

# Lacemakers of Puget Sound

## Have-a-Go Fish Demonstration Kit

### Kit Components:

- 1 28-inch cookie pillow with dark blue cover and red zippered carry case.
- 5 sets each of 1 dozen pony bead bobbins (4 sets on pillow, 1 in notebook pouch)
- 4 tongue-depressor bobbin holders (on pillow)
- 1 pincushion
- Large plastic-headed pins
- Notebook with:
  - Pouch containing:
    - 6 pair extra pony-bead bobbins
    - Perle 8 cotton thread in varied colors
    - 1 embroidery scissors
    - Pen/pencil
  - This page
  - Lace fish instructions
  - Tips sheet
  - Lacemaking FAQ to display
  - Sign-up sheet master to copy
  - Fish pattern master to copy
  - Extra fish patterns
  - Twist and Cross diagram
  - Procedure diagrams
  - Record of use

You should have received the kit set up with four fish patterns pinned to the pillow, each with 6 pairs of bobbins wound and hung on.

- ✓ Print off enough LPS brochures to hand out.
- ✓ If you have a clear literature stand, consider displaying the FAQ in it.
- ✓ Don't forget your own pillow, and samples of your work!
- ✓ When you are finished, ***please set up the pillow for the next person*** to check out the kit. Consider donating some more Perle 8. Don't forget to sign the record of use!

This kit is the property of Lacemakers of Puget Sound.

Please contact Julie Enevoldsen 206-932-3741, [j.enevoldsen@wlonk.com](mailto:j.enevoldsen@wlonk.com), with questions or suggestions.

## Have-a-Go Lace Fish

This fish is essentially the same as the popular snake bookmark, but much shorter, to encourage visitors at a demonstration to “have a go” at lace, with the satisfaction of having a completed piece to take with them after a relatively short time.

1. Instruct the student to place a pin in the fish’s “nose” (at the top—note: the patterns are marked with an arrow toward the top on the back).
2. Instruct the student to hang the weaver pair over the nose pin, and push both bobbins to the left, then the first passive pair to the right of the weavers, push to the left, and repeat, until all 6 pairs are hung.
3. Teach the student to cloth stitch (CTC) the weaver through all passive pairs, tension well, and put up a pin at the end of the first row between the worker and last passive. Twist the weaver twice, and cloth stitch back to the next pinhole, tension, and repeat.
4. After the final row is completed, instruct the student not to twist the weavers. The student should “unweave” the lower worker thread only back through all passives. Tie a weavers’ knot or square knot to gather all the threads tightly together. Cross the weavers *under* all pairs, tie another knot on top, cross weavers under a final time, and tie a last knot.
5. Have the student cut all pairs to create the length of tail he or she prefers, remove all pins, and enjoy the finished fish!

Time allowing, students who master the cloth stitch fish may be interested in repeating the exercise in half stitch. Use the same procedure.

## Have-A-Go Lace Fish Tips

A minimum of two lacemakers is recommended: one can demonstrate lacemaking on his or her own pillow while the other assists students at the have-a-go pillow. Very busy have-a-go pillows can use two teachers.

The pillow can accommodate 4 fish being made at one time, if the pillow can be set on a small square or round table so that all four may be worked comfortably. This also allows the teacher to circulate around the table to assist students easily. If you must set up the pillow at the end of a long table, you'll only be able to have 3 fish going at one time.

Beginners seem to take between 20 and 45 minutes to complete one cloth-stitch fish.

If interest warrants, consider starting a sign-up sheet for people to reserve a place.

I suggest you ask students who are waiting to choose colors for the stripes down the fish's body (passive pairs—5), and a contrasting color for the weaver. If there are enough spare pairs, you can have these wound and ready to go by the time the previous student is finished.

If you keep plenty of thread wound on half the bobbins, it's fairly quick to wind off just enough to complete a fish on empty bobbins to complete the pairs. 18 inches on the weaver is excessive, and passives need just a few inches to hold onto the bobbin.

Although there's no reason not to make a fish all one color, it helps give instructions if the weaver is contrasting, and even easier if the passives alternate colors or are all different colors (rainbow fish are lovely!) "Now cloth-stitch the yellow weaver pair through the next green passive pair", etc.

Follow the lead of the student to judge how picky they want to be about tension and mistakes. Very young or impatient children are often happy just to have gone through the process and completed what looks to them like a fish, even if the tension is loose and the stitches are random! On the other hand, some children and many adults really want to make it look the best they can, and will appreciate tips to improve their technique.

