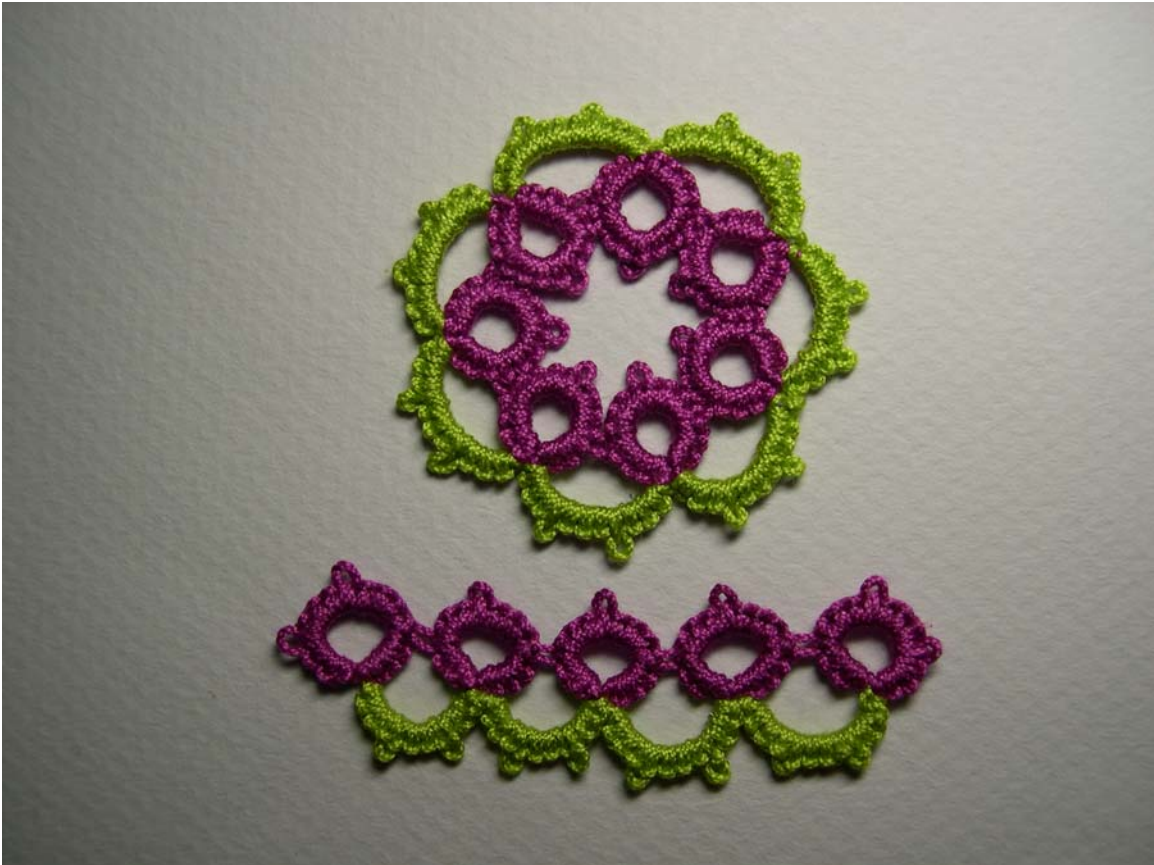


**SINGLE NEEDLE TWO-COLOR TATTING PRACTICE**  
By Barb Grainger Copyright 2010



**Materials:** Size 10 thread in two colors. Size 5 tating needle.

**Abbreviations:**

ds ... double stitch    R...ring    CH...chain    CL...close    prev... previous  
p...picot    DNK...do not knot    RW...reverse work (turn work over like  
turning pages in a book)

**Overview**

This sample pattern has been written specifically for practice using two colors of thread with only one needle. This technique uses both ball and needle thread. “True Rings” are made with the needle thread and “chains” are made with the ball thread.

**Objective**

The first objective of this lesson is to show you how to use two colors while working with only one needle. The second objective is to show you

that you can make either a straight piece of tatting or a round motif using the exact same number of double stitches (ds) for both motifs.

I'd like to say a big thank you to Georgia Seitz, online tatting instructor, <http://georgiaseitz.com> for sharing the "secret" to making straight or curved motifs using the exact same ds count. She explained that the size of the "joining" picots is a major factor in whether a piece works into a straight line or curves into a circle. I learned that making larger "joining" picots creates a straight motif, like an edging, and smaller "joining" picots create a curved or circular motif.

