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And So To Sew

Embroidery Section

4 b.

Introducing
Shadow
Work, Satin Stitch
and certain varieties of
Hem Stitches

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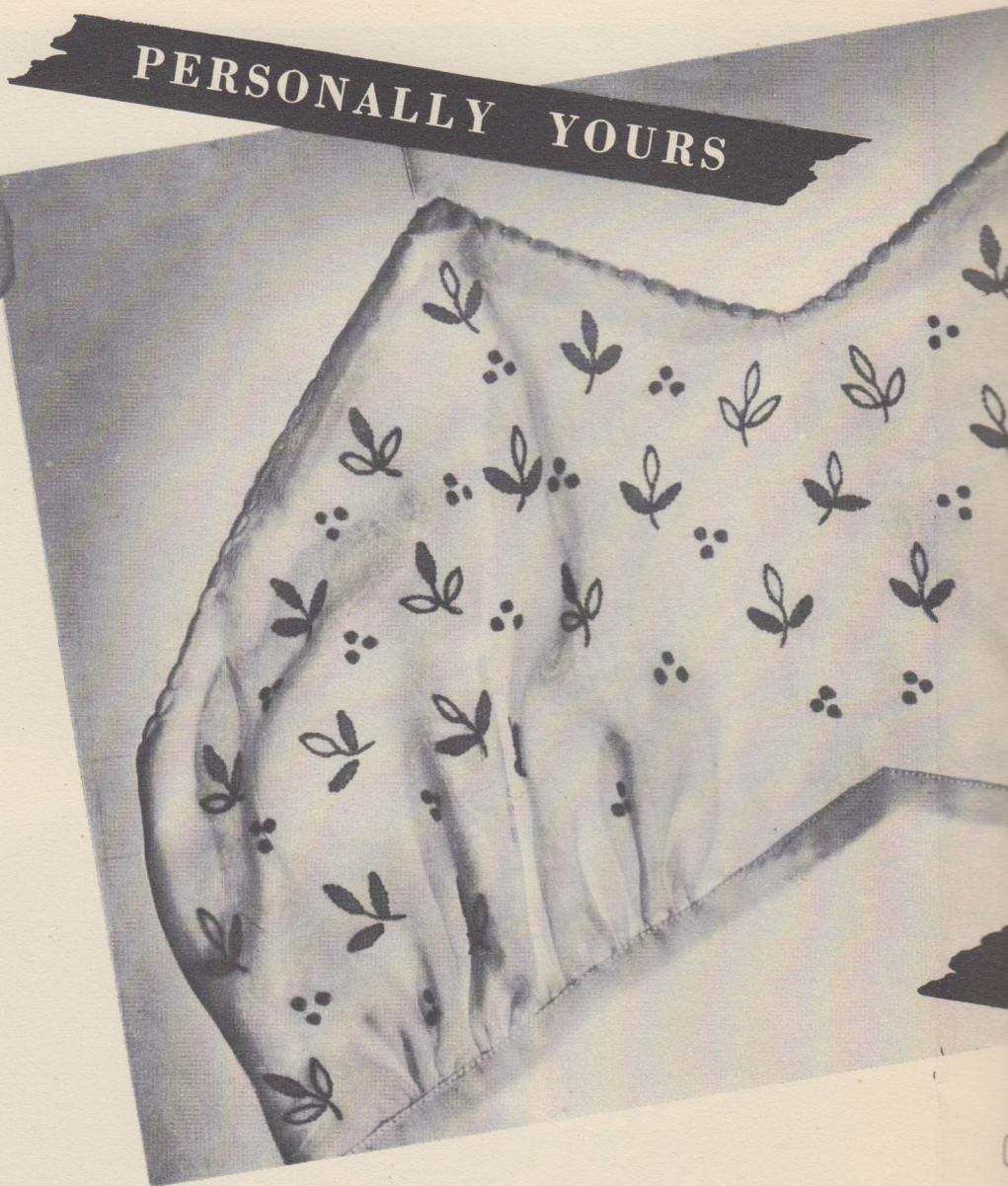
SHADOW WORK: This is named after the characteristic shadow effect which is obtained by stitchery which leaves most of the embroidery thread on the wrong side of a transparent material. As a technique Shadow Work is most suitable for decorating lingerie and other objects made with very fine material such as collars and cuffs, baby garments, handkerchief and nightdress sachets, etc. The fabric for this type of work should be almost transparent, such as organdie, fine rayon, fine muslin, lawn, georgette or chiffon in white or a pastel colour. On the other hand, Shadow Work can be successfully employed on a heavier fabric which is to be illuminated by a strong light, as is the case with a lamp shade. In the same way a loosely woven fabric such as linen scrim may be used for the same technique, as here the transparency will be achieved by means of the open weave.

