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The colourful jungle of hand machine embroidery

The designer's fanciful designs on paper are carefully transferred in beautifully matching colours onto the material by the hand machine embroiderer, who takes great pride in his craft, practised before him by his forefathers with the same skill and the same loving care. Very few of those who gaze with admiration on the countless embroidery motifs offered by the Swiss embroidery industry—animals, figures from fairy tales, coats of arms, veteran cars, flowers and many others besides—realize that these gay, vividly lifelike embroideries are made on the same hand machines first used in the 2nd half of the 19th century. Even in this highly technological day, these machines are still rational enough, especially when it comes to making small multicoloured embroideries requiring frequent changes of yarns. Very often the wife and children help the home embroiderer, who is skilled in the use of the pantograph and hand wheel for the creation of the many original trimmings on the market, such as for example the jungle animals shown here magnified three times in order to reveal the details more clearly.

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