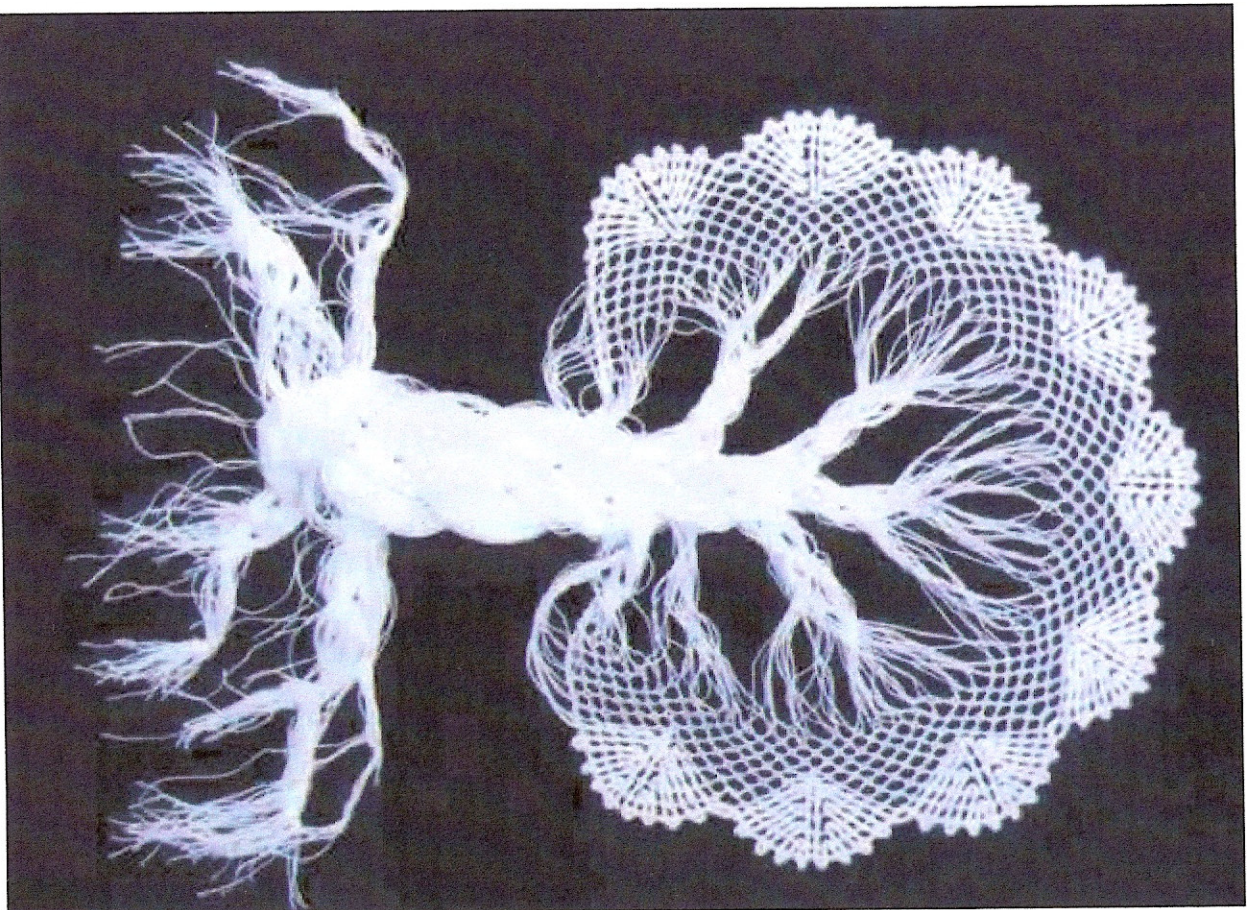


## *Classroom - Tree Pattern 1*

Note: pictures are quite large; please be patient

**Title: "Old Tree"**



This is one of my early designs - very simple, yet quite attractive. When I designed it I did not know much about lacemaking, so I tried to utilize what I did know - basic Torchon lace. It proved to be a very popular design. I made so many of the "Old Trees" that I couldn't look at the pricking anymore. Now, more than fifteen years later, I do not mind to repeat it once more.



