



Heirloom Crochet



A SELECTION OF VINTAGE AND ANTIQUE PATTERN DESIGN AND INSTRUCTION BOOKS ON CD

NEEDLECRAFT AUGUST 1920



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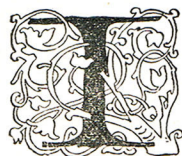
AUGUST 1920



A First Lesson

A Handsome

By MARY



IRISH crochet really originated in France. It was introduced into Ireland by some English ladies to help the peasantry, impoverished by the great potato-famine of 1846; but the cottagers added to and improved the patterns so much, that the name *Irish* has become identified with this style of crochet-work. The perfected art is now practised in perhaps every country of Europe as a cottage industry. This lace, being composed of separate pieces or "motifs" connected by "fillings," that is, either bars (guipure) or lacy loops of different kinds, may be made entirely by one pair of hands or by many—a whole village may be employed on one large piece, some making the motifs, and the best workers putting the pieces together.

There are two styles of Irish crochet—the baby or bebe, a very fine network of loops with tiny motifs such as roses and shamrocks, and the heavy or padded, of large pieces connected by irregular masses of filling. These two styles are often combined in the same piece of work. The bebe lace is well known and easy to make, the padded more difficult and more varied. These lessons deal with the padded Irish crochet.

Materials: There are cottons and threads made purposely for Irish crochet, and those who can do so should obtain one of these lace threads which usually may be had from large department-stores. The numbers, however, vary in different makes, and supplies are so uncertain that it seems best to confine the choice in this series of lessons to the easily procured No. 100 mercerized cotton for the crochet, and No. 8 or 10 mercerized for the padding-cord. It will then be a simple matter to substitute the right size of Irish lace-thread when experience shows what is needed.

The work being done in pieces, it follows that many ends of cotton have to be fastened off, and these fastenings are of supreme importance. If your cotton can be fastened off on the side of a solid piece of crochet, first fasten off as usual, then insert the hook in the next stitch of motif, draw a loop through, and fasten off again, repeat this twice more, when cotton can be closely cut. The beginning ends must be fastened off the same way. Where this method cannot be carried out invisibly, draw the clipped end in and out of adjoining stitches six or seven times. Another way still is to leave the thread long enough to thread into a needle, and sew securely on the wrong side of the work. This is the method to be used when the ends of the padding-cord have to be sewn down.

The method of putting Irish-crochet motifs together is much the same in all cases. Sometimes a stamped or drawn pattern can be had, but it is best to know how to proceed independently of this assistance. Cut out a paper pattern of the exact size, without turnings or edgings, of the article you wish to make. Lay this pattern on a piece of cambric and draw a firm line around it. As you make your pieces, tack them to the cambric within this line; they may touch it but not project.

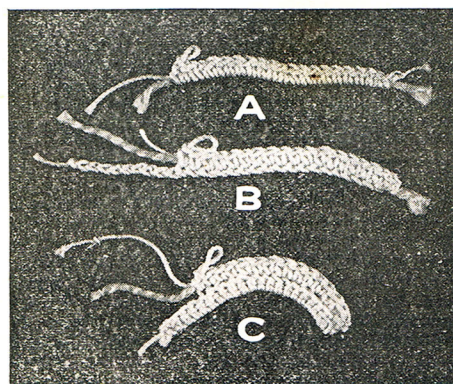


Figure 1. Showing how to work doubles over a padding-cord and how to form a petal (C)

The lace then has to be pressed. It should be stretched carefully into shape; and, with all its points pinned into position, face downward, on a thick, soft ironing-blanket, a wet cloth, tightly wrung out, should be laid over it, and it should be pressed with a hot—*not too hot*—iron. While still steaming, remove the cloth and finish pressing the lace itself until dry.

Some Typical Irish-Crochet Stitches

In Figure 1 the detail marked A speaks for itself. It is simply double crochet worked over the cord instead of over a chain.

B shows how to work doubles over a cord and into a chain at the same time. The stitches are to be taken into the chain-stitches one by one, and must never be allowed to catch in the cord, which has to be drawn into shape, according to the necessities of the pattern.

C shows how to form a petal by working a second row of doubles over the first row.

Work the first row according to the directions that may be given, then, before turning for the 2d row, draw the cord into the desired shape, put 2 more doubles on the cord to cover it at the turn, then, missing these 2 doubles, work a double over the cord into the back thread of each following stitch. When this row is done, gently pull the cord so that no loops of the padding are left on the wrong side.

