

MILANESE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Workshop by Susan Raymond

November, 2006 Prepared for L.A.C.E. Guild Presentation

Supplies Needed:

Medium/Small Lace Cookie Pillow
Pins (1 ¼ inch brass with small heads recommended)
(Pins will remain in pattern and pushed down as lace is made)
16 pairs Square Bobbins
Thread (Egyptisch Cotton 52/2) any color
(or)
Experiment with colored threads, silk etc, enlarging the pattern as needed
Tiny Crochet hook size 14 or smaller
(or any favored tool for sewings)
Any other preferred supplies

To Start:

Finished 100% pricking size should be: 3 inches long by 2 inches wide Wind Bobbins with one yard each bobbin, two yards continuous per pair. Hang 6 pairs rainbow style over pin inserted at top of pattern. Twist bobbin pairs twice each, going from left to right. Take second pair to left (#2) and cloth stitch through second to right pair (#5). Twist worker pair twice, work edge stitch with far right hand pair (#6) and pin under the two pairs. Return pair #6 to left using cloth stitch up to far left pair, twist workers twice, edge stitch and pin under the two pairs. Tension carefully. Add new pairs one at a time every other row until there are 14 pairs on the pillow. Blind pin or backstitch at the circled pinholes.

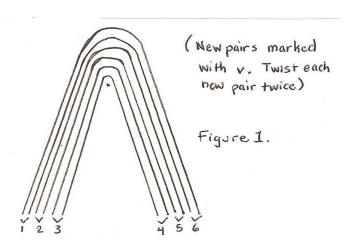
Continue working cloth stitch up to last inside pin on right, cloth stitch one more row to the left. Twist worker twice, edge stitch and pin.

(Variation: consult with your favorite Milanese braid lace reference book to add some design to the straight portions of the lace, add bobbin pairs as needed to make the specific braid you choose).

You are now ready to work the scroll turn.

De-Mystifying the Scroll Turn:

The "Scroll Turn" is nothing more than a neat and beautiful way to turn around a corner while making Milanese lace. The technique, seemingly difficult, is quite easy, and once mastered will be a preferred and simple way to turn whenever possible while working Milanese lace. Multiple colors can be used, but one solid color is easiest to work with in this turn.



Working the Scroll Turn

NOTE: 2 pairs of bobbins at the outside edge of the lace, just inside the workers serve as "passive" pairs. They never change position while working the turn. These pairs, in some particular patterns, such as the one in this program, will need the help of a support pin as the work is turned in order to keep their position at the outer edge of the lace. Keep this in mind while working the turn.

You should currently have a new edge stitch made to the outside of your work (so your worker pair is on the left), and the last pinhole on the right has been used (the 21st pinhole on the right hand side of the braid) and the worker woven back to the left hand side of the braid. Working left to right, take this working pair (twist twice if you have not done so already) and cloth stitch through the two passive pairs. Stop. The next pair immediately to the right of the workers you just used becomes the new working pair. The old worker pair now becomes a passive pair.

Place a large head pin to the right of this pair as a marking pin. This marking pin now separates your work; 5 pairs to the left and 9 pairs to the right. Take this new working pair immediately to the left of your marking pin (do not twist) and cloth stitch through 3 pairs on left. Make 2 twists with the working pair, edge stitch and pin. Take your new working pair from the edge stitch, twist twice (if not already done so) and cloth stitch through the 2 gimp pairs and stop!

Use the bobbin pair immediately to the right of the marking pin as your new workers (do not twist). Take this new working pair and cloth stitch through 4 pairs on left. Make 2 twists with the working pair, edge stitch and pin. Take your new working pair from the edge stitch, twist twice and cloth stitch through the two passive pairs and stop! One of our L.A.C.E. members suggested using the phrase: "Work through and back two!"

Continue on in this way, using the next bobbin pair immediately to the right (or inside) of the marking pin as your new weavers, cloth stitch to the outside edge stitch, twist twice, pin, edgestitch, twist the new weaver and cloth stitch through the two gimp pairs and stop. Continue (you will have to turn your pillow and push your pins all the way in as you go around the turn) until you are out of bobbins on your right, or the inside of the braid.

NOTE: If you have not finished the turn on the outside by the time you use up all the pairs on the inside of your work, use the passive pair furthest to the inside of your work as your new workers (this can be done without any problems for a few rows). Continue working in this way until you have gone around the entire turn and are ready to continue your braid.

Continuing Past the Scroll Turn

Sewings: In this pattern you can see that you will have to make sewings.

Each time the weavers meet the point at which the two braids touch: remove the pin from the first braid and sew the weaver pair from the new braid into the pinhole thus:

Twist the weaver pair twice, take the right hand weaver bobbin and place up and right of your work, take the left hand lower bobbin thread of the pair and pull it through the loop with a crochet hook at the pinhole. Pass the right hand bobbin through the loop just made. Tighten the loop. Replace the pin. Twist worker twice. Work to outside edge.

NOTE: (If you wish, you may decrease the number of bobbin pairs to 13 after you have worked a few more rows. This will help make the lace look evenly dense or add/subtract pairs to accommodate the braid style you wish to use in the middle braid.

Continuing Braid with Two Footings

Once you have reached the point where the new footing begins on the right hand side, you will need to add a new continuous pair to the last shared pinhole by sewing it in (you will still need to do a sewing with the returning worker pair). Twist each pair twice and return the worker pair to the left. The right hand side of the braid will soon become the new "outside" of the work. Continue your work with two footings until you come to the last pin on the new "inside" of your work.

Make a scroll turn as previously directed, but now your permanent passives will be to the right of the braid (the new outside), and you will be using passive pairs from the left of the marking pin as your new workers. Don't forget to use support pins to keep your gimp pairs in line toward the outside point of your braid.

Finishing the Pattern

As you reach the end of the pattern, the braid narrows, so you will have to "throw out" pairs one pair at a time every other row until you have about 9 pairs of bobbins left at the last pinhole. Tie a large knot at the bottom of the design and cut the tail of threads to desired length. The



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