

Playing with Picots Part 1

Updated from a workshop by Jennifer Williams



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Playing with Picots

Jennifer Williams

The core thread (aka shuttle thread) is the thread that runs through the stitches.

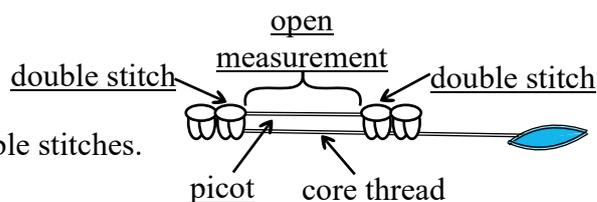
The auxiliary thread is the thread that forms the stitches, this thread can come straight off the ball or can be wound on a second shuttle.

What is a picot?

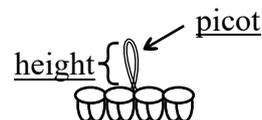
A picot is a loop of thread.

When we want to make a picot we leave a space in the auxiliary thread, then work a double stitch, but this double stitch is not part of the picot, even though the picot can't be made without it!

A picot is the space in the auxiliary thread, between double stitches.

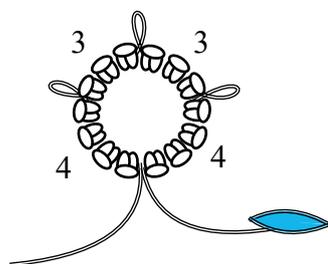


When the double stitches are pushed together the bare thread forms a loop/picot.



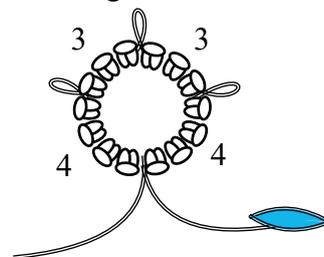
A picot has to end with a double stitch but this double stitch is included in the stitch count of the stitches after the picot so the written instructions for this ring are written:-

4, p, 3, p, 3, p, 4, close ring



Some older patterns include the double stitch with the picot so were written:-

4ds, p, 2ds, p, 2ds, p, 3, close ring



Picots can be functional, when used to join elements together, or decorative.

Picots come in various sizes, from vsp (very small picot) which is just big enough to get a small crochet hook (about size 0.75) through so you can work a join, to 'very' large.

For larger picots it helps to use a picot gauge so that they will all be the same and look 'tidy'.

Sets of graded picot gauges are available to purchase or you can use things like cocktail sticks, an opened out paperclip, lollypop stick, coffee stirrer, a cable knitting needle or you can cut them out of card or an old credit card.

There are occasions when you need picot gauges of specific sizes, so measure and cut them about 2 inches/5cm long and the required width for the height of the picot.

To count or not to count - When working a join to a picot, where the auxiliary thread is drawn through the picot, then, the join is counted as the first half of the next double stitch. When the core thread is drawn through the picot (as in a shuttle join) this join is not counted as the first half of the next double stitch.

How to use a picot gauge

- :
- a) when you want all your picots to be uniform
 - b) when the picots need to be a specific size

There are different types of picot gauges; some can be purchased from suppliers of tatting requisites but you can use a lollipop stick, coffee stirrer, cocktail stick, an opened paperclip or you can cut your own from card, such as a cereal packet, or thin plastic like a clean butter tub or an old credit card.

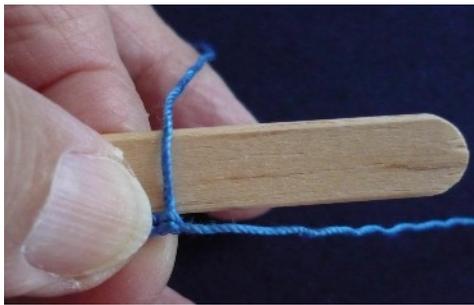
There are two ways of using a picot gauge :

