

Lace – a basic guide



Please read our T & C's – www.rosamaycrafts.com

DISCLAIMER: Please note this is my very own guideline, there are so many guides and tips, use which one you feel works for you. Visit for more free downloads - <https://rosamaycrafts.com/category/sewing-tutorials/>

Lace is beautiful, dainty and delicate. The most common materials used to make lace are cotton, silk, linen and synthetic fibres – polyester. You can find this gorgeous trim in variety of colours, widths, properties and designs. Lace has many wonderful uses and the type of lace you use is dependent on your creation. You have lace for all your DIY projects, applique, home furnishings and decorations, lingerie and wedding attire.

Lace comes in various forms:

1. Stretch and non-stretch – stretch lace is used mostly in lingerie and non-stretch for DIY projects
2. Patterns – various designs, some with beads and ribbon added into the design.
3. Style edges – together with the wonderful pattern, lace can have one side straight and the other scalloped or both sides scalloped or inserts – one side has a raw edge and the other is scalloped.
4. Transparency – some lace is transparent, and others are not.
5. Texture and weight – there are varying textures from smooth to raised and lightweight to a more solid medium weight.

Types of lace

There is a huge range of lace and it is all dependent on what you are creating, the lace that will be discussed in this blog will be lace that can be used in home decoration and furnishing, applique and children's clothing and dress up outfits.

Polyester lace



As the name says it is made from polyester material, you can cotton and polyester blends. It comes with 3 varying edges – scalloped, straight and insert. Again dependent on what you buy and what you need your lace for, some polyester lace is soft and others are slightly and can be scratchy. So when making any type of clothing make sure you are buying the softer polyester lace. It comes in so many wonderful colours – bold to pastels, it is durable and easy to wash. Do not iron directly as it will melt, use a gentle iron and a pressing cloth, if ironing is required. You can use this type of lace for almost anything – garters, furnishing, dream catchers, dress up outfits and more.

Cotton lace



Made from 100% cotton.

100% cotton lace has limited colours, if you are looking for coloured cotton lace, you will need to look for the cotton/polyester blend.

All lace should be prewashed, place in your laundry bag or old pillowcase and tie up. Once washed you will need to press before adding to your project as it does crease. Use a pressing cloth with a low temperature iron.

As you can see from the above images it comes in the 3 common edges. Cotton lace does not have a stretch to it. It has so many wonderful uses – crafting projects, home projects and more – adding to mason jars, home furnishings, bunting décor, applique projects, wedding and special occasions decorations for the table.

Crochet lace



You can either create your own beautiful and delicate crochet lace or you can buy it ready made. You can make crochet lace with cotton or synthetic crochet cotton and if you are making your own you can create the lace in any colour you need or wish for. Whereas if you buy, it has limited colours. Also when creating your own crochet lengths, you must make it to the exact size, the purchased readymade can be purchased in a variety of lengths and can be cut. It has that vintage bohemian look with a slight stretch and easy to wash.

This type of lace is wonderful for vintage, rustic wedding and home decorations and furnishing.

Embroidered Lace



Embroidered lace is too beautiful for words, just gorgeous. Most of the embroidered lace that you find in shops or online is machine embroidered, but to give it the unique special look, many hand embroidered the lace.

Personally, I either handwash or use a gentle wash with embroidered lace, as it is very delicate.

You can find this is polyester and cotton materials

The use for this type of lace is limitless – wedding attire, hair accessories, princess dress, adding a touch of prettiness to your applique projects, cushion covers and other home décor and so much more.

Lace trim or lace edging



Please see our detailed guide on Trim, Rick rack and tassels and other sewing guides -

<https://rosamaycrafts.com/category/sewing-tutorials/>

Lace fabric



This type of lace can be purchased in widths of 150cm and any lengths, often used for wedding and cocktail/evening wear and Princess dresses.

Lingerie lace



As the word states, this lace is specially made for use in under garments or lingerie, it is elasticised.

There are more laces with various uses, ask shops that sell lace or a seasoned sewer, search the web for more information.

A few tips

Please note these are basic tips to look out for, there is more in-depth information that can be found.

1. Use fine sewing pins.
2. Always prewash. Depending on the type of lace you have used, it is always best to wash with a delicate or hand wash. Most lace will come with the instruction on how to wash.
3. Always iron with a pressing cloth on a low heat. Beware of the synthetic materials used in lace, they can melt with too much heat.
4. Most of the fabric I use is cotton, linen, denims – non slippery fabrics, but if you are using lace with organza, satin, chiffon or any other slippery fabric, use thin tracing paper or a stabiliser. This stops the fabric and lace from slipping and sliding.
5. For stretch lace it is best to use a zig zag or stretch stitch.
6. Do not go fast when sewing with lace.



PROPERTY OF ROSA MAY CRAFTS.