

Handmade Valenciennes Edgings

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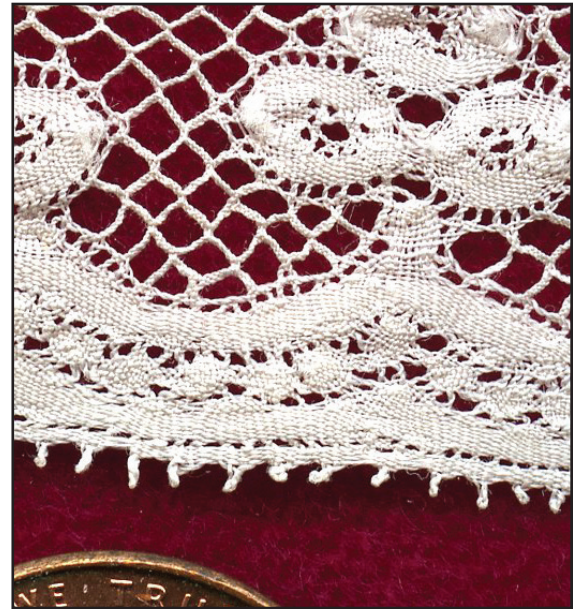
Handmade lace edgings easily can be overlooked, especially when they are tangled in with a large stash of unwashed edgings.

If it is so easy to overlook them, does it matter if the lace is handmade or machine? Certainly, because once you develop an eye for the subtle differences you will pick up on the precision and neatness that defines handmade. That, plus there are those, especially doll collectors, who insist on "the truest things" for their vintage heirloom dolls, and are willing to pay a premium for handmade lace.

The key features that define handmade Val include:

- A mesh formed of four-strands (two pair) of threads. The shape of the mesh may be rectangular, hexagonal, or somewhere in between, but look for four-strand braids on the sides.
- A single pair of twisted threads separates the mesh from the dense cloth-like part of the design. This is called a "ring pair."
- The bottom edge will have little picots, or loops of twisted threads, that run from the mesh, form the twisted loops, and turn and return into the mesh.

Look for all three features in each piece. A variation in any one or more of these can indicate a machine made lace.



Braided mesh

Ring pair

Threads forming picots run from lace, form twisted loops and return.

