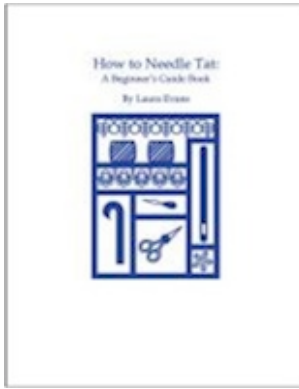


How to Needle Tat:

A Beginner's Guide Book

By Laura Evans





Creating beautiful tatted lace is fun and easy! If you can crochet, you can needle tat. Show you care by sending a card with tatted lace to a friend. Adding lace makes your work stand out from the crowd. Embellish your quilt or mixed media project with lace. How to Needle Tat by Laura Evans is an illustrated guide book. It gives you all the information you need to get started today.

How to Needle Tat

A Beginner's Guide Book

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by

Laura Evans

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First Edition

Dedication

I thank God—the first creator of beauty.
I thank my husband, Scott, for all of his support.
I thank our son, Luke, for his patience while I worked on this book.

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Good Things to Know Before Tatting Lace

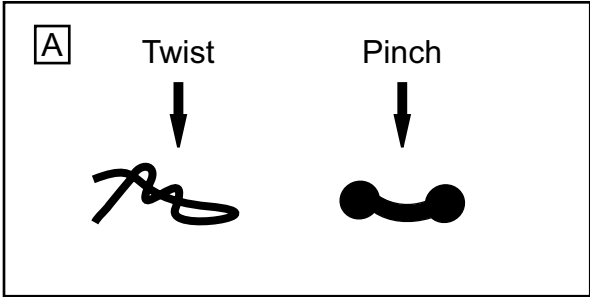
Before you begin to tat, wash your hands. Threads absorb oils from your fingers. Oils attract dirt which stains lace. During tatting, if your hands are sweaty, use a baby wipe to remove sweat. Make sure your hands are completely dry before resuming tatting.

Crochet Thread: Choose white or a pastel color because lighter colors are easier to see.

Before you start on a large project, wind an extra 5 to 10 yards of each thread color on a plastic bobbin or a 3" x 5" index card. If you run out of ball thread, you can add the extra thread from the bobbin.

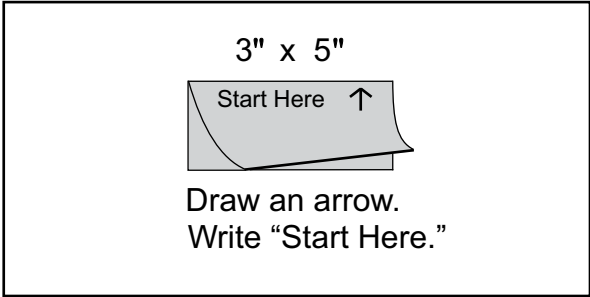


A **To prevent twisted thread:** Pinch ball thread between thumb and index finger. Drop needle, let it spin, and thread will untwist. Do this as often as needed.



Sticky Notes

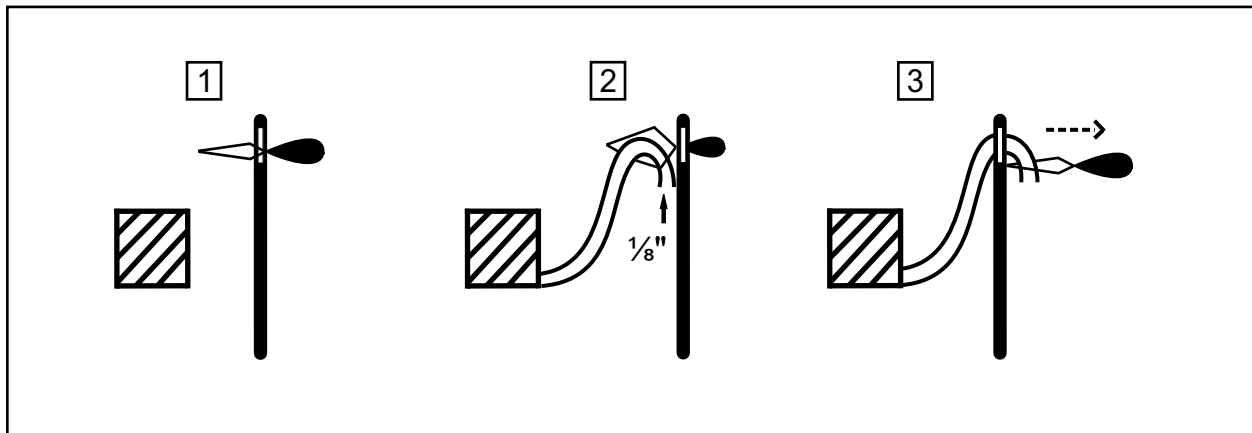
Place a sticky note under the current instructions in use. If you are interrupted, then the sticky note shows you where to resume.



