Needlecraft

Neckwear That Is Simple, Dainty, Chic and Charming

By ELINOR HAVILAND

UNTIL one has tried the effect of a pretty handmade collar-and-cuff set on a house- or afternoon-frock that may seem very ordinary indeed without it, one can have no idea of the change that a bit of dressing-up will produce. It is like a fairy's wand—presto! and a commonplace garment takes on an air of smartness that quite transforms it. Then when one reflects that one may have a half dozen such sets at little more expense than the time required to make them, one begins to realize the pleasing variations it is possible to have even with a very simple and limited summer outfit. The “dressing-up” makes all the difference in the world.

It is safe to say this is a gingham summer; everywhere we see the pretty checked fabric, so serviceable and neat. And perhaps it was never used to happier advantage than as a trim for a collar-and-cuff set of pique. The collar is of the popular Puritan model, the back division insuring smoothness of fit. The two parts are made separately, the edges finished with a three-eighths-inch binding of five-check pink-and-white gingham, and one rounded corner of each decorated with a simple design in padded satin-stitch, using floss to match the gingham. Then the neck is finished with bias binding, the two halves of the collar just touching at the upper edge in the back. Can you imagine anything easier to make or more delightful to wear? The cuffs follow the same plan, in cut and decoration, and the set is altogether an extremely good-looking one.

Another set of similar style—and there is none better liked—is of blue linen lined with white lawn. Bath a seam the outside and lining together on the rounded edge, leaving the neck edge free, turn and press. The embroidery is done in satin-stitch, well padded, with white; if desired, the flowers-petals and leaves may be of loop-stitch, each solid dot a French knot, and the stems worked in outline-stitch instead of being cored. This would be a good distribution of the time required for the satin-stitch, but

to come to it and be none the worse. A charming set, consisting of straight collar and cuffs and vestee, which may be worn with a tucked sweater or tie-back—emitting the blouse, if wished—is of gray linen or rayon, of not too firm texture. Finished, the collar is twenty-two inches in length and three and one-half inches wide; for the hem an allowance of two and one-fourth inches must be made in the length, and one and one-eighth inches in the width. Two inches from the edge, across both ends and one side, draw five threads; then

No. 2002 N. An Extremely Good-looking Set

the latter is far more distinctive if one can give it the extra minutes, and will stand all the laundering that is sure

turn the hem and hemstitch, taking three threads to a stitch, and the same three threads on the other side of the drawn space, forming the pretty ladder hemstitch. The neck edge is finished with bias binding and turned over. The embroidered motif has an eyelet at center, worked with black; surrounding this is a row of French knots, in white, and four each of the four sides of this circle radiate three long “crow-foot” stitches of black; the little diamond shaped figures between these groups of stitches are in padded satin-stitch, worked with light blue, and the corner is crossed diagonally with lines of French knots, a half inch apart. The design is simple and rather unique, and requires little time to work out.

The cuffs, ten inches long and three and one-half inches wide when finished, have a five-eighths-inch hem, with the pretty motif described in one corner; and the vestee, nine by eleven inches, has a hemstitched hem an inch in width across the top, and the motif, surrounded by French knots arranged to form a half diamond, or corner, midway. The edges are finished with the binding used for neck of collar and bottom of cuffs.

pongee, a material universally popular this season, is used for a lovely straight collar—five and one-half inches wide and a vestee to match, if wished, by following the general directions given for the collar. Finished, the latter measures twenty-eight inches in length and four inches in width. Leaving five-eighths inch—which will allow for a hem one fourth inch wide and one eighths inch for turning under—draw one thread of the pongee across both ends and one side. Care must be taken that the same thread is drawn all the way; if it breaks, which is not likely if care is taken, the end must be picked up. Take a single strand of light-blue embroidery-cotton, twice the length (or width, for the length of collar) and double it, slightly draw out a second thread of pongee at one side of the first, and fasten the end of this to the doubled end of loop of the blue thread; then take the other end of the same thread of pongee, and draw the colored thread through the space. This is the oldtime “draw out and draw in” process, much used in this new time for all sorts of decorations.

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