

OMER COUNTER

CH #194

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I was asked to come up with something to make in Creative Handcrafts for Passover. What to make? We have instructions in Creative Handcrafts mailings to make a pillow, towel, afikomen box, matzah cover. What to make that is different? I came up with the idea of making an Omer Counter.

Counting the Omer is begun immediately on the eve of the second day of Passover and continues for 50 days until *Shavuot*, the Feast of Weeks. An Omer is a measure, about the size of a half-gallon. It represents a sample of the first harvest brought by the ancient Israelites as an offering to the priests when they came to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. The counting of the Omer is based on the following from Leviticus 23: 15-16:

“And from the day on which you bring the sheaf of wave offering — the day after the Sabbath — you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete: you must count until the day after the seventh week — fifty days: then you shall bring an offering of new grain to the Lord.”

The counting is preceded by the blessing which reads:

“We praise you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has made us unique through Your commandments, and has commanded us to count the days of the Omer.”

The manner of counting is: “This day is the _____ day of the Omer.”

After seven days the number of weeks in the Omer are also specified. Thus, “This is the _____ day, making _____ weeks and _____ day(s) of the Omer.” The days of counting are called *S'firat HaOmer*.

The Omer Counter can be made in any medium — counted cross stitch, needlepoint or painting. If done in any type of needlework, cover with clear plastic or glass and enclose in a picture frame. Use a Velcro “dot,” moving it to show the correct day of the Omer.

You may use English numbers or Hebrew letters to indicate the days. And you may choose to add the title “*S'FIRAT HA'OMER*” in Hebrew as well, placing it on the top, the bottom or in any location around the *Magen David*.

