

Spring Butterfly 2012

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Butterflies are a sign of spring and a symbol of rebirth. I have always enjoyed watching them flutter and flutter around the garden.

This is one basic pattern with several variations. It all began with a plain white cabbage butterfly, but the different color ones are so pretty and so much easier to see in the instructions. Make these in any color or combination of colors that you wish.

Instructions:

Blue variegated and orange butterflies

The size of the thread does not matter except that the size of the Measured Picots must be proportional to the size of the thread. Use a Picot gauge so that the picots are exactly the same on both sides of the butterfly.

Begin with one shuttle and ball of thread wound CTM.

Body Center

Ring (1 - 1 - 1 LMP 1 MMP 1 SMP 1 - 1 MMP 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 MMP 1 - 1 SMP 1 MMP 1 LMP 1 - 1) , Close the ring then turn

The picots that are not measured picots are all small joining picots, just big enough to join into in the butterfly outline round. See the photo of the purple body center ring →

Butterfly Outline

**Shuttle join to the last picot of the center.
Chain 12 BDS**

[Orange butterfly wing points smp 1 mp 1 smp 3]

smp = small picot. mp = medium picot.

turn

Ring (3 + 3) turn *The join is to the LMP.*

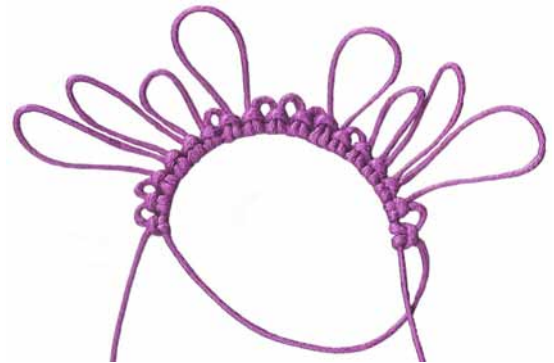
Chain 5 turn

Ring (3 + 3) turn *The join is to the MMP.*

Chain 5 turn

Ring (3 + 3) turn *The join is to the SMP.*

Chain 10 + 10 *The join is to the joining picot between the wings of the body center but this one is tricky because the chain has to turn in a*



Thread size	80	20	10
Picot size	Measured height of picots		
LMP	1/2"	3/4"	1"
MMP	1/4"	1/2"	3/4"
SMP	1/8"	1/4"	1/2"

LMP - Long Measured Picot, MMP - Medium Measured Picot, SMP - Small Measured Picot

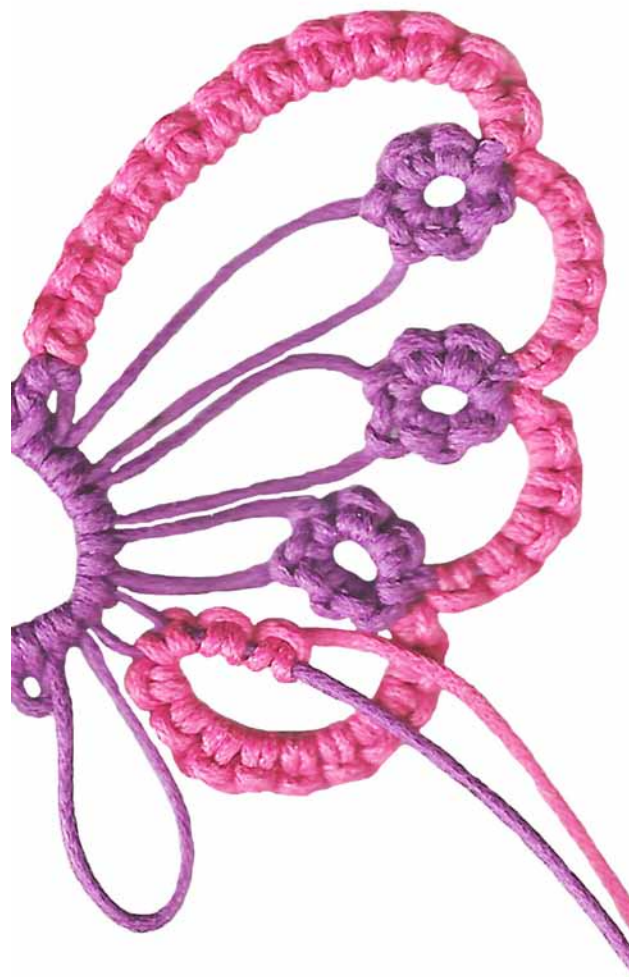
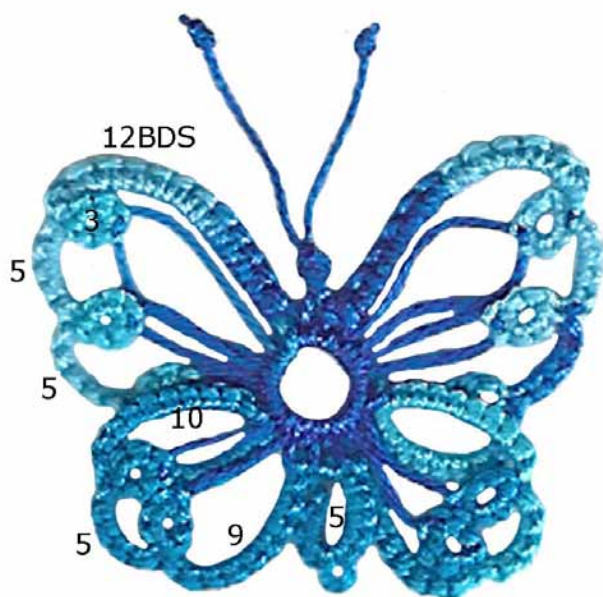
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loop that is the bottom of the upper wing and the beginning of the lower wing. The tatted chain will naturally want to curl. Allow this chain to curl so that the ball thread is next to the ring of the body. This is a normal join to the picot, NOT a shuttle lock join! See Photo Below.

