KnittingFairy®

Beginning Bobbin Lace

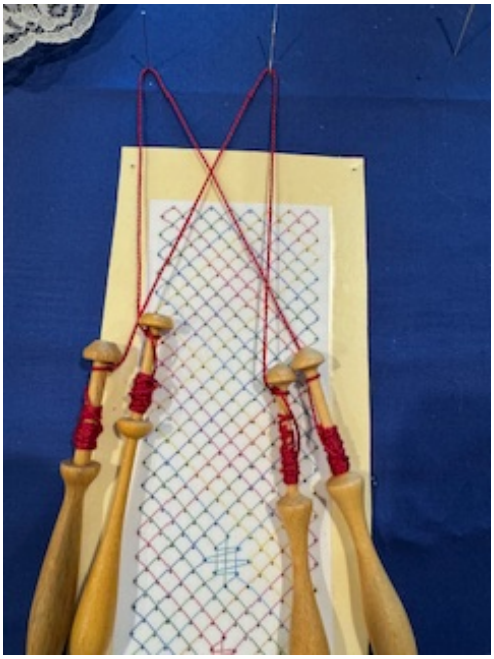
An original class by Alissa Barton, Knitting Fairy

Bobbin lace is actually a form of weaving, the threads are individually controlled by moving the bobbin to which they are attached either as a cross or a twist. You work with only 4 bobbins at any given time, the rest are kept to one side or the other until needed. In this pattern your pairs will always stay together.

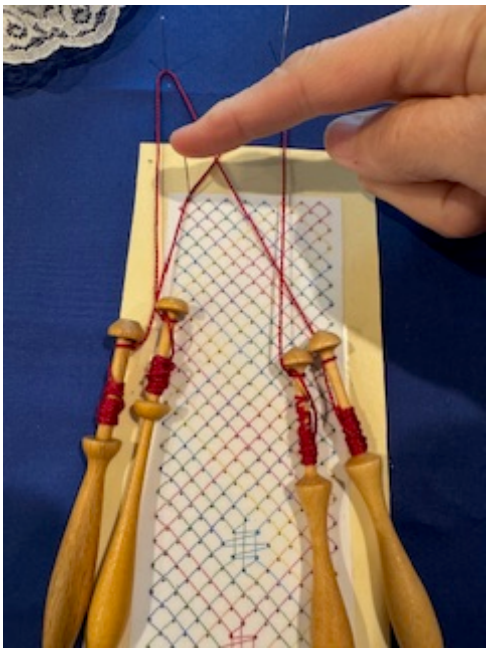


The pattern you are working from is called a "pricking". In this pattern, the threads are Color coded to match the lines on your pricking. That is not usually the case.
We will start in the upper left corner of the pricking with two pairs of bobbins, both red.
If held side by side there are two in the left pair and two in the right pair. Think of them as 1,2,3,4.
To CROSS you pick up bobbin 2 and pass it OVER bobbin three to the right. 2 and 3 have now traded places and renumbered accordingly.

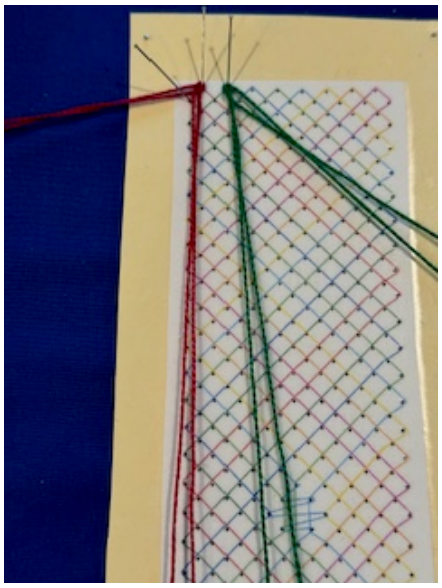
To TWIST you pick up 2 and 4 and pass them over 1, and 3- each moving one space to the left. Renumber them in your head.



One cross and one twist = one half stitch.
You now place a pin at the apex of 2 and 3. Remove the temporary pins and let the threads settle around this first pin. Repeat the cross and the twist and the first pin is complete. That pair on the outside left has further to go around the outside pin, give it an extra twist to help it hold together. Place the pin to the left, furthest in line. Only the left pair goes around it.

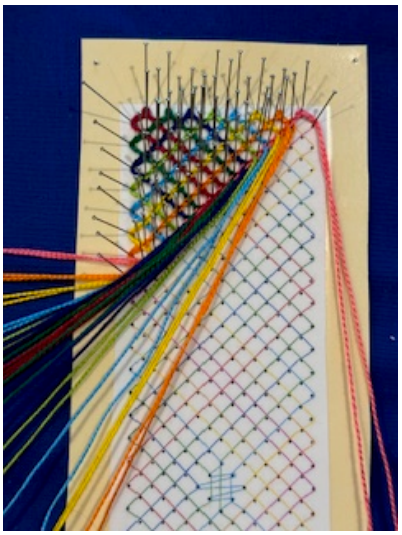


Hang the next two pairs of threads on temporary pins above the pricking and work them in following the same steps as the first two pairs.

