

An Apron Wrought in Pleats



Materials: Linen, Linen thread

Design:

Taken from German Renaissance Patterns for Embroidery (by *Nicolas Bassee*) Facsimile of "New Modelbuch von Allerhandt Art Nehens und Stickens". Based on a scrolling leaf and vine design.

The modified design was charted out in a sequence of numbers to make it easier for the counting. (see design / pattern)

The design was chosen because of its curved floral type pattern reminiscent of the design seen at the top of an apron from Cranach's *The Lamentation*.

Construction:

A length of linen, measured to go from waist to floor was cut. The full width, selvage to selvage was used. If the selvages were available to use without cutting and then hemming the edges they were often utilized.

The linen was pleated up approximately in 1/8" running stitches. The rows of pleating stitches were placed about 1/4" apart to ensure they were stable.

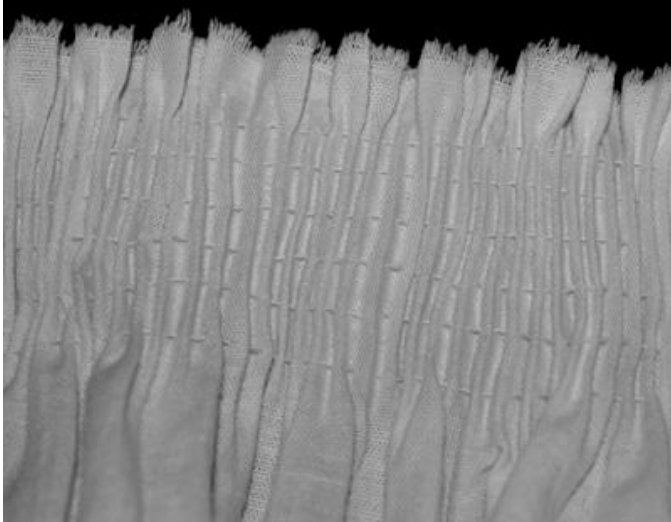
Double strands of DMC linen thread were then used for the actual design. It is a variation of pattern darning, using the pleats instead of threads for the counted design.

Each row of stitching is placed as close to the subsequent row as possible. As each group of rows was completed they were tied off to ensure they would not slip. The pleats were adjusted as needed to fix the pattern to the correct tension.

Once the design was completed the knots were tightened and the selvage edge by the pattern was rolled over and stitched down.

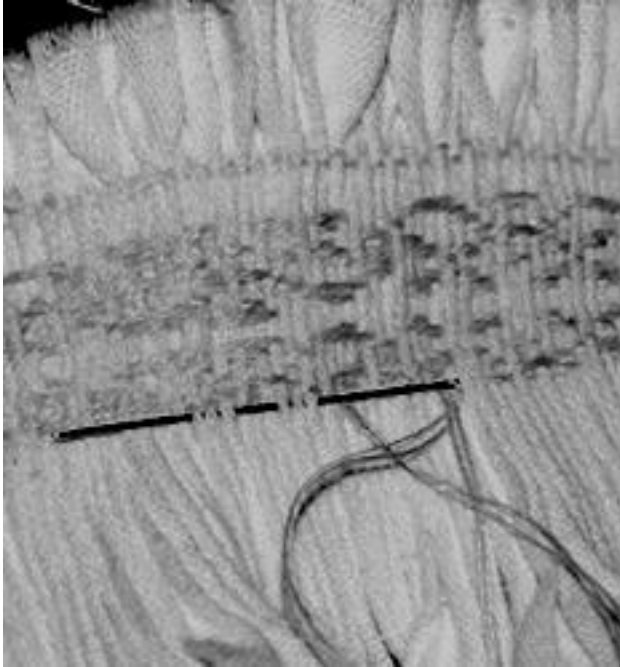
A waistband was placed along the top edge backstitched on the front, folded over the pleated top and slip-stitched down.





Apron pattern darning pattern *

24423232324425
 163313331336231
 24232122122123242212
 16241333142621111
 42122212212212221245
 1231213221112231213221111
 21222124542122212212
 21426211126241331
 21223422122432212212
 213362326331331
 132442524423231



132442524423231
 213362326331331
 21223422122432212212
 21426211126241331
 21222124542122212212
 123121322111223121322111
 42122212212212221245
 16241333142621111
 24232122122123242212
 163313331336231
 24423232324425

Images:

1. Janet Backhouse, *Medieval Rural Life in the Luttrell Psalter*, Univeristy of Toronto Press. 2000. Images from pages 19 and 30
2. Lucas Cranach the Elder, *The Lamentation*, 1538, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
<http://www.mfa.org/>