CHAPTER SIX

# BASSINET, COT AND CAPSULE BLANKETS

One of the things I enjoy most is developing designs for babies' blankets. I have received many requests from people asking for a particular theme or story. It is always a challenge developing a given idea. Once you have completed some of the projects in this book don't hesitate to try something new, something you haven't done before. You only need the seed of an idea and within a few hours, you can have produced a family heirloom, something to be enjoyed by generations to come.

A friend of mine, Annette Rich, suggested that I use some nursery rhymes as inspiration for embroidering babies' blankets. This idea held an instant appeal for me and on the following pages are the designs that I enjoyed creating. I hope you share my enthusiasm.

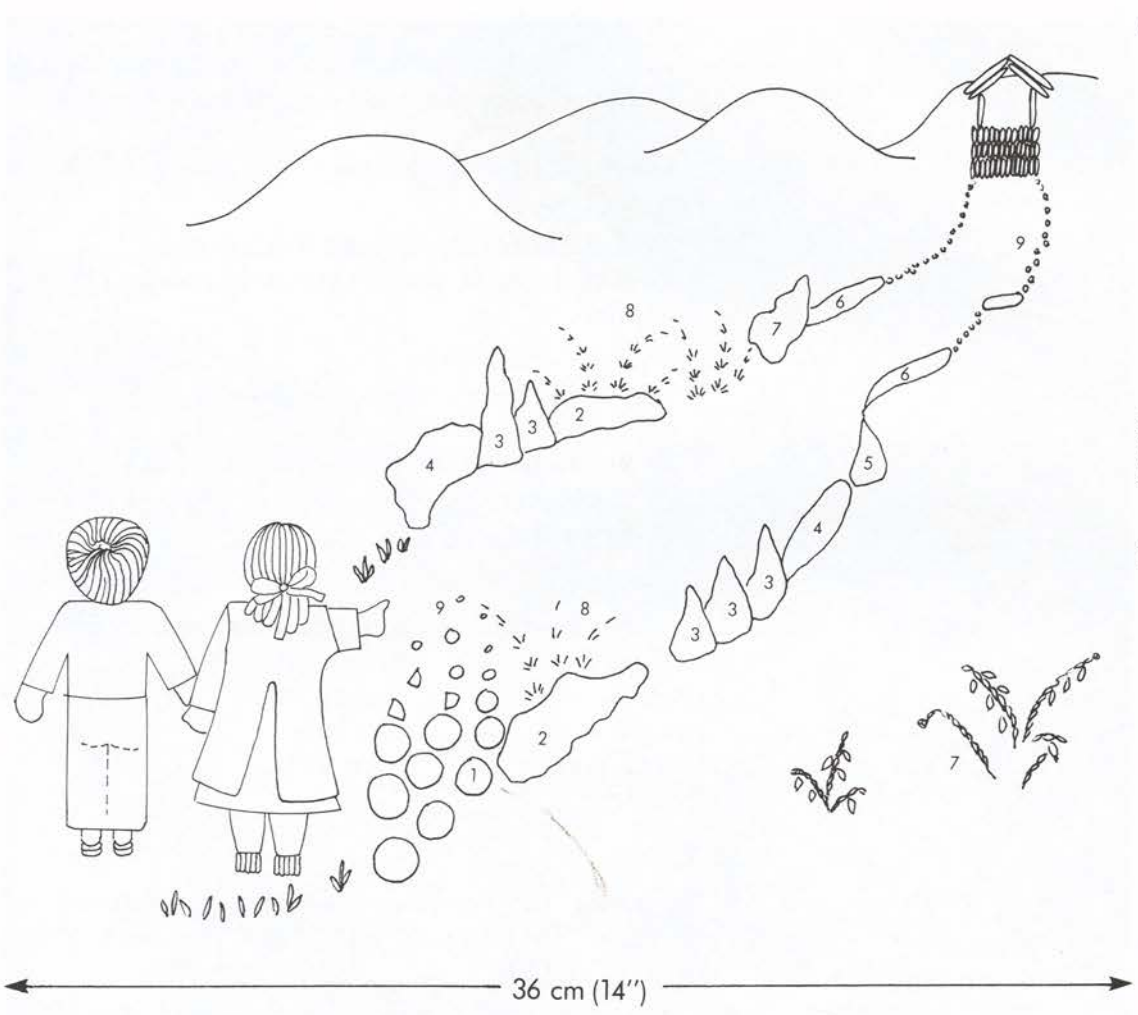
Purchased bassinet or cot blankets are readily available in a range of colours. If you prefer, you can purchase 100% woollen blanketing from selected outlets. However, you may find that the colour range is limited, although white, a colour that the majority of my students choose to work on, is readily available. If you decide to use woollen blanketing, you can back and bind your blanket with a co-ordinating fabric, one which will enhance your design. Any remaining blanketing can be used for smaller projects in this book.

