

Nancy Page Club— Magic Vine Quilt

Block 17 Bluebell

When the needlework club began to work on the blue bell design they understood why Nancy had asked them to come to club meeting prepared to tell a Scotch story. And such a host of stories as there were! And how they did laugh at the stories, and how they did all agree that the stories were a myth, for each member had some incident which told of the kindness of a Scottish family or neighbor.

They really did not believe that the Scots were pictured truly even though they recalled Burn's lines which asked for some power "to see ourselves as others see us."

But after the stories were told and the daughter of the house had played the "Blue Bells of Scotland" with variations they settled to work.

There was no doubt as to the color of the flower. It was blue, a soft blue which blended well with the rosy or lavender cosmos in the block above. The longer the members worked at these quilts the more they appreciated the part which soft pastel colors played in the beauty of the finished quilt. A harsh, crude color may have been used in the quilt made by grandmother, but rooms of today call for the softer, quieter colors.

Then too, the club members were exceedingly careful to choose fast-colored material. They realized how sad it would be to put all the stitches and time into a quilt as beautiful as this, only to have the quilt ruined when it was washed. The very center of the blue bell was worked in satin stitch with fast-color embroidery cotton in yellow.

The stem and leaves were of the same shade of light green as was used in the connecting leaf of the first and third vine. The dark green of the first and third vine was used for the connecting leaf of the second and fourth vine. This connecting leaf is cut from the pattern given second in this series. It is the same leaf which will make the vine border encircling the whole quilt. Many of the members worked on that border in their spare time.

The paper square was cut from the paper and transferred lightly to the six-and-one-half-inch square of white material which is the base of all the blocks. Then the paper square was pasted to a piece of lightweight tag or cardboard and dried under pressure. After this is was cut into parts, using the blue bells as patterns. The same was true of the leaves and stem.

The two light points of the partially opened blue bell were made of lighter-colored material than was used for the main part of the flower. In cutting the material the members were careful to allow one-quarter inch on all sides for turning under.

The stem was cut from bias material and was made twice as wide as the pattern given. Then the raw edges were turned under until they met at the center of the wrong side of the stem. Raw edges were basted and pressed in place. The pieces were pinned in place on the white block and appliquéd with fine, slanting invisible hemming stitches.

The joining leaf was appliquéd as soon as the two blocks, the cosmos and blue bell, were seamed together. Then the blue bell was laid over it as shown in the pattern. A duplicate of this block was made for the fourth vine.

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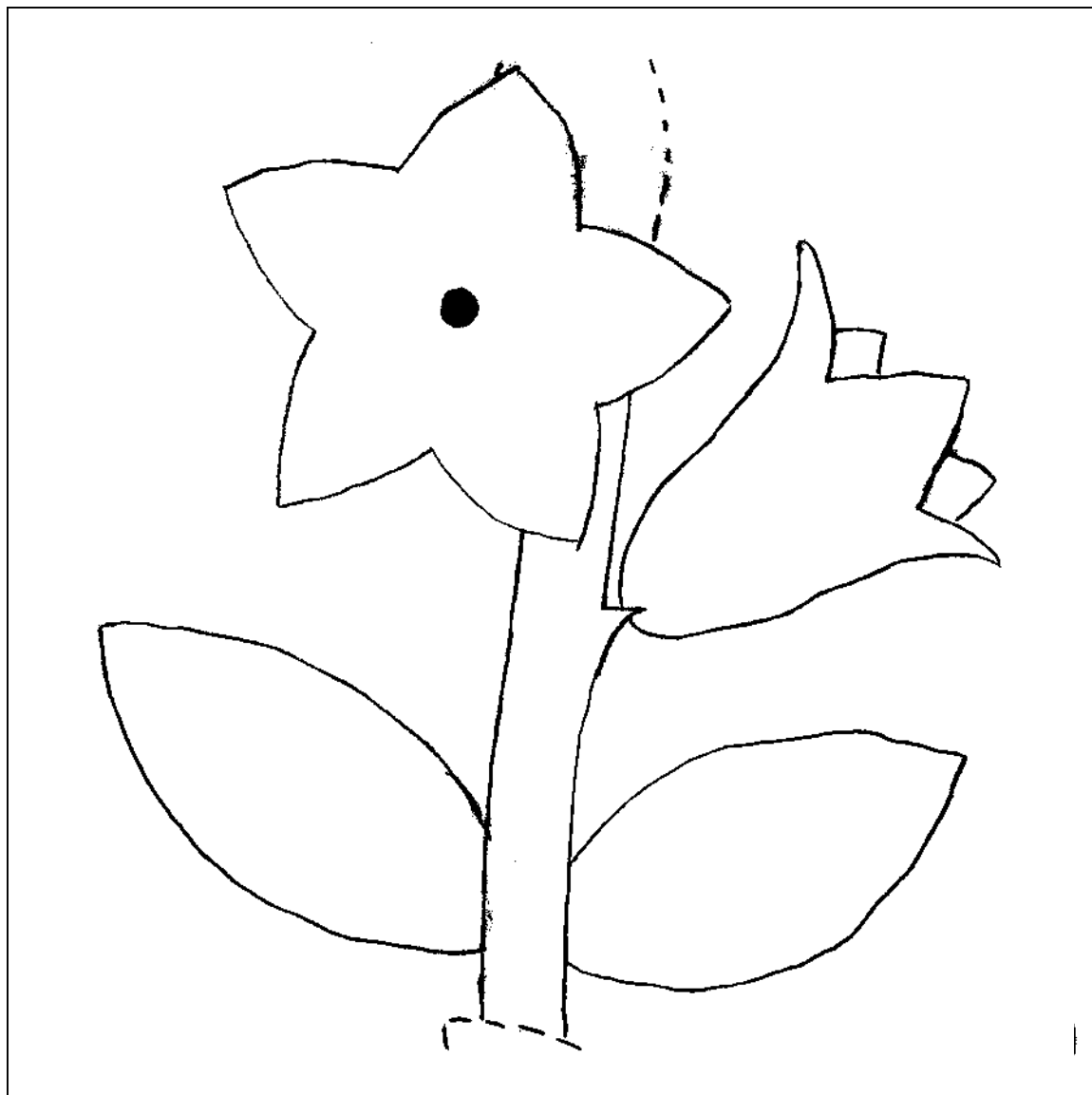
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