

**MARCH 2022 EGA STITCH-A-LONG PROJECT**  
**CELEBRATING NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**  
**WITH GOLDEN BLOOMS**

Designed by Tamara Yohannes

In the decades of the Women's Suffrage Movement (basically the 1860s until 1920 when the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution affirmed women's right to vote), women used the symbolism of golden blooms, from roses to sunflowers, to demonstrate their aspirations for the vote and for political equality (Hall).

This month, we stitch a stylized "golden bloom" in Romanian Point Lace to remember the struggle and the success we inherit from these foremothers. Directions include the option of using the design as a 4" by 2.5" mint tin cover.



**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Christian, Cheryl. "Making the Cord." *Needle Arts*. Volume 41, number 3, September 2010, pp. 38-39.
- Hall, Stephanie. "Symbolism in the Women's Suffrage Movement.—Colors" *Folklife Today: American Folklife Center and Veterans History Project*. Blogs.loc.gov.
- Murariu, Sylvia. *Romanian Point Lace: A Course for Intermediates and Advanced*. (Anaheim, CA: 1995).
- Thompson, Angela and Kathleen Waller. *Romanian Point Lace*. (London: Batsford, 2003).
- Yohannes, Tamara. "Lace Petals." *Needle Arts*. Volume 48, No. 2. June 2017, pp. 14-19.

**Stitch with us at [egausa.org/ega-stitch-a-long](http://egausa.org/ega-stitch-a-long)**

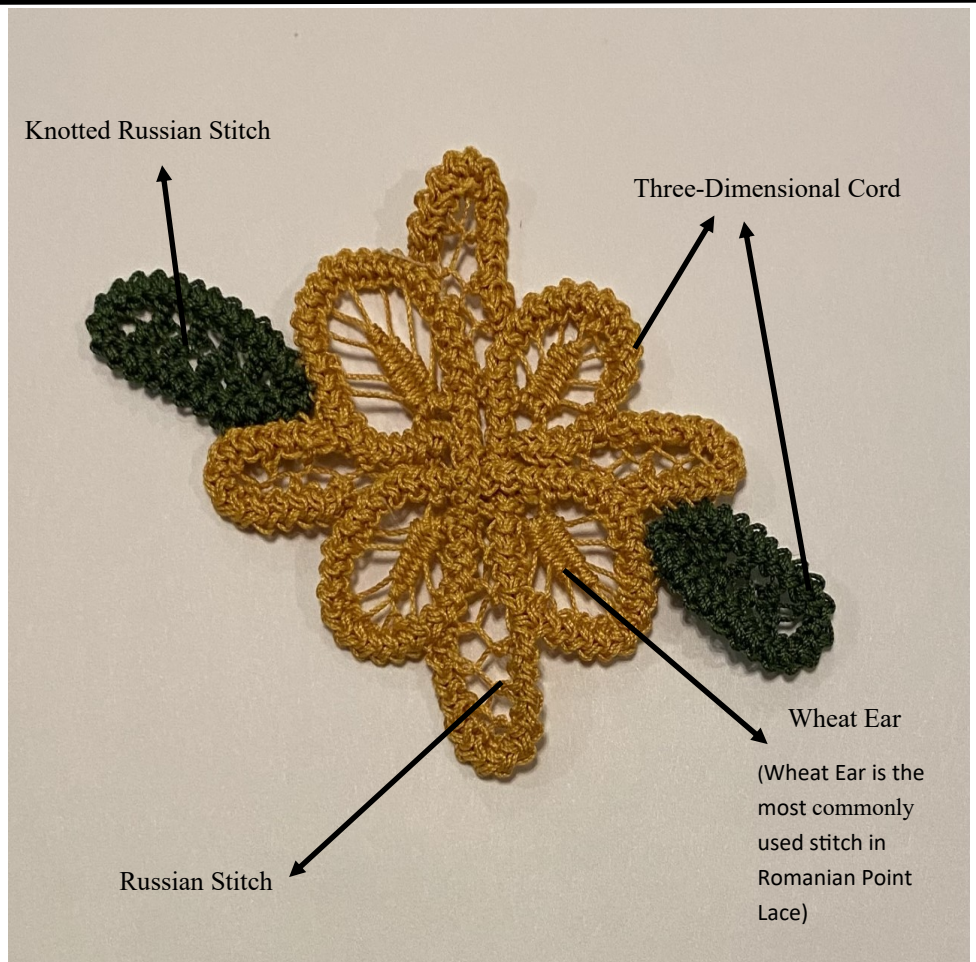
## The Floral Design:

