

Pearl tatting

Jennifer Williams 2011

Pearl tatting is a double sided chain and basic pearl tatting is worked with 3 threads using 1, 2 or 3 shuttles. There are different ways of working pearl tatting. In the following instructions the ball thread is used as the 'core': the two other threads have been wound onto shuttles 1 and 2, and are used alternately to make reverse tatted (where the stitches are left un-turned) double stitches along the 'core' thread.

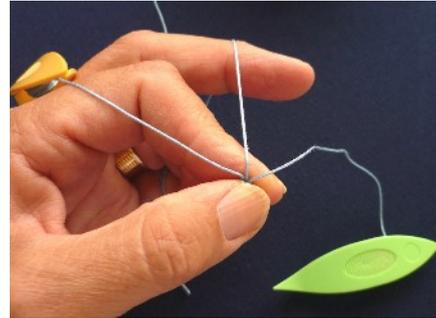
Wind two of the threads onto shuttles and use the third thread directly from the ball.

The three threads are knotted together as in 1).

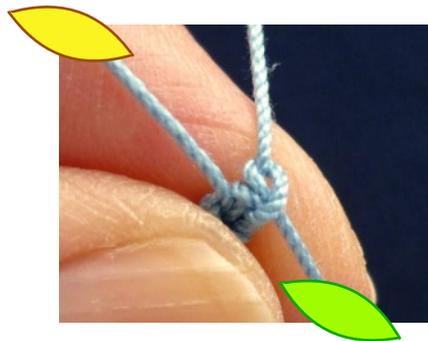
1) Knot the three threads together



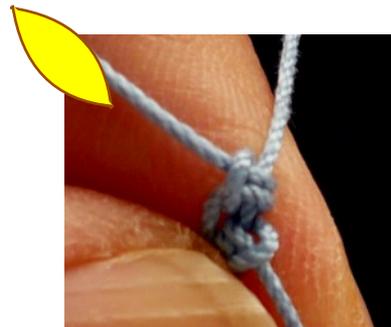
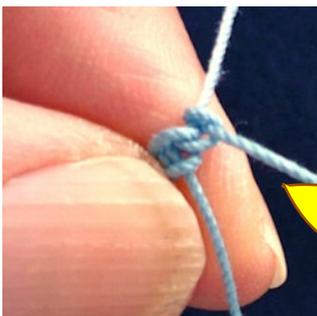
2) Hold the knot in 'the pinch' and put the ball thread on your hand as you do to work a chain.



3) Using shuttle 1 Reverse tat a double stitch (in the picture the stitch has been worked in reverse order i.e. (2nd half, 1st half). The head of the stitch is facing 'downwards'.



4) Using shuttle 2 Reverse tat a double stitch (this time 1st half, 2nd half) then lay shuttle 2 over the back of your left hand and you will see that the head of the stitch will then face 'upwards'.

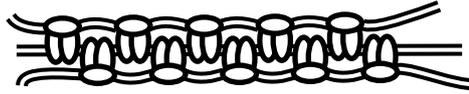


Repeat, 3) and 4), working a reverse tatted double stitch with alternate shuttles, for the length required.



Pearl Tatting with beads

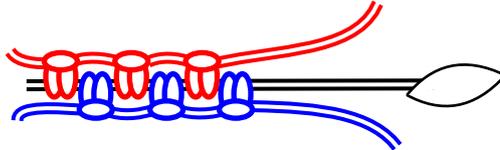
Pearl Tatting is double-sided chain as there are stitches on both sides of the core thread.



There are several ways to work pearl tatting but basically

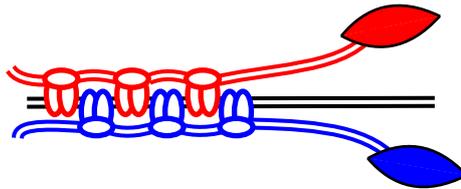
Either

1) Where the core thread is wound on a shuttle. Here the auxiliary thread (red in the diagram) is held over your hand to work a stitch, then it is replaced with the second auxiliary thread (blue in the diagram) and this stitch is worked in reverse order i.e. second half, first half. You can reverse the chain after working each double stitch to keep the stitches on opposite sides of the core thread, or separate them when the chain is finished.



Or

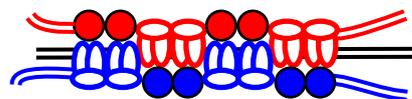
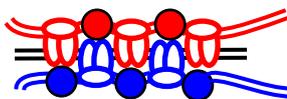
2) where the two auxiliary threads are wound on shuttles. Here the core thread is held on your hand all the time and all the stitches are reverse tatted (the stitches are not turned/flipped) - the ones on the top (red in the diagram) are worked 'first half, second half' and the stitches on the bottom (blue in the diagram) are worked 'second half, first half'.



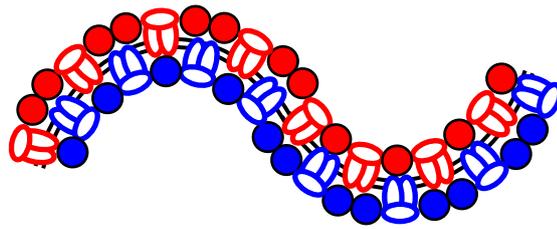
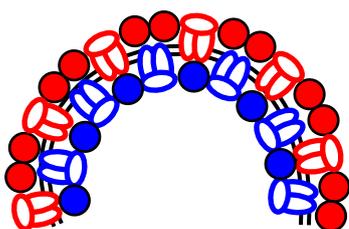
However, you can also use a combination of these the methods

Adding beads to pearl tatting

Beads are usually strung on the auxiliary threads and moved up singly or in groups:-



By adding more beads on one of the auxiliary threads than the other the chain will curve. The degree of the curl depends on the size of the beads i.e. Size 15 beads will give a more gentle curve than size 11 beads.



Experiment and see what happens.

Nina Libin has added beads to the core thread as well as the other two in her 'Three Colour Earrings'.