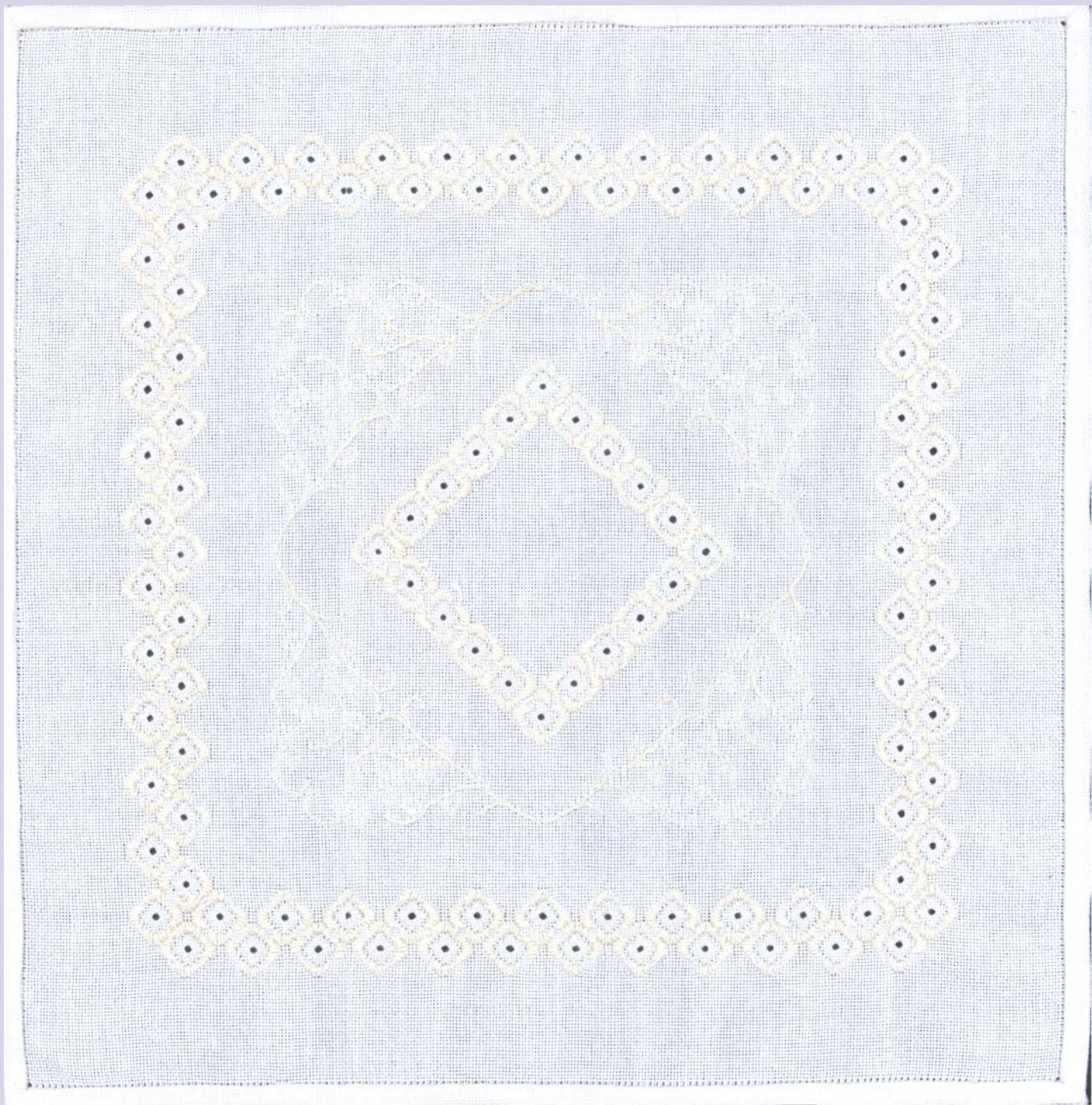


Feature **PROJECT**

Snowdrops 'n Eyelets

by Carol Storie



I love the look of white on white (or in this case, antique white on antique white). To me, it always has such an elegant look to it. The flowers (snowdrops) on this piece are done in satin stitch with eyelet centres and the vines with either backstitch or blackwork and finished with a whip stitch.

I always find it difficult to name a piece, so I phoned my friend Ellen for help as she was with me when I first started stitching it. She did well to remember what the piece even looked like (I had started it quite a while previous to this). She came up with the snowdrops for the flowers, and the word eyelets just seemed to go along with it. This piece also has

vines in it, but I wasn't sure how to work that into the title!