### Find the pattern template on page 5

Using size 8 Perle Cotton OR size 20 Crochet Cotton thread and a 1.25 mm (or size to work a firm-but-not-stiff cord) crochet hook, crochet one 12-inch and four 2-inch lengths of three-dimensional cord in the chosen blossom color and two 2.5 inch lengths of the cord in the chosen leaf color.

Your cord will likely be longer than the length required for couching the cord onto the design, but because tensions vary between stitchers as they couch (attach) the cord to their pattern, some extra length is advisable. You will easily be able to pull back the extra stitches and use that thread while stitching the actual lace.

After you have completed the design, remove it carefully from the pattern by snipping the couching threads FROM THE BACK OF THE PATTERN. If the design does not lie flat, hand-press the design by placing a DAMP towel over it and gently blocking the design. After it dries, it will be ready to be tacked around the edges of the design to the fabric you are using for the tin mint cover.



See page 7 for directions on finishing the design as a cover to a mint-tin

## MATERIALS NEEDED to make the design:

Partial skeins or balls of perle cotton 8 or Cotton Crochet thread 20 in gold and green 1.25 mm crochet hook (or size that creates a firm-but-flexible cord)

Size 24 tapestry needle

Approximately 12 inch square piece of muslin on which to trace and couch the design Washable permanent fabric marker on which to trace the design on the muslin

5 inch embroidery hoop or frame

Cotton pastel basting thread and sewing needle to couch the design onto the muslin

**The following images and instructions for making the cord were created by Cheryl Christian, former editor of *Needle Arts*, the journal of the Embroiderers' Guild of America, where the directions originally appeared in the volume 41, number 3 (September 2010) issue on pages 38-39. These images and instructions are used here with permission.**

## MAKING THE CORD

For those who prefer not to crochet the cord, substitute premade 1/8 to 1/4 inch trim or cord, which is what was used for these diagrams, although we have used a thicker cord for demonstration purposes.

Making the three-dimensional cord.

KNOT the end of the thread and leave at least a 10-inch tail before beginning to make the cord. You will always use the knotted end to start couching the cord onto the design.

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Make a slip knot with the end of the cotton thread (Diagrams 1 and 2). As you draw up the slip knot, place the crochet hook in the middle, tighten it, and chain two stitches, with the thread over the hook (Diagram 3). Be careful not to use the tail end of the thread

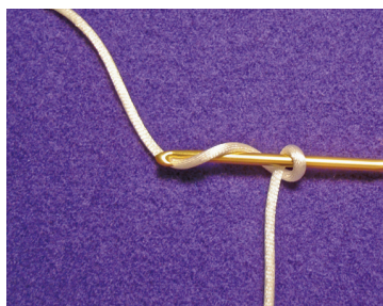


Diagram 1

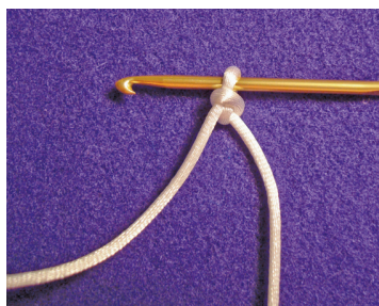


Diagram 2

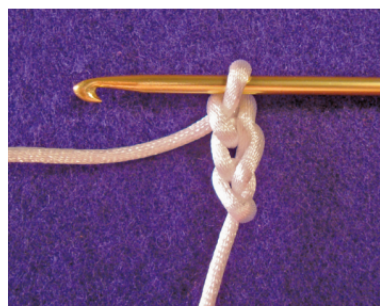


Diagram 3

Skipping the first chain, insert the hook into the second chain from the hook (Diagram 4), take thread under the hook (Diagram 5) and draw up a loop (Diagram 6). With two loops on the crochet hook, thread over the hook (Diagram 7) and pull through the two loops (Diagram 8). Turn the worked chain to the left (Diagram 9).