Method 1 where the picot gauge is held parallel to the core (shuttle) thread

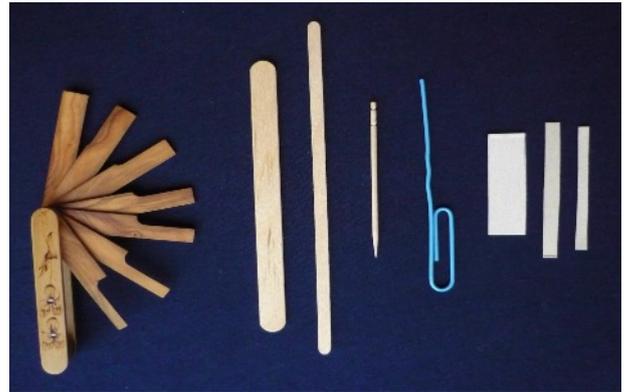
Method 2 where the picot gauge is held at right angles to the core (shuttle) thread

Method 1

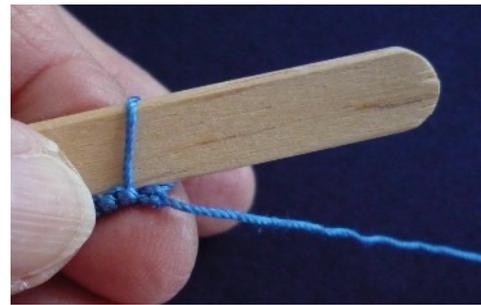
- a) Hold the picot gauge 'in the pinch' so that it is parallel to the core thread and behind the thread that is round your hand.



Examples of some picot gauges

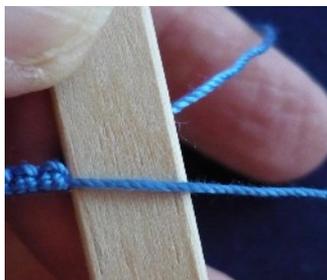


- b) Take the thread that is on your hand over the top of the picot gauge and down behind it then make a double stitch.



Method 2

- a) Hold the picot gauge between the core thread and the one that is round your hand, so that it is at right angles to the core thread.



- b) Take the core thread in front of the picot gauge and the thread that is round your hand, behind the picot gauge, then make a double stitch.



As illustrated in the picture, picots made using method 1 (on the left), will be twice the size of ones made using method 2 (on the right).



*** Unless otherwise stated, all my patterns are designed to use method 1***

Butterfly with 'stacked' picots

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Stacked picots have just one double stitch between them and you don't remove the picot gauge after working each one.

By using a picot gauge the picots are uniform in size and appear to be overlapped - but they are not.

Requirements:

Size 20 thread, an opened out paperclip, for the picot gauge, and the usual tatting equipment.

Abbreviations:

R. = ring, p = picot (opened out paper clip),
vsp= very small picot, cl = close ring,
+ = join, x = 'times' for the number of repeats,

Wind about 2 metres on your shuttle.

Leave a 3 inch tail before starting ring A

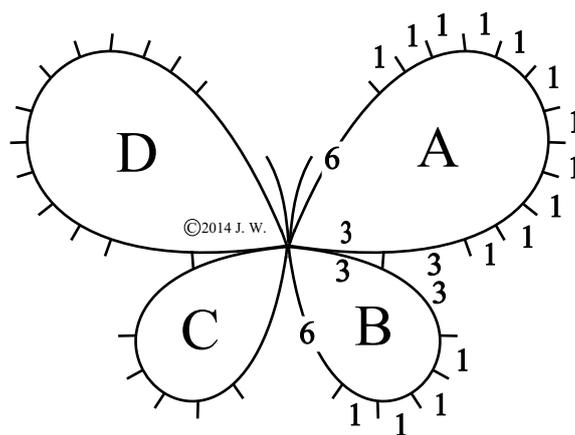
R.A 6, (p, 1) x 12, 2, vsp, 3, cl
R.B 3, + to vsp on R.A, 3, (p, 1) x 5, 5, cl
R.C 6, (p, 1) x 5, 2, vsp, 3, cl
R.D 3, + to the vsp on R.C, 3, (p, 1) x 12, 5, cl



Cut, leaving 3 inch (8 cm) ends.

Fold ring A on top of ring D and ring B on top of ring C,

Hold both ends together and tie an overhand knot, for the 'head of the butterfly then tie overhand knots in each end separately for antennae.



