

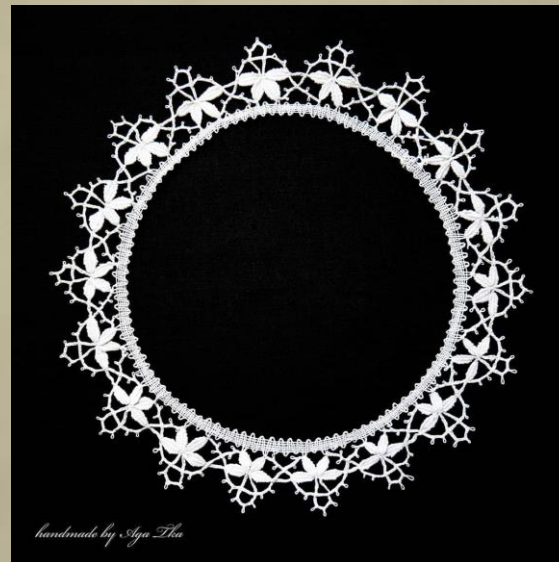


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Needlework

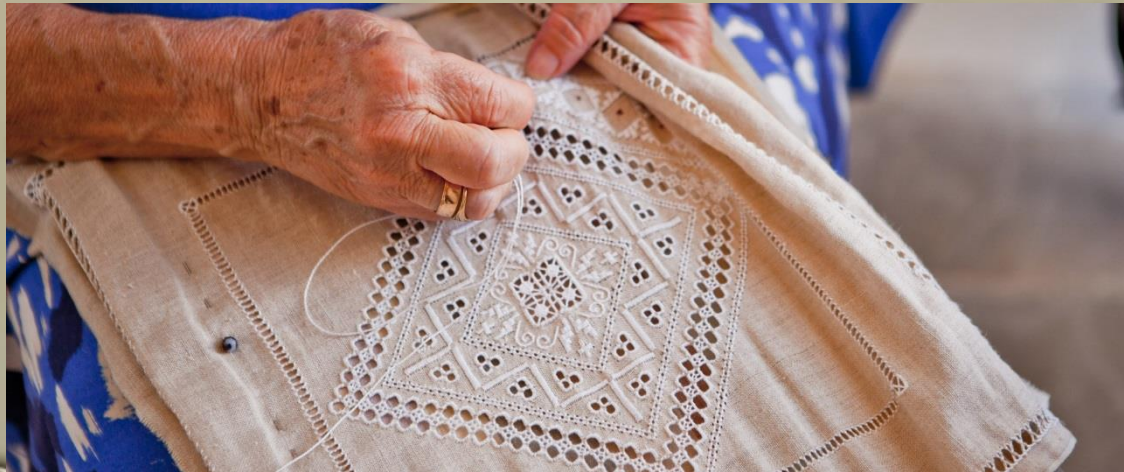
Lacework, Embroidery and Crochet in Cyprus



- Cyprus is one of those countries where the art of lacemaking has reached the highest level.
- Incorporating Greek, Byzantine and Italian traditions, Cypriot lace making has at the same time been able to retain its own unique character.



- Moreover, the embroidery art of Cyprus and the Cyprus embroidery items are famous all over the world.
- The materials that are used are cotton, flax and silk.
- Pippila and Lefkaritika are some of the most known.



Pippila Needle Lace



- This lace is made using a simple needle and a very smooth, tautly spun thread of white or beige color.
- Traditionally pipilla is considered to be of Byzantine origin.

Lefkaritika

- Whitework embroidery («levko kentima») emerged in Cyprus during antiquity. The pattern was based on a diamond and was created in a zig-zag manner.
- A row of semi-diamonds was referred to as a «river» and was made using different stitches. A finished work consisting entirely of these semi-diamonds was called an «arch».
- White embroidery («lefkartitika») was practiced everywhere on the island.
- However, the most sophisticated design and patterns were introduced in Lefkara.
- This village, like many other villages situated south of Nicosia (Kato Dris, Vavla, etc), was known for satin stitch embroidery.
- Lefkaritika is a type of craft that is usually referred to as embroidery, even though it combines both elements from lacemaking and embroidery.



- Wonderful items are created by lacework.
- The basic steps will be shown to you.



- Today just like ages ago, Cypriots used lacework to decorate their homes.
- Embroidery, as a form of folk art, has also experienced changes and development over the course of many centuries.

