

Working for Serpentine Insertion

Katherine Davies (Katherina Weyssin in the SCA), 2011.

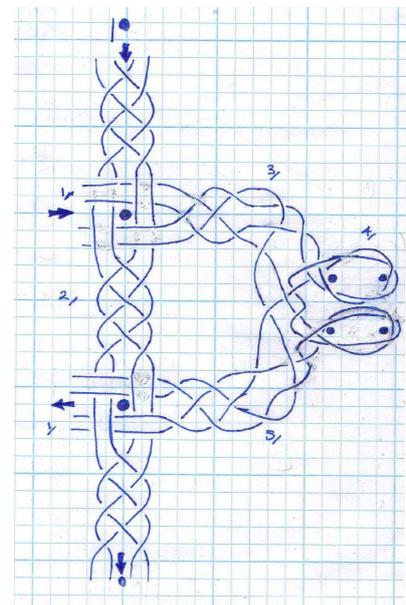
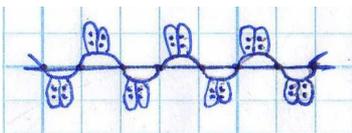


A simple lace for 8 bobbins; composed of two 4-strand plaits, one straight, one intersecting it in a serpentine pattern, with long picots on the serpentine plait which form loops with which to attach the lace to the garment.

Working:

1. Lazy join between plaits, serpentine plait passing through straight plait
2. Straight plait: 3 half stitches
3. Serpentine plait: 2 half stitches, extra twist on outside pair, half stitch
4. Serpentine plait: extended picot, half stitch, extended picot
5. Serpentine plait: half stitch, extra twist on outside pair, half stitch

Pinning: I pin only the intersections and the picots. These are the places marked on the pricking.



Extra twist: This is to encourage the plait to turn sharply around the corner.

Extended picot: Worked the same way as a normal picot, but around two pins, some distance apart, to create a longer loop. Place the first pin as usual, then insert the second pin into the same loop to enlarge it; then pass the second thread around both pins before tightening.

The 4 bobbins in the serpentine plait use significantly more thread than those in the straight plait.

Pricking for Serpentine Insertion

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Retouched scan of my twice-used pricking (colours altered for greater contrast). Some of the pin-holes have blurred somewhat, but the pattern is clear enough.

This pricking should run the full length of an A4 sheet (297mm). Each repeat is 6mm long and 7mm wide.

Source:

Based on insertion in a woman's linen hood (English, 1600-1620).

Detailed description and photographs:

Janet Arnold, *Patterns of Fashion 4: The cut and construction of linen shirts, smocks, neckwear, headwear and accessories for men and women c. 1540-1660*, Macmillan, 2008. Item 57, pp48 and 104.

Current location:

Manchester Art Galleries

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Accession number: 2003.74

There is an image online.

I used somewhat heavier thread than the original, so my pattern is a compromise between maintaining the structure and shape of the original, and producing a lace that wasn't unreasonably wide. Thus mine similar to the original, but not structurally identical.

My lace was worked in Gutermann linen sewing thread, in cream. A hood of this sort requires about 60" of lace.

