

## EMBROIDERY FOR BABY CLOTHES

### Fineness the Keynote

#### Dainty Devices, Delicate Materials, Diminutive Designs

Fine needlework is an essential in the wardrobe of an infant, and few mothers, however slender their purse may be, are without some articles of fine embroidery among the little garments for baby's wear.

Not many mothers are able to spend \$10,000 for an embroidered outfit such as graced the appearance of a certain Newport baby, but all mothers with a little time at their disposal are able to acquire just as rich embroidery, just as daintily made up, by the exercise of their own fingers in such needlework as usually makes a pleasant pastime for the woman who is deft with her needle.

Festoon and garland effects are, at present, in the height of fashion for the tiny folk, who do not know the difference between a sock and a bib, except by the taste, and small figures are always the correct thing in designs for infants' apparel.

It is a pretty fancy to make a baby's outfit with a general design capable of being appropriately repeated upon articles of various kinds. The bib and the bootee look all the daintier for having a similar pattern, and nothing looks sweeter than an entire costume worked in harmonious decorations.

Nothing is more easily made than the little cap shown in the illustration. For material select nainsook, fine cambric or good lawn; stamp the pattern and outline it with a soft filling thread, run in and out as one would run up a seam, only with larger stitches. Fill in the leaves and flower petals and, where necessary, double the thread for a thickening of certain places in stems and spirals. When the scallops and design have all been outlined in this manner begin to work the design.

For the material to be used for caps, dress yokes and bibs, use either number 25 or 35 mercerized embroidery cotton, which comes at two or three cents a skein. Use as fine a needle as will thread without tightness and work crosswise over the filled-in pattern, laying the stitches close together and exactly on the outer edge of the running stitches. In the spray design, as well as in leaves of a wider size, it is a pretty idea, and one which facilitates work, to darn the leaf or else outline it with a stem stitch and fill it in with tiny knots. Either way of filling in a leaf or flower petal is fashionable and very quickly accomplished.

When a bib has been embroidered it may be feather-stitched around the edge to a thick, soft piece of cotton material. Several kinds are for sale for the purpose of wadding bibs. A tiny frill of lace may be added to the very fancy bibs, but most of them should be simply finished with scallops. Indeed, scallops make an ideal finish for everything belonging to a baby. The bib pattern makes a fascinating festoon design for the front of a little dress. Stamp it two or three times across the front of a dress for smart occasions, and, if the pattern is to be used in a christening gown narrow Valenciennes lace, or a group of tiny tucks, or featherstitching may be placed between the festoon panels down the dress front. Either narrow lace or featherstitching should outline this panel from the little dress yoke to the hem or frill at the bottom.

A baby cannot have too many caps, and the design shown is equally suitable for a cap of fine nainsook or cambric or one of equally fine cashmere or crystal or heavy white silk. Wash caps are considered the most correct things for infants, but older babies might have this design used upon their caps and the difference in size made up by the deep front frill which is so fashionable for older babies, from one to two years of age and over. The deep frill may be made of laced-edged lawn propped up by lots of bobinet or chiffon or lace ruffles

over the face. Under the outer ruffle, on the left side, it is the latest conceit to tuck a large satin rose in white, blue or pink. Generally ties are also of satin and a satin bow is fastened to each side of the cap so adorned. The effect is quite bewitching.

Very little babies have the outer edges of their caps finished with just a simple scalloped edge. To this may be added at will one or two narrow frills of lace. In all styles of little hoods or caps a separate front effect is often achieved by embroidering the front edge on the wrong side, sometimes finishing it with lace and turning it back upon the top of the hood, like a shallow envelope flap. This is a pretty fancy and makes the cap appear more elaborate. Where the back of the cap is gathered to its circular headpiece, the seam should be neatly finished off and the joining edges hidden under a narrow band of featherstitching, briarstitching or any dainty needlework stitch known to the worker. The same stitching furnishes a dainty border to the bottom of the cap where it touches baby's neck, and is sometimes extended along both edges of the tie string in place of simple hemming.

The tie string design is not only suitable for the ends of baby's lawn tie, but also for mother's as well, and for her silk and satin neck pieces. It comes in nicely to trim the corners of baby's little sacques and kimonos and as adornment to pillow, cushion, sachet and other articles with corners to decorate with needlework.

The lining of baby's hood or cap is made of soft China or Japanese silk in two thicknesses, with the edges turned in and neatly sewed together. The white cap is just tacked to this lining, which may be of white, pink or blue. Hoods of wool are lined in the same fashion. The thickness of baby's hood lining must depend upon the kind of weather he is to be taken out in, but it should always be of washable material. Quilted silk is a favorite for this purpose.

To work silk and cashmere hoods, fill in the design with linen floss in loose stitches, so that the linen will not shrink at the expense of the design, or else use a soft filling silk for the purpose. Work crosswise with silk floss. Mercerized linen makes a pretty embroidery upon wool hoods for the reason that it never turns yellow in the laundry as silk floss so often does.

The dress yoke should be worked in the same way that the bib is and where it is joined to the dress the seam should be covered with a band of needlework stitches, of which featherstitching is most fashionable for a baby's dress. A tiny frill of lace is also often added, in which case the same kind of lace is required in the neck and sleeves. This yoke pattern makes a beautiful design for a cape or round collar made of any material.

Some of the cunningest forms of needlework are made up into little bootees—mere scraps of material embroidered and folded over baby's wee feet. The bootee is embroidered upon silk of plain surface or rep or crystal. Crystal silk is particularly popular for bootees, outdoor hoods, wraps and capes for babies. Besides silk, bootees are also made of pique, thin kid, and occasionally of cashmere lined with silk. Silk bootees are embroidered with silk floss and so are kid ones, but cotton and other kinds are worked with linen floss or mercerized cotton, which is best for pique. Little straps of the same material are sewed to the top of the bootee and sometimes fasten with a bow and sometimes with a button. It is quite a fad to trim the tops of little bootees with one, two or three overlapping rows of narrow lace or narrow satin ribbon, and this is irrespective of the material of which the tiny shoe is built.

Where the bootee is sewed to its bit of a sole the joining edges should come upon the outer side, so as not to rasp baby's roseleaf foot. Some persons bind these narrow edges with satin ribbon or cotton tape of a very narrow quality; others sew them down flat beneath a band of featherstitching or trimming tape decorated with some pretty needlework stitch. Sometimes eyelet holes in front of the bootee allow of narrow ribbon laces which are tied in cunning little bows. Very often, too, little bows of silk or satin, to match baby's hood or cap, are sewed over the arch of the instep—where there isn't any arch. Nothing is prettier than a small design of hand embroidery upon the toe of baby's bootee and any woman can work these small designs, they require so little skill with the needle.