

LRI Pattern Collection

Bookmark

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Torchon Lace Bookmark

This pattern has probably been built by every lace maker who ever set pencil to paper or owns a software package for building lace patterns. I do not claim copyright to the pattern but I do claim copyright for the instructions.

LRI Level 2 pattern (near beginner)

Detailed instruction is given for setting in.

Brief instruction is given for working the first pattern components, and for finishing by accumulating pairs at the edge.

To work this pattern you must know how to:

- Work basic torchon patterns.
- Work cloth stitch blocks
- Work torchon ground
- Work a torchon stitch/torchon double stitch (aka double half stitch/whole stitch/cloth and twist).
- Work torchon spiders

Stitches in this pattern

Torchon ground:

English working- half stitch, pin, half stitch (cross, twist, pin, cross and twist)

European working- twist, cross, pin, twist and cross.

Torchon double stitch edge (aka torchon stitch/double half stitch/cloth and twist):

English working- Cross, twist, cross, twist, pin, cross, twist, cross, and twist. When working a stitch at an outside edge add an extra twist on the outside pair only.

European working- twist, cross, twist, cross, pin, twist, cross, twist, cross. When making up the outside edge stitch, to enclose the pin, the outside pair must begin with an extra twist.

Cloth stitch woven blocks (aka linen stitch):

English working- cross, twist, cross through all pairs across each row (and the worker pair must be twisted twice at the end of each row).

European working- twist, cross, twist through all pairs across each row (and the worker pair must begin with two twists to enclose the pin).

Torchon spiders worked with six pair within a frame of torchon ground stitches. Each 'leg' pair works cloth stitch through three other 'leg' pairs before and after the pin.

Pattern Instructions

Bobbins:

12 pair wound with white or main colour and 6 pair wound with colour or contrasting thread.

Wind each bobbin of each pair with 55cm (22ins) of thread.

Thread: Any one of the following alternatives-

Ne 28 Aurifil cotton (many colours and variegated threads)

Ne 30/2 DMC Broder Machine (many colours)

No.30 Madeira Tanne/Cotona

Ne 40/3 Mettler Quilting thread (many colours)

Setting in will be across the top row of pinholes using temporary pins

The pinholes to be used only for temporary pin should have a ring drawn around the pinhole, as shown on the paper pattern.

At the top of Figure 1, the enlarged pattern section for setting in, there are numbers with a letter beside each one and these are connected to a ringed pinhole by an arrow. Each number indicates the number of pairs that will be hung on the arrowed temporary pin.

The letter 'm' = main thread and 'c' = colour or contrasting thread. Further arrows indicate the direction of each thread.

Note: the temporary pins must be removed as soon as both pair on the same temporary pin have been worked to enclose a pin. If you forget to do this you will have ugly loops at the top of the lace.

The constant edge passive pairs

Two pair will be needed to work as the constant edge passive pair(s) across the top and along each edge. In the sample these two pair were wound with coloured thread.

Work as follows:

Stick a pin into the pillow, to the side of the left hand edge of the pricking and level with the horizontal ink line that indicates the constant edge passive pair.

Take one pair of bobbins and make a slip knot on the thread half way between the two bobbins. Loop the slip knot over the standing pin and pull tight. Repeat for the second pair.

The two right hand bobbins of each pair, lying nearest the pricking edge, will work together as the constant edge passive pair. This pair will work across the top and down one side edge of the pricking. The two bobbins farthest from the pricking will form the second constant edge passive pair and work down one side edge of the pattern only.

The temporary pins

Work as follows:

Starting at far left, hang pairs on the first two temporary pins following the letters and numbers above.

Take the single pair from the first temporary pin and the left hand pair from the second temporary pin and work a half stitch at the pinhole labeled **A**. Put up a pin between the two pair and enclose the pin with a half stitch.

Remove the temporary pin at far left and ease down the loop of thread.

Put up the next temporary pin and hang pairs as indicated by the numbers and letters above.

Take the right hand pair from the previous temporary pin and the left hand pair from the new temporary pin and work them together at **B**. Once the pin has been enclosed, remove the previous temporary pin and ease down the loops.

Continue like this across the row until a stitch has been worked at pinholes **A** to **G**.

Make sure all temporary pins have been removed and the loops eased into the work.

Work the constant edge passive pair as follows:

Starting at the pinhole labeled **A**-

Work torchon double stitch with the constant edge passive pair and each ground stitch pair, working from left to right across the row. Tension each stitch before working the next.

