

Design Resource

Lace Craft - Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu

Handmade Lace

by

Prof. Bibhudutta Baral and Guna D.

NID Campus, Bengaluru

Source:

<http://www.dsource.in/resource/lace-craft-kanyakumari-tamilnadu>



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Introduction

A delicate fabric made out of thread in an open web like pattern by machine or hand is called Lace. 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.

Handmade lace comes in several kinds, which are all made in very different ways, using very different tools. Developing enough skill to make really complicated pieces takes a considerable effort and time. Since modern lace makers are hobbyists, doing it for their own pleasure, many of us learn several forms of lace making, so that we can understand their possibilities and limitations. Some forms everybody knows about, and some are very rare. They can be grouped by their tools.

• Single Thread Techniques:

Knitting - usually made on two long needles, but one long flexible needle with points on both ends can also be used. This method is used for making large flat objects. One can also use a set of 4 or 5 needles. This method is used for working in rounds to make round, hexagonal flat objects or for making tubular items like socks. Both hands are used to hold the needles and the work, and one hand moves the thread around the active needle. Knitting can be solid for a sweater, or made with holes and lacey. A stitch called a yarn over is what makes the holes. It can be made moderately coarse for sweaters or super fine for lace tablecloths or veils.

Crochet and Irish crochet (crochet hooks) made with a steel hook about 6 inches long. Plastic and wooden hooks can be used for large scale work. The thread is wrapped around one hand to get control of the tension on the thread, while the hook in the other hand makes the stitches. Crochet in general is a very useful technique for making clothing and objects for the home, like blankets and Afghans. Worked semi-fine it can make lacey clothing, collars or decorative mats.

Irish crochet is a particular style of crochet invented during the 19th century to imitate Duchesse or Honiton bobbin lace, or various needle laces. It is distinguished from the more common crochet by having raised and layered parts. The motifs are worked densely in shapes to imitate plant forms like petals and leaves, and some parts are worked over a thick padding cord to give a raised or relief effect. The grounding is usually chain stitch with picots, to imitate bobbin lace braids or needle lace buttonholed bars.

Tatting (shuttle or tatting needles) Tatted lace always has little bumpy rings, but may also have long arches (bars) or oval leaves (center row of blue lace). It is made with an oval shuttle with one pointy end. The work is held in the hands with the thread wrapped around one hand as you work. The shuttle in the other hand is moved over and under these wrapped threads to make the knots. At the present time there is a lot of interest in needle tatting, where the stitches are formed onto a needle, instead of using a shuttle.

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• Multiple Thread Techniques:

Bobbin lace- also called pillow lace: a multiple thread weaving technique which can produce a wide variety of weaves, meshes, bars, and leaves. The working base is called a pillow but is actually packed quite hard. It is really a gigantic pincushion.

Historic and antique bobbin lace was made to embellish clothing, and sometimes to decorate household linens. Modern lace makers sometimes use the old designs and make reproductions. But some are also designing new work with very modern designs.

• Laces Made with a Needle:

True Needle Lace - Needle lace is basically derived from embroidery and the only essential tools are needles, thread, a pattern and temporary backing materials. In true needle lace no manufactured parts, or parts made by some other method, are permanently incorporated into the work. It can be worked in the hand, if the pieces are small, or attached to a pillow so both hands can guide the thread. It consists of thousands and thousands of buttonhole stitches, of which there are a great variety.

The basic scaffold is a pair of outline threads onto which all the lace threads are attached. The working setup consists of 2 or more layers of cloth, with the paper pattern on top.

Puncetto - Knotted buttonhole stitches, made with only a needle and thread, no backing needed, with careful tension control. Designs are always geometric.

Knotted Mediterranean Lace - Knotted buttonhole stitches made only with a needle and thread. Can be made directly onto cloth as an edging, or in rounds for circular laces, or as little flowers made into an edging, or to stand alone. Designs may be round mats or floral designs.

• **Embroidered laces made on a handmade skeleton** or substrate, requires a frame or a template of plastic, wood or cardboard.

Filet Lace - Filet lace is worked on a knotted square mesh, formerly handmade. Once the net is made, it usually uses a square wire or wooden slat frame to hold the work for the embroidery. Traditionally the artisan would start by making their own square knotted mesh, and would then embroider it with cloth stitch or darning stitch, with some other decorative stitches. Most filet is worked on a square mesh, but it is also possible to create the mesh by working rounds.

