

Block Twenty=One in Alphabet Quilt



By FLORENCE LA GANKE.

WHEN the club members met to make the twenty-first block in the alphabet quilt they found that "U" stood for an umbrella. "Of course, how stupid of us not to have thought of that." One woman who was a poor speller, said she had decided that the "U" block would represent an onion. She was laughed out of court and told to consult her dictionary. "Onion begins with 'o,' silly," said they.

"How are we going to get those drops of rain, Nancy?" "Of course you could use a whole square of polka dot and applique the umbrella onto that but since we have kept all the others plain white gingham I thought we would embroider the dots of rain. We can use satin stitch, making tiny white rounds or dots, or we can use French knots. If we use those, I suppose the rain is really hail, however."

Had the club been making this umbrella 15 years ago they would have chosen black for the top, but in these days of gay color the umbrella may be any shade at all. One member wanted to choose red, but since harsh, strong colors have been omitted entirely in the patterns it

was deemed wise to choose some other color for top. Otherwise the red umbrella would stand out in the finished quilt like a sore thumb.

Most of the members chose a violet or lavender color. Nancy's choice was soft rose. That was because she knew about the block that would be next to the umbrella one. She did not want to repeat colors. One member chose soft blue, and another a beautiful green.

The 6½-inch square of white gingham was cut out, so was the square in the paper. The cloth was held closely over the paper pattern and both were pressed against the window pane. With a sharp-pointed lead pencil the pattern was traced onto the cloth. A mere point indicated the spots of rain.

The paper pattern was pasted on to a light-weight piece of cardboard or tagboard and dried under pressure.

While it dried the letter "U" was embroidered in fast color embroidery cotton. Nancy used green to match all her other letters. Then, too, she had chosen green gingham for her connecting strips in finished quilt.

After the pattern was dry the umbrella top was cut out and the handle. The stick was cut in one

piece so that it extended from the curved handle to the tip. Even though it did not show when the umbrella top was appliqued, Nancy found it was easier to do than if she cut two pieces.

The stick was cut from a bias piece and was made just twice as wide as the finished stick. The edges were folded under until they met at the center and were then basted in place.

The top was cut with an allowance of a quarter-inch on all sides. This was turned under, basted in place and then the piece was pressed.

Nancy found that small slits at the edge made it easier to turn the curve at handle and the curves in umbrella top.

The pieces were pinned in place and then basted and later appliqued with fine, slanting hemming stitch.

Then the dots were embroidered and another block was ready.

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A DIRECTION LEAFLET

that will aid in making the Alphabet Quilt will be sent free to any reader sending a stamped, addressed envelope to Nancy Page, in care of The Detroit Free Press. Missing patterns may be purchased for 10 cents each.