The addition of appliqué to these designs adds an interesting new dimension. Please refer to the section on appliqué in General Techniques before attempting these designs.

## JACK AND JILL

Materials required:

- Small pieces of fabric for Jack's shirt and trousers and for Jill's dress and pinafore
- 20 cm (8″) of 2 mm satin ribbon for Jill's hair and pinafore
- 5 cm (2″) of 3 mm satin ribbon for Jack's belt
- Small piece of brown fabric or felt for the bucket
- Small pieces of felt for the hands and legs
- Small amount of wadding to pad Jack and Jill
- Machine threads to match the above fabrics and felts




Threads required:

DMC tapestry wool —
- Pale blue 7301 for the buttonhole wheels
- Pale pink 7132 for the buttonhole wheel
- Blanc neige for the three petal daisies
- Lemon 7745 for the centres of the three petal daisies
- Green 7402 for buttonhole wheel leaves and for the grass at the beginning of the path
- Mustard brown 7846 and salmon apricot 7144 for the well
- Soft apricot 7853 for flowers

Appletons crewel wool —
- Light brown 302 for Jack's hair
- Lavender for the lavender sprays
- Blue 741 for the delphiniums and the forget-me-nots
- Blue 744 for the delphiniums
- Pink 941 for the delphiniums

1 Buttonhole wheel
2 Three-petal flowers
3 Delphiniums
4 Satin stitches with fly stitches
5 Forget-me-nots
6 Straight stitches
7 Stem stitch with French knots
8 Lavender
9 French knots

White for the three-petal daisies
Lemon 996 for the centres of the three-petal daisies
Green 353 for the hills, scattered grass and some leaves
Green 402 for the leaves of the three-petal daisies

DMC Perle 5 —
Mauve 211 for the straight stitch flowers
Pink 605 for the straight stitch flowers and French knots

DMC stranded cotton —
Green 368 for fly stitch and leaves
Salmon 760 for highlights
Brown to match the felt used for the bucket

DMC Medici (or the thread of your choice) —
Gold 8484 for Jill's hair

Stitches used:

buttonhole wheel
lazy daisy
fishbone stitch
straight stitch
French knots
fly stitch
long and short satin stitch
bullion stitch
chain stitch
satin stitch
stem stitch

JACK

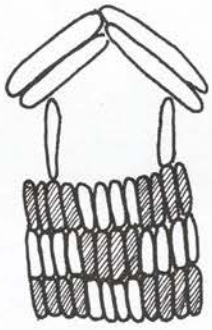
- Following the method for appliqué outlined in 'General Techniques', join together Jack's shirt, trousers and belt.
- Using stem stitch, embroider the details on Jack's trousers, then position Jack on the blanket. Position Jack's hands and legs and catch in place while stitching around the outline. When the body has been completed, secure the hands and legs.
- Using tapestry wool in the colour of your choice, stitch two small, horizontal, straight stitches to form Jack's shoes.
- Stitch the details on the bucket and stitch the bucket in position. Using a very fine chain stitch, embroider the handle of the bucket.
- Outline the shape of Jack's head. With three strands of Appletons crewel wool and using long and short satin stitch, fill in the outline of Jack's head.

JILL

- Following the method for hand appliqué outlined in 'General Techniques', apply the pinafore to the dress, then the dress and pinafore to the blanket. As you

stitch around the outline of the body, catch the hands and legs in place. Once the body has been completed, use a running stitch to secure the hands and legs.

- Jill's shoes are worked in satin stitch in the colour of your choice.
- Outline the shape of Jill's head. Using two strands of Medici and long and short satin stitch, work the crown of Jill's head. At the base of the long and short satin stitch, work long bullions to form the curls. When the hair has been completed, stitch the small bows in position, one in the hair and one on the pinafore.



The well (actual size)

THE FLOWERS, HILL AND WELL

- Following the key, embroider the flowers, beginning with the buttonhole wheels and decreasing the size of the flowers as you work up the hill, until you are just working green French knots. (This gives the illusion of distance. The flowers on the far side of the path are also smaller to help give perspective.)
- Work the well. Embroider the hills using stem stitch with one strand of Appletons. Scatter clusters of straight stitches to represent grass.