

Nancy Page Club— Magic Vine Quilt

Block 8 Downy Gentian

Margaret was one of the members of the needlework club who was quite a botanist. She recognized most of the flowers which Nancy designed for the magic vine quilt. That was a tribute to Nancy's skill as an artist for it is quite true that many of her flowers could not be found, just as she drew them, on hill or vale, in meadow or in woodland. But that did not mean that they were not effective when they were translated into a quilt pattern for the magic vine.

Someone asked a club member where they ever got the name "Magic Vine." Well, you see, it is like this—we have a vine that never could have grown, for on it there are flowers of spring, of summer and late fall. It is a vine that grows in never-never land where orchids and dandelions are as friendly as the lion and the lamb. It is in truth a magic vine."

The light block in the quilt series was a gentian, that flower which has poems written in tribute to it. The gentian, at least the downy one, it not as fringed as the other gentian, even though it belongs to the same family. But it does have some of the same, quality of blue in its coloring. The flowers are violet blue, soft and dainty enough to have deserved the adjective—downy.

Nancy suggested that the members use two shades of violet blue in developing this flower, making the forepart of the flower a lighter ground. The leaves are green, so is the stem and the tiny leaves at the base of the flowers. Even though the stem and base are in one piece, Nancy strongly advised making the stem in the usual fashion and then appliquéing the whorl of leaves at the base of the flower.

The square given in today's appear is pasted onto a piece of lightweight cardboard or tag board and dried under pressure. Then the various pieces are cut out. There will be two parts to the flower, the base of leaves, the stem and the two leaves growing from the stem of the vine. The dotted lines at the bottom of stem indicate the overlapping leaf which is appliquéed into place after the next block is seamed onto this one.

The dotted lines at the top of the blocks show the placement of the green leaf which joins the milkwort block and this gentian one. It is put in place so that it has its base covered by the gentian flower, but it finally appliquéed only after the two blocks are seamed together.

Nancy again cautions the members concerning the use of fast color material. She suggested a plain color for the gentian rather than a patterned one. The back or darker part of flower should be cut long enough so that its raw edge base will be completely covered by the appliquéed fore part of the flower.

In cutting the pieces allow one-quarter inch on all sides for turning under raw edges. Baste and press in place and then finally pin the pieces on to the six and one-half inch block of white gingham in positions indicated by pattern given today. Appliqué pieces with fine, slanting, invisible hemming stitches.

Nancy announced that the next flower had three initials, F.B.D., and challenged the group to guess what it would be.

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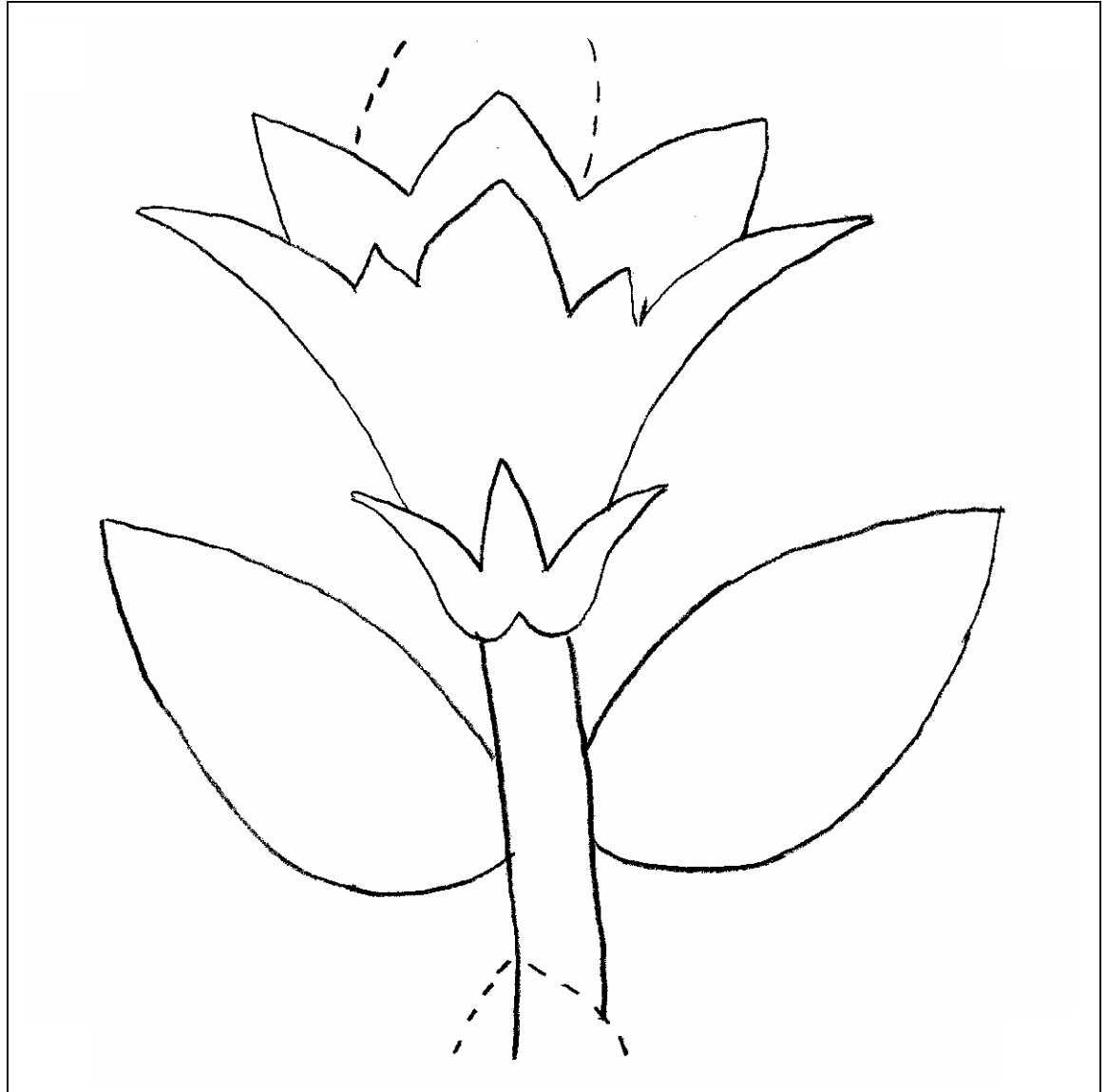
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