

*Thistles, roses,  
daffodils and  
shamrocks*

*4 Bookmarks  
using  
Bedfordshire lace  
techniques*

*by Jean Leader*

These bookmarks are not easy patterns and it would be best to have a good knowledge of the techniques of Bedfordshire lace before attempting them. However, in the instructions I have tried to provide for the relative beginner to Bedfordshire lace. If you're experienced you can skip the first few pages.

You will need at least 60 pairs of bobbins and probably more — it's difficult to give an exact number because pairs have to be added and removed as the pattern is worked. I used Madeira Tanne No.50 but any similar thread such as D.M.C. Broder Machine 50 (Retors d'Alsace 50) or Brok 100/3 would be suitable. D.M.C. Coton Perlé 12 was used as gimp.

I have shown in diagrams how I worked parts of the pattern but I'm sure there are alternative ways of working. Use your initiative and don't be afraid to work differently if you think it will look better. When I've given diagrams I've indicated where pairs are added and removed but otherwise it's up to you — you need enough pairs to fill the space available but not so many that they don't lie flat. I worked with the right side of the lace uppermost and the instructions are written for working that way. If you want to work with the right side of the lace against the pricking you'll have to make allowances for this.

Before you start it's well worth spending some time studying the pricking and the picture. Decide where you'll need to add pairs, which way plaits are going etc., and draw yourself a sketch with arrows if necessary. You'll save yourself trouble later.

A final hint — if you're not confident about working any part of the pattern, e.g. the thistle, wind some pairs and try the thistle by itself before launching yourself into the whole pattern. Threads are unforgiving if you reverse too often and you'll have plenty to do without coping with broken threads!

I hope you enjoy making these bookmarks. I have tried to make the instructions as clear as possible and hope I've succeeded.

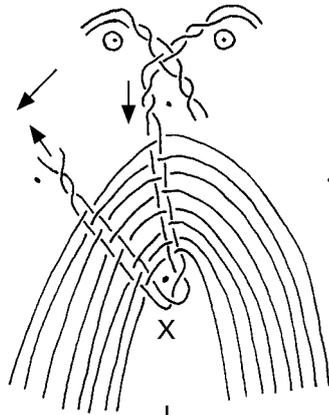
Jean Leader  
Glasgow, 1992

## General Instructions

These are applicable to all the bookmarks. I am assuming that you already know how to work plaits, double picots, trails, tallies (square and leaf-shaped) and windmill crossings.

In some diagrams 1 line = 1 thread, in others 1 line = 1 pair.

