

Smock

Something Simple

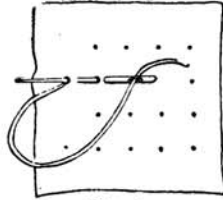


Fig. 1

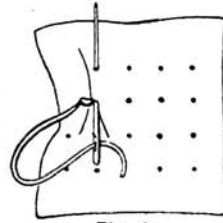


Fig. 2

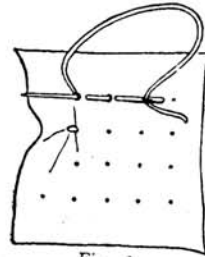


Fig. 3

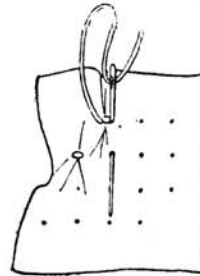


Fig. 4



SMOCKING is one of the loveliest kinds of needlework, and one of the easiest, too. If you haven't tried it, here is an introductory lesson in honeycomb smocking, the simplest of all. Practise up a few times and then you can try one of these charming designs!

Take a scrap of fabric and with a pencil make a row of 12 dots, about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch apart. Add 4 or 5 rows below it, spacing the rows $\frac{3}{8}$ inch apart, so the dots make perfect squares. This is your smocking pattern. Thread needle with 6 strands of embroidery cotton, knot thread, and bring needle up through the first dot in the second row. Pick up the next dot to the right and pass needle again through first dot. The whole trick is to have the needle in the position shown in Fig. 1; that is, with two stitches on the needle, or inserted in the cloth four times. Next, draw the dots together and insert needle in the second dot and out through the next dot directly above, as shown in Fig. 2. Pick up the next dot to the right and pass needle again through left-hand dot, as shown in Fig. 3. Draw dots together and insert needle in the last dot picked up and out through the next dot directly below, as shown in Fig. 4. Then pick up next dot to the right and pass needle again through the left-hand dot, as in Fig. 1. Continue across in this way, following the rows across and picking up the dots, as shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4. At end of row, fasten off thread. Then start at the left again, beginning with the first dot of the fourth row. After finishing these four rows, note whether the pleats pinch together to form correct diamond or honeycomb effect. If not, try a few more rows, checking position of your needle in Fig. 1, and drawing dots tightly together.