

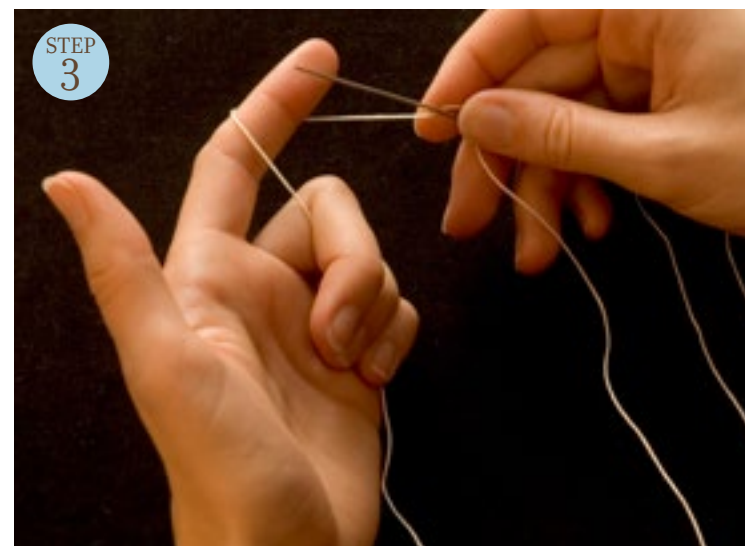
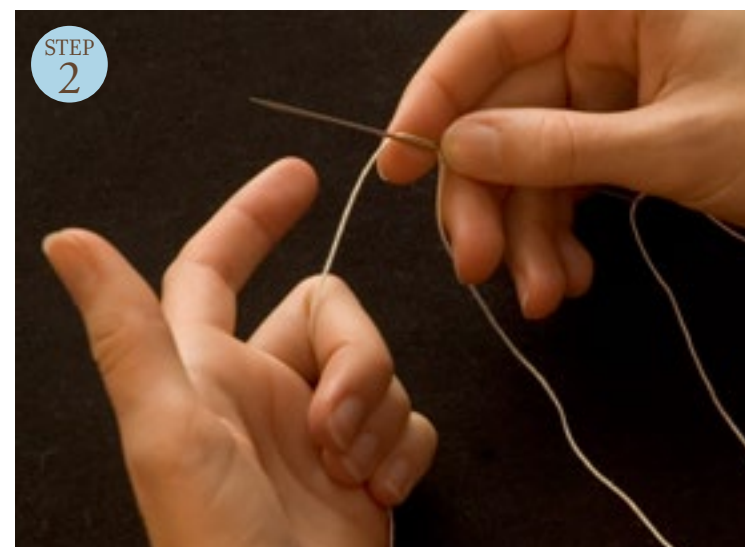
TATTING *Basics*

Making a Double Stitch

1. Thread your needle, leaving about 6" of thread for a tail. Look at the threads coming out of the eye of your needle. There should be two lengths of thread: the shorter tail end and the long piece attached to the ball. Pick up the long end a couple of feet away from the eye of the needle. Place the thread behind the needle and hold it in place with your right index finger.

2. Close the bottom three fingers of your left hand around the end of the thread that is attached to the ball.

3. Wrap the piece of thread that you're holding in your left hand around your left index finger one time in a clockwise direction.



#3
#5
#7
#8

These are life-size examples of tating, so use these needle and thread combinations as a guide for your own projects.

Pearl Cotton #5, Needle #3

Crochet Thread Cebelia #10,
Needle #5

Pearl Cotton #8, Needle #5

Cordonette Crochet Thread
#20, Needle #5

Pearl Cotton #12, Needle #7

Cordonette Crochet Thread
#30, Needle #7

Cordonette Crochet Thread
#40, Needle #7

Cordonette Crochet Thread
#50, Needle #7

Cordonette Crochet Thread
#60, Needle #7

Special Dentelles #80,
Needle #8

Cordonette Crochet Thread
#100, Needle #8

Reading a Tating Pattern

Here is a list of abbreviations used in the tating patterns and instructions on the next few pages:

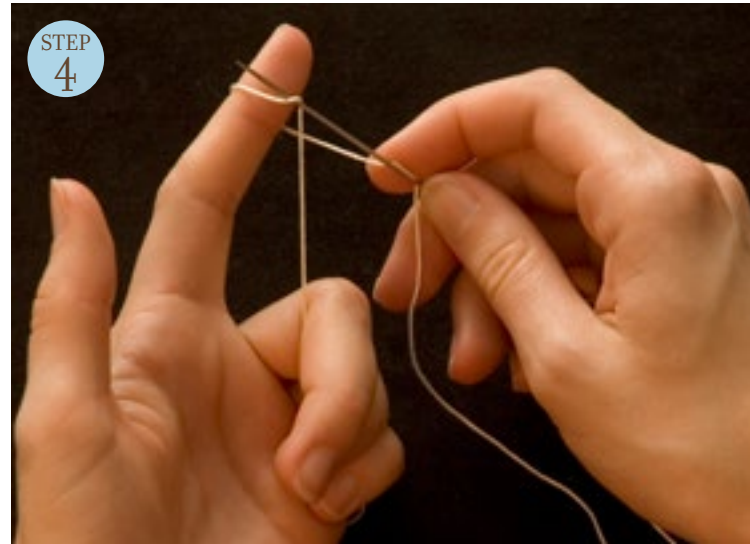
ds: double stitch
p or "-": picot
R: ring
Ch: chain
j or "+": join
Cl: close (a ring)
Rw: reverse work

For example, a pattern for "Making a Ring" (page 103) would look like this:

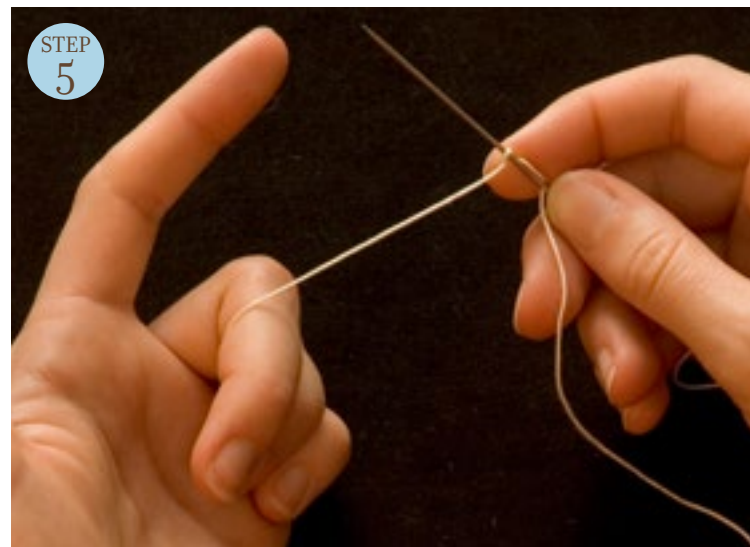
R. 5ds, 1p, 5ds, 1p, 5ds, 1p, 5ds, Cl
Rw.
Ch. 10ds, Rw.
*R. 5ds, j (to last picot of last ring),
5ds, 1p, 5ds, 1p, 5ds, Cl, Rw.
Ch. 10ds, Rw.*
Repeat from * to * until your work
has reached the desired length.

Making a Double Stitch (continued)

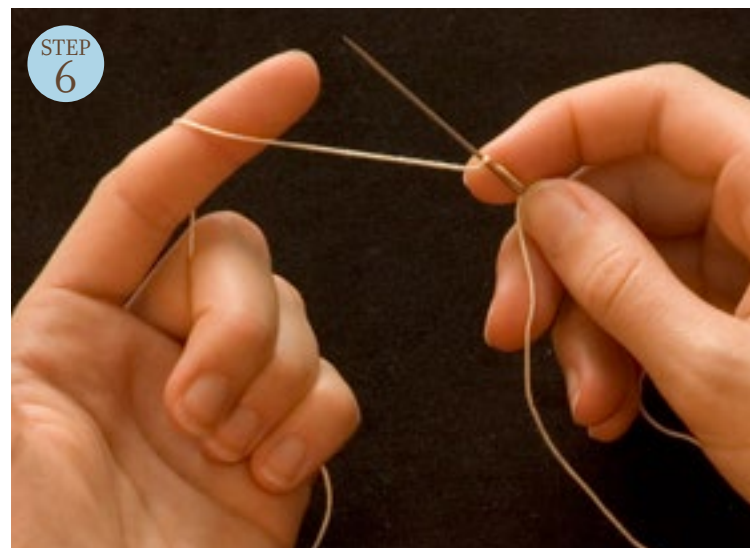
4. Starting from the bottom of your index finger and going upward, slide the needle under the string on your finger. Once the loop of thread around your finger is also around your needle, slide your finger out.



5. Slide this part of the stitch down to your right index finger and hold it in place with that finger. Pull gently on the thread with your left hand to make sure the stitch is snug but not too tight. This is the first half of your double stitch.

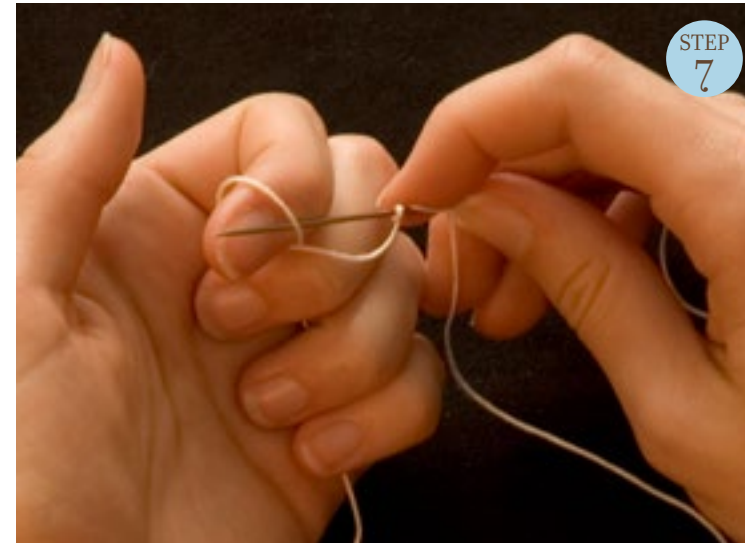


6. Now wrap the thread around your left index finger in a counter-clockwise direction.

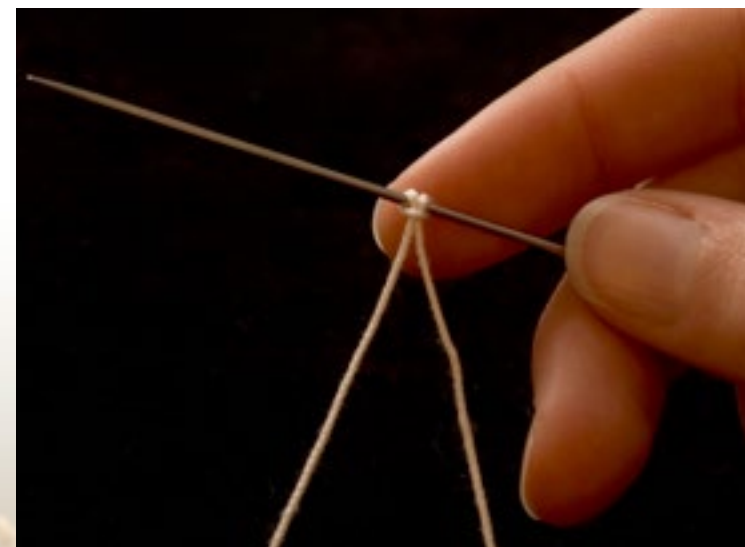


Making a Double Stitch (continued)

7. Bend your left index finger over so you can see your knuckles. Slide the needle under the thread from your knuckle toward your fingernail. Pull your finger out of the loop of thread once it is on your needle. Pull the loop of thread down the needle until it is snug against the other half of the stitch.



Your double stitch is now complete. This is really the only stitch in tatting; everything else is just a manipulation of the double stitch. Repeat steps 3–7 to create another double stitch. When you are making double stitches one right after the other, slide each stitch snugly against the others. Practice your double stitches until each one is consistent.

