

Darned Lace Patterns

CONDUCTED BY FANNIE G. ALLEN.

A FEW WORDS ON LACE DARNING.

THERE is no fancy work which gives more satisfaction at so little outlay as darning on net. With a few yards of lace and a ball of darning cotton, any one can make many beautiful things. It wears and washes well on underwear, and makes a pretty trimming for cheese-cloth dresses; it is, in fact, adaptable anywhere that lace can be used. A little time and patience are all that is required to accomplish most charming results, and that with great rapidity.

Use darning needles Nos. 4 to 7. These can be procured in small paper cases holding the above assorted numbers, ten in a box. Use a short, dull-pointed worsted needle for scalloping. The cotton is the ordinary darning cotton which comes in balls. It wears and washes much better than linen floss, and smoother work can be done with it; linen can be used if preferred; the unbleached cotton is the best as it makes better work.

The net, which will hold No. 16 cotton, is a useful size. The needles should have their extreme points broken off, and the rough ends smoothed down on a stone; the sharp points are apt to split the meshes. The cotton should fill the mesh easily, never closely. It is advisable to fill the mesh in a single thread darning, but still be able to contain two threads comfortably, without crowding.

To commence work, if unaccustomed to darning, select a simple design first. Count the number of darned-in meshes, that you may know exactly how many you will want to darn in, in a given space. Where two points come together in the center, always have an uneven number of meshes, say fifteen up and down. This will give you a mesh directly in center of diamond to count or work from. Each mesh is one stitch.

Those who are not used to this work, will find aid from the following illustration.

After counting your meshes, take a needle and fine thread, and run a line either directly in the mesh, or one side of it where you are

about to darn; by looking at the illustration, you will see what is meant. This fine thread will keep your pattern straight, and this is the secret of fine darning; the pattern must



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follow direct lines, and until one becomes expert at it, it is better to use some simple device, than have the pattern become distorted. One mesh darned wrong will throw a pattern all out. The fine thread can be drawn out when the pattern is completed. It is also well to have several needles threaded, and begin the pattern with as many needles as there are lines in the design; darn each line of the pattern side by side alternately, this will greatly simplify the designs where they are intricate. This is especially useful in patterns that wind in and out and cross repeatedly. Find the simplest line in the pattern, which in many cases forms the basis of the whole design, and begin with that; observe the lace closely, and you will find that it is the same up and down and diagonally, but is different straight across—that way it is two meshes to a stitch instead of one; as in the lines running the other way, the lace is always used lengthwise, and it is well to purchase several yards, if it is intended to be used for borders, as that insures a continuous length, which is very desirable in almost every case.

Four pretty designs for darned lace are given on the two following pages.