## Printable:

[Pricking Working Diagram](#)  
[Working Diagram 2](#)

## Technique:

Torchon

## Stitches:

Torchon ground Torchon fans in whole stitch (CTCT)

## Materials:

Cotton thread in 3 sizes - thin, medium and thick

Choice of thread is important for this pattern. The combination of thick and thin threads provides a contrast, which the simple pattern itself cannot achieve. You can choose any combination of thread as far as the thick thread is more than a double size of the thin thread. The third thread of a medium size is optional, and should be somewhere in the middle of the two. If you don't have this medium size thread handy, you can use the thin thread instead. This substitution will not change lace too much.

I used inexpensive cotton thread: cordonnet #80 for thin thread ("A"), #30 for medium size ("C") and a coarse thread ("B") with no sized indicated - a generic thread that is available in every department store in Vancouver. Using better quality cotton thread, linen or silk should improve the overall look of the finished piece.

## Pillow:

Flat round or square pillow that will accommodate the whole design is recommended.

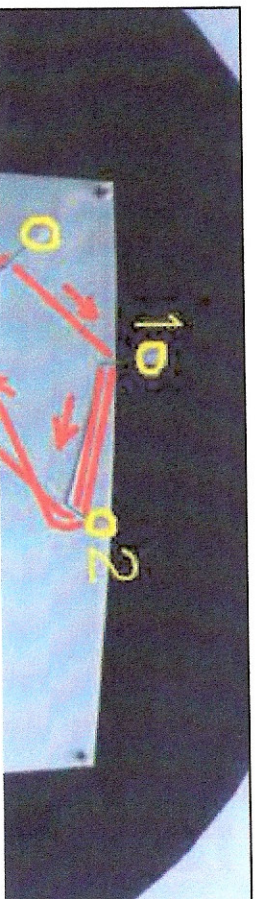
## Pins:

Normal pins plus five big dividing pins.

## Bobbins:

14 pairs  
Thin thread - "A" - 11 pairs  
Thick thread - "B" - 2 pairs  
Medium thread - "C" - 1 pair  
All bobbins should be fully wound

