

A Handsome Beaded Bag

By ANNA CORNELIUS MCKEE

EVERY woman, regardless of how full her days may be, has at her command at least a few spare minutes in each twenty-four hours. Their value depends entirely on the use to which she puts them. The busy homemaker finds time to make clothes for her children and keep her own wardrobe in good condition, as well as perform numerous other tasks, and then, through good management, has many spare minutes left. But such minutes must be sought for diligently and persistently, and since they are like tiny grains of gold, the search must be earnest and tempered with patience. The uses to which these spare minutes may be put are legion; but I have in mind one use which offers a reward and pleasure it is difficult to measure. Let me suggest the making of a beaded handbag. Consider what the finished product will be, then I am sure the busiest woman will be anxious to undertake the work. The ordinary beaded bag, to be purchased at a price more or less prohibitive so far as the average purse is concerned, may be pretty and useful; but no woman can fully appreciate the pleasure and satisfaction which she can get out of a bead handbag until she has the good fortune of owning one she herself has made. The cost of material is very small when compared with the value of the finished article.

Materials required are a strip of heavy satin or silk thirty and one-half inches long and nine and one-half inches wide; or, if another color is used for the lining, half this length of each; twenty inches of inch-wide ribbon, of contrasting color, for the fold at top of bag and to place under the lattice of the basket; one yard of one and one-half-inch satin ribbon, matching the material of the bag in color, for strings; one spool of silk for stitching and for small beads; one spool of buttonhole-twist for the fringe of large beads; two nicked harness-rings, the larger one and one-fourth inches in diameter, the other a trifle smaller; four bunches of small cut-steel beads for design and fringe below border at top of bag; four bunches large cut-steel beads for fringe at bottom of bag; and one bunch each of red and green metal beads for roses and leaves. A transfer-pattern to be applied with a hot iron will be very helpful.

To cut the bag, fold the right side of goods together, the side edges or selvage meeting. It will be found an excellent plan to first cut a paper pattern of the outside or one half of bag, the lining being of the same shape and size. The front and back sections are five inches wide and nine inches deep at the point, sloping to seven inches in depth at the side, and the side sections, or fold-in parts are two and one-half inches wide and eight inches deep at the middle point, sloping to seven inches. These measurements allow one fourth inch for seams. The side-sections fold in exactly like those of a paper bag, thus increasing the capacity.

The basket-design is placed in the center of the front and back section, with any pretty border at top—the favorite "Greek-key" design was used for the model—with a scroll at bottom and sides.

For the beading a little butter-dish will be found convenient; place this on the edge of a low table conveniently located, so there will be no "lost motion." Outline the entire fronts (or front and

back) with a single line of the small steel beads. Should these be too small to thread with twist, use doubled silk, threading two or three beads, putting the needle through the material, bringing it back nearly in the same place, again stringing the beads, and so on. The lines should be kept as true and straight as possible. About one half inch below the first line of beads across the top of bag run a second line of small beads, then the border, and the fringe of loops. The scrolls are worked in the same way as the straight lines, and between them and the edge of bag the space is dotted

with single beads. The body of the basket, or lattice, is formed by carrying strings of beads across from side to side, then up and down, fastening at each intersection to form little squares or spaces. Underneath this openwork a prettily contrasting color is applied, before beading; the required space may be cut out of the bag itself, or the contrasting material neatly overlaid, which is the simpler way. The red metal beads are arranged in small masses for the flowers, the green beads filled in for the leaves. It is impossible to give explicit instructions for the placing of each bead, flower or leaf, but one can scarcely fail to get a pretty effect. The basket-handle consists of two lines of small steel beads, such as the basket is made of, with a bowknot of the beads, with drooping ends, at the top.

For the fringe at bottom of bag, use a long bead-needle, fastening in at left corner; string beads to the length of five inches, taking them from their original string by passing the needle through all, catch again with a buttonhole-stitch at edge of bag, and repeat, letting each loop interlace the preceding.

For the handle or strings: Cut the ribbon so that you have two half-yard pieces; attach one end of one piece neatly to the middle of side section at top of bag, pass the other end through the small ring, then through the large one, creasing it to about one half inch in width here, back through the small ring, and fasten to middle of opposite side-section. Join the end of the other piece to middle of front-section, and proceed in same way, fastening to middle of back-section.

Leftover pieces of silk, matching bag or lining, may be made into little coin- or card-pockets for the inside; this is most conveniently done before the bag is made up, the pockets being arranged as liked on the lining. After cutting the bag, stitch the edge of outside and lining, whether cut separately or in one piece, on the wrong side, all save the selvage edges on one side, turn and press, leaving the making up of the bag until afterward.

As suggested, such a bag may be made by anyone, and is truly "a joy forever," a veritable heirloom. One may utilize any pretty cross-stitch design for the center motif and border, or any pattern which can be carried out in French knots. The bag given is illustrative of what may be done.

Where there are long lines of beads these may be strung all at once and couched to the material; that is, carrying the strung beads along the line and holding them carefully in place with the left thumb, take tiny stitches across between the beads, these holding the thread on which the beads are strung firmly to the line. Single beads should have the thread passed through them twice in order to keep them even and true and from shifting their position.



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No. 2005 N

No. 2005 N. Perforated stamping-pattern, 25 cents. Transfer-pattern, 10 cents



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