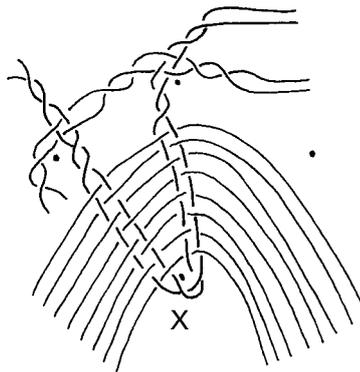
### Starting



⊙ Support pins — hang two pairs inside one another on each of these

• Hang 8 pairs inside one another on pin X — make sure you keep them in order

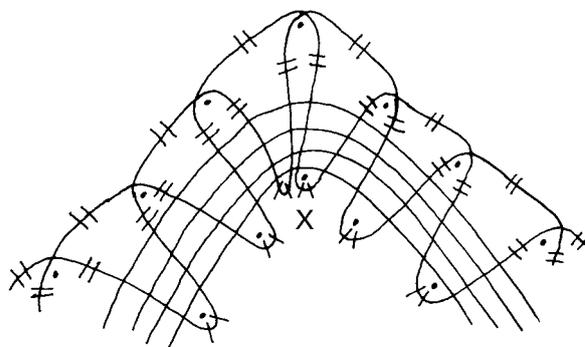
Remove support pins



Work down left-hand side adding pairs as necessary — don't go too far

At right-hand side fasten spangles down with large pins so bobbins stay in place

Now work down right-hand side — pin X will be used again



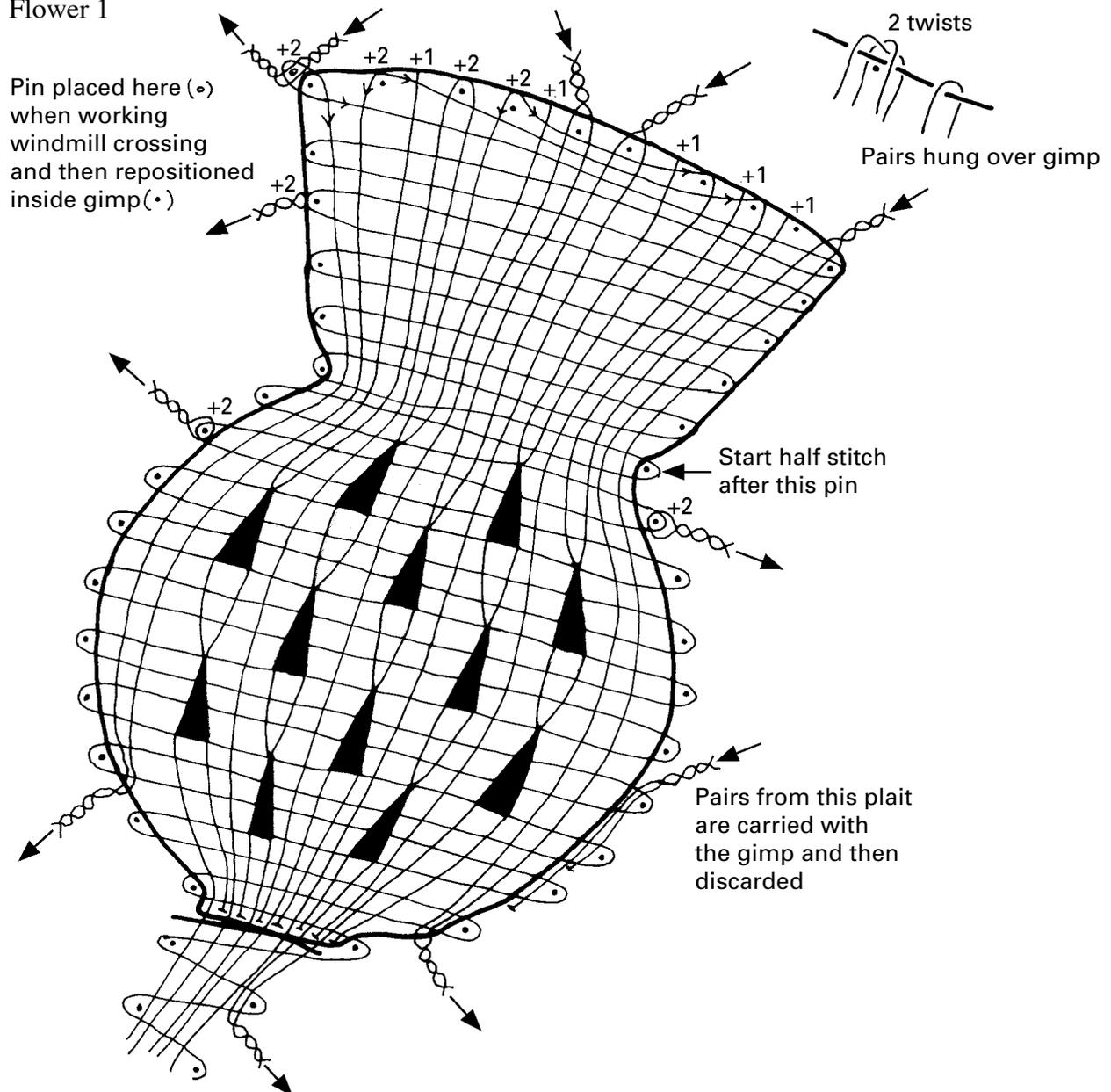
Don't pull passives too hard or you'll get too large a gap at the top

## Thistle Bookmark

### Flowers

The upper part of each thistle is worked in cloth stitch with the pins inside the gimp to give a smooth line. The lower part is worked in half stitch with the pins outside the gimp to make the edges bumpy. Each flower is started at the top, and for each one you will need 19 pairs (18 passives and a weaver) and a gimp pair.

#### Flower 1



In the first flower 6 pairs come from plaits and the rest are added as shown — make sure they are hung over the gimp (see diagram). At the left-hand side work a windmill crossing with the plait from the bud to add 2 pairs for the weaver and outer passive. The crossing is worked outside the gimp, but once the gimp has been taken through the new pairs the pin is replaced inside the gimp.