

# **I Made It Myself!**

*Presented by Ellen Cooley*

October 2005 monthly program – Gateway Chapter ANG

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**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