

# Bobbin lace in the hoop

## **Preface to the first edition 2002**

*How often do our beautiful lace works lie in the cupboard because we have no place to display them.*

*Let's just decorate our windows!*

*This booklet presents 15 „dream catchers“ as well as ideas for Christmas tree decorations and earrings. Most of the prickings are additionally explained by technical drawings.*

*You will find patterns for every taste and for every level of difficulty, for every yarn size and for 8 up to 46 pairs of bobbins.*

*The prickings can be enlarged and reduced as you wish, but of course the thickness of the yarn must be adjusted. Be sure to check that the pricking is a few millimetres smaller than the hoop before starting work.*

*By the way, although the prickings were created as pendants on the window or „dream catchers“, they are also very suitable without the hoop as doilies or to insert in a glass tray. As always, my thanks go to the ladies of the Langenlonsheim bobbin lace group who motivate and support me. I would especially like to thank Mrs. I. Barthel, Mrs. H. Kuroпка and Mrs. S. Scholz who have worked out many designs.*

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*I am grateful for suggestions and criticism.*

*And now have fun with your work!*

## **Preface to the second edition 2021**

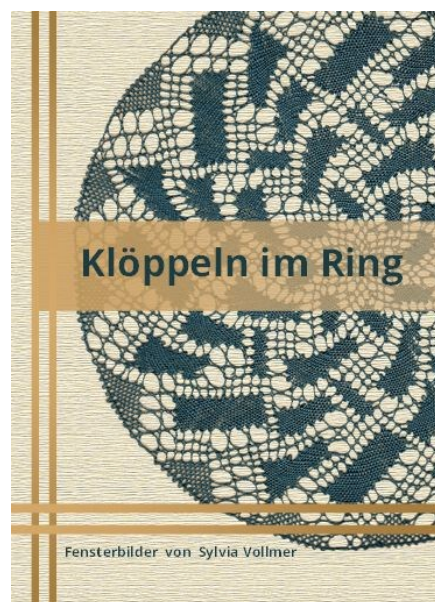
*In the meantime, more designs have been added and most of the drawings of the first edition have been revised. I would like to thank Mrs Andres, Mrs Barthel, Mrs Elflein-Gerstner, Mrs Koch and Mrs Midgett as well as Mrs. T. Wiedorn for the interpretation of the newer designs and the proof-reading.*

*As always, the technical drawings are only suggestions. Each design can be executed in many different ways, which is why I have also included ideas for variations. These have not yet been carried out and so I am curious about your interpretations. Please send me your photos, which I will gladly publish on the homepage. There you will also find some tips for the execution. In general, I am grateful for your meaning and look forward to contacting you.*

*Now I wish you many more hours of fun with this bobbin lace and much pleasure with the finished pieces!*

Cordially

*Sylvia Vollmer*



## No. 1 "Heliopsis"

**Material:** 27 (version 1) or 17 pairs of linen Nel 50/2 (Barkonie in the shades 23,24,25)

Of these, the 6 innermost pairs remain in the centre and need only little yarn. If you want to work the pricking in meander technique (version 2, lower, small draft), you only need 17 pairs. At the yellow diagonals the working direction (AR) changes. This „dream catcher“ (photo) was made in version 1, but I left the middle part empty first, so I only needed 22 pairs and at the end I used the remnants of yarn to work a „sun star“ with 8 pairs in a braided ring. This ring is also used to store the discarded threads.

The weavers of the solid parts were chosen in the darkest shade, the inner tension pairs in the lightest and the passive pairs in the center in the middle shade.

The outer triangle is worked the same in both versions; you can replace the „sun star“ with 10 pairs as you wish, so I chose four small spiders in version 2.

This video may help you with the “sun star”:

[https://kloepeln.vollmer-windesheim.de/assets/PDF/8P\\_Star.mp4](https://kloepeln.vollmer-windesheim.de/assets/PDF/8P_Star.mp4)

### 1.1 Version 2:

At the yellow diagonals, the working direction (AR) changes, at the seam in the center (turquoise) you sew.

### 1.2 Technical drawing : Center with „Sun star“

### 1.3 Pricking in original size

## No. 2 "Sun wheel"

**Material:** 14 pairs of Vävlin Nel 16/2 in various shades of blue.

Start: Begin at point (A) and work the narrow bias to the edge.

