

# *à la Boutis Provençal*



## *Bonnet Instructions*

**By Marie Yolande**

## FREE PROJECT: Baby Bonnet

### MATERIALS (for bonnet)

#### Fabric

- ▶ Two pieces white cotton boutis batiste 21 x 16 inches (54cm x 40cm)

#### Trim

- ▶ 1-1/2 yds Swiss edging strip with a 3/4-inch embroidered width
- ▶ 3/4 yd scalloped and Swiss edging with a 1/4-inch embroidered width
- ▶ 1 yd white double-face silk ribbon 5/8 inch wide

#### Threads

- ▶ 3/4 yd white cotton string (for cinching back of bonnet)
- ▶ White cotton sewing thread, quilting thread or cotton/poly thread
- ▶ Light color and weight basting thread 60/2
- ▶ Loose twist four-ply white cotton yarn

#### Tools

- ▶ #7 between needle (for the stitching of the marked lines)
- ▶ #1 straw/milliner's needle (for sculpturing cut yarn inside motifs)
- ▶ #16 tapestry needle (to stuff small motifs and cord short channels)
- ▶ 5-inch long weaving/tapestry needle (to stuff large motifs and cord long channels)
- ▶ Two round toothpicks

#### Supplies

- ▶ Wash-away mechanical pencil (such as the Ultimate Marking Pencil for Quilters and Crafters)
- ▶ Wooden embroidery hoop with an adjustable screw 4-to-6 inches (preferably with center hoop wrapped with a strip of cotton batiste)
- ▶ Masking tape
- ▶ Grid ruler
- ▶ Pins
- ▶ Thimble
- ▶ Pattern tracing paper
- ▶ Sharp scissors
- ▶ Mild laundry soap: Ivory, Savon de Marseille, Biz or Oxi Clean
- ▶ Soft bristle toothbrush

## ASSEMBLING THE BONNET

1. Pin the center section and one side section together. The stitched loops will identify the locations of the notches inside of the bonnet. Make certain that the overall design of the flower and hearts on the side section of the bonnet are pointing upward.
2. Thread #7 between needle with white sewing thread and make a knot at the end of a single strand

(illustration shows red thread for better visibility).

3. Hand baste the seam: At the start of a seam line, go through all four layers of the seam allowances in a stabbing motion and make a long running stitch approximately 1/4" long. Continue piecing the sections together with an in-and-out stabbing motion and end the seam with a couple of backstitches (Photo 1). Insert the tail end of the thread between the fabric layers in a corded area.
4. With a new piece of thread, sew the seam by hand with backstitches: Make a row of short backstitches on top of the existing row of long running stitches and slightly add tension on the thread when reaching the crown area (Photo 2). Doing so will help shape the bonnet in a rounded manner to fit the contour of a baby's head.
5. Finish the seam by concealing the tail end of the thread in a corded area between the fabric layers.
6. Pin and seam the other side of the bonnet to the center section in the same manner.
7. Clip away the tack stitches marking the notches.

## SEAM FINISHING

1. Grade the seam allowance: Trim away the underneath side of the seam allowances to a 1/8" wide, leaving remaining seam allowance untrimmed.
2. Fold the raw edge of the remaining seam allowance under once, and then over the cut seam allowance so that the cut seam allowance is enclosed. Pin and stitch by hand with a blind stitch (Photo 3). This creates a 1/4" bound seam.
3. Finish the remaining seams in this manner.



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



PHOTO 3, DETAIL

## FINISHING THE OUTSIDE EDGE OF THE BONNET

1. Trim away the inside edge of the seam allowance to 1/8" wide all around the bonnet grading it in the same manner as for seams.

PHOTO 4



PHOTO 5

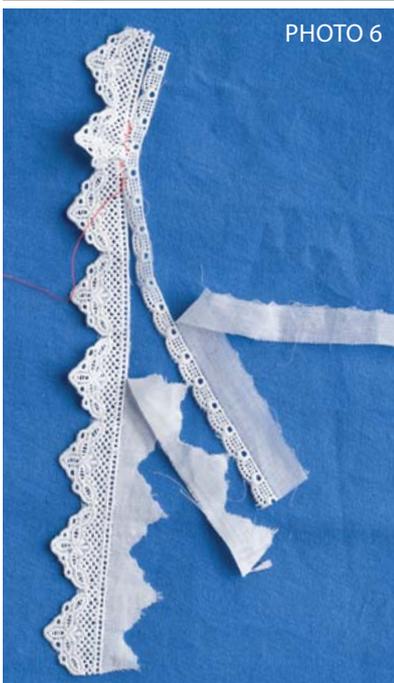


PHOTO 6

2. Fold the top layer of the seam allowance in half towards the inside of the bonnet (Photo 4).
3. Pin the 1/4" wide seam allowance and blind stitch or whipstitch into place with one strand of white sewing thread (Photo 5).
4. Wash the bonnet by following the laundering instructions.

