



## SHAOXING KEQIAO DORAU IMP. & EXP. CO., LTD

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**Origin of name** - The medieval French verb *guiper*, means 'to cover a cord with silk or wool'. During the seventeenth century the term denoted all raised point lace, especially the Venetian laces. It later came to mean any lace without a mesh background whose floral pattern was large and bulky and joined by buttonholed brides.

**Appearance** - Heavy, firm handling open lace, with the design standing in relief. An important characteristic of Guipure is that there is no background net or fabric. The various parts of the pattern are held together by connecting threads called bridges or brides. Guipure, being an embroidered fabric, has a definite face side.

**Fibre content** - Traditionally 100% cotton.

**Manufacture** - The very closely packed embroidery stitching is done by the Schiffli machine on some form of ground.

After embroidering the ground is dissolved away using an appropriate solvent:

- 1 - Acetone which dissolves acetate.
- 2 - An alkaline solution (soap) which dissolves calcium alginate.
- 3 - Water-soluble base fabrics are now available.

All that is left behind is the cotton embroidery thread forming an openwork lace.

**Different forms of guipure:**

- 1 - For dress purposes, all-over Guipure is made up to 45cm wide.
  - 2 - Narrow laces in the form of edgings, galloons, cut-outs and insertions.
- It often happens that the design lends itself to cutting out single motifs for appliqué.

**Other name** - Burn Out Lace.

**Generic term** - Any lace without a mesh ground including crochet and tape lace.