

VOLUME I

THE COUTURE LACE JOURNAL

THE JOURNEY TO GELATIN-FREE EDIBLE LACE



Beautiful discoveries
are often hidden inside
beautiful failures.



RECIPE NOTES • OBSERVATIONS • DISCOVERIES

THE RECIPE THAT STARTED EVERYTHING

The original recipe worked beautifully for many decorators.

Mine didn't.

Not because the recipe was wrong, but because my studio was different.

Living near the coast in Virginia Beach means humidity is part of everyday life. While the lace remained beautifully flexible, it also stayed slightly tacky.

Rather than assuming the recipe was the problem, I asked a different question.

Could my environment be changing the result?

Before I share what I discovered, I want to acknowledge the generosity that made this journal possible.

The original gelatin-free edible lace recipe was kindly shared with me by my dear friend, Priscilla of Priscilla Melbourne Cakes.

Everything documented in these pages is built upon that wonderful foundation.

Innovation rarely happens alone. It grows through generosity, curiosity, and continual refinement.

ORIGINAL FORMULA

100 g	boiling water
10 g	Tylose (CMC)
15 g	glucose syrup
10 g	vegetable glycerine
12 g	icing sugar
6 g	cornstarch



Original drying recommendation:

65–70°C
(149–158°F)

“ Beautiful discoveries are often hidden inside beautiful failures. ”

A FORMULA BETTER SUITED TO HIGH HUMIDITY

Rather than changing several ingredients,
I changed only one.

Vegetable glycerine.

ORIGINAL		HIGH HUMIDITY
10 g vegetable glycerine	→	5 g vegetable glycerine

Everything else remained exactly the same.

HIGH HUMIDITY FORMULA		
100 g	boiling water	 Reducing the glycerine helps the lace dry more evenly and release cleanly in high humidity.
10 g	Tylose (CMC)	
15 g	glucose syrup	
5 g	vegetable glycerine	
12 g	icing sugar	
6 g	cornstarch	

MY OBSERVATION

In my studio, reducing the glycerine:

-  eliminated the tackiness
-  kept the lace flexible
-  produced a cleaner release from the mould

This isn't presented as a replacement
for the original recipe.

It is simply the version that

**PERFORMED BEST UNDER
MY STUDIO CONDITIONS.**



WATCHING LACE DRY

One of the biggest lessons I learned
was that lace tells you when it's ready.

*I don't rely on a timer alone.
I watch.*

25
MIN

Around 25 minutes,
I begin checking the lace.



As soon as the shiny
surface disappears,
I gently lift one corner.



If it releases cleanly,
I usually leave it another
5–8 minutes so the centre
of the mat can finish drying.



In my experience, when the
lace begins releasing from the
mould on its own, it is usually ready.



I don't allow it to release
completely. By then it has
often become over-dried
and brittle.

STUDIO NOTES

These observations were
made in my studio using:



61%
relative humidity



73°F
(23°C)
temperature



Gas oven

These conditions are
included simply to
provide context.
Every studio is different.

“
*Lace speaks through
small changes.
The more you observe,
the more it teaches you.*

”

Patience and observation are what make the difference.
Trust the process, and the lace will reward you.

The lace shows you the way.



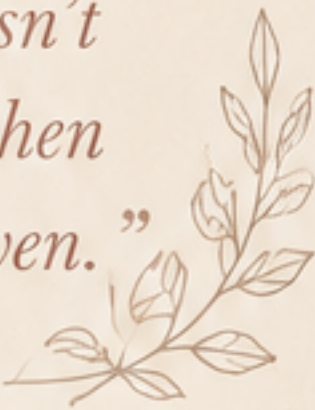
THE BATCH I ALMOST THREW AWAY



One afternoon I removed a batch from the mould.
It broke almost immediately.
I remember looking at it and thinking,
“Well... that one didn’t work.”

Instead of throwing it away, I left the
broken pieces on my workbench.
I wasn’t running another experiment.
I simply didn’t clean them up.
The following morning I picked one up.
It was beautifully flexible.
The flower I cut in my latest lace video
came from that very batch.

*“ Sometimes the lace isn’t
finished changing when
it comes out of the oven.”*



The lace continues to stabilize
even after it leaves the oven.

