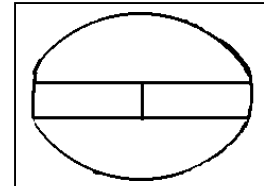


Equipment List for Honiton Basics

The following equipment should be purchased from a reputable supplier who stocks traditional equipment for Honiton Lace. Do not purchase any equipment that does not look very similar to the pictures. If you do not use the correct equipment you will have difficulty working many of the techniques. The only way to learn Honiton Lace techniques is by using equipment appropriate to the lace and the technical requirements.

Honiton Pillow:

13 or 14 inch diameter. Honiton pillows must be domed top and bottom.



Pillows that have flatter surfaces are difficult to work with. Honiton lace is made with the pillow on your lap and flat pillows are not high enough to work at comfortably. Also, with a flatter pillow the bobbins do not fall away from the working area properly after use.

Traditionally, Honiton pillows are made from Barley straw and that is my first recommendation but after that, the hard styrene/styrofoam type pillows work quite well also. In the USA there is a self-healing material used for pillow making, called 'Ethafoam'.

Cover cloths:

3 or 4 covers with narrow hems measuring approximately 30cm X 40cm/ 12" X 16" and 2 approximately 45 or 50cm/ 18 or 20" square. Covers should be made from cotton poplin or other closely woven cotton fabric without any loose fibres. Fluff and lint will work into the lace and you cannot get it out.

Choose a medium dark shade of either blue or green; the colour should be restful on the eyes and provide a contrast to the white thread.

Pincushion:

A straw filled pincushion is my preference but dry lentils that have been lightly roasted in an oven also work very well, as does high impact styrene/styrofoam shaped into a dome and covered.

Don't make the pincushion too large; a 7cm/3inch" diameter/width is sufficient.

Scissors:

Two pair of scissors are needed for working Honiton-

One pair of sharp embroidery scissors for the general cutting of threads.

One small, old pair for 'bowing off' - the term for a technique of tying and cutting out pairs of threads using the scissors for the entire process. At the end, when the bobbin threads are cut out of the lace they are already knotted together ready for further use.

The blades of bowing off scissors *must* be very loose but also reasonably sharp because each pair of threads is held between the blades to knot them and then cut the loop, all in one set of movements. Tightly fitting blades cut the threads before a knot is formed and blunt blades will not cut the thread.

I suggest scissors with short, sharp straight blades of the type found in inexpensive manicure sets, or buy lesser quality embroidery or 'Duck Bill' scissors. The embroidery scissors sometimes have a nut to hold the blades in place, so the nut may loosen.

To modify scissors where a rivet fastens the blades together, open them and pull the handles sideways several times. They really need to be maltreated to stretch the rivet.

A good pair of bowing off scissors should fall open when held by one handle but be sharp enough to cut the thread once the blades are closed fully.

Honiton Bobbins (See right):

36 (18 pr) short, slender wooden bobbins that have small heads, pointed tails and with a completely smooth finish.

Avoid bobbins that have been polished to a high gloss on the neck and head (too slippery) or have painted necks and heads because the thread will cut a groove for the thread to catch in.

Needlepin (see far right):

A needle inserted eye end first into a wooden handle of similar length to the shank of a bobbin. Used for joining together sections of lace by 'taking sewings'. The needle should be a No.7 or No.8 Sharps or Betweens.



Thread for course work samples and motifs:

For very first stitch samples (Unit 1)-

White thread only- any one of those listed below

No.30/2 Madeira Cotona (if you must purchase thread buy the small reels not the large cops of Tanne/Cotona) **OR**

DMC Broder Machine No.30, **OR**

Aurifil Quilting/lacemaking thread Ne.28/2 **OR**

Mettler Quilting No.40/3 **OR**

Presencia-Finca No.40/3.

For the coarse thread- No. 12 Perle cotton (white).

For all other units (White thread only)-

1 cop/reel of Egyptian Cotton lace thread (Kantclogarn Egyptisch Katoen 170/2) This thread may be marketed as Fresia Cotton thread...

and for the coarse thread use *either* Mettler (Heirloom) 60/2 (white) *or* Presencia-Finca No.80 (Ntex 22) **Or**

If Kantclogarn 170/2 is unavailable, substitute **Brok cotton thread No.170/2** (white)

and for the coarse threads, *either* Madeira Cotona No.50 *or* Aurifil Ne 50/2.

Lace pins:

Purchase white brass pins that have been nickel or gilt plated, or you can use stainless steel pins if they are available in the size. Make sure the label specifies 'Stainless Steel'.

The best length is 25 or 26mm (1inch) but these may be difficult to find. The length number should be the first numbers on the box i.e. 25x.. then the thickness. Honiton lace is worked with medium to short pins, not long pins.

The best thickness is either of 0.5, 0.53 or 0.55. The pin thickness should be on the box as the second set of numbers. My preference is always for thinner rather than thicker.

