

USING INVISIBLE THREAD.

If you've ever made a parchment card with a lovely lace border on all four sides, the problem comes when you need to attach it to the insert. My favourite way is to use invisible thread to sew your parchment design to a piece of backing card. This backing card is then stuck to the folded card.... which means all your loose ends of thread are completely fixed and hidden from sight. Practise first on a scrap piece of parchment until you get the idea.

YOU WILL NEED.....

1. Invisible thread (available on a reel from most good needlework and dressmaking suppliers)
2. A sewing needle. I use a Sharp size 10 as it needs to be quite fine with a small head in order to go through your perforations without widening them. This means threading through a small eye, but as the invisible thread is quite stiff it isn't usually a problem. However, if your lacework has been done on the bold grid, which makes larger holes, you can probably use an ordinary embroidery needle.
3. A single-needle perforating tool.
4. A thick perforating mat.
5. Low-tack 'magic' tape.
6. The piece of backing card to which your parchment will be sewn. It is important to have this piece of card larger than you actually need, as it is much easier to trim it afterwards, rather than try to sew onto a smaller piece.

First thread your needle with approx 60cm. of invisible thread. Double it over and knot the ends. If you try to use too long a piece of thread, it will tangle.

Place your parchment design approx. in the middle of the backing card and temporarily secure it in a couple of places with small pieces of low-tack tape.

Place the card on the perforating mat, and with the single-needle perforating tool, carefully go through a couple of adjacent holes in the lace pattern. Turn the card over. Secure the knotted end of the thread onto the back of the card with sticky tape. Then sew up into the first hole, and back down through the second hole.

Turn the card to the front again, and prick through another two holes. They needn't be very close to the others, as you only need to fix the card in half a dozen places. You don't need new thread each time. Take the thread across the back of the card, as it won't be seen.

When the sewing is finished, or if you need to start another piece of thread, secure the thread to the back with sticky tape before cutting it.

You can now trim your backing card so it is approx. half a cm. larger than the parchment. Then take your folded card and cut it so it is just a little larger than the backing card. Attach the backing card to the folded card with double-sided tape down all four sides.

ATTACHING BEADS to your design works in just the same way, except that you only need to pierce one hole where you want your bead to be. Bring the needle up through this hole, through the bead, then back down into the same hole. Depending on the size of the bead, you may need to use a proper beading needle for this, available from most haberdashery or needlework stores.