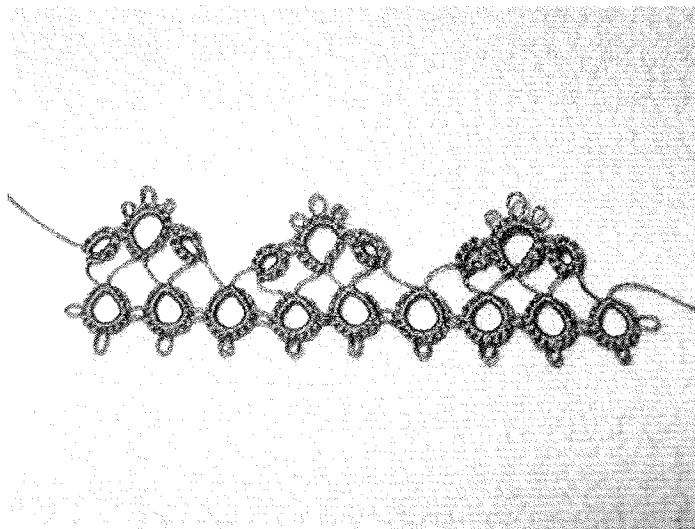


Tatting “Hen and Chicks” Step-by-Step

Instructions by Mimi Dillman



This lesson will

1. Show shuttle tatters single-shuttle tatting (meaning: the thread only comes from the shuttle)

Needle tatters this is the application for true ring tatting

2. Reversing your work

This pattern is a bit difficult to start – the first two rings flop about, and it takes some careful looking at your work to figure out which way they should be facing. So I’ve photographed what the work looks like at many of the steps along the way.

Needle tatters: please excuse my use of the shuttle, but this one just happened to be filled up with my favorite thread and ready to go ☺

1. Anatomy of Hen and Chicks

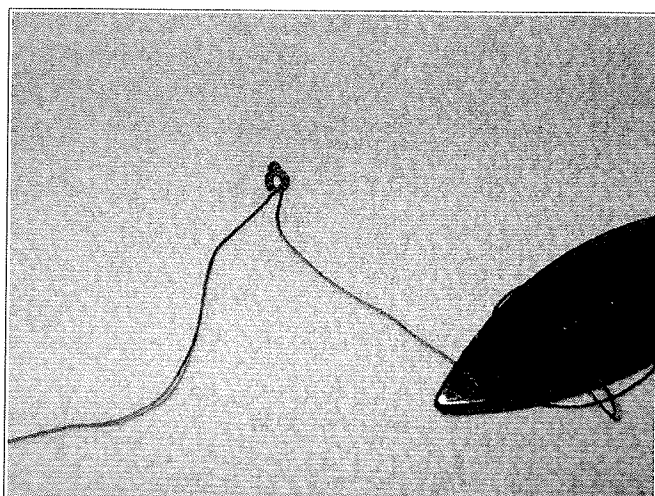
This is a fanciful name for a simple pattern, and opinions vary about what the names are for all the rings. But one name that doesn’t vary: the largest ring is the Hen. The Chicks will be the very small rings on either side of the Hen. I guess that makes the rings underneath “eggs”??

2. Working the Pattern

This pattern presents some challenges to new tatters. While the technique is pretty simple – rings only and joins – getting the work started can be difficult due to the floppiness of the work before a full repeat is completed. I have photographed the work in progress to show you how the work

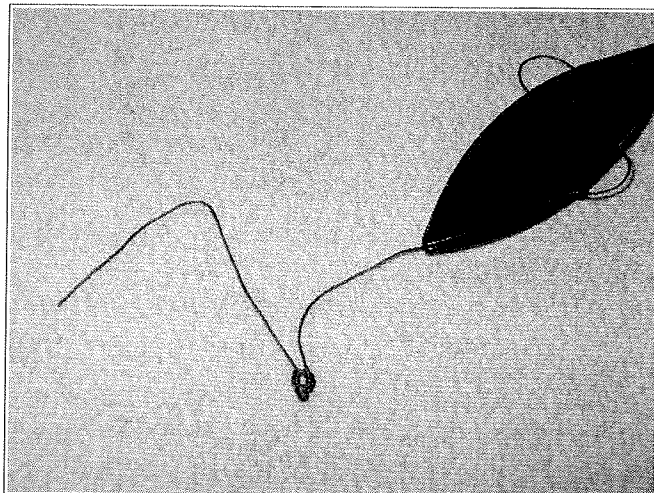
should be positioned at each point during the repeat. Hopefully once you're oriented, you'll have no problem with the pattern.