## Step 1







Yellow = support pins

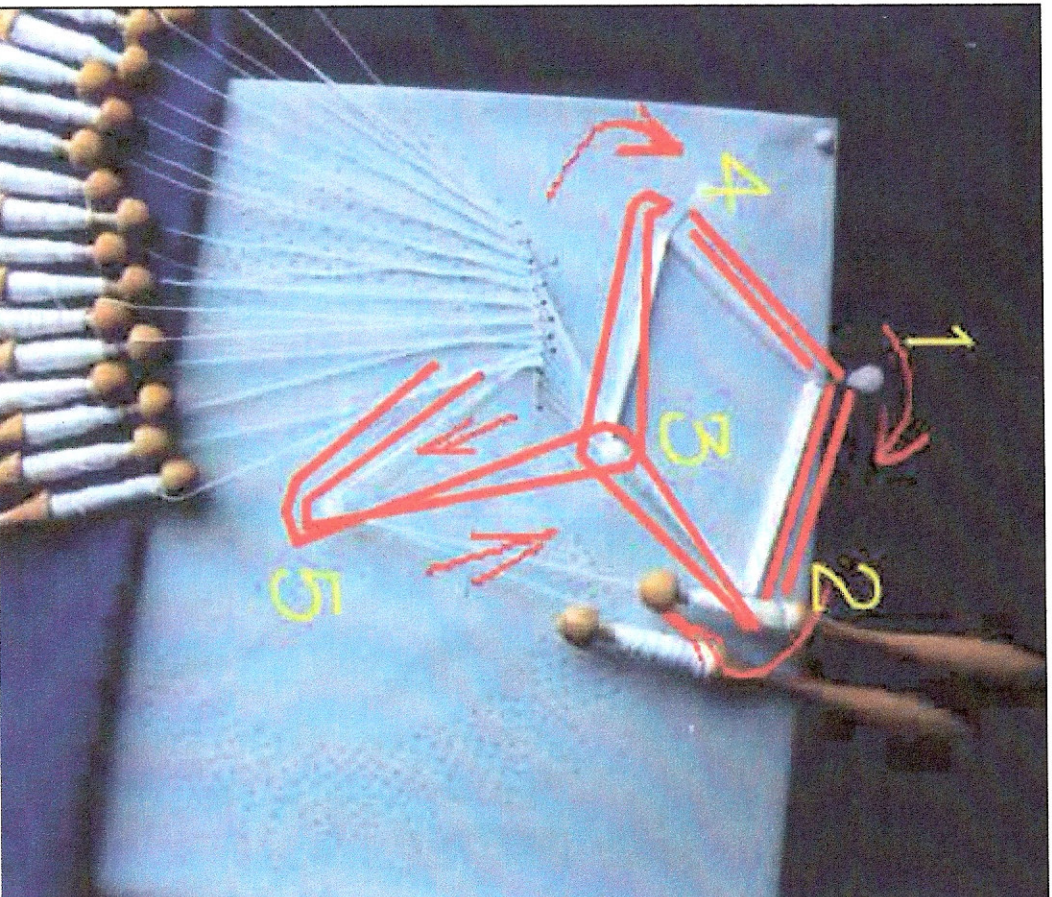
Red = thread and its direction

Insert big pins in holes marked as "support pins 1-5"

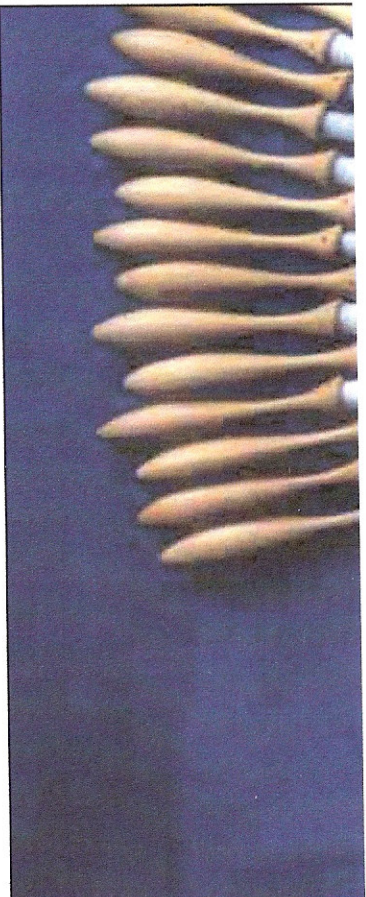
Hang the first pair on "supporting pin 1" and wind the thread around pins 1-4 one and half times (1->2->3->4->1->2->3).

Repeat this step with all (but one) pairs, as marked on the working diagram.

