

Menorah

Tatting Pattern

This motif uses the technique of “branching encapsulation”, in which unflipped stitches are wrapped over a multiple thread core. Individual threads are brought out from the core to tat the branches.

Supplies:

- 2 tatting shuttles
- Thread (example shown used about 15 yards (13.7 m) of size 10 Lizbeth thread)
- Small crochet hook
- Scissors

Techniques used:

Ring, picot, join, lock join, split ring, single shuttle split ring, chain, encapsulation, Josephine chain.

Video demo <https://youtu.be/8mR94S5-GFk?si=Mlc5PdpCt9sraJV9>

Begin with the base:

Wind 2 shuttles with a continuous thread, putting a little more than 1 yard (1m) on each shuttle.

R 10, close.

SR 5-4/8, close.

R 4+ (to picot of previous ring), 8-4, close.

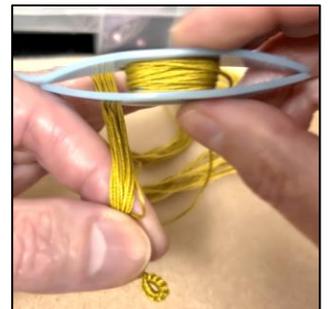
SR 4+ (to last picot of previous ring), 5/8, close.

SSSR (hide ends) 5/5. Cut off tails.

Prepare the multiple thread core:

Measure and cut 8 threads, each about 50 inches (127 cm) long, plus 1 longer thread about 80 inches (203 cm) long. Line them all up at one end and fold in the center to form a loop having 18 thread ends (the longer thread will stick out at one end).

Pull the loop of multiple threads through the center ring of the base to form a lark's head knot. Tighten this knot. Wind the longer thread onto a shuttle. This thread will be used to wrap the multiple thread core.





Wrap the center core:

When wrapping the core using unflipped double stitches, do 2nd half first, 1st half second.

Wrap **7 unflipped double stitches** around the multiple thread core.



1st Branch:

Turn the motif upside down and hold so that the base faces up.

Bring out 2 threads from the core. Put 1 of these threads onto a 2nd shuttle. (*Tip: choose a different color or shape of shuttle than the one used for wrapping the core, to avoid confusing the 2 shuttles.*)

These 2 threads will be used to tat a normal chain, flipping the stitches as usual, using the thread that is not on a shuttle as the auxiliary thread for the chain.



Ch 24-1. Tension to form a nicely curved shape for a branch of the candlestick.

Candle:

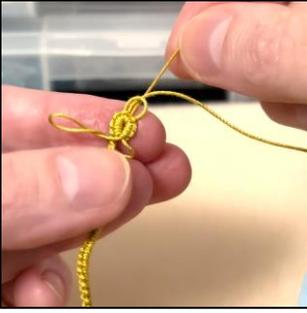
The candle is formed using a Josephine chain of unflipped 2nd half stitches only. Continue holding the same core thread that was used for the chain.

*Wrap the 2nd half of a double stitch (unflipped) 5 times.

While keeping the core thread tight, drop the shuttle into the space between your hand and the core thread and allow the shuttle to dangle to remove excess twist.



Repeat from * 4 times. Slide the stitches together on the core thread to form a neat spiral. **Lock** the threads in place by doing 1 *flipped* 2nd half stitch.



Flame:

The flame is made using a single shuttle split ring (SSSR), which hides the ends so there is nothing that needs to be sewn in.

SSSR 4 double stitches, hiding the tail from the core thread under these stitches. Then abandon that tail and form a loop with the shuttle thread and finger at the rest of the SSSR, forming a *picot*, then 4 double stitches.

Close the ring, then put the remaining loop over the ring and shuttle, then pull the shuttle thread to close the loop around the base of the ring. Tug on both tails to tighten, then carefully cut them off close to the ring.

Opposite side:

Turn the motif (like turning the page of a book) and then repeat the whole process from “1st Branch” to make the corresponding branch, candle, and flame on the opposite side.



Center core to next set of branches:

Holding the motif so that it faces front side up and base at the bottom as when it started, wrap the center core with **3 unflipped double stitches** around the multiple thread core.

2nd set of branches:

Turn the motif upside down and hold so that the base faces up.

Bring out 2 threads from the core. Put 1 of these threads onto a 2nd shuttle.

Ch 19.



Link:

Using the auxiliary thread from the chain, lock join to the picot on the first branch, keeping a bare thread space between this branch in progress and the previous branch. *In size 10 thread this is about 1/4 inch (6 mm).*

Use the tail to wrap around the bare thread, 2 or 3 times.

Then, **add 1 more double stitch** to the chain of the branch in progress.

Make a candle and flame in the same manner as before.



Turn the motif (like turning the page of a book) and then repeat the process to make the corresponding branch, link, candle, and flame on the opposite side.

Center core:

Holding the motif so that it faces front side up and base at the bottom as when it started, wrap the center core with **3 unflipped double stitches** around the multiple thread core.

3rd set of branches:

Turn the motif upside down and hold so that the base faces up.

Bring out 2 threads from the core. Put 1 of these threads onto a 2nd shuttle.

Ch 14.



Do the link using the auxiliary thread from the chain to lock join into the previous link, keeping a bare thread space in the same manner as before.

Use the tail to wrap around the bare thread, 2 or 3 times.

Then, **add 1 more double stitch** to the chain of the branch in progress.

Make a candle and flame in the same manner as before.

Turn the motif (like turning the page of a book) and then repeat the process to make the corresponding branch, link, candle, and flame on the opposite side.

Center core:

Holding the motif so that it faces front side up and base at the bottom as when it started, wrap the center core with **3 unflipped double stitches** around the multiple thread core.

4th set of branches:

Turn the motif upside down and hold so that the base faces up.

Bring out 2 threads from the core. Put 1 of these threads onto a 2nd shuttle.

Ch 7.

Do the link using the auxiliary thread from the chain to lock join into the previous link, keeping a bare thread space in the same manner as before.

Use the tail to wrap around the bare thread, 2 or 3 times.

Then, **add 1 more double stitch** to the chain of the branch in progress.

Make a candle and flame in the same manner as before.

Turn the motif (like turning the page of a book) and then repeat the process to make the corresponding branch, link, candle, and flame on the opposite side.

Center branch:

There are 2 threads remaining, with 1 of them already on a shuttle.

Ch 17.

The center branch is not linked to the other branches.
Make a candle and flame in the same manner as before.

Finishing:

This motif needs pin blocking to finish it. Dampen with water, pin to shape, and allow to dry. Stiffen as desired. I sprayed mine with "Stiffy" fabric stiffener.



Abbreviations:

Ch	chain
+	join
-	picot
R	ring
SSSR	single shuttle split ring

I developed this design from the branched candlestick photo on page 79 of the book "Tatting Techniques" by Elgiva Nicholls.