

## **The Split Chain also known as Bridging in Tatting, Notes by Georgia Seitz**

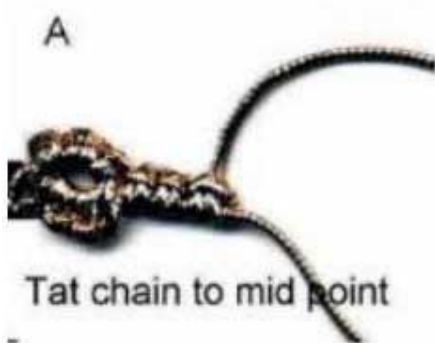
The following directions include nine scans for a step by step look at creating a split chain in the following situation. You have been tatting a chain which was began somewhere to the left and you have continued tatting to the right up to the mid point of the chain. In this position the right side of the chain in progress is up or towards you. The chain would have finished and been anchored somewhere to the right if completed in the traditional manner.

Instead you are going to measure out a length of bare thread equal to the chain just completed, attach it to the right and wrap thread over the bare shuttle thread back towards the left to the mid point of chain and then climb out of the round with a mock picot and either a split ring or a chain.

Nota Bene: If the wrong side of the work is towards you or the chain is headed to the right and needs to be anchored on the left, these directions must be modified by starting the stitch/wrap on the opposite side as given below.

The most important point of this technique is that it should be done slowly. The thread is wrapped around the anchored shuttle thread in two stages both of which must be done loosely and then the two halves of the stitch slowly tightened one after the other.

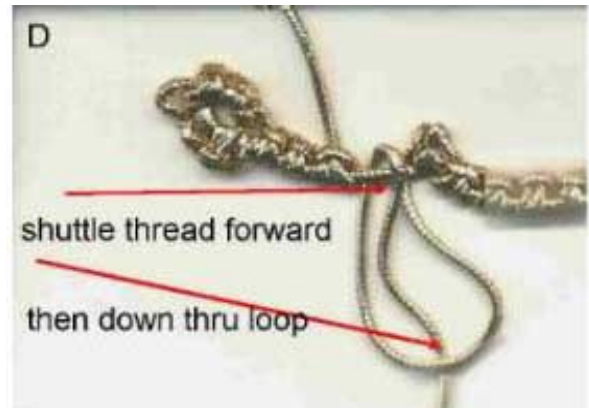
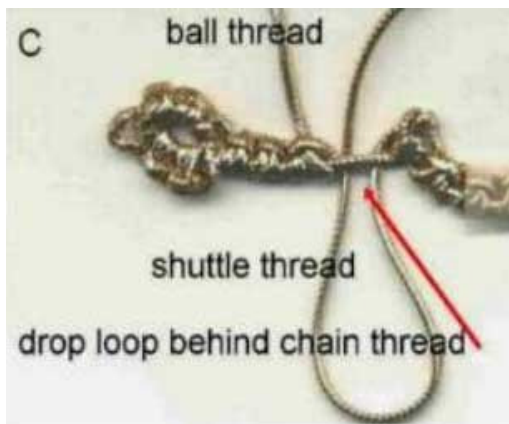
You are tatting a chain from left to right. Tat up to the mid point of the chain (or that point where the mock picot or split ring would attach; it does not necessarily have to be the exact center of the chain.) Scan A



Measure off a length of shuttle which is slightly shorter than the length of chain needed. (It is shorter because in the process of wrapping the thread this portion of the bare shuttle thread often stretches.) Anchor the measured length at the point where the chain normally would have finished. Scan B

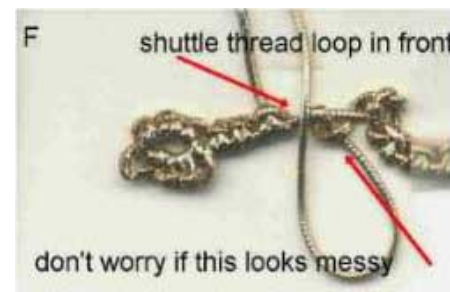
Looking at the chain, the completed chain is right side up and on the left while the bare thread is anchored and on the right.

1. Let a loop of the shuttle thread drop behind the bare thread. Scan C
2. Bring the shuttle to the front over the bare thread and into the loop thus formed passing the shuttle over the left side of the loop and behind the right side of the loop. Scan D



3. Gently pull the loop towards you and upwards a little. Gently tighten a little. Scan E

4. Bring shuttle to the back behind the bare thread and into the loop thus formed passing the shuttle behind the left side of the loop and over the right side of the loop. Scan F.



Then see Scan G: Tighten gently by pulling shuttle thread down Scan H



5. Return to the first loop and gently pull one side only until it moves to the right and touches the anchor point. Gently pull the other side of the loop into place. Then rotate the stitch upwards on the chain thread. As you pull you will see the "legs" of the double stitch and the "bar" of the double stitch move into position. Tweak each side until the tension is correct. Scan I

If it does not look like a correctly made double stitch, follow the shuttle thread to take it out and try again. If all is correct go onto to make as many of these ds as necessary to reach the midpoint of the chain.

The split chain allows you to climb from the center or from one round to the next without cutting or tying the threads.



## Split Chain Practice Pattern

R = Ring  
CH = Chain  
clr = Close Ring  
rw = Reverse Work  
- = picot  
+ = join

Center Ring  
R 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 mock picot

First Round begins with  
Cloverleaf:

Split Ring 6 / 6 clr Leave no space  
R 6 - 6 clr rw Leave no space  
R 6 - 6 clr rw Leave no space  
CH 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 rw



Cloverleaf:

\*R 6 + (join to picot on previous ring) 6 clr  
Leave no space  
R 6 + (join to picot on center ring) 6 clr  
Leave no space  
R 6 - 6 clr rw  
CH 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 rw

Repeat from \* around up to the last picot on the last chain, then do to Split Chain

**to achieve the all front side up look  
wrap the hs in reverse order  
second hs first; first hs second**

**use tail to wrap ds onto  
the "eye" end of the  
needle**



Split Chain for needle: Unthread the needle, reverse the needle, using that tail wrap the ds for the remaining chain. Return needle to normal position, insert the eye only of the tatting needle through the base of the ring where the chain would normally have finished. Rethread the needle and pull through. Use mock picot to climb into the next round.

Use previous directions for the shuttle tatted split chain.

Round 2:

Split Ring 4 / 4 clr

\*CH 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 rw

R 4 + (join to the second picot of the chain of the previous row) 4 clr rw

CH 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 rw

R 4 + (join to the fifth picot on the same chain above) 4 clr rw

Repeat from \* around up to the middle picot on the last chain, then do Split Chain

Split Chain for the needle or shuttle See round 1.

CH 3 - 3 Use mock picot to climb into the next round.

Round 3:

Split Ring 6 / 6 clr

Leave no space

R 6 - 6 clr rw

R 6 - 6 clr rw

\*CH 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 rw

R 6 - 6 clr Leave no space

R 6 + (join to center picot of chain in previous round) 6 clr Leave no space

R 6 - 6 clr rw

CH 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 rw

Small ring

R 3 + (join to picot of previous ring) 3 - 3 - 3 clr rw

Repeat around from \* joining the small rings to the side rings of the cloverleaf.

Finish off ends.

