

36 LACE PICTURES FROM NATURE

IRMGARD SCHNEIDER

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IRMGARD SCHNEIDER

Irmgard Schneider took up lace making in autumn 1982 at an Adult Education course. Soon this new hobby was occupying an increasingly important place in her life, and she expended a lot of time and energy on broadening her technical skills while at the same time taking an independent path. She valued the most precise work and allowed herself no lapses in lace making.

She was also very critical with regard to her own designs. She continually revised and reworked her own prickings, until she was totally satisfied. In 1989, her book "Lace Pictures from Nature" was published and, to her own surprise, it was a great success.

She gladly shared her expertise, and thus her home became the favourite meeting-place of a lace group from time to time. At the beginning of the 1990's in Stuttgart she founded two lace groups, which both continue to this day.

PREFACE TO THE REVISED EDITION

The present book is an expanded reprint of the book "Lace Pictures from Nature" published by the Rosenheim Press in 1989. In later years Irmgard Schneider developed further motifs; thus ten designs were added to the twenty-six originals. Moreover, the text of the working instructions was thoroughly reworked, and the prickings provided with additional data in the order of work.

A few small alterations arose from adjusting the prickings to the original worked pictures.

The revised arrangement goes back to an idea of Irmgard Schneider. She was working on the design of the large bindweed runner up to her death in 2000. It was then completed by Erika Schnaeker; our gratitude to her. In addition, she willingly assisted with the revision of the text for mistletoe.

ADVICE ON THE PRICKINGS

All the illustrations are the mirror image of the prickings. "Right" and "left" in the text always refers to the prickings. The order of work is always applicable to the mirror image: what appears later in the illustration to be on top (for example, a leaf in front of a stem) must be worked first, but then provides an ideal hiding-place in which to conceal tied-off threads. The illustrations of the finished pieces are always the same size as the pricking, with the exception of the large bindweed runner.

One further tip: pull the threads carefully and with minimum force, otherwise you may have too much tension in the work and once the pins are removed stalks and blossoms may curve at will.

SWEET PEA

17 pairs, Linen 140/2

Work the main stem from top to bottom with four pairs in cloth stitch, leaving the bobbins hanging on reaching the middle pod, to be worked off later.

Begin the right hand pod at the lower tip, working half-stitch with five pairs and cloth stitch with six pairs. (The central pod is also worked in the same way.) For the peas, work a tally with two pairs, working from pea to pea with a plait; finish by tying off and sewing in.

Work the stalk of the pod with four pairs, sewing in to the main stem at the end.

Work the left hand pod with eight pairs in half stitch, and seven pairs in cloth stitch.

Work the flower petals with between four and seven pairs, according to size. First work the larger sections and the seed pods, with a row of cloth stitch and twist between for definition; attach to the main stem with a crochet hook and tie off. Then work the smaller sections starting from the tips, tying in to the main sections during the course of the work.

Leaves: begin the right upper leaf with five pairs; throw out two pairs, work two rows of cloth stitch with three pairs, and take in the two pairs again in the adjacent leaf. When knotting off leave two pairs for the tendrils, and add in a further pair for the central cloth stitch leaf stem. Connect the leaf pair with a crochet hook, completing the central leaf stem and tendril.

Work the remaining leaf pairs in a similar fashion, attaching to the central stem with a crochet hook. Connect the start of the main stalk while working the final leaf pair.

CHESTNUT LEAF

5 pairs, Bockens Linen 60/2

Begin at the base of the stalk with three pairs. Work a two-pair plait and secure with a helper pin. Add in one further pair and work the stalk in cloth stitch.

These four pairs continue through the entire leaf, first in cloth stitch and then as pivot pairs, then cloth stitch again. They are finally sewn in to the stalk and first leaf section.

The fifth pair is hung on a support pin where indicated in each of the three larger leaf sections, as a pivot pair. When the base is reached, join in and knot off.

CHESTNUT SPRIG

Twigs, 3 and 4 pairs;
chestnuts, 6 and 8 pairs; leaf, 5 pairs
Bockens Linen 80/2

First work the two twigs. For the leaf stalk hang three pairs on the twig and add a further pair at the start of the leaf.

In the narrow turns of the cloth stitch, work partial rows as necessary. In the broader parts of the leaf add in a further pair and tie off later. The leaf tips are worked with a plait. The leaf ribs are worked with plaits and false plaits.

For the chestnuts, first work the left hand section in the direction of the twig. Start with three pairs, adding further pairs at the small circles. For the spikes on the chestnut case, twist the worker pair and lead around additional pins at the sides. When the work narrows gradually throw out three pairs to tie off later. The final four pins on the right hand side are worked with a pivot pin, sewn on to the twig, and tied off. Hang on two pairs to connect the two sections at the tip; these can be incorporated into the right hand section. In the lower part, discard four pairs, sew in to the left side, thus discarding and tying off further pairs.

The second chestnut is worked in the same manner.

IVY I

4 pairs, Bockens Linen 80/2

Commence working the stem at the top with four pairs, and work in cloth stitch to the lowest leaf, throwing out one pair. With these three pairs, work the cloth stitch band representing the leaf outline. The leaf veins are formed with false plaits. At the end, join the three pairs to the start of the leaf.

