



Rubylace

Needle-tatted bead lace choker

by Donna Addis

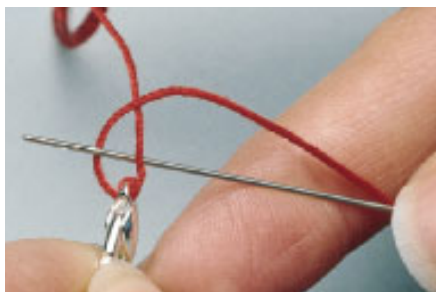
If you're a tatter, you already know how much easier needle tatting is than shuttle tatting because it's almost impossible to form the stitches with the wrong thread. And adding beads adds almost no extra complication. The difference between shuttle and needle tatting is this: In shuttle tatting, you use the hand not holding the stitches to make an arc with the working thread. You also make each stitch flip by pulling on the shuttle thread (see *B&B* #33, p. 62). In needle tatting, you simply apply each stitch over the threaded tatting needle without flipping. With a #7 (fine) needle, you can also spear most extra beads or crystals as needed.

stepbystep

All tatting is formed with two versions of the same knot, a half hitch. You form the first in front of your index finger and the second behind it to produce a "double stitch" (see p. 67). If you join the end to the beginning in a series of stitches, you've made a ring; if you don't, that's a chain. The pattern for *Ruby Lace* consists of alternating rings and chains. If you've never needle tatted, practice a few rings and chains without beads before beginning the necklace.

To keep the thread and beads clean, I keep the ball of thread in a plastic food container, running the end of the thread out through a small hole I've poked in the center of the lid. I keep the work inside the container when I'm not working on it, so the project is easy to carry along.

After explaining how to read and work pattern 1 in detail, I've just given abbreviated directions for the other pattern repeats. The pattern below gives three sizes for the necklace and includes about $\frac{5}{8}$ in. (1.6cm) for the clasp: small, 14 in. (36cm) followed by medium 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (42cm) and large 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (50cm) in square brackets. The only difference between the sizes is the number of repeats in pattern groups.



a



e



b



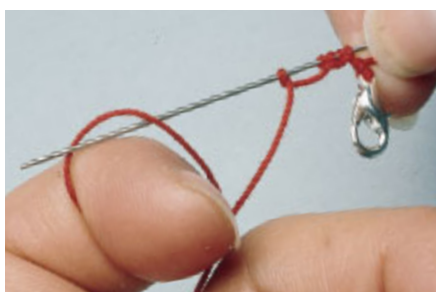
f



c



g



d

symbols

1, 2, 3, 4, or any number = the number of double stitches

DS = double stitch

R = ring

Ch = chain

cl r = close ring

- = picot

adj = adjust the stitches and beads while closing a ring or tightening a chain

+ = join

tie/flip = tie like a shoelace (the first half of a square knot) and turn the work over always in the same direction

B = slide up 1 bead from the ball thread

1, 2, 3, 4B = slide up that number of beads

getting started

1 Stiffen the last inch (2.5cm) or so of the thread with clear nail polish and twist it in the direction of the twist to tighten it. When the glue is dry, cut the end of the thread into a taper. Now thread 452 [512, 595] beads onto the ball of thread. (Hint: It's wise to thread an extra 30-50 beads for insurance.)

2 Thread the tatting needle and unwind 2½ yd. (2.3m) of unbeaded thread (this length is sufficient for all sizes). You attach the first half of the clasp 2½ yd. from the end. For a slightly heavier-looking lace (not shown), pull 2½ yd. of thread through the needle and use the needle thread doubled.

3 Thread the hook part of the clasp at the 2½-yd. mark. Then thread through it again. Form 2 or 3 half hitches to secure the clasp: Loop the needle thread over the ball thread. Then bring the needle under and through the loop thus formed (**photo a** or "Basics," p. 82).

pattern 1

Begin the first ring right against the last

half hitch as follows:

R: 2-2, B, 1, 3B, 1, B, 2-2, cl r; adj, tie, and flip.

1 This translates to: Using the ball thread, begin the ring with two double stitches around the needle. In **photo b**, the first double stitch has been made, and the first half of the second one is in progress (**figures 1-3**).

