

Thread Size Conversion List

Very Fine Thread size 100 and less

- Coats Mercer Crochet 100
- DMC Cordonnet Special 100
- DMC Cordonnet Special 150 (not available since the early 1970s)
- Oren Bayan 70 and 80
- Kreinik and Madiera Blending Filaments - these should not be used on their own but should be run double with another cotton thread to produce a glittery effect. They should be fine with most standard tatting threads and will produce a subtle glitter throughout the work depending on the shade used.

Use size 15 seeds beads and Delicas with these threads.

Fine Threads 70-80

In vintage patterns, when a pattern calls for tatting cotton, it is usually this size it is referring to.

- Venus 70
- DMC Cordonnet Special No. 70
- DMC Cordonnet Special No. 80
- Coats Anchor Mercer Crochet No. 80
- Coats Anchor Fil a Dentelles
- DMC Special Dentelles
- Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4

You can normally use Delicas, size 13 charlottes and size 15 seed beads with these threads; size 11-12 seed beads are also good used individually rather than in groups which are too heavy for these threads.

Fine Threads Size 60

- Coats Mercer Crochet No. 60
- DMC Cordonnet Special No. 60
- Finca Perl Cotton No. 16

Use seed beads size 11, 12, 15; Delicas and size 13 Charlottes are also good.

Fine Threads Size 50

- DMC Cordonnet Special 50
- Flora 50

Use seed beads size 11-12, Delicas and Charlottes size 13 with these threads.

Medium Threads size 40

- Coats Mercer Crochet No. 40
- Finca Perl Cotton No. 12
- Coats Anchor Perl Cotton No. 12
- DMC Cotton Perl No. 12
- DMC Cordonnet Special 40
- DMC Cebelia 40
- Guttermann buttonhole weight polyester sewing thread
- DMC Fil or metallic thread
- Olympus 40 coronnet thread

Use seed beads size 11-12 and Delicas with these threads

Medium Threads size 30

- Altin Basak 50
- DMC Cebella 30 (Altin Basak, DMC Cebella and Simli threads are more or less interchangeable in terms of thickness but provide different textures so always try a sample.)
- DMC Cordonnet Special 30
- Coats Mercer Crochet 30
- Oren Bayan Simli

Use seed beads size 10-11 and Delicas with these threads.

Medium Threads size 20

- Flora 20
- Manuela 20
- DMC Cordonnet Special 20
- DMC Cebellia 20
- Coats Floretta 20
- Coats Aida 20
- DMC Cotton Perle size 8
- Finca Perl Cotton size 8
- Kreinik Fine Braid #8
- Twilley's Gold Dust and Gold Rush - Not recommended for tatting. They are very fragile and may shred when wound onto a shuttle. They do not work well when used for rings. Don't try Twilley's No. 40 and 20 crochet cottons for tatting. They have a distinct nap which makes it difficult to draw up rings. Best used for crochet projects.
- Oren Bayan metallic threads - these can be used for normal tatting, they work with both rings and chains.

Use seed beads size 10-11 and Delicas for these threads.

Heavy Threads size 10

- Coats Mercer Crochet Cotton size 10 - this is a little heavier than the other size 20 threads on the market
- Coats Opera size 10
- Flora size 10
- Manuela size 10
- DMC Cordonnet Special 10
- DMC Cebelia 10
- Coats Anchor Perl Cotton 8
- DMC Cotton Perl 5
- Some of the heavier Kreinik braids such as the #16 also come into this range.

Use seed beads size 8-9 with this range of thread sizes.

Heavy Thread size 5 and above

- Coats Mercer Crochet Cotton No. 3
- Coats Mercer Crochet No. 5
- Coats Anchor Perl Cotton No. 5
- Twilley's Goldfingering - this is a heavy metallic thread which comes in a range of colors including gold and silver, and which works well for both rings and chains.
- Anchor Lame - this is an embroidery thread. Use it as it comes straight from the skein. It needs to be handled with a little care as it kinds easily so you will have to tat a little more slowly than usual. It works very well for tatting and will even pull through with magic threads.
- Stranded embroidery cotton - you can use stranded embroidery cotton as it comes straight from the skein or if you wish you can separate out the strands from the skein and recombine them to create different thicknesses of thread.

Use seed beads size 5-6 with these threads.

US Steel Hook Size Matched to Approximate Thread Size

Hook	Thread Size
4	Crochet Cotton 80-100
13	Crochet Cotton 40-80
12	Crochet Cotton 30-60
11	Crochet Cotton 30-40
10	Crochet Cotton 20-30
9	Crochet Cotton 20
7,8	Crochet Cotton 10

Tatting Needles Matched with Approximate Thread/Yarn Size

Needle	Thread Size
8	Crochet Cotton 50-100
7	Crochet Cotton 20-50; Perle Cotton size 8 and 12
5	Crochet Cotton 10, 20
3	Perle Cotton size 2; Sport and Baby weight yarn
2	smallest yarn; 100% cotton
1	worsted weight yarn
0	chunky and textured yarns