



AUSTRALIAN LACE GUILD  
PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS  
TORCHON LACE STAGE 1

1. **Read the general guidelines.**
2. Submit three (3) major finished pieces of work to show a sound working knowledge of the lace. All pieces should be appropriately joined and finished and one of these pieces to be mounted by hand – fabric size to be at least 15x15cm.
3. At least one corner to be included in the assessment pieces.
4. Submit sufficient samples and/or finished articles of not less than 15 cm (measured on the footside) to cover all the techniques within the requirements.
5. Make a pattern and a sample from a photocopy that will be supplied by the Proficiency Coordinator, and chosen from the Guild pool.
6. Retain one (1) major finished piece to be resubmitted for Stages 2 and 3.
7. Submit a list of threads used (as well as samples of thread) and books consulted

**REQUIREMENTS –**

**Torchon Footside**

**Fans/Scallops**

- Fish tail fans/cloth stitch and twist fans
- Corner using Fish tail fan
- Whole/cloth stitch with spoke stitch edge, i.e. cloth stitch and twist with workers and last passive pair before and after the pin.
- Half stitch with spoke stitch edge
- Vertical and horizontal divisions

**Trails**

This group should include both wide and narrow trails. A narrow trail occupies the space between 2 pinholes; a wide trail occupies more space by omitting one or more pinholes.

- Half stitch
  - Whole/cloth stitch
  - Horizontal divisions
  - Four different methods of directional changes
- This group should include both wide and narrow trails. A narrow trail has two or three passive pairs - a wide trail has more.

**Blocks, Lozenges and Chevrons**

**Spiders**

- Simple
- Compound (also called snowflake ground)

**Insertion**

- Footside on both sides

**Gimps**

- Outline surrounding a pattern feature, a cloth block or other.

**Grounds**

- Torchon (cross, twist, pin, cross, twist)
- 2 examples of twisted Torchon ground
  - a) Cross, twist, pin, cross, twist, twist
  - b) Cross, twist, twist, pin, cross, twist
  - c) Cross, twist, twist, pin, cross, twist, twist
- Double ground (cross, twist, cross, twist, pin, cross, twist, cross, twist)
- Roseground – simple half stitch rose
- Honeycomb ground

**Tallies**

- Square – to replace a pin
- Angled – between four pins

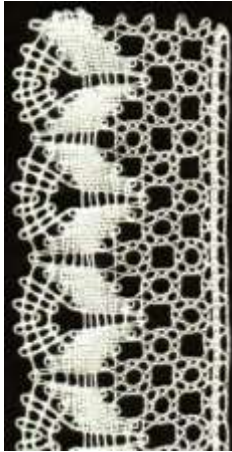
NOTE: The terms for these design features and techniques may vary from one source to another.



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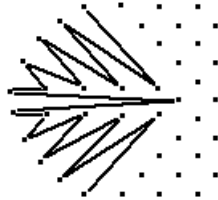
**Example of stitches**

Half stitch Roseground and horizontal divisions

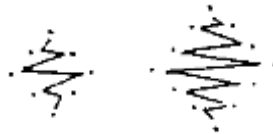


Fishtail Fan

Fan



Blocks



Lozenge



Chevron



METHODS OF DIRECTIONAL CHANGES IN TRAILS

**1. Simple trails**

Worked from pin to pin as marked in the working diagram. Used for both whole ( CTC ) and half ( CT ) stitch. There is one less pair of passives in one direction than the other. Gives the most even appearance in whole stitch.

**2. Changing weavers**

Used in half stitch only. Refer to the working diagram. Set pins A and B; cover pin B. Leave weavers at B. Take pair hanging from A as weaver to continue.

**3. Keeping a constant number of passives in a half stitch trail only**

A good method for the narrowest half stitch trail. Work in half stitch from A to B in the usual way. Cover pin B and lay aside the outer pair. The other pair works in half stitch with the next pair in the trail and pin C is put up between these pairs. Cover pin C and lay aside the outer pair. The pair nearest the trail is now the weaver and continues the trail.

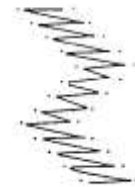
**4. Using the inner pin to turn twice**

Can be used in both cloth stitch and half stitch. Follow the working diagram and use the inner pin twice, or, prick two holes close together in place of the single pinhole (see diagram).

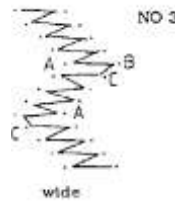
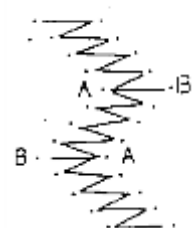
**5. Missing inside corner pinhole**

In half stitch, just miss out this pinhole altogether. In cloth stitch, this would leave a gap in the cloth, so the passives are twisted twice at the inner edge of the point and once nearer the outer edge (see diagram)

NO 1



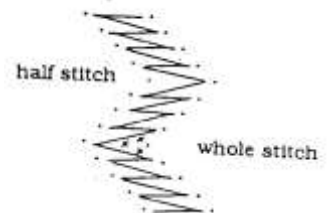
NO 2



NO 4



NO 5





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Addendum: Understanding directional changes in Torchon stage 1

Directional change	Number	Wide	Narrow	Cloth stitch	Half stitch	Number that can be worked.
Directional change	1	yes	yes	yes	yes	4 changes can be worked.
Directional change	2	yes	yes	no	yes	2 changes can be worked.
Directional change	3	yes	yes	no	yes	2 changes can be worked.
Directional change	4	yes	yes	yes	yes	4 changes can be worked.
Directional change	5	yes	yes	yes	yes	4 changes can be worked.
Horizontal divisions in trails can only be worked using directional change no: 5.						
It can only be worked in cloth stitch (c t c) in both wide and narrow trails.						
Directional changes can also be worked in Chevrons						

Simple Spiders



Compound Spiders



Square tallies in place of a stitch



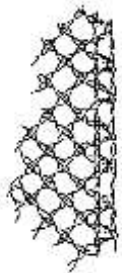
Tallies angled between two rows of stitches



Torchon Honeycomb



Torchon Footside



**REFERENCES**

Suggested references may include, but are by no means limited to, the following books:

**Torchon stage 1.**

- Rosemary Shepherd - Introduction to Bobbin Lace (New)
- Pamela Nottingham - Techniques of Bobbin Lace
- Pamela Nottingham - Techniques of Torchon Lace
- Robin S Lewis – 101 Torchon Patterns
- Rosemary shepherd – Introduction to Bobbin Lace (Old)