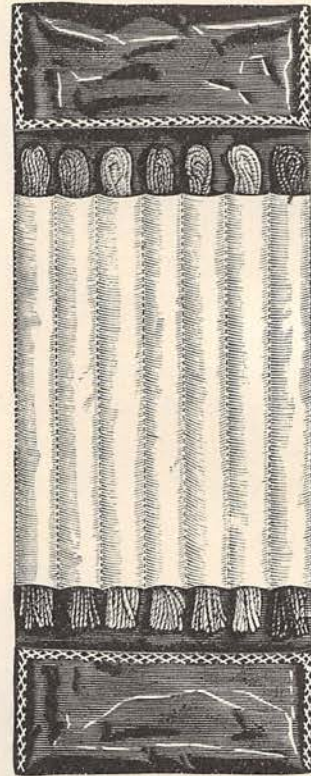


FIGURE NO. 3.—CASE FOR EMBROIDERY SILKS.

being surmounted by a round, gilded knob. The bag portion is made of pale-blue Surah, and the gathered frill which forms the finish at the top is arranged before the bag is put in place, so that only one seam is necessary, and that is at the side and invisible. Where the bag is drawn in at the lower edge are tied pale-blue and yellow ribbons having their ends tipped with gilt balls, and at each corner

are ribbon loops and ends decorated in the same way. If one did not care to use this as a receptacle for fancy-work, it could stand in the drawing-room and hold my lady's fan,

Case for Embroidery Silks.

FIGURE NO. 3.—This handy case is made of a strip of heavy grosgrain ribbon in a deep maroon shade. Each end is folded over about



FIGURE NO. 4.—RIBBON CHÂTELAINÉ.



FIGURE NO. 5.—CHÂTELAINÉ COMPANION.

handkerchiefs and smelling-bottle; for even then it would be of absolute use, because these are the very things that are always being mislaid.

two inches and caught to place by herring-bone stitching done in light-yellow floss. A length of cream-white ribbon is then arranged over the center of the maroon strip so as to

form several compartments, lengthwise lines of machine-stitching holding it in place. Each compartment is used for holding a skein of twist or silk, and the convenience of the case is at once apparent. Cashmere, satin, silk or sateen may also be utilized in making such cases, and a monogram or floral spray will sometimes decorate the reversed ends. Fancy stitching may be used instead of the machine-stitching, if preferred.

Ribbon Châtelaine.

FIGURE NO. 4.—Any variety of ribbon may be used for this accessory. The ribbon is wide and is made into a bow with five graceful looking loops. Two long ends depend from the bow, and to one of them is fastened the scissors, while to the other end is secured a small cushion for the needles and pins. The cushion is shaped like a small tomato and is formed of sections of scarlet or yellow cloth, suitably stuffed. Any preferred shape may be adopted for the cushion, but it should be small and carefully made. A latch-pin will fasten the châtelaine to the dress and if secured to the bow will always be in place for use.

Châtelaine Companion.

FIGURE NO. 5.—The scissors, needle-book, emery ball and work-bag are all most agreeably combined in this unique châtelaine. The bag is of crimson velvet, and elastic cord is used to draw it in near the top. To each side is fastened a ribbon, the other ends of which are fastened under the long-looped bow which covers the fastening of the châtelaine to the dress. A similar ribbon is run through the thumb and finger holes in the scissors and fastened also under the bow, from which depend two other ends of different lengths. To the shorter end is fastened the emery ball and to the longer end is fastened the needle-book,

which is of crimson velvet to match the work-bag, with the customary notched leaves of flannel. In each corner of the book a simple design is worked with silk floss. The initials or monogram may be embroidered on the book, with pretty effect. The color of the ribbon and velvet will be regulated according to taste, and any preferred materials may be used instead of velvet for the book and bag. The emery ball is usually purchased ready for attachment.

Darning-Bag.

