

Knit a Lace Edging from “The Fireside”

This is a modern interpretation of a pattern that originally appeared in Lydia Scott’s June 5, 1884, newspaper column. Scott wrote and edited a weekly household column, “The Fireside,” from 1881 to 1884 for *The Daily Union*, a newspaper in Manchester, New Hampshire. In addition to instructions for various projects and recipes, the column offered information and advice on health, fashion, and housekeeping. For more on Lydia Scott, see “Lydia Scott and Her Household Column” in the March/April 2006 issue of *PieceWork* magazine.

We chose currently available thread and expanded the instructions (see the sidebar below for the original instructions). The edging will be perfect on bed linens.



Lace edging adapted from a pattern in Lydia Scott’s column in the June 5, 1884, edition of the Manchester, New Hampshire, newspaper, *The Daily Union*.

Photograph by Joe Coca.

M A T E R I A L S

Coats Opera, 100% cotton crochet thread, size 10, 251 yards (230 m)/50 gram ball, 1 ball White
Needles, two double pointed size 00 (1.75 mm) or size needed to obtain gauge
Stainless steel pins (for blocking)

Materials are available at yarn and needlework stores or from mail-order or online resources.

Finished size (four pattern repeats [32 rows], after blocking): About 1 inch (2 cm) across at widest point and 2 inches (5 cm) high
Gauge (after blocking): 10 sts and 16 rows = 1 inch (2.5 cm) in lace pattern; exact gauge is not critical for this project

A B B R E V I A T I O N S

BO—bind off
CO—cast on
k—knit
k2tog—knit 2 stitches together
pwise—as if to purl
rep—repeat
sl—slip
st(s)—stitch(es)
wyf—with yarn in front
yo—yarn over

I N S T R U C T I O N S

Note: One 50-gram (251-yard) ball of size 10 crochet thread is enough to make about 8 yards (7 m) of edging.

CO 7 sts.

Set-up Row: K.

Row 1: Sl 1 pwise wyf, k1, [yo, k2tog] 2 times, yo, k1—8 sts.

Rows 2, 4, and 6: K.

Row 3: Sl 1 pwise wyf, k2, [yo, k2tog] 2 times, yo, k1—9 sts.

Row 5: Sl 1 pwise wyf, k3, [yo, k2tog] 2 times, yo, k1—10 sts.

Row 7: Sl 1 pwise wyf, k9.

Row 8: K2tog 2 times, BO 1 st by passing first k2tog made over the second k2tog, k6—7 sts.

Rep Rows 1–8 (do not rep the set-up row) until the edging is the desired length when slightly stretched, ending with Row 8 of pattern. BO all sts as if to knit.

Wet edging thoroughly; roll in a towel to remove excess moisture. Pin to finished dimensions, pulling out each point, and allow to dry. If desired, stiffen with spray starch and lightly press with a steam iron.

The Original Instructions

Here are the original instructions for the edging from Lydia Scott's column in the June 5, 1884, edition of the Manchester, New Hampshire, newspaper, *The Daily Union*:

Edging. Cast on 7 stitches, knit across plain.

First row—Slip 1, knit 1, thread over, narrow, thread over, narrow, thread over, knit 1.

Second row—Knit plain.

Third row—Slip 1, knit 2, thread over, narrow, over, narrow, over, knit 1.

Fourth row—Knit plain.

Fifth row—Slip 1, knit 3, over, narrow, over, narrow, over, knit 1.

Sixth row—Knit plain.

Seventh row—Slip 1, knit rest plain.

Eighth row—Narrow twice, slip 1, stitch over the other, knit rest plain.



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