CHAPTER II

MAKING THE NEEDLE BOOK AND SEWING BAG

Needle book.—Materials: Aida or Java canvas 4½"x3½"; silkateen of four colors—rose, green, yellow, and brown; tapestry needle No. 24; white flannel 4"x3".

Object: To learn the simple stitches on coarse material where the attention may be centered on the principle involved in making the stitch. To straighten the edges of the cloth.

1. Find the thread nearest one edge that reaches all the way across the cloth. Draw out this thread.

2. Do the same with each of the other edges.

3. Carefully cut along the open lines formed by drawing these threads.

4. Thread the needle with rose silkateen.

5. Hold the work in the left hand with one of the long edges toward you.

6. Begin the uneven basting in the third row of open spaces down from the top and in the third hole from the right-hand edge. Fasten the thread by sewing around the first group of threads.
7. Continue according to directions given on page 6. Bring the needle over two groups of threads, under one and so on.

8. Repeat in the next row of open spaces below.

9. Fasten thread as in the beginning and the same distance from the corner.

**Running stitch.**

1. Thread the needle with green silKateen.

2. Leave one row of open spaces and, beginning the same distance from the right-hand edge, fasten thread as before. Put in a row of running stitches, working the needle over and under the group of threads according to directions.


4. Fasten the thread as in the beginning.

**Combination stitch.**

1. Thread needle with yellow silKateen.

2. Leave one row of open spaces and, beginning the same distance from the right-hand edge, fasten thread as before.

3. Put in three running stitches.

4. Bring the needle up two spaces in front of the last running stitch, then back over one group of threads, forming a backstitch.

5. Continue using similar groups and finish in line with the other rows of stitches.

1. Thread needle with brown silkateen.

2. Leave row of open spaces and, beginning as before, put in a row of half-backstitches according to directions.

3. Leave open space and put in a row of backstitches using the same color.

4. Leave open space and put in another row of half-backstitches.

**Note.**—The spaces between the last three rows of stitches may be omitted if preferred. In some cases it may be necessary to change the spacing, as the number of rows may not always be the same.

The row of backstitches is in the center of the piece, and the remaining half should be filled in exactly the same as the part just finished.

*Blanket stitch.*

1. Blanket stitch around the four sides, following directions.

2. Make the stitches one group of threads deep and one group apart.

*To finish the needle book.*

1. Pin the piece of white flannel to the wrong side of the canvas, placing it exactly in the center.

2. Fold the pieces lengthwise with the flannel
inside. This will make a little book 3½" long and 2¼" wide.

3. Baste the canvas and flannel together on the fold to keep them in place until the permanent fastening is put in.

4. Pin the corners so that they exactly match.

5. Thread the needle with brown silkateen. Hold the book with the open edges toward you. Fasten the thread in the upper left-hand corner by sewing over the blanket stitched edges three times. This fastening should be made one group of threads below the fold.

6. Overcast along the folded edge, making the stitches one group of threads deep and one group of threads apart. See directions. Fasten threads as in the beginning. This finishes the needle book.

Note.—A similar idea might be worked out for a napkin ring. It might be given as a special problem to the girl who works more rapidly than the majority in the class.

Suggestive Review

1. How did you make the edges of the cloth straight?

2. Name the stitches you have made on the needle book.

3. Why did we fasten the overcasting stitch more securely than the others? Strain.
4. Why do the stitches look so nice on the canvas? Straight, same length, and same spaces between. It will not be quite so easy to make them regular when sewing without these guides, so greater care will be necessary.

**Sewing bag.**—*Materials:* Chambray or linen 15" wide and 11½" long.¹

No. 60 white thread.

No. 7 needle.

Silkateen for cord.

**Object:** Practical application of stitches taught in the preceding lesson.

Discussion of warp and weft threads. Connect discussion with the study of cotton, weaving, etc. The warp threads are usually stronger, and for that reason garments will usually wear longer and look better if the warp threads run lengthwise. Call attention to the fact that the sewing bag will be made in that way.

*Straighten edges of the cloth.* See Lesson I. Fold material lengthwise with the wrong sides inside. Care should be taken to see that the edges and corners are exactly even. Pin to hold in position.

*Seams—French.* (See directions given above.)

1. One of the ends should be left open for the

¹These proportions work out well for material which is 30" wide. For wider or narrower material the proportions should be changed.
top of the bag and the other end and open side sewed in seams.

2. Baste \( \frac{1}{4}'' \) from the edge, using uneven basting.

3. Crease a line 3/16'' from the edge along the two sides which have been basted.

4. Sew along this creased line, using fine running stitches.

5. Trim seams. Cut as straight as possible, being very careful not to cut through the running stitches.

6. Crease seam. See directions given above.

7. Fold for a French seam, and baste \( \frac{1}{4}'' \) from the edge.

8. Sew, using combination stitch and making the seam not more than 3/16'' deep.

*To hem the top.*

1. Measure down 2'' from the top, using a tape line or piece of cardboard. Mark with pins, placing them from 2'' to 3'' apart. Turn this portion to the wrong side and crease in line with the pins. This crease should come at the top of the bag.

2. Turn the raw edge under \( \frac{1}{4}'' \), crease, pin, and baste.

3. Secure hem with hemming stitches (see above), making the stitches about \( \frac{1}{8}'' \) apart.

*Preparation for cord.*

1. Turn bag to the right side. Measure up 1/2'' from the edge of the hem. Mark with pins
every few inches, crease and sew along this line, using fine running stitches.

2. Cut slits in the right side through only one thickness of the cloth. These should run vertically between the row of running stitches and the bottom of the hem. Care should be taken not to cut through the hemming or running stitches. Make one slit about 3/16" either to the right or left of the seam and the other at the fold on the opposite side.

3. Overhand along both sides of these slits to prevent raveling and strengthen the edges. Care should be taken not to catch the needle into the cloth underneath.

4. Measure five strands of silkateen two yards in length. Have two pupils work together, each holding opposite ends of the threads. Wind in opposite directions until a firm twist is secured. Bring the ends together and fasten with a knot. This should form a twisted cord. Two such cords are needed for each bag.

To put in cord.

1. Thread one end of the cord through a bodkin or tape needle. Beginning at the slit near the seam, run cord all the way around the bag, coming out where you started.

2. Tie the ends of the cords together, making a knot about 3/8" in diameter, exactly at the end. This makes a nice neat finish. A tassel
made of short ends of the silkateen may be used if preferred.

3. Do the same with the other cord, beginning at the opposite slit. If put in according to directions and without catching the second cord through the first, pulling on the ends of the cords will close the bag.

Note.—If desired the bag may be ornamented with a cross-stitched initial. The pupils who work more rapidly than the majority might be given this as special work.