

YOUR FREE READER'S COMPANION

The Tatting Starter Pack

A companion to Shuttle Tatting for Beginners · by Marian Foss

Thank you for picking up the book. Tatting is knot-making, and a diagram on paper takes you most of the way. This printable pack is the rest: keep it beside your shuttle and you'll spend your time tatting, not puzzling.

The whole craft hangs on one move: the flip. Once the knot transfers onto the core thread, everything else is just counting. Get the flip, and you're a tatter. This card is here so you never have to stop and wonder which half comes next. - Marian

The Stitch & Abbreviation Card

Tape this where you can see it. Every pattern in the book uses these.

Short	Means	In one line
ds	double stitch	first half, flip; second half, flip
p	picot	leave a small gap before sliding stitches together
r	ring	worked on a loop, then closed
ch	chain	worked over a second thread, not closed
cl	close the ring	pull the shuttle thread
+ or j	join	pull a loop through a picot, pass the shuttle through
rw	reverse work	flip the whole piece over
sep	separated by	as in "p sep by 4 ds"
rep	repeat	do it again

The Flip Cheat Sheet

The one thing beginners miss. For each half of the double stitch:

1. Wrap the shuttle thread around the core.
2. Now let the SHUTTLE thread go slack and pull the CORE thread straight.
3. The knot should slide freely on the core. That is the flip.
4. If it will not slide, it locked. Loosen, swap which thread is taut, and try again.

Say it as you tat: "shuttle goes dead, core stays alive."

Three Full-Size Starter Patterns

Printed big, so you can read them.

Simple Ring (your first piece)

Pattern: R: 4 ds, p, 4 ds, p, 4 ds, p, 4 ds, cl r.

- Wind a shuttle with size 20 thread. Make a loop around your hand.
- Work 4 double stitches, leave a small gap for a picot, 4 more, gap, 4 more, gap, 4 more.
- Pull the shuttle thread to close. You made a ring.

Two-Ring Chain (an edging)

Pattern: R: 4 ds, p, 4 ds, p, 4 ds, p, 4 ds, cl r. rw. Repeat, joining the first picot to the last picot of the ring before.

- Make a ring as above. Reverse your work.
- Make another ring, but join its first picot to the previous ring's last picot.
- Repeat for as long an edging as you like.

Picot Flower (a little motif)

Pattern: R: 2 ds, (p, 2 ds) x 6, cl r.

- One ring with six evenly spaced picots becomes a tiny flower.
- Block it flat and the picots open into petals.

Thread & Shuttle Quick-Guide

Thread size	Best for
Size 20	learning; bookmarks, earrings, ornaments
Size 40	most patterns, doilies, edgings
Size 80	fine, delicate heirloom lace (not for beginners)

- Use cotton tatting thread, not fuzzy embroidery floss. Fuzz hides your stitches.
- A shuttle with a pointed tip lets you join and un-pick without a separate hook.
- Light, solid colors let you see your knots while you learn.

Start with the simple ring. Finish one real piece, even a wobbly one, and your hands will have learned more than any three chapters can teach. The video companion shows the flip slowed right down if you get stuck.

Happy tatting.

- Marian Foss