## Step 2



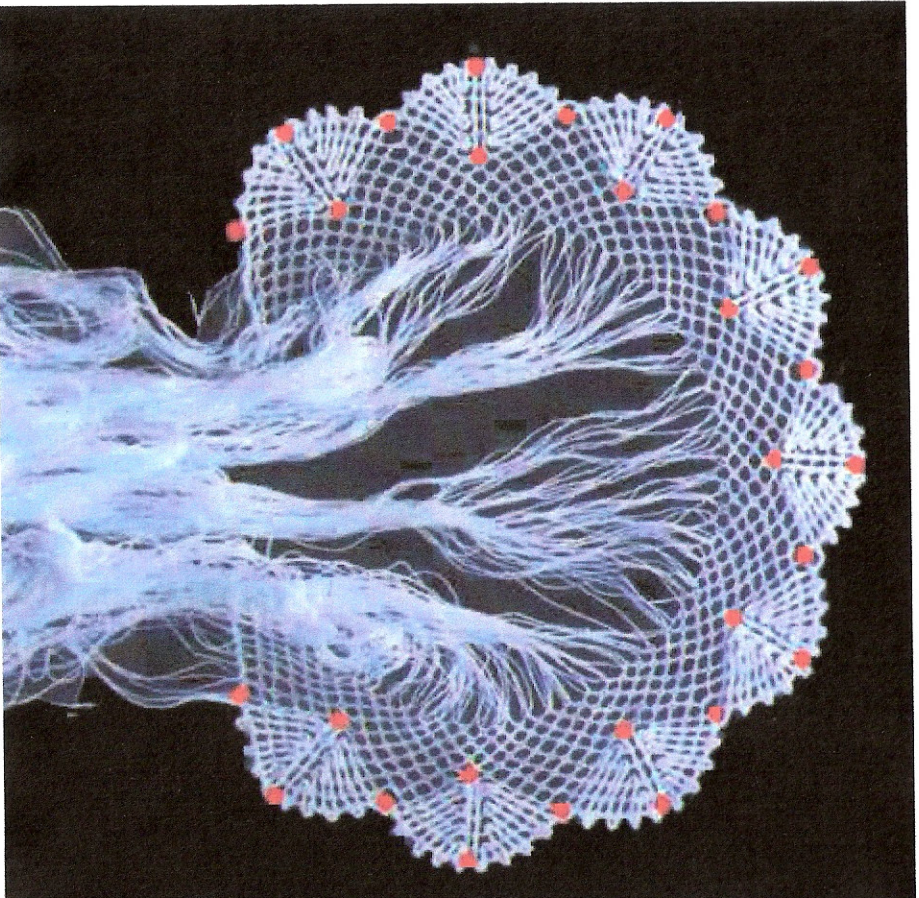




The thick thread "B" pair works its way from right to left through all pairs. In the next row, the first pair from right is medium "C" thread. It goes first around "supporting pin 5", then twice around "supporting pins 1-4" and back to 5 (5->3->4->1->2->3->4->1->2->3->5). Then this pair enters Torchon ground and makes its way from right to left through all pairs. The next pair follows in the same fashion, first winding around supporting pins twice and then going back to the Torchon ground. Repeat with every pair that reaches the inner pin of the torchon ground. When you get to the middle of the pattern you will notice that the thread is crowded around the supporting pins. At this point, remove the big pins carefully and set the bundle of threads aside, taking care that the thread will not get caught in the rows of pins. Reinsert the supporting pins in the same holes and use them for the second half of the pattern. From now on you can safely remove and reuse pins from the beginning of the pattern. When you notice that you are running out of thread on a bobbin, try to plan ahead and do the exchange of the old and new bobbin outside of the lace.

When the lace is finished, unwind the bobbins and cut the threads approx. 1ft (30cm) from the lace.

### Step 3







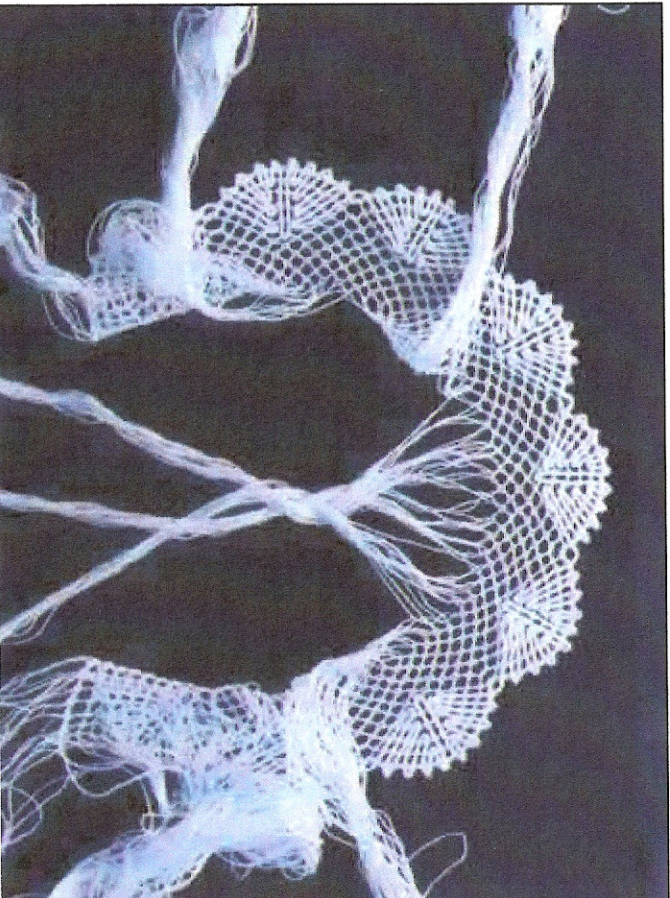
red dot = basting stitch

Now you will need a background for your lace picture. Use light cardboard (not corrugated) covered with fabric of your choice. I like to use dark colour velvet or velveteen, but I also successfully mounted this lace on hand painted silk in rich autumn colours.