Butterfly with graded picots

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Graded picots give extra shaping to basic shapes. In this design the upper wings are given a pointed shape and the lower wings are extended. It is important that the picot gauges are used in the right order to get the smooth shape.

Requirements:

Size 20 thread and 3 picot gauges -
an opened paperclip (p), a cocktail stick (mp)
and a coffee stirrer (Lp)
You will also need your usual tatting equipment

Abbreviations:

R. = Ring, vsp = very small picot, p = picot (opened out
Paper clip), mp = medium picot (cocktail stick picot)
Lp = large picot gauge (coffee stirrer), cl = close ring,
+ = join,



Wind about 2 metres on your shuttle leave a 3 inch tail before starting ring A.

R.A 10, p, 2, mp, 2, Lp, 2, mp, 2, p, 7, vsp, 3, cl

R.B 3, + to vsp on R.A, 5, p, 2 mp, 2, p, 8, cl

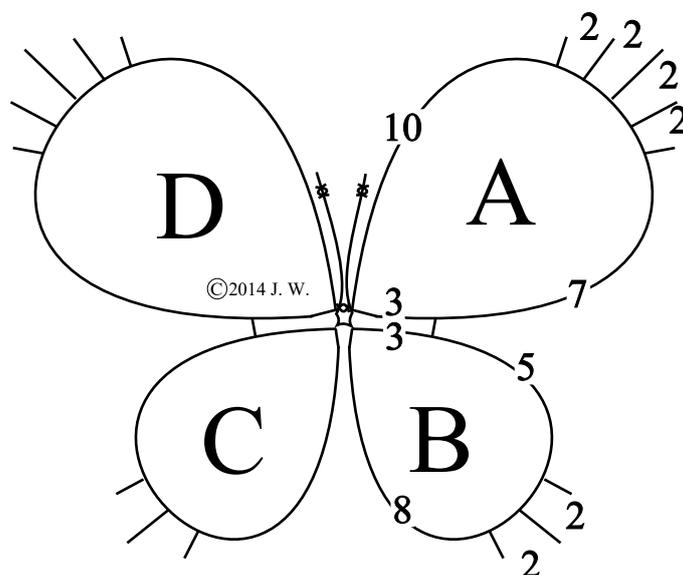
R.C 8, p, 2, mp, 2, p, 5, vsp, 3, cl

R.D 3, + to the vsp on R.C, 7, p, 2, mp, 2, Lp, 2, mp, 2, p, 10, cl

Cut, leaving 3 inch (8 cm) ends.

Fold ring 'A' on top of ring 'D' and ring 'B' on top of ring 'C'.

Take both ends together and tie then in an overhand knot - for the 'head' of the butterfly, then tie an overhand knot in each of the ends for the 'antennae'.

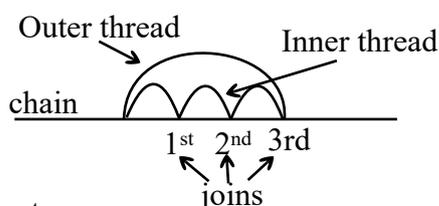


Medallion using double Picots

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A double picot is worked by making a very long picot, working a few double stitches, then working a join to about half way along the very long picot. Work a few more stitches then adjust the double picot so that the outer thread is a tad bigger than the inner one.

This picot can be varied by making an even longer picot and making joins to it twice or three times. The outer thread will stretch from end to end and the inner one can be 2 or 3 (humps)



Requirements:

Size 20 thread, cut a picot gauge out of card or an old credit card that measures 2 inches (5 cm) long and 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide, an opened out paperclip and the usual tatting equipment.

Abbreviations:

R. = Ring, p = picot (opened paper clip, cl = close ring, RW = reverse work, CH. = Chain, Lp = long picot, + = join, ds = double stitch

Wind about 2 metres on your shuttle. Do not cut.