The stitching for this piece is not difficult, and as usual, it just takes time. As I was stitching it, I kept thinking of other variations for the pattern. Like putting something in the centre, or perhaps adding another row or rows of stitching between the vines and the snowdrops. And/or it could be extended past the outside border of snowdrops. And/or embellishing it with beads or metallic threads. The variations are endless. But as it was, I had a time constraint, so decided to end it where I did and continue experimenting at another time, or perhaps on a whole different piece.

If you don't care for white on white, try stitching it with one of the variegated threads on the market. I think it would look wonderful in pastel shades of pinks and lavenders.

I hope you enjoy stitching this piece whether it is with white on white or with coloured threads. Please feel free to change it, add to it, or adapt it any way you please. I'd be interested to see how you changed it!

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Materials

- 16" x 16" piece of 28 count
Antique White Jobelan linen
- 1 skein DMC Embroidery Cotton
(Color 712)
- 1 skein or ball DMC Perle Cotton
12 (Color 712)
- 1 skein or ball DMC Perle Cotton
8 (Color 712)
- *Any color combination of thread can be used

Instructions

NOTES:

Read all instructions before starting.

One-quarter of the master pattern is on page 33. The gray lines mark the centre of each side, with a "C" marking the centre.

To make the pattern easier to follow, baste over 4 threads and under 4 threads from the centre to the top, bottom and each side, as well as diagonally.

The model is finished as a centerpiece, but piece can also be framed.

Weave your threads under the threads at the back of your work to go from one area to another rather than having a long thread across the back.

When following the stitch diagrams, bring your needle up in 1, down in 2, up in 3, etc.

All stitching is done with one strand of thread.

Each line of the graph equals one thread of the fabric.

BEGIN

The 'snowdrops' are stitched with one strand of DMC Perle Cotton #8. Use the master pattern for placement and diagram #1 for stitch detail.

The eyelets are stitched with one ply of the DMC

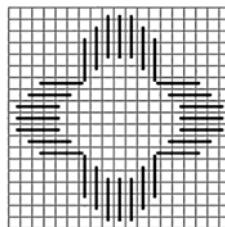


Diagram 1

Embroidery Cotton. Start in the centre of each snowdrop and using straight stitches, work your way around clockwise. Diagram 2 enlarges the stitch detail.

The vines are stitched with one strand of the DMC Perle Cotton #12.

Use the master pattern for placement and the enlarged diagrams (diagrams 5 & 6) for stitch detail.

Continued on page 32

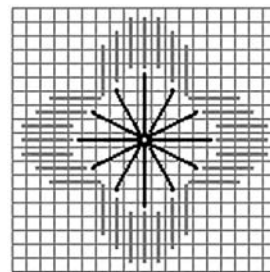


Diagram 2

Continued from page 31

The vines can be stitched using either backstitch or running stitch. Running stitch will make your work reversible. To accomplish this, every second stitch is worked first, and then the missing stitches are filled in on the return trip. Plan your path for each section. If you are having difficulty following it with your eyes, you can highlight every second stitch before starting.

Example: Solid lines represent first trip and the dotted lines represent the return trip (diagram 3)

If you are finishing your piece as a pillow or picture, the back will not be seen, so using backstitch is just as effective as the running stitch.

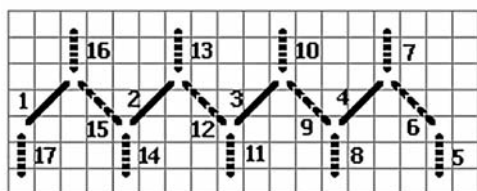


Diagram 3

Whip stitch around the vines, using one strand of DMC Perle Cotton #12. Bring your needle up at the first stitch, and run your thread

under the stitch (between the stitch and the material). Then run it under the next stitch and continue all along the vine. Weave your threads in the back to move to a new area.

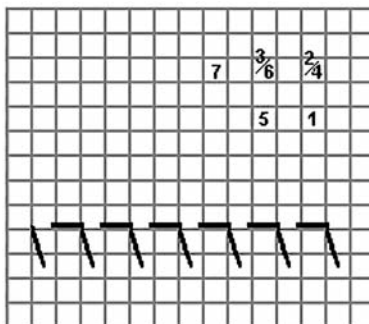


Diagram 4

This piece was finished as a centerpiece doily by hemstitching (diagram 4) around the outside border with one strand of DMC Perle Cotton #12.

