

1923

Italian Hemstitching

Lora Ann Stanke
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

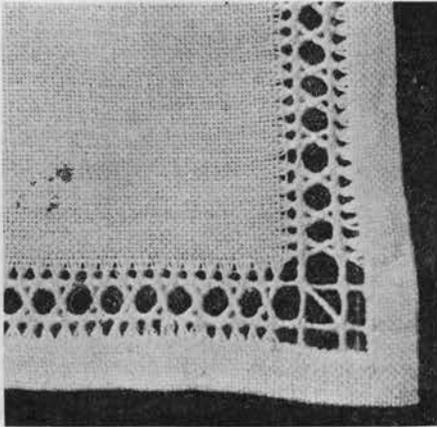
Recommended Citation

Stanke, Lora Ann (1923) "Italian Hemstitching," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 3 : No. 9 , Article 10.
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol3/iss9/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

Italian Hemstitching

By LORA ANN STANKE



CHRISTMAS presents were my goal! I spent hours wandering up and down Chicago's beautiful Michigan avenue, gazing enviously at the beautiful linens in the linen shops. And then more hours visiting those dear little shops tucked away in the skyscrapers and walking thru great spreading department stores. But of all the things I saw Italian linens interested me most.

"Why not make a collar and cuff set of creamy Italian linen trimmed with Italian hemstitching and fancy corners?" The idea knocked incessantly at my brain, but where could I learn to make the stitch?

I looked in two of the largest libraries and spent long afternoons pouring over numerous books. My only reward was to find beautiful illustrations of Italian needlework, but, alas, no instructions as to how to make the hemstitching.

Finally, after much inquiry, a friend was discovered who had been a teacher in one of Chicago's settlement houses, and had learned the stitch from an old Italian woman. But, sad to say, this friend had since forgotten. Fortunately, however, she had a piece of unfinished work in the bottom of her trunk, and when I asked to ravel a bit to discover the way of its making, she graciously granted permission.

Accordingly, I set to work to analyze the steps involved, and found that it

was fascinating to do, and at the same time could be done quite rapidly. The following are my directions for making Italian hemstitching.

If the genuine creamy Italian linen cannot be obtained, substitute a medium-weight round thread, half-bleached linen. Linen thread about number 60 should be used.

There are really two kinds of Italian hemstitching.

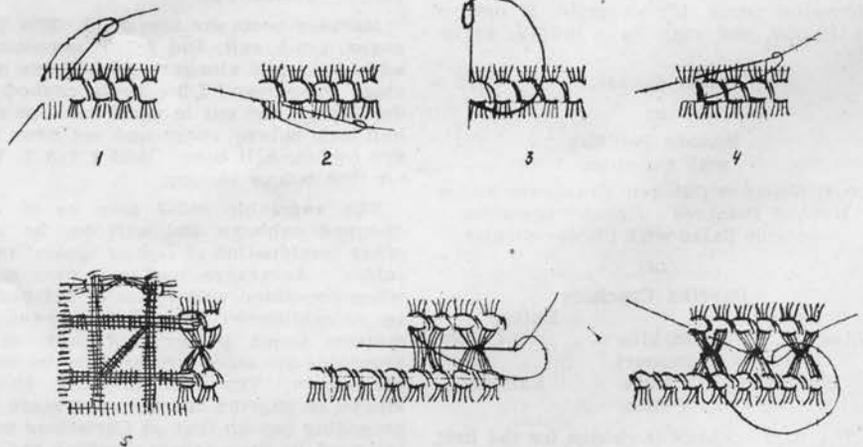
Measure the collar carefully, pulling threads and allowing one and one-eighth inches for the hem. To prepare for the first stitch make a small dot on a corner one and one-eighth inches from each edge, then count over eleven threads and bring the needle up at this point and satin stitch over three threads back to the dot and turn at right angles and satin stitch for eleven more threads and fasten. This is to prevent the linen from raveling when the threads are cut. Then insert small embroidery scissors at the dot and cut three threads, leave three threads, and cut three more threads. Then begin at the dot and cut the threads the same way in the other direction.

Now begin at the outside row, make a backward stitch over four threads and bring needle diagonally to second row as in Fig. 1. Carry needle four threads to

the right, make a horizontal stitch, bring needle back to where it started from, as in Fig. 2. Now make a stitch from first to second row, Fig. 3. Finally insert the needle in first row and pick up four threads as in Fig. 4; repeat.

To pull the threads for the second stitch, make a small dot on the corner one and one-eighth inches from each edge; then count over twenty threads and bring needle up at this point and satin stitch over three threads back to the dot and turn at right angles and satin stitch for twenty more threads and fasten. (Fig. 5.) At the dot insert the embroidery scissors and cut three threads; then allow three threads to remain, cut six threads, and allow three threads to remain, and cut three more threads. Pull the cut threads. Then begin at the dot and cut the threads in the same way in the other direction. Prepare the other corner in the same fashion, being exceedingly careful that the same threads are cut.

To make the second stitch work across the bottom row exactly the same as in the first stitch. For the second row, work one stitch the same as far as Fig. 2, for the second. Then go back, pick up the two groups as in Fig. 6, and pull together firmly. Next insert the needle between the two groups as in Fig. 7, and continue.



Eda Lord Murphy Writes from Constantinople

Galata Post Office, Box 39,
Constantinople, Turkey,
October 16, 1923.

My Dear Homemaker Staff:

MY CORONA is positively illiterate and so I'm going to write this letter by hand if you'll forgive me. I am sending this little article which is the true story of my trip to the city the other day to buy a few things for the department.

You see, the numbers in the classes have suddenly increased and I positively had to have a few more things. I had brought Dover egg beaters from America

in my hat box! Now we have nearly enough for nine and I shan't have more than that number in one class.

I must tell you about the classes. Mrs. Norton established a survey course open to sophomores, juniors and seniors. In that I have nine, now. There are two more advanced juniors, one of whom has "Feeding the Family" for a text. We succeeded in inveigling another girl to take the laboratory, so they are going to have a real course in Oriental Cookery. Our chef is Russian, but he does make some Turkish dishes, and I'm en-

joying all the new flavors very much.

I thought it would be a good idea to offer a course to the late freshmen that are in the preparatory school. To my utter surprise fifteen of them came, so I have to have two sections! This is an elementary course in cooking. Their having it made the freshmen want it, so six of them came and I'm planning a course in Home Economics and Health for them. You can imagine how happy I am to have them respond like this. Volunteers come Friday and Saturday to cook for the Y.

(Continued on page 20)