When all ground pairs have been worked, carry the constant edge passive bobbins to the side of the pillow and pin the threads out of the way.

Working the inside row of pinholes labeled **H** to **M**

Push the left hand pair at **A** farther out to the left and leave.

Take the right hand pair from this pin, and the left hand pair from **B** and work a torchon ground stitch at **H** (half stitch pin half stitch).

Take the right hand pair from **B** and the left hand pair from **C** and work a torchon ground stitch at **I**.

Repeat in this manner for all pinholes, stopping when the pin at **M** has been enclosed.

The right hand pair at **G** will not work into a ground stitch.

Working the top right hand corner

Turn the pillow so the pointed end is facing to the left.

Take a pin and push it into the ground stitch pinhole to the left of the pinhole labeled **N** where it will be used as a support pin.

Take one of the two remaining unused main colour pairs and hang it around the support pin.

Bring down the constant edge passive pair bobbins at right.

The pair from pinhole **G** should be lying to the left of the constant passive pair.

Take the pair from **G** and the new pair on the support pin and work a half stitch. Twist the outside pair once more and put up a pin between them at **N**.

Enclose the pin by working a half stitch. Stop.

Remove the temporary pin to release the threads. Ease the long loop of thread into the work.

Push aside the left hand pair at the pin.

Of the three at the corner, take the middle pair and the right hand pair and work a torchon double stitch. Twist the outside pair once more, position a pin between the two pairs and push the pin into pinhole **O**.

Enclose the pin with a torchon double stitch.

Twist the left hand pair once more and loop the threads around the standing pin at **N**. Stop.

Turn the pillow back to its original position.

The pair looped around the pin at **N** and the constant edge passive pair are now used to work the outside edge pinhole labeled **P** as follows:

Work a torchon double stitch, with an extra twist on the outside pair. Position a pin between these two pair and push it into pinhole **P**. Enclose the pin with a torchon double stitch. Leave.

Working the right hand corner

Free the constant edge passive pair threads that are fastened around the pin outside the pricking. These bobbins should be lying to the left of the ground stitch pair from **A**.

Turn your pillow again so the pointed end of the pattern faces to the right this time.

The left hand pair from **A** has already worked with the constant edge passive pair and should already have a twist; check this.

This pair should now be the pair closest to the inside corner pinhole, labeled **Q** on the diagram sheet.

Put up a support pin in a ground stitch pinhole to the right of **Q** and hang the remaining main colour pair around it.

Take this new pair and the pair from **A** and work a half stitch with an extra twist on the outside pair.

Position a pin between these two pairs and push it into pinhole **Q**.

Work a half stitch to enclose the pin. Stop.

Remove the temporary pin, freeing the long loop of thread. Pull the bobbins to ease in the thread loop then push the right hand pair of the two away farther to the right.

Of the three at the corner, take the middle pair and the left hand pair and work a torchon double stitch. Twist the outside pair once more, position a pin between the two pair and push the pin into pinhole **R**.

Work a torchon double stitch to enclose the pin. Twist the main colour pair once more then loop this pair around the standing pin at **Q** and stop.

Turn the pillow to the correct working position.

Take the pair looped around the pin and the constant edge passive pair and work a torchon double stitch with an extra twist on the outside pair.

Position a pin between the two pair and push it into the outside edge pinhole **S**. Enclose the pin by working a torchon double stitch. Leave.

All of the pairs have now been set in and proper working can begin.

The sequence for working the pattern elements is indicated by the numbering on the enlarged pattern section, so refer to that as necessary.

Briefly: The ground stitch areas must be worked before either of the blocks and both the blocks and the ground stitches must be worked before the spider can be worked.

The spider has six pairs forming the legs.

Remember: There are *three pair* of legs on each side so *each pair from one side* must work cloth stitch *through three pair* only on the opposite side before putting up the pin. After the pin has been put up, pairs from the same side as before are worked through three pair only on the opposite side.

After completing the spider work the woven block to the left and the small section of ground stitches. From here on, the pattern should be worked diagonally from right to left in the usual way of working torchon patterns.

Finishing at a point

Refer to the enlarged diagram below. Each arrow that faces directly into an edge pinhole indicates a pair that will be worked in cloth stitch at pinholes along the inner edge. These pairs will be worked in cloth stitch for every edge row thereafter.

The bookmark finishes at a point and pairs from the ground are allowed to accumulate at the edge. The accumulated pairs are finished at the bottom by plaiting or tying them in a bundle to form a tail.

Working:

Complete the block on the left.

