

Bobbin Lace for Beginners!

Make A Lace Bookmark with Colour Threads

The worker pair on the left side and the pair beside it is worked first. There are 5 pairs of threads to work through, in order for the worker pair to reach the other end of the row. Worker bobbins share 2 metres of thread. Passive pairs each share 1 metre of thread.

1 2 3 4 The bobbins are always numbered from left to right.

X

Take bobbin number 2 and Cross it to the right, over number 3.

1 2 3 4 The bobbins are again numbered from left to right.

/ /

Take 2 and 4 and move them to the left, over 1 and 3 at the same time. (This is called a Twist (2 over 1 + 4 over 3))

1 2 3 4 Cross #2 to the right over #3. (Same as the first step).

X

Cross, Twist, Cross to make one cloth stitch, CTC. Rule: “even# over odd#”. Continue with the worker pair to the right end of the row. CTC the worker with each of the 5 pairs in turn. Gently tension all the threads.

At the end of each row, the 2 worker threads are twisted together twice (right over left, right over left). Place a pin in the hole under the threads. The twisted 2 threads go around under the pin and then are ready to continue the next row (CTC) to the other end.

Note: For the second row, the worker pair is now on the right side of each passive pair with the same instructions: (Cross 2 over 3), then (Twist 2 over 1 + 4 over 3). Then (Cross 2 over 3) to complete the cloth stitch. The working order (CTC) is always the same.

You can continue cloth stitch to the desired length or make a sampler with two other common stitches: Double Stitch and Half Stitch.

Next: Cloth Stitch and Twist or Double Stitch: CTCT “Cross, Twist, Cross, Twist” the worker with each passive pair. Tension. Do several rows.

1 2 3 4 Take bobbin #2 and Cross it to the right, over #3.
X

1 2 3 4 Take #2 & #4 & Twist them over 1 and 3 at the same time.
/ /

1 2 3 4 Cross #2 to the right over #3. (Same as the first step).
X

1 2 3 4 Take #2 & #4 & Twist them over 1 and 3 at the same time.
/ /

Next: Half Stitch: CT the worker pair with each passive pair in turn. Note: The pairs will be separated. End each row with a second twist, pin and continue CT the one lead worker & new partner with each new passive “pair” in turn. This stitch makes a diagonal pattern. After a number of rows, the worker pair and the passive pairs will all have their partner threads back together! With 6 pairs it happens after 11 pins are placed.

1 2 3 4 Take bobbin #2 and Cross it to the right, over #3.
X

1 2 3 4 Take #2 & #4 & Twist them over 1 and 3 at the same time.
/ / Move each new “pair” over to the left...



CTC CTCT CT...CT... CTC Tassel

After the half stitch rows, the bookmark will need some cloth stitch rows to make it complete. Continue the rows until the work has reached the desired length.

Ending: Lengthen the threads and cut off the bobbins. Make an overhand knot, or weave one worker to the other side and tie the workers together after wrapping around the other threads. Remove the pins. Enjoy your bookmark!