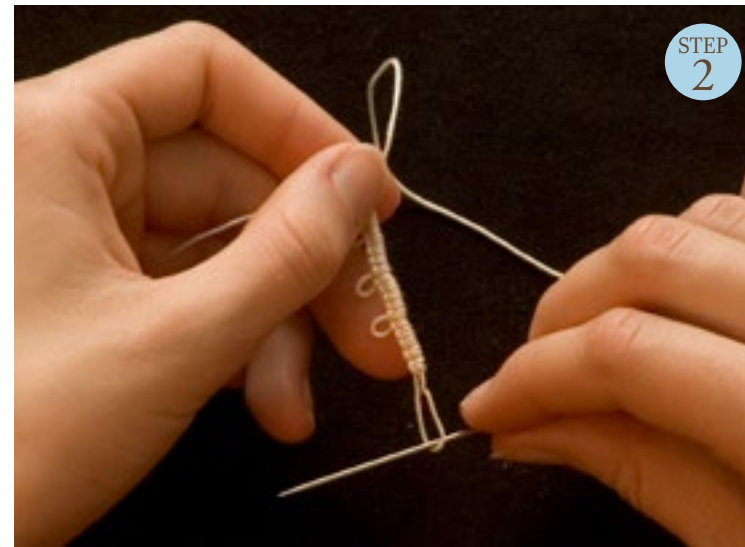
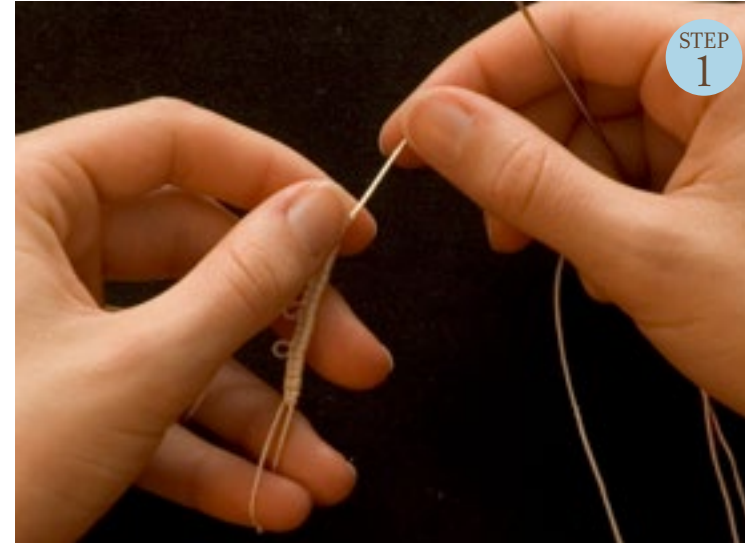
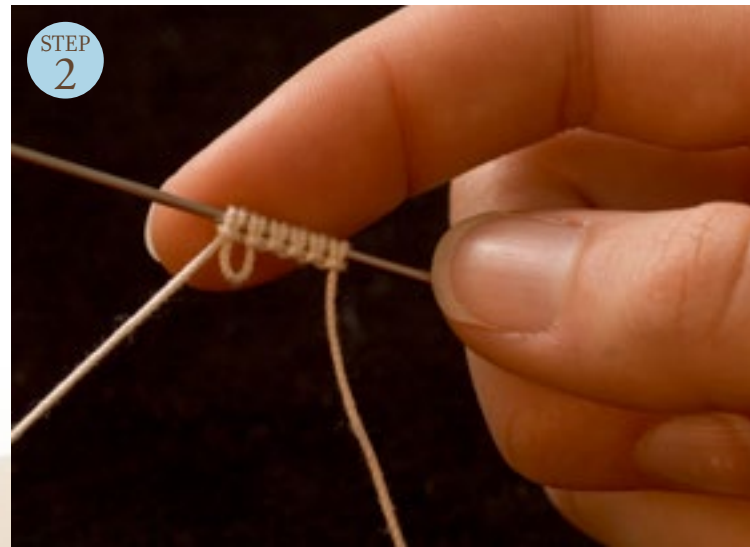


Making a Picot

A picot is simply a space of thread left between two double stitches.

1. When your pattern calls for a picot, make the first half of your double stitch. When you're sliding the stitch down the needle, stop it about 1/2" away from the other stitches with your right index finger.

2. Make the second half of your double stitch and slide it down the needle to your first half. Now slide the whole double stitch down to meet the previous ones. There should be a little loop of thread sticking out between this stitch and the one right before it: this loop is your picot. Practice making five double stitches and one picot (and then five more double stitches, etc.) a few times until all of your picots are the same size.



Making a Ring

After you are comfortable with your double stitches and picots, it's time to actually make something out of them!