The pair from the widest point works with the edge worker at **1**, working the usual ground stitch.

Take the inner pair of the two as the edge worker pair and work the constant edge passive pair as usual. Put up a pin at **2** and enclose the pin as usual.

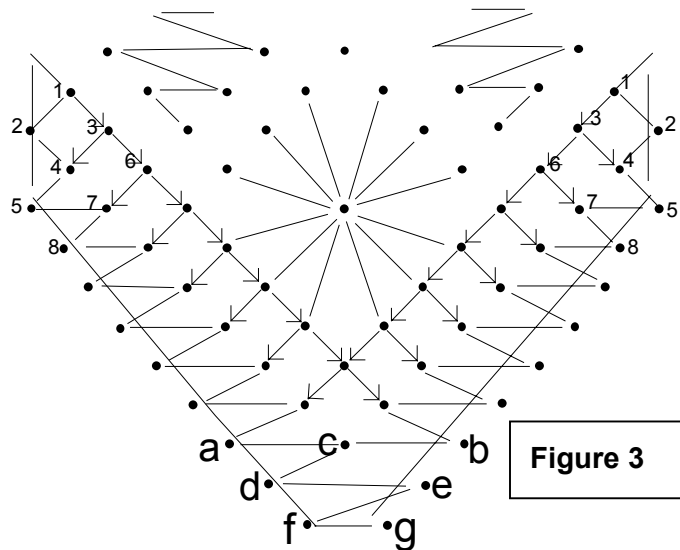
From here on the edge worker will remain constant. The edge worker and constant edge passive pair must be worked in torchon double stitch all the way down the edge but the accumulating ground pairs will be worked in cloth stitch.

Work the next ground stitch at pinhole **3**.

Take the edge worker pair and the nearest pair from the last ground stitch and work a cloth stitch. Twist the worker pair twice (outside pair) and put up a pin at pinhole **4**.

Enclose the pin with a cloth stitch. Twist the worker pair once before working a torchon double stitch with the constant edge passive pair. Enclose the pin with a torchon double stitch and stop.

Work the next ground stitch at pinhole **8** and stop.



Go the opposite side and work the block.

Work the ground stitches below the block and the edge as before.

Work the ground stitches along both upper edges of the spider block.

Work the spider body.

Complete the spider block by working the ground stitches along both lower edges.

These stitches should be worked before working the remaining edge stitches because the spider pairs must be tensioned evenly and anchored into position.

Having completed the spider working, work the right edge down to pinhole **8** as before.

Note: One pair must be lifted out of the working on each side; I chose to lift out one coloured pair per side that was brought into the edge from the spider frame (next inner edge stitch). If you choose to leave the coloured threads in, then lift out a main colour pair later.

Work both edges until you reach the pinholes labeled **a** and **b** respectively. Enclose the pin then work through to **c**.

Work the opposite side workers through to **c** also.

Work these pairs together in cloth stitch. Position a pin between them and push it into pinhole **c**. The left hand pair at the pin will now become a passive pair.

Take the pair on the right hand side of the pin as the worker pair. Work cloth stitch through the old worker pair and the accumulated passive pairs toward pinhole **d**.

Twist the worker pair once before working a torchon double stitch at the edge. Put up a pin at **d**.

Work pins **e**, **f** and **g**, then stop.

Enclose pin **g** by working a *cloth stitch only*.

Work one pair more in cloth stitch and stop. Tie the worker pair three times.

Working a plaited tail

There are a variety of ways for finishing a bookmark but the instruction here are for working a plaited tail.

A lace plait is always worked with four pair, or with multiple pairs divided into four groups, where each group is handled as a single thread.

Divide the threads into four groups, each of four pair (16 pair).

Handle each group as one thread, keeping the bobbins in their correct positions as far as possible.

A plait is worked as a series of reverse half stitches (twist, cross).

To achieve a neat and even plait, each group of threads must be tensioned equally after each stitch.

If some of the bobbins begin to fall off their threads, then join some old thread onto the thread ends and wind it back onto the bobbin.

Plait for as long as the shortest thread allows.

To finish the plait

Once the final cross movement has been worked, separate two outside threads at each side.

The next step is a bit awkward; bunch and lift all of the bobbins except the two separated pairs. Hold the bunch in one hand.

Take each of the separated pairs and cross them to the opposite sides. Lay the bunched bobbins over the crossed threads.

Take one bobbin of each pair and tie the threads three times over the back of the bunch, gently pulling the threads tight. Lay the tied threads with the bunch.

