

great variety of ways, one of which is shown in Figure 8, which will be described later.

Figure 4. Overcast Bars.—Overcasting is another important stitch in drawnwork, and is used in some of the handsomest specimens. The stitch is exceedingly simple, but must be done with great evenness to insure a good effect.

Draw the thread up through the linen at one end of the threads to be overcast, then pass it across the drawn part to the other end of the same threads. Now lay the threads to be overcast over the first finger of the left hand, and stitch over and over them as in ordinary sewing, taking care, to repeat the caution, that the work is done very evenly and the stitches

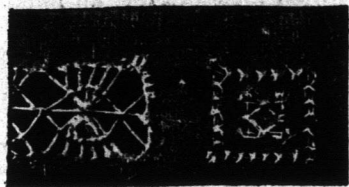


Fig. 8

put in very, very closely. Coarse thread is the best to use for overcasting. These bars make a most appropriate border for handsome linen towels.

Figure 5. Bars Covered with Darning Stitch.—Like overcasting, darning stitch appears mostly in the more elaborate pieces of drawnwork, although it is an important factor in the making of all but the simplest corner patterns. In the bar stitches are woven only once, but they convey the idea. Many beautiful designs have leaves and floral patterns constructed of darning of the good old-fashioned stocking variety, some of it done on underlying threads and some of it without these threads.

Start as for overcasting, with a thread laid from one side of the drawn part to the other. Then bring the thread up to the right, pass the point

of the needle down at the centre and up at the left of the threads for the bar. Pull up tight, pass the point of the needle down at the centre and up at the right of the threads for the bar. Weave in and out in this way until the threads are covered entirely, then go to the next bar and proceed in the same way. Bars covered with darning stitch make an even handsomer hem than overcast bars.

Figure 6 shows threads drawn for buttonholing around edges to be cut. At the corners, where the drawn threads end, and frequently in various other parts of elaborate drawnwork, it is necessary to cut the edges. These edges always must be buttonholed to prevent raveling, and the best workers find it wisest to do the buttonholing first. To insure having it exactly even, draw one thread for the top edge of the buttonholing and one for the edge to be cut, as shown in the illustration. All drawnwork, except the simplest pattern, should be done on a frame, stretching the linen as for embroidery.

Figure 7. This border combining clusters gathered under the knot stitch, and ladder hemstitching, needs no description. It shows how two simple stitches may be combined in an effective pattern. In laying the threads from one side of the corner to the other the illustration may be followed. On the last thread of each intersection a knot stitch is worked, under which the various threads are gathered.

Figure 8.—In this pattern an unusual corner effect is shown, made by cutting the drawn threads and buttonholing the edge half an inch away from the corner instead of at the corner itself. Under the knot stitch at the centre five clusters are gathered instead of three, as in the detailed work given. The side knots are then put in as follows: Make a knot midway on the thread before the first knot under which the clusters are gathered, then carry the new thread slightly to the right and around each separate cluster there make a knot. Now carry the thread

to the left of the next five clusters and on each of them, separately, make a knot. Cross from side to the other all along the border in this way, always skipping five clusters at each side; then, when the end is reached, work in knot stitch on the skipped clusters, and in crossing the centre thread make a knot stitch over it and first side thread catching them together midway between the knots of the centre thread. For the corner draw four threads each way for two tiny squares, in size the outer one is the same as the border width, the inner square half its size. Gather the drawn part in clusters, under tiny knot stitches.

Figure 9. A Double Border in Ladder

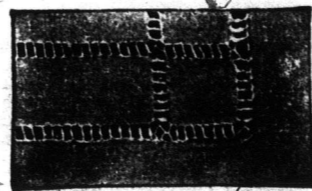


Fig. 9

der hemstitching.—This needs no description, and is given merely to offer the reader another suggestion for the use of a simple stitch.

In pressing needlework, handsome heavily embroidered pieces cannot be dampened or made wet. In such cases, lay the piece, inverted, over several thicknesses of damp cloth. In short, the ironing board is dampened instead of the piece. The depth of soft folds allows the raised parts to sink in, so that when the pressing is done they stand out well.

I can easily conceive in my mind a man without hands, feet, head; for it is only experience which teaches us that the head is more necessary than the feet. But I cannot conceive man without the thinking principle; that would be a stone or a brute.

Thoughts from Pascal.

The incredulous are the most credulous; they believe the miracles of Vespien, in order not to believe those of Moses.

Justice and truth are two points so fine that our instruments are too blunt to touch them to a nicety. If they happen to light upon the points, they crush them, and rest all round on the false rather than on the true.

Nothing stands still for us. It is our natural state, and yet the most opposite to our inclination. We burn with the desire of finding a firm resting-place and a last stable base, to build a tower which may rise to infinity; but our whole foundation gapes, and the earth opens to its lowest abysses.

For what is man in nature? A nothing when compared with infinity, a whole when compared with nothing; an intermediate point between nothing and a whole. Utterly unable to grasp the extremes, and the end of things, and their beginning are, so far as he is concerned, thoroughly and completely concealed in impenetrable darkness; equally unable to comprehend the nothingness from which he is taken, and the infinity in which he is to be engulfed.

Man is only a reed, the weakest plant of nature, but he is a thinking reed. It is not necessary that the whole universe should be in arms to crush him. A vapor, a drop of water, is sufficient to put him out of existence. But even though the universe could crush him to atoms, man would still be more noble than that which kills him, because he is conscious that he is dying, and of the advantage which the universe has over him. The universe knows nothing.



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