Great care must be taken when making a design for Shadow Work to choose shapes which are simple and which have not too much detail. The solid parts of the pattern should be sufficiently narrow to give a firm stitch. Double Back or Close Herringbone are the stitches used for Shadow Work. However, to give more variety to the embroidery, other stitches can be added, e.g. Satin Stitch and Back Stitch, as illustrated in our designs for Shadow Work.



2086

PERSONALLY YOURS

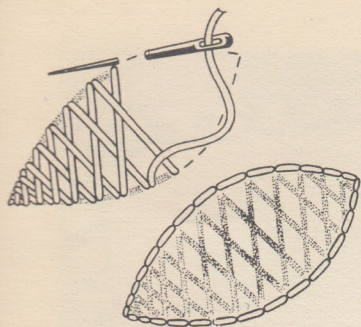


Our second specimen illustrates Shadow Work applied to a place mat worked on organdie (No. 2087). In this case we used two strands of Stranded Cotton with a No. 7 Crewel Needle throughout. The design also incorporates small spots of Satin Stitch. The edge has been Hemstitched with one strand of Stranded Cotton and a No. 8 Crewel Needle.

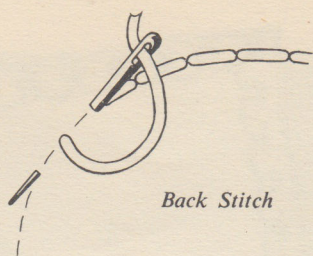
Lastly we introduce Hem Stitch which is the most effective method of finishing off the hems of a piece of embroidery. This mat, No. 2088 illustrates the use of Hem Stitch in a decorative manner and two simple motifs in Back Stitch have been added to give a touch of colour. The material used is a coarse evenly woven linen

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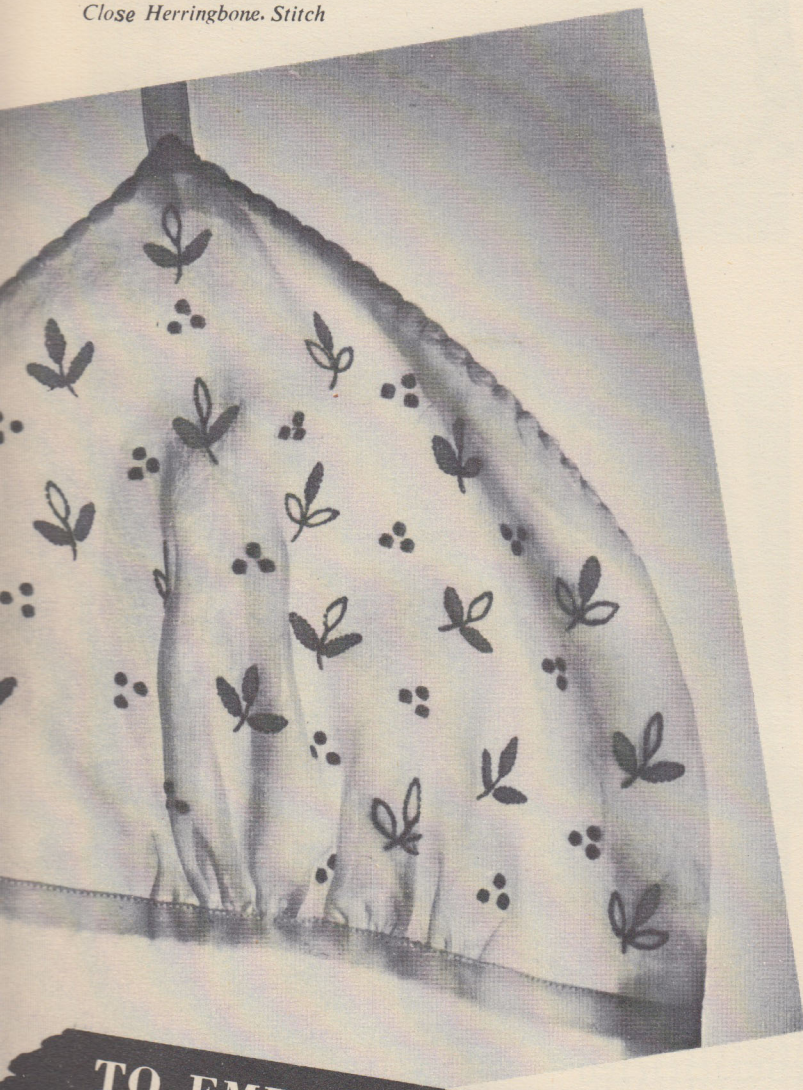
★ Our next Bulletin will show you Roumanian Stitch, Couching, Chevron, French Knot and Fly Stitch applied to personal wear and household articles.