The remaining stems and leaves are each worked with three pairs, and also connected to the central stem.

IVY II

4 pairs, Bockens Linen 60/2

Work the stem from the top to the central leaf with four pairs in cloth stitch. With these four pairs continue working the cloth stitch band defining the leaf. Work partial rows in the narrow turns. Tie in to the start of the leaf, and tie off two pairs. The remaining two pairs are used to work the veins of the leaf with plaits and false plaits before tying off.

Likewise, hang on three pairs for the leaf stalks, onto the stem or other leaves; add a further pair for the cloth stitch leaf contours.

MEADOWSWEET

7 pairs, Bockens Linen 60/2

The flower heads are cloth stitched in six or seven pairs, and the corresponding stalks with two pairs in cloth stitch, in the order A-B-C.

When fastening off the pairs from the flower heads, leave two pairs for the stalks.

The thin parts of the stalk are worked with one worker pair and one passive pair, placing the pins very close together. Stalks A and B are each increased by a third pair lower down and the pins placed as indicated. Sew in the stems where they cross.

Work the remaining parts of the design in your desired sequence.

The leaves are worked in cloth stitch with four pairs apiece. Starting at the tip of the leaf spray, work the connecting stem with two pairs and sew into the main stem.

For the remaining leaves, throw out two pairs, work across the stem with two pairs and hang on two additional pairs for the opposite leaf.

GRAPE CLUSTER

5 pairs, Bockens Linen 60/2

Grapes, 5 pairs; leaves, 4 pairs; tendrils, 2 pairs.

Start with the grapes. For the outer edge twist the worker and edge passive, pin, and cloth stitch the central part of the grape round a support pin. Connect adjacent grapes to each other by sewing in at pinholes.

Cloth stitch the respective leaves, starting at A. Work short rows at narrow turns. Tie off to the start of the leaf, removing only one pair and leaving the other three pairs for the stalk.

Sew the stalk of the larger leaf into the grapes and cut off.

The stalk of the smaller leaf is sewn into the grapes and worked up to the larger leaf, taken across the leaf contour as plaits and sewn in again. Continue in cloth stitch and finally tie off.

Hang on two pairs for each tendril, using support pins and sewing in at crossings.

OAK

9 pairs, Bockens Linen 80/2

Hang two pairs onto the first pinhole of the smaller acorn, make a two-twist plait and continue in half stitch and cloth stitch, adding a further six pairs.

Set aside three of the pairs from the acorn cup for the stalk with the leaf bud, tie off one pair, and with the four remaining pairs work the stem to the next acorn; set aside for the present.

Work the stalk for the leaf bud, tie off one pair, and work the tally. After the final pinhole return with a plait, tie off and sew in.

Start the larger acorn with a two-twist plait and add a further seven pairs. Gradually tie off five pairs when the cloth stitch acorn cup starts to narrow.

With the remaining four pairs and the four pairs from the first acorn, work in cloth stitch towards the leaves and work them with four pairs apiece. Work the narrow turnings around a pivot pin. Work the leaf veins with plaits, and sew in at the appropriate points.

Start the empty acorn cup with three pairs, put one pair aside and work a plait in the shape of a curve across support pins. Hang a further six pairs on the pinholes and continue in cloth stitch. Throw out and fasten off five pairs as the work narrows, and complete the stem with four pairs.

BLACKBIRDSBirds, 15 pairs each; leaves 5 and 6 pairs;
stems, 3 and 4 pairs.

Bockens Linen 80/2

Start the lower bird at the beak with two pairs, adding a further pair at each small dash. At the fifth pinhole, counting from the top, leave the worker pair at the right; do not close the pin. For the eye, twist together the third and fourth passive pairs. The left hand pair goes to the left and then back to the right, working a shortened row, to the left again and then stays hanging in the middle.

Add one pair at the right hand side, and then work both sides. Twist both pairs together; when all pairs have been worked in, twist the worker pair in the centre. Work back and chest separately.

The right hand wing is worked to the end with the workers. For the left hand wing, a further pair is hung on at the left at the point indicated as the workers. Continue working the bird's chest in cloth stitch or half stitch with the five pairs remaining, sewing in to the loops at the wing edges. Later the bird's legs are made of false plaits using the workers from the branch. Put in a helper pin.

This work method is the same for the upper bird, the one difference being that on the right hand wing two pairs are tied off and three pairs incorporated into the adjacent leaf.

The uppermost leaf of the seven-leaf spray is worked with six pairs and the connecting stem with three pairs until just before the triple-leaf cluster. For the small right hand stalk, hang four pairs on the main stem, adding a fifth pair later for the leaf.

The remaining leaves are worked with six pairs. In the middle, lay aside two or three pairs, work across and then add the pairs in again. Continue working the main stem, sewing in at the crossing, and add in a fourth pair.

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SNOWBERRY

15 pairs, Bockens Linen 60/2

Begin at A with the five central berries, working them in cloth stitch with five or six pairs. Twist the workers before the outer passives, use the inner pinholes several times, and connect berries by sewing in while working.