1. Start by tatting this onto your needle: five double stitches, one picot, five double stitches, one picot, five double stitches, one picot, and five more double stitches. Hold on to the needle with your right hand above the stitches (closer to the pointy end). With your left thumb and index finger, slide the stitches down toward the end of the needle. Carefully slide the stitches off the needle, making sure that you don't let go of the double stitches. Slide your stitches farther down the thread. There is a loop of thread on one end of the stitches; stick your left pinkie finger into the loop to help keep the thread from tangling. Keep pulling on the needle end of the thread. The large loop of thread will get smaller and smaller, and if your finger wasn't in it, it would disappear completely. Don't let that happen!

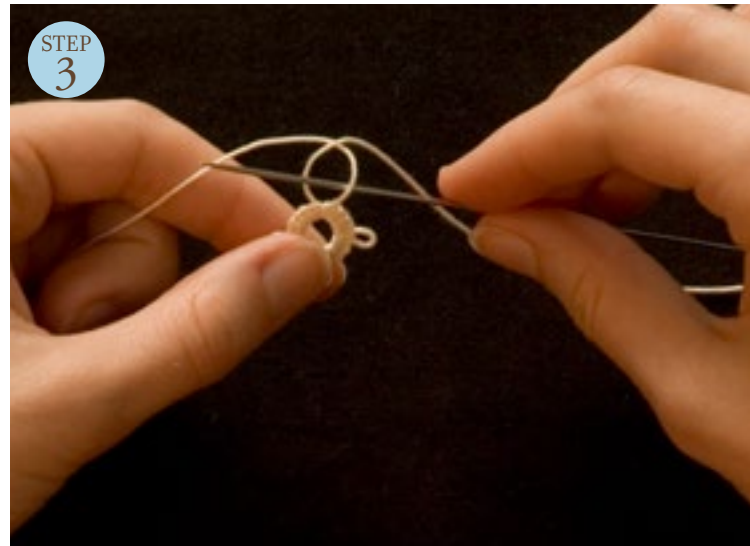
2. Take your finger out of the loop and bring the needle up through it. Keep pulling on the needle to close up the ring all the way. You've just completed one ring.

This is what your ring looks like after step 2.

Making a Ring

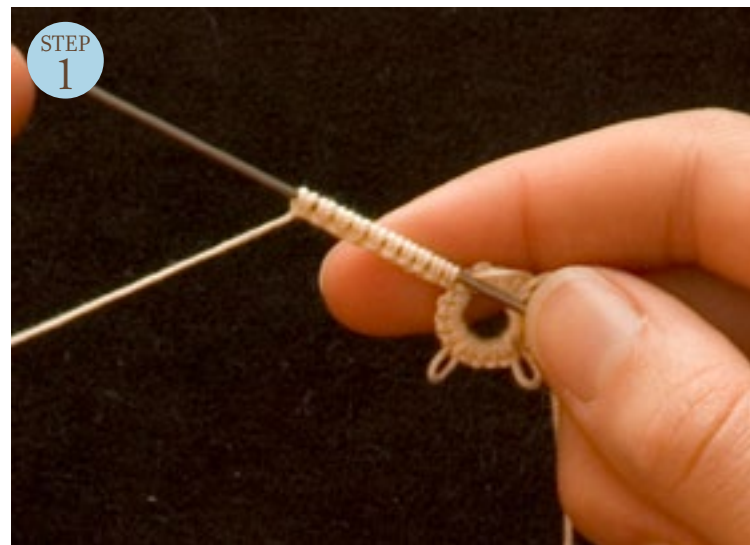
(continued)

3. Flip your ring over from right to left like you're turning the page of a book. This is called reversing the work and should make the threads cross and create a little hole. Bring the needle up through the hole and pull the strings tight to create a knot. This knot will help keep your project together. Also note that the side of the ring that is facing you is the "wrong" side.



Making a Chain

1. Put your needle on top of the knot you just made. Make ten double stitches on your needle. Make sure that the first one is right next to the ring; it's easy to leave a little space of thread if you're not careful.