Figure 2. D shows how to leave the cord while open rows are worked to form a petal. When the first row of doubles is worked, let the cord hang, then turn to work the open rows, (or close ones, as may be), according to directions. In the illustration the loops are of chain 3, double in 3d stitch, or in loop.



A Handsome Blouse-Decoration

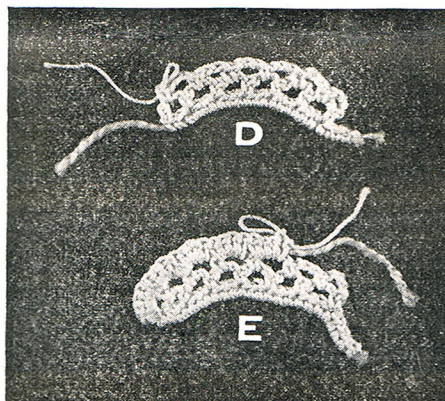


Figure 2. Showing how an open petal is made

Either side of the work can be up. The advantage of having the wrong side up is that fastening off can be done at once and the filling carried across narrow parts to be continued on the other side without a break of thread. But if Venetian bars form any part of the filling, or if clones-knot filling is to be used, place the right side up. In separating the lace from the cambric when the work is finished, cut the sewing-stitches at the back of the cambric, or you may accidentally cut the lace.

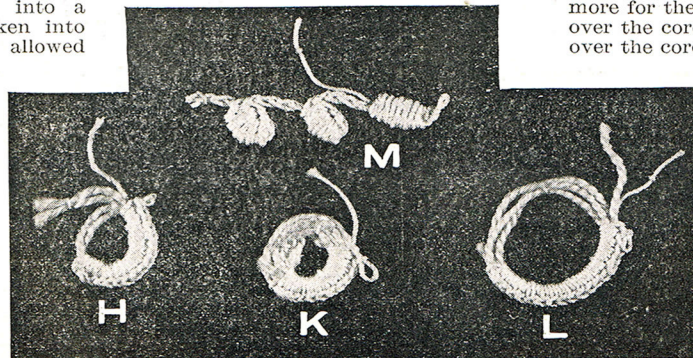


Figure 4. Rings and Clones Knots

E shows how to finish a petal. Work into the last loop of the 2d row, as shown at D, then make a final loop of chain 3, 2 doubles on the cord—these are the 2 turning doubles—draw the petal into shape, turn, and over the cord put 3 or 4 doubles into each loop. Note that this figure is shown with the wrong side to the front, in order to keep the petal in the same position as at D.

Figure 3. F is a curve joined on the lower side of the row of double crochet. When the first row is done, draw the cord up closely into a ring, make a double in the bottom of the stated stitch—the 20th in the example—then put 2 doubles on the cord to turn, miss these 2 and work the second row as before. This detail also shows how to work picots around a petal. G shows how to join round a curve on the upper side of the row of double crochet. In this case there is no real turn. The loop is merely twisted round, and the double crochet is then worked over the cord into the stitches as directed.

Figure 4. H, K and L show how to make rings. H is often used as the center for pieces in which the cord is afterward required for petals, etc. It can be made of any size. Double the cord, insert the needle, with, of course, the working-thread upon it, into the fold, twist the doubled cord round into a ring, and work a double over it, continue, putting the doubles over the 4 strands. Close it up neatly by putting a slip-stitch into the first double. Draw the cord if necessary. The cord can be either cut away altogether, if no longer needed, or one strand can be cut away, and the other be left to hang or be taken on with the work, as required. K is the usual heavily padded ring made by winding the padding-cord ten or twelve times round a pencil or other article of the required size. It is then slipped off and worked over with double crochet. L is made in the same way but without cutting the cord, which may be wanted to continue the work. M, the clones knot, is a sort of bullion-stitch. It is not easy to make at first and requires practise.

Not every needle will work clones knots. The needle should have a small, smooth, non-projecting hook and a straight shaft. If, in spite of your pains, the needle always catches as you draw it through the roll of loops, discard it and try another. When you find a needle that makes them well, mark that needle, and put it away to be used for nothing else.

For each knot, a few chain-stitches—3 or 4—are made, and these chains are to be considered as belonging to the knot, and distinct from those chains that make the loops in which the knots occur. To practise the knots, use coarse cotton, and work, say, 8 chain to give you something to hold to. Now, do 4 more chain for the knot, and I advise steadying the work on the needle by pressing the nail of the third right-hand finger on the last of this chain, while the knot is being made. For the knot, imagine that the 12 chain is a loop, and that you are going to work a treble in it. Put the cotton over the needle as if for a treble, and then under the chain, bringing back a loop exactly as for a treble. This "over" and loop are the 1st stitch of the knot.

