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NEEDLECRAFT

Devoted to HOME DRESSMAKING HOME MILLINERY FANCY WORK AND HOUSEHOLD DECORATION

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Centerpiece with Vintage Border in Richelieu Crochet

By FANNIE FORESTER MAXIM

THIS border of grapes and leaves, worked with No. 20 mercerized crochet-thread, white or ecru, is five inches wide, and very handsome for a plain or embroidered centerpiece. The model is of ecru, with ecru center:

Grapeleaf, center section: Chain 9, turn; in each of 2d stitch of chain from needle and in each of 7 stitches following, chain 1 (always, to turn), turn; 4 doubles in each double, taking back vein of stitch to form a rib, chain 6, 5 doubles in 5 doubles down other side, turn; 5 doubles in 5 doubles last made, 3 doubles under chain, chain 6, 3 doubles under same chain, 5 doubles in 5 doubles, turn; work as before to 4th double from end, on other side, leaving 3 doubles, and working in both veins of the last stitch to prevent stretching; turn, work to the opposite side, leaving 3 doubles; turn, work to end of other side; turn, work to 5th double from the end, leaving off 4 doubles; turn, a double in each double with 6 under chain, finish row to match 1st side; turn, make 8 doubles, and finish the row with singles or slip-stitches, making the last one in 1st double of the loop. Break thread, leaving 7 inches.

Second section: This has 5 spaces and 4 notches, of 3 doubles; make according to directions for center section, narrowing the last side with slip-stitches, as before. Break thread, leaving 7 inches.

Place the right side of sections together, always matching the 1st doubles of the loop, and slip-stitch the edges together, taking the vein of stitch next the worker and back vein of other side.

Third section: This has 3 spaces and 3 notches, of 3 doubles; proceed as before, narrowing the last row as directed, and join to the 2d section on each side.

When the 5 sections are thus completed and joined, make a ring by winding padding-cord 15 times around three matches, held together, wind the working-thread on a few times, take off and fill with doubles, break off thread enough to sew to the leaf, sewing 2 doubles of each loop just under the edge of ring, and leaving a

space of three-fourths inch between the small sections. For the grapes: Take a loop around the finger, make one double over the 2 threads, take off and make 6 more doubles, and pull up the draw thread closely; make 2 doubles in each double once around, then 2 doubles in 1 double and 1 in next; in 3d round make 2 doubles in 1 double and 1 in each of 2, forming a perfectly flat circle;

tack center, insert a lead-pencil and swing the card-board around the circle. If one has a set of dividers, such as mechanics use, all the better; but the makeshift described serves the purpose excellently.

Draw another circle inside the first, with a radius of seven and one-half inches, or fifteen inches in diameter. Crochet a chain long enough to extend around the inner

circle; make one row of doubles, break thread, fasten in at the other end and make 5 doubles in 5 doubles, 2 in next, and repeat; again break thread, fasten in at other end, and make a double in each double (taking up both veins of stitch to avoid a rib). Press the braid thus made, baste around exactly outside the inner circle, ravel out the extra length which must be made in order to be sure of enough, and join the ends of braid neatly.

Press the leaves and grapes before basting, but stretch the stems and tendrils a little instead. Cut a six-and-one-fourth-inch strip of paper the shape of the outer edge, and mark the edge into sections with pins. If it does not space off evenly change each pin slightly. As the pattern is worked on the wrong side the leaf at the left should be placed seven-eighths of an inch from the outer line, and three-fourths of an inch to the right of the section mark, placing the point of the center of leaf by these measures. The next lower point of this leaf will be three-eighths of an inch from the outer line. The next leaf is placed with the center point at the outer line and section mark, with the next lower point one-sixteenth inch over the outer line. Between the centers of the rings, (at center of each leaf) is two inches.

Arrange the grapes in groups or clusters of three, four and five, as shown: a group of three is placed in the space between leaves, a short stem connecting the group with the braid which surrounds the center; starting from the left side of right leaf, between 3d and 4th notches of the 2d section, is a cluster of five, two joined at top of stem,

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break thread and fasten by sewing with needle and thread. Prepare a foundation of strong, heavy paper, twenty-four inches in size, and cover with cambric, and on this trace a circle twenty-two inches in diameter. One way to get a perfect circle is to have an inch-wide strip of cardboard, drive a tack through one end and into exact center of pattern, make a tiny hole eleven inches from the

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one between these, and one each side of stem below; then at right of center section of left leaf is a group of four, arranged in a half circle.

For the leaf-stem at left, chain 31, turn: a double in each stitch, turn; a double in each of 14 doubles, 2 doubles in next and in each 4th double following. For 2d leaf-stem, chain 31, a double in each stitch, turn; a double in each of 6 doubles, then 2 doubles in every 3d double until you have added 4 extra stitches, and finish the row plain—with double in double, taking up both veins of stitch, always, as for the braid.

For the grape stem in group of three, chain 3, a double in each stitch, turn, double in each double; in group of four, chain 12, and make 2 plain rows; and in group of five chain 22, make a row of doubles, turn; a double in each of 10 doubles, then 2 in each 3d stitch.

For the tendril between leaf-stems: Chain 3, a row of doubles; between outside grapes, chain 60, a row of doubles; between leaves, chain 43, a row of doubles, and next the braid, or inner edge, chain 70, a row of doubles.

The filling is twisted bars: Fasten in at any given point, carry thread across space, and twist back over the 1st thread; proceed to next point and repeat. The stems of the cluster of four grapes, each starting from top of large stem, are made in the same way; carry thread across, return, and again cross the space, making a bar of 3 strands; then twist very closely, to give the appearance of cording. Prepare the linen center by drawing a circle fourteen and one-half inches in diameter, and buttonhole the edge the same width as the braid, taking the stitches inside of the circle. Two rows of machine-stitching can be carefully run to give an even line for this work. If ecru thread is used, make the buttonholing to match, placing the stitches close together.

Baste the linen center to the foundation, and connect with the border or inner edge of braid by twisted bars one-fourth inch apart.

No. 20 crochet-cotton will make a grape, by directions given, five-eighths inch in diameter, and the center section of leaf one and eleven-sixteenths inch long, after pressing. If too long, try No. 30. Coarser thread may be used by adjusting other measurements, working as directed.

A scarf-end may have the same border, the motifs being arranged to form a straight lace instead of on a circle, and a very handsome matching set for dining-room or library is very easily made. For a larger centerpiece, one has simply to repeat the motifs, adding more sections, allowing about four inches for each repeat.

