# The Art of Lace-Making on a Hexagonal Grid: A Comprehensive Guide

Lace-making is a delicate and intricate art form that dates back centuries. Hexagonal lace, a type of lace created on a hexagonal grid, is particularly known for its beauty and complexity. In this article, we will explore the history, techniques, and patterns of hexagonal lace-making, providing a comprehensive guide for both beginners and experienced lace-makers.

#### **History of Hexagonal Lace**

The origins of hexagonal lace can be traced back to 16th century Italy, where it was known as *punto in aria* ("stitches in the air"). Hexagonal lace was initially used to decorate ecclesiastical vestments and other religious items. Over time, it became increasingly popular for secular use, adorning clothing, furnishings, and other objects.



Flowers and other bobbin lace patterns: Making lace on a hexagonal grid by Lindsay Conner

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Hexagonal lace reached its peak of popularity in the 18th century, during the Rococo period. It was during this time that lace-makers developed new and elaborate patterns, inspired by nature and classical motifs. Hexagonal lace from this period is highly prized by collectors and museums around the world.

### **Techniques of Hexagonal Lace**

Hexagonal lace is made by working fine thread around a series of hexagonal cells. The cells are typically joined together by brides, which are narrow bands of lace. The basic stitch used in hexagonal lace is the needlepoint stitch, which creates a small, closed loop.

Lace-makers use a variety of tools to create hexagonal lace, including needles, shuttles, and bobbins. Needles are used to stitch the thread together, while shuttles and bobbins are used to hold the thread and create the brides.

### Patterns of Hexagonal Lace

Hexagonal lace patterns can be simple or complex, geometric or free-form. Some popular hexagonal lace patterns include:

- Honeycomb lace: A basic hexagonal pattern that resembles a honeycomb.
- Burano lace: A complex hexagonal lace pattern that originated in the Italian island of Burano.
- Cluny lace: A delicate hexagonal lace pattern that is often used to decorate lingerie and other fine garments.

 Maltese lace: A heavy hexagonal lace pattern that is often used to make tablecloths and other home decor items.

#### **Getting Started with Hexagonal Lace**

If you are interested in learning how to make hexagonal lace, there are a number of resources available online and in libraries. You can also find classes and workshops at local craft stores and art centers.

To get started, you will need the following supplies:

- Fine thread
- Needle
- Shuttle or bobbin
- Pattern

Once you have gathered your supplies, you can begin by practicing the basic needlepoint stitch. Once you are comfortable with the basic stitch, you can start to learn more complex patterns.

#### Tips for Hexagonal Lace-Making

Here are a few tips for hexagonal lace-making:

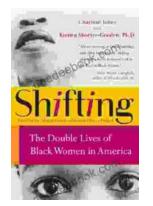
- Use high-quality thread and needles.
- Take your time and be patient.
- Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Even experienced lace-makers make mistakes!
- Have fun! Hexagonal lace-making is a rewarding and relaxing hobby.

Hexagonal lace is a beautiful and intricate art form that can be enjoyed by people of all ages. With a little practice and patience, you can learn how to create your own hexagonal lace masterpieces.



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