Thread Needle

- 1 Insert bendable wire of needle threader through eye of the needle.
- 2 Insert $\frac{1}{8}$ " of thread through bendable wire.
- 3 Pull out needle threader (along with thread) from the eye of needle.

Beginning tatters can pull 15" of thread through needle's eye. More experienced tatters pull one to four yards of thread through the eye of the needle.



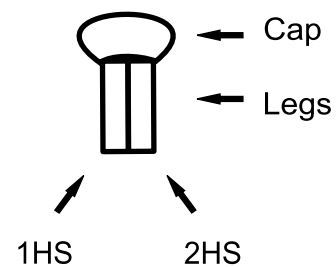
Anatomy of a Double Stitch (DS)

Cap is located above legs.
Two legs are beneath the cap.

1st leg = First Half Stitch (1HS)
(Clockwise Wrap)

2nd leg = Second Half Stitch (2HS)
(Counterclockwise Wrap)

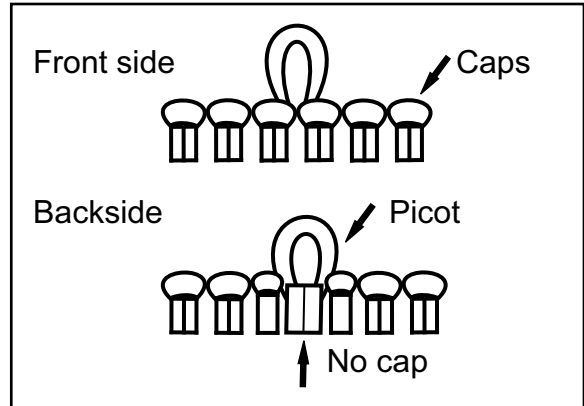
Double Stitch



Identify Front Side and Backside

Front side: all caps are in a row.

Backside: Locate a picot, a little loop of thread. On the backside of a picot there is no cap.

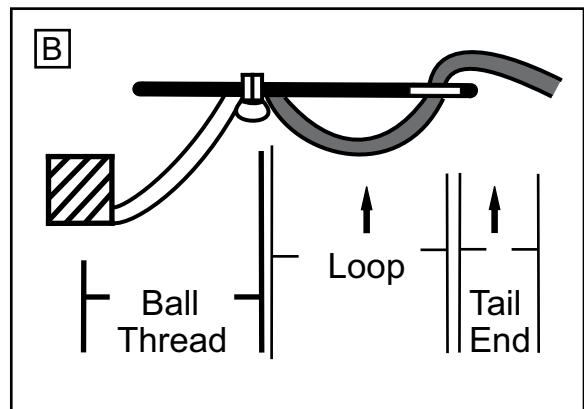
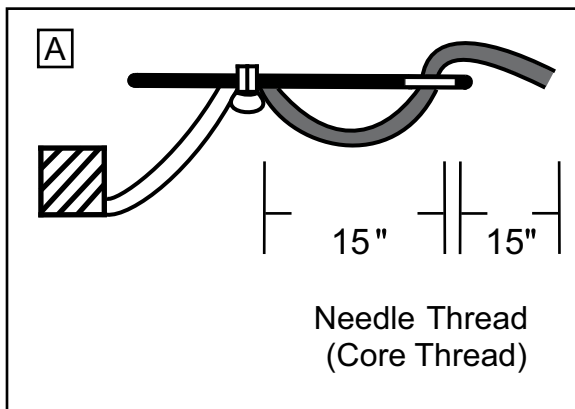


Needle Thread (NT)

A Pull 15" of thread through eye of needle. Leave an additional 15" of needle thread unworked before making the first double stitch. Needle Thread is also known as the Core Thread. Needle Thread has two sections: Loop and Tail End (see illustration B).

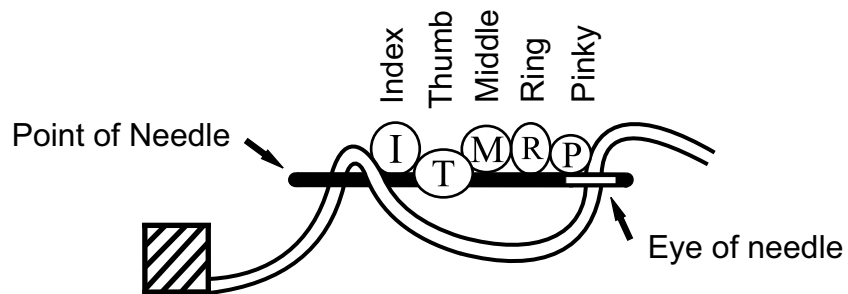
Ball Thread (BT)

B Ball Thread is the thread beyond the last double stitch on the needle to the ball of thread.