2 The second half of the second double stitch is formed in **photo c** and **figures 4 and 5**.

3 Then make a picot (**figure 6**) and two more double stitches. **Photo d** shows the completion of the first double stitch after the picot.

4 Push up 1 bead on the ball thread to rest against the last double stitch and make one double stitch (**photo e**).

5 Push up 3 beads and make a double stitch.

6 Push up 1 bead.

7 End with two double stitches, a picot, and two double stitches.

8 Holding the stitches firmly in your left hand with your thumb on top of them, pull the needle and thread almost all the way through (**photo f**).

9 Then insert the needle through the small loop that remains from back to front (**photo g**) and pull the ring all the way closed. Adjust the stitches so that all the knots and beads are along the outside edge of the ring, and it has the firmness you desire.

10 Tie the needle and ball threads together with the first half of a square knot (**photo h**, "Basics," **figure 12**). Flip the work over north to south (always flip in the same direction).

Make the first chain as follows:

Ch: 2-2, B, 1, 3B, 1, B, 2-2; adj, tie, and flip.

11 Work exactly as for the first ring through step 8, except pull the needle all the way through the stitches and adjust them; do not go through the loop as you did in step 9. Then tie and flip.

12 From now on, you'll be joining each new ring to the ring before it and each new chain to the chain before it.

*R: 2+2, B, 1, 3B, 1, B, 2-2, cl r; adj, tie, and flip. Note: the symbol + between the first pair of double stitches means that instead of making a new picot, you join to the picot on the previous ring: Make the first two double

stitches. Then, holding the previous ring in your left hand, put the needle through its picot from front to back (**photo i**). With the ball thread behind the picot, use the tip of the needle or a crochet hook to pull the thread through the picot. Tighten the loop thus formed on the needle to match the other stitches (**photo j**). Then make the next two double stitches and the rest of the ring just like the first ring.

Ch: 2+2, B, 1, 3B, 1, B, 2-2; adj, tie and flip.* Make the second chain like the first, but join it to the last picot on the first chain the same way you joined the rings. Repeat *-* until there are a total of 7 rings and 7 chains [10, 10].

pattern 2

*R: 2+2, B, 1, B, 1, 3B, 1, B, 1, B, 2-2, cl r; adj, tie, and flip.

Ch: 2+2, B, 1, B, 1, 3B, 1, B, 1, B, 2-2; adj, tie, and flip.*

Repeat pattern two 6 [6, 9] more times. You will have a total of 14 [17, 20] rings and chains.

pattern 3

Pattern 3 falls at the center front of the necklace. Decrease or increase the number of repeats to ensure that the necklace will end up the right length.

*R: 2+2, B, 1, B, 1, B, 1, 5B, 1, B, 1, B, 1, B, 2-2, cl r; adj, tie, and flip.

Ch: 2+2, B, 1, B, 1, B, 1, 3B, 1, B, 1, B, 1, B, 2-2; adj, tie, and flip.*

Repeat pattern three 2 [2, 2] more times. There are now a total of 17 [20, 23] rings and chains.

pattern 4

Repeat pattern two 7 [7, 10] times for a total of 24 [27, 33] rings and chains.

pattern 5

Repeat pattern one 6 [9, 9] times for a total of 30 [36, 42] rings and chains.

① End with one more pattern 1 ring.
 ② Then make 2 DS and thread a split ring or the other half of the clasp on the needle. Pull through and adjust the split ring so it is against the last stitch. Go through the split ring again.

③ Tie 2 half hitches as in step 3 of “getting started” (**photo k**) and dab a dot of glue on the last knot.

④ Cut off the ball and needle threads,

how to needle tat

Allow about 1 yd. (.9m) of needle thread for every 7 in. (18cm) of tatting. Thread the needle on the end of the ball thread and begin forming stitches at the length determined from the end of the thread.