Diagram 4



Diagram 5



Diagram 6

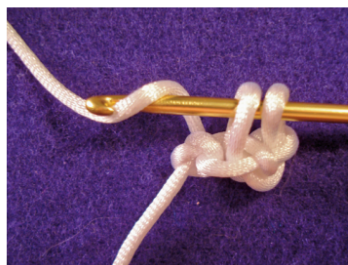


Diagram 7



Diagram 8



Diagram 9

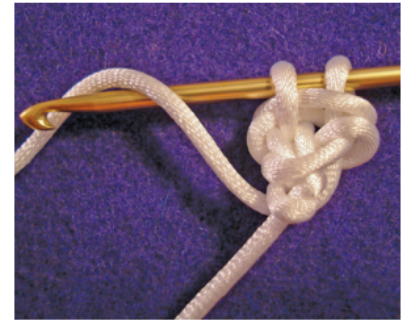
Insert the crochet hook into the first loop on the edge (Diagrams 10 and 11), pass the thread under the hook (Diagram 12), and pull the thread through the loop (Diagram 13). Pass the thread over the hook (Diagram 14), and pull through both loops on the hook (Diagram 15). Turn the cord again (Diagram 16), and run the hook under the pair of edge loops. From this stitch forward, the hook will always be inserted into two edge loops. Repeat this procedure from Diagram 11. Your cord will look like the bottom right picture here.



**Diagram 10**



**Diagram 11**



**Diagram 12**



**Diagram 13**



**Diagram 14**



**Diagram 15**

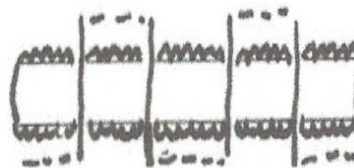


**Diagram 16**



**COUCHING STITCH**  
(Diagram 17)

We call the little loops formed along the edge of the cord "picots." They are used when attaching the cording and when stitching the lace.

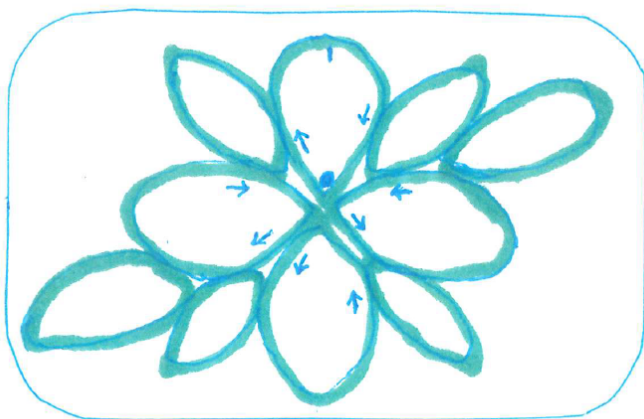


Step 3: Using contrasting pastel all-purpose thread, couch the cord (i.e., baste using 1/2" long stitches behind the pattern coming up to the top of the pattern and crossing over the cord before returning your needle to back of pattern (diagram 17). Begin couching with the knotted end of the cord at the very starting point on the pattern.

Your cord will likely be longer than needed, but you can easily unravel the other end of the cord to make an exact fit by attaching the ending and beginning points of the cord, using the picots wherever two edges of cord touch each other or overlap. You can move from one attachment spot to the next by running your perle or crochet thread through the inside of the cord to the next spot needing attachment. If you have enough thread left, you can begin stitching the lace with that thread. Whenever you need to start or end a piece of crochet thread, run it through the cord for about an inch and then snip it off carefully right next to the cord.

