

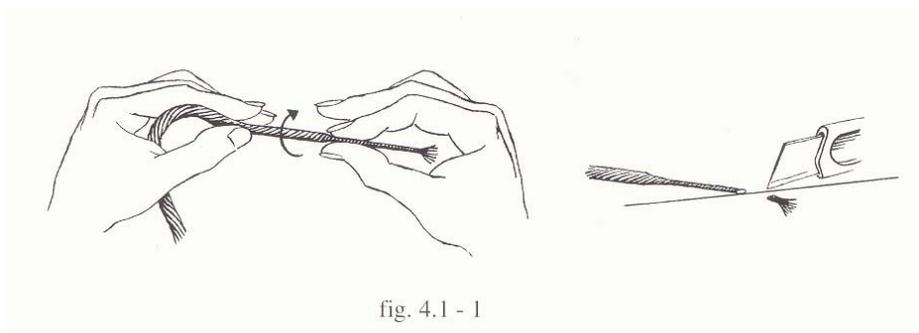
Before you start bead tatting you'll have to 'needle' your thread to string beads easily on a thread of your choice.

In my experience the best way to prepare thread for beading is to use washable, safe, and non-toxic liquid glue like

Elmer's no run school glue gel

HOW to 'NEEDLE' the THREAD

- Take a length of thread needed for the project.
For small projects or swatches it's helpful to use a short thread, about 2 yards, and needle both tails.
- Study the thread carefully to see if it has right or left twist.
- Dip one tail into liquid glue at 4-5" from the tip; this way your 'needle' will last longer.
Do NOT use too much glue, just a drop! (You will cut these tails off the finished project anyway, so the glue won't ruin the lace).
- Twist the glue into the thread following the direction of the thread twist, make sure to go from the place you've applied the glue down to the tip of the thread. The excessive glue will form crumbs and while twisting the thread you'll push these crumbs off.
- Let the thread dry, in the meantime work on the other tail.
- Once the thread is 'needled' and dry put both stiffened tails on a piece of cardboard, and slash them across the ends with a sharp razor-blade.
- When the tip gets dull just slash it off. A well-prepared long 'needle' can work through a large beaded project.



Needle Tatting BEANILE Lace

Step-by-step instructions



If the bead fits...

You can easily needle tat any *BEANILE* pattern if you use beads with **large enough holes** for the tatting needle and the twofold thread to run through.

It shouldn't take much longer than doing it with shuttles and it is probably faster than reading the step-by-step instructions on page 2, but choosing and sorting out beads may take time. Considering that seed beads rarely all come with even and equal holes it is not surprising that more than once I would have all the stitches and beads on my tatting needle, but could not pull it through because one of the beads won't slide over the eye of the threaded tatting needle.

I had to try every bead before making the ring on the picture.

Once again:

Choose beads that will fit over your threaded tatting needle, or use the method '*Alternating Tatting and Beading Needles*' described on pages 3-7.

I. Let us try the ring you see on page 1.

R: 2°2°2°2°2°2°2. 9/4

Supplies:

3-ply metallic thread, seed beads size 10, and tatting needle #8.

Pay attention to numbers **9/4** at the end of notation line.

They mean: **9** beads will come from ball/knotting thread (these are 'up' beads) and **4** beads you will pick up from the tray according to the pattern (these are called 'down' beads); once you close the ring they will sit under the beads from the knotting thread.

To make it clear we can break up the pattern in detailed steps:

- Make 2 ds, slide 1 bead along knotting (ball) thread, pick up 1 bead with tatting needle, align the beads, and tat 2 double stitches.

- Slide 2 beads along knotting (ball) thread, pick up 1 bead with tatting needle, align the beads to make sure they sit next to the last stitch (almost on top of it), and tat 2 double stitches.

- Slide 3 beads along knotting (ball) thread, as you see there are no 'down' beads in this element; make 2 double stitches.

- Slide 2 beads along knotting (ball) thread, pick up 1 bead with tatting needle, align the beads to make sure they sit next to the last stitch (almost on top of it), make 2 double stitches.

- Slide 1 bead along knotting (ball) thread, pick up 1 bead with tatting needle, align the beads, and tat 2 double stitches.

Close the ring.

If the beads do not fit use method 'Alternating Tatting and Beading Needles'

First of all make sure to 'needle' the tails of the thread you choose for the project **BEFORE** you start bead tatting (instructions on page 28).

For 3-ply metallic embroidery thread or very fine cotton thread suitable for tatting needles ##7-8 use twisted wire beading needles.

For cotton thread size 20, 10, or thicker you will have to 'needle' the thread (see 'how to' instructions on page 8)

1) You will need 6 beads from the ball thread.

