

Working with Doilies



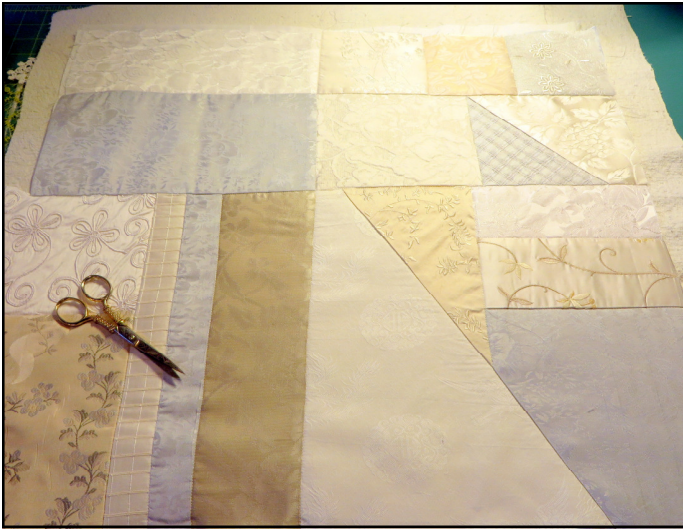
This is a simple crocheted doily.

I quilted the entire background first. Before I placed the doily on the quilted background, I sprayed the back of it with a very light coating of basting spray. This reduced all the wiggling and movement during the beading.

Buttons and beads were added to the middle.

Edges of the doily were hand tacked down.



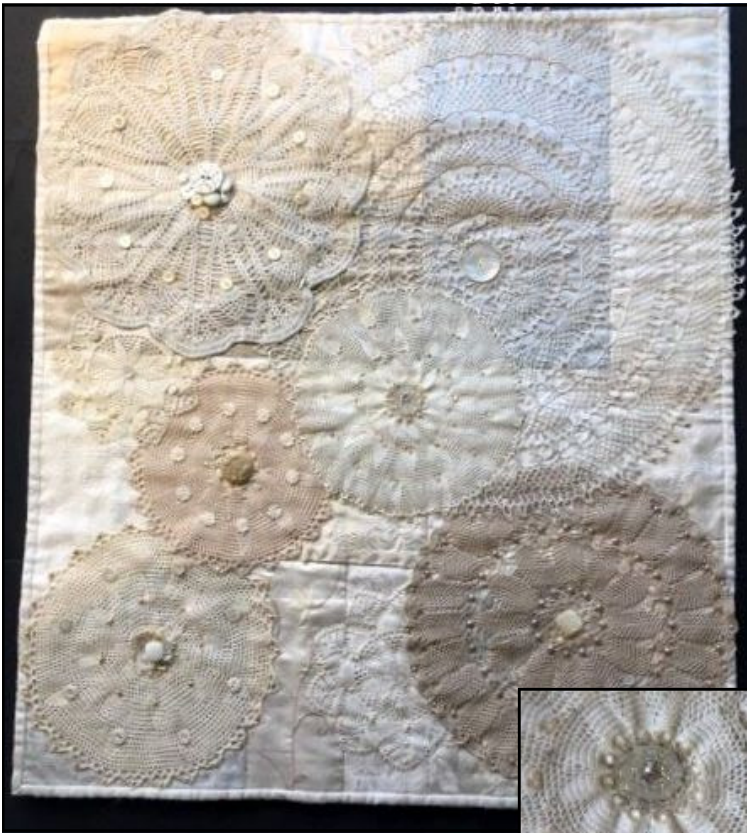


I've had a stash of some beautiful silk fabrics and found the perfect way to use them. I took the bits and parts and pieced them together in a crazy quilt fashion on top of a heavy textured fabric.

I was recently gifted with a beautiful set of exquisite doilies and decided these would be gorgeous layered on top of the silk fabrics.

I arranged the doilies in a pleasing fashion and pinned them down.





Then I spent a few months adding tons of beads and some buttons to tack them to the background.

Finishing an Outside Lace Edge

Often times the most beautiful part of an antique linen is the edgework. Many linens are adorned with beautiful lace, crochet, embroidery, tatting, etc. It is very important that this work be preserved. There are several ways this can be done.