There you sew the two outer pairs to the hoop (light olive in the technical drawing) and start a slightly shorter bias at (B). After sewing at the edge, work a short piece at the centre and start a longer bias again at (C).

Variations:

- ➡ Work the biases in cloth stitch or “bead ground” (see p. 12).
- ➡ You can also work the short biases differently from the longer ones.
- ➡ Two neighbored pairs that run into the biases can be crossed with each other.

### 2.1 Technical drawing to this interpretation

### 2.2 Variation with cloth stitch and pending pairs crossed

### 2.3 Pricking is in original size

### **No. 3 "Garland of wheat"**

**Material:** 12-13 pairs linen yarn Vävlin Nel 16/2

This quick and easy to work „dream catcher“ is very well suited for beginners. It is worked in half stitch, the asymmetrical spider in cloth stitch; the spider legs are twisted several times (turquoise).

Start: Begin at the outer edge of the triangle in half stitch or in the middle of the spider.

The single thread (gimp) in the centre (yellow) lies inside the loop formed by the innermost pair around the pins in the center (see thread draft). This thread can easily be tightened and knotted when finished and so tightens all the other passive pairs towards the centre.

**Variations:** For the triangles, the pearl ground (see page 12) or the cloth stitch with ajours (=tiny gaps within the lace) certainly look appealing.

### **No. 4 "Structures"**

**Material:** 11(or more) pairs of Vävlin Nel 16/2 in various shades of blue - turquoise (∅ 20 cm, enlargement to approx. 165%)

This „dream catcher“ is especially designed for beginners; it offers no technical difficulties. The outer ring is first worked with 10 pairs in a "pearl ground" (see p. 12). Then you work the inner ring, also in "pearl ground" with 11 pairs. Because of the rounding, every second row is shortened to 6 or 7 pairs.

The connection of the two rings is done in a double stitch with additional twists and sewed into the already existing rings. At the end, you still work the diamonds in the center with plaits or as tallies.

Pearl ground: Here you alternately work a double stitch and a half stitch. You can also work a different stitch in front of the selvedge pin than after this pin. This stitch looks quite attractive - especially with differently coloured yarns; however, the threads do not tighten as well.

**Variations:** Of course, you can also execute the design in half stitch. Do experiment with different fancy yarns or Barkonie linen yarn Nel 50/4, which is available in many colours and shades! Perhaps you would also like to fill the rings using the Milanese technique; you will find ideas for this in the "Arizona" „dream catcher“.

### **No. 5 "Ammonite "**

**Material:** 15 pairs of Vävlin Nel 16/2 at original size in various shades of blue ∅ 20 cm, magnification to approx. 138%.

The spiral shape was again made in the "pearl ground" (see draft left), because with this, the different shades mix well.

Beginning: Start in the centre with the darker shades and 4 pairs and add a new pair after about a third of a round. As you do this, the shades get lighter and lighter. On every second or third pin, sew the weavers into the already completed part.

**Variations:** Vary here also with different grounds and yarns.

The very brave try their hand at Milanese lace, where the challenge lies especially in the changing number of pairs.

## **No. 6 "Dawn "**

**Material:** 18 pairs of Bockens Nel 50/2

Start at the three roots of the tree with 5-8-5 pairs in cloth stitch. As soon as the threads converge to form the trunk, take out 6 pairs again in a staggered manner. This leaves 4 pairs for each of the large three branches. You can also work the branches with 5 pairs each and then only need to remove 3 pairs. The branches are made here in half stitch, but you can certainly also start with cloth stitch and only later change to the airier looking half stitch. The connecting lines between the main branches are false plaits, (so twist the weavers several times, lead them in the desired direction and sew them several times on the way back with the help of the crochet hook). Then work the border with 4 pairs in cloth stitch. The hill faces were made separately and sewed to each other. From front to back 5 - 8 - 8 pairs were used. For the sun 4 rays of 2 pairs each are added at the border and braided onto the sun, then the sun is worked in cloth stitch and the rays are worked again towards the tree as plaids and attached and cut there.

**Variations:** Do experiment here also with yarns, colours and different stitches. For example, you can work with snippets of thick fancy yarn to create into the branches a "fuzzy" impression.

