

## Needlelace Owl Workshop by Janice Blair

### Supplies:

Piece of plain cotton fabric approx. 10" square , not white  
Pattern outline printed on paper  
Piece of clear Contac paper to cover pattern  
DMC 80 tatting thread or Gutterman 100/3 silk for stitches (available at JoAnns)  
DMC 12 in color similar to your top color or in white for Cordonnet  
2 Size 8 beads for eyes, metallic thread for decoration.  
Sewing cotton (light color, not red)  
for stitching cordonnet down  
Needles – 26 and 20 Tapestry,  
1 pointed sewing needle

Prepare for workshop by folding fabric in half and finish unfolded sides to prevent fraying. Fold in half again. Cut out the pattern and stick down to the fabric using a larger piece of Contac paper than the pattern. Baste around the edge through all layers using pointed sewing needle to help secure the sticky back plastic. See photo of work in progress.

**To Do the cordonnet:** Using double length of DMC 12, enough to do the whole outline, start to stitch down on the pattern with the sewing needle and sewing thread by looping the DMC and catching the loop with first stitch. Couch down the DMC cordonnet using a stab stitch along the dots about 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch apart, over the DMC, and through the whole pad. This is the only time you will be going through the plastic and fabric. Keep the Cordonnet threads taut. This time I have done the pattern with dots rather than a solid line. You can use the dots to gauge the distance for your stitches. Come up through the back of the fabric and back down the same hole after taking the sewing thread over both Cordonnet threads. I suggest you start on the body near the ear with the first loop. Couch down over the cordonnet until you reach the bottom of the first wing. Now take one piece of the cordonnet in your larger tapestry needle and pass it through the Cordonnet stitch at the top of the wing, tying it into the outline. With your sewing needle, come up about half way up the inner wing line and baste both Cordonnet threads down. Then, take your sewing needle up the back of the fabric to the top of the wing and couch both threads down, couching back to the bottom following the dots. Couch around until you reach the top of the other wing and repeat in the opposite direction for that wing. Now couch around the head and ears, tying it into the top of where you started on the other side, and before you finish the last side of the head, take one cordonnet thread up and into the two threads where you started the head, fold it back down so now you have three threads to couch over. Cut the ends short. The eyes are done separately as circles, going around with your cordonnet thread twice and stitching down to the pattern. All the cordonnet threads should be attached to each other, except the eyes and they will become attached when you do the needlelace stitches. Now you are ready to start the fun stitches. Samples of stitches will be provided at the workshop but do bring any needlelace books you may have as the choice of stitches is up to you. I used some thin metallic thread for the eyes and embellishment. You could add smaller beads if desired. I have added a pin back to the finished owl and added wire to the final cordonnette. The owl is about 1 3/4 inches tall, but you can make him whatever size you desire, but your couching stitches should still be about 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch apart.

### Suggested books and websites:

[An Introduction to Needlelace](#) - The Lace Guild ISBN 1 901372 09 X

[Starting Needlepoint Lace](#) - Valerie Grimwood ISBN 0 71345807 0

[Needle Lace Techniques & Inspirations](#) - Jill Nordfors Clark ISBN 0 965824853

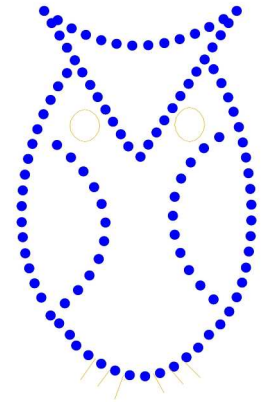
[Needlelace](#) - Pat Earnshaw ISBN 1-85391-158-5

Diagrams from the -

[Complete Encyclopedia Of Needlework](#) Anniversary Edition by Jean Leinhauser, Rita Weiss, Therese de Dillmont Sep 8, 2002 Paperback US ISBN: 9780762413188 or online at [http://encyclopediaofneedlework.com/chapter\\_13.html](http://encyclopediaofneedlework.com/chapter_13.html) under Irish Laces .

Aurelia Loveman <http://www.blogster.com/aurelove/> Simple pattern to follow on her Blog

Lorelei Halley <http://lynxlace.com/learning%20needlelace.html> Lists books and websites



Couching directions

