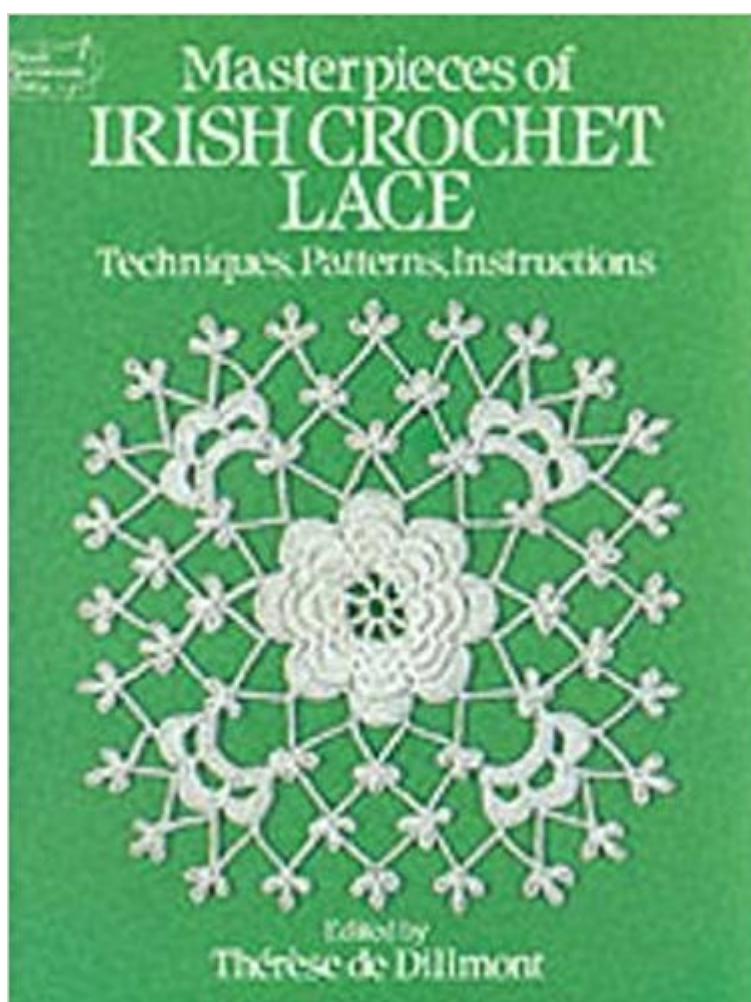


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# Masterpieces Of Irish Crochet Lace: Techniques, Patterns, Instructions (Dover Knitting, Crochet, Tatting, Lace)



## Synopsis

In recent years Irish crochet lace has enjoyed a tremendous revival among needleworkers. Nearly lost in the early twentieth century when machines took over the manufacture of most lace, the craft is now being rediscovered by enthusiasts who recognize it not only as one of the most durable, serviceable, and beautiful forms of lace but also as a type that provides a unique opportunity to be creative. This inexpensive volume presents authentic motifs and grounds used by the most skilled Irish needleworkers of the late nineteenth century. Collected and edited by one of the best-known experts of the time, Thérèse de Dillmont, it offers patterns, complete instructions, and/or detailed photographs for 30 motifs, 12 intricate grounds, and various traditional footings and borders. Crocheters can use these versatile motifs of delicate raised flowers, leaves, sprays, and more to transform ordinary bedspreads, doilies, tablecloths, and clothing into works of art to be treasured for years. Make your own unique designs for new curtains, fancy collars, delicate cuffs, and so much more. Each of these motifs can be altered in shape, enlarged, diminished, or combined in new patterns — there's virtually no limit to the results you can produce. Beginners should practice making individual motifs before attempting an entire piece of lace, and experienced crocheters may want to follow the directions exactly before experimenting to form new motifs. With practice, you can invent your own patterns just by employing these authentic, elemental motifs and their complementary grounds. A new introduction relates the history and technique involved in Irish crochet lace, and a conversion chart translates outdated terms.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a history of Irish Crochet Lacemaking. It is easy to follow and has the finest patterns I have seen for advanced projects. It is a very good learning tool. Highly recommended!!!!