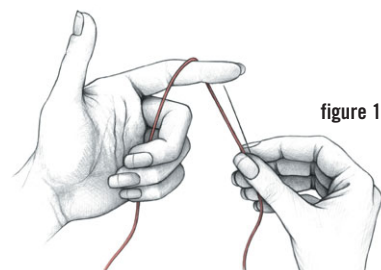


figure 1

first half of double stitch

Hold the needle in your right hand with the ball thread against its left side. Grasp the ball thread with the last three fingers of your left hand and the thread in front of your index finger (**figure 1**). Rotate your left index finger toward you, then away, so that the thread held against the needle crosses from front to back over the index finger and behind the thread in your left fist (**figure 2**).

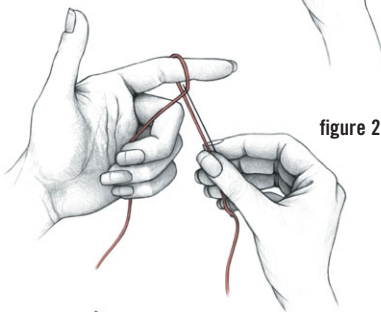


figure 2

With the needle tip, brush the underside of your left index finger, stroking away from yourself and toward the fingertip as you pull the loop from your finger onto the needle. Tighten it against the previous work (**figure 3**).

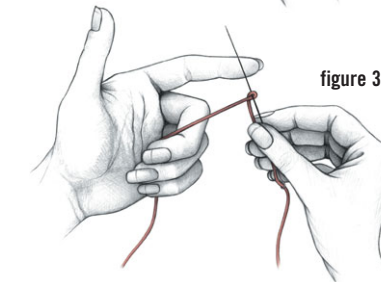


figure 3

second half of double stitch

Pinch the first half of the double stitch against the needle with your right thumb and index finger. Still holding the ball thread in the last three fingers of your left hand, bring it out between the middle and index fingers away from you. Then wrap it from back to front over the top of your left index finger. Rotate your left hand so the index finger is pointing at your nose. Bring the needle between the index and second fingers, behind the back side of the loop, and through the loop to the front (**figure 4**). Transfer the loop to the needle and snug it up to the first half of the double stitch (**figure 5**).

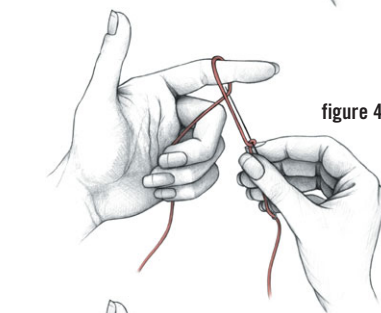


figure 4

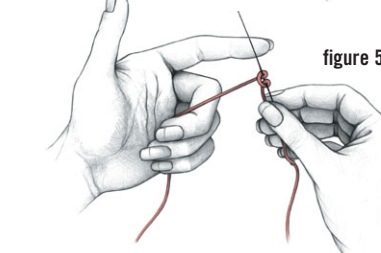


figure 5

picot between double stitches

Complete a double stitch. Leave a thread gap 1/8-1/4 in. (3-6mm) wide between the first double stitch and the start of the second double stitch (**figure 6**).

