

# THREADING THE NEEDLES

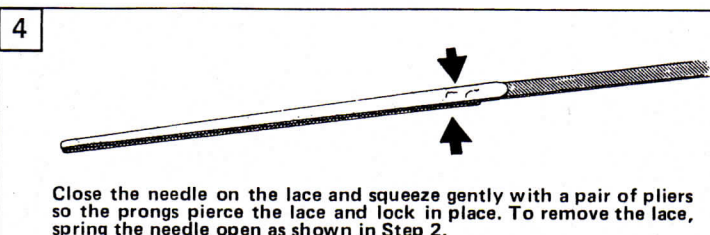
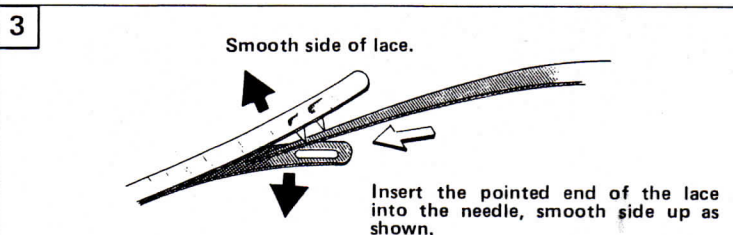
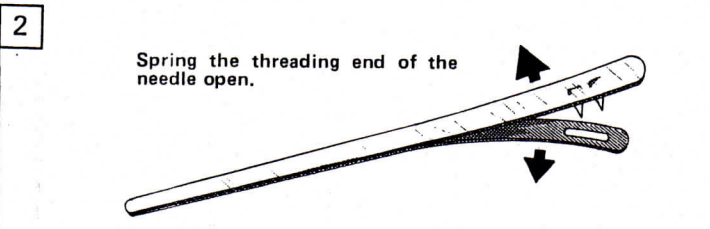
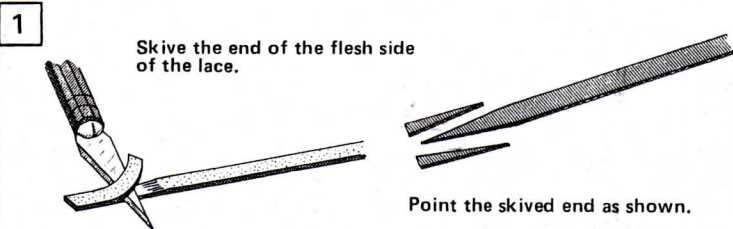
Just as in sewing, a needle is advantageous when lacing. When you start lacing, the lace is usually stiff enough to go through the holes without a needle, but after going through a hole it soon becomes too soft and pliant to

push through. It's like trying to push a piece of thread through cloth without a needle. Below we will show you how to thread three different kinds of lacing needles.

## TWO PRONG NEEDLE

This is a flat lacing needle recommended for 3/32" and 1/8" flat laces. The Two-Prong Needle is the most

widely used lacing needle. It is inexpensive and can usually be used for several lacing jobs before it is discarded.

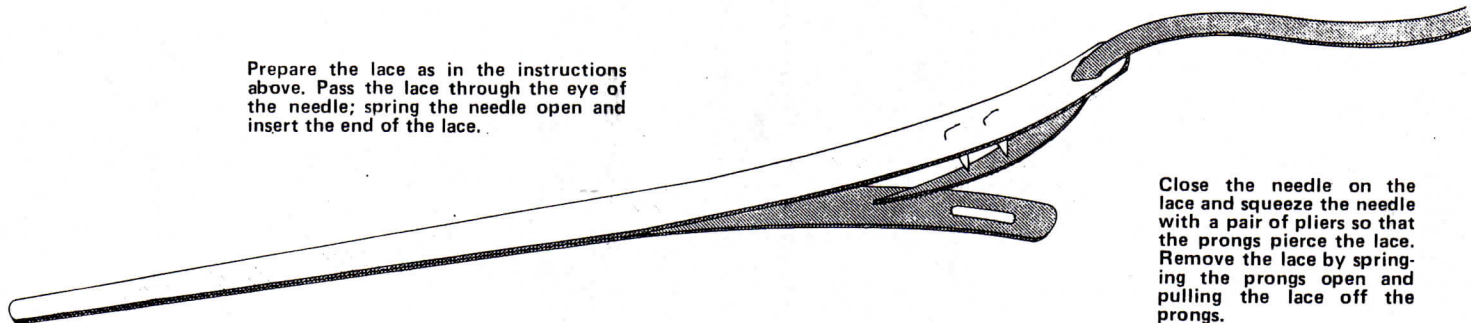


## HOOK AND EYE NEEDLE

This is also a flat lacing needle. It is recommended for 3/32" flat lace. The lace passes through a hole or eye in the end of the needle before it is gripped by the prongs and

hooks. This helps to insure the lace will not slip out of the needle when you pull it through the leather. This needle is also considered to be disposable.

Prepare the lace as in the instructions above. Pass the lace through the eye of the needle; spring the needle open and insert the end of the lace.

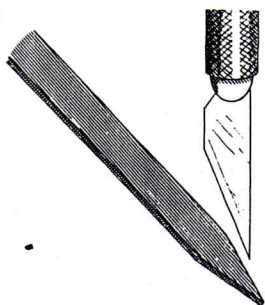


Close the needle on the lace and squeeze the needle with a pair of pliers so that the prongs pierce the lace. Remove the lace by springing the prongs open and pulling the lace off the prongs.

## LIFE EYE NEEDLES

These are solid brass round needles, much preferred by professional craftsmen. Unlike the two previous needles, the Life Eye Needles can be used again and again, as their names imply. The small size is recommended for 3/32"

and 1/8" laces while the large size, called the Latigo Life Eye, is used for larger laces such as 3/16" florentine, 5/32" buckstitch and even latigo laces.



Cut the lacing to a sharp point as shown here, but do not skive it.

Now insert the pointed end of the lace in the open end of the needle and twist clockwise several times until the lace is firmly secured.

Should needle fail to thread properly, there is probably material lodged in the eye. This can be removed with a pin. If lacing accidentally breaks even with the eye of this needle, unscrew stub with a pair of small tweezers. If this is unsuccessful, take a pin and run it into the stub of lace (at angle) and unscrew counter clockwise.

