

Show Me Lacemakers Newsletter

October 2021

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Greetings Lacemakers,

Are you looking forward to fall and winter as much as I am? More time indoors for making lace. I love it when Shirley says we are fair weather lacemakers. Fall and winter is a perfect time to relax indoors and make lots of lace.

We had a wonderful meeting last month starting our Schneeberger lace butterflies. Butterflies are one of my favorite themes. I have crocheted many butterfly projects and tatted several butterflies over the years. Now I have bobbin lace butterflies to add to my collection. We will be continuing our classes on Schneeberger this month, so I hope you will join us for the fun, we are just getting started in this wonderful technique. It is not too late to get in on the action. We would love it if you could join us.

We have moved our meeting day to the second Saturday of the month, so I hope more of you can join us. More details in the newsletter.

See you soon.

Julie, President

The Show Me Lacemakers are meeting in person. We will be wearing masks and social distancing. We want everyone to be welcome, feel comfortable about being around others, and be as safe as possible.

Calendar:

October			
October 9	Monthly Meeting Schneeberger Part 2	10AM-1PM	Library.
November			
November 13	Monthly Meeting Schneeberger Christmas Wreath	10AM-1PM	Library.
December			
December 11	Monthly Meeting Schneeberger Christmas Rose	10AM-1PM	Library.

Note that our monthly meetings have been changed to the second Saturday of the month.

Monthly Programs:

The monthly program schedule has changed for the rest of 2021:

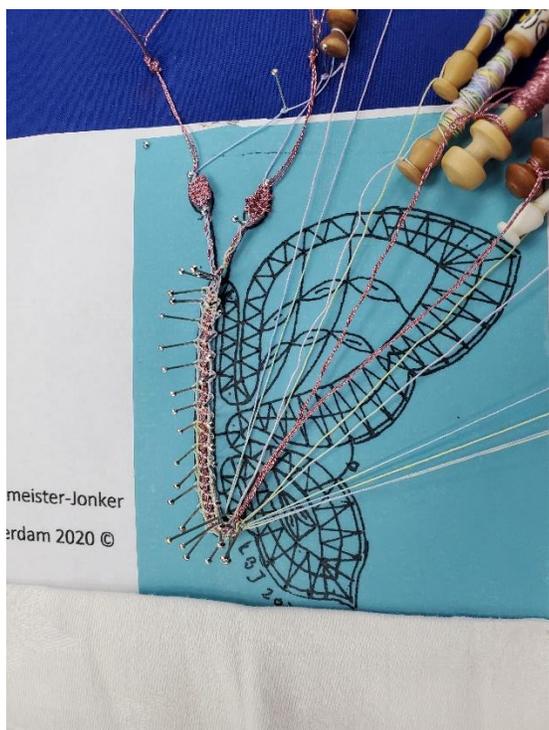
October 9 ~~Milanese giraffe #1~~ Schneeberger Part 2
 November 13 ~~Milanese giraffe #2~~ Schneeberger – Christmas Wreath
 December 11 ~~Milanese giraffe #3~~ Schneeberger – Christmas Rose

In January we will start the Milanese giraffes.

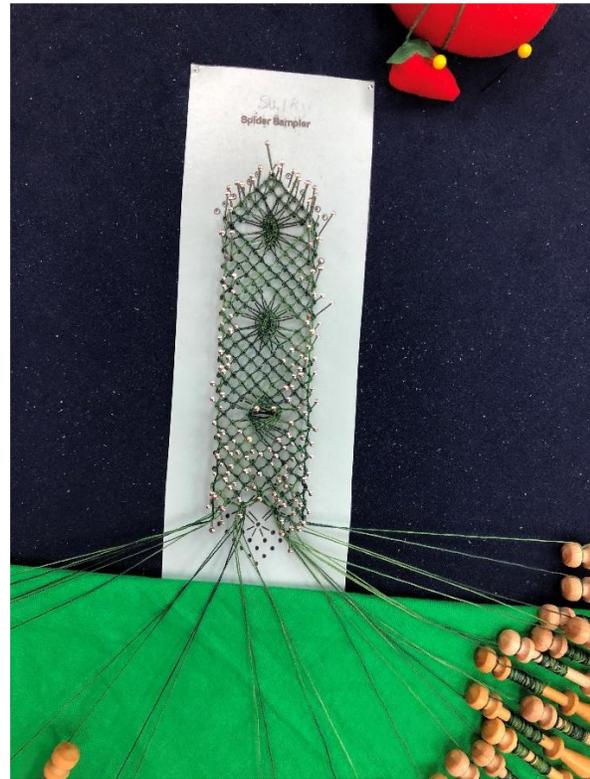
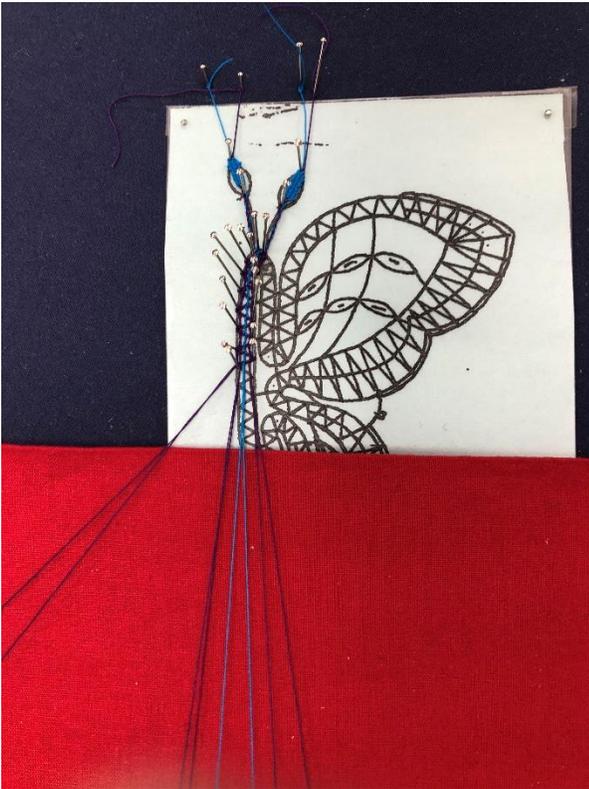
Schneeberger Class

At the September meeting Julie, Violet, Joan, and Janet started on Lia's butterfly. They pricked their patterns, color-coded an enlarged thread drawing with important directions, made "leaf and plait" antennas and worked a narrow section of cloth stitch. They saw how to turn a corner and add two new pairs. At the October meeting they will work a double stitch section, connect two tapes, add an outside plait to the tape, make the outside plait, make a turn in the double stitch section, remove the pair of threads for the outside plait, make the filling in the small part of the butterfly, remove the two threads used to make the filling, and cross two plaits.

At the November meeting, we will make a Schneeberger Christmas wreath. It is one of Lia's patterns. And then in December we will make a Schneeberger Christmas rose. It is also one of Lia's patterns. If you can make two roses, and then place one on top of the other shifting the top one, it makes a lovely two dimensional flower that looks similar to a poinsettia.



Joan and Julie (above). Violet and Janet (next page).



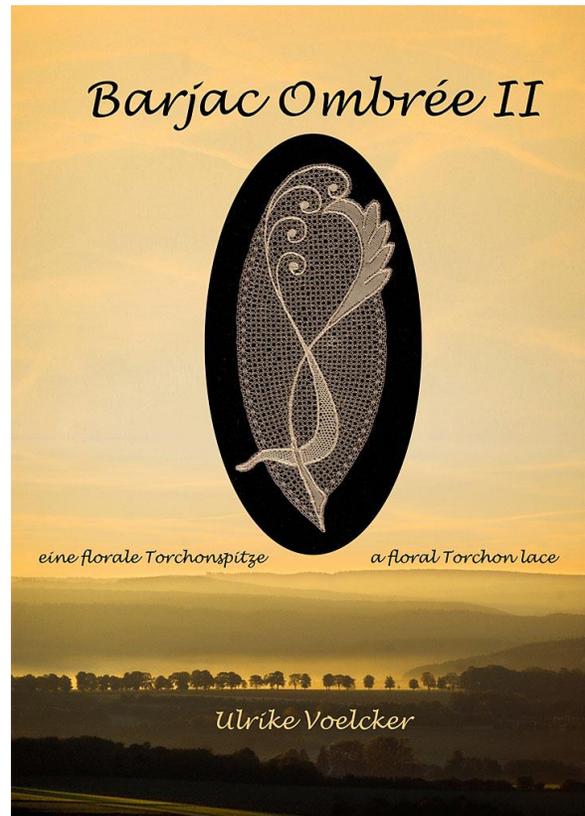
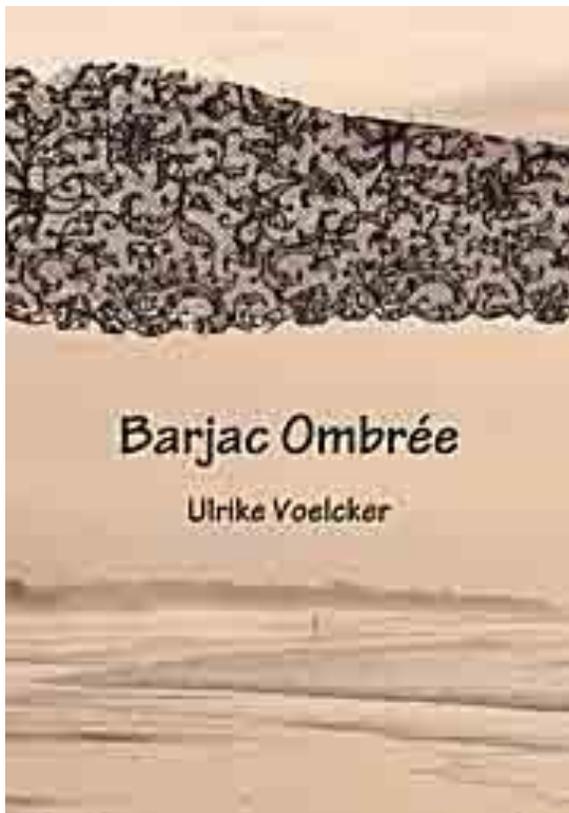
Words of Wisdom from Ulrike:

In her new book “Barjac Ombree II” Ulrike Voelcker says that people ask her questions like: “And what will you do with it? And for what is it used?” What about you? Have you had people ask you similar questions? Here is what Ulrike says in her book.

“The answer is not easy. Nobody **needs** lace in the 21st century. But to be honest, it was not really needed in the 18th century either – no more than other manifestations of culture such as music. Music was gone the minute it was performed – before we had the technology to record and playback.

For us lacemakers, the process is also more important than the product. It is fun and satisfying to make lace.”

Book Reviews:



Ulrike Voelcker has written two Barjac books. Barjac is a Torchon lace that has a roseground background.

Ulrike discovered this unique lace in a market in Barjac, France, while on vacation. It is the roseground background that makes this lace unique. Since no other experts in old lace had seen any similar lace, Ulrike called it Barjac, because that is where she found it, not necessarily where it was made.

Ulrike has documented the techniques for Barjac lace in her first book and then gives 26 of her Barjac patterns. Her second book includes 32 additional patterns including some delightful lace to frame pictures.

Both of these books are in English and German. They include a lovely picture of the finished piece of lace, the pricking, instructional notes, and large colored diagrams.

How to Select A Pin

Does it matter what size of pins that you use? When most of us got started making lace, no one mentioned size of the pins to use. We were just told to show up with pins. So, most of us used pins that we had at home, or we went to the local grocery store or craft shop to buy a box of pins. Now if I go to a lacemaking vendor to buy pins, I'm overwhelmed. There are lots of pins to choose from.

Holly Van Sciver has written an article titled "How To Select A Pin". It is available for you to download from her website at [Van Sciver Bobbin Lace & Lacemaking](#) . Here is what Holly says:

Understanding the "numbers" used to describe pins can be confusing and frustrating. Follow these simple guidelines and your confusion will disappear.

Most pins are described by two numbers. Take for example Newey Pins **26 x .65**. *The first number "26" describes the length of the pin in millimeters. A 26 pin is approximately 1" long. The higher this number the longer the pin. The lower this number the shorter the pin.*

The second number ".65" describes the diameter of the pin (in hundredths of a millimeter). The higher the number the heavier the pin. The lower the number the finer the pin.

I use the Newey 26 x .65 as my standard, because it is often the first pin a student will use and come to understand. Comparatively, this is a somewhat short, heavy pin with a standard head, that is good for Torchon, Brugge Flower Lace or any tape lace using heavier threads.

For fine tape laces like Milanese, the Belgium 19 x .55 (a shorter, fine pin with a standard head) is perfect.

