

Miss Hadley's Needlework Lessons

A Series of Six Lessons: By Sara Hadley

SECOND LESSON: NEEDLE POINT LACE

NEEDLE point is one of the finer modern laces. The braids used are sheer and narrow, allowing as many stitches to be placed in the piece as possible. The best of linen material only should be used. As so much work is required in the filling of the spaces with fine stitches the use of other than the best will in the end prove unsatisfactory.

In basting braid to the pattern make it go as far as possible without cutting. Frequent joins will be necessary in any point lace. These should be done neatly. Baste with fine thread to prevent injuring the texture of braid, and make short stitches. In joining, the ends of the braid should be folded over before basting. The aim of a good laceworker is to have the wrong side of the lace so neat as to make it difficult to tell the wrong from the right side.

The braid need not all be basted before the stitches are begun. One soon tires of basting alone, and a part of that may be finished later. Many a time the worker may not just feel in the mood for making stitches, while basting would be agreeable employment and considerably less fatiguing for the eyes. Such little changes in work serve to lighten and give variety to the dainty pastime. If the braid on curves or abrupt turns does not lay perfectly

regular intervals across the space and worked back or twisted. Cross lines are similarly formed at right angles to these. Work a small rosette on every spot where two lines cross by working under and over the two lines six or

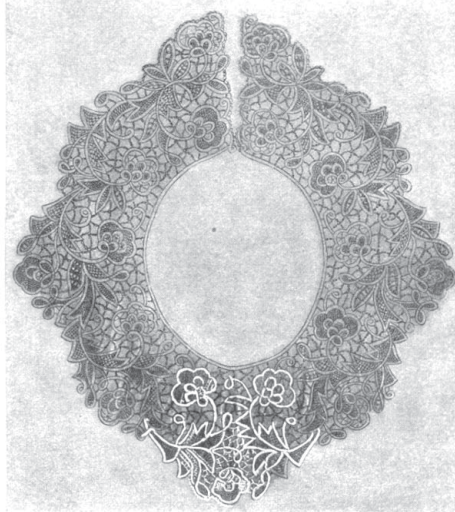
eight times or as many times as may be necessary. When one line is complete another row of squares may be formed in the same way.

3. **Rose Point Lace Wheel:** Either five, seven or nine lines are made by putting the needle in the edge of the braid and winding the thread two or more times around the needle and drawing up to form a loop. Repeat until all the lines or loops are finished. The thread is then carried over and under several times around, leaving a hole or opening in the centre. Buttonhole, the edge of the centre to form a ring or wheel. This stitch is very much used in point lace.

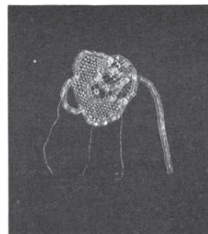
4. **Point d'Angleterre or Double-Point Bars:** Pass the thread back and forth in space to form a footing for the stitches, then come back over the lines, working three or four buttonhole stitches on each wide space of the stitch. Work these back and forth on top of the lines already formed, making a diagonal pattern. This is a pretty method for filling in narrow spaces.

One style of stitch is used throughout the pattern for the background. A single thread is crossed from left to right of the space. It is then twisted back to, say, its centre, and secured with a loop knot.

To form the little picot, make three single stitches in this loop, securing with a knot. The thread should then



WORKING PATTERN OF BERTHA WITH BRAIDS PARTLY BASTED
The pattern is stamped on blue material, and is backed with cloth or heavy paper to stiffen and preserve the shape in working.



ONE OF THE BUDS
It includes four of the stitches used in this design.



A FLOWER, BUD AND OTHER FIGURES
It requires eight different stitches to complete this section of the design, besides the groundwork stitch.



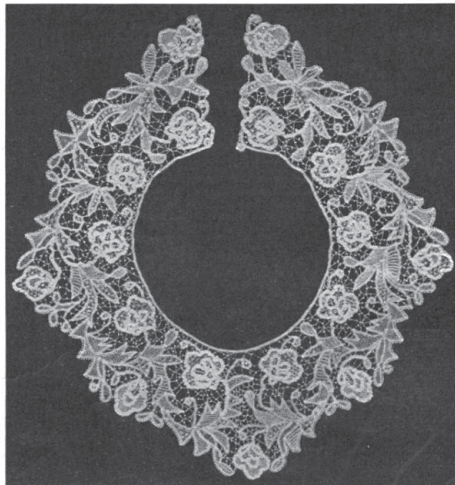
SMALL PART OF DESIGN FINISHED
Showing method of applying shirred or gathered braid to outline of flower.

smooth on the pattern it should be overhanded and drawn into place.

Two or three sizes of thread are required—fine thread for overhanding or whipping, a finer for the lace stitches, and heavier for the background stitch. The foundation for working all the fine point lace stitches is a single row of loops or the Brussels stitch. This should be worked from left to right, taking in the merest edge of the braid. The four stitches used in the bud are:

1. **Point de Sorrento**—Two Stitch or Double-Line Stitch: After the loops are formed from left to right the thread is carried back to the left in a straight line, then two loops are made in each single loop, taking in the line. This is done in every loop. Then another line is crossed from right to left and the working stitch is begun as in the preceding line, two stitches in each loop. This is duplicated until the space is filled.

2. **Point d'Angleterre or English Stitch:** The threads are carried at



COMPLETED BERTHA IN NEEDLE POINT LACE
Any young woman would find pleasant pastime in the making of such a piece of work, even though it might require a year to complete the bertha.

be twisted over the single line to its end. Repeat these lines until the space is filled. Two or more picots are made on each thread if its length permits.

The body of the flower illustrated is worked entirely with the Church stitch. Make four rows of close loops, twisting the thread back and spacing for another four rows of loops. So continue till complete.

To finish the edge of the bertha use a fancy loop, made with single buttonhole in edge of braid, containing three single stitches and a knot to secure. This is worked closely around the outer edge.

After the work is removed from the pattern, to give a raised effect extra braid is gathered quite closely and sewed to the outline of the flowers as shown in the illustration.

My third lesson, which will appear in the next JOURNAL, will tell how Russian lace is made.