

# **Limerick Lace Starter Kit**

## **Instructions Booklet**



By

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## Materials & Equipment.

- Cordonnet thick thread - DMC 50 / Anchor thread 40 / YLI Silk/ Presencia.
- Thin thread - Gutermann C Ne 50 Cotton.
- Needles - Milliner needles or John Inn's big eye blunt tipped needles.
- Cotton Tulle or Silk Tulle (net fabric).
- Embroidery Hoop.
- Bias binding.
- Small scissors.



## Getting Started.

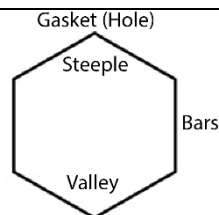
### Covering the hoop.

In order to protect your net, it is important to cover your hoop, either make or buy bias tape about 2" wide to cover BOTH sides of the hoop. The using of bias tape makes it easier to stitch round the curve of the hoop. This protects the net from splinters and gives you a place to rest your needle. Fold your bias tape over the hoop and stitch on with tiny stitches the whole way around the hoop.



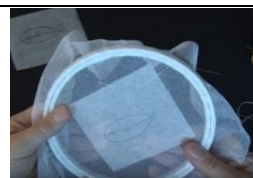
### Placing the net fabric in the hoop.

Now that your hoop is covered, look closely at your fabric, stretch it in different directions and you will see that there are hexagons with side bars, steeples and valleys (see diagram). Your aim is to have the bars straight and steeples pointing towards the top. The top is indicated by the tightening screw. Once you have your net straight and in the correct direction, tighten the screw and pull the fabric taut, but do not pull so tight to create ridges.



### Pinning the pattern to the back of the fabric.

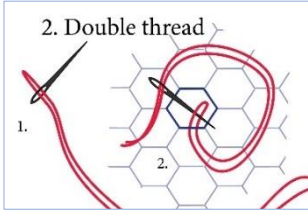
Pin or tack your pattern to the back of the net, so you can see your design through the net. Be careful not to pin or tack over any part of your pattern, this is to ensure the work will not be damaged when you remove the paper at a later stage.



## Threading the needle.

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Much has been said about the mysteries of threading the needle in Limerick Lace, when in fact it is an easy and practical method. See diagrams: **1.**



Known as the

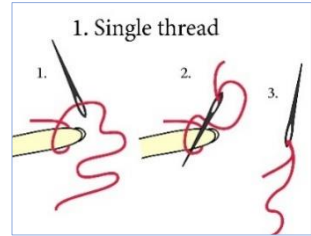
“Governesses’

Trick” this secures a single thread on the needle with a small knot which prevents

the needle dropping off and also allows you to let the thread unwind as you work. **2.**

When threading a double thread use this method. It gives a very neat beginning to your work.

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## Limerick Lace Outlining Methods.

Outlining is the main line of your design, i.e., butterfly, flower, leaf or whatever motifs your design incorporates.

**1. Needlerun** - A simple method of running your needle around the pattern outlines with Cordonnet (thick) thread.

Pick your starting point, put your needle under the bar, bring your needle through, leaving a 3” tail and make a tiny knot. Go under and over each bar following the pattern outline. This can be done in single thread or double thread. When you have the outline completed pass the needle through the gasket to the back of your work and make a small knot. Leave a long tail to be worked in on the back with new stitches so that you hide all thread ends neatly.

(Tip: Look at your pattern closely to find the longest run each time. You’ll have less stopping and starting).

**2. Couching** - A method of stitching thick thread along the outline of your pattern with thinner thread. Pick your starting point and lay Cordonnet thread carefully along the pattern outline on the net. Make a knot with your thin thread as before (see Needlerun above). Coming from the back of the net at your starting point and leaving a tail of 3”, anchor the Cordonnet thread with your first stitch by stitching into it with your working thread and then continue making very tiny whipping stitches with the working thread, sewing the thick thread on to the pattern outline as you go. End with a small knot.

(Tip: Always make sure you end early before you run out of thread.)

Couching can be a quicker outlining method than Needlerun.

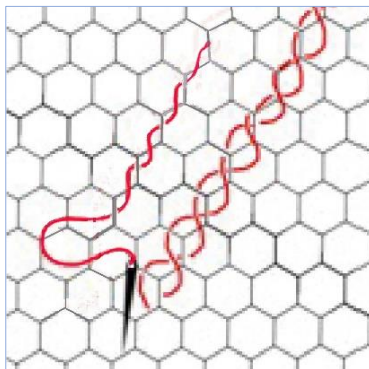
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# Limerick Lace Stitches

## 1. Whipping Stitch.

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A great filling stitch. The whipping stitch can be done in a single row, or for more emphasis, in a double row. In many of the other stitches it is used to move from one gasket to the next, or to cover the empty space between two stitches. It is also used to keep your threads tidy at the back. This stitch can be done diagonally, vertically or horizontally. It can be also done in circles. A meandering stitch good for vines and the stems of flowers.



