

BUTTERFLIES ARE FOREVER FREE

Leave about 5" (12.5 cm) of thread when making your first ring for the antennae.

Abbreviations used: ds = double stitch clr = close ring sep = separated
p = picot r or R = ring

Before starting see notes on page 2.

Wing 1: R of 7 ds, 7p sep by 2 ds, 7 ds, clr.

Wing 2: R of 5 ds, 5p sep by 2 ds, 5 ds, clr.

Wing 3: Repeat Wing 2

Wing 4: Repeat Wing 1

Tie ends together through eye in head of small safety pin. Wrap back of pin with ends to spring end. Take ends thru spring loop and work back up the body of the butterfly to the head. Take the ends thru the eye again and tie at top of head. Trim to about 1" (2.5 cm) for antennae.

Variations: I've done more and fewer ds in wings keeping small wings 2 ds smaller as in the original pattern. Keep it simple to start. You can play with variations as you learn new techniques. DO NOT CUT THE WINGS APART IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET THEM TO SHOW UP FOR THE ILLUSTRATION..

WING1



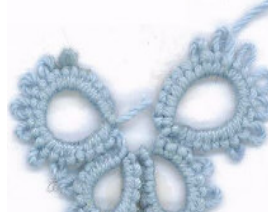
WINGS 1 and 2



WINGS 1, 2 and 3



ALL 4 WINGS



A BUTTERFLY!



BUTTERFLIES ARE FOREVER FREE page 2

Some notes before you get started. This is a simple pattern and is not to be copyrighted nor sold but may be freely shared. It is only rings of double stitches and picots. It could be created by anyone (who can do the basics of tatting) there is nothing new or innovative in this pattern but it is FUN.

You may sell the butterflies at craft fairs (little kids love them). I usually sell them for \$1.00 but make sure to have plenty as they can be a big seller in the spring; but I have given them away freely as well to draw people to the booth. If you use embroidery floss all 6 strands makes a butterfly of about 2 inches and I get 3 to 5 from a standard hank depending on if I make the first ring 7 or 9 or 11 (bigger gets too hard to work if you are using a shuttle). If inadvertently washed, you get a moth as the antennae get fluffy and I usually warn people of that so they don't think they have ruined it. Moths can be pretty too—especially out of a cream or white thread for a Luna moth instead of a butterfly.

You can add another color for the last wing if necessary. I try to do 2 wings in each color when I run shy of thread. Little kids really love it when they get a butterfly with 4 different colors (a good way to use up bits and pieces). I just dab the ends with superglue to prevent unraveling so I don't have to work the pesky ends in when changing colors on the quickie butterfly after winding it around a small safety pin. I always hand it to the parent and note it is a real safety pin with a functional sharp point.

I've also used it to teach others to tat. The picots can be even sized or a variety of sizes on each wing and it still looks good. Try free hand on the picots and try measuring them and you'll find they all look nice. You can vary the size from small to large and back to small on the wing. That can look nice as well. Butterflies are hard to mess up and nature has made a wide variety of wings so don't stress on perfection. Have FUN.

I've made tiny butterflies with the larger ring being 5 double stitches, 5 picots separated by 2 double stitches, 5 double stitches and the small ring being 3's from tatting thread. I don't recommend that tiny but for the project it worked—around the bride's face on a veil—they looked more like tiny pearls than butterflies. I've made them from a variety of materials from tatting and sewing thread to nylon cord (that was finger tatting and not fun as I kept dropping the cord and having to untangle it). The nylon cord worked well for a porch decoration by the light switch and I used a small dowel for the body and used glue to keep it together.

The smaller sized threads make cute earrings. I then start at the bottom and with a small ring, followed by a large ring, then leave a space for the antennae (do not cut apart) to hang over a loop earring, large ring, small ring and tie the bottom together and pull the wings together and tie them with the remaining thread. A dot of glue helps it stay together as well.

Have fun with this and if you need help please contact me. Cynthia Stevenson brasthatfit@yahoo.com

Peace and Thanks, Cynthia