

About Weldon's Practical Needlework

In an effort to bring needlework to a then-emerging middle class, several London companies in the last decades of the nineteenth century began publishing needlework patterns and instructions. Unlike other women's magazines of the time, which ran one or two needlework projects in an issue otherwise filled with fiction, recipes, housekeeping hints, and so forth, these new publications were devoted solely to needlework.

Many of these publishers were thread companies, whose ultimate goal in making patterns and instructions more readily available was of course to sell more thread. Weldon's, however, began as a paper pattern company, and it went on to become one of the most recognized needlework publishers in England.

About 1885, Weldon's began publishing a series of fourteen-page monthly newsletters, available by subscription, each title featuring patterns and instructions for projects using a single technique. They included *Weldon's Practical Knitter*, *Weldon's Practical Crochet*, *Weldon's Practical Macramé Lace*, and so on. By about 1915, Weldon's had published 159 issues of *Practical Crochet*.

About 1888, the company began to publish *Weldon's Practical Needlework*, each volume of which consisted of twelve issues (one year) of several newsletters bound together with a cloth cover. For example, Volume 12 comprises *Practical Crochet; Knitted, Crochet, and Canvas Waistcoats; Practical Drawn Thread Work; Practical Knitter; Practical Mountmellick Embroidery; Practical Smocking; and Practical Stocking Knitter*. Each volume contains hundreds of projects, illustrations, information on little-known techniques, glimpses of fashion as it was at the turn of the twentieth century, and brief histories of needlework. Other techniques treated include making objects from crinkled paper, tatting, netting, beading, patchwork, crewelwork, appliqué, cross-stitch, canvaswork, ivory embroidery, torchon lace, and much more.

From 1999 through 2005, Interweave published facsimiles of the first twelve volumes of *Weldon's Practical Needlework*. Volumes 2 and 4 through 12 are still available (Volumes 1 and 3 are sold out); to order, visit www.interweavestore.com/needlework/books.html or call (800) 272-2193.

Link Pattern Lace

THIS pretty and uncommon lace may be made in fine or in coarse cotton and is suitable for any purpose for which the necessarily open character of the design will not be found a disadvantage.

Each link is made separately. Make 50 chain and join them into a ring. **1st round**—2 chain (to serve as one double crochet), then 99 double crochet into the ring; finish the round with a slip-stitch into the top of the two chain. **2nd round**—* 1 double crochet, 3 chain, 1 picot (4 chain, 1 slip-stitch into the first chain), 3 chain, 1 picot, 1 chain, miss four; repeat from * all round. There should be twenty loops in all. Fasten off. **3rd round**—* 1 double crochet over the loop of chain of the last row, just after the first picot, 5 chain; repeat from * all round, finishing with 1 slip-stitch into the top of the first double crochet. This completes one link.

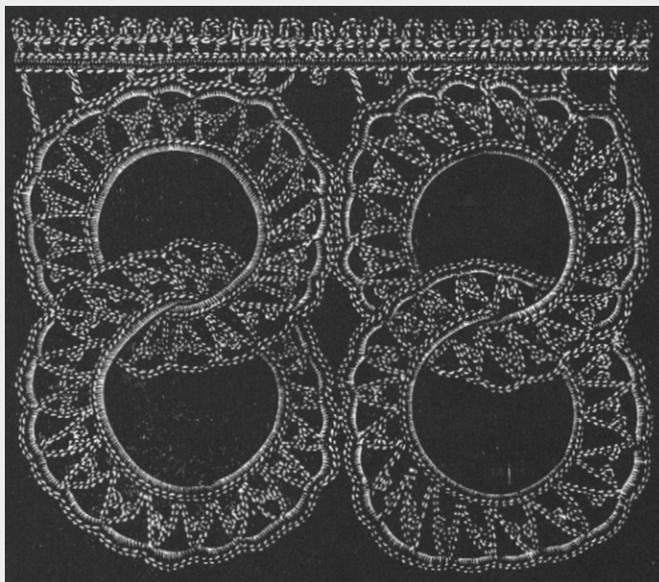
Now work another foundation of 50 chain, but before joining it into a ring, pass it through the circle already made and then work a second link exactly like the first, keeping the two circles otherwise quite independent one of the other after linking the chain foundation through the one first made.