R.A 7, p, 4, p, 7, cl, RW

CH 6, Lp, 3, + to the Lp just made, 6, tension the chain to curve as in the picture above (about ¾ inch), Adjust the two 'sides' of the long picot so that they 'sit' one outside the other as in the picture at the top of the page, RW

*R.B 7, + to previous ring, 4, p, 7, cl, RW

CH. 6, Lp, 3, + to the Lp just made, 6, tension as before, then adjust the two 'sides' of the Lp so that they 'sit' one outside the other as in the picture at the top of the page, RW

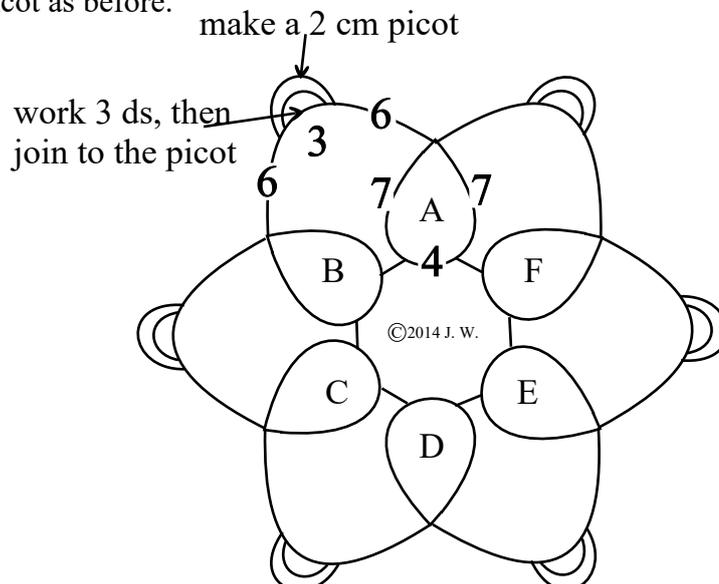
Repeat from * three more times then

R. F 7, + to the previous ring, 4, + to ring A, 7, cl, RW

CH. 6, Lp, 3, + to the Lp just made, 6. Tension to curve as in the picture above Adjust the two sides of the double picot as before.

Cut and tie to the base of ring 'A'.

Secure the ends.



Flower with dropped (downward) picots

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Work 3 1st half stitches, leave a space in the auxiliary thread (for the picot), then work 3 2nd half stitches
The heads of the stitches move in a zigzag along the core thread and the picot ‘drops’ downward in the angle of the ‘zig’.

Requirements:

Size 20 thread, a ¼ inch picot gauge (cocktail stick),
an opened out paperclip the usual tatting equipment.

Abbreviations:

R. = Ring, p = picot (opened out paper clip), + = join,
mp = cocktail stick picot gauge
dp = dropped picot (3 first half stitches, mp, 3 second
half stitches) RW = reverse work, CH. = chain



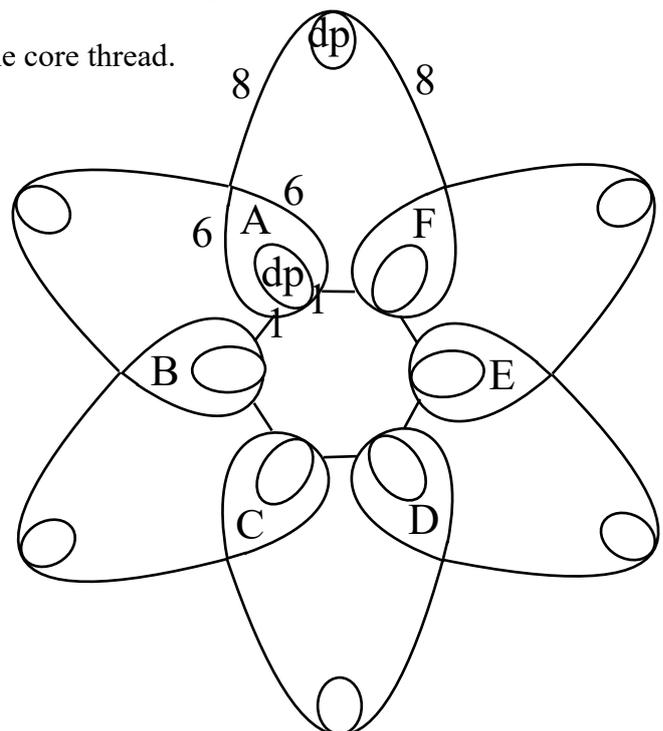
Wind about 2 metres on your shuttle. Do not cut.

