

Needle Tatting: Tackling the True Ring! (Part 1)

In this lesson walkthrough, we will learn how to work the true ring with the needle, mostly known as the ring for shuttle tatter or a single shuttle pattern. We will be working on a four-ring basic motif to create a butterfly. Although there are a lot of those basic butterflies with different amounts of double stitch and decorative picot, we need to understand that these 4-ring motifs are part of the foundation of tatting, either with the shuttle or the needle, and they are part of the learning process.

Since we are looking into learning techniques with the needle, this is what you will need:

- 1 needle #5 if you are using size 10 thread, or a needle #3 if you are using size 3 thread.
- 3 sizes of picot gauges (1 small, 1 medium, and 1 large).
Picot's width as the gauge, which should be twice the size of the finished picot.
- Scissors
- Needle threader.
A needle threader is a small device used to help thread the needle. It makes it easier to pass the thread through the eye of the needle, especially for individuals who may have difficulty threading the needle manually.

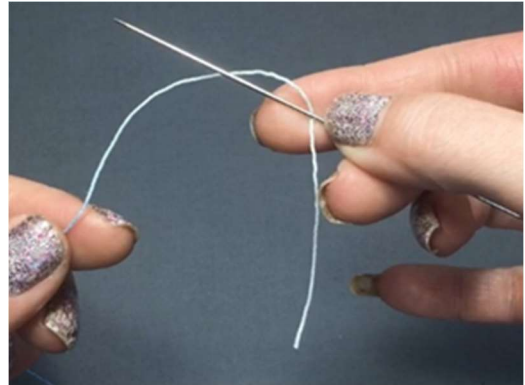
Please note that regardless of whether you are right-handed or left-handed, the movements involved in the needle tatting technique remain the same. However, if you find it challenging to perform the movements with your non-dominant hand, you can try switching hands and using your dominant hand instead by simply holding your needle in your non-dominant hand.

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Let's begin:

You will need approximately 2 meters (6 feet) of thread cut from the ball and a needle of the appropriate size for the thread. Take one end and thread the needle, leaving about 5 cm (2 inches) of thread hanging from the eye of the needle. Hold the needle in your dominant hand.

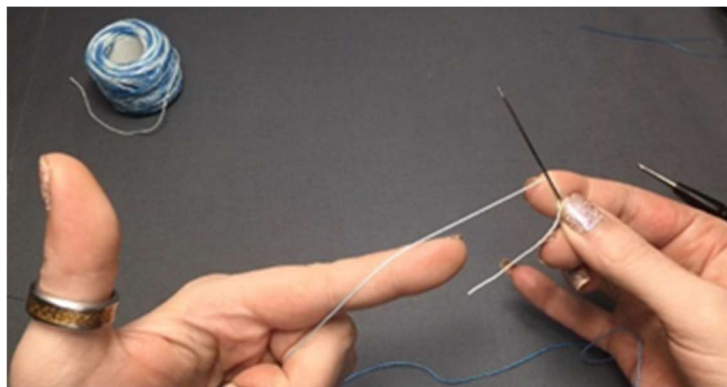
Pass the rest of the thread behind the needle. To start the work, you need to establish an anchor point by placing the other end of the thread pointing toward the eye of the needle. The thread between the eye of the needle and the anchor will be your working thread. Once the first double stitch is made, you can release the thread.