Count out 32 threads from the outside row of snowdrops and pull that thread out. Do not pull the thread out all the way to the edges; stop where the pulled threads meet in the corner and then weave your threads back into the fabric towards the outside of the fabric. This pulled thread will give you a line to work the hemstitch in.

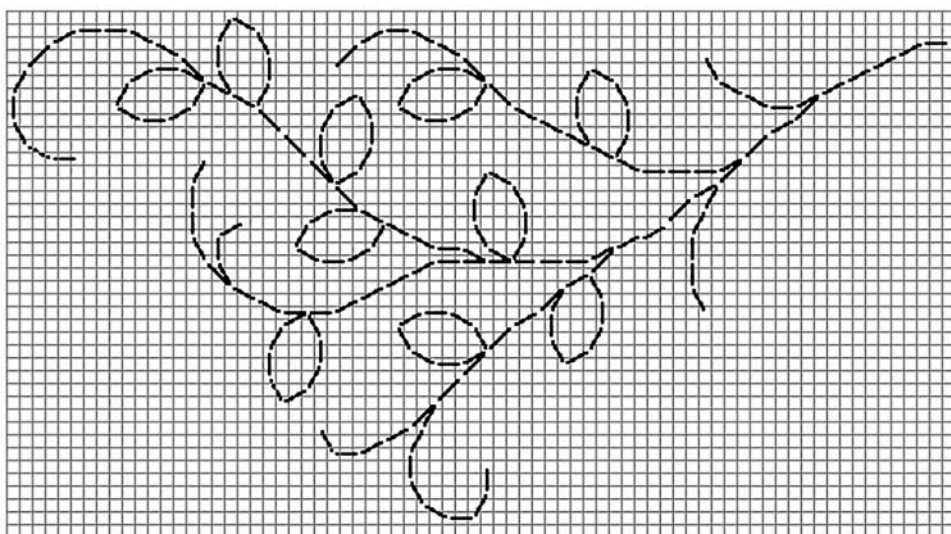
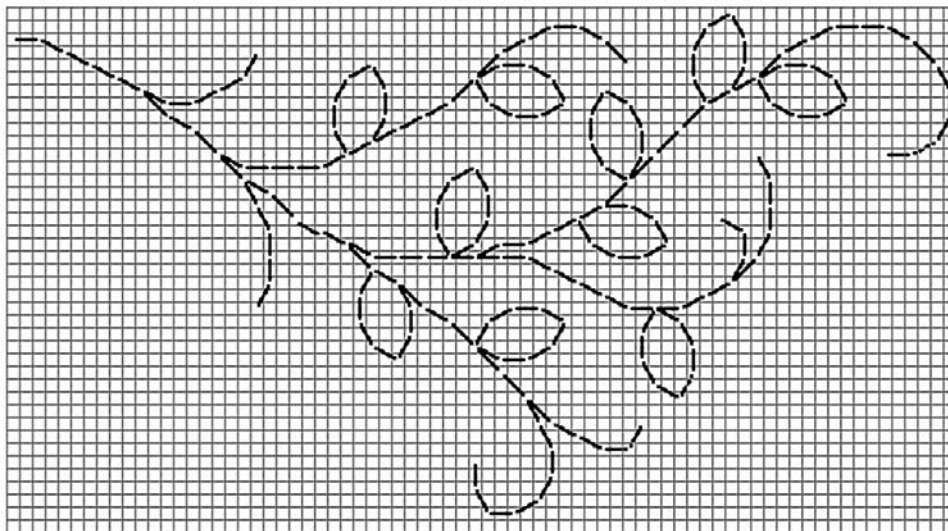


Diagram 5

Cut around the outside of your fabric 24 threads from the pulled thread. Fold your fabric twice to make a hem and work the hemstitch as in the diagram, which will tack down your folded hem.

Carol Storie is the Youth Director for EAC, a long time member of the Regina Stitchery Guild, a member of the Needlework Designers of Canada and a designer/teacher (and all this is on top of a full-time job!). She has had her work published in "Grain News" as well as "A Needle Pulling Thread" and "Embroidery Canada". She can be found at www.heartfeltdesigns.ca or by emailing: cstorie@accesscomm.ca



Left: Diagram 6

Bottom:
MASTER PATTERN
 (One-quarter of pattern)
 Each line of the graph equals one
 thread of the fabric