Now start from B and work the stem with flower buds. Hang the two pairs for each flower bud tally on a pin apiece. After two tallies are completed, use one of the pairs for the third tally; hang on a further pair and work from bottom to top of the tally, tying off at the end. Work the fourth flower bud from top to bottom again, incorporating these two pairs in the cloth stitch stem and setting aside again for the berries. The right upper leaf is worked with ten pairs. Tie off five pairs as appropriate, leaving five pairs to be incorporated into the three stem pairs; however, two pairs are immediately laid to either side for the flower buds. Work the stem with four pairs to the end, and finish off. Cloth stitch the left hand leaf with eight pairs.

For the second stalk (C), first work the berries from top to bottom, leaving two pairs from the last berry hanging at one side for the present. Then work the leaves from tip to stem using nine or ten pairs, leaving aside three pairs from each at the end. Use two of these pairs for the flower buds. With one pair from each leaf and two pairs from the final berry, complete the stem with four pairs.

For the lower part, first work the stem from D upwards, then the leaf with eight pairs.

Begin the large leaves at E with ten and eleven pairs apiece, starting at the leaf tip and working down to the base of the stem.

VIRGINIA CREEPER

8 pairs, Bockens Linen 60/2

3 pairs, Bockens Linen 80/2

The individual leaf sections are worked with seven or eight pairs in half stitch. The central pair is worked in cloth stitch for the vein.

Start at A. Work this section with seven pairs. Throw out and tie off three pairs. Work a four-pair plait around a central support pin to the next section, again work in half stitch with eight pairs. Tie off all pairs. Work the next two sections in the same way, sewing in the plaits at the support pin. Similarly, sew in the plait from the final leaf section, tie off one pair and work the stem with the three remaining pairs. Tie off.

Work the second leaf in the same manner.

With linen 80/2, work the lower stem and disc-shaped tallies. Hang two pairs for the first tally on the eyelet of the right hand leaf. Take a plait over a support pin for the stem, and after the second tally hang on a third pair for the cloth stitch.

To better conceal the tied-off pairs for the small tallies, about halfway down the tally add in a support thread of equal length to the central pair and complete the tally. After the pinhole, work a small plait and anchor this to the support thread on top of the tally.

LINDEN

17 pairs, Bockens Linen 60/3 or 60/2

First work the uppermost leaf in cloth stitch. Begin at A with three pairs, adding further pairs at the pinholes indicated. At the double-headed arrow work in an additional pair and immediately set aside for the stem later. At the central pinholes set aside the respective pairs for incorporation in the second half of the leaf, still in cloth stitch. Set aside passive pairs at appropriate places. Twist the passives as desired to represent the leaf vein.

Work the stem with four pairs from the leaf downwards and tie off.

The seeds are each formed of tallies. Work the plaited stem to the middle of the half stitch; however, set aside the two pairs for the present.

Work the seed husk with six pairs in half stitch, but work the central pair in cloth stitch for the vein. At the corresponding pinhole, tie in the plait from the seed cluster and set aside to tie off eventually.

The tally buds on the stem are tied off to the cloth stitch.

WEEPING CHERRY

8 pairs Machine Twist 50 or Bockens Linen 80/2

Begin at point A on the right blossom cluster. At the end of a tally, work a plait, go back to the start of the tally and sew in. Work the blossoms one after another, tying in at adjacent pinholes as necessary.

Work the stem first with plaits, then in cloth stitch with three and four pairs. Sew into the plaits on top of the blossoms.

For the half stitch leaf that continues directly from the stem, add in four further pairs. Work the central pair in cloth stitch to represent the vein. Discard and tie off pairs at appropriate pinholes.

The second stem and the two remaining leaves are sewn in to the part already worked.

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SNAIL IN BULRUSHES

Bulrush heads, 10 pairs;
 leaves, 5 and 6 pairs; snail shell, 8 pairs;
 snail, 8 pairs; tendrils, 2 and 4 pairs;
 Bockens Linen 80/2

Start the right hand rush at A with two pairs, adding further pairs where indicated. Tie off two pairs at the junction point.

Commence the bulrush head at B with a four-pair plait. Add in further pairs as indicated, working in half stitch. The breaks in the half stitch are worked with a few rows in cloth stitch using one passive pair. Tie off six pairs shortly before the stalk, and continue working the stalk with the remaining pairs; work across the pairs left from the right hand leaf and continue downwards, discarding three pairs on the way. The worker trail is indicated.

Now work the long leaf, starting at C. Tie off two pairs at the bottom and work across the right hand stem. Discard and tie off three pairs on the way, finishing with four pairs.

For tendril D hang two new pairs on the bulrush head and make a plait, adding a further two pairs for the picots; finish by sewing on to the bulrush head. Similarly, for the left hand tendril hang on two new pairs and continue working with picots. The second strand of the tendril is started at the tip and joins with the first strand, continuing across the long leaf as a plait. Hang two pairs on the bulrush head as a continuation of the right hand tendril (from D), plait downwards and combine the tendrils. Discard two pairs while working towards the bottom of the long leaf. Sew in and tie off.