R: 2°°°2 - 2°°°2. **RW 6/4**

- Tat 2 double stitches.

- Pull tatting needle through the stitches (far enough to unthread the needle).

- Unthread the needle.

- Pick up 2 beads with 'needled' core thread (2 'down' beads in the block).

- Rethread tatting needle.

- Slide 3 beads along ball thread next to the last stitch (3 'up' beads).

- Tat 2 double stitches, picot, and 2 double stitches.

- Pull tatting needle through the stitches (far enough to unthread the needle).

- Unthread the needle.

- Pick up 2 beads with 'needled' core thread (2 'down' beads in the block).

- Rethread tatting needle.

- Slide 3 beads along ball thread next to the last stitch (3 'up' beads).

- Tat 2 double stitches, and close the ring.

2) To make a chain of two '**6 bead blocks**' and one **trillium picot** you will need 8 beads from ball thread.

CH: 2°°°2°2°°°2. **RW 8/7**

- Tat 2 double stitches.

- Pull tatting needle through the stitches (far enough to unthread the needle).

- Unthread tatting needle.

- Pick up 3 beads with 'needled' core thread (3 'down' beads).

- Slide 3 beads along ball thread next to the last stitch (3 'up' beads).

- Rethread tatting needle and tat 2 double stitches.

- Pull tatting needle through the stitches (far enough to unthread the needle).

- Unthread tatting needle.

- Make **trillium picot** (see position 2 on page 23) and tat 2 double stitches.

- Pull tatting needle through the stitches (far enough to unthread the needle).

- Unthread tatting needle.

- Make another '**6 bead block**' (3 'up' beads and 3 'down' beads).

- Close/shape the chain.

- Make a pair of twin rings: 3) R: 2°°°2 + (to R1) 2°°°2. **6/4**

4) R: 2°°°2-2°°°2. **RW 6/4**

- Another chain:

5) CH: 2°°°2°2°°°2. **RW 8/7**

Alternate **twin** rings and chains connecting pairs of **twin** rings.

6) R: 2°°°2 + (to R4) 2°°°2. **6/4** 7) R: 2°°°2-2°°°2. **RW 6/4**

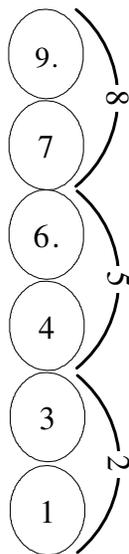
8) CH: 2°°°2°2°°°2. **RW 8/7** 9) R: 2°°°2 + (to R7) 2°°°2. **6/4**

Keep repeating positions 3-5 (twin rings and a chain) to make the straight edging; use this sample to calculate how many repeats you may need for the length of the edging you want.

Pattern for an Edging:

Pattern includes *TWIN* Rings with *TRAPEZOID BLOCKS* of beads and Chains with two '*6 bead BLOCKS*' and one *TRILLIUM* picot.

- 1) R: 2 ∘ ∘ 2 - 2 ∘ ∘ 2. **RW 6/4**
- 2) CH: 2 ∘ ∘ ∘ 2 ∘ 2 ∘ ∘ ∘ 2. **RW 8/7**
- 3) R: 2 ∘ ∘ 2 + (to R1) 2 ∘ ∘ 2. **6/4**
- 4) R: 2 ∘ ∘ 2 - 2 ∘ ∘ 2. **RW 6/4**
- 5) CH: 2 ∘ ∘ ∘ 2 ∘ 2 ∘ ∘ ∘ 2. **RW 8/7**
- 6) R: 2 ∘ ∘ 2 + (to R4) 2 ∘ ∘ 2. **6/4**
- 7) R: 2 ∘ ∘ 2 - 2 ∘ ∘ 2. **RW 6/4**
- 8) CH: 2 ∘ ∘ ∘ 2 ∘ 2 ∘ ∘ ∘ 2. **RW 8/7**
- 9) R: 2 ∘ ∘ 2 + (to R7) 2 ∘ ∘ 2. **6/4**



To break it into steps:

- First of all count the beads you will need on the ball (knotting) thread (all **6/** and **8/** numbers to the left of slash); these are 'up' beads in the pattern.
- String them on one 'needled' tail.
- You will pick up beads (all **/4** and **/7** numbers on the right side of slash) when needed/shown in the pattern; these are 'down' beads.
- Use a tatting needle corresponding to the gauge of your thread.
- Place a paper clip in the loop or do something else to prevent the needle thread from pulling all the way through the stitches when you unthread the tatting needle and interrupt your tatting to pick up beads from the tray.