Other possible pins are Lille or Duchesse. Lilles are a short pin 14mm long and 0.55mm thick. Duchesse pins, if you can find them, are thinner than those listed above and you must match a needle size to suit the diameter/thickness

of the pin shank. Shortness does not matter because you will be pushing the pins flat against the lace as you work.

I suggest you purchase your pins from a reputable supplier of lace equipment. *Do not purchase pins longer than 26mm unless you have no other option.*

Needles for perforating the card to make prickings:

This is a non-negotiable item.

Sharps or Betweens needles, of a size that corresponds to the thickness of the pins.

No.8 for 0.55mm, No.9 or 10 for 0.53mm, No.11 for 0.50mm

The needle thickness must match the pin thickness. Do not attempt to substitute a pin for the needle when making prickings.

Materials required for making perforated patterns (prickings)

Pricking card/glazed card:

This is a non-negotiable item.

Pricking card is available in a range of thicknesses and not all suppliers carry a range. Thin glazed card is used for Honiton prickings so ask what thicknesses each stockist has, and purchase one of the following:

0.3mm is the thinnest available, then 0.38mm, 0.4mm. Do not purchase anything thicker than 0.4mm. For people who work in centimetres, these sizes translate as 0.03cm, 0.038cm, 0.04cm. Translating the thinnest card to decimal inches would equate to approximately 0.015ins.

Do not use substitute card and do not use card stock covered with an adhesive film.

Glazed card **must** be used for making prickings. Glazed card is manufactured from 100% wood pulp that is densely compressed and has a shiny surface. The surface of glazed card is less likely than other card types to break up as sewings are being taken with the needlepin.

When sewings are being taken the point of the needle scratches across the surface of the card, breaking that surface. The less competent a worker is at taking sewings with a needlepin, the more the surface will be scratched and broken into loose fibres. Fibres are worked into the lace and once in, cannot be removed. The lace then looks dirty.

Adhesives film also breaks as the point of a needle is scratched across the surface and leaves a sticky residue for the very fine threads to pick up. Paper

covered with adhesive film is not sufficiently strong to withstand the closeness of the pinholes, let alone the techniques of joining braids or sewing in pairs.

Pricker (Pinvice):

Steel or Aluminium pinvice to hold a needle for making prickings OR a wooden handle into which a pin chuck has been fitted.

Choose a pricker *with a narrow handle* or your view of the ink dots on the pattern will be obstructed.

Do not substitute your needlepin for a pricker/pinvice!



The example shown is a steel pinvice. Aluminium pin vices are usually a gold colour and have a square shaped handle. Choose the slimmest of the available options. Pin vices or pin chucks are readily available in shops that sell tools for Jewellery making. (In the USA, spelling of the words Aluminium and Jewellery is different to English spelling).

Pricking board:

A pricking board is made from soft cork with a fine grain, **glued to a board**. When making a pricking the needle must penetrate to the same depth each time so all the holes are a uniform size. Having a board under the cork is essential.

A pricking board for Honiton prickings need not be larger than a diameter of 15-20cm/6-8inches and 3mm-6mm/1/8-1/4 inch thick. Round cork mats are frequently available in these sizes and thicknesses.

If you are unable to find soft cork, then look for either 3-6mm Neoprene rubber (car mat material) or 'Foam Craft' foam sheets. Do not use Styrofoam.

Slider:

Mid weight clear Acetate sheet, used for photocopying images onto 'Transparencies' for use with Overhead Projectors. Some Project folders have covers with a similar, suitable material. This material must be pliable but not so thin that it creases and tears easily.

Thumb tacks or 'drawing' pins:

You need a box of thumbtacks for securing the paper pattern and pricking card to the pricking board.

Wax candle end:

Short length of wax candle for rubbing over the paper pattern when making prickings.

Miscellaneous supplies for pattern making

These materials are not required until late in the course.

Fine point 'Pacer' or 'propelling' pencil, with leads 0.5mm

Black ink Fibre tip (not ball tip) drawing pen with a tip 0.2 or 0.25mm (possible brands are Pilot or Uni-pin).

1 sheet of A4 or 'Letter' size tracing paper. Plastic eraser (Staedtler or Rotring)

Below are two suggested suppliers of equipment for Honiton Lace that have Web Sites. Many other stockist carry equipment for Honiton Lace also, so do visit other sites as well.

England:

The Honiton Lace Shop stocks many items that meet the requirements of the above list and provides a mail order service via their Web Site or by e-mail. You may purchase the items individually or there is a beginner kit for Honiton Lace. Their Web address is:

<http://www.shop@honitonlace.com>

and their e-mail address is also shop@honitonlace.com

The USA

Susan Wenzel of *Lacy Susan* stocks many items that meet the requirements of the above list and provides a mail order service via an e-mail address. You may purchase items individually or a kit price and contents list is available on application.

You may contact Susan directly by e-mail:

LacySusan5@aol.com, or visit her Web Page <http://www.lacysusan.com>