Close Herringbone. Stitch



Back Stitch



BAYON SLIP No. 2086

This fine rayon slip (No. 1987 in the sewing section, 4A, of this issue) can be made still more attractive and individual if decorated by a simple design in Shadow Work.

The tiny spots on this slip are worked in Satin Stitch and some of the leaves and stems are simply outlined in Back Stitch to introduce variety. The spots of Satin Stitch are very small and thus will not be harmed by frequent washing and ironing.

Our design was worked in two strands of Stranded Cotton with a No. 7 Crewel Needle, except for the Back Stitch which was worked in a single strand with a No. 8 Crewel Needle. We selected a fairly dark shade of blue to show more strongly through the white rayon fabric, but Shadow Work in the same colour as the material always looks attractive and it is a matter of taste whether self colours or contrasting colours are chosen. Where a contrasting colour is chosen, the outline is dark, whilst the inner part of the motif shows a paler tone of the same colour.

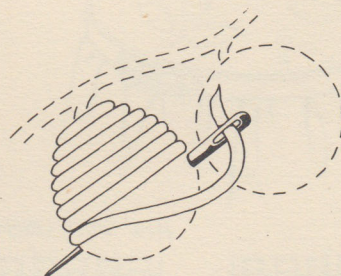
Double Back Stitch: This stitch is worked on the right side of the fabric and produces a double row of back stitches on this side, whilst on the wrong side the threads form long crosses as shown in the diagram. The result on the wrong side is identical to Close Herringbone.

Close Herringbone: This stitch is worked on the wrong side of the fabric when used for Shadow Work, see diagram.

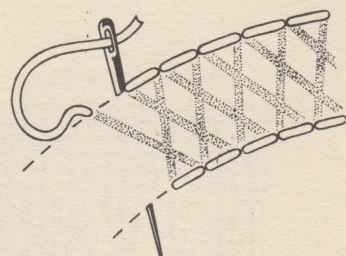
Either of these stitches may be used for Shadow Work, but Double Back Stitch has the advantage of making it easier to achieve absolute regularity of stitch and outline.

Satin Stitch: This is the stitch most frequently used in embroidery for solid filling. The working of this stitch is clearly shown in the diagram, which also shows that the stitches should lie so evenly and closely together that the background is not seen; at the same time, care must be taken that the stitches do not overlap. It is most important to create a neat firm outline round the shape which is being worked. If a raised effect is required a padding can be worked first, either with Chain Stitch or with Stem Stitch, see diagram. Satin Stitches should never be made so long that they become loose and untidy.

Ironing: Ironing should always be done on the wrong side, and in the case of Shadow Work particular care should be taken to press the embroidery and not to move the iron backwards and forwards, as this would disturb the position of the threads.

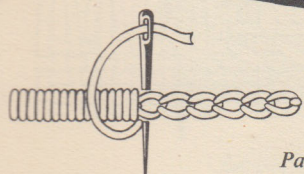


Satin Stitch



Double Back Stitch

TO EMBROIDER IN LOVELY SHADOW WORK MOTIFS!



Padded Satin Stitch

from which it is easy to withdraw the threads. This is the ideal type of material for a beginner to choose for the first specimen of hemstitching. A good quality of material should always be selected as it is a pity to waste good workmanship on a poor fabric. Sometimes the threads withdrawn from the fabric can be used for the hemstitching, but in any case, the thread selected should be as near as possible the same thickness as the warp or weft of the fabric. The embroidery needle should be of the finest size which will comfortably take the thread being used. In most cases a tapestry needle, which has a blunt point, is preferable for hemstitching work to a crewel needle which has a sharp point and which is therefore liable to split the threads of the fabric.

