

SMOCKED BALL ORNAMENT

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Materials: 8x32 in. white fabric; red, green DMC embroidery floss; thread; 1 yd. ¼-in. satin ribbon (for ball top); 2½- or 3-in. plastic foam ball; filigree cap, hanger; straight pins.

Note: Materials listed are for one ball ornament. Adjust to make more ornaments.

Directions: Pleat white fabric, using *matching* thread for top and bottom 2 rows. Use *contrasting* thread for middle rows. Gather and tie up pleats to a 6-in. width.

Note: When working the design, pleats are closer together than needed for the finished project. English smocking is very elastic and stretches when complete.

Smock 12 rows in a variety of stitches (see Designs A, B, and C, *right, opposite*, and *page 116* respectively for ideas) using 3-strand red and green embroidery floss. Make sure design ends at point where it will join beginning of smocking.

When smocking is complete, untie knots on *matching* threads. Cut and remove *contrasting* threads. Match design lines and slipstitch fabric together to form a tube. Slip foam ball inside tube. Trim extra fabric at top and bottom so edges meet at centers. Pull *matching* threads tightly and tie; hide thread ends. Fasten fabric at top and bottom with straight pins. Cover bottom raw edges with filigree cap bent to fit.

