

HUPPAH WALL HANGING

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The Huppah (canopy) under which the bride and groom stand during the wedding ceremony can be a very personal and a most beautiful object of art. It is generally made of a textile, such as velvet, but often a bower of flowers is used. The Huppah is symbolic of the new home the pair is establishing. What a marvelous idea it is to create a Huppah especially designed for a Bride and Groom, which may later be a wall hanging in their home, and will certainly become a family heirloom.

A special study session should be held prior to the selection of designs. See “The Jewish Marriage Anthology” by Philip and Hanna Goodman (Jewish Publication Society – 1965) as a resource.

Such a Huppah is also an excellent gift for Sisterhood to present to the congregation.

Materials:

- 2 ½ yards loosely woven fabric (48-60 inches wide). You must be able to pull threads in both directions.
- Three ply Persian yarn
- 2 poles or dowels – 1 ¼ - 1 ½ inches in diameter – as long as the fabric width (48”-60”)
- Large eye – blunt point needle

Instructions:

Select a phrase that is meaningful to the Bride and Groom, such as “Ani Ledodi Vedodi Li – I am my beloved and my beloved is mine”. Pre-plan the layout of the letters Hebrew and/or English. When the size of the letters is decided upon...

1. Cut letters out of sturdy paper (brown bags will do).
2. Place according to plan and pin to fabric.
3. With a colored thread (some color in contrast to the ones you are using) baste around the paper patterns of the first few letters and then remove the paper.
4. With the color thread you have decided to use, weave in and out (up and down only) to fill the spaces within the outline.
5. You will probably find that, after the first few letters, you will be able to eliminate the basting process and all that will be necessary will be to count the number of stitches up, down etc.

6. When all the letters are complete, borders and fringes may be added. (See Women's League Yom Tov Hallah Cover CH#75 for detailed instructions). Leave area at each end to insert pole.

Instructions for Inserting Pole:

Pull threads all across the fabric from selvage to selvage for about two inches. Insert pole holding threads several forward and several back (5, 6, 7, etc.) until all threads on the pole. To each of the inserted poles affix either a wooden drapery ring or wire loop which in turn can be slipped over the 4 up rights on which the Huppah will rest. The part that hangs down on either end become the drop (front and back) of the Huppah and can be decorated also, as well as fringed.

Additional design suggestion:

Seven Birds to represent the Sheva Berakhot (seven blessings) of the marriage ceremony; leaves; doves; Magen David etc.