- R.A 6, p, 1, dp, 1, p, 6, cl, encourage the dropped/downward picot to face down below the core thread
cl, RW
- CH. 8, dp, 8, tension to curve as in the picture at the top of the page, encourage the picot to drop down
below the core thread, RW
- *R.B 6, + to previous ring, 1, dp, 1, p, 6, cl, encourage the dropped picot to drop down below the core
Thread, cl, RW
- CH. 8, dp, 8, tension to curve as before and encourage the picot to drop below the core thread, RW

Repeat from *three more times then

- R.F 6, + to previous ring, 1, dp, 1, + to ring ‘A’, 6, encourage the picot to drop below the core thread,
cl, RW
- CH. 8, dp, 8, encourage the picot to drop below the core thread.

Cut and tie to the base of ring ‘A’.
Secure the ends.



Project 5

Butterfly with gathered picots

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In this butterfly design there are long picot 'gathered' in groups of three and two picots, between rings B and C that are worked together.

Requirements:

Size 20 thread, the usual tatting equipment and picot gauges - an opened out paper clip and a coffee stirrer,

Abbreviations:

R. = Ring, cl = close ring, + = join, sj = shuttle join, SLT = shoe-lace-trick (an overhand tie),

The 'vsp' size picots in this pattern should be just large enough to get your hook through.

The 'p' picots can be made using an opened out paper clip or measured by eye.

The 'Lp' picots in this pattern are made using the ¼ inch (coffee stirrer) picot gauge (these picots must be measured accurately to get the desired effect).

Wind about 2 ½ metres on your shuttle. Do not cut.



Row 1

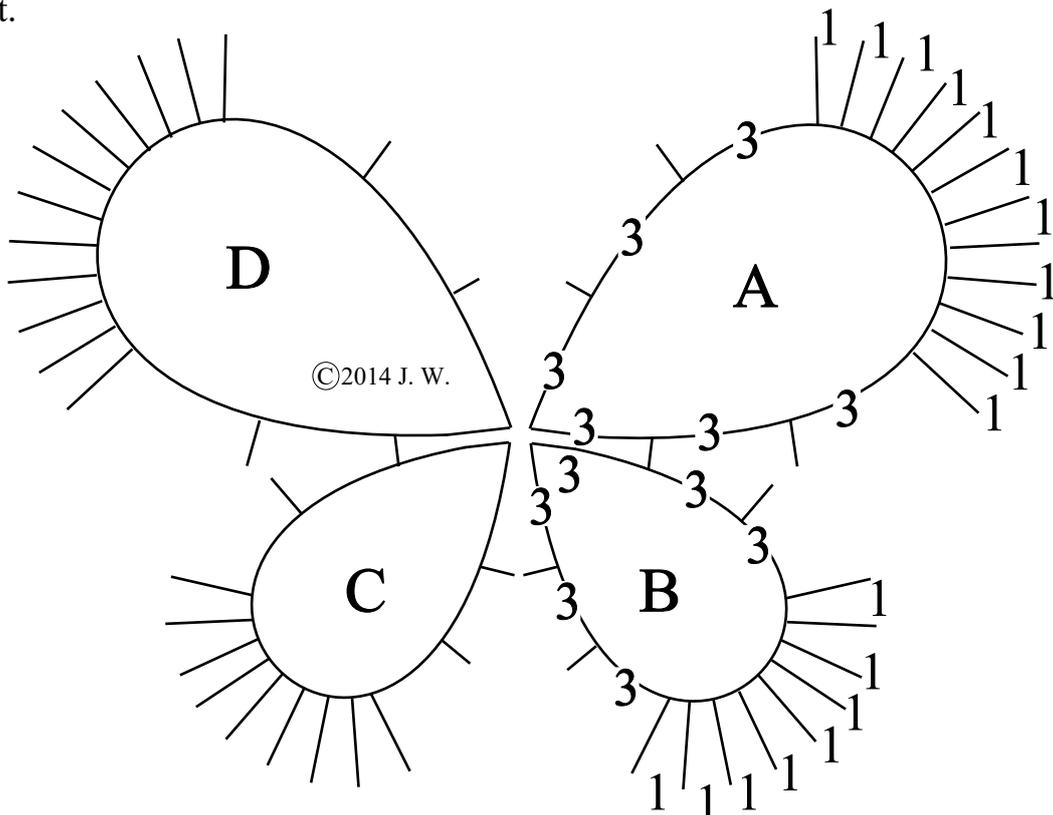
R.A 3, vsp, 3, p, 3, (Lp, 1) x 11, Lp, 3, p, 3, vsp, 3, cl