The snail shell (E) is worked from the centre outwards. Hang two pairs each on pins 1 and 6, and one pair each on the four intermediate pins. Work a footside at both edges. Work the first row from left to right in cloth stitch, twisting the workers once. Rearrange the pins beneath the first row. On the return row to the left, twist the workers once. Continue in cloth stitch. Once the start is reached, discard the turning pair and tie off later. Sew in the workers at every alternate pinhole, with two exceptions (refer to pricking diagram).

For the snail's body, hang three pairs on each pin at F and work the antennae. Add two further pairs at the start of the head and cloth stitch from right to left with a footside. Discard the right hand passives at the snail shell. This pair is later incorporated into the leaf, which is worked upwards to the tip with five pairs. The snail is sewn in to the shell in stages.

For the lowest leaf, part (D), two pairs are hung on at the fourth pinhole and one further pair after it. This pair becomes the worker to the left. Two more pairs are added as the leaf is worked.

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RIBWORT

8 pairs, Bockens Linen 100/2

Start with the right hand leaf A, in cloth stitch. Increase the number of bobbins to eight pairs, according to the shape of the leaf, and then reduce them again down to the stem.

Work the stem continuing between the leaf and the blossom with four pairs in cloth stitch.

For the half stitch blossoms, hang on a further four pairs. When tying off discarded pairs, knot in additional threads to give the stamens a fuller appearance.

The second and third leaves are also worked in a continuous manner, starting at B.

Begin the second blossom at C, starting by hanging four pairs on the left hand leaf to work the stem. For the half stitch blossom add in a further three pairs.

HONEYSUCKLE

7 pairs, Bockens Linen 80/2

Begin at A with the central leaf on the right. Cloth the leaf with seven pairs, the stalk with four pairs, and tie off.

Then work the blossom as follows. Work compact petal B with five pairs, discard and tie off three pairs and set aside two pairs for now. Work the large curved section C with four pairs, the small curve D with three pairs. Cloth stitch across the seven pairs from C and D, immediately setting aside two pairs from the centre. (These two pairs will eventually be used to tie off and anchor other threads.) Tie off two further pairs in the course of working. Using the remaining three pairs and the two pairs from B, work the centre of the blossom; tie off two pairs while working.

Complete the stem with three pairs of bobbins, sewing in to the leaf and tying off.

Work the remaining flower petals as already described, sewing in to the flower centre and tying off.

Work each leaf with seven pairs apiece, starting at the tip and tying off at the stalk.

DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies, 16 pairs; Fresia Linen 140/2.

Bulrush heads, 7 pairs; leaves, 4 and 5 pairs;

Bockens Linen 80/2.

Start working at A. Hang two pairs each on three pins at the dragonfly's head and work in cloth stitch. Tie off two pairs at the body. After the last pinhole work a plait from one side to the other, using a support pin; sew in and tie off.

Start working the wings in half stitch at the right hand side. On reaching the body, hang the workers to the left. Sew in the two outermost passive pairs to the body. Twist the workers and the two middle pairs of passives, and cloth stitch together. The left hand passives now become the workers towards the left. Continue working in accordance with the pricking, and fasten off. Work the second pair of wings, sewing in to the first pair. The second dragonfly is worked in an identical manner.

The bulrushes (B) are each started with a four-pair plait. Hang on a further three pairs where indicated, and continue in cloth stitch with footside. On reaching the stalk, discard and tie off four pairs. When the stems merge, discard further pairs as appropriate.

Begin each respective leaf at (C) and tie off at the stalk.

AARON'S ROD

14 pairs, Bockens Linen 60/2

Start the left hand leaf (A) at the tip, working cloth stitch with twelve pairs. Twist the workers to create the vein. Before the leaf divides add in two pairs, and set aside together with one pair of the cloth stitch passives to work the stem. Finish the leaf at the points; complete the stem with three pairs and tie off.

For flower head (B) first work the cloth stitch section. Hang two pairs on the first pin and one further pair each on the second and third pins. Work the left side with loops and the right side with footside. At the fifth and seventh rows hang on a further pair. Work with six pairs until the bulbous base is reached, and add a further pair to work the broad section. Gradually discard four pairs while working towards the stem and complete the stem with three pairs, tying in to the edges of the leaf and its stalk.

Work the half stitch with twelve pairs, starting with two pairs tied in from the second pin on the right hand side of the cloth stitch and one pair tied in to the footside. Half stitch from left to right, place pin, half stitch to left and sew in at footside. Gradually add the remaining pairs at the right hand side. For the central rod hang on two further pairs at the pinhole indicated and work in cloth stitch.

Begin working the right hand leaf (C) at the two points and work towards the tip.

Stem (D) is started with three pairs at the base, tied in to the other stems, and tied off at the leaf.

DAPHNE

5 to 7 pairs, Bockens Linen 80/2

Start at A with the left hand twig. After the first tally, add another pair for the cloth stitch stem.