Sol Laces - Sol laces are worked on a thread base laid down in the form of spokes of a wheel. The spoke base can use ordinary woven fabric as a temporary backing, or can use a small wooden, plastic or cardboard form as a base. Then darning stitch, coral knot and festoon stitch (a loose buttonhole stitch) decorate the spokes and bind them into patterns. Large pieces are made up of multiple round shapes stitched together, but squares and hexagons are also possible. Nanduti, in particular, also uses small irregular shapes to fill in the gaps between the larger round medallions.

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• Embroidered Laces:

Laces made on a machine made fabric, either hexagonal mesh or woven cloth. Embroideries in which holes and transparency play an important part in the design. These all use tools typical of embroidery: needles and a frame (round hoop, square, or rectangular).

Tulle Embroidery - Embroidery on hexagonal net. This form is worked on machine made net and first appeared in the world when large pieces of clear machine net became available, during the 1820s and 1830s.

There are 2 varieties of embroidered net. One is called needlerun, complex darning patterns' Limerick is another name for it. The second type is called tambour and consists of chain stitches, which can be made with a needle or a tambour hook. This type is also called Lierse lace or Coggeshall.

• Embroideries on Woven Fabric:

These also use the tools typical of embroidery: hoop or frame, needles, fabric and thread.

Pulled Thread Embroidery - Pulled thread work does not remove any fabric threads, but just pulls them together into clumps, leaving a pattern of holes in the cloth.

Drawn Thread Work - This kind removes some fabric threads in a regular pattern, usually leaving a very loose web in place. Threads can be withdrawn in only one direction, or in two.

Hardanger Embroidery - Designs are geometric, based on square holes where fabric threads are cut out. The Hardanger style was originally Norwegian, but has become popular in many places in the world. Greece and the Ukraine have their own version of geometric cutwork embroidery. The original was the Italian reticello embroidery.

Buratto - Uses all the filling stitches and decorative stitches of filet laces, but it is worked on a very loosely woven cloth with large gaps between the threads. So it looks like filet laces from a distance.



Socio Economic Development Association at Ettani Karungal.

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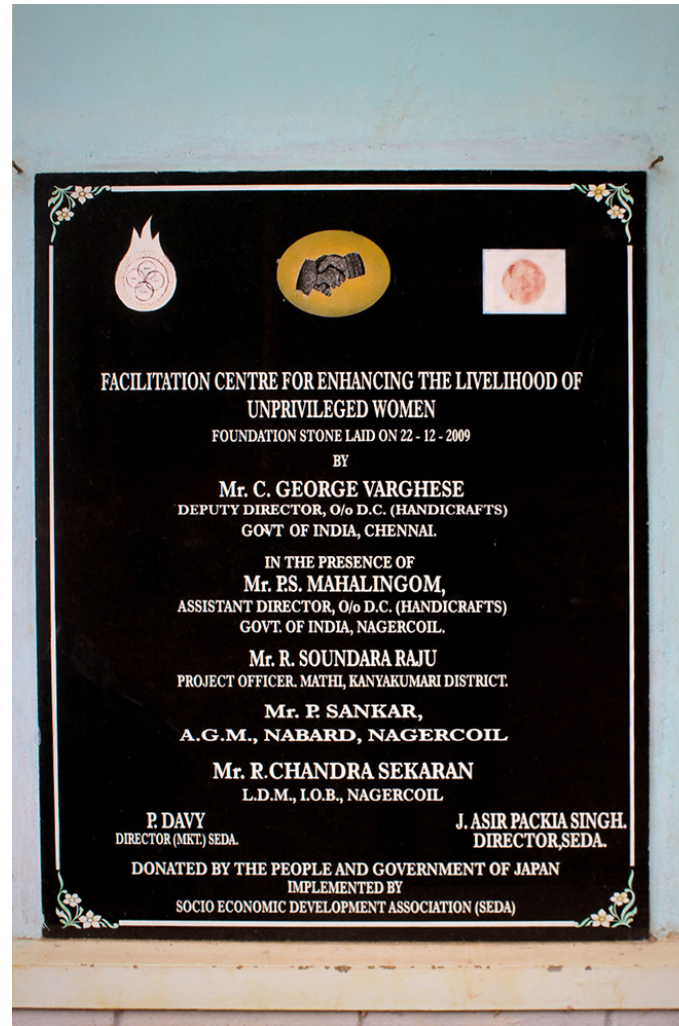
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Opening ceremony board at in Socio Economic Development Association.



Memorable contributions to the craftsman's work.



Artisan is receiving a memento from Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

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The Artisan is proudly showing the medal and award letter from the Chief Minister.



Lace craft Society Chairperson Ms.Pushpa Rani.



The Lace craft Artisan gives a group poses for photos.