Repeat the tying with the two remaining bobbins.

Leaving a tail no longer than the shortest thread, cut off all of the threads at once.

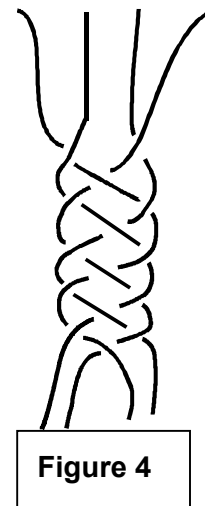


Diagram Sheet

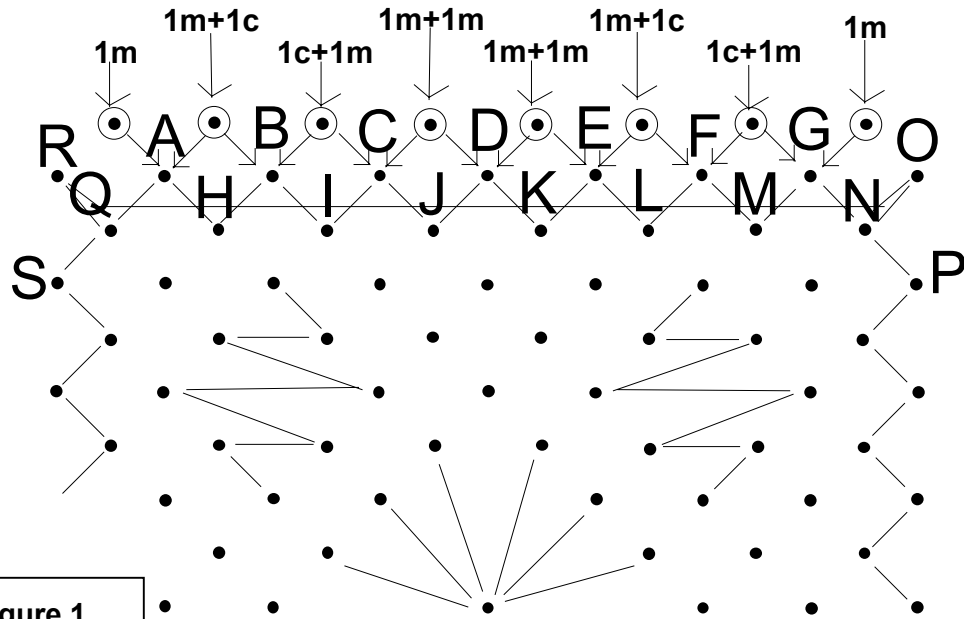


Figure 1

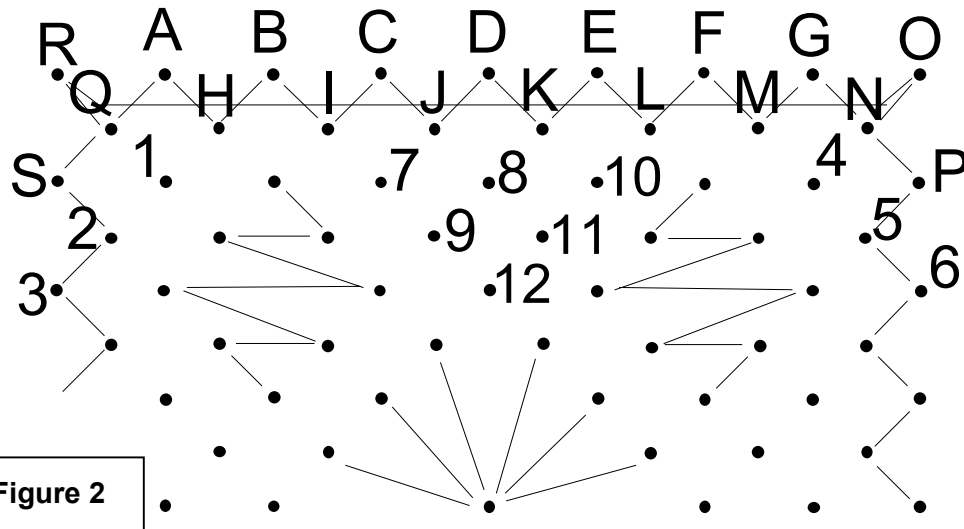


Figure 2

Pattern and sample

Bookmark

Print pattern at 100%.

Check printed pattern for correct spacing: distance between any two pinholes at the outside edge should be 4mm (1/6in).