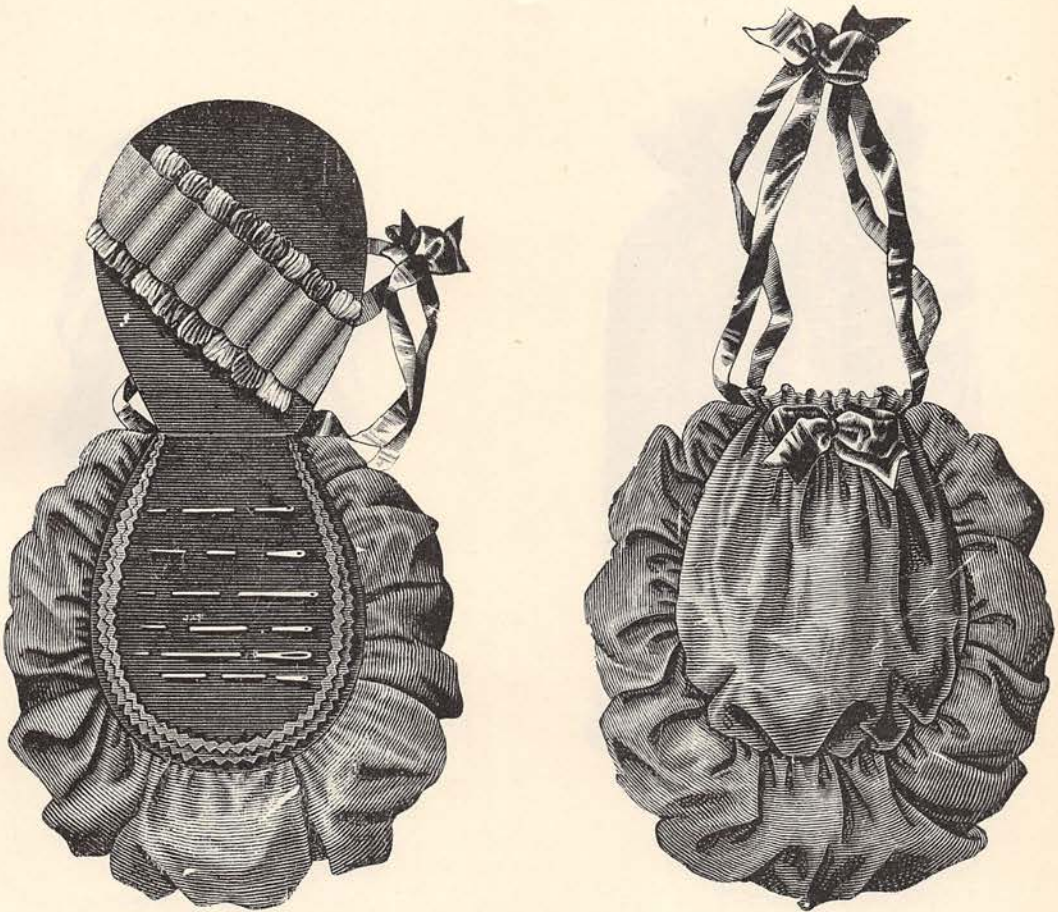
FIGURES NOS. 6 AND 7.—This bag is easily made, and is a treasure when completed. Its foundation is three pieces of pasteboard, straight across their upper edges and oval at the bottom. Two of them, which are first smoothly covered with satin, crêtonne, etc., form the bag, being joined together at their rounding edges by a full puffing of satin, which is sloped off so as to be considerably narrower at the corners than at the bottom. Upon the outside of one of the pieces of pasteboard are sewed three pinked leaves of flannel in different colors for a needle-book, and one side of the remaining piece of board is plainly covered and has a strip of silk arranged diagonally upon it and stitched crosswise several times, just enough fullness being allowed between every two rows of stitching to form pockets for skeins of floss, etc. This third section of pasteboard is now covered in bag style on the opposite side and sewed to the side of the real bag, having the needle-book attached with the thread-pockets on the inside. A little double ruffle is sewed inside the edges of the bag-opening, and ribbon strings are fastened at the corners to hold it, and their ends are tied in a bow. A bow is also fastened at the top of the simulated bag. The effect is very rich when plush is used for covering the sides and silk for the puffing.

Cashmere in pretty colors may, however, be used, with very pleasing results.

Fancy-Work Bag.

FIGURE NO. 8.—This dainty bag, which may also be used as a catch-all, is made of strips

together at the top is done with silk cords, and a fancifully made bow of crimson satin ribbon is placed just in front. Velvet may be used instead of plush, if preferred, and gilt crescents may take the place of the chenille pendants.



FIGURES NOS. 6 AND 7.—DARNING-BAG.

of material sewed together. Two are a pale rose-colored brocaded ribbon, another is of deep crimson plush, and the other plain satin ribbon. The lining is of rose-colored Surah, and the chenille pendants that finish the lower edge are of the crimson shade. The drawing

Button-Bag.