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Tools and Raw Materials

The following are the tools and raw materials used for Lace Craft:

- **Scissors:** It is used to cut thread if its excess while stitching
- **Thread:** Basic material in which the article is done.
- **Pillow:** It is used as a support board on which the work is made.
- **Cardboard:** It is used as stencil for making of lace.
- **Pins:** Head pins are used in weaving the lace.
- **Pricker:** It is used to prick holes on the cardboard.
- **Bobbins:** Thread is woven around these which is later used in weaving lace.
- **Wooden Bobbin Winder:** It is used to wind thread to bobbins.



Bobbin, a type of string wrapped around the thread.

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The machine used around the thread for Bobbin.



The artisan was filled a paper pin in the battle.



A tool used to hold the cardboard used for the Artisan Lace Designs.

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The piercing device used to remove artificial lace design mold.



Five types of lace craft materials.



Artisan uses the white color threads for Laos Designs.



Cloth used to lace embroidery, attached to boarder.

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Making Process

Lace Making Process:

Bobbin lace is a lace textile made by braiding and twisting lengths of thread, which are wound on bobbins to manage them. As the work progresses, the weaving is held in place with pins set in a lace pillow, the placement of the pins usually determined by a pattern or pricking pinned on the pillow. Bobbin lace is also known as pillow lace, because it was worked on a pillow, and bone lace, because early bobbins were made of bone or ivory.

Bobbin lace is one of the two major categories of handmade laces, the other being needlelace, derived from earlier cutwork and reticella.

Bobbin lace evolved from passementerie or braid-making in 16th-century Italy. Genoa was famous for its braids, bobbin lace developed in this city. It traveled along with the Spanish troops through Europe. Coarse passements of gold and silver-wrapped threads or colored silks gradually became finer, and later bleached linen yarn was used to make both braids and edgings.

The making of bobbin lace was easier to learn than the elaborate cutwork of the 16th century, and the tools and materials for making linen bobbin lace were inexpensive. There was a ready market for bobbin lace of all qualities, and women throughout Europe soon took up the craft which earned a better income than spinning, sewing, weaving or other home-based textile arts. Bobbin lace-making was established in charity schools, almshouses, and convents.

In the 17th century, the textile centers of Flanders and Normandy eclipsed Italy as the premiere sources for fine bobbin lace, but until the coming of mechanization hand-lacemaking continued to be practiced throughout Europe, suffering only in those periods of simplicity when lace itself fell out of fashion.

Bobbin lace may be made with coarse or fine threads. Traditionally it was made with linen, silk, wool, or, later, cotton threads, or with precious metals. Today it is made with a variety of natural and synthetic fibers and with wire and other filaments.

There are many types of bobbins. Some of them are:

- Cat tails
- Danish bobbins
- Spangled bobbins
- Hooded bobbins
- Cogne
- Winding schemes with a single hitch

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Types of Pillow:

The pillows must be firm, or otherwise the pins will wobble. The pillows were traditionally stuffed with straw, but nowadays polystyrene (Styrofoam) is generally used.

The bolster or cylindrical pillow was much cheaper to make as it is just a fabric bag stuffed with straw. It was used in Bedfordshire lace. It needs a stand as it does not have a flat bottom. Usually the bolster had the pattern pinned round the cylinder, so by turning the pillow, the lace could be as long as was needed.

This problem (of the lace needing to be longer than the pillow) is solved in a different way by the roller pillow, which has a small roller, for working the lace, set into a larger area, where the bobbins are laid. This means that the pattern can be pinned round the roller, but the pillow has a flat bottom.

The cheapest modern pillow is domed and made of polystyrene (Styrofoam). It is often called a cookie pillow, because of its shape. Another modern pillow is a block pillow, with a frame which holds covered polystyrene blocks. The blocks can be moved around as the lace progresses, to keep the lace being worked on at the centre of the pillow.

- Cogne pillows
- Victorian domed pillow
- Modern domed pillow or 'cookie pillow'
- Maltese bolster
- Roller pillow
- Block pillow

