KAREN'S STAR

This pattern was designed by Karen Thompson, my thanks to her for giving me permission to reproduce it.

Materials
7 pairs 40 linen, linked tapestry or ball ended needle to take the lace thread
decorative motif to hang in centre
fine thread to suspend the motif

Figure 1 (right) Karen's Star

Figure 2 Karen's Star, pricking
Place a pair over pin A (figure 3) and the rest each on its own support pin above the pricking and to the right of pin A. All stitches are cloth stitches. Make a stitch with the pair on pin A and the next pair and set up pin B between them. Twist the left pair twice. Work back through two pairs and set up pin C. Twist the workers once. Slide a pin (the one shown to the right of the pinholes) through the loops that extend to the support pins, remove these two support pins and gently ease these two pairs down so that the support loops hold the pin close to pins A and B.

Figure 3 (right)

Continue working rows across and back adding a pair at the end of each row working towards the right and twisting once when this pin is set up and twice when the pin is set up on the left side. Slide the pin holding the support loops through each pair after it has been added and ease the loop down.

After all pairs have been added make two twists when passing around the pins down the right side of the work to match the left side.

There is a line of dashes across the pricking half way between the points of the star. When the pin at the end of this line, pin D (figure 4), is reached twist all the passive pairs once and change to half stitch with a cross and twist edge both sides. (see Fish no. 4 in the set of Fishes).

Figure 4 (left)

Figure 5 (right)

When pin F (figure 2) is reached do not make the cloth and twist edge, instead finish with a half stitch, set up pin F, and return making half stitches across the row with a cloth and twist edge on the outside. Then leave out a pair from the inner edge. Continue working rows of half stitch with a cloth and twist edge on the outside until pin G (figure 5) has been set and make a cloth and twist edge to cover it.

Set up pin H to the left of the left hand pair (the edge pair) and turn the pricking until pin H is at the top. (Check that all the pairs that have been left out have a single twist and replace any that may have been lost.) Make the cloth and twist edge with the pair supported by pin H and the remaining pair from pin G, setting up pin J. Return across the row in cloth stitch adding a pair that had been left out from the half stitch at pin K. Continue working cloth stitch row, adding a pair left out from the half stitch when working towards the inner edge until all have been added, then continue as before.
When all pinholes have been set up join the end to the beginning.

The pair that would now be supported by pin A is sewn into the loop around pin A (figures 3 & 6). First twist the pair twice then cut the right hand thread a sewing length from the work and use a blunt needle (tapestry or ball ended needle) to sew the thread down through the loop. Tie to its partner thread using a reef knot*. If the star is to be hung make an **overhand knot with both threads about 2.5cm (1 in) from the work and trim the ends.

The pair that would now work across to pin B is twisted once, sewn to the loop at B and secured with a reef knot. Continue by sewing the remaining pairs to their corresponding loops. Do not cut off the ends.

For a crisp finish leave the work on the pillow for two weeks. Since the threads are under tension this sets the threads.

Now remove all the pins and darn away the ends. The knots keep the threads secure and the darning is for neatening only. When neatening into cloth stitch make two very small stitches in line with either a worker or a passive thread. When neatening into half stitch pass the needle along parallel with one of the half stitch threads. Trim the ends close to the work when all have been neatened. If ends are trimmed as they are neatened off when the next thread is sewn in the movement of the threads caused by the needle can pop a previous end out.

Suspend the motif in central space using fine thread and hang up using the loop tied with the overhand knot at A.

*To tie a reef knot (figure 7) pass the right thread over the left thread and the thread now on the right up and over the thread crossing it and down behind the crossing thread towards the right. Firm up the knot. Now reverse it, i.e. pass the left thread over the right thread and the thread now on the left up and over the thread crossing it and down behind the crossing thread towards the left.

**An overhand knot (figure 8). Pass the free ends over the double thread to make a loop, round the double thread and up through the loop.