Keeping these 2 on the needle, make another pair in the same way, then another and another, until there are 8 stitches or 16 threads in a long, straight, even row round the needle and the chain together. Make one more "over" and draw it through the whole of the stitches on the needle at once—it is not imperative that the chain-stitch be taken through also, but it generally will be—then make a tight chain-stitch, to draw the knot up very close, and finally work a double crochet over the chain beyond the knot. Only practise will make neat knots. Those in the detail are all of this size, and coarsely and loosely made to show the working. In actual work they must be close and round, without straggling threads.

Figure 6 illustrates the small piece of Irish-crochet lace we are about to make, and Figure 5 shows the piece with the principal motifs and the filling unfinished. The padded motifs are to be made first.

The Spray of Creeper: Work 22 doubles over the cord, then (3 more for the beginning of the 1st petal, 18 trebles and 3 doubles over the cord, draw the cord up to make a ring, then, still working over the cord, work a double into the 1st stitch you made for the petal and into each following stitch, make a tight slip-stitch into the ring of the petal and put 15 more doubles over the cord alone for the bit of stem that lies between the petals) 3 times. To make the end petal when the doubles, trebles and doubles of the 1st round are made, put a double into the under side of the 1st of these stitches (see detail F), 2 doubles on cord to turn, then 1 in each stitch of petal and of the nearest part of the stem. (Now work a petal opposite the nearest petal, then doubles over the stem) 3 times and fasten off very neatly. Do not forget to keep drawing the cord gently, particularly in making the second round of the petals.

The Large Flower: Make a ring of 7 chain-stitches, 24 trebles in the ring, join the round and work a round of doubles into each stitch. The next round is of small clones knots. Make 3 chain-

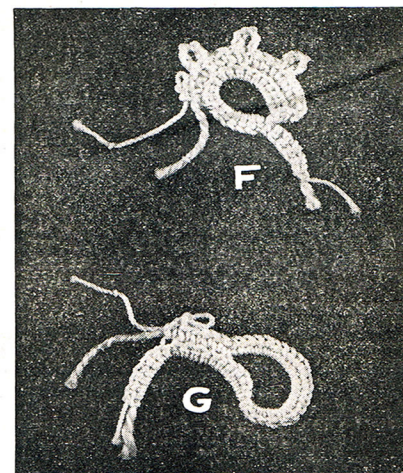


Figure 3. Showing how to join curves on the lower and upper sides of double crochet

in Irish Crochet

Blouse-Decoration

CARD

stitches and over this little chain, work a clones knot of 5 overs, but omit the final double that is usually taken beyond the knot. (chain 2, miss 1 double, treble in next, work a clones knot over the treble, treating it as if it were 3 chain-stitches) 11 times, chain 2, join round. There will be 12 knots with 2 chain-stitches between them in this round.

Now slip-stitch into 1st space of 2 chain and join in a cord. You had better make a knot at the end of the cord, in case you accidentally pull too hard on it.

Work 13 doubles over the padding-cord alone, let the cord hang, turn, miss 1, and, working into both top threads, make 2 doubles, 10 trebles into the 12 stitches, slip-stitch into top of the knot, turn, 3 doubles, 7 trebles, 2 doubles into the stitches of last row, 2 doubles over the cord to turn, draw the cord gently into shape, then put a double into each back stitch of last row, double into the loop of 2 chain, draw the cord to shape, turn, and over the cord put a double into the 1st 3 stitches of the 1st petal and 10 more over the cord alone. These are the 13 doubles on which to work the 2d petal. Repeat until you have 12 petals.

The Larger Rose: Make a ring of 6 chain. 1st row. Eighteen doubles in ring. 2d row. Chain 6, miss 2 doubles, treble in next, (chain 3, treble in 3d double) 4 times, chain 3, slip-stitch in 3d of the 6 chain-stitches (6 loops). 3d row. In each loop put (1 double, 7 trebles, 1 double). 4th row. (Chain 6, double into the treble of 3d row) 6 times. 5th row. (Double, 8 trebles, double into loop) 6 times.

The Smaller Rose: Ring of 4 chain-stitches. 1st row. Ten doubles in ring. 2d row. Chain 6, miss 1 double, treble in next, (chain 3, treble in 2d double) 4 times, chain 3, join round, (6 loops). 3d row. Double, 5 trebles and double into each loop. 4th row. (Chain 4, double into same stitch as the treble of 2d row was taken into) 6 times. 5th row. Like 3d.