## **No. 7 "Ribbon star"**

**Material:** 9 pairs, 7 pairs Nel 50/3 (Goldschild, red) and 2 pairs in Nel 30/3 dark green.

This star consists of 4 superimposed star shaped ribbons. I suggest to work the wide ribbon separately with 7 red and 2 green pairs and then the two inner narrow ribbons at the same time with a total of 9 pairs in half stitch, crossing the passive pairs (as shown at the technical drawing below left). Finally, the outer narrow ribbon sewing it at the points of contact. I worked the wide ribbon in half stitch and carried along two dark green edge pairs in the cloth stitch. The narrow stripes were worked in cloth stitch, again adding a green pair on the very inside edge, but separating it a little by twisting the weavers. Again in the centre, pull the 6 prongs together with a single thread.

**Variations:** The star can of course also be made in a different stitch or in the Milanese style. In the picture above, the last strip runs behind the wide one , here you can also be lazy and just continue the 4 pairs in the overlapping places as two braids instead of a tally (see small photo). If you like to work tallies, then you can work these transitions as shown here, but then you should execute the wide band at the end, so that the tallies come to the top.

7.1 Grey arrows in the pricking: These lines are worked with the weavers as "false plaits", but they can also be done separately as a tally or - as in the photo - omitted altogether.

On the left, you can see one way of leading the pairs at the overlaps of the inner area. The innermost, dark green pair (drawn thicker here on the far left) is set off from the other pairs by twisting the weavers.

### **No. 8 "Mandala"**

**Material:** 22-23 pairs of Nel 60/2 (Bockens )

Start at (A) and work the diagonal row to the edge, constantly adding new pairs. Then, at (B) put in the remaining pairs for the small diamond in cloth stitch.

**Variations:** Experiment with different grounds! The pattern also tolerates a slightly thicker yarn, e.g. Goldschild Nel 50/2.

Here only one pair of weavers have been chosen in a different colour (insert at 1S, darker shade); of course you can also contrast the colour of the other weavers or work everything plain.

Attention: If the weavers have a different colour, then you must work a turning stitch (light olive in the TZ) at the marked joints! This somewhat unusual threading of the diagonal rows is designed to ensure, that the pointed arches are as dense as possible and that weavers in different colours can be used!

18.1 Mrs. Kuroпка has alternately used the two grounds shown below.

### **No. 9 "Rock rose"**

**Material:** 21 pairs Nel 50/3 (Goldschild )

This pattern is based on a historical collar that was published in the magazine of the German bobbin lace association. The reconstruction of the lace was made by Mr. Theo Kanis, with whose kind permission I may publish this lace. It has a very interesting course of thread; quite cleverly, a braid is passed imperceptibly through a ribbon.

The edge was sewed directly into the hoop (light olive in the technical drawing).

### **No. 10 "Plumbago"**

**Material:** Up from 10 pairs Nel 50/3 (Goldschild), enlargement to 110 %.

General hints: The design of this „dream catcher“ is based on the flower of the plumbago and is also suitable for beginners.

First work the inner petals in half stitch with 7 pairs, starting in the centre of the „dream catcher“. On the way back you have to sew. Then work the outer ribbon (6 pairs) together with the border (4 pairs). In doing so, sew into the lace already existing. Of course, you can also work everything simultaneously to save sewing, but then you need 17 pairs.

**Variations:** You can also swap the half stiches and cloth stitches here, fill with "perlground", use different colours for the weavers or let a stronger yarn run along the edge. The outer ring can also be omitted and the "petals" sewed directly into the hoop.

### **No. 11 "Water lily"**

**Material:** 29 pairs or more of linen yarn Nel 50/2

If the centre is too empty for you, you can work the version with the ring filled with half stitch. You will need up to 9 more pairs for this.

**Variations:** The solid parts can of course also be made in the "pearl ground" and the spiders can be changed.

## **No. 12 "Kaleidoscope"**

**Material:** 20 pairs Nm 50/2 (Bockens)

This „dream catcher“ with a diameter of 30 cm looks very filigree and with only 20 pairs it is also not too difficult. The tinted areas are all done in cloth stitch. Start the first half segment at (A) in cloth stitch. On the left, keep adding new pairs, at the centre, the weavers are placed around the pin and returned to the work. On the way back, the opposite pairs then are sewed there (light olive in the technical drawing). At the seam to the second half of the segment you gradually pick up the previously laid down pairs, but occasionally you have to sew a pair if no pair is available. These areas are again tinted with light olive.