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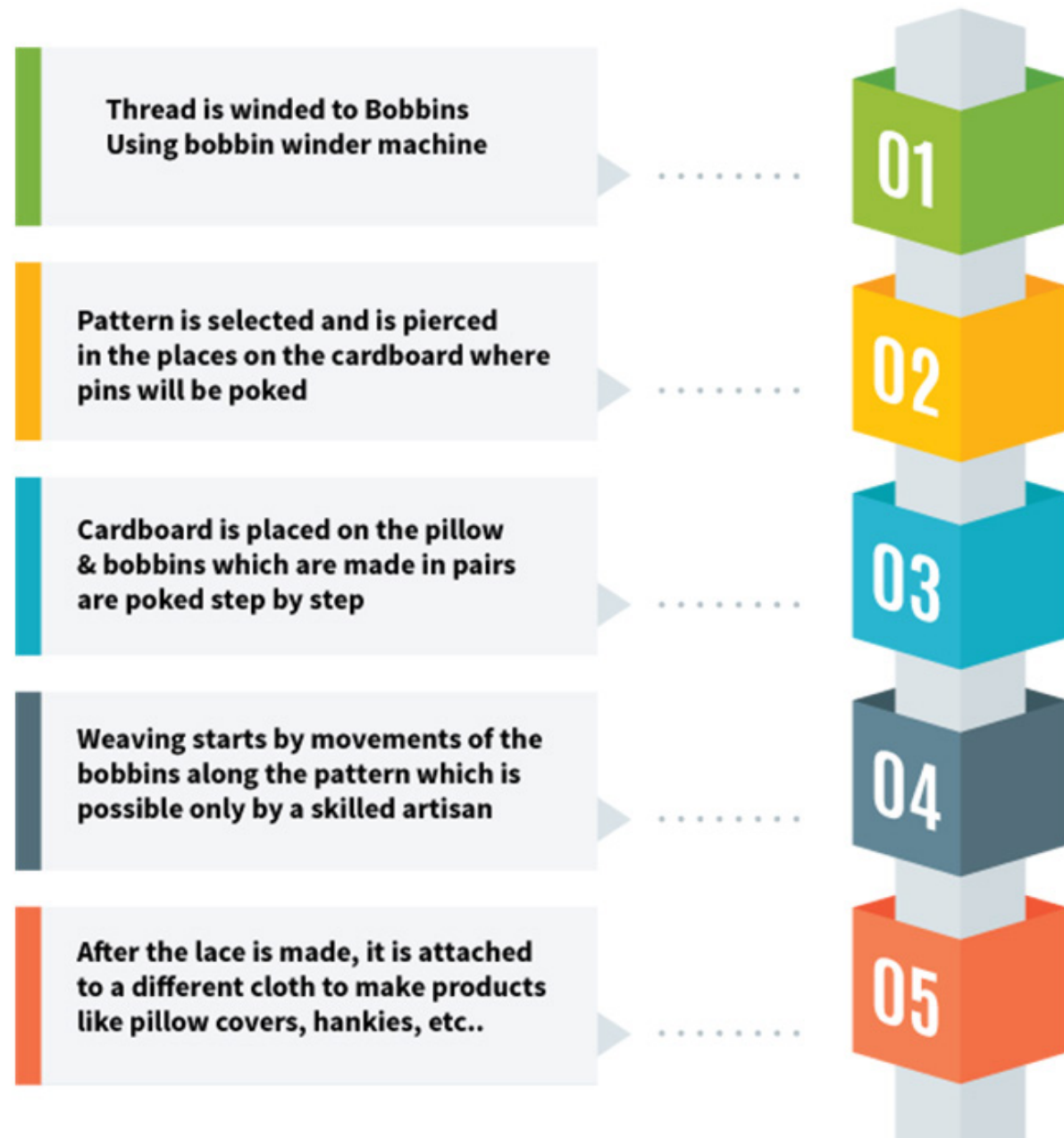
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Flow Chart:

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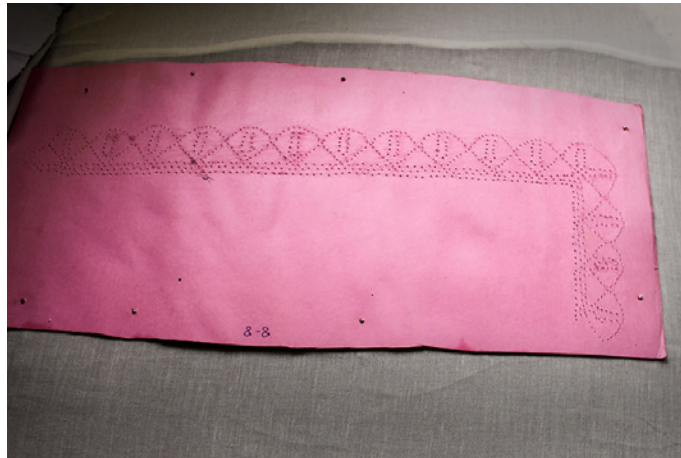
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The craftsman also copies the Xerox sheet with a sharp pen.



A lace design hole is made to make a lace on the pink color cardboard.

Rotating the thread to Bobbin with the help of Charaka machine, second photo cutting another string of wrapping around Bobbin.