This dresser scarf has a pretty lace edging and I want to make the lace the outside edge of the quilt. In other words, there will be no underlayment underneath it. Be careful if you decide to do this though. I had one small piece that had delicate lace edging and it ended up getting ripped off. A hard but valuable lesson!

To complete this type of edging, follow these simple steps:

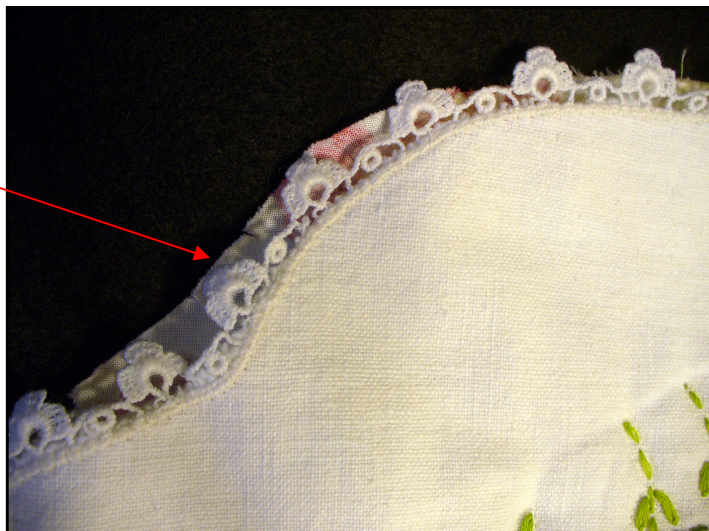


1. Make sure your batting and backing extend past the linen by about 2" all the way around. Quilt to within 1-2" of the edge of your piece and STOP.

2. With a sharp pair of small scissors, carefully trim your batting to the exact edge of your linen (where the lace is connected to the fabric).



3. Now trim your backing fabric 1/2" larger than the exact edge of the batting. In other words, your batting edge will line up exactly to the edge of your linen/lace and the backing will be 1/2" bigger.



4. Fold your backing fabric over with wrong sides together and touching. The fold line should line up with the edge of your batting. With a fine matching thread, (I use Bottom Line), whipstitch this folded edge to the edge of your linen all the way around.

5. Once you have whip stitched the folded edge of your backing to your linen wholecloth quilt, you may finish quilting the top.



These steps may seem a bit confusing but this is one easy way to finish an edge and preserve a lace edging. Explaining it once more in a slightly different manner...

You are quilting close enough to the edge to leave some room to turn under the backing fabric.

You want your batting to match up to the edge of the linen.

You want the backing a little larger so you can turn it under.

You want the fabric turned under to give you a finished edge. Once the finished edge is secured to the linen, you can finish the quilting.

Many quilters ask why I don't fold the backing over the top of the batting...it would be so much easier! I have done it this way on a couple of linen quilts and the backing fabric actually shows thru the linen just a little bit and you get a "shadow" effect which is very unattractive and noticeable.



This is a photo of a corner of the lace edging on "God's Blessings". This piece was created from a long length of wide petticoat lace. I cut it into four even lengths, mitered them together and created a small quilt. At one particular guild program the lace snagged on something and was ripped off. Many hours were devoted to carefully stitching the lace back on. Valuable lesson learned in making sure if I want a lace edge to make double sure that the lace is strong.

This photo is of a piece that has a very wide, 6" crocheted lace edging. This is very strong and I've never had a bit of trouble with it snagging or tearing. Gorgeous lace!!!



Quilting Lace???

Many vintage linens have beautiful lace insets or lace edgings. The beauty and integrity of lace is in its texture. If you quilt lace you make it lay flat and it's fairly unattractive. I learned this lesson the hard way by ruining some gorgeous pieces of lace. I will redeem myself by teaching you how to do it!



This teaching sample shows three different pieces of lace. I quilted the motifs only.

In my opinion these are very unattractive. There's poofy fabric around the edges and it's too poofy in the lace.

I **HIGHLY** recommend if you have a lace edge to your linen, fold the lace over and get it out of the way. Quilt a simple filler design. Now fold the lace back over the **TOP** of this.



