

Introduction to Gingham Smocking

The squares on gingham fabric lend themselves well to smocking, forming a grid that makes it easier to place the tiny stitches. Usually three strands of embroidery floss are used in a color that matches the fabric. Sometimes a contrasting thread is used as in the pink apron smocked with black thread. You can see more clearly how the smocking was done.

Like other types of gingham embroidery, gingham smocking was especially popular in the 1950's and 60's. Pattern companies produced a number of patterns for smocked gingham aprons, pillows and curtains. I purchased the pattern below at www.etsy.com and have seen them on ebay as well.

This type of smocking is also known as “honeycomb stitch.” For an illustrated lesson, visit www.everythingsewing.net/honeycombstitch.htm Copy-Paste the link into your browser.

Enjoy looking at the all of the different aprons in the smocked section of the Gingham Museum. Perhaps a little smocking will create that special touch on your next project!

