

The Practical Side of Filet

BY BELLE ROBINSON

NOT long ago, a little girl was interested in a piece of Hardanger work, and she asked "Who made it?" Upon being told, the next question was, "Did she make the cloth of it?" The answer to this was, "No, she did not make the cloth, but she put the embroidery on the cloth." Turning to the piece of work in hand, which was filet, "Well! you are making the cloth of that," was her confident declaration.

To "make the cloth" of filet, to net the piece upon which is afterward woven or darned or embroidered the design, is a very fascinating sort of work

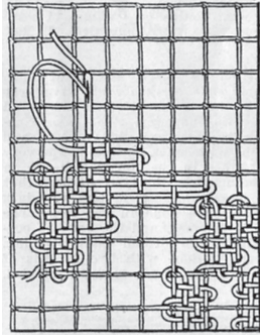
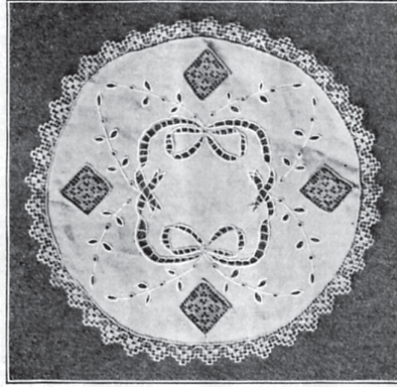


FIG. 1. SHOWING METHOD OF WEAVING

and yet it may seem beyond the reach of many because of the time necessary for practice before one is sure of good results.

To these it may be a very welcome bit of news that the net may be had for a very little price. It is real handmade net, not any imitation that is machine-made. And added to this is the fact that the squares may be bought in a package of half a dozen and the little ribbon-wrapped frame (see No. 13-9-81) that is so necessary to insure good work, accompanies it, and besides this, too, is a skein of linen thread, a sufficient quantity to complete the half-dozen pieces with the design which is started on one of them. It may not be just the design shown in the illustration, but it is sure to be a nice one. The wonderful advantage of this filet outfit is readily seen, and no doubt will be the means of inducing many workers to take up the study of the mysteries of filet. It is mysterious until one has spent some time upon it.

The whole design of No. 13-9-81 is given in Fig. 3 and a suggestion of how to do the



No. 13-9-80. CENTREPIECE WITH INSETS OF DARNED FILET
Size, 26-inch. Stamped white linen, 70 cents. Cotton for working the embroidery, 25 cents extra. Perforated stamping pattern, 40 cents. Transfer pattern, 15 cents. We do not supply lace for the edge.

weaving is given in Fig. 1 just at the left. This stitch is known as "Point de toile," or literally "linen stitch." It makes a perfect piece of woven cloth.

Any design must be studied carefully before beginning, to decide in which direction the work

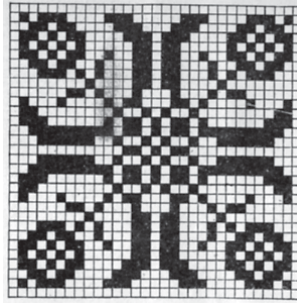


FIG. 2. DESIGN COMPLETED

must proceed. After tying the thread to be fastened afterward, the needle (with blunt point), passes invariably over a thread and under a thread, whether in a straight line or turning around the corner of a mesh (see needle) or turning straight back to fill the mesh with the second thread or crossing these all with two rows of weaving. Every effort should be made to connect the design where possible, but it is allowed to carry the thread to an isolated mesh or a small bit that is not connected with any part of the design by over-casting along the meshes between. But even in this carrying the thread the rule of over one and under one still holds.

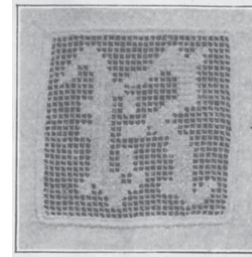
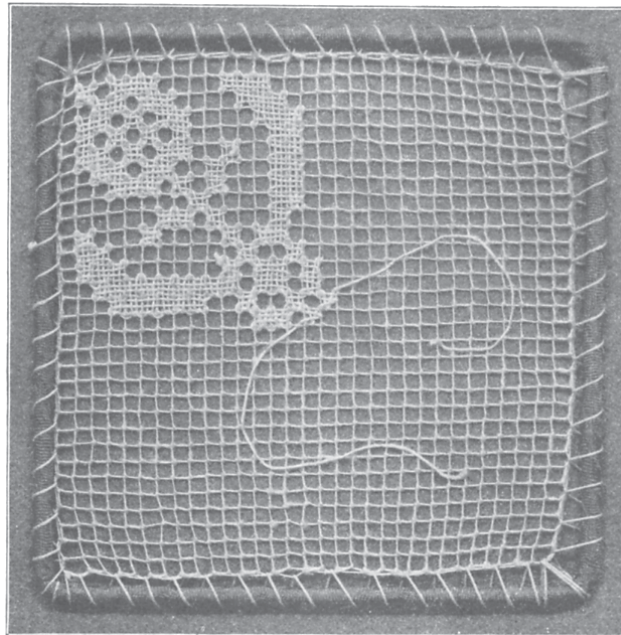


Fig. 2

Number 13-9-80 is one suggestion of the use of these squares. They are very handsome in combination with embroidery of various sorts, French, eyellet, open or cut-work Venetian ladder (as in this case) all lend themselves to enrich the filet and bring it out in a striking way. This ornamentation of the linen can scarcely be overdone since it never detracts from the beauty of the filet. Cluny laces and insertions combine well with both the embroidery and

filet. The most elaborate combinations of these three are to be found in pieces from the French and Germans.

Squares of filet of this size make very handsome inserts for the corners of a tea-cloth or the ends of a scarf. Another most satisfactory use is to provide for the initial on the end of towels. One is given in Fig. 2. The letter of 27 meshes fits nicely into the 31-mesh square. The outer edge of the square is reinforced with a double thread overcast all around, and over this is worked a row of button-hole-stitches. In fact that is the customary way of preparing a square for inserting in the linen. The exact measure of the



Size of frame, 4-inch. Outfit, consisting of six handmade Filet net squares, pattern commenced on one, one skein linen thread and a ribbon-covered frame, \$2.25. Net squares, extra, 25 cents each. Linen thread, extra, 10 cents a skein.

We do not guarantee to send the identical design shown, but will furnish attractive patterns.

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