

Butterfly Bookmark adapted from Butterick's Tatting and Netting 1896

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Just for fun, I was trying to use only pre-1900 patterns as the basis for the bookmarks in an exchange I was engaged in a while back. One pattern I chose was the butterfly on p. 53 of Butterick's Tatting and Netting 1896. The first challenge was to interpret the pattern into a usable form. Like many antique patterns, the clarity and proofreading leave something to be desired. If you look closely at the photograph, you will see that the left and right sides do not match and there seem to be some unexplained stitches near the head. The pattern is vague on how you get from the last join on the first wing to the beginning of the second wing, and I did not much care for the idea of ending by tying the two wings together and then working the head. So, I rewrote the pattern to imitate the right hand side and added a chain to connect the wings and carry the head so it may be worked all in one pass. (I omitted the two ring "body" altogether.)



Butterick illustration



My butterfly

Now that I could make one butterfly, the next challenge was how to link them together. With a regular join, all those nice frilly picots would be overlapping and the outline obscured. A method letting the picots barely touch would be better. On a single color piece, this could easily be done by making double length picots for joining, but on a multi-color piece, the long picots would stand out. My solution was to use a ball thread join to make a mock picot.

The ball thread join:

To join, first pull through a loop like usual, but put the ball rather than the shuttle through the loop. See figure 1.

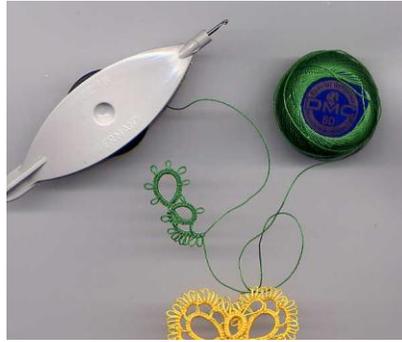


Figure 1

Then tighten the join, but rather than snugging it up to the chain, leave a bit of thread equal to the height of a picot. See figure 2.



Figure 2

Then work the next stitch, again leaving a bit of thread to complete the mock picot. See figure 3.



Figure 3

PATTERN:

Abbreviations:

R	ring
Ch	chain
-	picot
---	long picot
+	join
sj	shuttle thread join
rw	reverse work
CTM	continuous thread method
SLT	shoe lace tie
DNRW	do not reverse work

Wind one shuttle CTM with ball thread (or wind two shuttles CTM and switch shuttles instead of SLT.)

