

Antwerp Edge

Originally this was, and still is, a simple knotted stitch useful for working an ornamental edge. The stitch is also known as a Knotted Buttonhole Stitch.

The stitch was intended to be used with what is described by Mrs. Archibald Christie in her book, "Samplers and Stitches", as a stout thread, rather than a soft thread.

I have tried the stitch with both types of threads and in a circular formation to form flowers and flower centers. It is illustrated here along a straight folded edge.

1. Work this stitch from left to right. Bring the needle and thread up at A at the beginning of the stitching line. Hide the knot in the fold.

2. Take the needle down through the folded edge of the fabric at B and out on the back at C. The emerging needle is over the working thread. Pull the needle and thread through forming a loop below the folded edge.

Note: The needle goes into the fabric only up a couple of threads from the folded edge. *If using this stitch for other than an edging, this tiny stitch would be made just above and below the stitching line.*

3. Form a backwards "C" with the working thread. Pass the needle in a downward motion left to right under the loop and over the working thread.

4. Pull the needle and thread through, forming a knot at the bottom of the stitch. Repeat Steps 2 through 4 the length of the folded edge.

Note: Mrs. Christie's instructions for this step read, "Next, upon the loop thus formed, a kind of Buttonhole stitch is worked (see needle in diagram). This ties a firm knot, and completes the stitch."

I believe this makes a beautiful detached edge hanging from the folded edge of the fabric. However, the knots could also be snugged right up against the folded edge.