The pattern that I explain was found at: <http://www.georgiaseitz.com/classes/henchicks.jpg>. As that page is off-line at present, I have reproduced it on the last page of this lesson.

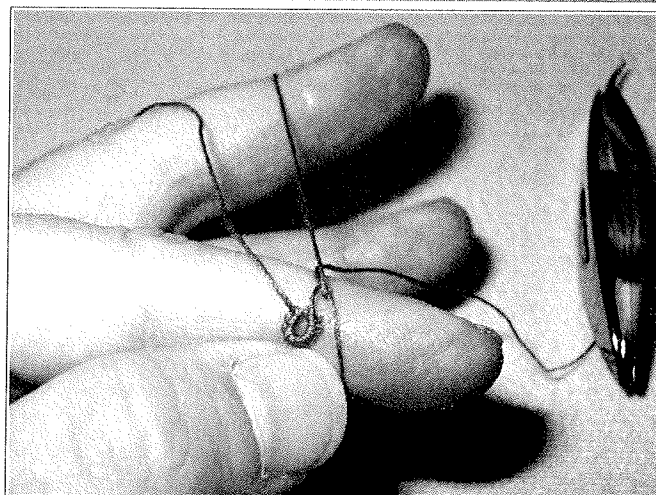


1a. Ring 6-6. (a Chick)

Photo is what the ring looks like when closed but no action yet taken.

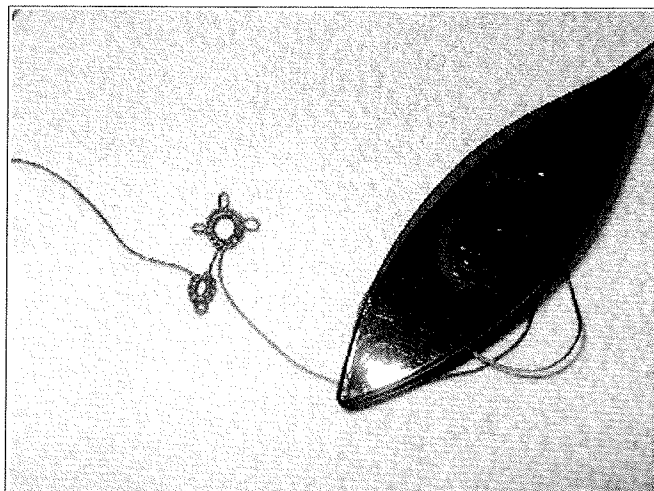


1b. Reverse work.

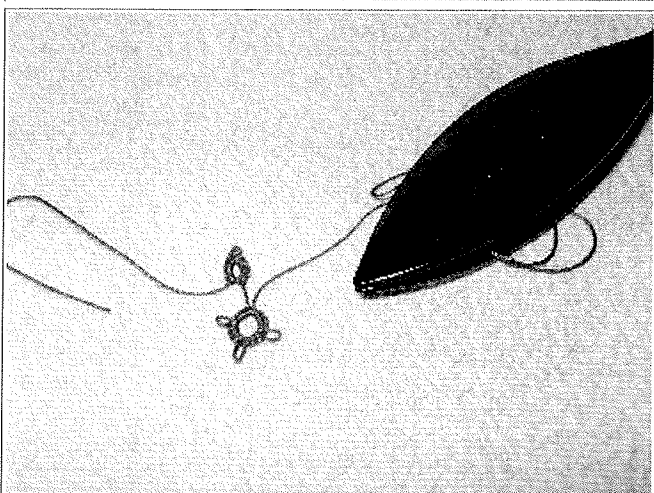


2a. Leave a 1/4" thread space. Begin a ring 4-4-4 (an Egg).