The background should be at least 12 inch wide and 13 inch high (30x35 cm) to accommodate the picture. Bigger background is better. It gives lace more "breathing space". If you want to equip the background with a hook for hanging, do it now.

Remove all pins and carefully move/slide lace onto the background. Position the top of the tree crown in the top center. Arrange the crown as you like it. It can be left approximately as on the pricking for a round, regular shape or more open at the bottom, for a wider shape. Try more positions before attaching the lace in the final shape. Attach the lace to the background by the means of basting. Start from the back, at the center fan. You can use your pricking tool for pre-pricking a hole for a stitch and then run a needle threaded with thin thread "A" through it. If you catch lace at just one pair of the fan, the stitch will not be noticeable. Baste all fan repeats. Inner threads will inevitably distort, but don't worry about it. As a result, your tree will have more natural look.

#### Step 4

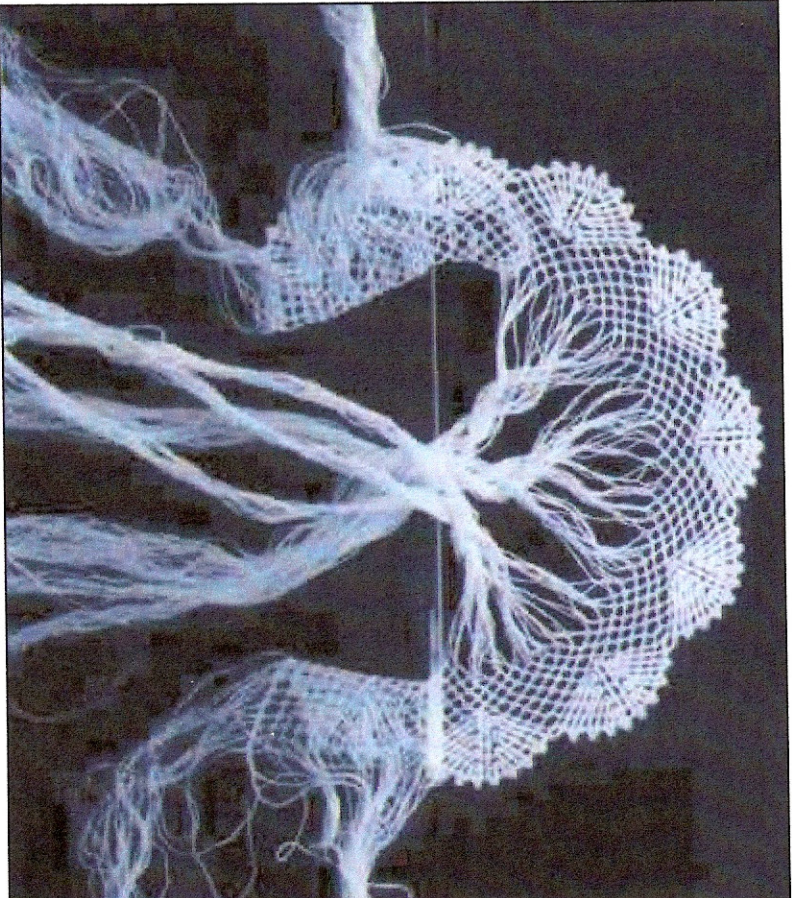






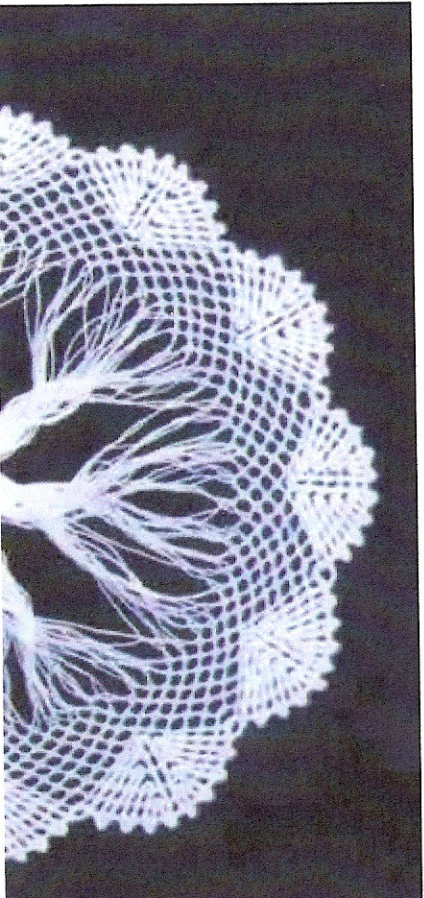
Once the tree crown is secured to the background, carefully straighten the gathered center threads. Cut off all loops at the ends. Divide thread into several groups. Number of groups depends on how many branches you want on your tree. An odd number of branches usually results in better overall balance of the tree. I divided the thread in seven groups for my tree. Set all but one central bundle aside. Divide the central group of threads in three strands and braid them as you would braid hair to the point where you want to add another branch.

### Step 5

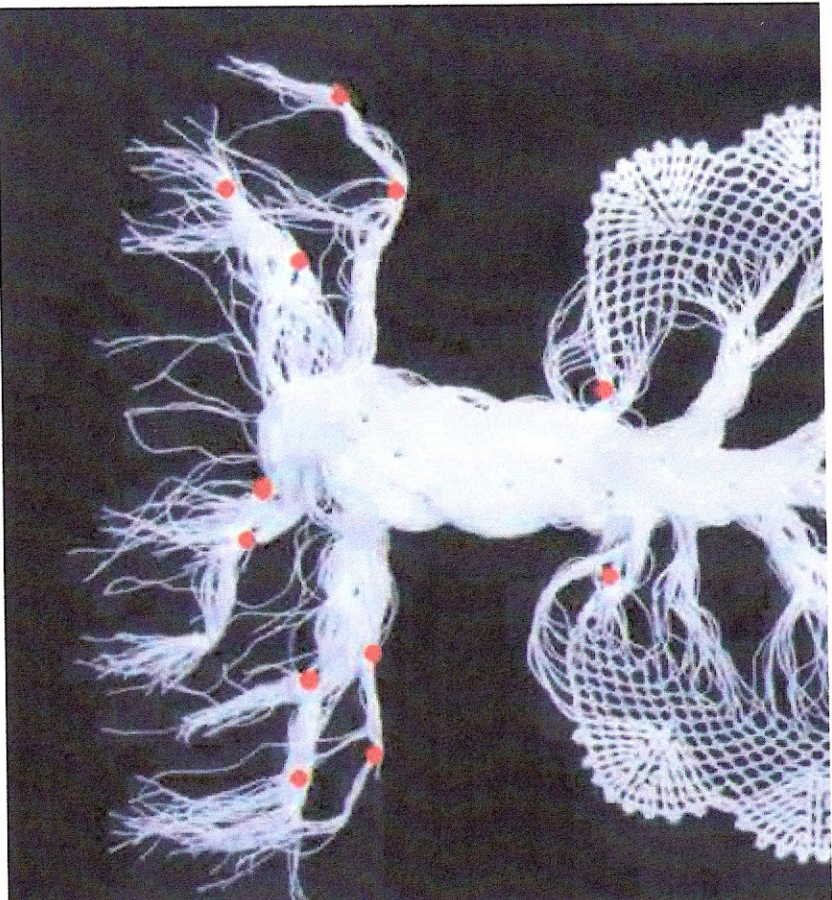


Cover the central branch with a transparent sheet and work on the second bundle/branch. Remove the sheet for joining the threads of the first and the second branch. Cover again with the transparent sheet and braid the third branch. Repeat until all threads from the crown are incorporated. Now divide them in three thick strands and braid a trunk of the tree.