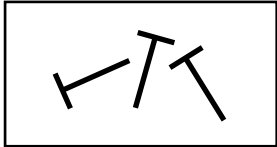
How to Hold a Needle

With right hand, hold needle like a knife when cutting steak. Place right index finger one to two inches from the point of needle. If left-handed, substitute opposite hand referred to throughout this book.

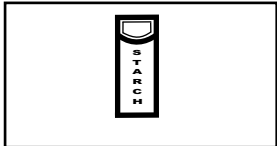


How to Make and Use a Pinning Board

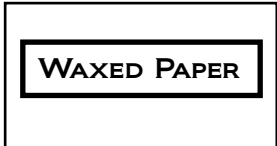
T-Pins (1 box)



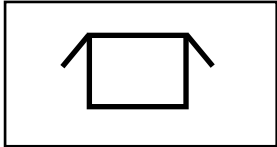
Spray Starch (1 can)



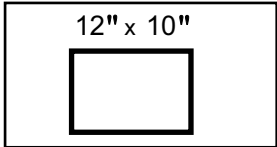
Waxed Paper



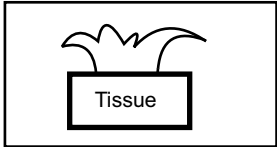
Cardboard Box



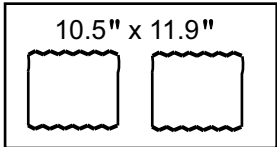
Cut out 12" x 10" piece of cardboard



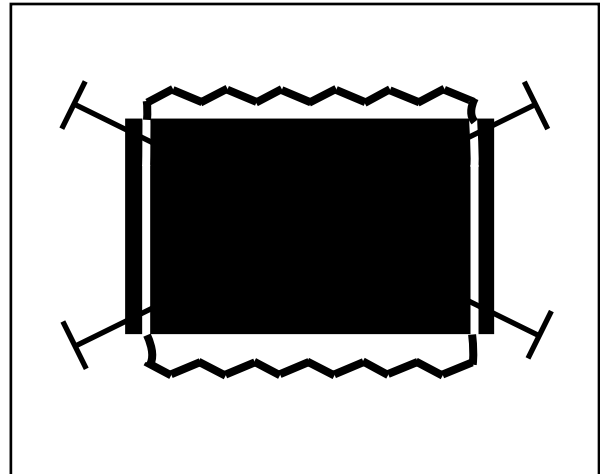
Tissues



Tear off two 10.5" x 11.9" pieces of waxed paper

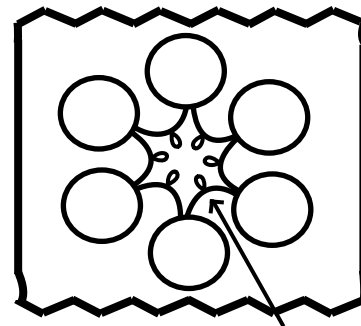


Pin first piece of wax paper to cardboard.



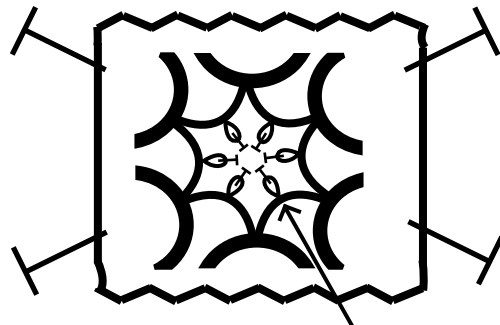
Lay lace on top of second piece of waxed paper.

In a well ventilated area, spray starch on front side. Turn over lace. Spray starch on backside. Lace should be completely soaked with starch. Use tissue to dab off excess starch.