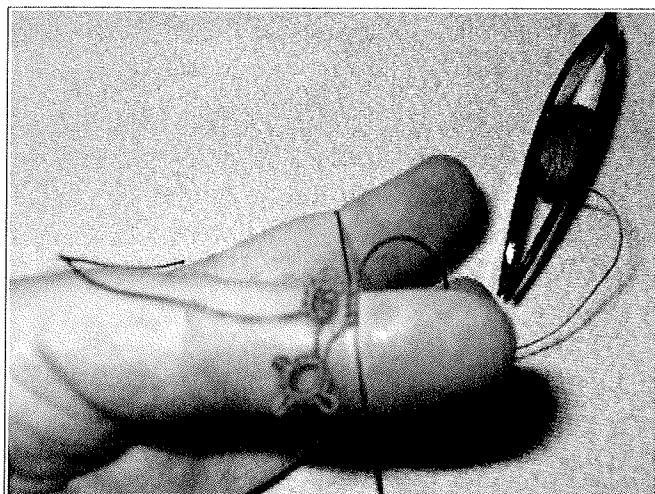
Leaving a thread space like this is very difficult after you've been working so hard to start each tatted element right next to the previous one! But in this case, "gapsosis" is a design element. Expect that you will need some practice to leave even thread spaces like this (consider use of a gauge).



2b. Egg completed. Note the relative position of the two rings. The Chick is picot-down, the Egg is facing up.

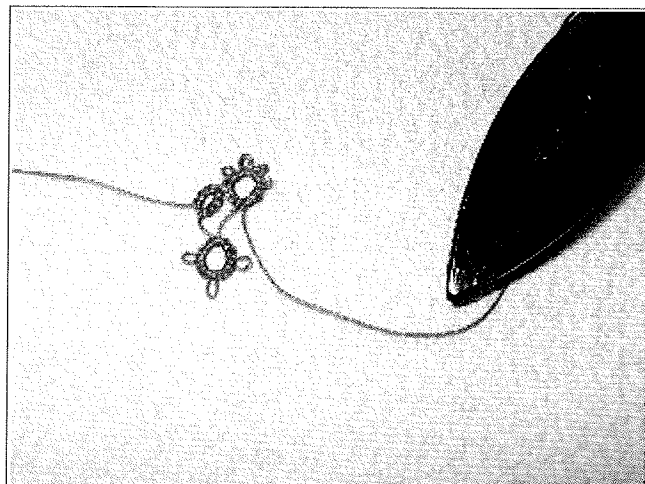


2c. Reverse work. Now the Chick is up and the Egg is down.

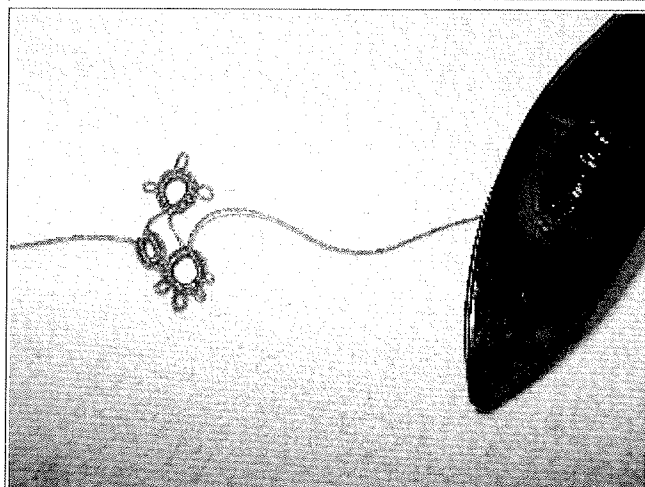


3a. Leave ¼" thread space, then begin the next ring, the Hen 4+2-2-2-2-4.

This is how to position your work so that you are ready to join the Hen to the Chick.