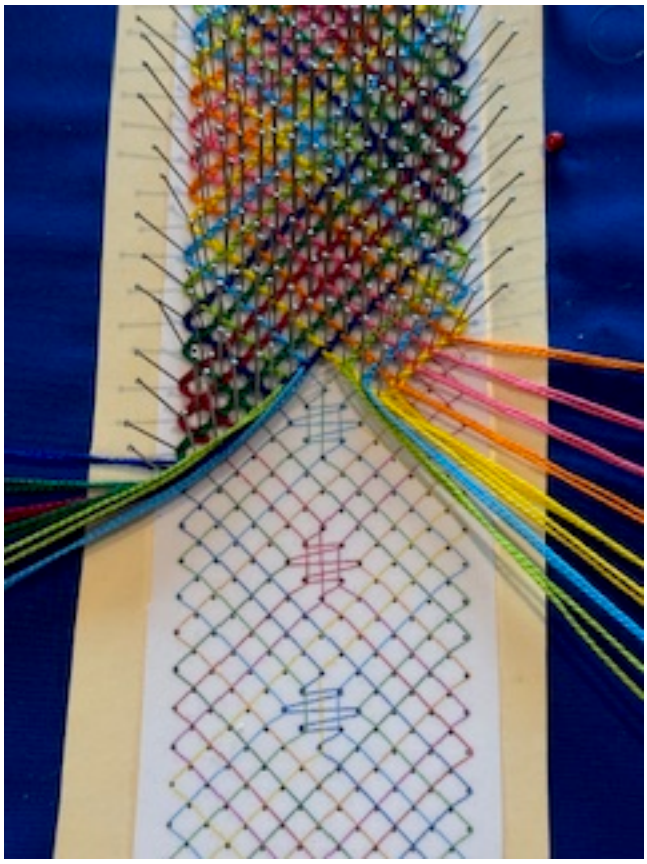


Now that you have 4 pairs of bobbins you will let the pair furthest to the right rest while we CTpin CT the left most green pair with the right most red pair. The pair on the left will wait.

Continue working to the left. Passing the rightmost pair to the side and bringing in the next pair to the left until there are no more pairs to the left waiting.
Always give the last pair on the outside edge an extra twist at the end of each pass.



When all 16 pairs of bobbins are worked in it will look like this. Now, go pack to the far right. Give that pair coming in from the right edge an extra twist and set that outside pin before starting the next pass.

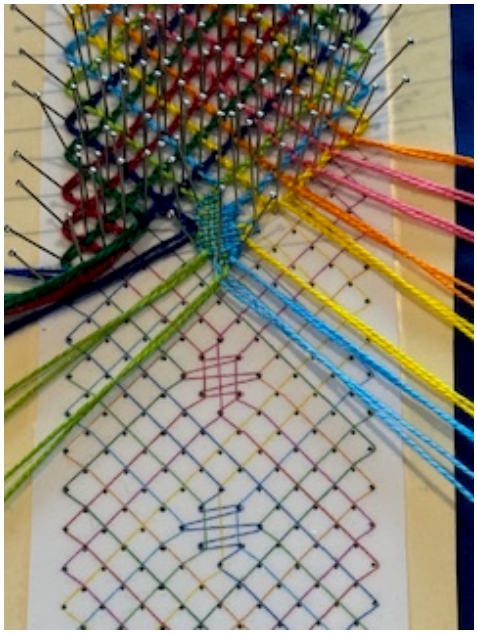


Keep working right to left in diagonals until you reach the "cloth stitch" area. Work the CTpinCT "ground" right up to the edge but into the cloth stitch area.
Cloth stitch still uses only 4 bobbins at a time, but there are no pins in the middle area, only at the turns. You will start in the middle with a light blue pair on the left and a light green pair on the right.



The light blue will become your "weaver" any other threads it works through are called "passives". As you go around a pin you put a twist onto the weaver pair only, the passives do not get twists as they move through the runs of the cloth.
Cloth stitch is worked CTC. (Cross, twist, cross) this action will move the light blue pair through the green pair. Twist the weaver and set the pin at the top of the section.

Cloth stitch (CTC) through these same two pairs and then also the next pair to the left (also a light green pair). Give the weaver a twist and set the next pin. Continue following the path of the weaver, incorporating each new passive as you come to it and setting a pin and giving the weaver a twist at each turn. When you have reached the widest point you then start eliminating passives with each pass as you work back down to a point. As the passives leave the completed cloth stitch give them each one twist.



Go back to the "ground" areas and fill them in as before with CTpinCT until you are ready to work the next cloth stitch area.
When you have laced your way down to the bottom edge, tie each of the two pairs together at the corresponding pin with a square knot and trim all threads to form a fringe. This is called "knotting off"

We have started with the very basics of Torchon Lace, just one of the many forms of bobbin lace that exist. I highly recommend The Torchon Lace Workbook by Bridget M. Cook for any beginning lacemaker. Amazingly it is still available on Amazon.

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