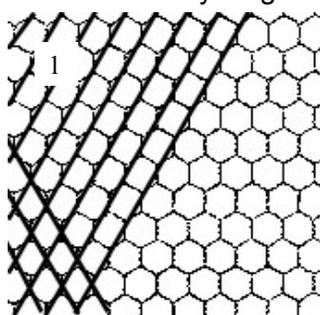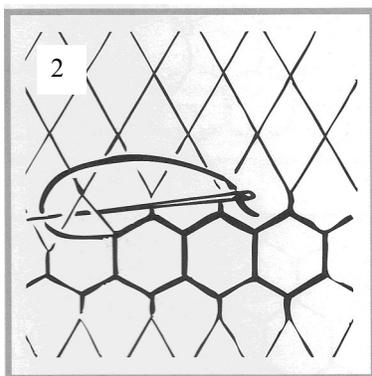# Brides Bouclées
or Hex background for Alençon lace

This stitch was used more extensively in Argentan lace with the hex shaped buttonholed on all sides, but was also used in Alençon lace with the grid whipped, not buttonholed. Where there are two different mesh sized in a piece of Alençon lace, this is the larger mesh. Start with a hex grid printed on your sampler or design paper to work upon.
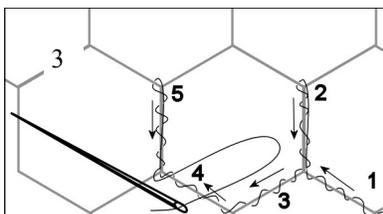
1. Begin using your finest thread and lay diagonal lines across the grid, intersecting the center of each hex. Work these diagonal lines both directions. They are at 30º or 60º angles to the vertical/ horizontal edges.

2. Next, begin at the right edge where a hex meets the edge and make a buttonhole stitch around the intersection of crossed diagonals. Flipping the thread the other direction, make a buttonhole stitch over the lower intersection to the right. Continue across working a buttonhole stitch over an upper diagonal intersection, then a lower one. Move to the next pair of diagonal intersections and work across them. Fill the area this way.
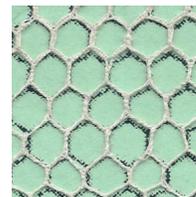

3. Now continuing with your finest thread, start at the lower left edge and whip the first angled sides of a hex (1). At the top, take the needle over the intersection at the top of the vertical bar (2). Whip down the bar(2). Whip down the

angled side(3), up the next angled side, and again take the needle to the top of the vertical and whip down it. On each bar whip about 3-4 times. Keep your needle angled most comfortably. Along section 1 the needle would go in from the top. On section 2 from right to left. Section 3 would be done from the bottom up and section 4 again like 1 from the top down. (*This assumes you are right handed. If left handed start on the left instead, reversing all directions.*) At the end of the row, if you have enough thread to return, turn the piece over so you can again work from right to left. This time the vertical whipping will be below the angled line, not above, but the process will be the same.

If you were doing this to make an Argentan background, instead of whipping the sides of the hex, you would buttonhole them, and maybe even add picots along the way at the center of each bar.

The top two rows of this sample were worked Argentan style, the rest whipped as done in Alençon style.