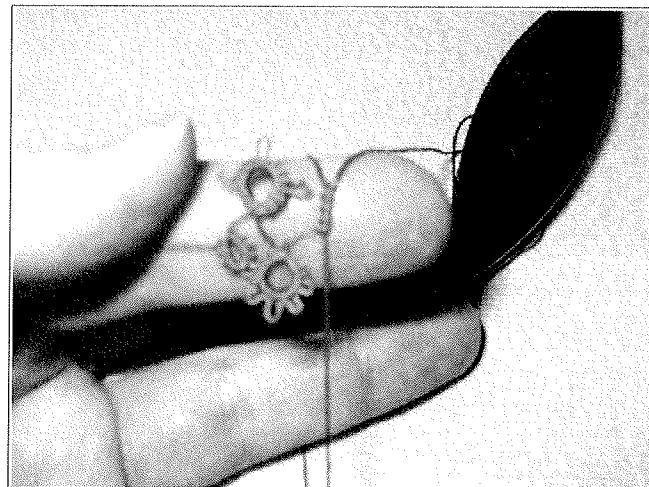


3b. Ring closed, Hen complete.



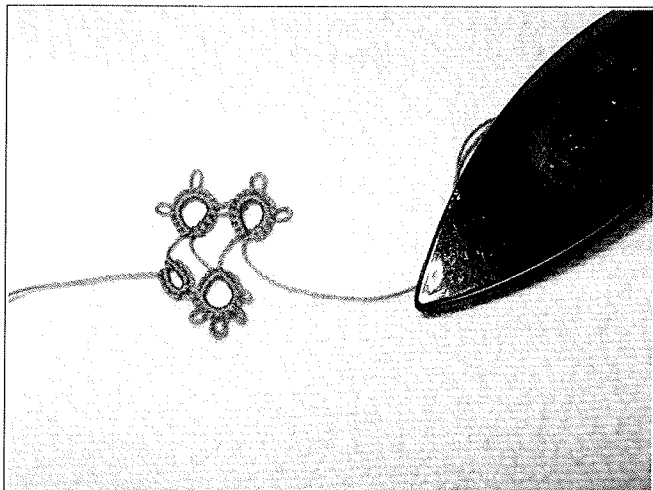
3c. Reverse work.

Note that the Chick and Hen are upside down now, but the Egg is right side up and ready for the next Egg to be made and joined to it.

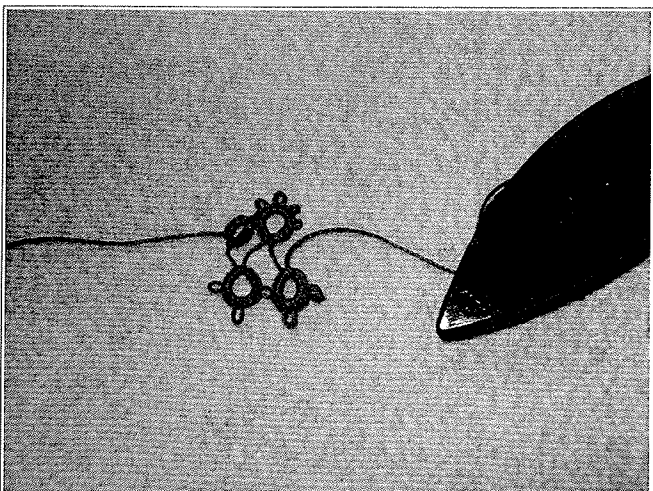


4a. Leave $\frac{1}{4}$ " thread space. Ring (Egg) 4+4-4-4.

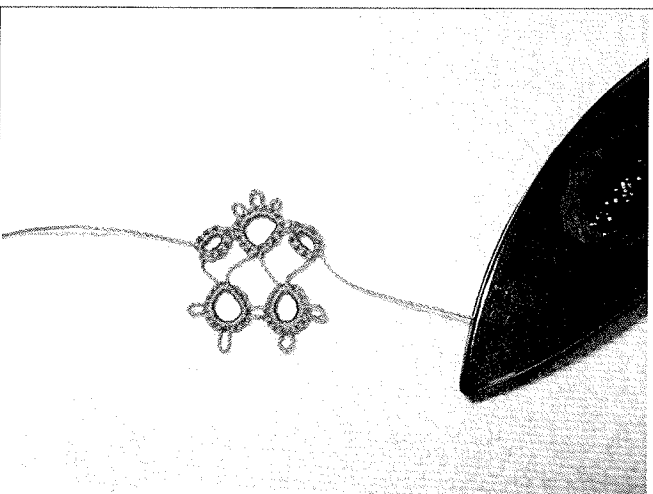
This is how to position your work so that you can make the join to the last picot of the previous Egg.



