

Lesson XV.—How to Embroider the Sweet Pea.

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Embroiderers are likely to be afraid to attempt sweet peas, and when they do venture upon a design of these pretty flowers their chief stumbling block is the full view blossoms. As a matter of fact sweet peas are very easy to embroider.

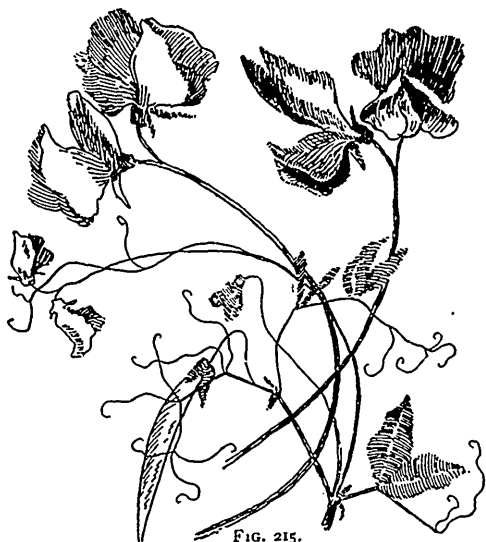


FIG. 215.

The principal point of failure is the slant of the stitches upon which everything depends in a form somewhat complicated. The stitches in the various petals must all bear their proper relation to the stem base, then the blossom will be held together as a whole instead of seeming to be made up of parts which do not belong together, an effect not uncommon in embroidered sweet peas.

Another serious mistake to be guarded against is one which is likely to be made in other compositions of flowers which are in nature many colored and of different varieties. If you gather sweet peas of all possible varieties

into one bunch you have a mixture of colors, especially if the bunch is close, which amounts to absolutely nothing so far as making an impression on the eye is concerned. Clusters of flowers should be made with one color predominating, and when it comes to making a picture or decorative motif of these flowers it is much more necessary to have some standard of color. The only way to obtain a strong and pleasing effect in such a composition is to make nearly all the flowers in various shades of one color, then lay in a few in contrasting colors. Then you have the invaluable aid of contrast, moreover you say in an unmistakable way, "Sweet peas are of different colors—some pink, some purple, some white," and there is just as much difference between saying it in this way as there is between laying these colors out clearly on a palette and in mixing them all together. Decide at the



FIG. 216.

B. & A. WASH SILKS ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD.