

# Working for Serpentine Insertion

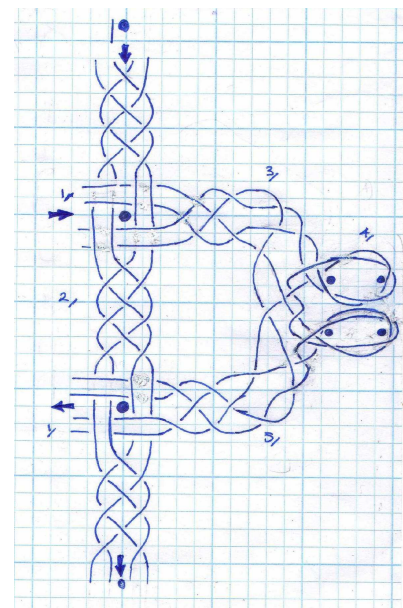
*Katherine Davies (Katherina Weyssin in the SCA), 2011.*



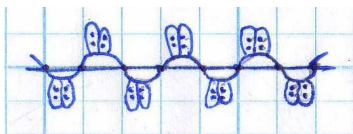
A simple lace for 8 bobbins; composed of two 4-strand plaits, one straight, one intersecting it in a serpentine pattern, with long picots on the serpentine plait which form loops with which to attach the lace to the garment.

## Working:

1. Lazy join between plaits, serpentine plait passing through straight plait
2. Straight plait: 3 half stitches
3. Serpentine plait: 2 half stitches, extra twist on outside pair, half stitch
4. Serpentine plait: extended picot, half stitch, extended picot
5. Serpentine plait: half stitch, extra twist on outside pair, half stitch



**Pinning:** I pin only the intersections and the picots. These are the places marked on the pricking.



**Extra twist:** This is to encourage the plait to turn sharply around the corner.

**Extended picot:** Worked the same way as a normal picot, but around two pins, some distance apart, to create a longer loop. Place the first pin as usual, then insert the second pin into the same loop to enlarge it; then pass the second thread around both pins before tightening.

The 4 bobbins in the serpentine plait use significantly more thread than those in the straight plait.

# Pricking for Serpentine Insertion

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Retouched scan of my twice-used pricking (colours altered for greater contrast). Some of the pin-holes have blurred somewhat, but the pattern is clear enough.

This pricking should run the full length of an A4 sheet (297mm). Each repeat is 6mm long and 7mm wide.

## Source:

Based on insertion in a woman's linen hood (English, 1600-1620).

## Detailed description and photographs:

Janet Arnold, *Patterns of Fashion 4: The cut and construction of linen shirts, smocks, neckwear, headwear and accessories for men and women c. 1540-1660*, Macmillan, 2008. Item 57, pp48 and 104.

## Current location:

Manchester Art Galleries

[manchestergalleries.org](http://manchestergalleries.org)

Accession number: 2003.74

There is an image online.

I used somewhat heavier thread than the original, so my pattern is a compromise between maintaining the structure and shape of the original, and producing a lace that wasn't unreasonably wide. Thus mine similar to the original, but not structurally identical.

My lace was worked in Gutermann linen sewing thread, in cream. A hood of this sort requires about 60" of lace.