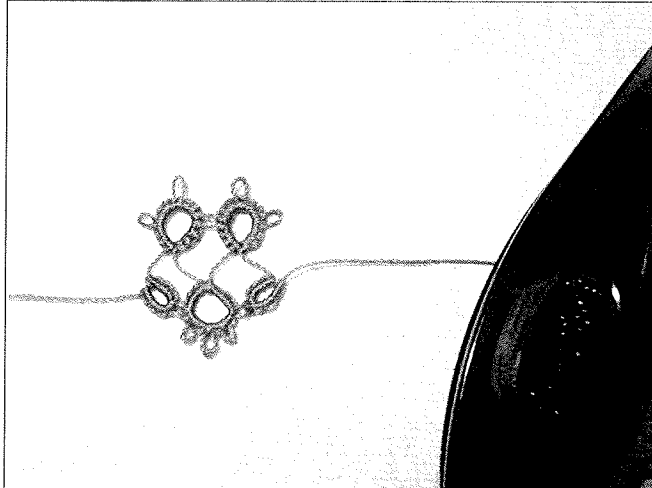
4b. Egg closed.
I'll bet you can guess what to do next!



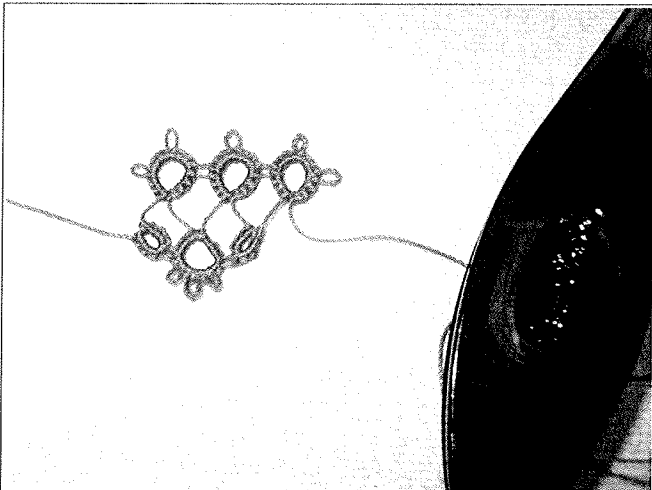
4c. Reverse Work
(good guess)



5a. Leave 1/4" thread space. Ring (Chick) 6+6.
(I hope you know by now how to position the work to get the Chick joined to the Hen – I'm out of patience photographing!! 😊)



5b. Reverse work.

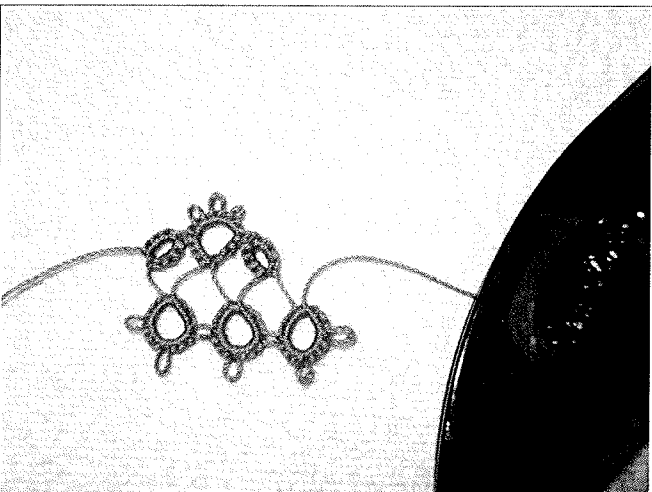


6a. Leave 1/4" thread space. Ring (Egg) 4+4-4-4.

Refer to 4a. to see how to position your work if unclear.

