

We Dress Bleurette

Dominos: Sowing the Little Peas – 1934 (Or, Sewing the Little Dots)

A useful, pretty fashion for the border of a simple dress of solid color linen in rose, blue, Nile green or lemon yellow. There are two procedures possible for making this border depending on your degree of competency as an embroiderer/embellisher.

The first, very simple, consists of tracing an outline of each domino onto the linen of the dress and embroidering around it in stem stitch. To embroider the dots for each domino, use satin stitch in cotton floss of the same shade as the outlined dominos.

The second way to fashion the domino decoration is to cut each domino rectangle from another shade of linen fabric [add turn-under allowance], and appliqué each one to the dress using a tiny prick-stitch. The dots are then embroidered onto each rectangle in the same way using satin stitch.

The above is a translation of the original directions for the decoration of a dress (no pattern given) with domino tiles. The title is translated literally as “Sowing the Little Peas,” but in French the word *pois* (peas) is also used for dots, what we call “polka dots,” so the title is a pun on the word peas/dots. When translated into English, it becomes a different pun, since our word, “sowing” sounds the same as sewing!

Find yourself a sweet little Bleurette dress pattern from the 1930s, or even one of the simple dresses of the 1920s, choose a solid color, cut out the skirt, and then embellish it with dominos to your heart’s content. For a good joke to make Bleurette laugh, embroider one of the dots in a green pea color!