Attention: The pricking must be enlarged to approx. 150% for the yarn size given!

## **No. 13 " Arizona"**

**Material:** 13 pairs of linen yarn Nel 60/2 (Bockens) in various autumn shades.

The stripes are made in Milanese technique, each with a different pattern with 12 or 13 pairs. Here you can let your imagination run free. The patterns for the Milanese lace are taken from the books of Patricia Read and Lucy Kincaid; that is why I have not used technical drawings here. Especially convenient: many of the threads do not need to be secured!

Variations: Here you may play with colours and patterns; but also beginners who do not yet trust themselves with Milanese lace can use the pricking. Then work in half stitch or cloth stitch with additional twists occasionally or ajours (=openings in the cloth stitch) to form a pattern.

Of course, you can also continue the ribbons further down or make fringes.

## **No. 14 "Dahlia"**

**Material:** 46 pairs Nel 50/3 (Goldschild)

This „dream catcher“ is worked in torchon technique and has a diameter of 30 cm (enlargement to approx. 150%). The triangles at the edge are worked in half stitch, all other motifs in cloth stitch. The ground in between is formed by Twisted Torchon Ground (brown in the technical drawing).

The design is drawn on a special grid, to make sure, the distances in the centre of the ring are similar to those at the edge. However, this means that the solid shapes are no longer symmetrical. Thus, there are often more pin holes on one side of the shape than on the other. This means that at some pins two pairs have to be taken in or put out. Try to start on a dense cloth stitch motif if possible, so that the ends can be hidden well later.

**Variations:** If you like, you can insert small ajours by changing pairs or twists, or work some shapes in half stitch or “pearl ground”.

### **No. 15 "The icing on the cake".**

**Material:** 40 pairs Egyptian cotton 80/2 and 8 pairs contour thread e.g. linen yarn Nm 20/2

A dream in white tulle lace! This is also a special grid. The work basically consists of 6 segments that are placed next to each other at an angle of 60°.

Start at the outer edge of one Segment; only when you have completely finished it you can start the next one!

**Variations:** All solid parts can also be worked in half stitch. The lace is excellent for inserting into a glass tray if you enlarge it and use stronger yarn. If you want it coloured, choose the machine embroidery thread "Silky sheen" or silk from Clover and thicker silk as gimp.

### **No. 16 "Silene"**

**Material:** 31 pairs of linen Nel 40/2 (Bockens), diameter in the original: 29.5 cm. This „dream catcher“ is again made using the meander technique.

Start at the seam as indicated or at the large diagonal (blue line in the sketch).

**Variations:** Instead of the large spiders in linen stitch, you can of course also work any 4-pair ground, therefore left the grid points still visible in the pricking. You can use 10 pairs for the opening of the large diamond. Mrs. Barthel has made a variation of the Brussels ground there. In the technical drawing I suggest 4 spiders to choose from, separated by diagonals. Certainly the large "sun star" from page 7 will also look great here. Why don't you replace the 4-pair ground at the edge with spiders or - as indicated - bias ground!

16.1 Enlargement to the original size approx. 200%.

### **No. 17 "Janus"**

**Material:** 15 pairs in meander technique, no. 30/2 (Frank's cotton in pastel yellow), 1 thin wire.

This „dream catcher“ is three-dimensional and it has 2 faces, depending on how you turn it.

Work about 1.5 fillings of the circle in one piece. You already need to starch when the circle is almost complete, then when dry, detach the first half and continue working until you have finished 13 or 14 or 15 segments between the red lines.

Sew, even if it bulges! You now fold the well-starched lace out from the centre like a fan, so that the red lines all go on one side and the green on the other.

Both, the ends of the red lines and the ends of the green lines fit into a hoop and can be fastened there with invisible sewing thread.

Mrs. Elflein - Gerstner additionally inserted a thin metal thread along the folded edges to the middle and back (see draft on the right). The filled shapes were worked by her exclusively in the cloth stitch.

17.1 The orange lines in the pricking indicate the change of working direction for the meander or the centre seam for sewing.