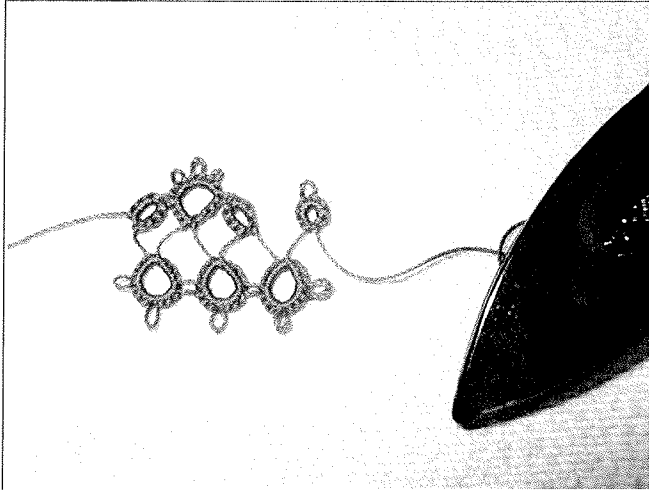
This is how your work will look when you have closed the ring.

You have now completed the first repeat! Congratulations!

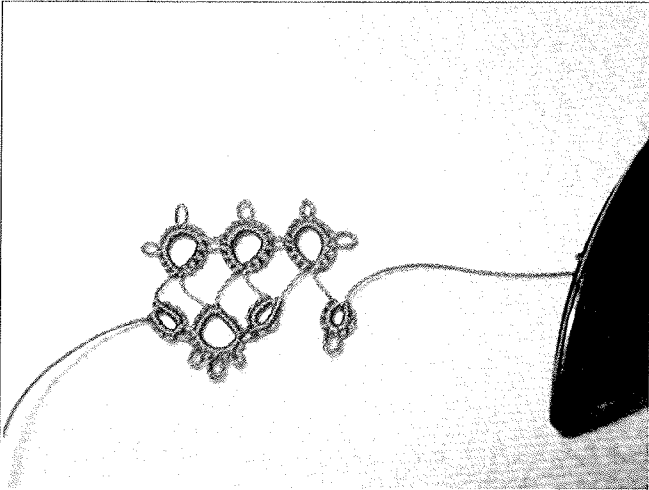


6b. Reverse Work. You're now ready to start over with the first Chick.

Since the next repeat may be tricky to start, I'll keep going with a few more photos.

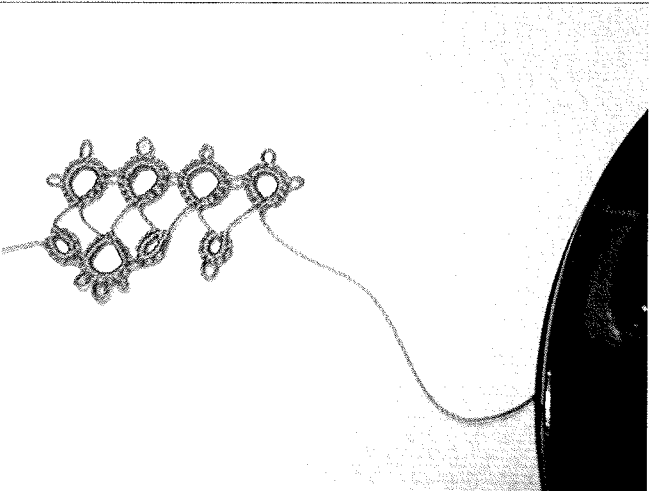


7a. Leave ¼" thread space. Ring 6-6 (no joins anywhere).



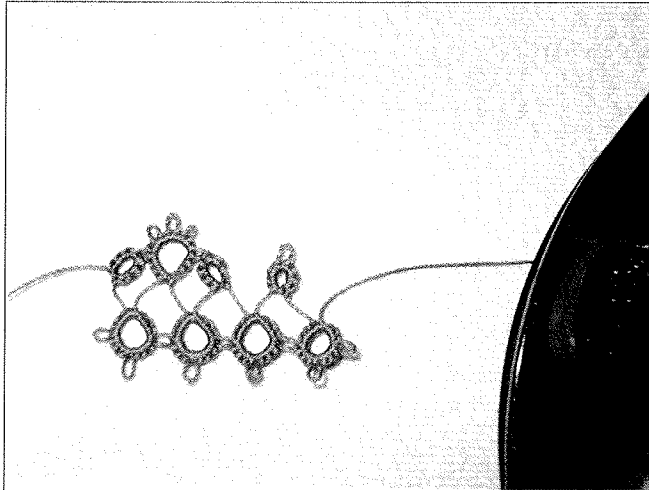
7b. Reverse Work.