Inner Picots (IP)

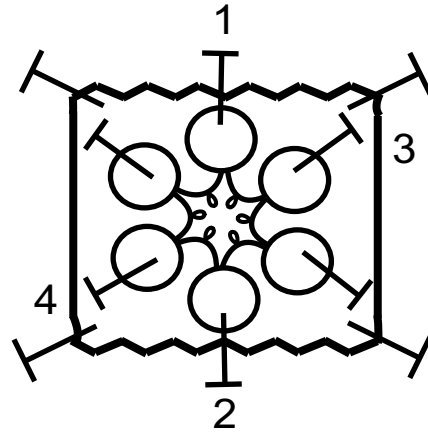
Place wet lace on first piece of waxed paper. Smooth lace with hand until it lays flat against the waxed paper. Pin inner picots open.



Inner Picots

Order of Pinning

Place pin on north side of tatting (1), smooth lace flat with left hand, then pin south side of tatting (2). As you pin, keep alternating between opposite sides of lace.



Finishing Tatted Lace

If you have used high quality thread, then picots should be open. However, if picots are closed or twisted or lace doesn't lay flat, then it is necessary to use a pinning board.

You can buy spray starch at your local grocery or craft store. Or use one of the following alternative methods to finish the lace. The method used depends on the purpose of the lace.

Distilled Water

Use this method for heirloom lace intended to be handed down from generation to generation. Do not use starch. Starch will, over time, deteriorate the thread.

Place lace in a clean container. For large pieces of lace such as curtains, place lace in a clean bathtub.

Clean Container:

Pour in enough distilled water to cover tatting. Gently press down on tatting to completely immerse it in the water. Do not stir or agitate tatting. You may gently swish the water. Let lace soak about 10 minutes to one hour in room temperature distilled water. Allow more time to soak if tatting is extremely soiled.

To remove lace from water: Do not twist or wring lace. Do not pull lace out of water. These actions will weaken the threads.

Remove lace by placing a hand, fingers spread over top of container. Gently pour out all water. Place container above clean towel(s). "Pour" lace on top of towel. Straighten lace so it lays flat on the towel. Then roll up towel to soak up excess water. Transfer lace to a second dry towel. Roll it up to soak up excess water. If

necessary, repeat this process. Then pin on pinning board. Let it dry.

Clean Bathtub:

Lace should lay equally distributed across bottom of the tub. Pour distilled water over lace until it is completely covered. Let lace soak for at least 20 minutes, longer if lace is extremely soiled.

Before removing lace, have several clean towels ready. Then place your hand on the lace, preventing it from touching the drain. Open drain and let water out. Place clean towels on top of lace to soak up remaining water. Gently lift lace out of tub. Lay lace on top of several clean, dry, flat towels. Roll up towels to soak up excess water. Transfer lace to a new set of dry towels. Shape lace so that picots are open and lace lays flat.

Homemade Starch

Stir 1/4 cup cornstarch into one cup of tepid water. Keep stirring until cornstarch is dissolved.

Add this mixture to a quart of water in a pan. Place pan on a burner. Turn stove burner to high. Stir this mixture until it comes to a boil. Remove pan. Turn off burner.

Heavy Starch: Use mixture as it is. Make sure it has cooled down to a warm temperature. Use heavy starch when lace needs to be very stiff.

Medium Starch: Pour 1 quart of cold water in pan and stir.

Light Starch: Add 2 quarts of cold water to pan and stir. Use light starch when lace needs a little bit of drape such as a shawl.

Sugar and Water

Use this recipe when lace takes a 3-D shape such as a bell. After applying mixture to bell, mold bell on a rounded form to dry.

Use a one-to-one ratio when mixing sugar and water. Melt 1/2 cup sugar and 1/2 cup water together in a pan over medium heat. Constantly stir until mixture is clear. Let mixture cool until it is warm. Immediately use this mixture while it is still warm.

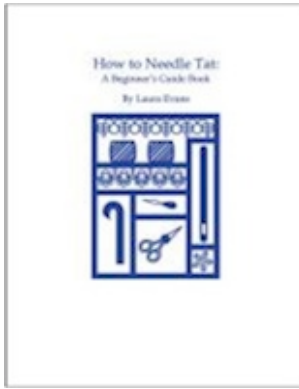
If you wait too long, the cool mixture will be unevenly soaked up. This gives the lace an uneven color when it dries.

Elmer's Glue

This method is best used with greeting cards. Lay lace on waxed paper. With a sponge apply glue mixture to both sides of lace. Use a tissue to wipe off any excess glue. Transfer lace to clean piece of waxed paper. Shape lace so picots are open and it lays flat. Keeping its shape, gently lift lace off of waxed paper and place on greeting card. Let it dry. It is automatically glued to the card.

Glue Mixture

Dilute glue with enough distilled water to produce a runny consistency like milk. It should flow easily over the lace. Approximate measurements are one tablespoon of Elmer's Glue mixed with two tablespoons of distilled water.



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