Definately different! I just finished my first motif, the fourth floweret. I love thread crochet, and have recently done several modern renditions of "Irish Crochet", so I bought this book to add to my collection. I have worked from other material that was written using British terms, which takes a little getting used to, and I find myself easily adapting to the terminology. The terminology used here is similarly different, but not the same as british, however there is a "stitch conversion chart" and I found it easy to adjust. A major difference that I found was the "style" in which it was written. Modern patterns tell you what to do with the next stitch, then the next. You follow the direction, then you finally catch on what they are trying to do ex: (2 ch, 1 sc in the next loop) 4 times. Where as this text tells you what needs to be accomplished, ex: make four times: 2 chain and 1 plain on the loop beneath. (US sc = plain). It takes some getting used to, and when I first started I thought that I would need to re-write the instructions in "modern terms", but before I could finish the first motif, I began to actually prefer this method of instruction! Wow! Also, the design flows together much easier than the modern renditions that I have tried. (Which almost scared me away from Irish Crochet.) Also different is the cord foundation. I had never used a cord foundation before. Man, that took some getting used to! When I finally got the hang of it, I think it is genuis! The use of the foundation cord allows you to make sc stitches without working over a chain foundation all of the time. It also provides a wonderful contrast in thickness, which provides considerable depth the the motifs. Sort of like an outline. Which makes me realize that these motifs are expertly designed. The beginning instructions do a good job of explaining the use of the cord foundation. The only question I have unanswered is since the cord foundation is so thick, what is the best way to tie it off and work in the ends??? Several different weights of threads need to be used to accomplish the desired results. The original weights of thread specified are not readily available, and I am using No. 5 for a cord foundation as suggested in the adaptations in the foreword. I used No. 10 for the motif, and No. 30 for the ground (background) as I have it available to me. However this produces designs far larger than the templates in the back of the book. This is just fine for me, as No. 30 is really as small as I have the tools (and patience) to work with :) Next time I might switch to a No. 3 for the cord foundation??? If you have good thread crochet skills and some patience to get started, I think you should be very

pleased with this booklet!

This book is different from anything you will buy in a craft store. I loved it. There are techniques that are lost in the piles and piles of doileys and afghans that are seen everywhere today. If you like to work with small thread, you will love this book. It also holds a lot of history in it, in that anyone who had a poor Irish Grandmother who made lace for the "rich neighbors", will see the reason "rich neighbors" wanted to buy it from her. The quality and beauty of the designs is a testament to the talent and ingenuity of a people who only had something if they could make it out of nothing. You will love this book even if you never use any of the designs.

This is a very old book, so the instructions are in 'victorian' format - just text - but they are very detailed and informative. There are no complete patterns for artifacts here, just excellent building blocks for our own designs. Photography is very good, so whatever might look intimidating in the instructions becomes very clear in the picture. Also the introduction is excellent, providing a lot of facts and no gossipy dribble, so common in this type of literature. This book is fully sufficient to learn design of crocheted lace, I will definitely use it for many projects.

Overall, I enjoy this book because it gives me building blocks of Irish crochet. Irish crochet is an advanced type of crochet. Keeping this in mind:  
Pros:-Great elements (motifs, borders, grounds) you can mix and match-Great patterns that use the elements listed in the book-Contains directions along with patterns  
Cons:-Originally from an older publication and it's Irish crochet, so the text of the pattern is not as organized as modern patterns-Pictures in book have less contrast than pictures on -Names of stitches are the old names, BUT there's a conversion chart in the beginning of the book

Although this book has very few pages I find it to be very informing about Irish crochet. And at a good price. The instructions might be confusing for a beginner as another reviewer has mentioned but with some effort and patience you can get results.

I like the way this book is written. It's not a book for beginners but one that adds something new to long-time crocheters. It starts out with the more solid designs and then shows you how they are connected with mesh stitches. Each page gets a little more intricate until you are doing the "fancy" stuff. There are drawn designs in the back of the book that help with designing your own or you can just follow that written design to recreate what they already have done. I had hesitated for quite a

while before buying the book because I don't like long difficult instructions. They are short and to the point. Not a big book but you will find everything you need to know.

The thing that's so great about this book is not only the reproduction of lovely, very old crochet patterns whose delicacy and intricacy are fascinating, but that these patterns CAN be done by those of us now who are fond of Crochet. This book makes these historical designs very accessible to people who crochet today.

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