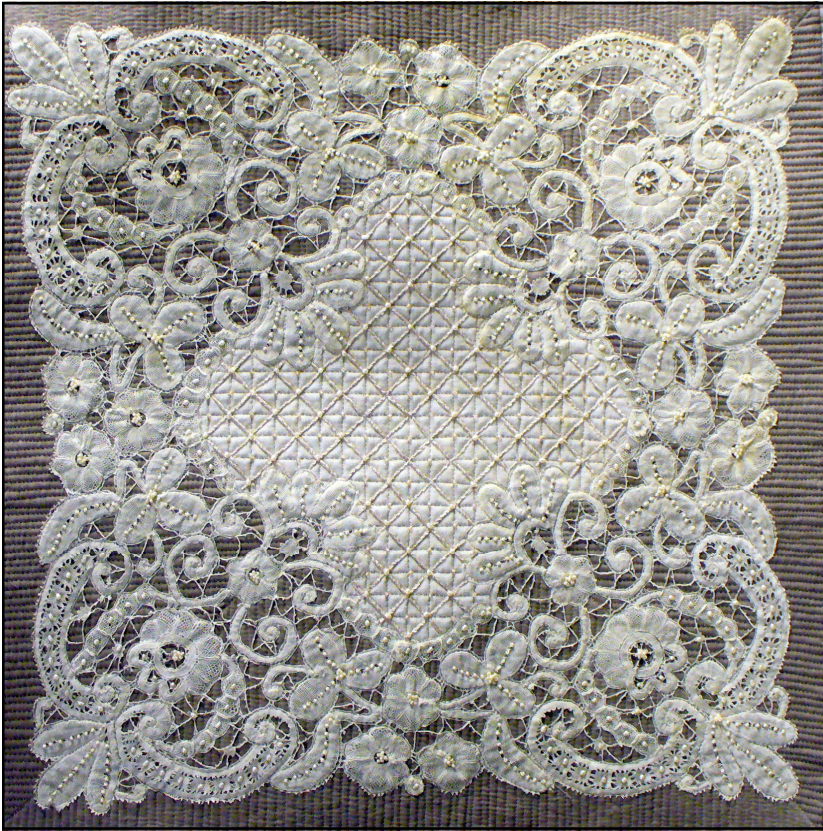
See how much more attractive the lace is? You can either very lightly quilt the lace down or just add some beadwork or small hand stitches to keep it in place.



This is a close up of “Cinderella”. Notice how I quilted the underlayment underneath the lace and extended it slightly past.

I will go in and square up and trim and then add binding.

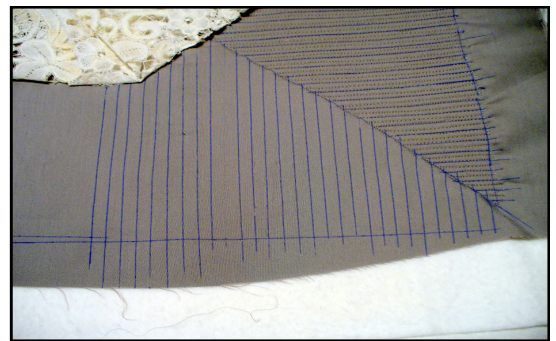




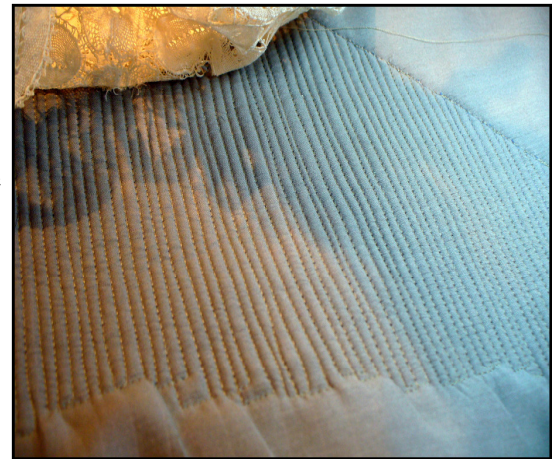
This is a beautiful Battenburg lace hankie.

I placed the hankie on top of my quilt sandwich and quilted the middle.

I folded the lace to the middle exposing the unquilted sandwich and marked 1/4" repetitive lines.



I quilted my lines making sure that they went way past where I wanted them to end...this gave me a solid surface on which I could square up later on.



Once all my lines were quilted, I folded the lace back over the top of the previously quilted background and proceeded in adding a lot of beads to tack this down.