

# *Vintage Cocktail Napkin Needlebook*

*by Jane Briscoe*



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*In days gone by, a gracious southern lady would have had lovely hand embroidered linens for every occasion. She would have had not only linen dinner napkins, but also tea and cocktail napkins. The cocktail napkins were typically about 5" by 7" rectangles and of course embellished with embroidery, appliqué, or some other form of handwork. While most of us use paper napkins for our parties today, we can enjoy the needlework techniques on these old fashioned cocktail napkins by turning them into a needlebook.*

## Kit Contents

1 vintage cocktail napkin – note that napkins with a central motif or obvious top (monograms) will not work well for this project  
2 wool pages  
1 skein DMC floss  
1 button  
½ yd 1/8" ribbon  
4 needles  
Adhesive labels

## Supply List

Embroidery scissors  
Pinking shears or Scallop Fabric Scissors  
Spinster Cord Twister

## Needle Key

#10 Crewel – Jane's favorite all purpose  
#7 Darner - Smocking  
#10 Milliner (Straw) - Bullions  
#26 Chenille – Silk Ribbon Embroidery

1. Starch & press the cocktail napkin.
2. Cut wool pages to fit napkin, using pinking shears or scallop fabric scissors.
3. Fold napkin in half and finger press fold. Center pages over wrong side of napkin and machine stitch down the center.
4. For twisted cord, cut a piece of DMC floss about 8' long. Knot cut ends. Using spinster cord twister, twist until tight. Maintaining tension, bring the ends together and allow the cord to twist on itself.
5. Pin twisted cord to the needlebook over the machine stitching, centering the cord at the top. Leave the tails hanging down on the front and back. Whip the cord in place using 1 strand of DMC floss.
6. Make a tassel. See p2.
7. Cut ribbon into two 9" lengths. Fold under ¼" on one end and tack to needlebook placing the button on top of the folded ribbon on the front. For light-weight batiste or organdy napkins, you will need to tack through the first and last pages of the wool.

# Tassel

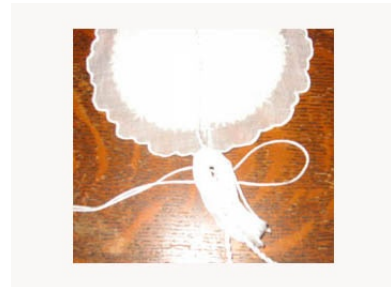
1. Wrap DMC floss around a credit card about 15 times. Slide a length of floss under the loops for hanging. In this case we will use the tails of the twisted cord.



2. Slide the tassel off the credit card being careful not to disturb the wraps. Knot the two ends of the twisted cord together inside the tassel.



3. Cut a length of floss for the collar about 18". Fold in half and begin twisting around tassel about 1/2" from the top. Leave the center loop extending slightly.



4. After several wraps, take the ends through the beginning loop and pull tight. Using the #26 chenille needle, sink the cut ends of the collar thread into the center of tassel.



5. Untwist the ends of the twisted cord and blend into the tassel. Trim all cut ends evenly.

