

**Christine Mirecki**

# **Farben sind Spitze**

**An English Translation of the Texts**

*(Translated by Stephanie Peters. Copyright Christine Mirecki and Stephanie Peters.)*

**[Page 2]** Born in Berlin in 1950, school leaving examination 1970. Studied at the Hamburg University of Design, graduating in textile design. Main subject design for weaving. Married 1973, two sons, lives in Hamburg. Continuing further study and work in different textile techniques, such as patchwork, weaving, embroidery, knitting, crochet and sewing. She started bobbin lace in 1980 with Inge Brühns and three years later took over the class as teacher. Participated in a variety of exhibitions and special courses. In 1997 she was awarded the third prize in the German Bobbin Lace Guild's competition with the theme black and white. For many years she has designed her own patterns with a computer.

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Copyright 2000 by Christine Mirecki. 1st printing, 500 copies, March 2001.  
ISBN 3-00-007750-2

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**[Page 4]      *Turquoise Scarf***

32 pairs. Materials: various silk threads, wool 20/2.

Begin at the middle of the neck and make sewings at the line down the middle. Use two workers of the same colours for the kite shapes. The moons in the middle are worked in half stitch. Insert two differently coloured threads here as a pair, whereby one of the threads works backwards and forwards as the worker pair in half stitch. Repeat this section until the desired length is reached.

Turning stitch:    Cross twist twist cross    x o o x

**[Page 5]      Directions for Working    See Page 23 *Waves Scarf***

**[Page 6–9]      *Inge's Purple Scarf***

Tussah silk 20/2. 66 passive pairs in one colour plus a variety of colours for the worker pairs. The worker pairs for the cloth stitch areas are laid in separately and taken out at the end of each repeat worked diagonally. At the start a fringe is added later; at the end the fringe can be added without knotting off. The edge pairs are worked in both directions. The ground stitches can be worked in halfstitch or cloth stitch and twist depending on the thickness of the selected yarn.

Directions for Working: Work the 1st section followed by the 2nd section until the desired length is reached. (Worked by Inge Brühns)

*Anfang* = Start; *1. Teil* = 1st section; *Teil 2* = 2nd section; *Ende* = end.

**[Page 10]      *Karla's Scarf with Leaves***

Various threads approx 30/2. 20 pairs per strip: 8 pairs in one colour and 12 in another. 4 pairs for the edge, which is started in both directions. The scarf can be made in 4 strips, which are joined by sewings. The ground stitches must be worked in halfstitch, pin halfstitch, so that the coloured pairs change places. Knot a fringe at the beginning and end of the scarf, for which you will need to add extra threads.

If leaves are too much trouble for you, you may work spiders instead. For the end work the half of the start section to the dotted line turned upside down. (Worked by Karla Bräuer)

**[Page 12]      *Karla's Cap with Leaves***

Top of cap. Copy twice. 20 pairs for the inner circle. 20 pairs for the outer circle.

The top panel of the cap can be made in two parts, which must be joined by sewings. Line the cap with a matching fabric. The assembled prickings can be used as a cutting pattern.

In order to adjust the width of the cap work a hole in the lower edge and insert a ribbon.

**[Page 13]** Inner edge. Copy 3 times. 20 pairs  
This section can be joined to the top section with sewings.

Lower border. Copy 3 times. 6 pairs. This section may be joined to the inner edge either by sewings during the work or sewn on when the work is complete.

**[Page 14] Scarf with Small Circles**

Tussah silk 20/2. 36 pairs: 8 pairs and one gimp pair for each strip + 4 edge pairs.  
Enlarge the pricking to 125%

*Arbeitsanweisung* = working order; *Anfang* = start section; *Teil 1* = section 1.

**[Page 15]** The pattern comprises 4 strips each with 8 pairs in the same colour; the strips are indicated by in the start section by dotted lines. The ground stitches along the dotted lines must be worked in cloth stitch and twist. Additionally it is possible to achieve different effects by using various gimp threads. Sections 1 and 2 together comprise a repeat, which can be worked as many times as you wish. The edge is begun in both directions. Knot a fringe at start and finish.

*Teil 2* = section 2; *Endteil* = end section.

The end matches section 1 of the repeat. Take all pairs out here.

**[Page 16] Cap with Small Circles**

Tussah silk 20/2. This beret matches the Scarf with Small Circles in both colour and pattern. It comprises four parts, which are joined by sewings. The lacemaker has lined the upper area and the band underneath in blue.

Bottom border. Copy 4 times. 6 pairs

Work in cloth stitch and twist or half stitch and join to the lower edge of the beret with sewings, or work separately and sew together when complete.

Lower edge. Copy 4 times. 20 pairs. 2 gimp pairs. (Worked by Inge Brühs)

**[Page 17]** Intermediate section. Copy 8 times. 6 pairs.

Work in cloth stitch, joining to the top and lower edge sections with sewings.

Top of cap. Copy 4 times. 42 pairs. 4 gimp pairs.

This section can be worked in several strips which are joined with sewings along the dotted lines.

**[Page 18] Technique - Fringes**

For some scarves knotting a fringe is recommended for a good finish. There are too many threads to be knotted, which rarely produces satisfactory results. At the completion of the work leave the threads hanging in the required length, plus a few extra centimetres. Before plaiting close to the work add oddments of leftover thread to

make the fringe fuller. Make all the threads the same length. Complete the fringe using one of the techniques shown in the drawings, which I have chosen from a variety of possibilities.

