

# Information for Idrija Lace Workshop Participants

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My focus on the teaching of Idrija lace is with the traditional methods as they are taught and practiced in Slovenia. In my class you will learn how to interpret the different pattern markings along with some helpful hints for making your lace look neat and uniform. Idrija lace is a good lace to learn if you want to perfect your tensioning skills. Because it is made with a heavier thread, you can tug on it without too much fear of breaking the thread. I will also give you some ideas for using Idrija lace. It holds up extremely well to washing and rarely needs to be stiffened.

At the start of class, each student will receive a packet of materials that include diagrams for all patterns, the original pattern, a picture of it finished and a copy of it on cardstock to use for the workshop. **(You do not have to prick your pattern.)** Most of my patterns are from Slovene pattern designer Irma Pervanja. I ask that you please respect copyright law and not copy patterns for your friends. Irma and her husband have a website and her patterns are for sale and easily purchased using Paypal. I will give you this information in your workshop packet.

Materials that you need to bring are:

## PILLOW

A traditional bolster pillow **or** \*a cookie pillow - 20 inch works fine.

## BOBBINS

If using the traditional bolster pillow, you will need 5-7 pair of large continental bobbins such as Idrija, Cantu, Slovak, etc. The larger bobbins require more thread. **or** \* If using a cookie pillow, 5-7 pair of Dutch or Belgium Std. or similar bobbins wound in pairs with 1 1/2 yds thread on each bobbin

*If you are winding bobbins for use on a bolster pillow, please wind them **singly and counterclockwise**. Because of their large size (except for Cantu), you must wind a substantial amount of thread evenly on each bobbin so they will not unwind as you work. **Please note - you cannot use Belgium, Dutch, Bayeax, or similar style bobbins on the bolster as they are not large enough to hold comfortably in your hand or heavy enough to achieve the proper tensioning.***

## THREAD

\*#30 cotton Idrija or Cantu thread (recommended). **Please note: DMC Cordonnet does not work well for this lace. It is too stretchy.** You can purchase Idrija thread from [www.designsbymarguccio.com](http://www.designsbymarguccio.com). We sell colored thread, metallic and 3 shades of white.

## **PINS**

30 x 60 [1 1/8"] (for the traditional bolster). You need a longer pin for the bolster pillow. (we carry pins for use with the bolster pillow) **or** \* 26 x 65 pins (for the cookie pillow) or

## **OTHER**

\* .6 crochet hook (we have those for sale), a cover cloth or cloth circle with a hole, blue film, pencil/pen, etc.

- A table and light are optional, but keep in mind that if you use a bolster, it must sit lower than when using a cookie pillow. Some of you have adjustable tables and my husband cut 2 inches off of the legs of a TV tray table that I use at home. For traveling, I use a laptop stand that I bought from [www.instand.com](http://www.instand.com) - model CR1 (It's a bit pricey and I'm not getting a cut from this company - it just works because I travel a lot.)

I have teaching patterns at various levels of difficulty. Before class it would be most helpful if you would let me know the following information about your lacemaking experience: What is your lacemaking experience level (beginning, intermediate, etc.)?; Have you ever made Idrija lace before?; Have you ever made any tape laces?; Do you have Torchon experience?; Are you familiar with the basic stitches of bobbin lace?; \*Are you interested in practicing some basic skills for making Idrija lace at the beginning of class before you begin to work a pattern?

In this class the focus will be on the traditional Idrija narrow tape lace and specific components like the Idrija vein, braided flower with picot, cloth stitch tape, twisted tape, half stitch (adding and removing pairs), joining loops, various corners, working with color and tensioning. I have a set of "skill builder" patterns that many of my new students find helpful in learning to make this lace. These are the basic skills I refer to in the previous paragraph.

My goal in sharing my love of Idrija lace is for you to have a positive class experience. While it is impossible to learn everything there is to know in one workshop, I hope to leave you with enough skills that you will be able to confidently work independently on many Idrija lace patterns/pattern books that are available for sale.

## Bibliography

The following books are most helpful in your study of Idrija lace. They contain patterns at a variety of levels with diagrams and are available from various lace vendors in the USA such as Van Sriver Bobbin Lace ([www.vansciverbobbinlace.com](http://www.vansciverbobbinlace.com)), Provo Enterprises ([www.provolace.com](http://www.provolace.com)) and Lacy Susan ([www.lacysusan.com](http://www.lacysusan.com)).

- ***Idrijska Čipka*** by Irma Pervanja and Maja Svetlik (Excellent pictures and diagrams with patterns and pictures of the finished lace. I highly recommend this book.) It is not written in English, but the diagrams and pictures are all that is needed.
- ***Bits of Lace*** by Gimnazija Jurija Vege Idrija
- ***Bits of Lace 2*** by Gimnazija Jurija Vege Idrija
- ***Idrija Lace Narrow Cloth Stitch*** by Gimnazija Jurija Vege Idrija