The Pattern: The pieces now have to be sewn down on cambric or firm muslin, on which an outline of the article has been drawn. A paper pattern, without turnings, of the collar or whatever it may be, should be laid upon the cambric and the outline traced around. To get the outline of the piece of lace we are making, take a piece of paper 3 inches (half the width) by 6½ inches (the full depth). When you have the shape to your satisfaction, cut along the lines, lay the paper pattern on the cambric, trace round it, and then turn it over and trace the other half.

Next make a long chain and sew it down along this line (see figure 5) loosely as shown. Sew down the motifs wrong side up, and then begin the filling, which is the easiest of all fillings to execute.

The Filling: This can only be indicated by general directions. The holes are to be of about the same size but of any shape, and they are to be made in whatever direction best suits the space to be filled. The loops are mostly of chain 3, treble into loop, or over the bordering chain, or into a motif, as the case may be; but more or fewer or none at all may be worked if the size of the hole demands it. Generally, also, you turn with chain 6, picot of 5 of them, then as many more chain (or none) as may be needed for that hole. Do not take the trebles into the bordering chain but over it, so that they will slide along it if necessary.

On no account must you try to exactly reproduce the holes as shown in the worked piece or in the detail. Use these simply as helps. But in order to help you get started properly, I will give you the stitches exactly in their order for part of the detail (Figure 5).

Join on the cotton at upper right-hand corner, make the 3 holes over the border at the side, turn with a picot, and chain 2, treble into the middle hole, chain 1, treble over the top border, 2 more holes on top border, turn with a picot and chain 1, treble into the middle one of the last 3 holes, chain 3, treble into the hole that has the picot, chain 3, treble into 3d hole at side, chain 1, treble over bordering chain, make the 5th and 6th holes on the side, turn with picot, treble into 5th hole (that is, miss 1 hole, generally in turning), 3 holes across to the top border, the last treble being taken into the last hole of border, chain 1, treble over border, 2 more holes on border, turn with picot, miss 1 hole, treble in 2d, 4 holes across to the other border, (make a picot in the 2d of these and take the last treble into the last hole), 2 holes on border, turn with picot, treble in 2d hole, and 5 holes across to the top border (picot in the 4th of these), 1 hole on top border, turn with picot and work across again (6 holes).

You now have all the holes that are shown on the top border of the detail. Put 3 on the side border, turn with picot, chain 2, treble into the 2d hole, 6 more across (the 4th with a picot), and the last treble going into the end loop with picot, turn with picot, chain 2, treble in 2d hole, chain 1, treble into petal of creeper, chain 3, treble into hole with picot, chain 1, treble into petal, (chain 3, treble into next hole) twice, chain 3, treble into hole with picot, turn with picot, treble into 2d hole, chain 3, treble into next hole, chain 1, treble into petal, turn with picot, treble into 2d hole, chain 3, treble into next hole (this is taken over a treble), chain 3, treble into last hole on border, chain 2, make a hole on border.

The work now continues in the same way, back and forth between the spray and border, until the top of the little rose is caught in.

At the sharp angle work 5 or 6 holes along the border, making the turn of direction sharp,

