Tatting Is So Much Fun

by the American Thread Company

And it's easy fun, too. These instructions will tell you how to go about it, and how to make eight great designs.

TATTING SHUTTLES are shaped like the one illustrated. Some are made with a hook at one end which is used to pull the thread through picots in joining. However, for a beginner the one without a hook is easier to manage as the hook hinders speed and is apt to be in the way. Instead of using the hook to pull the thread through in joining, a crochet hook or a pin may be used. For real dainty tatting use Tatting Crochet. It is made in white and a variety of beautiful colors. For heavier tatting use Mercerized Crochet Cotton, size 20-30-40 or 50.

Winding the Shuttle

If the bobbin is removable and has a hole at one side, tie the thread and wind the bobbin until full. If bobbin is not removable wind thread around bobbin in center of shuttle but never allow thread to project beyond the shuttle.

The simplest form of tatting is the ring. This is made with one shuttle only. When making a design of chains and rings two shuttles or one ball and one shuttle are used.

When a design of rings worked with two colors is made, use two shuttles. While learning we suggest using Mercerized Crochet Cotton Size 20.

It must be remembered when learning to tat that the knot is made on the shuttle thread and not with it though all action is done with the shuttle thread. This is accomplished by easing the thread around fingers and pulling the shuttle thread taut.

Double Stitch

Unwind the shuttle so the thread is about 12 inches long. Hold the shuttle between the thumb and forefinger of right hand, with the thread coming from back of bobbin, take the end of thread between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand and pass it around the outstretched fingers, crossing it under the thumb. (Ill. No. 1.)

With the shuttle in your hand, pass the shuttle thread under and over the hand just below the point of fingers. Pass the shuttle between first and second fingers of the left hand, under shuttle and ring thread and bring it back over ring thread allowing the ring thread to fall slack by bringing the four fingers of the left hand together. (Ill. No. 2.) Pull shuttle thread taut and then spread the fingers of left hand till loop is close to fingers and thumb of left hand and pull tight. (Ill. No. 3.) The second half of the stitch is made in the opposite way. Allow the shuttle thread to fall slack, pass shuttle over ring thread and back under ring thread and over shuttle thread. (Ill. No. 4.) Pull shuttle thread taut and tighten ring thread until second half of stitch slips into place beside the first half. (Ill. No. 5.)

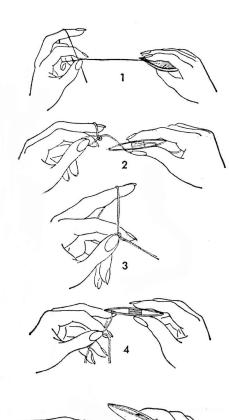
By pulling the shuttle thread, the stitch slips back and forth. If it does not, the stitch has been locked by a wrong motion and must be made over again. Practice the doubles until they can be done without looking at instructions.

A picot is made by leaving a space between the stitches. (Ill. No. 6.)

Rings and Picots

Make the first double as directed and work three more double stitches or doubles as they are usually termed.

PICOT. Make the first half of next double, slide it on thread stopping about 1/4 inch from last stitch, complete the double and draw entire stitch in position next



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Illustrations 1 through 5 show steps in making double stitch.

to four doubles made. (Ill. 6 and 7.) Work four more doubles, then work another picot, four more doubles, another picot and four more doubles. Hold the stitches firmly in the left hand, draw the shuttle thread until the first and last stitches meet forming a ring. (Ill. No. 8.) For larger picots leave a larger space between doubles.

Joining Rings

Wind the thread around hand as for first ring and work first double stitch of next ring about 1/4 of an inch from ring just made. Work three more doubles.

To join rings. If you are using a shuttle with one pointed end or a hook on one end, insert this end through the last picot of previous ring and pull thread through making a loop large enough to insert shuttle, draw shuttle through the loop and draw shuttle thread tight, this joins the rings and counts as the first half of a double. (Ill. No. 9.) Complete the double, work three more doubles, then a picot, four doubles and close ring same as first ring.

