

Pearl Tatted Skeleton

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Size: Approx 7" high with size 20 cotton

Materials: 3 shuttles, 1 color thread

Techniques: split ring, folded ring, split chain, pearl tating, folded ring and split ring, alligator join

For technique tutorials, see <http://marthas-tatting-blog.blogspot.com/p/patterns.html> for folded rings, and <http://www.janeeborall.freeservers.com/TipsTechniques.htm> for others.

Important Notes:

This is a difficult pattern. There are ridiculously long chains, and huge rings that are hard to close. I reserve the right to redesign the pattern using different techniques eventually, but there are those eager to give it a go this Halloween season, so here it is.

Resist the temptation to tension too tightly. For the long chain of the cranium, tighten so that the chain curves, and the stitches lay flat and do not try to twist or curl. For the long sections of the first sides of the legs and arms, let the chains barely curve. Adjust the second sides of these sections to match.

The large rings of the pelvis may be hard to close. Hold the stitches securely in the pinch of one hand as you pull on the shuttle thread to close. If the stitches begin to curl or bunch up, cease pulling on the shuttle and ease the stitches around on the core thread until the tension is uniform. Repeat as necessary until the ring is closed all the way.

Special Abbreviations:

DNRW: do not reverse work
SS: switch shuttles
PCh: pearl tatted chain
VVLP: very very long picot (ribs)
hs1: first half of double stitch
hs2: second half of double stitch
LP: long picot (fingers)



Body: 2 shuttles wound CTM, with a 3rd shuttle with a small amount of the same thread in reserve

Head:

(eye) R: 5 vsp 8 clr RW
Ch: 1 DNRW SS
(nose) R: 10 clr DNRW SS
Ch: 1 RW
(eye) SR: 8 / 5 clr RW
(cranium) Ch: 50 +LJ (to vsp of 1st R)
(jaws) Ch: 5 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 5 +LJ (to base of SR) SS RW
SCh: 14 / 14 (connecting to beginning of prev Ch)

Spine and Ribs:

Begin Pearl Tatting Chain: Tie the 3rd shuttle thread to the core of the split chain of the jaw between the other 2 threads. With the front side facing, wrap the 3rd shuttle around hand as for a chain to form the core thread, with Shuttle 1 hanging over the back of the hand, and Shuttle 2 hanging down in front. Hold the Shuttle 3 thread taut and make wrapped stitches around it with the other two shuttles. With Shuttle 1 (upper), you will make the double stitch halves in the regular order; and with Shuttle 2 (lower), you will make the double stitch halves in reverse order.

(neck) [PCh: Shuttle 1: - 1
PCh: Shuttle 2: - 1] 4 times

(ribs) [PCh: Shuttle 1: VVLP 2
PCh: Shuttle 2: VVLP 2] 8 times *(The first VVLP and last two should be a little shorter than the rest, with the longest ones around 3/4 inches high in size 20 thread.)*

(back) [PCh: Shuttle 1: - 2
PCh: Shuttle 2: - 2] 4 times
PCh: Shuttle 1: - 2
PCh: Shuttle 2: - 1

(coccyx) Shoe lace tie Shuttle 2 and Shuttle 3, and hang Shuttle 2 over the back of the hand. With front side still facing, pick up Shuttle 3 and work:
R: 6 – 6 clr. Cut Shuttle 3 thread ONLY.

First Half Pelvis and Leg:

- (pelvis) With front side still facing, pick up Shuttle 1 and work:
SR (folded): 40 / hs1 twice, 14, hs2 twice, - 9. Fold the section between the half stitches forward to the center and close the ring (see tip at beginning of pattern).
- (upper leg) *R: 10 clr RW
Ch: [4 -] 8 times, 4 SS
- (knee) R: 4 vsp 3 clr SS
- (lower leg) Ch: 30 SS (make sure tension is not too tight)
- (foot) R: 5 vsp 4 vsp 5 clr RW
Ch: 4 +LJ (to 1st vsp of prev R)
Ch: 7 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 6 +LJ (to next vsp)
Ch: 9 +LJ (to base of R)
- (lower leg) Ch: 30 +LJ (to vsp of Knee) SS RW
- (upper leg) Ch: [4 + (to adj p)] 8 times, 4 + (to base of R) SLT RW*
- (pelvis) Ch: 10 +LJ (to p of Pelvis SR) 10 RW

Second Half Pelvis and Leg:

- (pelvis) Folded R: 9 + (to same p where prev Chain joined) hs1 twice, 14, hs2 twice, + (to base of SR at top of first half of pelvis) 40. Fold the section between half stitches to the center, and close the ring.

Repeat the section from * to * ending with cut and tie at base of small ring.

Arms: 2 shuttles wound CTM

- (hand) R: 3 vsp 3 vsp 3 clr RW
- (thumb) Ch: 3 LP 1 +LJ (to 1st vsp of prev R)
- (fingers) Ch: 2 LP 1 LP 1 LP 1 LP 2 +LJ (to next vsp)
Ch: 4 + LJ (to base of R)
- (forearm) Ch: 25 SS
- (elbow) R: 2 vsp 2 clr SS
- (upper arm) Ch: [4 vsp] 6 times, 4 RW
- (shoulders) R: 8 clr DNRW SS
Ch: 14 + (alligator join around Neck, betw 3rd and 4th p) 14 SS
R: 8 clr RW
- (upper arm) Ch: [4 vsp] 6 times, 4 SS
- (elbow) R: 2 vsp 2 clr SS
- (lower arm) Ch: 25 SLT RW
- (hand) R: 3 vsp 3 vsp 3 clr RW
- (thumb) Ch: 3 LP 1 +LJ (to 1st vsp of prev R)
- (fingers) Ch: 2 LP 1 LP 1 LP 1 LP 2 +LJ (to next vsp)
Ch: 4 +LJ (to base of R)

(forearm) Ch: 25 +LJ (to vsp of Elbow) SLT RW
(upper arm) Ch: [4 + (to adj vsp)] 6 times, 4 + (to base of R)
(shoulders) Ch: 13 + (alligator join around next in same place) 13 + (to base of R)
(upper arm) Ch: [4 + (to adj vsp)] 6 times, 4 + (to vsp of Elbow) SLT RW
(lower arm) Ch: 25. Cut and tie to base of R of Hand.