FIGURE NO. 9.—A pretty bag in which to keep miscellaneous buttons is shown in this engraving. The bag is made of two sections of chamois that are slashed at close intervals for several inches at the bottom to form a

heavy fringe; the sections are joined together along the top of the fringe and also at the side edges, a row of buttons binding the fringe. A piece of silk several inches deep is joined to the top of the bag, turned over on the outside and then sewed again to the bag, far

the outside in the fantastic manner pictured. The silk and ribbon may be of any preferred color and variety.

Scrap-Bag.

FIGURE NO. 10.—For some time coarse



FIGURE NO. 8.—FANCY-WORK BAG.



FIGURE NO. 9.—BUTTON-BAG.

enough from the top to form a casing for the ribbon draw-strings, which are pulled through openings finished for them at the seams. When the strings are drawn up the silk forms a handsome flounce. Buttons of as miscellaneous variety as the bag holds are sewed on

straw hats have been utilized as flower-baskets, but the latest inspiration of genius has also transformed them into scrap-bags. Take any new or unsoiled coarse or fancy straw hat with a wide brim, and bend the latter close to the crown at each side under a

cluster of dried grasses, bleached grain or artificial flowers, and then attach a bag of satin or silk to the crown in the same way as you would sew in a lining, except that it is slightly gathered. Make a shirr at the top so as to leave a narrow ruffle, and insert a ribbon draw-string, by which to hang it up. The

quite full and sewed in over-and-over fashion to the bottom. A casing is arranged at the top, the plain silk used for it extending to the edge and forming a pretty contrast with the richer material. Broad satin strings are then drawn through the casing and tied in a pretty bow at the top. There are few houses where



FIGURE NO. 10.—SCRAP-BAG.

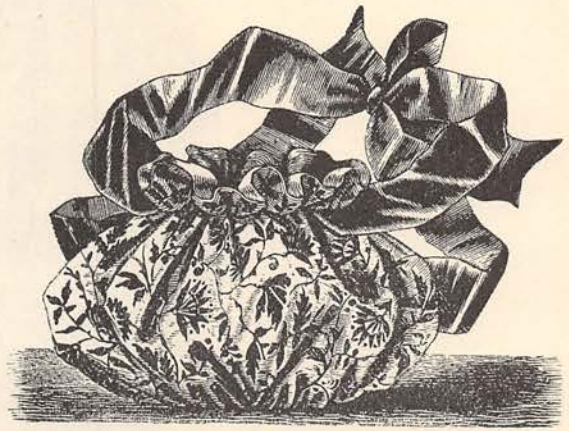


FIGURE NO. 11.—WORK-BAG.

effect is even more pleasing than the engraving represents it, and is both picturesque and ornamental.

Work-Bag.

FIGURE NO. 11.—A circular piece of card-board is carefully cut and covered with the brocade as the foundation for this bag. A straight strip of the brocade is then gathered

a strip of brocade cannot be found, and, if one has been saving, pieces of ribbon may also be in some hidden box; then all that is needed will be a little time and care. Quaint and antique looking brocades are liked, and old-fashioned, printed silks are often combined with more modern fabrics in the formation of such bags.

Lace-Covered Bag.

FIGURE NO. 12.—This bag may be made of satin, silk, fine Silesia or any preferred material of a light or delicate hue. About it is arranged a cover formed of three rows of deep lace, sewed together so that each of the upper two rows overlaps the top of the one just be-

The bottom of the bag is gathered closely, and to it is sewed a shirred ruffle of the deep lace, which droops below a full ruffle of the narrow lace and makes a very pretty effect. The ribbons should match the fabric forming the bag, in color, and the lace may be of any preferred variety.

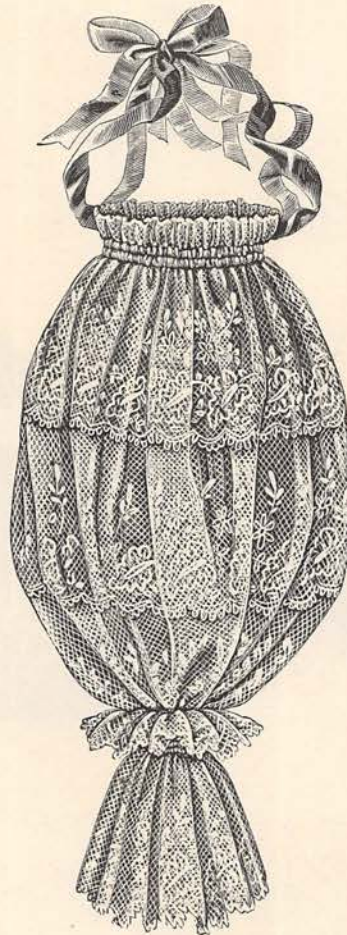


FIGURE NO. 12.—LACE-COVERED BAG.

low. The upper row is headed by a standing row of narrower lace, and then the lace cover is arranged over the bag and the two are sewed together at the top by three rows of stitching made far enough apart to form two casings. Into these casings are run the ribbons that draw the bag in suitably at the top, the narrow lace standing in a frill above them.