Now just tuck the ball thread under the joining picot and use a hook to pull it up through the picot to complete the join as you normally would. Continue tating then tighten the chain so that it looks like the sample shown here. This sample is two colors so it is easier to see.

The stitch counts for the outline round are shown on this variegated blue butterfly. All of the rings in the outline round are the same. Ring (3 + 3)



The orange butterfly has 3 picots at the upper wing tips and 3 more chain ds. The lower wings have chain 5 - 5 between the rings. Small changes make a big difference in the look of these butterflies. You may wish to adjust the stitch counts a bit. Feel free to play with the design to achieve the look you want.

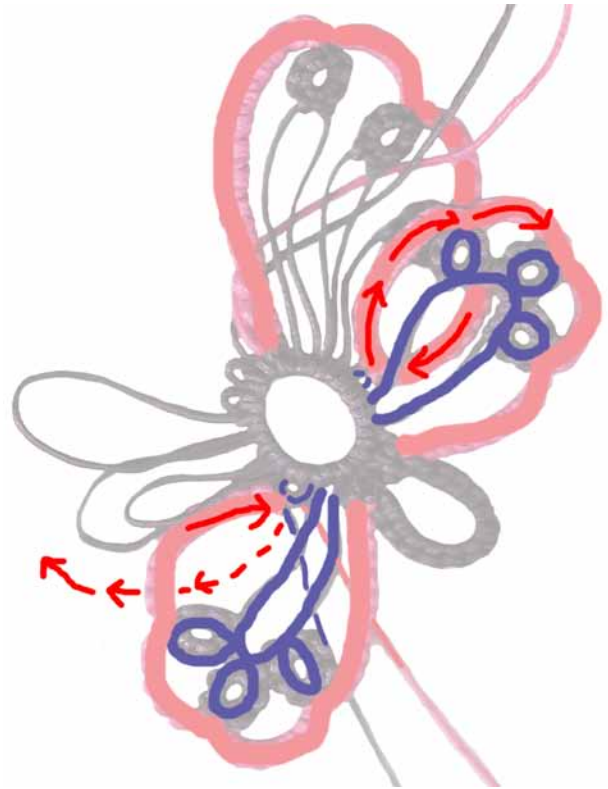
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Continuing around the butterfly outline:

Tat two, three or four rings for the lower wing with the chains between them and all are joined to the one picot for the lower wing.

Join to the smp beside the lower wing, then SLT to change colors if using two colors. Join to the center picot of the three that are together, and then tat the Chain 5 – 5 to make the abdomen. Join back to the same picot as previously joined to, then SLT if using two colors. Join to the third picot of the three together. Now tat the outline for the second lower wing.



IMPORTANT

Since these wings are a mirror image of the other side, we want the overlap of the lower and upper wings to be the same on both sides of the butterfly. To do this you have to put both threads under the second lower wing before doing the join to the body between the wings. After the join continue tatting the upper wing outline as the mirror image of the first side. The diagram here shows this join and the direction of the tatting to make the wings.

When the outline is finished join to the picot next to the LMP then cut the threads to about 15" long.

Using a hook or a needle thread one end through the remaining picot between the upper wings then through the picot where you did the first join of the outline row, then back through the middle one again. Thread the other end the opposite direction through then tie the two ends in a square knot then a double or triple overhand knot. This is the head.

Finally tie each thread end in a triple overhand knot and cut the thread end off just a little bit past the knot to make the antennae.

A triple overhand knot is just an overhand knot with the thread wrapped through the center three times.

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Cabbage Butterfly (ADVANCED)

Start at red X on diagram on a small pony bead (or any bead with a hole large enough for the number of stitches or a cabone or just tat a ring).



CTM shuttle and ball or two shuttles.

This one is size 20 white thread.

Body center Join to bead by putting a loop of thread through the hole in the bead then put the bead through the loop of thread. This makes a larks head knot (tating DS) on the bead.