### Step 6







red dot = basting stitches

The threads from the trunk are randomly distributed to create roots. Loosely braid some of them, leave some hanging, and cut off the rest. Use your imagination, while relying on your patience. It helps to see the tree from a distance, because you get a better perspective on the balance of the piece. Baste the roots at a few places before you move the picture. Secure also the bottom branches of the tree. Play around with the threads till you are satisfied with the look of your tree. Baste frequently to secure the final shape. Don't try to make it perfect, it wouldn't be a tree!

Hang the picture, invite your friends and celebrate!

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask - I shall do my best to answer, although perhaps not immediately.

**- Lenka**

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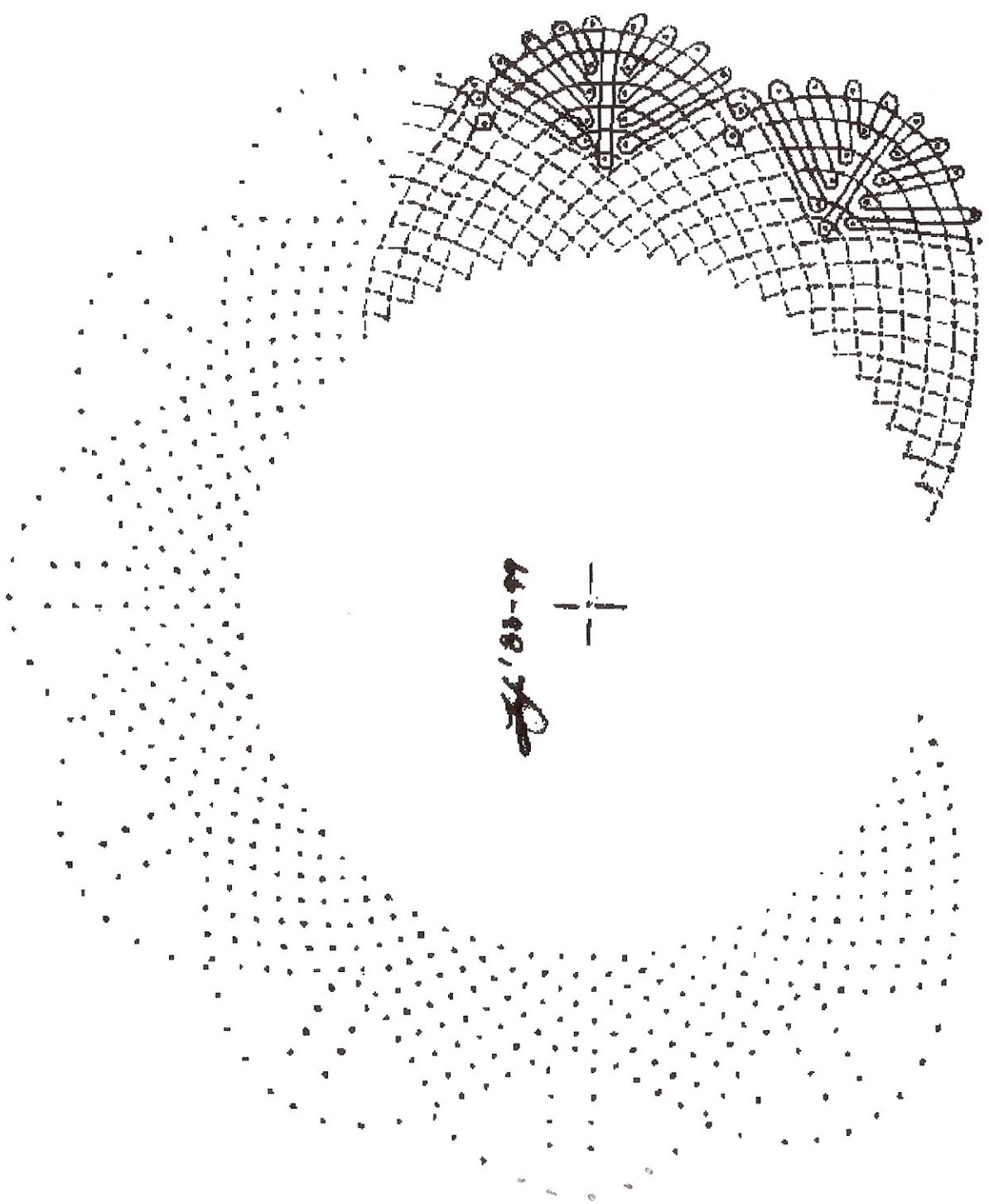
Old Tree - pricking