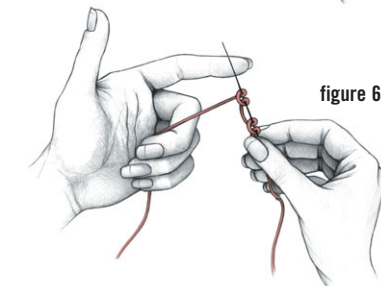


figure 6



h



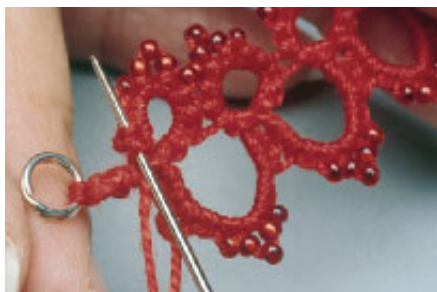
i



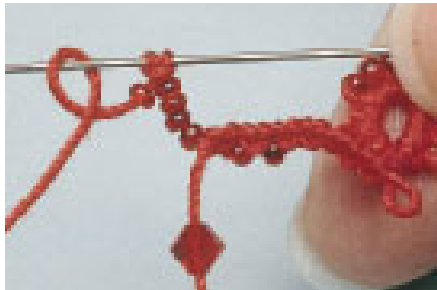
j



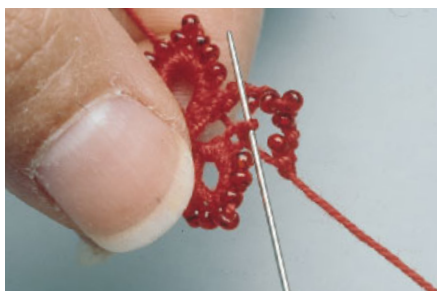
k



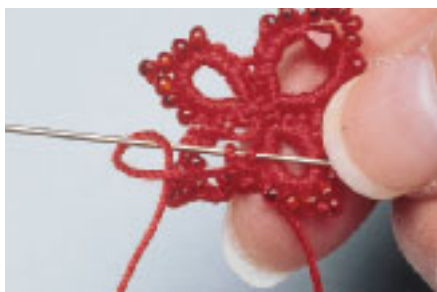
l



m



n



o

1 R: 2-2, B, 1, B, 1, 3B, 1, B, 1, B, 2-2; cl r, adj, tie twice, making a square knot (see "Basics"). Note: Tying twice means you don't have to turn the work over to start the next segment because the needle thread is back on the right-hand side. Instead, rotate the work clockwise so that the finished ring is at about three o'clock.

2 R: 2+2, B, 1, B, 1, 5B. If the crystal fits over the tatting needle, thread it onto the needle and continue, 1, B, 1, B, 2-2; cl r, adj, tie twice. If the crystal won't fit over the threaded needle, when you have pushed up 5B, pull the needle through the work to this point, leaving a small loop at the beginning, and unthread the needle. Stiffen the thread end, string the crystal on it, and rethread the needle. Complete the remainder of the ring (photo m), pull the needle the rest of the way through, and tie twice.

3 R: 2+2, B, 1, B, 1, 3B, 1, B, 1, B, 2-2; cl r, adj, tie twice.

4 R: 1+1, B, 1, 4B, 1, B, 1. At this point, pull the needle through, leaving a small loop at the beginning. Cut the ball thread, leaving about 8 in. of thread. Keep holding the stitches with the knots and beads toward the inside of the ring and draw up a loop of ball thread through the first picot of the first ring to join the rings into a four-petal shape (photo n). Pull the end of the ball thread through the ring to the top and finish with 1 DS (photo o); cl r, adj, and tie once.

5 Thread both the ball and needle threads together through a tapestry needle and weave them in and out on the back of the first ring. Clip close.

6 Open the loop on an earring finding and slip the 4-bead group on the last petal onto it. Close the loop and repeat for the other earring. ●

Donna is an avid tatter and sells kits for some of her creations on-line, <http://members.tripod.com/DonnasDreams/>. If you have any questions, feel free to ask her for help by e-mail: dreams@thegrid.net. You'll also find a group of supportive tatters on line at http://www.egroups.com/Rings_N_Chains by joining Rings_N_Chains@egroups.com. Or contact Donna at 3844 Surrey Ave., Yucca Valley, CA 92284.

materials

- 1 Ball Cébélia #10 crochet cotton
 - 1 Package 11° seed beads to match or contrast with thread
 - 1 Simple silver clasp, hook and eye or lobster claw and split ring
 - Pair french hook earrings with loop
 - 2 6 x 4mm or 4mm Faceted crystal beads to match seed beads
 - 1 Fine tatting needle (#7)
 - Clear nail polish or G-S hypo tube cement
 - Thin tapestry needle, size 20-24
- Optional: ultra-fine needle threader, #12 steel crochet hook

leaving about 8 in. (20cm) of each and thread them together through the eye of a thin tapestry needle.

5 Weave the threads in and out through the 2-stitch chain and the last ring (photo l). Clip the threads close and dab with glue.

earrings

More than 60 beads should remain on your ball thread, which is enough for both earrings. Thread the tatting needle and begin stitching about 1 yd. (.9m) from the end of the thread. Each earring is made with 4 rings. Before beginning, check to see whether the crystal fits over the eye of the threaded needle.

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