To reverse work, turn your work so that the base of ring just made is at the top and work next ring as usual.

To join threads. Always join thread at the base of last ring or chain by making a square knot and leaving the ends until work is finished as the strain of working may loosen the knot. Cut ends later. Never attach a new thread in ring as the knots will not pass through the double stitch.

Josephine Picots

Single knots or Josephine picots. This is a series of single knots or just half of a double. Four or five knots for a small Josephine picot and 10 to 12 knots for a larger picot.

Working With Ball & Shuttle

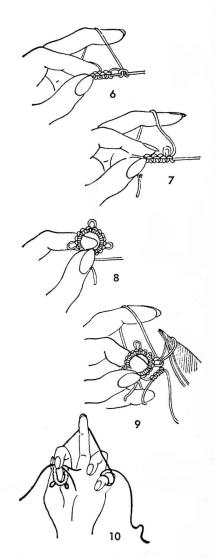
All tatting designs containing chains and rings are made with one ball and a shuttle or two shuttles. To make a ring, the thread is wound to circle around the left hand and for the chain, thread is wound half way around the hand. Tie the end of ball thread to end of shuttle thread. When you are

making the ring use the shuttle thread, when ring is completed turn the ring so the base is held between the thumb and forefinger, place the ball thread over back of fingers winding it twice around little finger to control tension. (Ill. No. 10.)

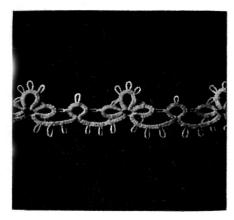
Work the chain over the ball thread using the shuttle thread. When chain is completed draw the stitches close together, drop the ball thread and with shuttle thread work another ring. Picots in chains are made and joined in same manner as in rings.

Using Two Colors

When two colors are used in making rings two shuttles must be used. If chains appear on the design with two colors use the second shuttle same as a ball.



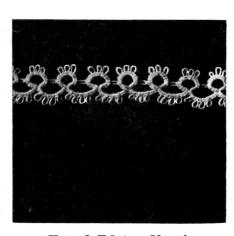
Illustrations 6 through 10 show ring, picot and shuttle work.



Tatted Edging No. 1

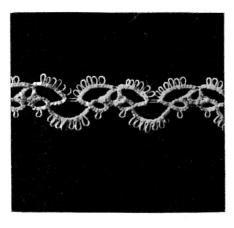
1 Shuttle and 1 Ball.
R, 5 d, 3 p sep by 5 d, 5 d, cl r, turn. * Ch, 5 d, 3 p sep by 5 d, 5 d, turn. R, 5 d, p, 5 d, join to last p of last r, 5 d, p, 5 d, cl r. R, 5 d, join to last p of last r, 3 d, 4 p sep by 3 d, 5 d, cl r. R, 5 d, join to last p of last r, 5 d, join to last p of last r, 5 d, 2 p sep by 5 d, 5 d, cl r, turn. Ch, 5 d, 3 p sep by 5 d, 5 d, turn. R, 5 d, join to center p of last r, 5 d, p, 5 d, p, 5 d, cl r, turn. Repeat from * for length desired.

(Material in this book was taken from "Beginner's Manual of Crochet" by the American Thread Company. The complete manual, Star Crochet Book No. 76, which also includes instructions on making hairpin lace, may be obtained for 10 cents from your local art needlework store.)



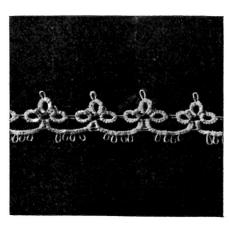
Tatted Edging No. 4

1 Shuttle and 1 Ball.
R, 4 d, p, 4 d, 3 p sep by 2 d, 4 d,
p, 4 d, cl r, turn. * Ch, 3 d, 4 p sep
by 2 d, 3 d, turn. R, 4 d, join to
last p of last r, 4 d, 3 p sep by 2 d,
4 d, p, 4 d, cl r, turn. Repeat from
* for length desired.