Now lay the links together in the position shown in the detail, taking care to get the same side of the crochet uppermost in both. Begin at the point where two of the links meet and work 7 double crochet into the upper fourteen chain loops of the uppermost link. Carry the double crochet also round the free loops of the lower link until the place is reached at which the work was begun. Remember to put 7 double crochet into each loop. It may be well to work one double crochet through the edge of both links just where these meet to keep them from becoming shifted out of place and the worker will soon see whether this is necessary or not.

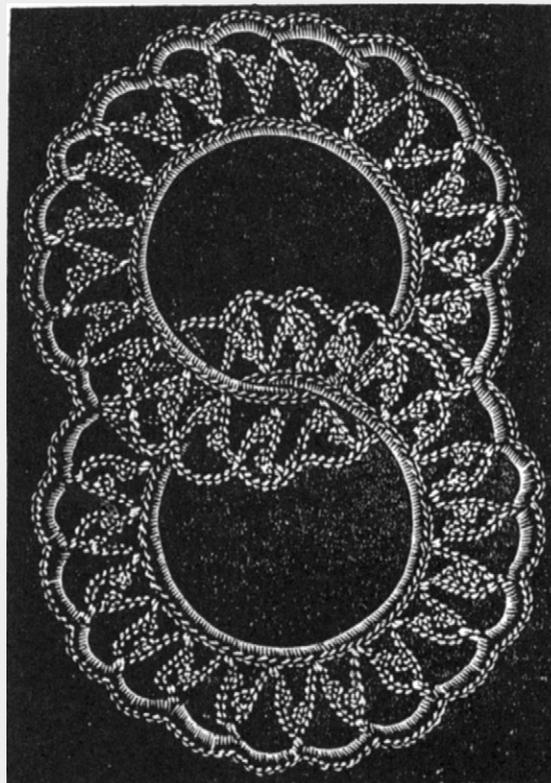
For the straight edge or heading of the lace, begin on the fourth free loop of double crochet above the join, that is, on the uppermost link. Work 13 chain, 1 slip-stitch into the third of these chain to make a picot, * 2 chain, 1 treble in the middle of the next loop, 5 chain, 1 double crochet on the next loop, 5 chain, 1 double crochet on the third loop, 5 chain, 1 treble on the following loop, 2 chain, 1 picot of five chain, 2 chain, 1 long treble, 2 chain, 1 picot, 2 chain, 1 long treble on the first loop of the next link above the join, 2 chain, 1 picot; repeat from * all along. **2nd and 3rd rows**—1 double crochet on each stitch of the preceding row, working into the back loops of the top of each. **4th row**—1 treble, 5 chain, 1 double crochet into the first of these chain to make a picot, * miss two, 1 treble, 1 picot; repeat from * all along.

This lace is another of those to which we have already referred as being of French design. It will be found to have a very charming effect if the links are made in two colours. If this is done, the thread with which the double crochet stitches are made round the rings should correspond with them in colour. It will require to be changed, therefore, after it has been carried half way round the pair of links. One colour only need be used for the heading.

—From *Weldon's Practical Needlework*, Volume 12



Link Pattern Lace.



Details of Lace. Link Pattern.