1

3 supporting pins

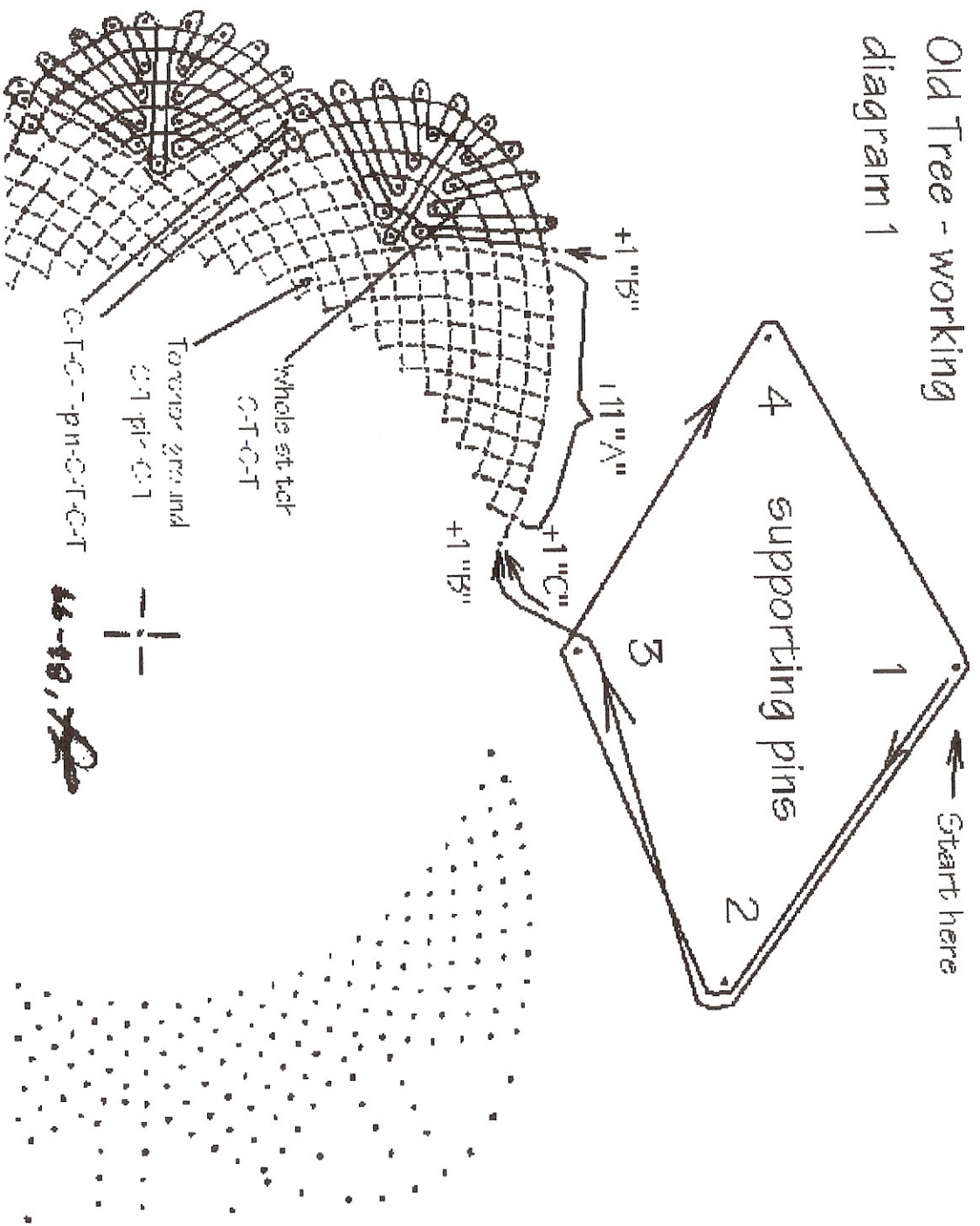
2

4





Old Tree - working  
diagram 1



-|-  
16-18, 78



# Old Tree - working diagram 2