Having picked your direction, make your knot, and simply 'whip' your needle around the bar of each gasket following the direction you are travelling in until you get to the top. If you are doing this in single rows, simply make the same stitch along your pattern outline coming out of the next row of gaskets, leaving an empty row of gaskets between each line of stitch.

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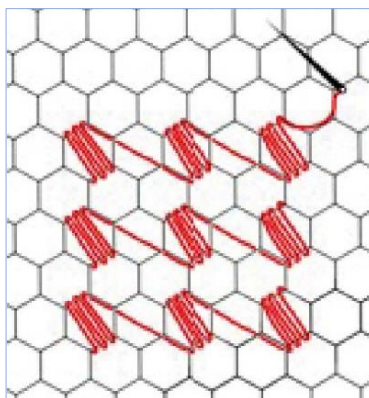
## 2. Satin Stitch

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A good filling stitch for beginners.

Starting at the right-hand side, make your knot, going under a gasket, going under and over a full gasket once, twice or three times, leave the next gasket free and repeat, coming under, going over twice, or three times if you would like the stitch to look more solid.

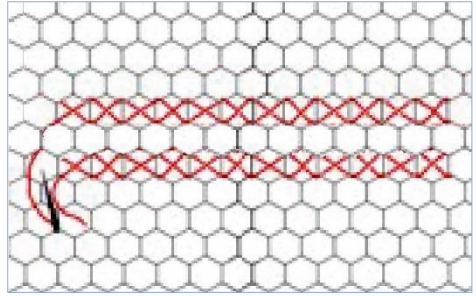
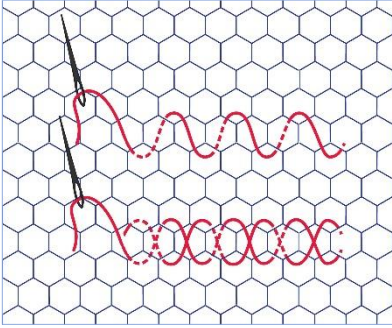
It is a very versatile stitch.



### 3. Cross Stitch

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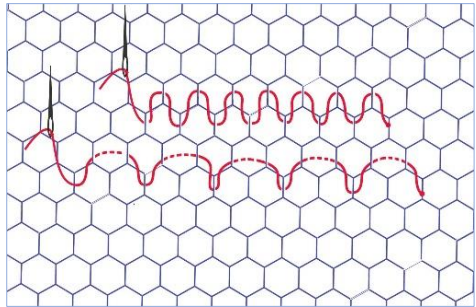
1. Can be done in a single or a double row. Keep your crosses to the front.
2. Starting at the right-hand side, cross over and under each gasket diagonally to create the first row. Coming back, you form your cross by repeating this method in the opposite direction, keeping your crossing thread to the front.



### 4. Jump Stitch

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1. This stitch is a quick filling stitch. It can be done in straight rows or in tiered rows and makes it look like you have done more work than you actually have.



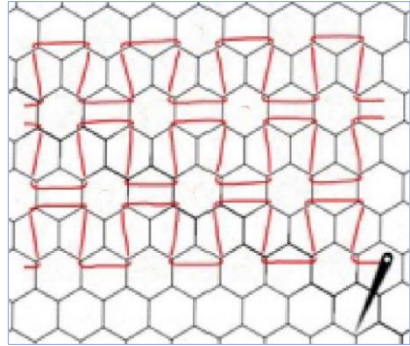
2. Starting at the right-hand side, make your knot, go up one gasket, cross the back of the next full gasket, come down into the starting gasket, and cross the back of this gasket. Having crossed the back of the gasket at the top, you should always leave and come back into the same gasket. Make a row of these.
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## 5. Cobweb Stitch

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1. This is a beautiful mirror image stitch worked in two rows which depending on your thread tension, can give two different looks.

2. Starting at the right-hand side, make your knot, go up one gasket, cross the back of the next full gasket, come down into the starting gasket, and cross this gasket at the top, you should always leave and come back into the same gasket. Make a row of these.