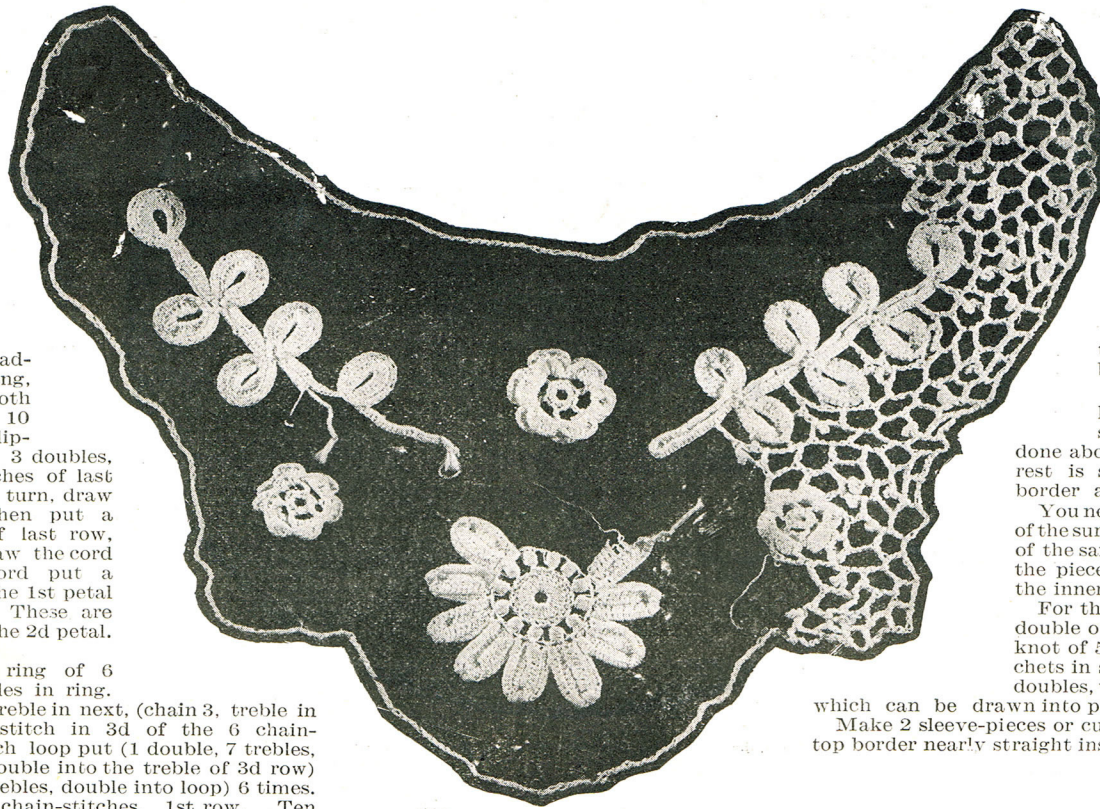


Figure 5. Detail Showing How To Work the Various Parts of Figure 6

then work back and forth between the border and the rose.

I shall now give only the general direction of the holes.

Work back and forth between the spray and the border taking in the remaining side of the little rose, but not taking in the larger rose. When the filling reaches to the large flower, take that in, and continue between the flower and the border, until you reach the other side of the flower. Next go round the flower to the filling and work between the large rose and the flower, then between the spray and the flower, until the border is caught up again.

Do not attempt to make the second half match the first, but just keep the same directions until you have as much done above the spray as on the first half. The rest is simply back and forth between the border and the sprays and rose.

You need not break off. Go to the upper edge of the surrounding chain and work a row of holes of the same size as the rest, but regular, round the piece. Take the trebles between those of the inner filling, putting 2 whenever necessary.

For the last row, join in a cord and put a double over it in a loop, chain 3, make a clones knot of 5 overs, over the chain, 2 double crochets in same loop. Into the next loop put 3 doubles, working all the doubles over the cord, which can be drawn into place after the piece is finished.

Make 2 sleeve-pieces or cuffs in the same way, only making the top border nearly straight instead of curved.

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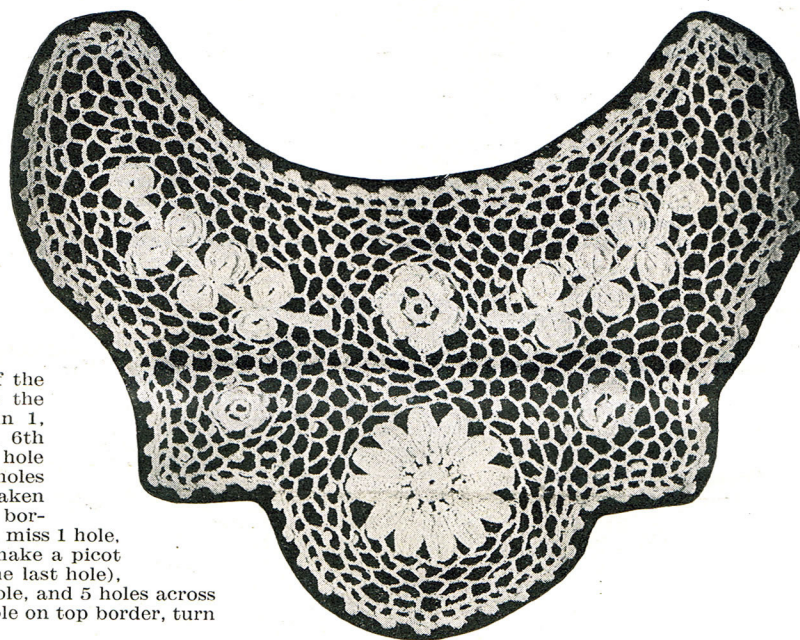


Figure 6