For the first two petals on the right and the two blossoms on the left, take two pairs from the cloth stitch stem and then reincorporate them. Hang on two further pairs at the pinhole indicated and use these to work the blossoms in a continuous manner; i.e. once the petal is completed put in the pin, return to the starting point with a plait, sew in, and repeat this procedure as often as possible. While working, sew in the blossoms to each other as necessary.

Work the stem in cloth stitch, sewing in to the plaits on the petals. Work the lower third of the stem with four pairs and tie off.

The second stem (B) is worked in the same way. After sewing in to the main stem, use the same three pairs to work the short stem, and tie off.

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HAWTHORN

8 pairs, Bockens Linen 60/2

The large haws are each worked with six pairs for the cloth stitch, adding two further pairs for the half stitch. Start with the uppermost haw, cloth stitching the stem with four pairs in a downwards direction and tying off.

To work the small haw also start with six pairs, adding one pair for the half stitch.

The sepals are each worked with three pairs from tip to centre, sewn in and tied off.

Execute the individual leaves with five pairs each. With three pairs from the leaf at the tip of the spray, continue working the central stalk, sewing in and tying off at the stem, Work opposite leaves in a continuous manner; after the first leaf is completed, sew three pairs in to the cloth stitch stem, carry the remaining two pairs across as a plait, and use again for the opposite leaf.

Finally work the second large haw. Sew in the stem to the leaf stalk and leaves; sew in and knot off on the first stem.

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MAPLE

Leaves, 4 pairs; Bockens Linen 60/3.

Seeds, 5 pairs; Bockens Linen 80/2.

Cloth stitch the large leaf with four pairs, beginning at the stalk and working round the outline, working shortened rows as necessary. At the end sew in all pairs and tie off one pair.

With the three remaining pairs work the stalk downwards. At the end, lead the pairs invisibly up to the second, third and fourth pinholes on the right, sew in and use to complete the connecting stem and the small leaf. Sew in and knot off the pairs at the base of the completed leaf.

For the veins, sew in two pairs at relevant pinholes and work cloth stitch and twist. The pairs divide, and two pairs are added both to right and left in a three-pair crossing. Three two-pair plaits are now available for the veins, the small veins being formed with false plaits.

Work the seedheads in cloth stitch and half stitch. For the seed stalks, hang two pairs on at the seeds and work plaits. Join the plaits with a four-pair crossing, sew in and tie off at the leaf stalk.

OWL

Owl, 16 pairs FFR-Fil au Bouc Linen 120
Branches, 12 to 15 pairs Bockens Linen 80/2

Start the branches with four or five pairs. When they merge, throw out pairs according to the width of the cloth stitch

Owl: Hang two pairs on each of the first two pins for the ears and cloth stitch through. Leave the passives open at the fourth pinhole on both sides. The left-hand passives cloth stitch to the right, taking in the other passive pair plus one more pair; place a support pin close to the ear. Similarly, take in two pairs on the left, and put in a support pin. Again take in two pairs on the right and on the left, using the pinholes indicated.

Eyes: Make a ground stitch with the fifth pair and work the left side of the eye. With the right-hand pair from the ground stitch and the pair immediately after, work another ground stitch, then cloth stitch three pairs and work one more ground stitch. Complete the eyes.

Beak: Leave the present pairs aside. To the right of the sixth pair and left of the ninth pair, hang a further pair each on two pins. Join to right and left with cloth stitch. The two pairs in the middle are laid aside and a tally worked with the sixth and ninth pairs. The two pairs laid aside are now returned to the centre. With the fifth pair as workers continue in cloth stitch until reaching the body, where the workers are indicated with an arrow.

Body: The right hand pair from the tally is incorporated into the cloth stitch, the left hand pair becoming the worker for the half stitch. The left hand side of the back is worked with a footside, the half stitch section being sewn in to the lower part of the footside. Two pairs are thrown out at both the fourth and third pins from the bottom, and one pair is thrown out at the second pin. Sew in and tie off on the branch. Tie off the two remaining pairs into the cloth stitch.

ACACIA

6 pairs FFR - Fil au Bouc Linen 140

First cloth stitch branch A with five pairs and the thorns with three pairs each.

Next work blossom (B); first work the larger blossom part with six pairs, one row cloth stitch and twist, and finally work the seed pod. Work the connecting stem with first three and later four pairs, sew in and tie off on the branch. Work the smaller blossom part with four pairs from the top downwards, while sewing in to the first part, and tie off.

Begin the lower stem at C with the half blossom, working the flower petal and fruit pod with five pairs and the connecting stem with three pairs, and sew in and tie off on the first blossom.

Finish the remaining blossoms according to size, with five or six pairs, or three or four pairs for the smaller ones, all in the same manner. The blossoms are each connected to the stem with a plaited stalk.

Likewise, start the leaves (D) with the tip leaf of the cluster. Work in cloth stitch with six pairs, discard three pairs and continue working the stalk with three pairs, sewing in to the branch and stem. Per pair of leaves, at the end of the first tie off three pairs, sew in the other three pairs to the stalk, and for the second leaf take in the first three pairs again.

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TIGER LILY

7 pairs Bockens Linen 60/2

Cloth stitch the individual petals with six or seven pairs.