3. Mirror this pattern below, starting from the left.

4. A variation of this stitch is made by pulling the stitches gently to increase the size of the centre gasket.

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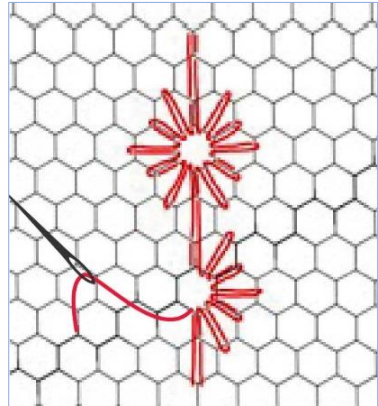
## 6. The Ten-Pointed Star

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1. The star stitch is very easy and can be worked on a single row or mirrored.

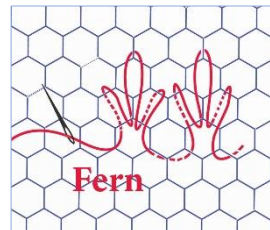
2. A single row can be used as an edging or combined with other stitches to give a different look.

3. Starting at the right-hand side, make your knot, bring your needle down to the right and over one gasket. Each stitch comes to this gasket. When making the five-pointed star, bring your needle down and over the first gasket diagonally, back into your starting gasket then over one full gasket, then back to your starting gasket. The point of your star is made over three full gaskets and two half gaskets, back to the same centre gasket. See diagram.



4. Mirror this pattern on the other side, coming back from the left, to complete your ten-pointed star.

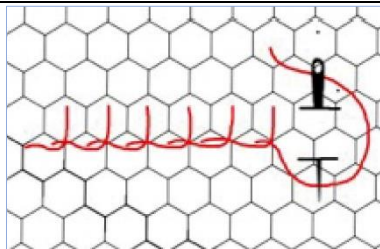
5. An easy stitch to play around with and can be equally lovely worked in different ways. For example, the Fern, Floret and Fan.



## 7. Button Hole Edge Stitch

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To outline the edge of your completed design, you need a strong edging. This can be done in three ways, either with Cordonnet (thick) thread needlerun, Cordonnet couching, or button hole stitch, covering one row of gaskets following your designed edging carefully.



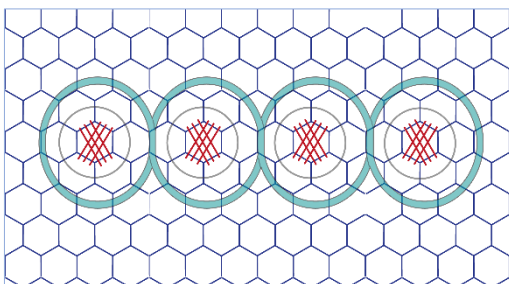
## 8. Dots

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1. Button hole stitch can be worked in a circle from one centre, repeating the stitch to form a dot.

2. Pick your gasket, make your knot holding your finger under the gasket you're going to make the dot on, go over that gasket three times in one direction (as in satin stitch). Do the same thing in another direction. Make your tying off knot and bring your needle through at the back so the tail goes through the actual back of the dot you're working on. Trim the thread carefully.

3. Making a Grape with Seed: Pick your centre gasket, working around that centre gasket, you may needlrun or whipstitch around that circle. Then in the centre, using fine thread make the dot as before. This is the Seed in the Grape.



## Useful Addresses:

- **Limerick Quilt Centre**, Winander House, Park Road, Limerick.  
<http://www.limerickquiltcentre.ie>, P: 061 419790, E: [maeve@quilt.ie](mailto:maeve@quilt.ie)
  - **Kenmare Lace and Design Centre**, The Square, Kenmare, Co Kerry.  
<http://www.kenmarelace.ie>, P: 087 2346998, E: [info@kenmarelace.ie](mailto:info@kenmarelace.ie)
  - **Cork Craft Supplies**, Paul St. Shopping Centre, 26-28 Princes St.,  
Cork <https://corkartsupplies.com/> P:0214277488,  
E: [orders@corkartsupplies.com](mailto:orders@corkartsupplies.com)
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## **Contents of the Kit:**

- 2 needles and 6 pins on felt needle card
- 4" embroidery hoop
- Cordonnet thick and thin thread (3m each)
- Square of cotton net
- Bias binding
- Alphabet page
- Instructions booklet

## **Find us at:**

- [Limericklace.ie](http://Limericklace.ie)
- on Facebook and Twitter as [@Limericklace](https://www.facebook.com/Limericklace)

## **The Limerick Museum**

The Old Franciscan Friary,  
Henry Street, Limerick  
Opening Hours: Weekdays 10am-5pm  
(closed for lunch 1pm-2pm)

P: +353 61 557740  
E: [museum@limerick.ie](mailto:museum@limerick.ie)  
[www.limerick.ie/limerick-museum](http://www.limerick.ie/limerick-museum)