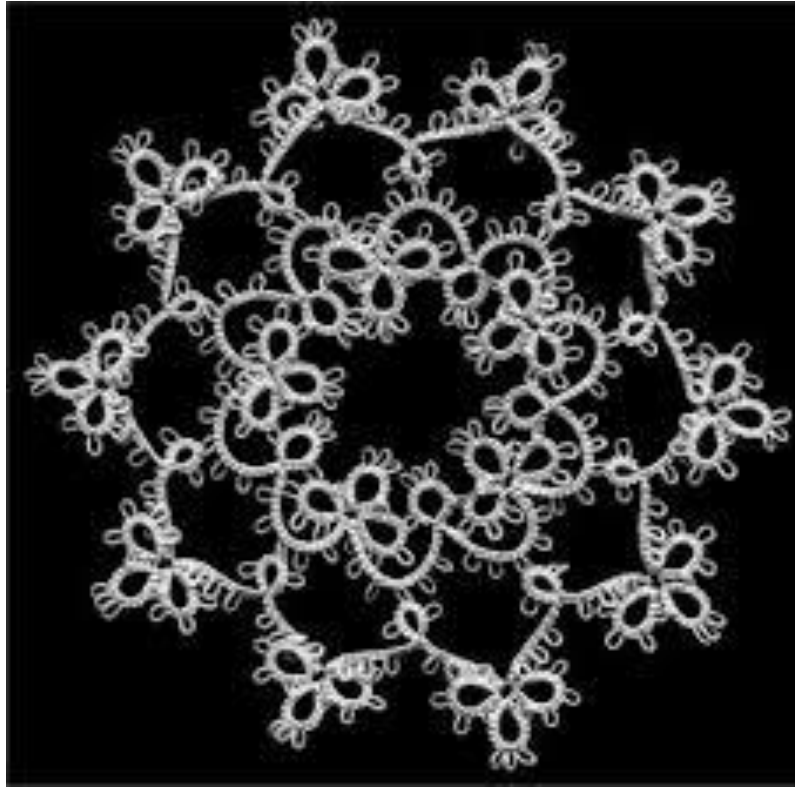


# *Tatting Demonstration*



*August 22, 2015*

*Michelle Kleinman*

## *History (from Wikipedia):*

Tatting may have developed from netting and decorative ropework as sailors and fishermen would put together motifs for girlfriends and wives at home. Decorative ropework employed on ships includes techniques (esp. coxcombing) that show striking similarity with tatting. A good description of this can be found in *Knots, Splices and Fancywork*.

Some believe tatting originated over 200 years ago, often citing shuttles seen in 18th-century paintings of women such as Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Mme. Marie Adélaïde (daughter of Louis XV of France), and Anne, Countess of Albemarle. A close inspection of those paintings, however, shows that the shuttles in question are too large to be tatting shuttles, and that they are actually knotting shuttles. There is no documentation of or example of tatted lace that dates prior to 1800. All available evidence shows that tatting originated in the early 19th century.<sup>[2]</sup>

As most fashion magazines and home economics magazines from the first half of the 20th century attest, tatting had a substantial following. When fashion included feminine touches such as lace collars and cuffs, and inexpensive yet nice baby shower gifts were needed, this creative art flourished. As the fashion moved to a more modern look and technology made lace an easy and inexpensive commodity to purchase, hand-made lace began to decline.

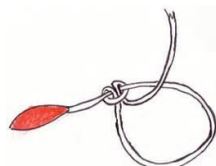
## *Definitions:*

**Shuttle:** A boat-shaped device used to hold the thread and help make the knots in tatting. Shuttles have either a center post or a bobbin to hold the thread. Many shuttles today come with a small point or hook to use in joining. Although tatting shuttles in the past were made of wood, shell, bone or silver filigree, most modern shuttles are made of stamped aluminum or plastic. (Tatting can also be done with needles, but shuttle tatting is more versatile.)



**Thread:** Almost any thread can be used, including pearl cotton and even fingering-weight yarn. Most tatters prefer to work with mercerized cotton thread, size 10, 20, 30, 50, 80 or 100. (The higher the number, the finer the thread).

**Double stitch (ds):** The basic stitch used in tatting, it is essentially two half hitch knots facing opposite directions.



Picots (p): Loops created by spacing the double stitches. Used as decoration or to aid with joining.

Joins: Connecting two rings, usually through a picot.

Ring: A series of double stitches and picots formed into a circle. Rings are made with a single shuttle.

Close: Pulling the ring closed after the final stitch is made.

Space (sp): A length of single thread between rings.

Working thread: The thread which forms the knots.

Reverse work (RW): The work is turned upside down and backward.

Chain (ch): A series of double stitches and picots in a line. Chains are made with either two shuttles (often used in colored work) or with a shuttle and ball.

Ball: The ball or skein of thread. In chaining, one end of the thread from the ball would be tied to the work and used as the working thread.

### *Basic Patterns:*

Simple Ring: 20 ds, close

Picots and joins: 5 ds, p, 5 ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds, cl. Sp. 5ds, join, 5ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds, cl.

Reverse work: 5 ds, p, 5 ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds, cl. Sp. RW, 5 ds, p, 5 ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds, cl. Sp. RW, 5 ds, join, 5 ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds, cl. Sp.

Chain: 5 ds, p, 5 ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds, cl. Sp. RW, ch 6 ds. RW, 5 ds, join, 5 ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds, cl. Sp. RW, ch 6 ds. RW, 5 ds, join, 5 ds, p, 5ds, p, 5ds, cl. Sp.

To hide ends: Leave enough of a “tail” at the beginning and end. Using a sewing or tapestry needle, weave the ends into the work through the double stitches.

