The technique for creating this personalized keepsake comes to us from Peter and Monika Steffny of MPST Digital Design (www.mpst.at) in Austria who use Corel Drawings 2 to create lace. Happy holidays and happy stitching!

This process is in two parts. Part 1 is the secret of the lace. Part 2 is the ornament itself. Once you learn to create the lace, you can substitute any pattern you like and create your own designs.

**Needed:**

* Corel DRAWings 2 (recommended, but you can also use Corel DRAWings 1)
* Two pieces of water soluble stabilizer
* Colored embroidery thread (same color for bobbin)

**Part 1: Creating the Lace**

1. Open Corel Drawings 2 and start a new CorelDRAW drawing.
2. Select a basic cotton as the fabric. The color you pick should be fairly light, so that you will be able to see the thread in the preview.
3. We are going to be taking advantage of the precision of Corel Drawings to create the grid-like pattern that will become the lace.
4. Let’s set up the grid. Click Tools/Options. Under the Document setting, click on Grid. With the Frequency option active, change the Horizontal and Vertical Frequency to 8/inch. Enable both the Show Grid and Snap to Grid.
5. Be sure the ruler is on (View/Rulers).
6. Zoom into the bottom right corner of the page, so that you can see a 3" X 3" area.
7. From the Curve Fly-out, select the Bezier tool.
8. We will begin creating a zig zag pattern. Click on the bottom right corner of the page, then move 3" up, and click again. Click over to the right one square (1/8") then back down. Over again, then up, continuing in this zig zag until you have reached the 3" point.
9. Copy the pattern, then paste. Using the Property Bar, rotate the second pattern 90°.
10. Now, still using the Bezier tool, click the upper left corner of the top right square. Using the grid as a guide, click down to the right on a 45° angle. Then down one step, back up 45°, over again, back and forth until you finish at the opposite corner.
11. Select the diagonal zig zag, copy and paste it. Once again rotate 90°.
12. As a last step, create a 3" X 3" box surrounding the entire design.
13. Click on the Stitch Tab.
14. Select the Outside box, and the click on the Outline tab. Change the outline style to Serial Satin Stitch.
15. Save the design to your machine format.
16. Set your machine up with a rayon or synthetic thread and be sure to use the same thread in your bobbin, since this will be a double-sided ornament.
17. Here is the big secret! Stitch out the lace design onto two or three thicknesses of water-soluble stabilizer WITHOUT ANY FABRIC! We recommend using a stabilizer that provides some stiffening, such as Avalon. Later, we will be washing away the stabilizer leaving only the thread, but NOT YET!
18. Now that you have the basic lace, you can use it to create any design.
Part 2: Perfect Ornamentation

1. We will start by creating a perfect circle. (Hint: Use the ellipse tool while holding down the CTRL Key.)
2. Using the Property bar, resize the circle to a 2.5" diameter.
3. We will be making use of the Basic Shapes from the Perfect Shapes fly-out throughout this tutorial. Click to activate the Basic Shapes property bar.
4. From the property bar, open the Perfect Shapes drop down and select the Trapezoid tool (1st row, 2nd column).
5. Draw a trapezoid to create top of the ornament. Resize the trapezoid to .75"W X .25" and move it to the top of the ball. Place a small .25" circle at the very top.
6. We are going to use another trapezoid for the candle. Draw it and resize it to .75" X 1.25" and use the glyph (the small red diamond) to widen the top a little.
7. Line up the candle at the mid point of the bottom of the circle.
8. For the flame, use the tear drop from the Perfect Shapes (3rd row, 4th column). Resize the flame to .5"W X .75" and place it on the top of the candle.
9. Copy the flame, reduce the size to 50% of the original. Move it to the bottom inside the of the larger flame.
10. Finally, for the candle’s glow, create a 1" circle and place it at the top of the candle.
11. Select the 4 candle parts and group them (CTRL+G).
12. Make two copies, resizing one to 85% and the other to 80%, then move them to either side of the large central candle.
13. For a little bit of embellishment, we used the ‘rainbow’ perfect shape (3rd row, 1st column) to add a little interest in the background. Resize to .5" X .5" and rotate 30°. See the image for placement. Repeat for the other side of the ornament.
14. For the candle embellishment we used more Perfect Shapes, such as the ring, the scalloped square and the frame.
15. When you are finally happy with the design, use CTRL + A to select all of the objects, then CTRL + Q to convert all of the objects from Perfect Shapes to curves.
16. To clean up the overlaps, use the Virtual Segment Delete tool (located under the Shape Edit Fly-out).
17. Once more, select all and change the outline sizes to 4pt. (Use Edit/Properties and select the Outline tab in the docker on the right.)

Click on the Stitch tab. Use CTRL + A to select all and change the Outline Satin Serial.

18. Now stitch it onto the lace section.
19. Follow the directions included with your stabilizer to gently wash it away.
20. As a final step, trim the lace to 1/8" of the outside of the ornament. CAREFULLY use a lighter to seal the outside edge of the ornament. Repeat as many times as you like, using the lace background and any outlined shape! This holiday season, your gift is creativity!