Can you guess what to do next?



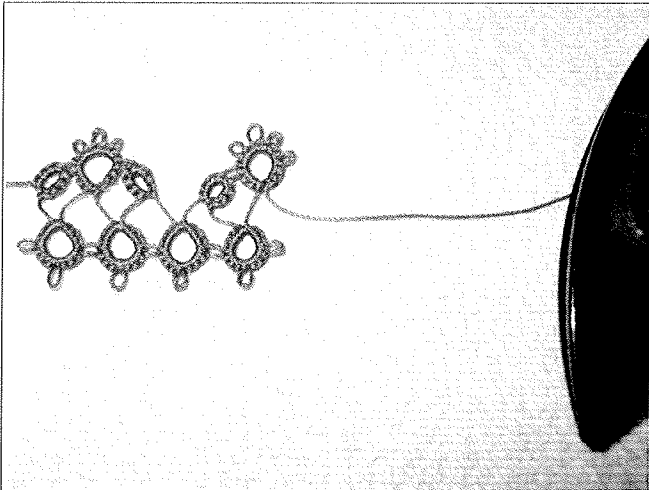
8a. Leave ¼" thread space. Ring (Egg) 4+4-4-4.

Refer to 4a. to see how to position your work if unclear for how to get the work in position to make the join. I'm pretty sure you have it by now. But just in case, this is how your work will look when you have closed the ring. Yes, it looks a bit wonky with the Chick hanging out there. But that will change!



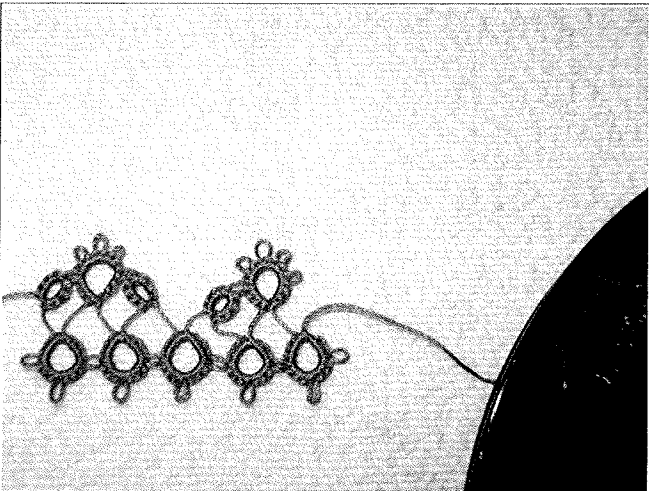
8b. Reverse work.

And now it's time for...

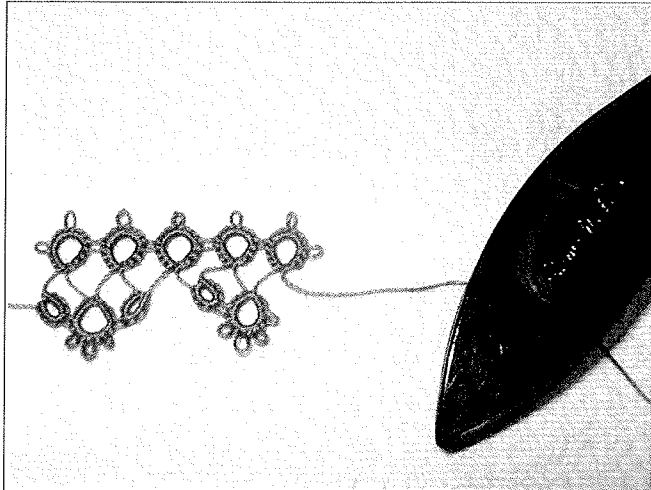


...a Hen!

