

Lace. A kind of network of threads of flax, cotton, gold or silver wire, or other suitable material, forming a fabric of transparent texture. Its origin is not known, but it appears to have been used by the ladies of ancient Greece and Rome. It was early used in Northern Italy, and is said to have been introduced into France by Mary de Medicis. In 1483 its importation into England was prohibited.

The systematic manufacture was introduced into England by refugees from Flanders.

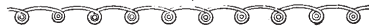
Lace was anciently worked by the needle. The invention of lace *knitting* is attributed to Barbara, wife of Christopher Huttman, a German miner, in 1560. A manufactory was established in France by Colbert, in 1566.

Point lace was embroidered with the needle. *Bone* lace (temp. of Charles I.) was a kind of thread lace, and received its name from the bobbins being made of bone. About 1768, a stocking-weaver of Northampton produced a machine for making lace; it was called the *pin-frame*, and is still employed in France for making the lace called *tulle*.

The method of Barbara Huttman is as follows: The lace-maker has a hard cushion in her lap on which the pattern, traced on parchment, is laid, and pins passed through the parchment into the cushion at places determined by the pattern. She has also a number of bobbins on which the threads are wound, fine thread being used for the meshes or net. The work is begun by attaching the threads in pairs to the pins. The threads are then intertwined by means of the bobbins, so as to form the required pattern.

In *lace-weaving*, the threads of the weft are twisted round those of the warp. The manner of twisting determines the character of the net and its name,

Fig. 2783.



Lace-Weaving.

as *whip-net*, *mail-net*, *pattern-net*, *drop-net*, *spider-net*, *balloon-net*, *Paris-net*, *bobbin-net*.

The classification of laces at the English exhibition of 1851 was as follows:—

1. *Pillow-lace*, the article or fabric being wholly made by hand (known as *Valenciennes*, *Mechlin*, *Honiton*, *Buckingham*); or *Guipure* made by the crochet-needle; and *silk lace*, called *blonde* when white, and *Chantilly*, *Puy*, *Grammont*, and *black Buckinghamshire*, when black.

2. Lace, the ground being machine-wrought, the ornamentation made on the *pillow* and afterwards applied to the ground (known as *Brussels*, *Honiton*, or *appliquée lace*).

3. Machine-made net or quillings, wholly plain, whether warp or bobbin (known as *bobbin-net*, *tulles*, *blondes*, *Cambraille*, *Mechlin*, *Malines*, *Brussels*, *Alençon*, etc.).

4. Lace, the ground being wholly made by machine, partly ornamented by machine and partly by hand, or wholly ornamented by hand, whether tamboured, needle-embroidered, or darned.

5. Lace, wrought and ornamented by machinery, comprising *trimming laces* of every description, *veils*, *falls*, *scarfs*, *shawls*, *lappets*, *curtains*, etc.

The dates of some of the inventions connected with lace-making are as follows:—

Bobbin-lace invented by Barbara Huttman of St. Anna-berg, Germany	1561.
Pillow-lace making taught at Gt. Marlow, England	1626.
Strutt's machine for making openwork stockings	1758.
Crane's Vandyke machine	1758.
Else and Harvey's "pin" machine	1770.
Frost's point-net machine	1777.
Dawson's point-net machine	1791.
Heathcoat's bobbin-net machine	1804.
Hill's plain-ground net machine	1816.
"Limerick" lace made	1829.