Large Measured Picot. DS then join to the bead by Dora Young method (AKA Marie Smith's split chain) * DS LMP DS Join to bead*.

Repeat * * Three LMP for upper wing. Small Picot to join wing outline, Join to bead, DS LMP DS Join to bead, Sm Picot to join for abdomen.

One side of center completed.

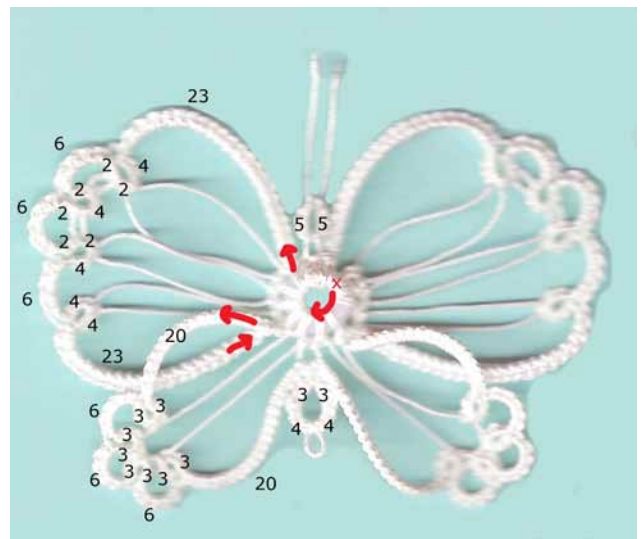
Continue around bead as a mirror image of the first side. There is one LMP for the lower wing, then the Sm Picot to join between the wings, and three LMP for the upper wing.

Wing Outline

Chain 23 turn, (Ring 4 + 2 - 2) turn,
Chain 6 turn, (Ring 2 + 4 - 2) turn,
Chain 6 turn, (Ring 2 + 2 + 4) turn,
Chain 6 turn, (Ring 4 + 4) turn,
Chain 23 + 20

This join is to the body.

Upper wing completed and lower wing started.



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The lower wing outline has 4 rings that are all the same.
(Ring 3 + 3) turn, Chain 6 turn.

Complete the lower wing outline with Chain 20

Abdomen

Join to the picot of the bead center then tat (Ring 3 + 4 - 4 - 3) join to the bead picot again.

The second lower wing is next. It is a mirror image of the first side.
Then join to the center between the wings, and then tat the second upper wing which is a mirror image of the first side upper wing.

The join between the upper and lower wings is the same as in the simple butterfly, so that the overlap of the wings looks the same on both sides of the butterfly.

HEAD

Join to the bead twice, then tat a split ring 5/5.

Tie double or triple overhand knots for the ends of the antennae then cut the threads close to the knots. No ends to hide!

The simple butterflies tatted in size 80 thread make great earrings. Add twisted cord and a tassel to the picot of the abdomen to make a bookmark, or appliqué to fabric or glue to a card.

There are lots of possibilities with this pattern. Here is one done in two colors with a different look because all the rings for the upper wings are joined together. The antennae are tatted chains to hide all four thread ends.



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This butterfly has a beaded body, and it is tatted with two different variegated threads in size 80. To make the body you will need one small seed bead, three medium E beads, and one larger bead. This one is a faceted bead.

Wind the shuttle, then string the large bead, three medium beads and then the seed bead on the shuttle thread. Keep your finger in the thread next to the seed bead and then put the thread back through the other beads.

Pull about 15" of thread through the beads. Remove your finger from the loop of thread by the seed bead and pull snug so that the seed bead is right against the previous bead, and all the beads lie close together as shown in this photo.



Tie the threads in a triple knot at the top of the bead so that they do not slip and the beads do not come off of the thread. The short end will be used to make the head and antennae after the wings are tatted as in the other butterflies.

Add the ball thread for the outline row and tat a chain around the large bead.

Chain 2 – 2 – 2 LMP 2 MMP 2 SMP 2 – 2 MMP 2 – 2 – 2

You should be at the place where the large bead and the first medium bead are beside each other. Put the ball thread under the space between the beads and the shuttle thread on top of the space between the beads. Now tat the rest of the chain around the bead.

Chain 2 – 2 – 2 MMP 2 – 2 SMP 2 MMP 2 LMP 2 – 2 – 2

Join to the first picot at the beginning of this chain and tighten so that the chain is snug around the bead. Adjust the stitch counts if necessary for your bead. When tating the outline round do the same over under between the beads as in this chain around the bead. Tat the outline of the wings as desired, and then tie all the thread ends in a triple overhand knot to make the head. Tat the antennae, tie & cut.

The rings in these wings are all Ring 6 + 6 except for the top rings in the upper wing which are: Ring 2 – 2 – 2 + 6 for the first one, and the mirror image for the other side is Ring 6 + 2 – 2 – 2

Don't be afraid to try different things with these butterflies. Wouldn't it be scrumptious with lots of beads in the wing outlines? Or beaded picots for the swallowtail look.