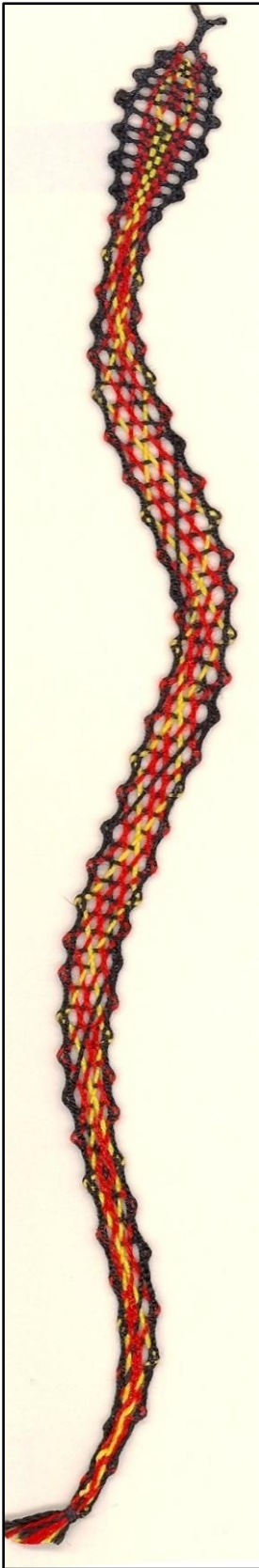


## Diamond python with a difference

## Rosemary Shepherd



Apologies are due to the reptile kingdom for anatomical inaccuracies – fantasy is always more fun than reality.

Note that the python was turned over for the photograph, so the workers appear to start on the right. It's a convention in lacemaking that the side uppermost as you work is the wrong side of the lace. This used to be so that any joins in the thread would be hidden, but that's not relevant for this piece.

### Materials

6 pairs wound with number 8 perle cotton or equivalent: 3 pairs black, 2 pairs red and 1 yellow.

### Method

From the diagram you can see that the black pairs start at A, B and F, the red at C and E, and the yellow at D. After the twisted and plaited fangs the head is worked in cloth stitch with cloth-and-twist edge.

The eyes are worked as follows.

1. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> row of cloth stitch make cross movements with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, and with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> cloth stitch passive threads.
2. Now work 3 more rows, twisting the workers as shown between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> pairs.
3. Then return the passive to their original positions by working cross movements as in 1.
4. Continue working in cloth stitch to the end of the head, then change to half stitch. Keep the pins well spaced to maintain the lacy effect.
5. Finish the snake by tying off with a collecting knot. Stiffen it before removing from the pillow, then cut the ends at an angle to make a point.