Start at central petal A with seven pairs. Tie off and lay aside three pairs; with the other four pairs continue across the flower centre to the corresponding petal below and work this petal including the three pairs set aside.

Work the other four petals from the tip towards the centre, sewing in and tying off in the middle.

For the stem, hang four pairs on the appropriate petal and work downwards.

Cloth stitch the bud with a total of seven pairs, working one row cloth stitch and twist between bud and seed pod. Lay aside pairs to tie off later, continuing with three pairs to the stem. Sew in, use to work the small leaf opposite, and tie off.

Begin each remaining small leaf with three pairs, starting at the tip and sewing in to the stem.

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MOUNTAIN ASTER

4 pairs Machine Twist 50

Start the stem at the bottom with four pairs in cloth stitch, throwing out one pair in the central section and continuing with three pairs up to the inner edge of the flower. Set aside one pair and work the petals from inside to outside with two pairs. Having completed one petal, work a plait back to the centre of the flower and work a three-pair crossing with the pair set aside. The next and all subsequent petals are worked from inside to tip with a tally, returning by means of plaits to the centre and finishing with three-pair crossings. Sew in the final plait to the first petal, knot off one pair, work the small central tally, sew in and tie off.

Next work the half-blossom, beginning at the outer edge, again working over the tallies with plaits; sew in the final plait.

For the cloth stitch hang on three further pairs, and throw out and tie off two pairs according to shape. Continue the stem with three pairs up to the first blossom, sew in and continue using for the upper blossom. Work this blossom in the manner already described.

For the final blossom, first work the small stem, sew in to the main stem; then work the stalk and blossom in the same way as before.

Start the remaining leaves at the tip; sew in and tie off at the stem.

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MISTLETOE SPRIG

Leaves, 6 and 7 pairs; berries, 6 pairs;
stems, 3 and 4 pairs
Bockens Linen 80/2

Begin with the middle of the three stalks (A) using six pairs. The arrows indicate the direction of work. Gradually tie off three pairs, and lay the other three pairs to one side.

Next work the leaves. Start with two pairs on each of two pins, adding one pair at the small circles. Tie off three pairs by stages, cross the stem sewing in the remaining pairs, and work the other leaf in the same way.

Begin stem (B) with four pairs at the edge of the berries. Sew in across the leaf. At the end cloth stitch across the central stem, and leave the bobbins aside.

The berries are sewn in to the stems later.

Cloth stitch the leaves of right hand stalk (C), work the two sections together, and reduce to four pairs. Sew in across the leaf. Continue working the stem; use a support pin for the worker pair, and with the workers from the left hand stem (see arrow) cloth stitch to the end, reducing the present eleven pairs gradually to six pairs.

Tie off all the pairs. Work the seed pod with a tally.

Now work the berries. These are worked with a footside, where only the edge passive is twisted twice. Start at the right. A helper thread is looped through the left pair (support pair) to facilitate sewing in later (see diagram). The workers now cloth stitch to the left through three pairs, pass over the support pair and around the pin, are twisted twice, pass under and through the support pair, and cloth stitch back to the right.

Work all the rows the same. After the final footside pin and three cloth stitches, set the workers aside. Pass one bobbin of the support pair through the helper loop, remove the pin, pull up another loop and pass the second bobbin through. Pull carefully, and set aside upwards. Sew in and tie off the remaining pairs.

The pairs may eventually be used to work adjacent leaves or stems. Work a cloth stitch with the two pairs set aside and tie off.

Working towards the tip, start the leaves with three or four pairs, adding in a further three or four pairs.

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VIOLET

8 pairs Bockens Linen 80/2

First work the right hand leaf with six pairs in half stitch and tie off.

Next cloth stitch the tie around the stalks with five pairs; where they divide, add a further pair. Work one part with three pairs, sew in to the leaf and knot off. Complete and tie off the other side.

The individual petals are also worked with four pairs.

Start the open blossoms at the top, and when the pinholes marked in heavy type are reached work cloth stitch and twist with the worker pairs from left and right; then complete and tie off the lower flower parts.

The intermediate petals are started at the outer edge, sewn in and tied off.

All the remaining petals are worked from outside to inside, with a row of cloth stitch and twist between blossom and seed pod. Use two pairs from the cloth stitch for the plaits.

For the flower stems, bring two plaits to the same length, cloth stitch the two central pairs together, separate the pairs again and plait to the tie, sew in, and continue plaiting to the desired length.

Pages 62, 63

LILY

Flower, 16 pairs; bud, 13 pairs; leaves, 5 pairs
Bockens Linen 80/2

On the first two pins of the right upper petal hang two pairs apiece and work in half stitch, adding further pairs at the pinholes indicated. Where the centre narrows, discard three pairs to tie off later. Leave the workers hanging on the final pin.

Now work the left upper petal, discarding two pairs at the end. The workers now work through all pairs to the right (see arrow) and work the lower petal. Counting from the bottom, discard pairs at the seventh pin on the right and fifth pin on the left. Start the remaining petals at the tip and sew in at the middle.

