

A Novel Buffet Runner

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HAVE you ever noticed how odds and ends of colored cloth and thread collect? Noticing my collection, one day, I began to wonder what useful article could be made from it. Just then I spied one piece much larger than the rest, and could not resist measuring the buffet to see whether there was by any chance enough material for a runner. Sure enough there was! Its plain gray linen color was not very inspiring as a background color, however, so I experimented with dye. Imagine my delight when the linen colored a rich grayed yellow-orange. Next I tried out the thread, and found vermilion, yellow, red-violet, blue, green, and black quite striking against the novel background. These colors suggested those so often found in peasant work, so I decided to use a peasant-inspiration design.

"Why not make a border design which is symbolic of my family," I thought, "using peasant-type figures."

The more I designed, the more fun it became, especially when the space seemed to call for a little nosegay in my husband's hand, and several potted trees in the larger children's hands. Two cocks actually helped fill another space. Why not have a little touch of humor? As a matter of fact, it adds to the interest of most designs.

After sketching on paper, the design was ready for interpretation with stitchery. I started with the central figure, using first an outline stitch of red-violet with a blue chain stitch next to it, on the coat, vermilion chain on the legs, black on the shoes and yellow on the collar. It soon developed that some more-solid areas of color would be needed, so several rows of vermilion chain stitch were placed next to the blue of the coat. Buttons were yellow knots surrounded by green chain outlined with blue. The cap was filled with vermilion chain.

On the other four figures, black was used to outline the

woman's skirt, the man's coat, the girl's skirt and shoes, the boy's blouse and shoes. The woman's blouse, man's trousers, girl's waist, were outlined in blue while the boy's trousers were outlined in red-violet. Within the outline, the man's trousers were solid vermilion chain stitch. The girl's and boy's stockings, boy's tie, all outlines of faces and arms, as well as the outline of the woman's apron were vermilion. Blue, green, and a few touches of yellow were other colors on these figures. In the man's coat were, consecutively, chain stitch of red-violet, vermilion, blue, green, with yellow knot buttons, surrounded by half chains of vermilion and blue.

The upper outlines of the large plants were green chain stitch with blue and vermilion within, while the lower parts were red-violet chain with green within. Trees held by the boy and girl were blue chain with knots of yellow within and stems of green.

Blue was used to outline the cocks, with red-violet next. Some feathers were vermilion outline, others green or blue chain.

As to the borders, the lower one was blue chain, red-violet chain, vermilion cat-stitch, blue chain, green cat-stitch, vermilion chain, red-violet outline. The upper was blue outline, red-violet chain, vermilion chain, blue chain, green outline.

Perhaps you can imagine how colorful the finished runner is! It certainly adds a note of cheer to the dining room, and looks especially well with the blue glass candle-sticks, containing blue-green hand-carved candles, and the creamy-white Italian peasant-ware plate decorated with blue, green, vermilion, yellow and brown, all of which repose upon it. The novelty of the design calls for comment, and much interest is shown in the source of the figures. That there is many a good laugh over the details goes without saying.



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