Pointed Lace in Crochet Tatting

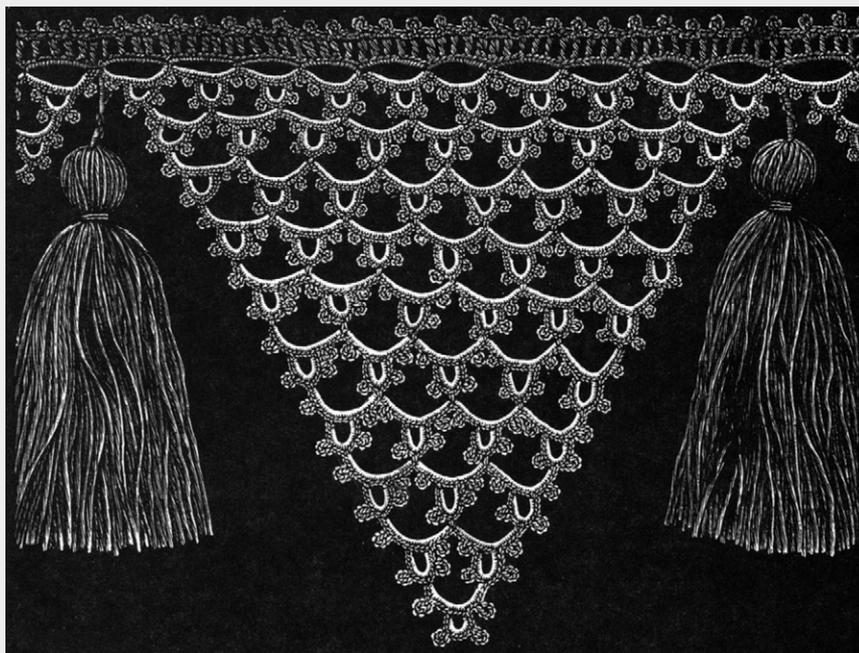
THIS lace is extremely effective when made with thread of two colours, say écru and a darker shade of brown. It bears a considerable resemblance to tatting, but is more substantial and will stand washing better. It is worked shortwise, and as coloured cotton is only to be had in a limited number of sizes it is as well to choose the medium, No. 16, of Evans' Maltese thread, and a steel hook, No. 18. It is equally suited to making in white cotton, or in fine macramé thread forms an admirable lace for furniture trimming. **1st row**—Begin with the paler shade, * make 22 chain and join them into a circle. Put 3 double crochet, 1 picot (that is: 5 chain and 1 double into the first chain), 7 double crochet, 5 chain; loop these back into the fourth chain after the first picot, thus making a small loop on the top of the large one. Into this little loop, work 3 double crochet, 1 picot, 5 double crochet, 1 picot, 3 double crochet. The next stitches are to be worked into the large ring of chain, 3 double crochet, 1 picot, 3 double crochet. This completes one loop. Repeat from * as many times as are needed to make the lace of the length desired, but the number of loops must be divisible by ten. **2nd row**—Turn, and work slip-stitches up the edge of the first loop, over the picot and up the side of the small loop till the middle stitch is reached—that is, the third of the five double crochet stitches that were made between the two picots. Work a double crochet into this stitch, then * 10 chain, 1 double crochet in the middle stitch of the next small loop; repeat from * eight times or so that there are nine loops of chain altogether. **3rd row**—Turn, and work into each loop in succession as in the 1st row. **4th row**—Turn, make the slip-stitches as in the 2nd row, and the loops of 10 chain, of which, however, there should be eight instead of nine. Continue to work backwards and forwards in this way, putting one loop less into each row, until one loop only has to be made, which will complete one vandyke of the lace. Cut off the thread and run the end in with a needle.

Begin the next vandyke in the first loop after the first point making 1 double crochet in the top of the small loop and continuing as in the 2nd row from *. When a sufficient number of points has been made, work the heading

for the lace with the darker shade of cotton. **1st row**—10 double crochet into the chain part of every loop. **2nd row**—5 chain (the first three serving as a treble), miss two, 1 treble, 2 chain, miss two, 1 treble; continue thus all along, but in the space between the sets of double crochet, work a long treble (cotton twice over the hook). **3rd row**—1 double crochet in one of the holes of the preceding row, * 1 double crochet, 1 picot, 1 double crochet in the next hole, 1 double crochet; repeat from * all along.

All that now remains is to make some good-sized tassels with the darker brown cotton and to sew them between the vandykes. This lace, worked with pretty colours, makes an admirable trimming for a small table such as is often useful in a bedroom, or on a landing. It is also suitable for edging window valances made of cretonne, and looks pretty on blinds if made of cream-coloured thread.

—From *Weldon's Practical Needlework*, Volume 10



Pointed Lace in Crochet Tatting.