

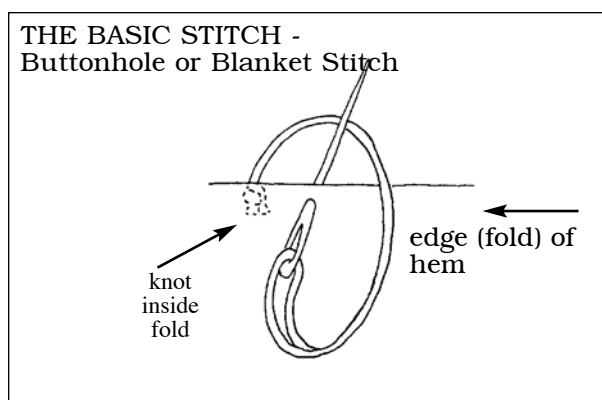
MAKING EASY HAND-MADE LACE by Gail Wilson © 2004

Out of scale fabrics and lace can ruin the whole look of an otherwise well-made doll. This lace, once you learn it, can be used on any small doll and you will quickly see how you can alter the pattern and make it wider or even narrower. Even though if you look hard enough, you can probably find a few narrow commercial laces, it is almost impossible to get ones that look like the type of old vintage ones that look best on vintage style doll clothes. I long ago used up all of a very large collection of antique laces on dolls and when this happened, I began having some really fine laces crocheted for me. One day, not being a crocheter myself, but understanding how it works, I set out to make really narrow lace using just a regular sewing needle and regular sewing thread. It was so easy and it was just what I wanted, and further, it is done right on the edge of the finished garment so it looks as it might a very long time ago, it can be as fine and narrow as you can dare to manage and you can do it in just the right color since sewing thread comes in many colors and shades of white.

I recommend trying out this simple hand-made lace on a small swatch of fabric creating a few inches so that you will see how it is done before you charge ahead on your doll clothes.

INCLUDED IN THIS SMALL KIT:

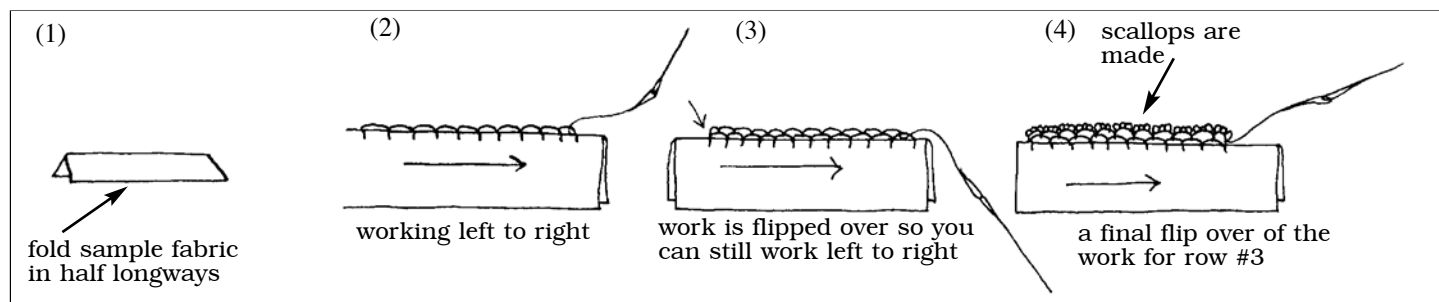
- A small piece of fabric just to be able to get started - no excuses - with a sample. Once you get it, you can then begin applying it directly to your doll clothes.
- A size 8 embroidery needle. Just right for handsewing with a long eye that is easy to thread, but a slim sharp body.
- A small spool of 100% cotton thread in a basic ivory color that will go with anything. Later you can choose other off-whites and dirty whites or even colors as it suits your project.



The illustration at left shows the basic stitch you will use throughout. That's it - it is just variations using this one stitch (like a chain stitch in crochet) that makes the design. I used two strands of the thread, but you can use just one for even finer lace and if you are crocheting based on this concept, you should only use one.

