



## Nanduti Lace from Paraguay

Learn-a-Stitch November 16 2020

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The following video link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyKVzZJWsCQ>

is 17 minutes long and I find that it gives a good idea of what Nanduti lace is. No special supplies are required. I planned for people to be able to just work with odds and ends that they have at home.

Nanduti means spider web in Guarani, the official language of Paraguay. I have included pictures of my sample; it is clear that my thread choices were much too heavy. The pink flower is made with silk thread and the purple with #8 pearl cotton. Therefore I recommend trying #12 Or #16 pearl cotton. I couldn't find information regarding thread or fabric, but keep in mind that when your lace is complete, all your fabric will be cut away and removed.



The video has good instructions for finishing. It is also a very good source of information regarding the culture and history of this form of lacemaking. However it does not explain stitches very well. The two stitches are briefly discussed: 1) darning and 2) hemming. Darning is weaving one under and one over with the next row opposing. Hemming appears to be the same as a backstitched wheel in drawn thread embroidery (think of the spokes of a wheel, pass the needle under spokes 1 & 2 and come up, then pass the needle under spokes 1, 2, 3, & 4 and come up, then 3, 4, 5, 6, then 5, 6, 7, 8 and so on).

My rather crude sample displays both stitches and as you can see on my pink flower, attention must be paid to keeping your centre in the centre. You will also find many sources with images of this beautiful lace, but the how-to's are much more difficult to find. I haven't tried the patterns yet on the outside of the circles.



To begin I suggest a doodle cloth in a hoop. Practice laying down the rays and working the darning and hemming. You could try finishing your sample with starch and scissors as outlined in the video.

Have fun!