

Maltese Heart by Patty Dowden © 2011 All uses permitted except copying this pattern for sale



There are 3 different threads that make up construction of the Maltese Heart. Leave a good 10 inches of tail from all three threads when starting so it is easier to tie the bow at the end.

The yellow thread is the foundation ring and is wrapped normally around the left hand. The yellow DS are formed by being flipped by the core thread in the normal way. All of the stitches from all 3 threads are formed on the yellow foundation core thread, so all three threads alternate to make up the design.

The first yellow foundation thread DS tats over the tails of both the white and the variegated auxiliary threads.

After completing the first yellow foundation thread DS, move the loop wrapped around the left hand farther back

to get it out of the way. On the front of the fingers of the left hand, where the working thread usually is wrapped, wrap the Yellow core thread and the white auxiliary thread as if starting a chain.

Then work unflipped Victorian sets of 5 – 5 with the Variegated shuttle. Leave a tiny space between changes of direction, the space gives a little extra emphasis to the sets.

The first 5 stitches in the Victorian set should be an unflipped second half DS worked DOWN over the core thread. The second 5 stitches of the Victorian set should unflipped first half DS worked UP under the core thread. Tension the Victorian set when completed. The fullness of the Victorian sets is what gives the heart its body.

After the first Victorian set is complete, tension the stitches and release the yellow foundation core from the wrap and re-wrap the white auxiliary thread to make its first DS. The white thread will no longer be tatted over tails until the end. With the foundation core thread, make 1 white DS and tension. Then release the White thread and drop the White shuttle through the Yellow working thread loop from front to back and let the White shuttle hang over the back of your hand.

The yellow foundation and white auxiliary threads alternate and are intertwined by dropping the white auxiliary thread shuttle through the yellow foundation thread ring after each DS the white thread makes. Let the white thread shuttle hang over the back of your hand after it has made its 1 DS.

Complete another Victorian set in same way as above.

The sequence is 1 yellow foundation DS, 1 Victorian Set, 1 white auxiliary DS intertwining the Yellow foundation thread, and 1 more Victorian set.

The rhythm of the work is Yellow normal DS, unflipped Victorian set , White flipped DS, and unflipped Victorian set.

After working the first repeat, when the picots are actually forming, my method is to make the picot, estimating the length at about 3 X the length of a Victorian set and then adjust the size after tatting the following Victorian set, if necessary.

Working the Peak of the Heart

After completing 14 Victorian sets and the yellow DS following it, reverse work and tat a Josephine Knot of 12 first half DS with the variegated thread. Reverse work

Tat another Victorian set, followed by a white auxiliary DS and a Victorian set. Make 13 more repeats to mirror the first half of the Maltese Heart.

Tat over tails over the white auxiliary thread in the last Victorian Set. Tat over both the white and variegated auxiliary threads with last yellow foundation DS.

Tension and shape the heart, tie the ends together and tie a bow. Knot the ends of the bow and clip.

Shorthand

Leave long tails to make a bow with the ends.

** First foundation DS tats over the tails of both auxiliary threads (only the first and last DSs).

Move the foundation loop to the back of the hand and wrap both the foundation core and white auxiliary threads like a chain. The white thread will only be tatted over tails in the first Victorian set.

Work Unflipped Victorian set with variegated auxiliary thread 5 2nd half (OVER) and 5 1st half (UNDER).

Release the foundation core and the white auxiliary threads. Re-wrap the white auxiliary thread like a chain.

Work 1DS with the foundation core and the white auxiliary thread. Release the white auxiliary thread drop the shuttle through the foundation working thread loop from front to back and let the shuttle hang of the back of your hand.

Wrap the foundation core like a chain and work unflipped Victorian set (5-5).

Release the foundation core thread.

Measure 3 X the length of a Victorian set on the foundation working thread. Form 1 foundation DS.

Repeat from ** until 14 Victorian set have been made, end with a foundation DS, reverse work, josphine knot of 12 half stitches, reverse work, Victorian set, white auxiliary DS, work 13 more repeats and end by tatting over the tails of the auxiliary threads.