Now let's break down the process of creating a double stitch:

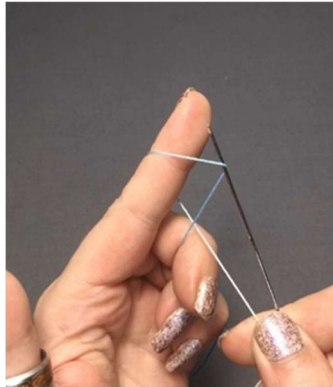
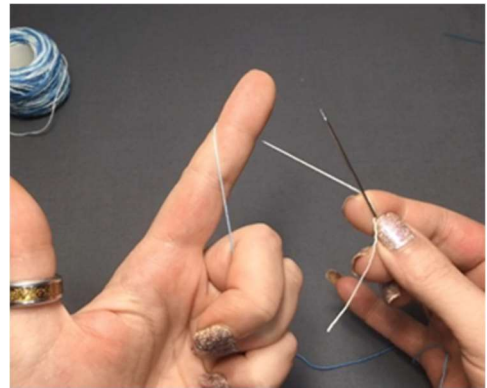
The first half of the double knot:

Position your non-dominant hand by holding the thread approximately 10 cm (4 inches) from the anchor point. Place your thumb and index finger on either side of the thread while keeping the other three fingers closed around it. Open your thumb and index finger slightly, creating a gentle tension that stretches the thread between the anchor point and your closed fingers.



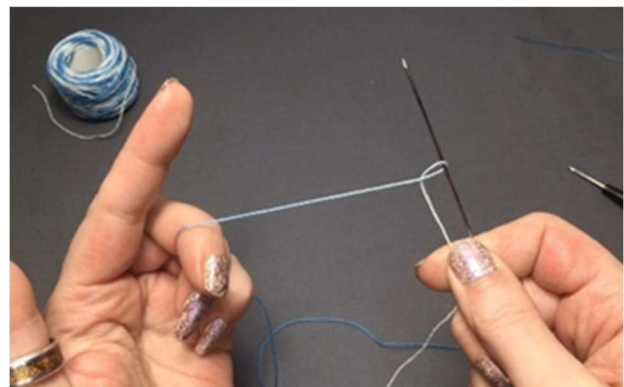
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While maintaining a firm grip on the thread with your other three fingers, use either your index finger or the thumb of your non-dominant hand. Pass it over the stretched thread and make a circular motion in a forward direction, bringing the thread over and around your chosen finger. Imagine wrapping the thread clockwise around the back of your finger or thumb, ensuring that it is securely held in place while you maintain your grip with the other three fingers.



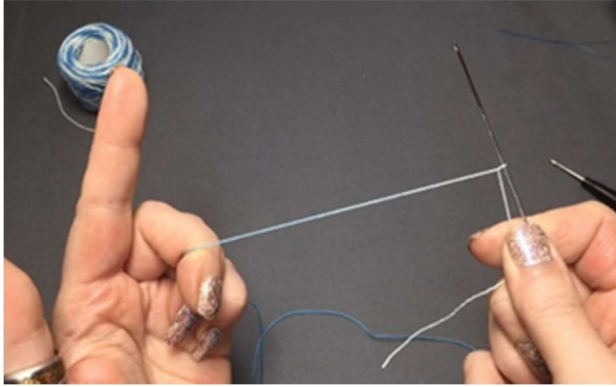
Guide the tip of the needle underneath the thread, ensuring that it passes in front of your index finger. Then, smoothly slide the needle under the thread, moving it upward towards the tip of your finger.

Slide the loop onto the needle while gently withdrawing your finger. Ensure that the thread tightens securely around the needle. Once your finger is completely removed from the loop, tighten it firmly onto the needle. This step marks the completion of the first half of the double stitch.



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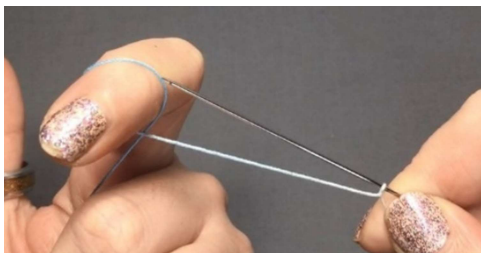
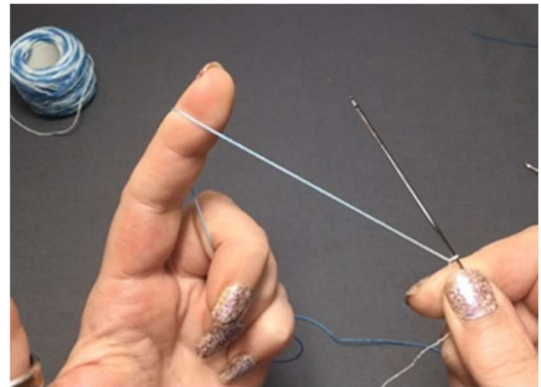
The second half of the double knot:



Resume the initial position of holding the thread, approximately 10 cm (4 inches) from the anchor point, between the thumb and index finger of your non-dominant hand. Ensure that the other three fingers are closed around the thread, maintaining a tautness in the thread between both hands.

Now, for the second half of the double stitch, you need to reverse the actions performed in the first half. Wrap the thread around your index finger in a counterclockwise direction.

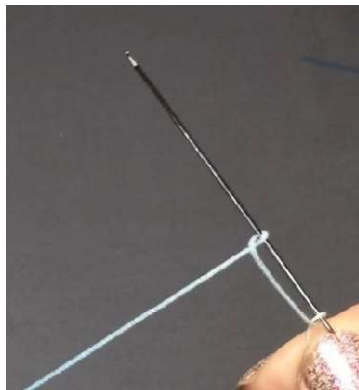
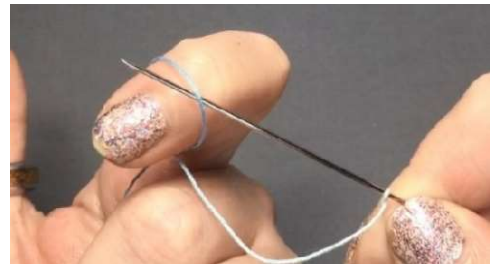
Using either your index finger or thumb of your non-dominant hand, pass it underneath the stretched thread. Then, make a circular motion backward (counterclockwise) while simultaneously bending the top of your chosen finger. This action creates a fold in the thread around your finger.



Guide the needle from bottom to top behind your index finger. This means that the tip of the needle should come out towards you or pass from right to left.

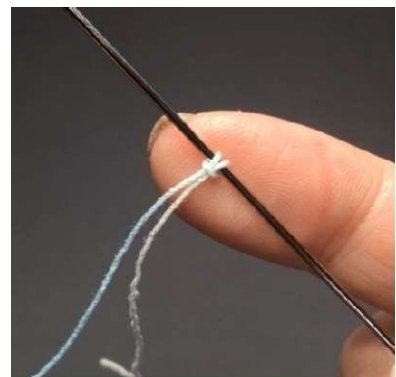
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Slide the needle smoothly under the thread, once again moving it towards the tip of your finger.



Slide the loop onto the needle gradually as you remove your finger. Position the loop next to the first loop you created and tighten it securely. Ensure that the thread is tightened, and then slide this loop close to the first one, maintaining the desired tension.

And there you have a double Stitch (DS) securely formed on the needle! With practice, these movements will become second nature to you.

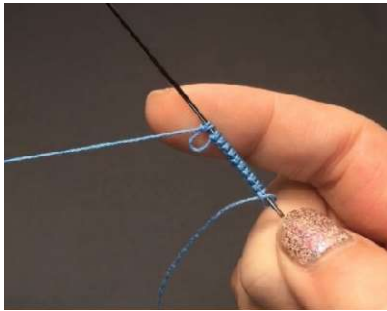
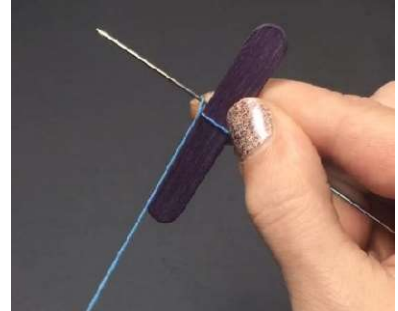


Now, repeat these two movements a total of 8 more times, resulting in a total of 9 double stitches.

