Heavy Embroideries in Color
By HELEN MUELLER WARD

No. 322 D. A Cheesecloth Combination of Daisy-Doily and Outline Stitches

No. 321 D. A Scarf of Quilt Design

No. 321 D. Another Note in Guipure or Relief Embroidery

No. 34 D. This Centerpiece Shows the Fleur-de-lis in Oriental Courting

HELY are still exceedingly popular — these handsome fittings for lining, library or den, which are so attractive — if I may use the term — in imitation of the effect obtained upon the accessories. They require little time to execute. The embellishment is not much more interesting than the greatest activity. It is done with a series of motifs suitable to the greatest degree. The finishing detail is set out in a single line of the center piece, table-cummerer or pillow, as the case may be, and the wondrous showing are able to make in that short space of time delights us beyond measure. Even the most indifferent in the artistic field are so enamored with the “getting on” spirit of the age, you know, that we do not stop to ask days and weeks upon a single article of handcraft; we want something that is very quick, and this is the new heavy embroidery most certainly do.

A new application of stitch familiar to every one is seen in the handsome center pieces, twenty-six inches in diameter, when completed, with the border of one-inch-and-half-inch fringes. The fleur-de-lis is always a favorite, and so round and purple a pleasing adaptation of it be found than in the present instance. The centerpiece is exact, the thing for the dining-room table, and would make a most welcome gift; at the same time the amount of time required to complete, and it seems impossible to credit.

The motifs are all silk embroidery stitches which are oriental courting, as it is termed in order to distinguish it from the couching stitch which we know so well. A very coarse, broadstitch embroidery is used; in fact, the regular couching-thread — and it is applied in exactly the same manner as for outlining: simply carry the material along the line, neither holding it loose enough so that it was, nor drawing it tightly in, but keeping it, if you can, on the surface; then, using a fine, strong thread, take a short stitch at equal distances, holding the couching-thread firmly. The work may be done by taking the included stitches at irregular intervals, or in any pattern; thus, two of them may be placed one on the twentieth inch apart, and three-quarters inch between the group above and the next; or three stitches may be placed close together, then a longer distance, and so on. The stitches may be taken separately from the couching-thread, instead of a cross, on the line which operations may be used, and so on indiscriminately. The stitches for the outlines are applied in the same manner, but there is really nothing more delightful than those which are tightly drawn stitch, at regular intervals.

For filling work, with so-called oriental courting, the same procedure is adopted. Take for example, the large fleur-de-lis motif depicted, the middle form of which is filled in, a color yellow, the two side-forms, green, and the crossbar of yellow. Taking the couche form as a starting point, bring the couching-thread up through the material on the line, lay it evenly across (lengthwise) the space to be covered to the opposite edge, with needle and fine thread or floss, couch it down, putting a holding-stitch exactly on the line, or just a little in, to fasten the couching-thread at the trim. Bring the thread back across the space beside the first thread, taking the holding-stitches between those of the first row. Continue until the entire space is covered. The couching-thread for filling may be held rather slack, not too much so, but not tautly drawn, but let it be raised slightly as it is filled in, which is held tautly by the cross-stitch.

When filling work is given, each is outlined with black floss of finer quality, the same as used in the border; with the same color for the couching. All the forms are filled in the same manner, the middle form filled in with the same color, if desired, or filled in with color of the same shade, and the sides green, while the diamond-shaped forms are filled in with the center circle is also red. The three circles which connect the motifs have one fourth-inch apart, and these are outlined with brown, the space between the outlined with the same color, if desired, or filled in with color of the same shade, which is held tautly by the cross-stitch.

When a center circle is given, each is outlined with black floss of finer quality, the same as used in the border; with the same color for the couching. All the forms are filled in the same manner, the middle form filled in with the same color, if desired, or filled in with color of the same shade, and the sides green, while the diamond-shaped forms are filled in with the center circle is also red. The three circles which connect the motifs have one fourth-inch apart, and these are outlined with brown, the space between the outlined with the same color, if desired, or filled in with color of the same shade, which is held tautly by the cross-stitch.

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