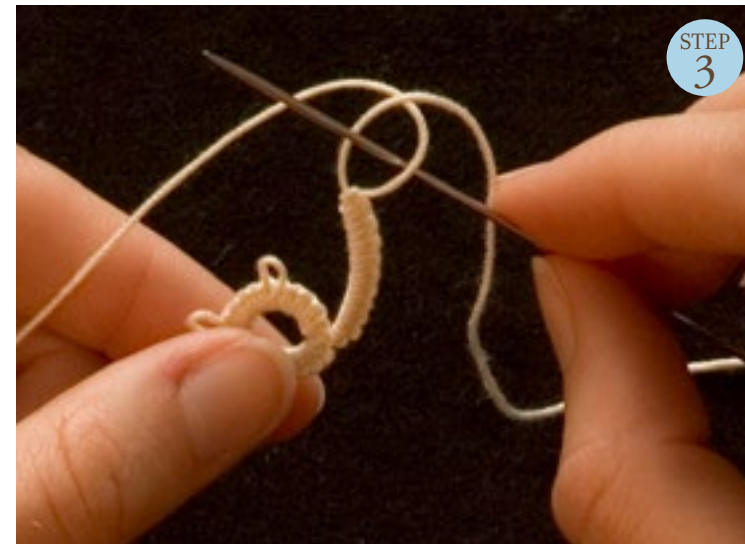
2. Slide the stitches off the needle and push them all the way down against the ring. You don't have to thread the needle through that little loop as you would when you make a ring; otherwise it would be a ring and not a chain!



Making a Chain

(continued)

3. Reverse your work by turning it over right to left, like a page in a book. Bring your needle up through the little loop of thread and tie a knot. Your chain is complete!



Making the Second Ring and Joining

1. Put five double stitches on your needle. At this point, you would be ready to make another picot, as in the first ring, but you have to attach your new ring to the first ring instead. To do this, start by grasping the thread in your left hand and then place it behind the last picot you made on your first ring.



2. Using the tip of your tatting needle or a small crochet hook, pull the thread up through the picot. Note that you're pulling a loop of thread through the picot, not putting the picot on your needle.



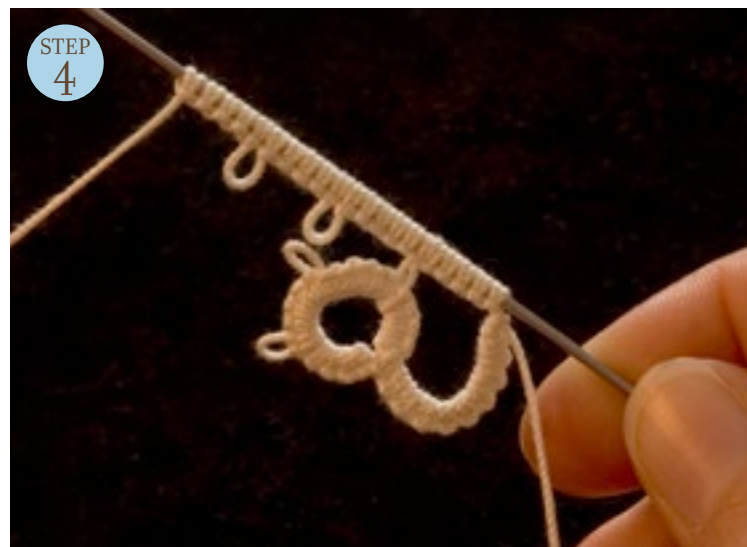
Making the Second Ring and Joining

(continued)

3. Slide the thread down the needle to meet the double stitches and pull on the thread so it tightens around the needle. This loop you made around the needle does not count as a part of any double stitch, it is a “join.”



4. Now make five double stitches, one picot, five double stitches, one more picot, and five more double stitches on your needle. Close the ring by sliding the stitches off your needle, but remember the little loop of thread that you have to bring your needle through to complete the ring! Pull the string tight, and reverse the work by turning it over like a page in a book. Reverse the work and tie a knot as in Step 3 of “Making a Ring.”



Making the Second Chain

1. Place your needle on top of the ring just as you did for the first chain. Put ten double stitches on your needle. Note how the stitches on your needle look compared to the first chain you made. Slide the stitches off the needle, reverse your work, and don't forget to tie a knot as in Step 3 of “Making a Chain.”



Adding a New Thread or a Different Color

You can only add a new thread after a ring or a chain. For the best transition, add a new thread after a ring.

1. Just cut the needle and ball threads and tie them in a knot. Take your new ball of thread and thread your needle. Push your needle up under the last knot that you made.

2. With a length of thread a couple of feet long on the needle side of the thread, tat the next part of your pattern onto the needle and work as usual, reversing your work and tying a knot. To hide the extra ends of the thread, simply thread them onto a needle and feed them back through some of the already completed double stitches.