Hem Stitch: The simplest form of hemstitch is illustrated in diagram A. Sufficient threads should be drawn out to give the width required for your design. In our case the threads were drawn out in groups of three, from a cloth which contained 27 threads to the inch. Working from left to right, bring the needle through at the left side, then pass the thread from right to left under the first three strands, pull, then insert the needle in the fabric as shown in the diagram. (Some people work from right to left and this is shown in diagram B). Pull the thread taut so as to draw the three encircled strands into a tight bunch and proceed with the next stitch. Where only a narrow line of drawn thread is required, a single row of hemstitching is sufficient to keep the threads in groups and give the

Contd. on P. 4

Contd. from P. 3

open-work effect. This is shown on the Shadow Work Mat No. 2087. However, where more than one thread is withdrawn, it is necessary to hemstitch both edges and this results in a ladder-like pattern as shown in our mat No. 2088. Hemstitching is often used as a preliminary to needleweaving which will be described in a later bulletin.

If Hemstitching is used for hemming, the hem should be turned in to the back just up to the edge of the drawn thread band and then basted in position. When doing the stitchery care should be taken to pick up the hem (at the back) as, after the basting is removed, this is the only means of keeping it in position.

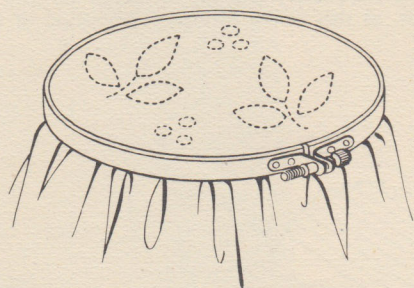
A variety of Hem Stitch which is very commonly used for hemming is shown in the diagrams. This stitch is worked in a similar way to ordinary Hem Stitch but instead of the needle passing right through the folded fabric, it is inserted between the fold at each stitch. It is worked on the wrong side of the material (see diagram) and produces a very neat effect on the right side (see diagram), where one can only see the little horizontal stitches which bind the " bunches " of threads together.

Darning of Threads: If the band of Hem Stitch does not go right up to the edge, the withdrawn threads need to be fastened at the edge of the border. The easiest way to do this is to thread them into a needle, one at a time, and to darn them through the solid fabric on the wrong side of the material as shown in the diagram. If the fabric is too fine for such darning, the threads can be cut off neatly and the edge of the fabric buttonholed to prevent fraying.

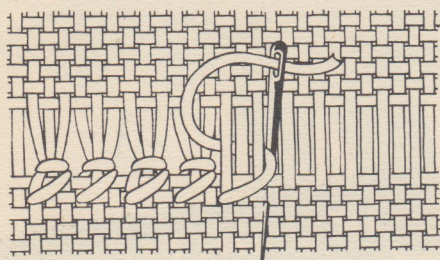
Embroidery Frames: When doing Shadow Work an embroidery frame is of great help to prevent the work from puckering. Even for other types of embroidery the most experienced embroideress finds that a frame is of immense help in keeping the work taut.

The simplest and most popular type of frame for smaller pieces of work is the tambour frame. This consists of two wooden hoops which fit together closely, one inside the other. The material is placed over the smaller of these hoops and the larger hoop is pressed down round it so that the material is stretched taut as in a drum, as shown in the drawing. In working, the needle is taken through from back to front and front to back. When the embroidery inside this small circle is complete, the frame can be moved to another part of the work.

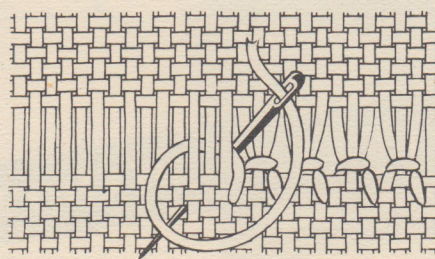
Embroidery Frame



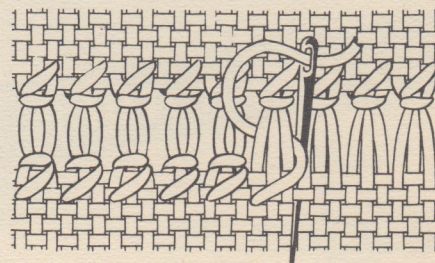
Hem Stitch (Left to Right)