A 'joining picot' is a picot that is used to join two elements of the pattern together. For instance, the last picot of the first ring is usually used to join the second ring to the first ring.

Roger, owner of the "Needle Tatting" forum on proboards, has excellent instructions on how to needle tat with two colors using either a single needle or two needles. You can find his instructions at <http://needletatting.proboards.com/index.cgi>

One more thing before we get started. I know that most needle tatting instructions say to make a knot after a ring or chain. I don't like the way the knot makes little color 'freckles' at the join between the ring and chain when using two colors so I eliminated the knots. It makes a much smoother color transition. If you are uncomfortable not making knots at the end of rings and chains, please feel free to go ahead and make them.

## ROUND MOTIF

Remember to switch to the appropriate thread color for rings and chains.

R 4 – 4 – 4 – 4 CL RW, DNK  
Ch 4 – 4 – 4 RW, DNK  
R 4 + last p of prev ring 4 – 4 – 4 CL, RW, DNK

Repeat until you have a total of 6 rings and chains

R 4 + last picot of prev ring, 4 – 4 + to first p of first ring, 4 CL, RW DNK  
Ch 4 – 4 – 4 join to first ring by weaving thread into several ds on the first ring.

Finish off and weave tails into work.

### More Detailed Instructions:

Cut about five or six feet of the thread you've chosen for the rings. Thread one end through the needle's eye and tie the other end to the 'ball' thread. Be sure to leave the thread tails long enough so you can weave them back into the work when finished. If you are uncomfortable using such a long thread you can start with about two and a half or three feet of 'ring' thread, but you may have to add thread in the middle of the project. Use small picots for this round motif.

Note: The "ring" thread is used to make the rings and is also the "core" thread and must be cut off the ball for this technique. The "ball" thread is used to make the chains.



Step 1, Ring A: Lay the needle on top of the knot you just made and, using the ring thread, work 4- 4- 4- 4 CL, RW, DNK Remember to make the 'joining picots' small. The joining picots are the first and the last picots of the ring.



Step 2, Chain 1: Drop ring color, pick up chain color and work 4- 4- 4, RW, DNK



Picture shows joining to last picot of previous ring.

**Step 3, Ring B: Drop chain color, pick up ring color and. keeping the chain stitches securely in place, work, 4 + to last p of previous ring, 4 – 4 – 4, CL, RW, DNK**

**Repeat steps 2 & 3 until you have a total of 6 rings and 6 chains.**

**Step 4, Ring G): 4 + to last p of previous ring, 4 – 4 + to first p of first ring, 4, CL, RW, DNK**

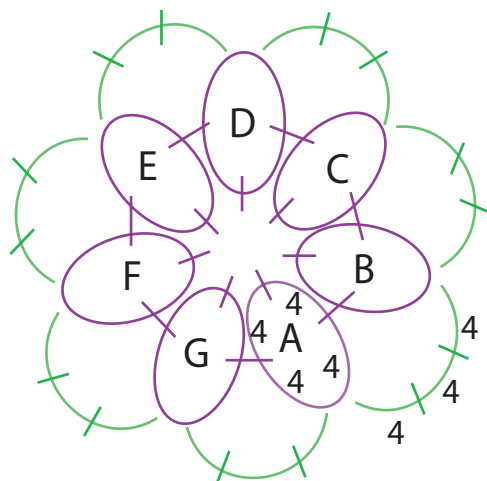


**Step 5, Ch 7: 4 – 4 – 4 + to first ring by passing needle up through the first several ds of the first ring. Weave tails into work.**

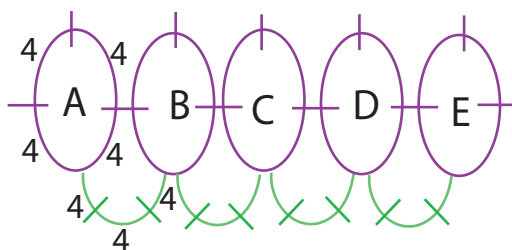
### **STRAIGHT EDGING**

**Work exactly as the circular motif except make the joining picots larger. I made five rings and four chains for my straight piece, but you can make as many as you wish. Enjoy, Barb**

NEEDLE TATTING SINGLE-NEEDLE TWO-COLOR TATTING PRACTICE



Two-Color, One Needle, Round Motif



Two-Color, One Needle, Straight Motif

Enjoy! Barb