HINT: To keep your thread behaving place it on some beeswax (or Thread Heaven) with your finger on top and pull through to coat thread. Also, periodically, let needle hang down loose so it will untwist.

HOW TO MAKE THE LACE



- (1) Crisply fold your piece of fabric in half longways. This is just a practice strip. You will want magnification and good light.
- (2) Use double thread (or you can use single for finer weight) and make a small knot in one end to hide in the fold. Sew a row of buttonhole stitches (see illustration on page 2). You can see in Photo #1 on next page that you should strive for about 10-12 stitches per inch. If you go too close together, it will be hard to see and do the final row that will make scallops. The depth of the stitches into the fabric are just barely there, maybe 1/16th at the most. Too deep and it will look "toothy". I sew from left to right doing this but you may be more comfortable right to left. So in the illustration above, row #1 is going left to right. You will basically sew about 2-3" of lace for this sample and the lace will have 3 rows. Once you get the idea, you can add or subtract rows for narrower or wider lace and start thinking up your own variations.
- (3) Flip over to do row #2, so you can work in the same left to right direction. Before you begin, do a miniscule stitch on the very end to anchor before moving on to row #2. This row you do not sew through fabric, rather you just do the stitch through each loop. Do not pull up too tightly. See Photo #2.
- (4) Row #3 (last row). Flip work back over so you continue to work left to right, and again, do an anchoring stitch, actually a double one - one on top of the other so it has height - before continuing on to row #3. This row you do three (here is where you can vary) of the stitches on *each loop*. See Photo #3, This will get crowded and you need to pay attention and also you will need magnification here. The very crowdedness is what makes a scallop or the final decorative edge of the lace. If you remember making thread loops for hooks to hook through or even button loops back in home ec, it will be like that on each loop. Those of you who crochet, will quickly see that you could do this with the smallest of crochet hooks (size 14). If you want to try this, I recommend using one strand of thread and doing the first row below with a sewing needle, then continuing on with the hook. Here is an address on my website for making more hand crocheted laces for dolls.

<http://www.gailwilsondesigns.com/specialpages/lace.html>

NOTE: Photos show extreme magnification to help you can see how it really looks.

Photo 1 - Row 1 - Going Left to Right.