*Patience reveals
what time finishes.*

WHAT I OBSERVED



What feels brittle at first
can become beautifully
flexible by the next day.

*Not every result is
final right away.*



Understanding this changed
the way I approach every
batch I make.

*Observation creates
better recipes.*

A GENTLE
REMINDER
✿

*Don’t let a first impression decide the fate of your lace.
It might still be transforming. ♥*

WHAT I LEARNED

A FEW LESSONS THAT CHANGED MY LACE



OBSERVE, DON'T GUESS

Every studio is different. Your lace will always tell you what it needs.



TIME IS A GUIDE, NOT A RULE

I start checking around 25 minutes, but the lace—not the clock—decides when it's ready.



SMALL CHANGES, BEAUTIFUL RESULTS

Reducing just one ingredient (vegetable glycerine) made the lace cleaner, drier, and more reliable in high humidity.



FAILURES TEACH THE MOST

The batch I almost threw away taught me patience. What feels brittle today can be perfect tomorrow.



TRUST THE PROCESS

Lace is delicate, but it is also strong. Give it time, and it will reward your patience with beauty.

“Beautiful discoveries are often hidden inside beautiful failures.”



MY STUDIO CONDITIONS (FOR REFERENCE)



61%
RELATIVE HUMIDITY



73°F
TEMPERATURE
(23°C)

These notes are here only to give you context. Your environment may be different—and that's perfectly okay.



Keep exploring. Keep observing. Keep creating.

THE LACE WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY.

THE DETAILS THAT CHANGED MY LACE

Mixing · Colour · Scraping · Drying

MIX THE TYLOSE GENTLY

I do not beat the Tylose and boiling water aggressively. The more it is beaten, the more air is incorporated, which creates bubbles in the lace mixture. Mix only enough to hydrate and combine it. If the Tylose does not dissolve completely, do not keep beating it. **Let the mixture rest for about 25-30 minutes.** The resting time allows the Tylose to continue hydrating on its own.

GEL COLOUR CAN BE ADDED AT THE END

In my testing, I added **gel food colour after all of the ingredients had been incorporated** and it did not change the outcome of the lace. Mix it in gently so you do not introduce unnecessary air.

SCRAPE UNTIL THE PINK SURFACE IS CLEAN

After pressing the mixture into every detail of the mat, I use a **painting / palette tool** to scrape the surface very clean. You should be able to clearly see the **pink silicone surface** again between the lace details. Leaving excess mixture sitting on top connects details that should remain open, makes the lace heavier, and creates thicker areas that need longer to dry. A clean scrape gives a finer, more defined lace and more even drying.

“The goal is not simply to fill the mat. It is to fill the detail and remove everything the design does not need.”

TIME, TEMPERATURE & MAT THICKNESS

My current working notes

MY OVEN

My gas oven would not reliably go below **175-180°F (about 79-82°C)**, so these are the temperatures I used during this round of testing. If your oven can hold a lower temperature, use the gentler heat and **increase the drying time**. Another option is to allow the lace to continue drying **overnight**, as Priscilla suggests.

RESULT	AT 175-180°F	WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Flexible lace	Start checking around 25-30 min	Surface is no longer shiny; a corner releases cleanly but the lace still bends easily.
Firmer lace	Approx. 35-40 min	More body and structure, with less softness while still having some flexibility.
Firm / brittle lace	Approx. 45-50 min	Drier and noticeably firmer. Let a test section cool before deciding: lace firms as it cools.

WHY MY MATS MAY NEED MORE TIME

My Couture Lace mats are **a little thicker than many regular lace mats**. Because the cavities can hold more mixture, they may require more oven time than a thinner lace mat. Use the times above as a starting point, not an absolute rule.

IMPORTANT: WATCH THE LACE

Ovens, humidity, colour, application thickness and individual mats can all affect drying. Begin checking rather than relying only on the clock. For a flexible result, remove it once it releases cleanly. For a deliberately firmer or more brittle result, continue drying in short increments. **If using a lower temperature than 175-180°F, expect the process to take longer.**

These updated notes supersede the earlier drying-time notes in this journal.