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The smiley face artisan thread is wrapped around two wooden sticks, In another, wrapping the white cloth to the knee and wrapping the thread to bobbin.



The craftsman combines two Bobbin threads.



The Artisan was doing the Bobbin Lace Design has begun step by step from one to fourth photos.

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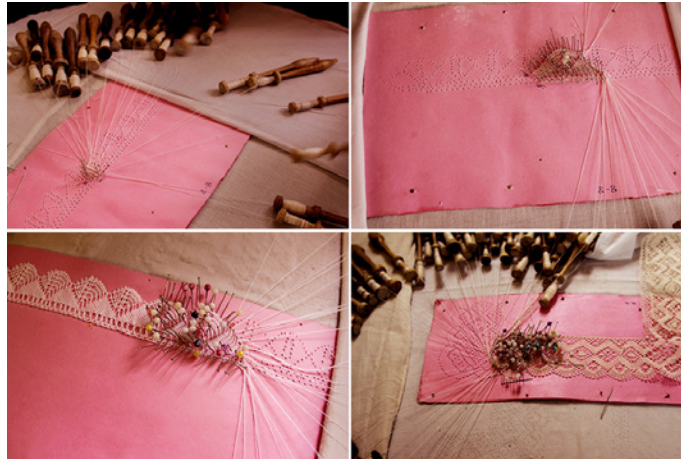
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Designed for Bobbin lace, Embroidery At completed one for fourth photos about to 80 percent.



The Artisan doing the end process of lace Designing.



The Artisan Doing the finished Bobbin lace Design is a stitching on the edge of a white cloth.

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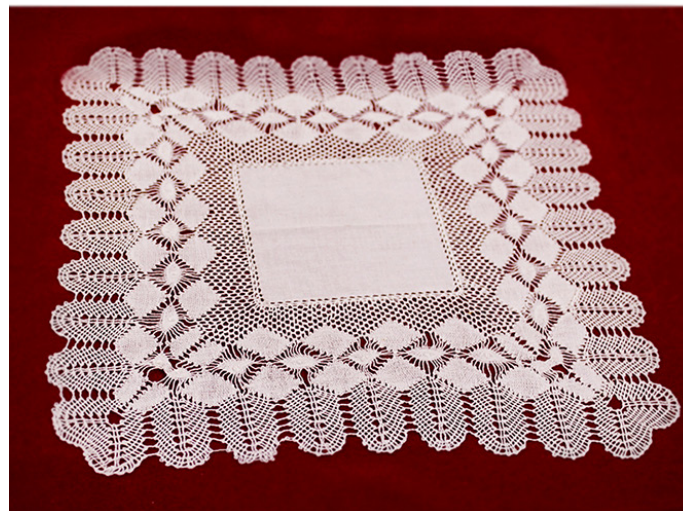
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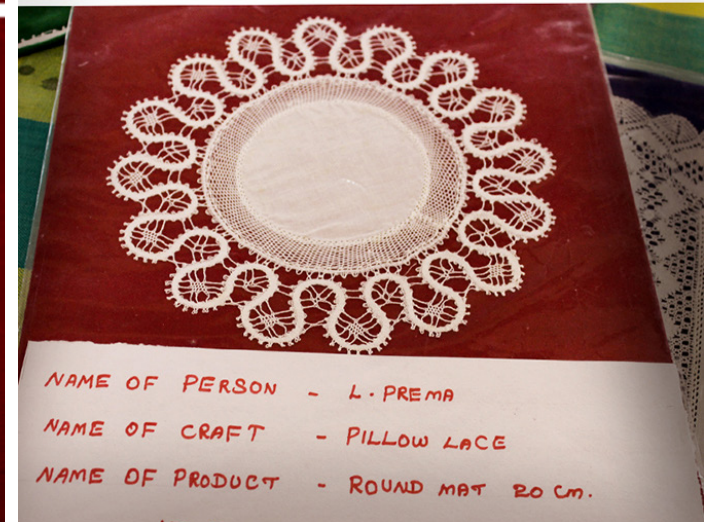
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Products

Priced from 250 INR to 5000 INR based on the intricacy of the work and time take for completion. Lace craft is done on a wide variety of products such as cushions, pillow covers, handkerchiefs, bags, headbands, jewelry boxes, table mats etc.



Square-shaped pillow lace Design work.



Artisan finished Round shaped pillow lace Design work.

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This lace Work using on the frock or other Dresses.



Artisan using the two colored lace have used to round Shape Box Border.

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Using a lace embroidery is made to the frock.

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Contact Details

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You could write to the following address regarding suggestions and clarifications:

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