II. Trefoil on the picture is made with Lizbeth thread size 10, seed beads size 11, and tatting needle #5.



Tatting needle #5 cannot fit into seed bead size 11 therefore make sure to 'needle' both tails of the thread **before** you start (see page 28).

Thread tatting needle,
string 9 beads on ball thread, and
place a paper clip in the loop of needle thread
to keep it open.

All 3 rings in the Trefoil are the same as the ring in Section I.
You will need 9 beads from the ball thread for each of the 3 rings.

R: 2 ∘ 2 ∘ 2 ∘ ∘ 2 ∘ ∘ 2 ∘ 2.

1) To start:

- Make 2 double stitches.
- Pull tatting needle through the stitches (far enough to unthread the needle).
- Unthread the needle.
- Use 'needled' tail of the core thread to pick up 1 bead ('down' bead).
- Rethread your tatting needle ('needled' tail of the core thread makes it easy).
- Push/slide 1 bead along ball thread (this is 'up' bead).
- Align it with the bead on the needle thread.
- Make 2 double stitches.

You have the first 2 ∘ 2 part of the ring (1 'up' bead and 1 'down' bead).

2) To make the next element (∘ ∘ - *trillium picot*)

- Pull tatting needle through the stitches (far enough to unthread the needle).
- Unthread the needle.
- Use 'needled' tail of the core thread to pick up 1 bead ('down' bead).
- Rethread your tatting needle.
- Slide 2 beads along ball thread (these are 'up' beads).
- Make sure they sit next to the last double stitch.
- Make 2 double stitches.

3) The next element in the pattern $\circ\circ$ is called a *pointed picot*. It has no 'down' beads, so you simply slide 3 beads (3 'up' beads) along the ball thread, place them next to the last stitch, and make 2 double stitches.

4) Make another *trillium picot* $\circ\circ$ (see position 2 on page 23) followed by 2 double stitches.

5) Then another element \circ (see position 1 on page 23).
Make 2 double stitches.

Close the ring, turn it upside down, make a half knot, and bead tat two more rings to complete the Trefoil.

As you see on the picture the Trefoil has a stem - a bead-tatted chain. The chain has *6 bead blocks* (3 'up' and 3 'down') and *trillium picots*.

III. Blocks of beads.

Make a sample chain alternating *6 beads blocks* and *trillium picots*:

CH: 1 $\circ\circ\circ$ 1 \circ 1 $\circ\circ\circ$ 1 \circ 1 $\circ\circ\circ$ 1...

Step-by-step instructions are similar to those in Section II:

1) To make a block of 6 beads:

- Tat 1 double stitch.
- Pull tatting needle through the stitch (far enough to unthread the needle).
- Unthread the needle.
- Pick up 3 beads with 'needled' core thread (3 'down' beads).
- Rethread your tatting needle.
- Slide 3 beads along ball thread (3 'up' beads) to sit next to the last stitch.
- Secure the beads with 1 double stitch.

2) To make a *trillium picot* $\circ\circ$:

- Pull tatting needle through the stitch (far enough to unthread the needle).
- Unthread the needle.
- Use 'needled' tail of the core thread to pick up 1 bead ('down' bead).
- Rethread your tatting needle.
- Slide 2 beads along ball thread (these are 'up' beads).
- Make sure they sit next to the last double stitch.
- Make 1 double stitch to secure the beads.

Keep repeating positions 1 and 2 for the length of the chain you want.

IV. To see how it works let us go through a *BEANILE* pattern featured earlier in this book.

How to read the pattern:

There are numbers at the end of notation lines (*6/4* or *8/7*) as you've already seen in the Ring pattern on page 22.

- The number to the left of slash (*6/* or *8/*) is total number of beads on ball thread for that particular ring or chain.
- The number to the right of slash (*/4* or */7*) means total number of beads you have to pick up with 'needled' tail of core thread when needed according to the pattern.
- The diagram shows only the sequence of tatted rings and chains; it does not show how many double stitches, picots, or beads there are in a ring or a chain.
- See pattern for every ring and chain for the number of double stitches and placement of beads in that particular ring or chain.
- Bead symbols and abbreviations are explained on page 2 of the book.

The sample on the picture is from page 15 of this book. It was originally made with shuttle and ball and replicated by Bonnie Swank with a tatting needle #8 using the same supplies:

3-ply metallic thread and seed beads size 11.

To do it with thicker thread and a corresponding larger tatting needle will be a challenge because it is a slow process and seems tedious, but it is certainly feasible, it just needs practice and patience.

Reminder:

Make sure to 'needle' both tails of the thread **before** you start the project (instructions on page 28).

