

LACE MAKING

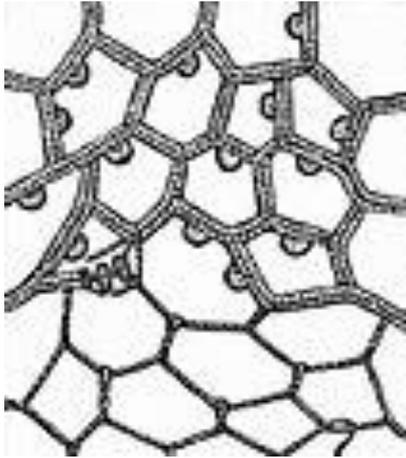
Lace is a delicate fabric made of yarn or thread in an open weblike pattern, made by machine or by hand.

Originally linen, silk, gold, or silver threads were used. Now lace is often made with cotton thread, although linen and silk threads are still available. Manufactured lace may be made of synthetic fiber. A few modern artists make lace with a fine copper or silver wire instead of thread.



TYPES

1. **[Bobbin lace](#)**, as the name suggests, is made with bobbins and a [pillow](#). The bobbins, turned from wood, bone, or plastic, hold threads which are woven together and held in place with pins stuck in the pattern on the pillow. The pillow contains straw, preferably [oat straw](#) or other materials such as sawdust, insulation styrofoam, or ethafoam. Also known as bone-lace. [Chantilly lace](#) is a type of bobbin lace.
 2. **[Chemical lace](#)**: the stitching area is stitched with embroidery threads that form a continuous motif. Afterwards, the stitching areas are removed and only the embroidery remains. The stitching ground is made of a water-soluble or non-heat-resistant material.
 3. **[Crocheted lace](#)** includes [Irish crochet](#), pineapple crochet, and [filet crochet](#).
[Cutwork](#), or [whitework](#), is lace constructed by removing threads from a woven background, and the remaining threads wrapped or filled with [embroidery](#).
 4. **[Knitted lace](#)** includes [Shetland lace](#), such as the "wedding ring shawl", a lace shawl so fine that it can be pulled through a wedding ring.^[2]
- Knotted lace** includes [macramé](#) and [tattling](#). Tatted lace is made with a shuttle or a tattling needle.
5. **[Machine-made](#)** lace is any style of lace created or replicated using mechanical means.
 6. **[Needle lace](#)**, such as [Venetian Gros Point](#), is made using a needle and [thread](#). This is the most flexible of the lace-making arts. While some types can be made more quickly than the finest of bobbin laces, others are very time-consuming. Some purists regard needle lace as the height of lace-making. The finest antique needle laces were made from a very fine thread that is not manufactured today.
 7. **[Tape lace](#)** makes the tape in the lace [as it is worked](#), or uses a machine- or hand-made textile strip formed into a design, then [joined](#) and embellished with needle or bobbin lace.



Needle lace, showing button hole stitch



Bobbin lace made on a pillow with bobbins and pins



Broderie anglaise, a type of cutwork



Filet lace, embroidered on an existing net



Lace knitting

History -

The origin of lace is disputed by historians. An Italian claim is a will of 1493 by the Milanese [Sforza](#) family. A Flemish claim is lace on the alb of a worshipping priest in a painting about 1485 by [Hans Memling](#). But since lace evolved from other techniques, it is impossible to say that it originated in any one place.

The late 16th century marked the rapid development of lace, both needle lace and bobbin lace became dominant in both fashion as well as home décor. For enhancing the beauty of collars and cuffs, needle lace was embroidered with loops and picots.

Lace was used by clergy of the early Catholic Church as part of vestments in religious ceremonies but did not come into widespread use until the 16th century in the northwestern part of the European continent. The popularity of lace increased rapidly and the cottage industry of lace making spread throughout Europe. In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria was married in lace, influencing the wedding dress style until now. In North America in the 19th century, [missionaries](#) spread the knowledge of lace making to the [Native American](#) tribes. St. [John Francis Regis](#) guided many women out of prostitution by establishing them in the lace making and [embroidery](#) trade, which is why he became the [Patron Saint](#) of lace making.

The English diarist [Samuel Pepys](#) often wrote about the lace used for his, his wife's, and his acquaintances' clothing, and on 10 May 1669, noted that he intended to remove the gold lace from the sleeves of his coat "as it is fit [he] should", possibly in order to avoid charges of ostentatious living.

[Catherine of Aragon](#) while exiled in Ampthill, England, was said to have supported the lace makers there by burning all her lace, and commissioning new pieces. This may be the origin of the lacemaker's holiday - Cattern's day. On this day (25 or 26 November) lacemakers were given a day off from work, and Cattern cakes - small dough cakes made with [caraway seeds](#), were used to celebrate.