## ROMANIAN POINT LACE PATTERN TEMPLATE

### DIRECTIONS FOR CREATING AND COUCHING THE PATTERN



Copy the design with permanent fabric marker directly onto a piece of washed and ironed muslin large enough to be used with a 5" or larger embroidery hoop or frame.

Start couching your flower-cord at the central point indicated by the dot inside the top large petal. Couch around each large petal moving from one completed large petal to the adjacent large petal until the four large petals are covered. Keep your cord roughly centered over the lines.

Each of the smaller petals will need to be couched separately. If you choose to make enough cord in one long length for all the petals, be sure always to start couching at the end of the cord where the crocheting started. When you are ready to cut the cord, be sure to leave at least 1/2" of cord so you can then pull the thread back to use to run through the center of the cord before snipping off the thread carefully..

The leaves also need to be couched separately, just as the small petals were.

### TEMPLATES FOR FINISHING

#### THE MINT-TIN

**EXACT SIZE OF  
THE MINT-TIN LID**

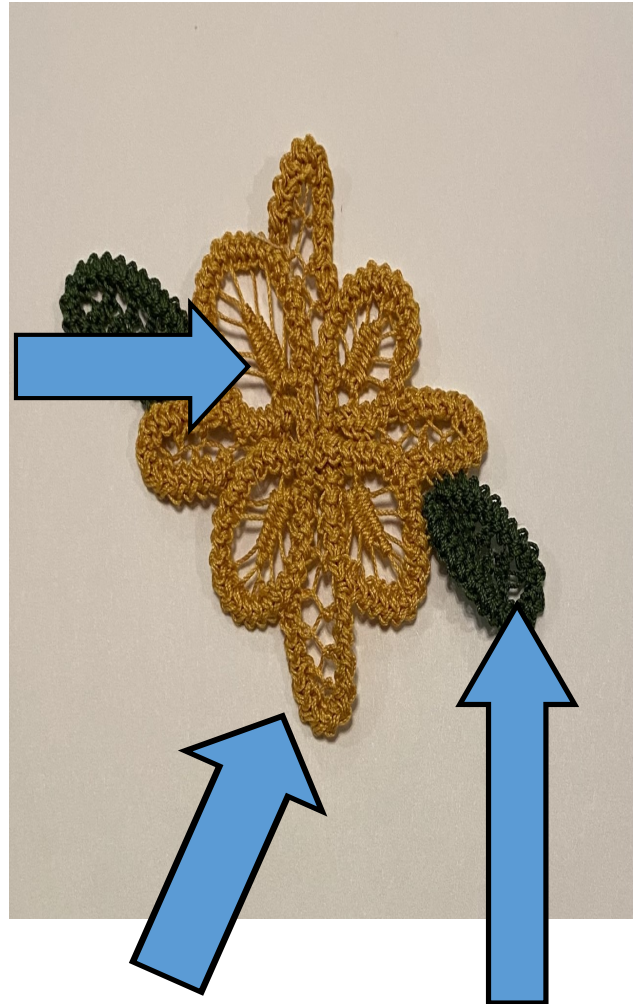
**SIZE OF THE INSIDE-  
BOTTOM OF THE  
MINT-TIN**

## DIRECTIONS FOR THE NEEDLE-MADE LACE STITCHES

Before beginning your needle-made lace stitches, using the same thread you used for making the cord, double-check that all the areas are attached where your cord overlaps or touches other cord.

**WHEAT EAR:** Work a bridge at the base of a petal after attaching an arm-length of the thread you are using for the blossom to a picot near the base. Work a bridge by carrying the thread across to the other side of the petal and then back again. Fill the petal by carrying the thread from the bridge to a picot 3-4 picots up from the bridge. Run the thread through that picot and then weave the thread through the next picot up the petal and then up one more picot. Bring the thread back down to the bridge and then carry it to the next picot, always skipping a picot between the lengths of thread. When you get to the top, carry the thread to the top of the petal and then right back down to the base before filling the second side of the petal, using the same number of threads up and down the petal as you used on the first half.