Leaning the pins slightly out and tensioning the passives out toward the pins helps create a nice fish shape.

The "Procedure Diagrams" page can be helpful for novice adults, or for parents looking over kids' shoulders. Children usually ignore it. Commonly, beginners are confused with the change of direction at the end of the row. The diagram shows that the "cross-twist-cross sequence is unchanged, whether the row is right-to-left or left-to-right.

# *Lacemaking FAQ*

*Q. What are you doing?*

A. Making bobbin lace.

*Q. Are you tatting?*

A. No. Tatting is a more recent lacemaking technique, usually using a shuttle and a single thread to create knotted loops. It probably developed from knotting in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Ask to see the difference!

*Q. Doesn't it take a lot of patience?*

A. No! It takes patience to do housework; it doesn't take patience to do something as fun as bobbin lace!

*Q. Isn't bobbin lace a "dying art"?*

A. No! Although bobbin lace is not commercially viable (think how much it would cost to buy!), many people all over the world learn this fascinating art as a hobby.

*Try it yourself—*

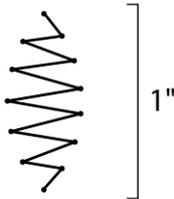
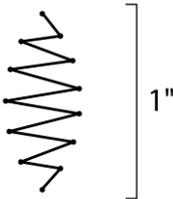
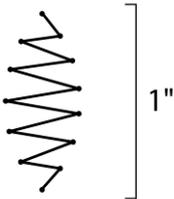
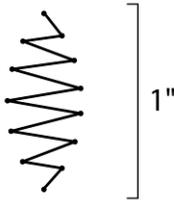
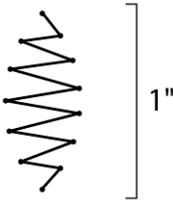
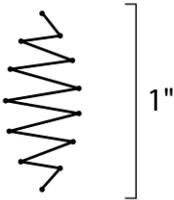
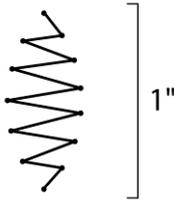
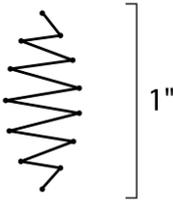
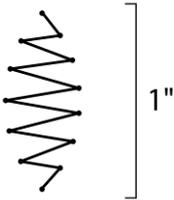
*Make a bobbin lace fish!*



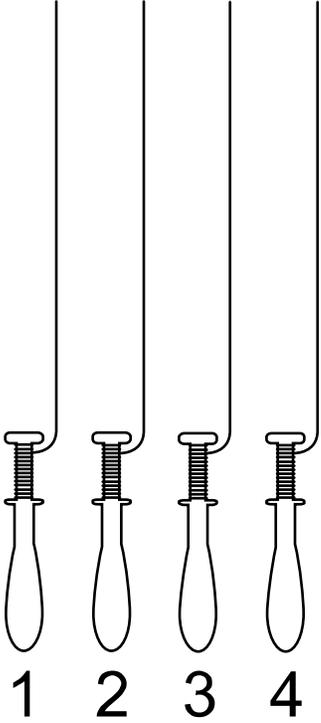
# Lace Fish Sign-Up Sheet

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_
19. \_\_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_\_
21. \_\_\_\_\_
22. \_\_\_\_\_
23. \_\_\_\_\_
24. \_\_\_\_\_
25. \_\_\_\_\_

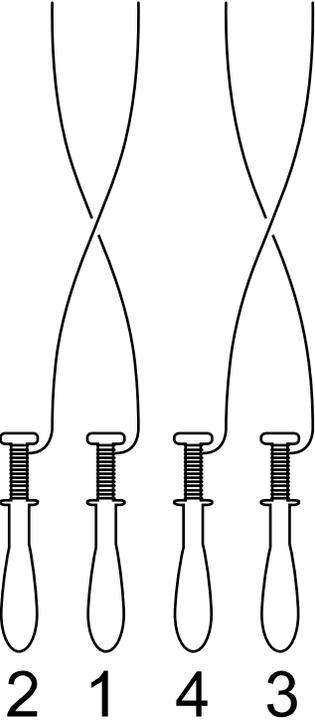
Have-A-Go Lace Fish patterns to copy



# Start



# Twist



# Cross