### JOINING THE SWISS TRIM

1. From the back side of the Swiss trim, steam press and if necessary, use starch or sizing for a crisp finish.
2. Cut an 18" (46cm) long strip from the wider edging trim and set aside for the making of the rosettes.
3. Trim away the seam allowances on the remaining strips next to the row of entredeux.
4. From the back side whipstitch the wide and narrow edgings together with fine heirloom embroidery thread such as 60/2.
5. As you stitch, gather the wider embroidery strip to the narrow one to create a ruffled effect (Photo 6).

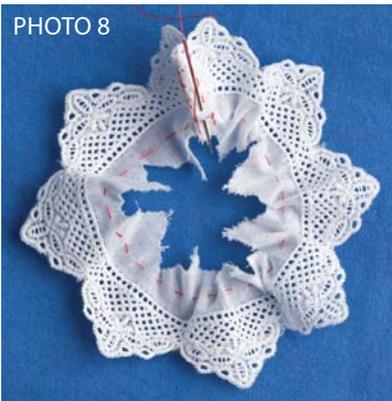
### ATTACHING THE ASSEMBLED EMBROIDERY STRIP TO BONNET

1. From the inside center back of bonnet, butt and pin the gathered Swiss edging strip to the folded edge.
2. With one strand of fine white heirloom thread knotted at one end, whipstitch the edging to the edge of the bonnet by taking a stitch into the folded seam and connect the strip by stitching into the entredeux openings. Start stitching 1" (2.5cm) from the tail end of the strip. Continue all around the bonnet until you arrive at the starting point.
3. To join ends without a seam, overlap the embroidered motifs on the strip and whipstitch the

PHOTO 7



PHOTO 8



motifs with fine thread around the outline of the motif shape (Photo 7). Finish attaching the strip to the bonnet.

4. Thread #16 tapestry needle with the white string and starting at the center lower back of the bonnet, weave a single stand of the string in and out of the eyelets found on the narrow embroidery strip. From both tail ends of the string, pull slightly to shape the bonnet. Tie both end of the string with a knot and a bow.

### MAKING THE SIDE ROSETTES

1. Fold the 18" Swiss edging in half and cut. Set one 9" strip aside.
2. By hand, with a single strand of white sewing thread, French seam the cut ends to encase the raw seam allowances and for a circle of trim.
3. Thread #7 needle with white sewing thread and knot the tail ends together.
4. Run a gathering stitch in the ring of trim: From the back, at approximately 1/2" from the cut seam, secure the thread with a back stitch. Stitch a row of running stitches all around the circle (Photo 8). Pull the thread

to gather and form the rosette. Secure with a couple of back stitches to lock gathering.

5. Clip one strand of thread tail thread and leave remaining strand to attach rosette to the side of the bonnet.

### ATTACHING THE ROSETTES AND RIBBON TO SIDES OF BONNET

1. On the lower corner of the bonnet, attach the rosettes and stitch into place.
2. At 3/4" from the end of a ribbon tail fold the ribbon to form a loop. Stitch across with two strands of white sewing thread, pinch together with thumb and index finger, wrap thread around the gathered section.
3. Stitch through in a stabbing manner, backstitch to secure the thread and cut one strand.
4. Fold back the ribbon loop onto itself over the gathered section to conceal the stitches.
5. With the remaining strand of thread, stitch the inside edge of the loop to form a raised rounded bubble and attach it to the center of the rosette while covering the gathered line of the rosette. Repeat on the other side of the bonnet. —EB



#### About the Author

**Marie Yolande** is an international needlework instructor, author and designer. She specializes in organizing needlework-themed tours to Europe that incorporate hands-on embroidery workshops with local skilled artisans. As her native language is French, many of the classes take place in France where there is a wealth of traditional needlework techniques. Yolande has written an English instructional book based on the *boutis* technique titled *Baby Layette à la Boutis Provençal*, which includes the entire pattern collection of a royal French layette (a \$5 discount on the book is offered to *Sew Beautiful* readers). Her book, kits, workshops and information regarding next needlework tour to Lisbon, Portugal and Madeira Island incorporating a Madeira embroidery workshop can be seen on her website at [www.marieyolande.com](http://www.marieyolande.com). Contact Marie at [yolande@marieyolande.com](mailto:yolande@marieyolande.com).