STRING ART

**REQUIREMENTS**

1. Describe the following: String Craft, Symmography, Geometric Stitchery.

2. Explain how to use the materials when used on wood or cardboard.

3. Draw and stitch on cardboard in equally spaced points:
   a. a right angle
   b. an acute angle
   c. an obtuse angle.

4. Choose one of the above named angles and create a design on cardboard by repeating the same angle four times within your design.

5. Name three ways to prepare wood for string craft.

6. Describe and have one sample of each, a drawing pattern, transferring a circle pattern, pounding nails and stringing.

7. Use stringing methods for wood in the following: Filled and hollowed circles, star, edging, curve from within and curve from without, filler, and wing weave.

8. Describe and finish all hangings.

9. Have at least two completed original hangings on wood for display.

10. Use a compass to draw a circle and mark off six equally spaced points around it. Construct the angles and fill in with your choice of coloured thread on cardboard and mount for display.

The following notes have been compiled from the following references:

- Line Designs, by Dale G. Seymour & Joyce Snider. Creative Publications, P.O. Box 382, Palo Alto, California 94302
- Designing in String, by Robert E. Sharpton, The Royal Craft Library, Cuninham Art Products Inc 1971, Brochure No 7136
- Pin and Thread by Leisure Crafts, available from any craft shop in Australia (An excellent production).

String Art, String Craft, Symmography, Geometric Stitchery, Nail and Thread, Pin and Thread, Geometric Picture Patterns are all one craft, which is now an Honour. Symmography, often referred to as String Art, is very similar in linear design and delicacy of appearance to earlier works of wire sculpture, mobiles and stabiles. The
word symmography is a combination of the word "symmetry" and the suffix "graphy" and the same basic designs used for this art are to be found in other art and craft forms throughout the world.

The execution of a design is very simple. The curves in the design are formed between two lines of pins. Their shape varies with the angle at which the lines are set in relation to one another, and with the shape of the lines of pins.

You can compound these curves to make not only interesting abstract compositions but pleasing representational designs.

We have included instructions for setting the pins and threading the designs, but, after doing a few of these you will probably want to try your own ideas as for Requirement 9.

In planning your design, three features are advisable:

1. A matt background is preferable so that no reflections confuse the shapes.
2. The thread and background should be in quite strongly contrasting colours.
3. The thread itself should not be "hairy" but clean-textured and relatively fine.

Pin spacing should be as even as possible using at least 20 in any row of design except in special circumstances.

Follow basic suggestions in the following patterns and then create your own.

Have fun!

Many of the items you need for this hobby can be found around the house — hardboard, nails or panel pins, thread, a hammer, graph paper, and a piece of plywood or blockboard. The nails are hammered into a felt covered or painted board then thread is taken round the nails in straight lines to produce natural curves and a three dimensional effect. It is essential for a good result to space the nails evenly in each row, although lines of different spacing may be incorporated in the same picture. Work out the spacing on graph paper first and use this as an actual size pattern.

To ensure all nails are a uniform height, use a depth gauge (a strip of 10-mm square hardwood). Place this next to each nail and hammer the nail until you hit the gauge.

Once you have mastered one or two basic principles, you can develop your own designs. Like a kaleidoscope, there is no end to the permutations. There are many different materials and yarns you can use to vary the pictures. Felt, hessian or cork, for example, can be used for the backing board cover.

Wool, string, wire or cotton produce different effects for the threading. To start with though, the essentials are not expensive to buy — in fact you will probably have a piece of wood and some nails or panel pins, yarn and a hammer in the house. You will also need graph paper, a pencil, ruler, compass and scissors.
BASIC DESIGNS:

Curve from straight lines: Two lines, drawn at 90° to each other, are divided up equally into a number of points, in this case eleven in each.

By drawing a line from A1 to B1, A2 to B2, A3 to B3 etc a curve will be formed. The closer the dots are brought together, the smoother the curve will be. Exactly the same effect can be achieved with nails and yarn, each dot representing the nail and the line representing the yarn.

Cross from four lines: One angle is taken a step further, with four lines at right angles to each other forming a cross. Providing that there are the same numbers of dots in each line, the curve can be achieved. With the nails in position, thread this design with a single piece of yarn starting at position A1, taking the yarn round B1 and C1, and continuing in numerical order until all the pins are engaged with yarn.

Open square: A further variation on the angle, using four straight lines at right angles to form a square with the curves overlapping each other. Again it is essential to have the same number of dots in each line and to join them in numerical sequence. It is not necessary for the lines to be the same length.
**Tight Angle curve:** To get away from lines of dots at 90° to each other, reduce the angle. The points are threaded in sequence as in “Curve from straight line” but a steeper curve results.

**Triangle:** Add another line to an angle to make a triangle and then a pattern develops.

**More Complex Triangles:** From this basic triangle, more complicated patterns can follow. Each triangle is threaded individually but the centre lines are each engaged with yarn twice.

**Making You Own Designs.**

Working from these basic shapes, you can experiment on paper and make up your own designs. Draw out your patterns full size on graph paper using a dot to represent each nail or pin position. Then join up the dots with pencil lines to obtain an idea of the finished result. This will save hours of practising freehand with a hammer and nails or pins. When you are happy with the design, use the graph paper as a template and place it over the pre-prepared board, securing it at each corner with a drawing pin, then hammer the nails or pins through the paper into the board.

**Choosing Your Materials.**

Once you understand how the basic curves are made up with pins and yarn you will want to experiment with materials. Each sample has a different backing and yarn — the choice and variation are great. For the best effect,
choose a yarn in a contrasting colour to the background; for example, white yarn on a black backing can look very dramatic.

In some cases you can complement the subject with the colour of yarn and board used — a ship threaded with silver on a blue background would be representational and effective. Choose colours to go with your room colour scheme or to highlight a wall and for maximum impact, hang your pictures together in groups.

For a permanent picture the backing board, either plywood or chipboard, must be at least 12 mm thick. For experimenting, use cork or thick cardboard and map or dressmaking pins.

When using plywood or chipboard, use nails that are at least 18 mm long. Panel pins are ideal. Any nail can be used as long as the head isn't too large. The larger the nail, the thicker the yarn should be.

**Starting and Finishing.**

To secure the yarn before starting the winding, tie it with a double knot to the first nail. When the winding is complete, tie the yarn to the last nail with a double knot, being careful to keep the yarn taut. Place a tiny dab of clear glue on each knot and allow to dry. This secures the knot. Trim the ends of yarn close to the knots.

The following illustrations show how to string circles and different variations, stars, edging, fillers, and wing weaves. These may be of some assistance to you in creating your patterns. The best way to learn what will happen is to experiment and see for yourself. There are numerous possibilities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hollow Circle</th>
<th>Filled Circle left hollow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Filled Circle</td>
<td>Edging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edging on inside and outside of curve</td>
<td>Filler</td>
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The Star is an effective technique in many designs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step 1</th>
<th>Step 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wing Weave</td>
<td>Wing Weave</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Step 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wing Weave</td>
<td>Wing Weave</td>
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Wing Weave – Step 5