For the left hand part of the bud hang four pairs on the first pin and cloth stitch together. Set one pair aside at the right. The workers go to the left. Work a footside on the right, adding in extra pairs in accordance with the pricking. Discard two pairs shortly before the midpoint. Twist the passives on the row indicated by the arrow and discard one pair. After the seedpod tie off two more pairs. Work the stem with three pairs and sew in to the petal.

For the right hand side of the bud, hang two pairs on the first footside pin. Cloth stitch from left to right, incorporating the pair set aside at the commencement of the first part and adding in further pairs where indicated. Sew in to the footside at left.

Work each stalk with three pairs hung on from the petals, working across all pairs at the leaves.

The picots on the plaits are made with seven twists round the pin. Following the four-pair crossing after the join, gradually discard and tie off four bobbins.

Pages 64, 65

WILD WOODBINE

9 pairs Bockens Linen 80/2

Begin with the leaf designated A and cloth stitch with six pairs. Discard three pairs to tie off later and work the leaf stem with three pairs. Add a further three pairs and work the connecting leaf.

For the other leaves, work with six pairs, knot off three pairs and sew in three pairs to the stem.

Now cloth stitch the branch with five pairs, sew in and tie off.

Next start the middle leaves at B. Take the three-pair stem across the small leaf and on to the branch. Sew in at the corresponding pinholes.

For the large blossom (C) first cloth stitch the central petal from the tip inwards with nine pairs.

Set aside six pairs to tie off later, work the connecting stalk with three pairs and sew in. Work the left hand petal with nine pairs and the right hand petal with seven pairs, sewing in to the first petal as shown. Discard pairs for tying off at appropriate pinholes.

Work the smaller blossom (D) in the same manner, the central petal with seven pairs and the right and left petals each with five pairs.

BIRCH

8 pairs, Catkins, 5 pairs;
leaves, 6 to 8 pairs; twigs, 4 pairs
Bockens Linen 80/2

Beginning with the bottom twig, cloth stitch upwards and tie off.

Work the two leaves in cloth stitch with seven pairs each; first the upper leaf, gradually discarding four pairs to tie off and sewing the remaining three pairs in at the twig; then work the other leaf, taking in the four pairs.

Work the small catkin at the tip of the left hand twig in half stitch. Discard one pair and continue cloth stitching three pairs to the twig below; sew in and tie off.

Then work the large catkin in half stitch, tie off two pairs, cloth stitch the stem with three pairs and sew in to the twig. Work the single leaf with seven pairs and finally work the three other leaves.

For the final section first work the pair of leaves and the catkins marked A and B both in a continuous manner. Cloth stitch between the catkins. Start the twig at the top with half stitch, working the cloth stitch stem downwards with four pairs, finally sewing in at the appropriate pinholes.

Work the remainder of the design in whatever order you wish.

KNOTGRASS

8 pairs Bockens Linen 60/2

Start with the upper flower cluster. Cloth stitch these and all remaining flower heads with five pairs. Tie off two pairs and work the stem with three pairs down to the next flower head. Set the pairs aside. Work the second flower head, again setting aside three pairs. Cloth stitch across all six pairs, and during the next few rows gradually discard three pairs to tie off.

In the same way, assimilate the three pairs from the small leaf into the stem, gradually discarding pairs again. Complete the stem downwards and tie off.

Work the left hand stem in the same manner, sew in, continue downwards and tie off. The right hand stem is sewn in to the first stem and tied off.

The remaining leaves are worked from the tips inwards.

SPRING HERB

Flowers, 16 pairs; leaves, 5 pairs; stalk, 4 pairs
Bockens Linen 80/2

First cloth stitch the three flowers which lie in front of the stalk. The number of pairs is indicated in each case. Add extra pairs where indicated by small circles.

In each case start with the right hand part of the flower. Shortly before the midpoint, as shown in the pricking, tie off three pairs and also the workers; set the remaining four pairs aside.

Sew in the left hand part of the flower to the right while working, and tie off four pairs by the midpoint. The direction of the left hand workers is indicated by an arrow. On this row, give each passive pair two twists. Gradually tie off five pairs and work the spur with four pairs.

Work the rest of the flowers in the same way.

Next work the two upper leaves and the stalk, tying in to the flowers.

The order of the remaining work is your own choice.

WATER LILY

12 pairs Bockens Linen 80/2

Cloth stitch the petals in order from A to J; at the same time and following the shape of the petals, hang on and discard pairs as appropriate.

First cloth stitch petal A, gradually adding six pairs, and leaving four pairs hanging at the end. Then work petal B with six pairs, leaving three pairs hanging at the end.

With the seven pairs from A and B cloth stitch across to work petal C, adding in a further five pairs to work C.

Start petal D with five pairs, adding three pairs after the cloth stitch and twist, and discarding pairs later.

Start petal E with four pairs, adding two pairs after the cloth stitch and twist, discarding pairs later.

Petals F to J are worked from the tip inwards. At the appropriate pinholes discard, sew in and tie off pairs. Up to six pairs are used for petal F, up to nine pairs for leaf G, leaf H uses up to eight pairs, leaf I up to nine pairs, and leaf J up to eight pairs. Cloth stitch the blades of grass with three pairs, and work the respective tendrils with two-pair plaits with picots, working from top to bottom. Sew in and tie off.

