

I Made It Myself!

Presented by Ellen Cooley

October 2005 monthly program – Gateway Chapter ANG

What we'll be doing at the October meeting: Decorating a straw purse with a stitched piece of needlepoint and any coordinating trim you desire.

At the September meeting: Pick up and pay for your straw purse (\$7, check or exact change, please).

Before the October meeting:

- Purchase or design a canvas to attach to the purse.
- Stitch the canvas.
- Purchase decorative trim that coordinates with the canvas to decorate your purse. In addition to fabric stores, don't forget to look into Michael's and Hobby Lobby.

Guidelines for buying or designing a canvas:

- Check your stash to see if you have a canvas that will work.
- If not, take your purse shopping, so you can coordinate a canvas with any color that might be on the purse and to make sure the canvas fits
- The canvas design area should be at least 1" smaller than the side of your purse in both dimensions. Smaller is better, since it will stitch up faster.
- Pick a simple design. The stitched area will be small, and it will be most eye-catching if it's not too busy.
- Push the limits of your creativity! Purchase some new threads and use some new stitches. Have fun with the piece. And for heavens sake, don't do the whole thing – or even the background – in basketweave. Pick stitches that will help you stitch the canvas quickly.
- If you want to design your own canvas, think about a monogram or a simple motif (a flower, plant, food, animal, etc.) with a border around it.

Supplies you need to bring to the October meetings:

- Your purse
- Your stitched canvas
- Scissors
- A dozen or so straight pins
- Backing fabric, if there is exposed canvas and you want a fabric to show through
- Decorative trim to coordinate or threads if you want to make matching cording
- A frame-weight or book to place on the glued canvas while drying

Supplies that will be available at the October meetings:

- Table coverings
- Wax paper
- Paper towels
- Iron
- Ironing board and towels for pressing
- Batting
- Glue
- Hair dryers
- Cord-making tool