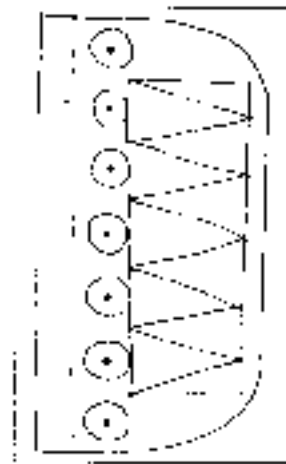


'variations on a theme from chepstow' wall hanging



For colour photographs see pages 38.

The inspiration for this quilt is the decoration that comes from an enamelled harness mount found in Chepstow.

This wall hanging uses a limited colour scheme taken mainly from two striped fabrics which offered a good variety of shades and patterns. It is worked by machine and I have used some of the automatic patterns available on my sewing machine but there are many possibilities available to people who like to work by hand or have a simpler machine than mine.

The pattern consists of a line of circles and a line of equilateral triangles. The challenge I gave myself was to interpret these simple designs in as many embroidery and patchwork ways as possible. I worked each strip separately – longer than was needed to allow me to 'arrange' them for the final product. I added one more design, taken from another Welsh Celtic source – the Ox head from Dinorben – that I see as twisted figure 8s.

The photo of the finished work shows the variety of widths of strips and I am listing the methods used below but not the directions. Readers will want to improvise their own methods, depending on the resources available to them. Likewise, the size and shape of the finished piece is given here, but

only to help understand the scale of work. People whose choice of textile work is different from my own can set their own challenge.

My hanging measures 46 inches (1.17cm) long. It is 19 inches (48.26cm) wide at the top and 12 inches (30.5cm) wide at the bottom including the piping around the edge.

METHODS OF WORK USED (LISTED TOP TO BOTTOM)

Folded patchwork – 'prairie points' over striped print

Couched thread and borders

Patchwork triangles – alternate patches cut from a machine embroidered strip

Circles of recycled metal surrounded with 'cable stitch' in silver knitting yarn

Machine embroidery using silver and variegated thread

'Cable stitch' using variegated viscose knitting yarn

Metal circles attached with sequins and beads

Triangles separated by close zig zag filled with silver mesh and chopped up threads, then covered with sheer fabric

Satin stitch circles with borders of machine stitched tucks and 'free cable.

Alternate triangles filled with free straight stitch and 'vermicelli' in silver thread.

Cable zig zag using hand dyed variegated thread.

Small washers coloured with nail varnish and secured with the help of sequins and beads, with borders of automatic stitches.

Triangles filled with free 'cable' stitching using hand dyed variegated thread.

Metal circles attached with buttons.

Triangles 'free cable' straight and zig zag stitching using hand dyed variegated thread.

Zig zag 'cable stitch' using variegated viscose thread and 3 row border worked in straight stitch.

Patchwork triangles cut from striped fabric covered with sheer fabric.

Free machining in silver thread.

Patchwork triangles cut from a strip of fabric embroidered with lines of 'free cable' stitching using hand dyed variegated thread.

MAKING UP

The simple quilting is 'in the ditch' and follows the horizontal joints.

The edges are finished with piping.

A sleeve is stitched to the top of the lining.