BINDWEED I

15 pairs Bockens Linen 80/2

Begin working the lower leaf in half stitch at A, adding pairs at right and left. Discard pairs at the central pinholes, and then incorporate them into the second side of the leaf.

With three pairs from the leaf, cloth stitch the stalk from the bottom upwards and tie off.

Work the left hand leaf in the same way. The three pairs from the stalk are sewn in across the first stalk and worked on to the small cloth stitch leaf, worked with a total of six pairs.

For the flower head, hang two, seven, five and one pairs on the pins as indicated and work in cloth stitch. Work the outer edge with cloth stitch and twist with a footside, and a picot edge on the inside.

Hang eight pairs for the seed pod onto the flower and work in cloth stitch with a footside. Throw out five pairs and continue to work the stalk with three pairs; sew in and tie off.

Work the small two-part leaf in cloth stitch, with seven and five pairs respectively. First work the larger side and the stalk, then the smaller side, sewing in while working.

BINDWEED II

Flower, 16 pairs; bud, 13 pairs; stem, 4 pairs
Bockens Linen 120/2

Leaf, 13 pairs; small leaves, 5 and 6 pairs
Bockens Linen 80/2

Following the small diagram, start with the flower. The passives and the workers are indicated. Once the flower is completed tie off the inner pairs; using some of the outer pairs for the seed pod, add in further pairs and cloth stitch the seed pod with seven pairs in total. Gradually tie off three pairs and work the stem with four pairs.

Work the left side of the right bud with a footside. Leave the workers on a support pin. Discard three pairs just before the midpoint. The right side of the bud is sewn in to the footside. Discard two pairs and cloth stitch to the left in the direction of the arrow, twisting the passives on the way. Discard three pairs on completion of the seed pod and continue with four pairs.

Tie off all discarded pairs.

For the large leaf, the workers and pairs to be added are clearly indicated with numbers and circles.

Bindweed was one of Irmgard Schneider's favourite designs. Until shortly before her death she was working on the plan of a large two-part bindweed runner to use as a wraparound design for the cover of her book, but was unable to execute it herself.

Picture caption, page 78: Large Bindweed Runner - Part I (reduced in size)

Thankfully Erika Schaecker then took over the task of completing the bindweed runner, following the design and in accordance with Irmgard Schneider's instructions. She worked the runners illustrated here and on the book cover.

Picture caption, page 80: Large Bindweed Runner - Part II (reduced in size)

Stems, 4 pairs; small leaves, 6 to 8 pairs; leaves, 10 and 9 pairs;
Flowers, 16 pairs; buds, 11 and 12 pairs; Bockens Linen 120/2

The large bindweed runner consists of two parts, each worked separately. The whole runner is shown actual size on the book cover. The number of bobbins required per flower, leaf, stem etc. is indicated on the pricking diagram, as are the worker pairs.

Large Bindweed Runner - Part I

Begin at A with a two-pair plait, continuing in cloth stitch after the loop and adding a further pair before the second loop. Work the small leaves with six pairs, gradually discarding three pairs; incorporate the remaining three pairs in to the stem and discard by stages. After the first pair of small leaves, work the stem with four pairs.

Work the half stitch leaf with ten pairs, working whole stitch and twist at both edges. From the arrow onwards, work the workers to immediately before the central cloth stitch and twist and leave hanging. Then take the second pair from the left through the cloth twist and twist pair to the pin and back through all the pairs to just before the previous workers and leave hanging there. Work the remaining pairs in the same way. Take the final pair to the leaf tip and back through all the pairs until just before the cloth stitch and twist pair and leave hanging. Now work with all the pairs as before, the final pair now becoming the workers. After the pinhole, work all the way to the middle, work a whole stitch and twist and sew in.

Page 82, diagram caption: Large bindweed runner, detail.

Page 83, upper diagram caption: Turning stitch (cross, twist, twist, cross)

Page 83, lower diagram caption: Start of the flower seen in profile.

Start the edge of the flower at the seed pod. For the ribs work a turning stitch and place the pin to the left of both pairs; leave the right hand pair hanging and with the left hand pair work the next turning stitch (refer to diagram).

For the flower centre work a circle with a false plait. Tension with great care on the return. After the third row, the rib is closed.

Once the flower is finished tie off the inner pairs; use some of the outer pairs for the seed pod, hanging on additional pairs and working with a total of seven pairs. Gradually tie off three pairs and work the stem with four pairs.

Cloth stitch the right hand side of the bud, working a footside in the centre. Hang the workers on a support pin after discarding three pairs. Work the left side in half stitch, sewing in at the central pinholes.

Large Bindweed Runner - Part II

Begin part II with the buds. Buds, flowers, leaves, stems etc. are worked exactly as in part I, with the one exception that after reaching the tip of the first leaf, the centre is worked without cross stitch and twist.

The flower seen in profile is started following the small diagram at the bottom of page 83.

For the ribs, take the worker pair as a single thread through the passives, work a cloth stitch with the final passive pair, and take the worker pair back in exactly the same way, so that it appears to be a single thicker thread.