

Simple Tatted Friendship Bracelet

Stephanie Wilson 2015

Materials:

1 or 2 shuttles or a tatting needle

Thread, any size

Clasp (optional)

Abbreviations:

SR = Split Ring

CH = Chain

R = Ring (optional, depends on your color choice(s))

DS = Double stitch

DDS = Double double stitch

First, decide whether you want to alternate with 1 ring, 1 chain, 1 ring, 1 chain, 1 ring.... or whether you want a series of rings (3 rings, chain, 3 rings, chain....). You will also need to decide whether your bracelet will tie on or use a clasp to fasten it. You will also need to decide how long to make the chains between rings, and what kind of chain to use.

Begin with a ring, any size you like. Ten to 12 DS is a nice size for the starting ring. If you are using 2 colors, you may want to begin with a SR instead of a regular ring. (If you are not using a clasp, you may want to leave a long tail on each thread to tie it on, although your bracelet will be

less durable if you use the tails to tie the bracelet on.) If you want several rings in a row, continue with as many SRs as you like. You may make the SRs graduated in size (5/5, 8/8, 12/12, 5/5) or all the same size.

When you have made your ring, or your short series of rings, make a short length of chain. Twelve to 16 DSs is a nice length. Your chain can be Victorian sets (I particularly like 4 first-half stitches, 4 second-half stitches - repeated, for a total of 3 repetitions). You can also use a Josephine chain: 24 to 32 half stitches is a nice length for the 'spiral.' Any 'textured' type of chain stitch would look especially nice, but you can also use a double-double stitch (10 to 14 DDS) if you prefer a simple 'straight' chain.

Alternate Split rings (or sets of split rings) with short chains until you have tatted the length desired. End on a ring. Hide ends (unless you are using the long tails for tying the bracelet on, then just trim the tails to the length needed for tying).

I recommend sewing a clasp onto the rings at each end. If the clasp ever needs to be replaced, it is a relatively simple matter to sew a new one onto the bracelet, and the tatted portion of the bracelet will remain intact. If tying the bracelet to fasten it, I recommend using a length of 1/16" or 1/8" wide ribbon OR crocheting a chain long enough to pull through the ring on either end of the bracelet (again, it is easier to replace the crocheted chain or the ribbon than it is to repair the tatting if the ends become frayed from tying and wearing the bracelet).