

# R.E.D. project

## ROOTS OF THE EUROPEAN DESIGN RESEARCH

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# Merletto al tombolo

(Pillow lace)

The art of lace, according to tradition, was imported in L'Aquila by Benedictine nuns arrived from Cluny. In the Bourbon period the laces of Abruzzo were considered the best of the Two Sicilies.

The best known were and remain the "pillow lace" (merletti al tombolo) from Scanno and Pescocostanzo. "Pescolano" lace (such as L'Aquila) is inspired by those of northern Italy. It's made of a thicker wire, usually made of linen or silk, a machining continuous wire and a greater number of bobbins.

The designs usually are original and not commercially available but handed down from mother to daughter.

The typical points of Pescocostanzo laces are: the "ancient point", more complex, as you can create floral and ornamental textures using an undefined number of spindles; and the "new point", for geometric patterns.

In both, however, the particularity is to work at the same time the bottom and the drawing, showing up the figures, through the light and shade, on a light net bottom, said "tulle".

The "scannese" lace is, instead, native and characterized in cotton thread thin, by the technique of the hung up thread, that is broken at the end of each working portion, and a smaller number of bobbins. The typical motives are flowers and large scrolls. Once you realized the various parts, they use the hook to attach and form the so-called "renaissance lace".

