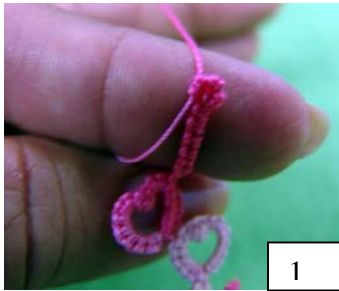


# Heart Strings

©2008 gina Butler

ginabea@gmail.com www.ginabea.com

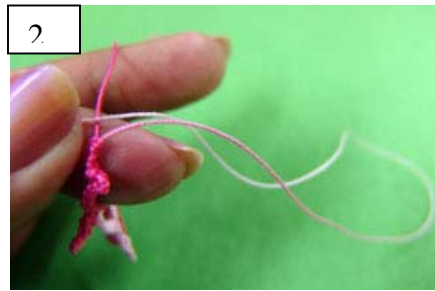
Single Shuttle Split Rings (SSSR) are a useful way to get from point A to point B in tatting. An instruction sheet by Matthew Takeda can be found at Bina Madden's website. <http://www.paradisetreasures.com/takedassr.pdf>  
You can tat a string of hearts by adding a dimple to each ring. This is a fun way to empty that last bit of thread on your shuttle.



1. Tat a ring of 8 ds or a Josephine Ring of 12. This will give you something to hold when you tat the SSSR.

Start the dimpled ring by tatting 8 ds , tp, 3ds , j (back to the tiny picot). Let these 3 ds curl back to the left. Give the shuttle a little tug to make sure your core thread is still sliding. Don't do the second half of the ds after your join. This will give you a crisper heart cleft. Tat 2ds.

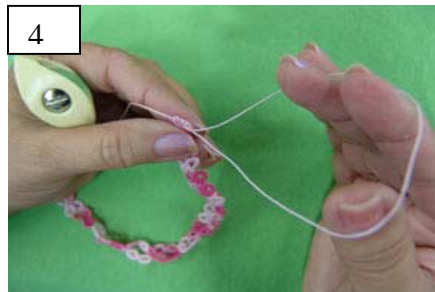
2. Form a loop with the shuttle thread. The ring needs to be open enough, and the loop needs to be long enough to finger tat 6 ds using the loop of shuttle thread.



3. Close the SSSR by pulling on one side of the loop. (If you pull the loop and it moves the shuttle – that is not the one that will close the ring.)



4. Pass the loop OVER the SSSR and the shuttle.



5. Pull the shuttle thread through the SSSR. You can use the forefinger of your left hand to keep the loop from twisting.



An advantage of tatting hearts as Single Shuttle Split Rings is that they can be cut apart without showing any thread ends – they don't unravel!

6. Of course you can also change the stitch count of the hearts. Victorian Set Stitches can form the heart cleft. R8ds, 4 first half, 4 second half, 2ds, finger tat 6ds with the loop of shuttle thread. Close and pull shuttle thread to the top of the heart.

7. To open a mistatted SSSR, find the thread that was the loop you were finger tatting. It will be drawn up at the base of the SSSR. Pull the loop open enough to pass the SSSR and the shuttle back through. Pulling the shuttle will release the stitches on the second side of the SSSR. Now the ring can be opened for untatting.