R.B 3, + to last vsp on ring 'A', 3, p, 3, (Lp, 1) x 8, Lp, 3, p, 3, p, 3, cl

R.C 3, p, 3, p, 3, (Lp, 1) x 8, Lp, 3, p, 3, vsp, 3, cl

R.D 3, + to last vsp on ring 'C', 3, p, 3, (Lp, 1) x 11, Lp, 3, p, 3, vsp, 3

Do not cut.



Row 2

Do not reverse work but continue working row 2 round the outside of rings 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D'
Start by working a SLT (shoe-lace-trick) to get the threads in the correct position to work the chain as this row is worked as a continuous chain.

3, sj to vsp on ring 'A', 2, sj to the next p,

8, insert a crochet hook into the first three long picots and pull a loop from the shuttle thread through the three long picots 'gathering' them together, then work a sj to hold them together,

4, 'gather' the next three long picots using a crochet hook as before, then work a sj to hold them together,

2, p, 1, p, 1, p, 2, 'gather' the next 3 long picots as before and work a sj to hold them in place,

4, 'gather' the next three long picots, as before, then work a sj to hold them together,

6, sj to the next p on ring 'A' **and** the first free p on ring 'B' together,

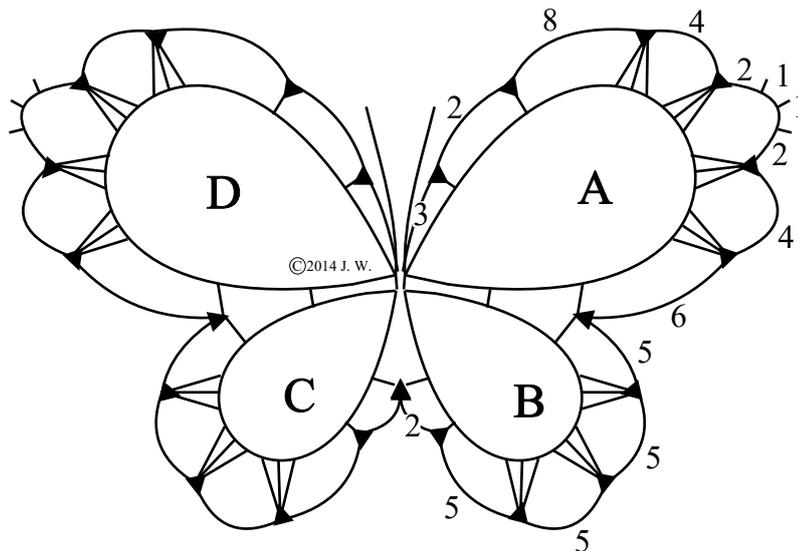
5, 'gather' the first three long picots on ring 'B', as before, and work a sj them to hold them in place,

5, 'gather' the next three long picots on ring 'B', as before, and work a sj them to hold them in place,

5, 'gather' the last three long picots on ring 'B', as before, and work a sj them to hold them in place,

5, sj to the next p on ring 'B'

2, sj into the last p on ring 'B' **and** the first p on ring 'C' together,



2, sj to next p on ring 'C'

5, 'gather' the first three long picots on ring 'C', as before, and work a sj them to hold them in place,

5, 'gather' the next three long picots on ring 'C', as before, and work a sj them to hold them in place,

5, 'gather' the last three long picots on ring 'C', as before, and work a sj them to hold them in place,

5, sj to the last p on ring 'C' **and** the first free picot on ring 'D' together,

6, 'gather' the first three long picots on ring 'D' and work a sj to hold them in place,

4, 'gather' the next three long picots on ring 'D' and work a sj to hold them in place,

2, p, 1, p, 1, p, 2, 'gather' the next three long picots on ring 'D' and work a sj to hold them in place,

4, 'gather' the next three long picots on ring 'D' and work a sj to hold them in place,

8, sj to the next free p on ring 'D', 2, sj to the vsp on ring 'D', 3

Cut and tie to the start of the second row.