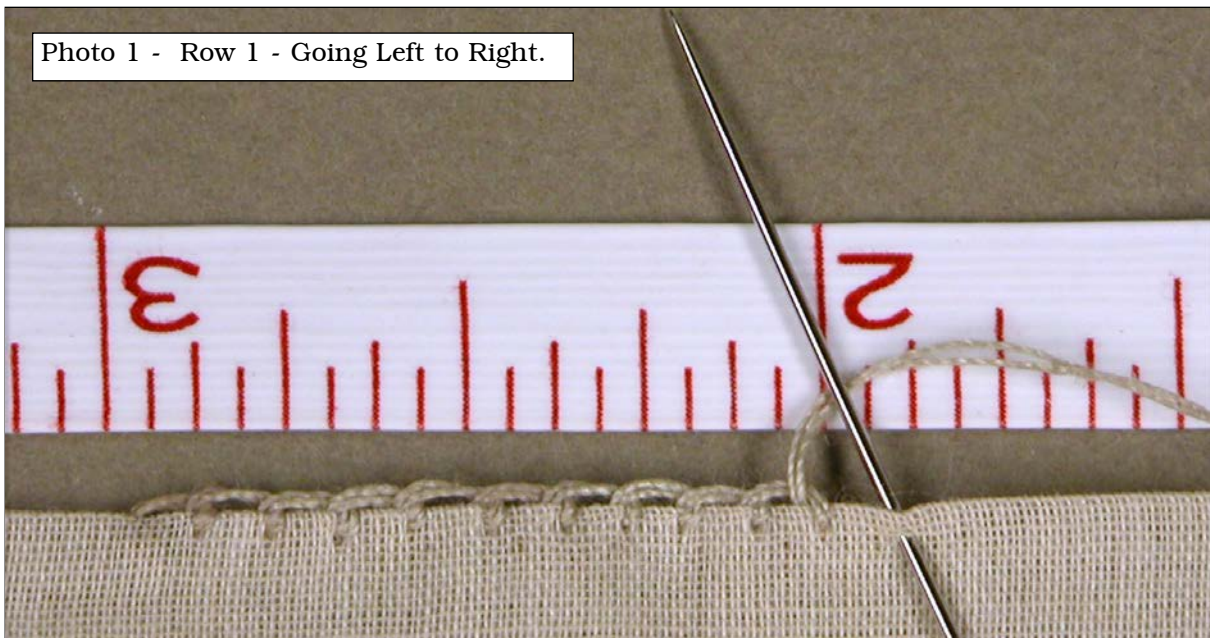


Photo #2 - Row 2 - The piece is flipped over so continuing to work L to R and now the stitches are only through the loops, not any cloth.

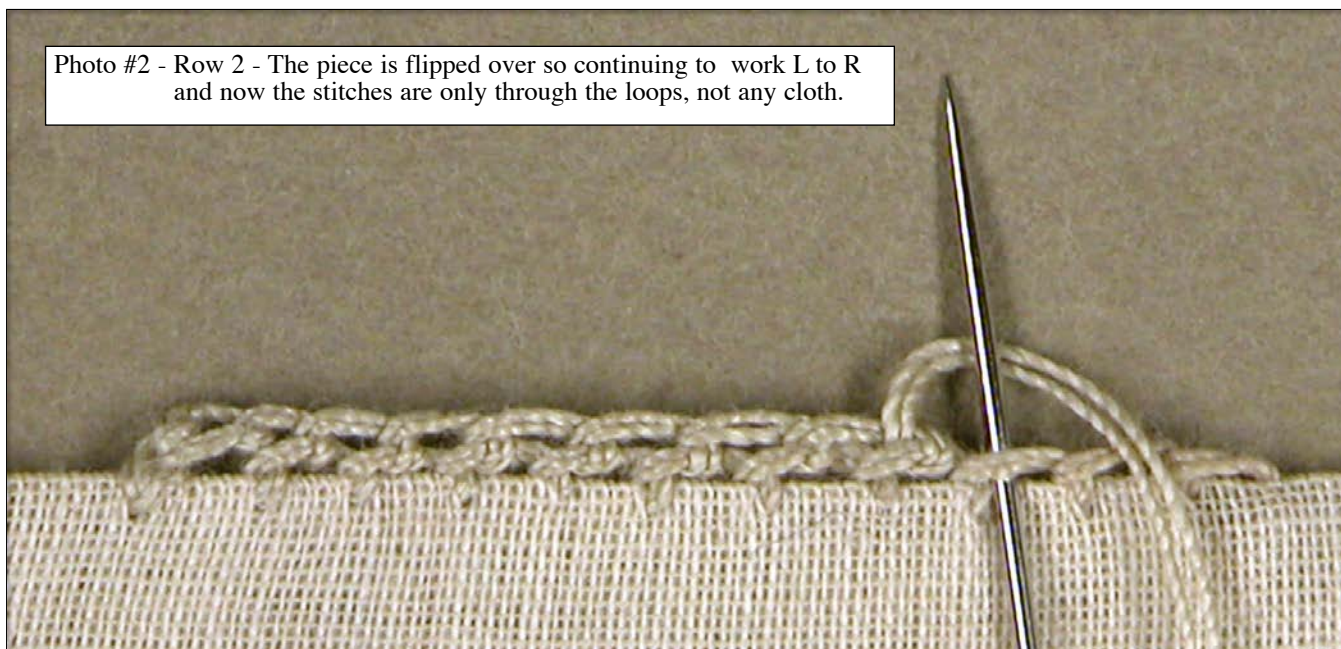


Photo #3 - Row 3 Making Scallops. The piece is flipped again so continuing to work L to R and now you make three stitches on *each* loop, which gets crowded but makes the scallops.