Now consider a pin that is 30 x .50 . This pin is long and fine, making it an excellent choice for fine straight lace where pins are clustered closely together, for example Bucks Point or the Belgium straight laces. The Mechlin pin and insect pin, at 38 x .40 (very long and very fine) is the extreme of this situation and is perfect for those straight laces using the finest of threads.

For fine free laces, such as Honiton, Withof Duchesse and Duchesse, where fine threads are used and the pins pushed completely down into the pillow, the Newey 26 x .55 or the Belgian 17 x .45 are two excellent choices (short and fine with small heads). These short pins are less apt to bend as they are being pushed into the pillow, and the small heads less likely to run into each other.

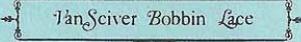
To conclude, the length and diameter of a pin are described by two numbers correspondingly. The higher these numbers the longer and/or heavier the pin. The lower these numbers the shorter and/or finer the pin. Allow the lace type and thread count to dictate the pin selected for use in a given pattern.

Pin Sample Card

Holly has a Pin Sample Card that she creates from the pins that she has in stock. You can purchase this from her. It is useful to compare the pins that you already have to what is available.

PIN SAMPLE CARD

- **Belgian**, (17x .45mm) 3/4" nickel plated brass, 25gr. (good for Tape Laces, Bruges Flower Lace, Milanese)
- **Belgian** (22 x .65mm) 7/8" steel, 100 gr. (good for Cantu, Milanese, Bruges and other Tape based laces)
- **German**, (26 x .40mm) 1" stainless steel, 400 count (our finest 1" pin)
- **Accountrements**, (26 x .58) stainless steel, 200 count
- **Bohin**, (26 x .65mm) 1" gold brass, 100gr. (good for Torchon, Tape Laces, Bruges Flower Lace)
- **German**, (26 x .70mm) 1" steel, 50gr. (good for Torchon, Tape Laces, Bruges Flower Lace, Barjac Ombrée)
- **Belgian**, (26 x .65/70mm) 1" nickel plated brass, 100gr. (good for Torchon, Tape Laces, Bruges Flower Lace)
- **Belgian**, (30 x .50) 1 3/16" steel, 50gr. (good for Bucks, Tønder, and other fine straight laces)
- **Belgian**, (30 x .60) 1 1/8" steel, 50 gr. (good for guipure (plaited) laces)
- **German**, (30 x .70mm) 1 1/8" nickel/brass 50gr. (good for Torchon, Tape Laces, Bruges Flower Lace, Barjac Ombrée)
- **Belgian**, (30 x .80) 1 1/8" steel, 100gr. (a thick pin for picots and honeycomb ground, small head)
- **German**, (32 x .40mm) 1 3/8" stainless steel, 400 count (our finest 1 3/8" pin)
- **German**, (34 x .60mm) 1 1/4" steel, 50 grm.
- **German**, (38 x .40mm) 1 1/2" stainless steel, 400 count (our finest 1 1/2" pin)
- **Belgian**, (38 x .50) 1 1/2" steel, 50gr. (good for Point Ground, Old Flanders and other fine straight laces.)
- **Belgian**, (40 x .60) 1 1/2" steel, 50gr. (long medium sized pin that is good for Flanders)
- **#17 Picot Pins** (30 x .85) steel, 50gr. (Use for wire, picots and early lace)
- **#20 Picot Pins**, (32 x .90) steel, 50gr. (Use for wire, picots and early lace)
- **#24 Picot Pins**, (38 x 1.00) steel, 50gr. (Use for wire, picots and early lace)
- **Glass Head Pins**, (30 x .60) 1 1/4", 150 piece, nickel plated steel



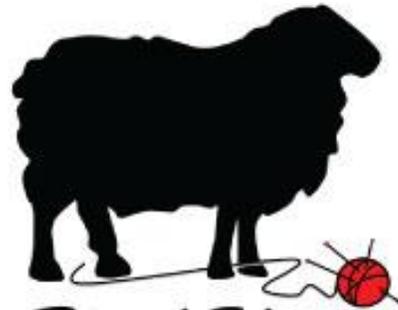
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 Web Page: <http://www.vansciverbobbinlace.com>

Pin Gauges

Another useful tool is a pin gauge. It can be helpful to determine the size of the pins that you already have.



Remember Show Me Lacemaker's member Kelli Slack when you need lacemaking supplies. Kelli's business partner Tina Johnson is also a member of the Show Me Lacemakers.



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