Ribbon Work-Bag.

FIGURE NO. 13.—This bag is made of strips of wide ribbon in two shades of green; they are sewed together and cut in points at the top, which is deeply underfaced with the same kind of ribbon. Along the bottom of the facing is formed a casing, in which ribbons are run to draw the bag up. A strip



FIGURE NO. 13.—RIBBON WORK-BAG.



FIGURE NO. 14.—HANGING NEEDLE-BOOK.



FIGURE NO. 15.—SPRAY OF BLACKBERRIES AND LEAVES.

of wide, watered ribbon is joined to the bottom of the bag, turned up on the outside and sewed at the joinings of the

which may be easily hung up without chance of dropping any of the spools. Any preferred shades and varieties of ribbon may be used,

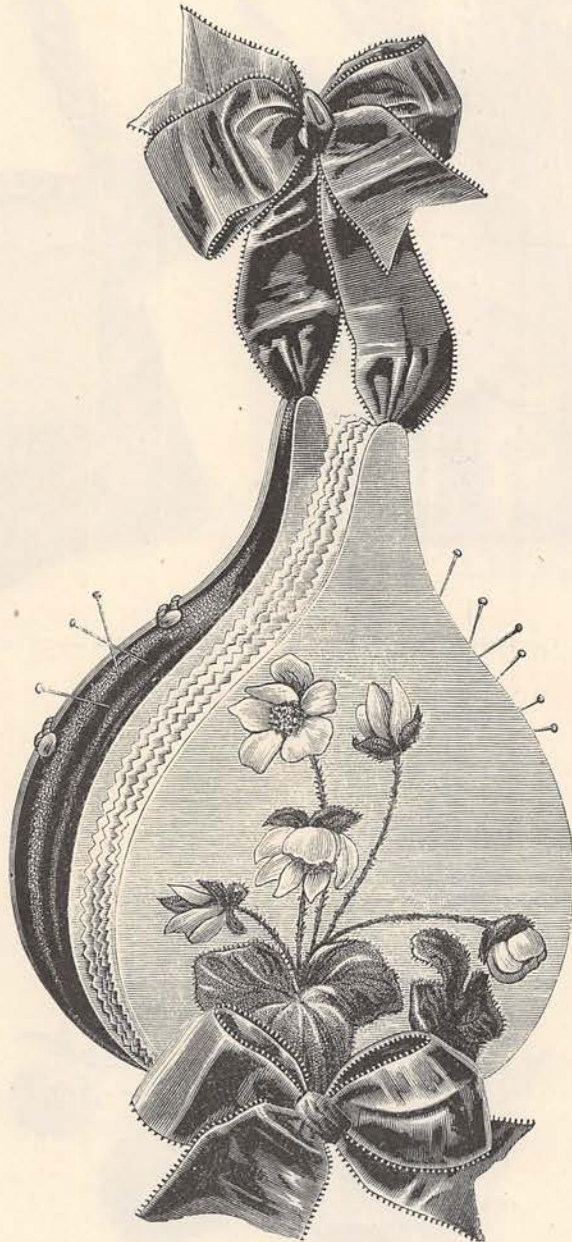


FIGURE NO. 16.—COMBINATION NEEDLE-BOOK AND PINCUSHION.

strips to form compartments for the different spools of silk, thread, etc. When the work is to be laid by it may be placed in the bag,

and new ribbons need not be purchased, as those taken from discarded hats and dresses are often suitable.

Hanging Needle-Book.

FIGURE NO. 14.—Among the useful things of the sewing-room is the needle-book, and a very pretty article of this kind to hang on the wall, work-basket or work-table, is here portrayed. Its foundation is a piece of cardboard shaped as pictured and smoothly covered with plush, velvet, silk or satin, and embroidered or hand-painted in some pleasing

bons and covering may be of any preferred color. The method followed in embroidering the spray is explained at Figure No. 15.

Spray of Blackberries and Leaves.