If you are very brave and don't need a technical drawing, you can also work the piece across the whole radius, then you don't need to sew, but remember that the direction of the rose ground is at right angles to the drawn lines and you need many more pairs!

17.2 You need three times the pricking to complete a circle.

17.3 The gray line is symbolizing the course of the gimp (thin wire)

### **No. 18 "Whirlwind"**

**Material:** 6 pairs of linen Nel 35/2 (Klippans, colour 546)

This „dream catcher“ with a diameter of 29 cm needs only few pairs. It is technically based on the “Idria lace with narrow bands”. The thickenings were made in double stitch, the pairs for the tallies were added separately at the end; enlargement to approx. 142%.

**Variations:** Instead of the tallies, braids or beads can be chosen. Replace the double stitch with half stitches, possibly in alternation. The outer frame can be omitted if you sew directly into a hoop.

18.1 False plaits create the connection to the border.

18.2 The ribbons were worked in cloth stitch with winkiepin edge, at the narrow bends a change of weavers was made; here a selvedge pin after four is possible. The connecting pairs are twisted twice (orange) or several times (turquoise), put around a pin and then sewed later from the other side (light olive).

### **No. 19 "Wind rose"**

**Material:** 24 pairs of linen Nel 50/3 (Goldschild)

Here you have the largest „dream catcher“ with almost 40 cm Ø. It is not quite symmetrical in the middle area and has a lot of space for spiders, some of which are also asymmetrical. They were worked in half stitch, but of course there are many other design possibilities, e.g. one half of it in cloth stitch.

This star is worked in the meander technique. 6 other pairs (only little yarn is needed!) form the central circle. Start at the centre as shown and work towards the edge by successively adding pairs.

At the centre seam, place the weavers (twisted twice or three times) around a pin; sew here on the way back (light olive in the TZ).

19.1 Left: technical drawing for the "sun star" with 10 pairs.

### **No. 20 "Starflower"**

**Material:** 22-24 pairs of Franks cotton 20/3, enlarge to 125%.

If you want to work in 2 colours (technical drawing at the left), make sure that the weavers are twisted twice at the pin of the half stitch, so that there is always the same thread running back and forth. The diagonals are done as “princess plait” (see thread drawing) with toned threads. At the transition to the “sun star” (see sketch on the right) only threads in the basic colour should be used (turning stitch if necessary).

On the right side you can see the technical drawings for the "sun stars".

You can find a detailed description on my homepage.

[https://kloepeln.vollmer-windesheim.de/p\\_anleitung.html](https://kloepeln.vollmer-windesheim.de/p_anleitung.html)



## **No. 21 "Kalinka"**

**Material:** 5 pairs each of polyester 30/3 (Mara, color 787) and 1 pair of beige Embroidery yarn (Perlgarn) Ø 29,5 cm, enlarged to about 124 %.

The ribbons are worked in cloth stitch, the edge pair in double stitch with winkiepin edge; the embroidery yarn runs in the center, also in cloth stitch. Start at any narrow point where the later finishing will not be too noticeable.

In the center, Ms. Andres didn't work any fillings, so that the course of the ribbons is better shown off. Of course, you can also plait the (lighter) bars of the pricking here.

If you want the center of the ribbon to be emphasized even more by a ribbing, use a thicker yarn for the middle pair (structuring pair) and place the weavers between the two threads of the twisted structure pair(see draft).

21.1 Five segments create a circle

21.2 technical drawing to the "Russian wheel"

21.3 The Russian wheel: 5 of the 6 spokes are worked continuously as plaits and sewed into the ribbons already finished. The two pairs are now in the center of the wheel. One of the pairs is twisted and placed on the spoke to the left and sewed there (light olive in the TZ and draft 21.4 ), then twisted and placed counterclockwise on the following spoke and sewed again, etc.; treating the remaining pair as a spoke. Attach the single pair in this way 6 times per round. In each subsequent round, twist the pair once more. When the circle has reached the required size, join the two pairs to finish plaiting the last spoke.

21.4 Sewing to the spoke

## **No. 22 Pendants** (for christmas tree)

**Material:** Linen Nel 50/3, metal hoop Æ approx. 6.8 cm.

Sew into the hoop at the edge (light olive) or just put it around a pin and sew it separately after finishing. In the centre insert only a single thread (yellow). This one can then be tightened and knotted when finished. This also tightens all the other passive pairs towards the centre.