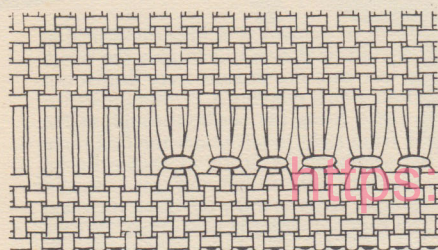
Hem Stitch (Right to Left)



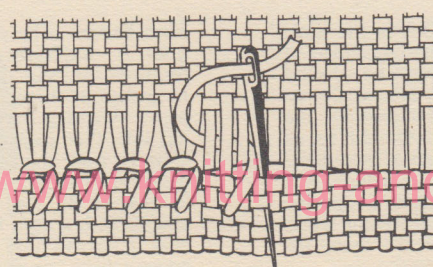
Hem Stitch (Ladder)



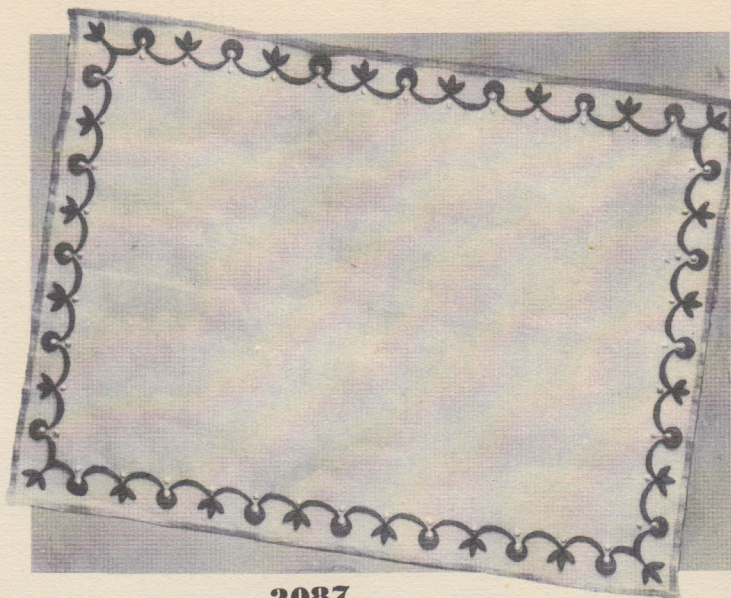
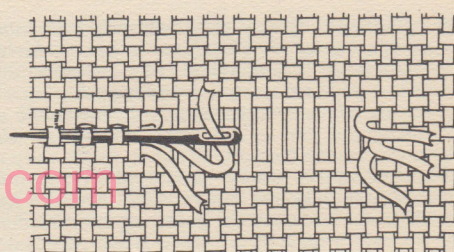
Hem Stitch for hemming (Right side)



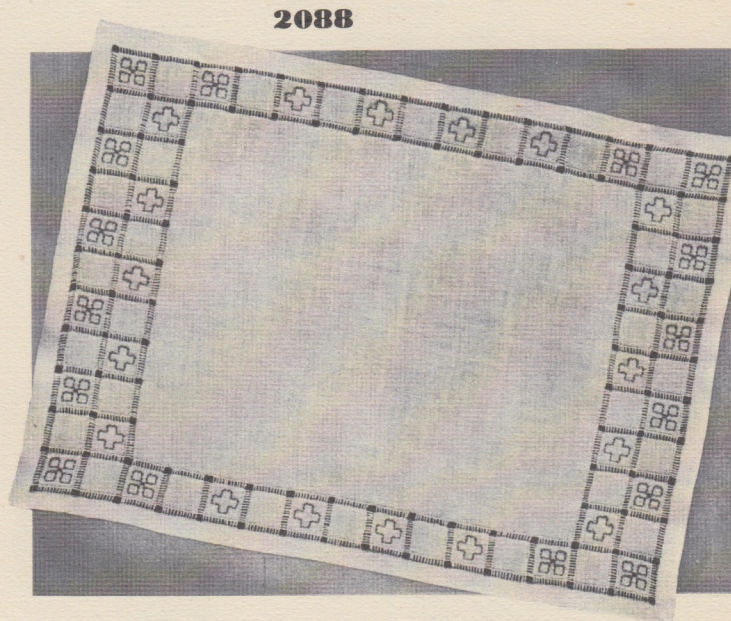
Hem Stitch for hemming (Wrong side)



Darning in drawn threads



2087



2088



We regret the available space in this issue does not permit us to include Blanket and Buttonhole Stitch as promised in Bulletin 3B. We shall deal with these stitches in a future issue.