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The picots:

A picot represents a space between two double stitch. To create a picot, position the picot gauge next to the last double knot you made, ensuring that the gauge is perpendicular to the needle. Proceed to make the double knot in the usual manner.



Once the double knot is complete, remove the picot gauge and tighten it against the previous double knot.

Note: When multiple knots are to be made after the picot, consider the double knot used to form the picot as the first double knot.

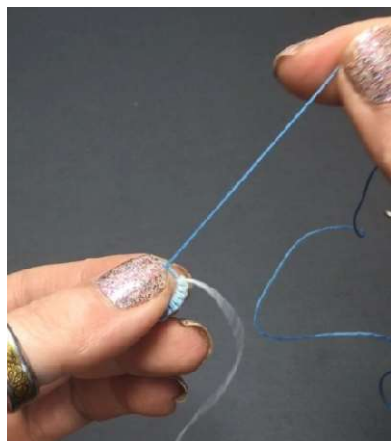
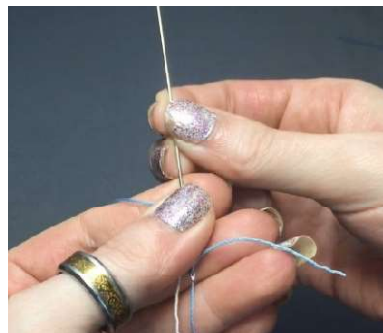
A Little Practice:

Now, let's practice by following this sequence: Make 1 medium picot, 1 long picot, 1 medium picot, and 1 small picot, and conclude with 9 double stitches.

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Closing the ring:

While firmly holding the last double stitch and picots between the thumb and index finger of your non-dominant hand to prevent them from slipping, gently pull the needle through the double stitch. As you do this, continue to slide the double stitch off the needle.



Keep pulling the thread through the needle until the ring starts to form between your fingers. Once the ring is formed, tighten the double stitch against each other to ensure they are secure.

Voilà! Your first ring is complete!



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Starting the second ring:

To start a second ring with the cut thread, simply place the needle in the middle of the previous ring, with the tip of the needle between the two threads (at the junction of the two threads). Make sure that the working thread is on the side of your working hand.



The first half stitch should be placed close to the last double stitch of the previous ring.



To create the second ring, follow these steps: Make 7 double stitches, followed by 1 long picot, and then another set of 7 double stitches. Once you have the required number of double stitches and picots on the needle, close the ring using the same method as described earlier.

Next continue with the third ring by making 7 double stitch, 1 long picot, 7 double stitch, and closing the ring as seen previously.

And for the last ring, make 9 double stitches, 1 small picot, 1 medium picot, 1 long picot, 1 medium picot, 1 small picot, 9 double stitches, and close the ring as seen previously.

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Finishing:

To complete the project, use a few flat knots to attach the two ends together between the two rings. This will securely fasten the ends and provide a finished look to your tatting work.

Special Note: This motif offers versatility, allowing you to customize it with different picot sizes, numbers of double stitches, and thread sizes. When using a different thread size, ensure you have the appropriate needle size for optimal results.

Remember to take your time and practice!

Pattern: Basic Mini Butterfly

Ring #1:

9 double stitches (ds), 1 small picot, 1 medium picot, 1 long picot, 1 medium picot, 1 small picot, 9 double stitches (ds). Close the ring.

Ring #2:

7 double stitches (ds), 1 picot of your choice, 7 d double stitches (ds). Close the ring.

Ring #3:

7 double stitches (ds), 1 picot of your choice, 7 d double stitches (ds). Close the ring.

Ring #4:

9 double stitches (ds), 1 small picot, 1 medium picot, 1 long picot, 1 medium picot, 1 small picot, 9 double stitches (ds). Close the ring.

To finish, tie a few flat knots to attach the two ends together between the two rings.