Tie an overhand knot in the ends (from the start of ring A and after the cut and tie at the end of the second row) together to make a 'head' for the butterfly, and tie knots in each end separately for antennae.

Project 6

Butterfly with backward and forward picots

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Picots must have at least 2 half stitches between them. A picot straight after the 2nd half of a double stitch tends to 'sit' flat or a little to the back, and a picot after the 1st half of a double stitch tends to 'sit' a little towards the front. In this butterfly the beads appear to be 'sitting' to the front of the picots.

Requirements:

Size 20 thread, 12 size 11 or 9 seed beads,
Picot gauges - paper clip, cocktail stick, pencil or similar,
and the usual tatting equipment.

Abbreviations:

d = 1st half of a double stitch, s = 2nd half of a double stitch, R = ring,
B = bead, cl = close ring, RW = reverse work,
p = picot using a paperclip,
mp = picot using a cocktail stick,
Lp = large picot using a cocktail stick and paperclip together,
VLp = very large picot using a pencil,

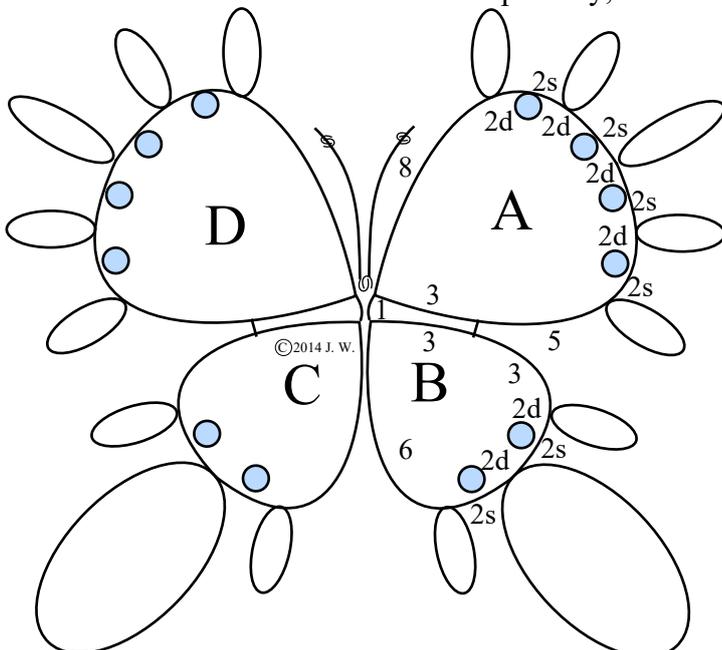


String 12 beads then wind a 1 ½ metres on your shuttle. Do not cut.

- R.A Bring 4 beads into the ring round your hand
8, mp, 2d, B, 2s, mp, 2d, B, 2s, Lp, 2d, mp, 2s, B, 2s, mp, 2d, B, 2s, mp, 5, p, 3, cl, RW
- CH. 1, RW
- R.B Bring 2 beads into the ring round your hand
3, + to ring 'A', 3, mp, 2d, B, 2s, VLp 2d, B, 2s, mp, 6, cl
- R.C Bring 2 beads into the ring round your hand
6, mp, 2d, B, 2s, VLp, 2s, B, 2s, mp, 3, p, 3, cl, RW
- CH. 1, RW
- R.D Bring 4 beads into the ring round your hand
3, + to ring 'C', 5, mp, 2d, B, 2s, mp, 2d, B, 2s, Lp, 2d, mp, 2s, B, 2s, mp, 2d, B, 2s, mp, 8, cl

Cut. Using a crochet hook pull the core (shuttle) thread through the small space at the base of ring 'A'. Fold ring 'A' on top of ring 'D' and ring 'B' on top of ring 'C' then tie an overhand knot in both ends together for the 'head'.

Tie an overhand knot in each of the ends separately, for the antennae.



The same pattern but with mp size picots instead of beads.

