

Ingenuity Solves Gift Problems

WITH Christmas just around the corner and so many demands on her budget, the clever coed digs deep into the scrap bag and turns her imagination to the creation of delightful gifts.

From worn terry cloth towels cut a bath mitt in the shape of a fat fish to cover hand plus soap, or combine terry cloth with chintz or a cotton print to make a colorful powder mitt. An absorbent terry cloth bib would be appreciated by a youthful niece or nephew. Applique a print animal on the front and bind the edges with a bias strip cut from the same print.

Easy to make and equally handy are draw string bags to enclose shoes for traveling. A gift appreciated by roommates is a decorated pincushion or sachet. Simply trim a stuffed taffeta, satin, or chintz heart with a gathered lace edge of contrasting color.

Jolly colored place mats are received with genuine pleasure by any homemaker. Applique flower shapes cut from chintz on a white or pastel luncheon cloth and napkins or trim monk's cloth with colorful rug yarn to match a friend's china. This is done by drawing the threads and weaving in the colored yarns. The same trick is effective on suiting, crash toweling, or unbleached muslin. A simpler effect is achieved by merely pulling the threads into a line design or by tacking yarn to the fabric with a finer thread.

Cork sheets one-eighth inch thick make useful as well as colorful place mats or hot dish pads. A simple repeat border design or bright Mexican figures can be used for a gay effect.

Textile painting is a simple method of applying a design. Either stencil or paint an original or copied design on an apron, head scarf, or place mat. Follow the directions that accompany paints made for that purpose.

Pretty party aprons may be made by decorating organdy and other fine fabrics with embroidery or an appliqued design. Those who don't like to sew can decorate an apron with washable mending tape which sticks in place with a hot iron. Pink the edges and iron the tape onto the apron as binding or trim.

For clever lounge socks, embroider a design on a pair of woolen or heavy cotton socks. With large yarn stitches crochet these tops to felt soles or cork inner soles available in variety stores.

Mothers will put a gift of hand-crocheted pot holders into active duty the day they are unwrapped. They are easy to make besides being practical.

For the friend who knits make a ribbon needle case. Choose a heavy ribbon about three inches longer than the needles. Fold the ends over, an inch and a half at each end, to make the case the length of the needles. Sew the ends down and embroider them.

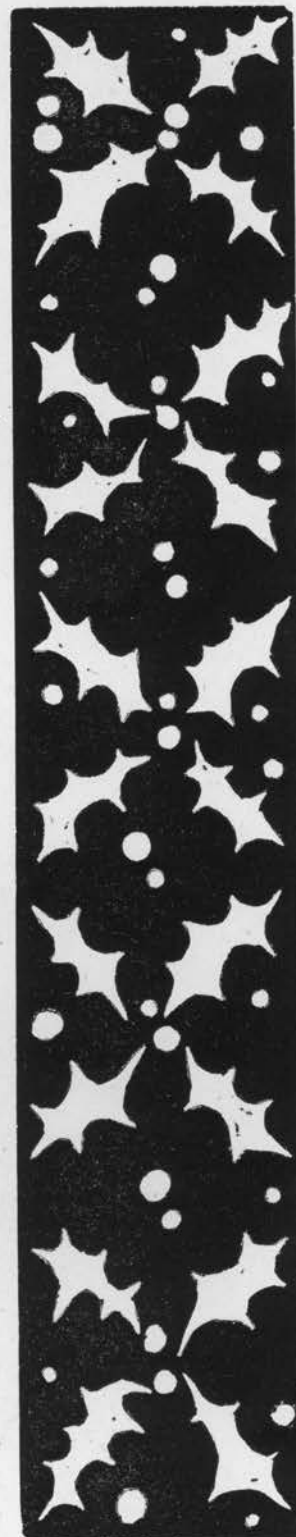
Hand knit socks and warm mittens are gifts treasured by any high school or college girl. Knit argyle socks with yarn left over from sweaters, then add the personal touch by embroidering streamlined initials on the cuff of the anklet. Decorate a plain pair of mittens with embroidery. Everyone admires the cable stitch used on the back of the mittens, or knit a friend one of the new sweater dickeys with a cable stitch front.

A protecting fireplace mitt may be made from an old wool skirt or felt hat. Embroider or applique a colorful design on the back. A small metal hook is sewed in the corner so that the mitt may be hung by the hearth.

Other attractive mittens can be made for your friends from felt or heavy woolen cloth. Blanket stitch the edges and embroider a smart design on the back. Practical gloves for campus wear may be made from chamois skin. For best fitting results, a regular glove or mitten pattern should be used.

Sure to win genuine thanks are Christmas cards or note paper decorated with figures of cotton scraps. Cut animals, houses, or other shapes from bright plaids or prints and glue on construction paper. Finish the designs in ink.

Clever cards and stationery may be made by stenciling or block printing with regular tempera paint. Stencil a design in the corner or a simple border design on the notepaper. Regular stencil paper and linoleum blocks for block printing are sold inexpensively in stores. In stenciling, the part to be painted is cut away, while in block printing the part to be painted remains while the rest of the linoleum is cut away. Envelopes can be decorated, too. Repeat the stationery design in the corner. Complete your gift by including sealing wax to match.



by Mary S. Smith