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Adrienne Kattke  2006
Centerpiece with Vintage Border in Richelieu Crochet

By FANNIE FORESTER MAXIM

This border of grapes and leaves, worked with No. 10 mercerized crochet-thread, white or ecru, is five inches wide and very handsome for a plate or embroidered centerpiece. The model is of ecru, with ecru center.

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

Second section: This has 4 notches of 3 doubles, as is according to directions for center section, narrowing the last section with slip-stitches, so before breaking thread, leaving 7 inches.

Place the right side of section together, always matching the 4 notches of the loop, and slip-stitch the edges together, taking the 2nd row of stitch next the worker and lock ecru, using 7 inches.

Third section: This has 5 spaces and 3 notches of 3 doubles, as is according to directions, narrowing 10 inches, and join to the 2d section on each side. When the 5 sections are thus completed and joined, make a ring, tying 1 stitch to the center of each section, and when the 2 sections have been completed and joined, tie the center of each section together, leaving 2 rows white. To work the border, begin at one end and allow 2 inches of thread enough to sew the top needle and thread. Prepare a foundation of strong, heavy paper, twenty-four inches in size, and cover with cambium, and, on this, work the border of this length, 3 inches in diameter. One way to set 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 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 one-half inches, or fifteen inches in diameter. Crochet a chain long enough to extend around the inner circle, make a row of 2 doubles, and fasten in at the other end and make 5 doubles in 6 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 stitches to a rib, or 3rd, from the border thus made, fasten 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 each border neatly. From the leaves and grapes before fastening, but stretch the stem and bend it a little, instead. Cut a strip of fourth-inch strip of paper the shape of the outer circle, and mark the edge into sections. If it does not space off on the fourth inch, turn a pin slightly. As the pattern is worked on the wrong side the leaf at the left should be placed in a circle of an inch from the outer line, and three-fourths of an inch to the right of this line mark, placing the point of the center of each leaf by these measures. The next leaves and stems of this leaf are thrown in, space the thread about one inch from the outer line. This leaf is placed at the center point at the outer line, and section mark, with the next lower join point one-sixteenth inch over the outer line. Between the centers of the rings, in 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 cirle, and the work and stich, and the leaf, center, starting from the left side of eight row, between 3d and 4th inches of the 2d section, is a cluster of five, two joined at top of stem,

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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 double.

For the tendril between leaf-stems: Chain 3, a row of doubles; between outside grapes, chain 40, 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.