*Zopf* = Hair style Plait (3 strands)

*Flechter* = Bobbin made plait (4 strands)

*Gedrehte Fransen* = Twisted fringe: Two similarly sized bundles of thread are overtwisted in the direction in which the thread was spun and then intertwined in the opposite direction and finished with a knot.

*Offene Fransen* = Open Fringe: You may also leave threads hanging open. In this case you only need to make one knot close to the work and cut all the threads to the same length.

**[Page 19] Technical Drawings for lace with coloured threads**

Halbschlag = half stitch

Leinenschlag = cloth stitch

In half stitch, to ensure that one worker thread goes backwards and forwards, there are three methods to work the edges which are shown to the right of the upper blue shaded box. Select your own working method.

Here are two examples of working with a worker pair containing two colours, in which the edge stitch is twisted two or three times.

**[Page 22] Technical drawings for lace with coloured threads**

Half stitch spider: The coloured pairs change sides.

Cloth stitch spider: The coloured pairs retain their positions.

Ground in half stitch: The coloured pairs cross to the other side. ox·ox

Ground in cloth stitch and twist:  
The coloured pairs remain on their own side. oxox·oxox

Ground in cloth stitch and twist: The coloured pairs are mixed. oxox·ox

Ground Stitches:

Half stitch

Cloth stitch and twist

Twist stitch

Plait

cross

twist

twist

cross

x o o x

o = twist

x = cross

· = pin

**[Page 23–25] Waves Scarf** *brown – green*

Pagoda-silk 24/2. 36 pairs. The scarf is begun and ended at the back centre of the neck. All passive pairs and edge pairs are in the same colour. Four further shades are required for workers. Take the workers out at the middle line of the lace and replace with another colour.

All the wave shapes are worked in cloth stitch. If the size of your thread permits, try using half stitch as well. This will produce further delightful effects. For half stitch insert a worker pair which consists of two differently coloured threads.

Key to diagram: *Ende* = end; *Anfang* = start; *Anhäkeln* = join using sewings.

*Rechte Hälfte der Spitze* = right half of lace.

*Linke Hälfte der Spitze* = left half of lace.

*Mittellinie* = middle line: Put the pieces together here, take out worker pairs and replace with others.

**[Page 26] Semi-Circles Scarf**

*Anfang* = start; *Rapport* = repeat; *Ende* = end.

Cotton 20/2. 5 different colours. 27 pairs: 5 pairs per colour, 2 edge pairs. Enlarge the pricking to 125%!

**[Page 27]** The scarf is made in two halves which are joined by sewings down the vertical central line.

The semi-circles are worked in cloth stitch, the spiders in half stitch, which makes the colours change position.

A fringe is knotted at the start and end of the scarf. Work the repeat until the required length is reached.

**[Page 28] Semi-Circles Cap**

Cotton 20/2.

The cap is made in three sections.

Work the inner border first. When it is complete pin it to the pattern again with the left side underneath. In this way only the outer pins are put back.

I cut the pricking for the top of the cap extremely close to the outside pinholes and, matching the patterns, laid it over the inner border. This way the pieces can be joined by sewings during the working of the cap top.

See the *Semi-Circles Scarf* for colours and working instructions.

The cap can be used as a cover for a purchased beret, or can be lined.

Cap top. Copy 4 times. 29 pairs.

**[Page 29]** Bands for the cap edge. Copy 4 times. 5 pairs  
May be crocheted or stitched to the lower edge of the cap.

Cap lower edge. Copy 4 times. 13 pairs. (Worked by Christine Mirecki)

**[Page 30/31]** Pink Scarf

Tussah silk 20/2. 2 colours. 20 pairs for the first strip on the left. 19 pairs for both middle strips. 16 pairs for the last right strip.

The scarf can be worked in 4 strips, joined along the dotted lines by sewings. All passive pairs in one strip have the same colour alternating light and dark pink, while the worker pairs for the vertical rows of leaves use two threads in the same colour. The upper edge pairs are started in both directions and taken down each side to be used for the edges.

Twist the worker pairs between the passive pairs, as marked, so that the leaf shapes are separated by ribs. A fringe is knotted at the start and end.

*Mittelteil* = Middle section: Make this repeat as often as required between the start and end until the desired length is reached.

*Anfang* = start; *Mitte* = middle; *Ende* = end.

**[Page 32–38]** Shawl

Pagoda silk 24/2. Middle section: 1 × 17 pairs

Put the separate pieces of the pricking together as shown in the plan below. All passive pairs are black; the worker pairs have a variety of colours. The shawl is made in three sections that are joined by sewings. The curves are worked in cloth stitch and half stitch. Some shapes are edged with a thicker gimp thread.

*Mitte* = middle piece.

*Teil 2a* = piece 2a: 30 pairs, 1 gimp pair for the 2nd middle strip.

*Teil 2b* = piece 2b. *Teil 2c* = piece 2c. *Teil 2d* = piece 2d.

*Teil 3a* = piece 3a: 35 pairs. 1 gimp pair for the outer 3rd strip.

*Teil 3b* = piece 3b

*Teil 3c Rapport* = piece 3c repeat.

*Teil 3d Ecke* = piece 3d corner: 35 pairs. 1 gimp pair for the outer 3rd strip

**[Page 39]** Advertisements / Swiss sources of equipment  
fabric - industrial threads - materials for textile manufacturers

**[Back cover]** Enjoy colours and a variety of patterns for tip-top lace. In this book you will find different patterns and suggestions for modern uses of the fascinating technique of bobbin lace.