It also works without a metal hoop if you work a braid around the edge and starch well the pendants.

## **No. 23 "Cornflower"**

**Material:** 8 pairs or more Nel 16/2 (Vävlin)

The cornflower is a small „dream catcher“ with a diameter of 15 cm. Here it is made with one pair in white, two pairs in dark blue and 5 pairs in light blue. The outer edge is worked in cloth stitch, with the weavers twisted at every second petal to create an opening. For the inner part of the flower the weavers are twisted several times (orange).

In the centre I have passed the weavers around a pin and pulled a double thread through the resulting loops and knotted them later (yellow in the TZ).

Variations: Of course you can work the "petals" in half stitch. Enlarge the pricking by approx. 148% to 15 cm diameter.

### **General notes:**

As the title suggests, the designs are for metal hoops in different sizes. At the moment they are available in shops in sizes from 10 cm to 50 cm at intervals of 5 cm.

The small designs for the christmas tree are suitable for rings with a diameter of 6.8 cm.

If you don't like the heavy hoops, you can replace the hoops with a plait if necessary and then starch your work strongly, e.g. with diluted wood glue or special "hat starch", but the work will still curl over time.

How does the lace get into the hoop?

Method 1: The hoop is already attached during the lace-making process. To do this, attach the hoop to the empty pricking by centring it and pinning it in place with pins. When you come to the edge during lace making, push a sew hook from the outside under the hoop, pull one thread of the weavers outwards and insert the second thread of the pair into the resulting loop and put both threads back on the work.

The advantages are obvious: there is no need to sew in after lace-making and everything is properly centred without much effort. The disadvantage? Well the work is now forever attached to this hoop; this can cause problems when washing, so protect the lace additionally with nano spray, etc.

2nd method: The hoop is sewn on after the work.

This is more time-consuming, but the bobbin lace work can also be separated out. To do this, fix the finished „dream catcher“ in the centre of the hoop with masking tape or staples and wrap it around, taking hold of the raised eyelets of the lace work (right photo). This is also quite quick. You can do the whole process again in the opposite direction, then the hooking will look more symmetrical. If you wrap, sew or loop around the hoop beforehand, you can hide the sewing threads well by continuing them in the wrapping (photo below right). If the „dream catcher“ has to be washed or if it is to serve as a doily for a while, the sewing threads are quickly cut.

### **To interpret the technical drawings (TZ) in this book:**

The lines represent the course of the pairs. Crossing two lines means joining two pairs. Necessary twists are represented by colours, not by cross lines!

- 1 twist: red or green (as in half stitch or double stitch)
- 2 twist: brown or orange (as in twisted torchon ground or dieppe ground)
- Cloth stich: purple, no twist
- braid, plait or tally: blue
- Single thread: yellow

In addition to these internationally valid colours, I use others for special connections:

- Pink: the two inner threads of the two pairs are crossed. There is only an additional twist if the adjacent connections require it (e.g. see page 7 the TZ to the star).
- Turquoise: Tulle ground or 3-fold twist of the pair (e.g. for spider legs)
- Light olive: special feature, e.g. 3- or 4-pair connection, sewing, turning stitch etc.

The rule is: if a line changes colour, as many twists are needed as the colour with the most twists demands. The twists do not add up! Examples :

- Change from cloth stitch to double stitch: The line is partly violet, partly red => 1 twist.
- Change from cloth stitch to dieppe (violet-orange) => 2 twists.
- Crossing followed by a cloth stitch (pink to violet) => no twist.
- Crossing followed by a double stitch (pink to red) => 1 twist as the double stitch requires it.

### **Some explanations:**

"sun star" with 10 pairs.

You find additional help for it on my homepage.

Video:

[https://kloepeln.vollmer-windesheim.de/p\\_anleitung.html](https://kloepeln.vollmer-windesheim.de/p_anleitung.html)

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**Pearl ground:** Here you alternately work a double stitch and a half stitch. You can also work a different stitch in front of the selvedge pin than after this pin. This stitch looks quite attractive - especially with differently coloured yarns; however, the threads do not tighten as well (Page 10).

### **False plait**

You use the weavers, twist them several times and sew them at the opposite edging. By going back, you twist once and sew them to the previously made bar, tighten. Repeat twisting and sewing several times.