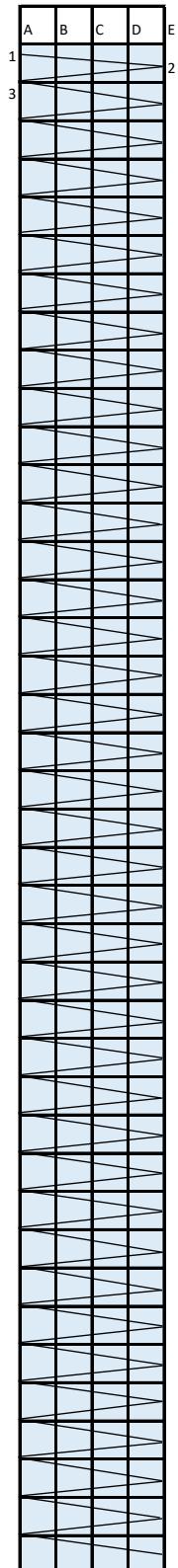


A Bobbin Lace Bookmark



Here is an easy bookmark pattern created using Excel. Or use graph paper. The width is 4 columns, the length is 8 inches. Print the left version on blue paper. Cut and glue the pattern onto card weight, such as a piece from a file folder. Cover with a thin non-glare self adhesive plastic. Wrap around to the back along the length, cut extra plastic off to trim short ends.

Use a pin or needle to make the holes at the ends of each line. The ends of the zigzag design along the left side are marked at the grid lines. The right side points are marked half way between the grid lines on graph paper. Place your bookmark close to the top of your pillow and pin at all 4 corners. Push the four pins down, making sure the pins are short enough to avoid going to the back of your pillow, especially if using 1" thick craft foam for a base.

At the top of the bookmark place 5 pins, one at A, B, C, D, and E and hang the passive pairs, with one pair at each pin. Next, the worker pair goes on the left at Number 1, just below the first passive pair. Bobbins are quite inexpensive. You will need 12 or 24 bobbins for most patterns.

Winding threads: First tie on the thread, or hold the end of the thread on the bobbin. Looking at the top, wind the thread clockwise onto the bobbin. Turn the bobbin instead of the thread to get better tension.

Wind the thread clockwise onto the pairs, half the thread goes on each bobbin. To make a hitch, place your index finger under the thread from the back to the front. Insert the top end of your bobbin from the left, under the thread and tighten.

Following the same instructions, wind the thread around the second bobbin. When working, hold the bobbin sideways, and turn to lengthen the thread. To shorten, pinch the thread and turn the bobbin to rewind the thread.

The thread length for the passive pairs will be a metre+, shared between 2 bobbins. Thread length for the worker pair is double the passive pairs, two+ metres shared. Note: For thinner thread, reduce the pattern size by around 80%. Adjust if needed. For thicker thread, increase the size of the pattern by 120% or as needed. Threads should be touching but not overlap. Try DMC #8 pearl cotton in colours.

Next, try other bookmarks. YouTube videos are great for learning technique. Check the Gazette website under Free Resources for the "Bobbin Lace for Beginners" lesson plan.

Welcome to bobbin lacemaking!

Jocelyn Froese, July 2025

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