

## A Utility Bag

BY HERMINE ROBERTS

WHAT *shall* I give her for Christmas?" This puzzling question must be settled ere long by all who have a friend who seems to have everything. Just anything will not do. She seems to demand something unique.

colors were used in the flower shapes for accents. If the background was of dark blue, black, brown, green, etc., the design parts were of lighter tones and brighter colors for contrast.

For the most part, the linings were of moiré,



*A Group of Utility Bags*

The utility bag answers this purpose, and can be made so attractive that it will be coveted by everyone who sees it.

The bags in the accompanying illustration were made of felt and were decorated with designs of felt, also.

When a light tone of some color, such as tan, was used for the bag, dark tones of blue, brown, green, etc., were used for the majority of the design parts (*e.g.* stems and leaves), and small spots of bright

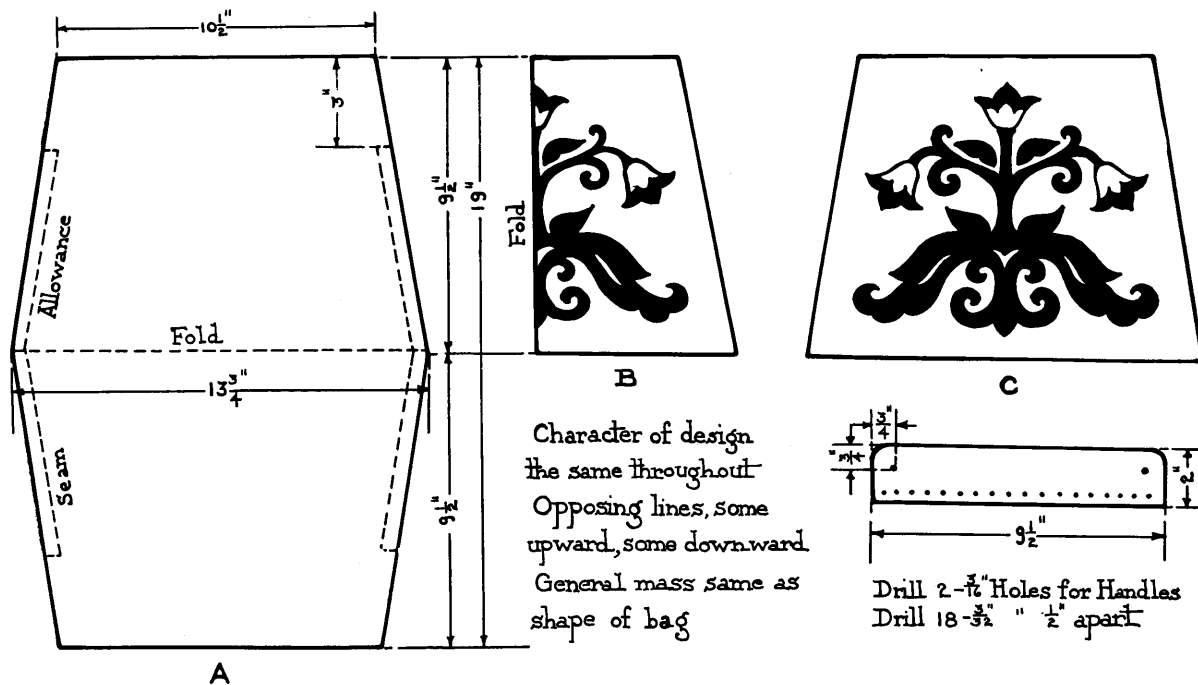
taffeta, or silk crêpe, repeating or harmonizing with the brighter colors in the design.

The tops of the bags were made of wall board, or thin wood, and were stained or enameled.

Braided leather thongs, soutache braid, and silk cord were used for handles and for fastening tops to the body.

The following directions for making the utility bag may be found useful.

Cut a wrapping-paper pattern according to the



*Design for Utility Bag*

dimensions given in Diagram A. Cut a piece of felt and lining material like this.

A simple, bisymmetric design for one side of the bag may be made by cutting a piece of wrapping paper that has been folded vertically, as shown in Diagram B. This may be traced on to the felt with pencil to locate the position of the design parts and to insure their being fastened accurately.

Parts of the design are then cut and glued in place, or basted with thread, and may be enhanced by an outline or couching stitch of silk floss.

Fold the felt bag and lining separately and stitch, allowing one-half inch for seams, and three inches at top for bag to open (Diagram C).

With a coping saw, cut two pieces of wall board, or wood, from one-eighth to one-quarter inch in thickness, and nine inches by two inches; round corners, and sandpaper edges smooth (Diagram D). About three-eighths of an inch from the bottom and

about one-half inch apart, mark off eighteen holes and bore with a three-thirty-seconds inch bit. With a three-sixteenths-inch bit, bore a hole at either side, three-fourths of an inch from the edges, for the handles. Stain or enamel to harmonize with the bag.

With a harness, or ticket punch, punch holes in the felt to match holes in the strips of wall board, or wood.

Lace together with leather thongs, soutache braid, or silk cord.

Place the lining inside the bag and fell to top and sides, which have been left open.

Finish with handles of larger silk cord, or braided leather, or soutache braid.

Pockets for various uses may be stitched to the lining before it is put in place.

The result is a bag, rich and beautiful, which adds an air of distinction to milady's costume, and a spot of pleasing decoration to her room.

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