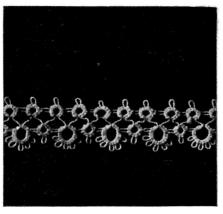
Tatted Edging No. 2

1 Shuttle and 1 Ball.
R, 4 d, 3 p sep by 4 d, 4 d, cl r, turn. Ch, 4 d, 7 p sep by 2 d, 4 d, turn. * R, 4 d, join to last p of last r, 4 d, join to center p of same r, 4 d, p, 4 d, cl r, turn. Ch, 4 d, 7 p sep by 2 d, 4 d, turn. R, 4 d, join to last p of last r, 4 d, join to center p of same r, 4 d, p, 4 d, cl r. Ch, 4 d, 7 p sep by 2 d, 4 d, R, 4 d, 3 p sep by 4 d, 4 d, cl r, turn. Ch, 4 d, skip last ch made, join in corresponding p of next ch, 2 d, 6 p sep by 2 d, 4 d, turn. Repeat from * for length desired.



Tatted Edging No. 5

1 Shuttle and 1 Ball.
R, 7 d, p, 5 d, p, 3 d, cl r. R, 3 d, join to last p of last r, 5 d, p, 5 d, p, 3 d, cl r. R, 3 d, p, 3 d, cl r. R, 3 d, join to last p of last r, 5 d, p, 7 d, cl r, turn. Ch, 4 d, p, 4 d, 4 p sep by 3 d, 4 d, p, 4 d, turn. * R, 7 d, join to last p of last r, 5 d, p, 3 d, cl r. R, 3 d, join to last p of last r, 5 d, p, 5 d, p, 3 d, cl r. R, 3 d, join to last p of last r, 5 d, p, 7 d, cl r, turn. Ch, 4 d, join to corresponding p of opposite ch, 4 d, 4 p sep by 3 d, 4 d, p, 4 d, turn. Repeat from * for length desired.



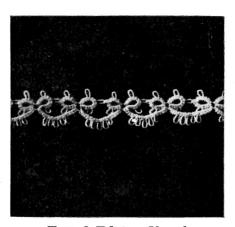
Tatted Edging No. 3

1 Shuttle.

R, 3 d, 3 p sep by 3 d, 3 d, cl r, turn, 1/4 inch space. R, 3 d, 3 p sep by 3 d, 3 d, cl r, turn. 1/4 inch space. * R, 3 d, join to last p of opposite r, 3 d, 2 p sep by 3 d, 3 d, cl r, turn. 1/4 inch space. R, 3 d, join to last p of opposite r, 3 d, 5 p sep by 2 d, 3 d, p, 3 d, cl r, turn. 1/4 inch space. R, 3 d, join to last p of opposite r, 3 d, 2 p sep by 3 d, 3 d, cl r, turn. 1/4 inch space. R, 3 d, join to last p of opposite r, 3 d, 2 p sep by 3 d, 3 d, cl r, turn. 1/4 inch space. R, 3 d, cl r, turn, 1/4 inch space. Repeat from * for length desired.

TATTING ABBREVIATIONS

R. Ring S.P. Short Picot
L. R. Large Ring L. P. Long Picot
S. R. Small Ring Ch. Chain
D or D.S. Double or Sp. Space
Double Stitch Sep. Separate
P. Picot Cl. Close



Tatted Edging No. 6

1 Shuttle and 1 Ball.
R, 4 d, 3 p sep by 3 d, 4 d, cl r.
R, 4 d, 3 p sep by 3 d, 4 d, cl r,
turn. * Ch, 5 d, 5 p sep by 2 d, 5 d,
turn. R, 4 d, p, 3 d, join to center
p of last r, 3 d, p, 4 d, cl r. R, 4 d,
3 p sep by 3 d, 4 d, cl r, turn. Repeat from * for length desired.