When you reach the bridge, begin weaving the threads by taking the thread over the laid threads to the middle double-thread and then under the threads on the other side, always crossing the thread through the middle double-thread. Run 2-3 woven wraps and then leave the original thread attached to the cord and run 2-3 woven wraps in the same manner up to the next original attached thread. When you get to the top 2 laid threads, wrap around those 2-3 times and then run your needle down one side of the woven center and tack the weaving thread to the bridge and carrying it over to the cord. Run that thread through the center of the cord for about 1/2" or more before clipping off the thread.



**RUSSIAN STITCH:** From the bottom of the leaf and working towards the top, work **BUTTON HOLE STITCHES** from side to side through every other picot. Always point the needle from the side to the center of the leaf, using every other picot. When you get to the top, run the working thread through the center of the cord for about 1/2" and clip off the thread.

The advantage of the Russian Stitch is that it makes a beautiful, delicate stitch.

The advantage of the Knotted Russian Stitch is that it fills in the delicate spaces and creates a solid appearance to lace.

### KNOTTED RUSSIAN STITCH:

For the knotted Russian stitch, when you get to the top of the leaf, just work a second layer of buttonhole stitches over the first set, all the way back to the bottom. Then just run the working thread through the center of the cord and clip off, as always.

**MATERIALS NEEDED to finish the top of the tin:**

1 empty mint tin (approximately 2.5" by 4")

Medium weight cardboard (the back of a writing-tablet pad works nicely)

A piece of linen or cotton fabric onto which you have tacked the Lace Design. Trim the fabric to 1" larger all around the cardboard template.

Quilt batting — light to medium weight—the size of the template.

Craft or fabric glue

Hot glue gun (optional)

Approximately 13" of crocheted or purchased braid

**MATERIALS NEEDED for finishing the inside of the tin:**

1 empty mint tin

1 cardboard template for the bottom of the tin

1 thin plastic strip 1/2" by 12.5" (for the side of the tin)

3.5" by 4.5" piece of fabric

Batting to cover the cardboard template.

2.5" by 16" piece of fabric for the inside ruffle

4 pinch clothespins

4" by 4" or size you prefer of black magnetic plastic (optional, for the inside top of the tin, to be used as a needle holder).

**DIRECTIONS FOR FINISHING THE TOP OF THE TIN:**

From the TEMPLATES (page 5) cut 1 piece of medium weight cardboard. If your tin is a different size, just trace the size onto a piece of paper and then cut a template 1/4" smaller than the outside edge.

Cut 2-3 layers of quilt batting the same size as the cardboard template. Center the fabric onto which the lace design has been neatly tacked. Wrap the extra fabric around to the back of the cardboard and fasten snugly using either tacky glue or clear packing tape. Miter -fold or stitch running stitches around the corners to make a smooth curve.

Attach the lace-covered cardboard to the top of your tin using either hot glue or the tacky glue. Be sure to put glue as close to all edges as possible and to press down firmly so the piece attaches securely.

Run a thin bead of glue around the outside edge where the fabric cover meets the tin and carefully apply your braided or crocheted trim. Carefully overlap and glue the beginning and end edges of the trim.

Let dry thoroughly.

**DIRECTIONS FOR FINISHING THE LINING OF THE TIN:**

Glue the batting to the cardboard template. Trim to the size of the template. Glue the 3.5" by 4.5" piece of fabric to the cardboard template. Glue the edges to the back of the template.

Fold the 2.5" by 16" piece of fabric in half and sew a 1/4" seam.

Thread this fabric onto the plastic strip, adjust the gathers. Tape the ends of the plastic with scotch tape. Glue the gathered piece to the sides of the tin at the corners. Use pinch clothes pins to secure the piece to the corners of the tin until the glue dries.

Glue the 4" by 2" covered template to the bottom of the tin.

Glue the piece of black magnetic plastic material to the inside cover as a needle holder (optional).