FIGURE NO. 15.—This pretty spray is used in adorning the needle-book illustrated at Figure No. 14. The berries are made with the knot stitch, and the leaves and stems

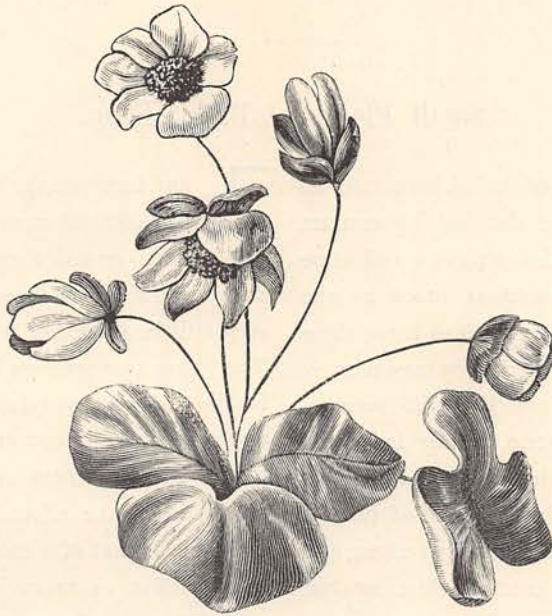


FIGURE NO. 17.—SPRAY FOR DECORATING NEEDLE-BOOK.

design. A spray of blackberries and leaves, embroidered in the lower left corner, is the design here represented. The leaves are of pressed flannel, pinked at the edges and firmly fastened to the top, the joining being hidden by a wide ribbon arranged in bows at the upper corners. The suspending ribbons are attached under these bows and are bowed together at the point of suspension. The rib-

bons and covering may be of any preferred color. The method followed in embroidering the spray is explained at Figure No. 15. with the South-Kensington stitch. Black or very dark purple or blue may be used for the large berries, red for the small berries to suggest the unripe fruit, and green in suitable shades for the leaves and stems. The design may be embroidered on any article desired, and a little study and ingenuity will show it may be repeated to form a vine, with very artistic results.

Combination Needle-Book and Pincushion, and Spray for Decoration.

FIGURES NOS. 16 AND 17.—Three pieces of cardboard cut in bellows shape form the foundation for this pretty accessory to the work basket or table. They are smoothly covered with silk, and two of them are joined to a shaped strip of velvet or plush to form the cushion, which is compactly filled with sawdust, bran, hair, etc. To the back of the remaining section are fastened leaves of flannel or cloth that form the book; they are

cut the same shape and notched evenly at the edges. The parts are held together at the top by ribbon gathered to them and tied in a large bow a little above the ends, while at the bottom they may be tacked together or left free. A floral spray is painted on the needle-book, and a bow of picot-edged ribbon is tacked at the bottom. The spray in the desired size is shown at Figure No. 17. If desired, it may be embroidered in Kensington or satin stitch. Any preferred colors and materials may be used for an article of this kind.

Small Pieces of Bric-à-Brac.

SOME very fine bits of bric-à-brac are so small that they become dwarfed by contact with larger and more showy pieces, and some are so frail that the possessor, much as she delights in their beauty, is loath to leave them where curious or careless touches may destroy them. A very artistic and beautiful receptacle for them may be made by any lady who can paint in oils or water colors. It has for its basis a square or oblong piece of pine or holly board with bevelled or rounded edges, and this is overlaid with a coat of white against which a mass of brier-roses, wisteria, sweet-pea blooms are thrown into a strong light. The design is usually painted from one side or the top of the board, and upon the latter are secured stair-like arrangements formed of small pieces of the same kind of wood painted in the ground shade. These stairs or steps need not be more than five in number, and three of them may be joined in this manner

and fastened against the back with tacks or screws coming from behind. These may be placed to one side, near the lower left-hand corner with the horizontal top of the lower step a little above the lower edge of the back. The other two sections being joined in stair fashion, may be attached higher up, near the upper right hand corner, and with a mass of bloom between them and extending partially around them the effect is indescribably beautiful. It is that of a dainty wall-cabinet quite as attractive as many that cost large sums, and with a bit of rare carving upon one of the little shelves, a tiny cameo upon another and perhaps a bit of treasured Sèvres upon the third it is worthy of the admiration of a connoisseur in *objets d'art*. Such a cabinet may be fastened to the wall by wires hung upon hooks in the same manner as pictures are hung, but, of course, with no incline.