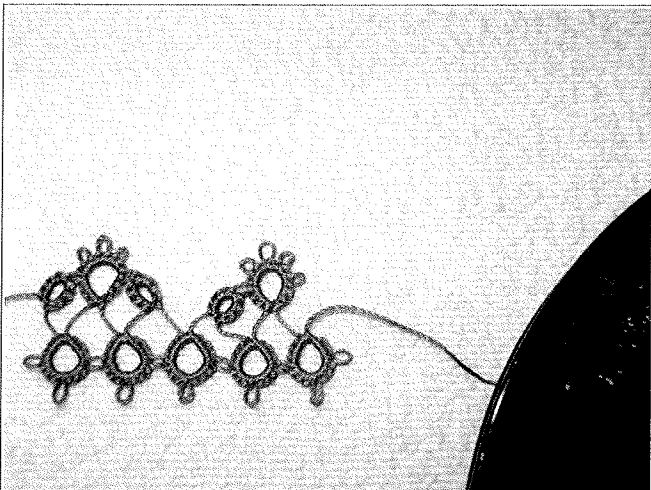
9a. Leave 1/4" thread space. Ring (Hen) 4+2-2-2-2-4.



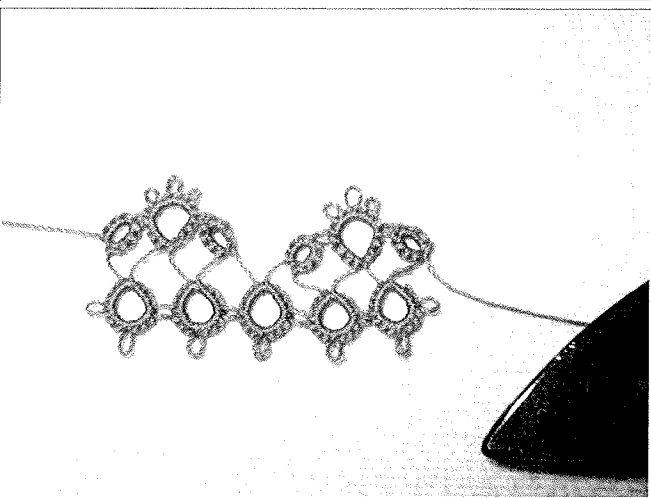
9b. Reverse Work



10a. Leave ¼" thread space. Ring (Egg) 4+4-4-4.



10b. Reverse Work



11a. Leave ¼" thread space. Ring (Chick) 6+6.

To complete the repeat,

11b. Reverse Work.

12a. Leave ¼" thread space. Ring (Egg) 4+4-4-4.

12b. Reverse Work. You're now ready to start over with the first Chick of your next repeat.

Original Pattern:

Building Confidence with One Shuttle Combinations

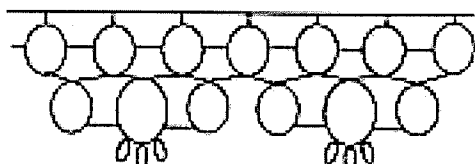
These are variations on an antique pattern often called, "*Hen and Chicks*". In the basic pattern, leave $\frac{1}{8}$ " thread between each ring. This space must be consistent. The *hen* ring is decorated with picots and two small *chick* rings crowd close to the larger ring. The opposite side has rings all of the same size.

* *Hen and Chicks* *

R 4 - 4 cl r. RW See note A.

R 4 \mp 4 - 4 - 4 cl r. RW

R 4 + (join to first ring) 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 4 cl r. RW See note B.



(Note the number of the picots at the top of this ring can be 3, 5, or any odd number. This ring represents the *hen*, so make it as elaborate as you want. To exaggerate the size of the *hen* add double stitches after the join and before the last picot. Be sure to add the same number of stitches on both sides.)

R 4 + (join to the second ring) 4 - 4 - 4 cl r. RW

R 4 + (join to the last picot of the *hen* ring) 4 cl r. RW

R 4 + (join to the fourth ring) 4 - 4 - 4 cl r. RW Repeat from * for desired length.

Note A: This picot joins the chick to the hen. Make it small to bring the chick close to the mother hen.

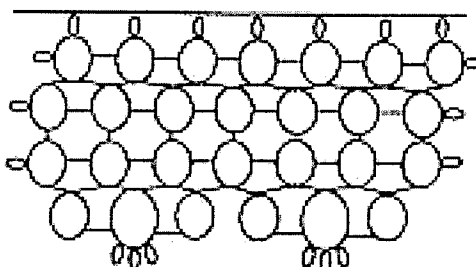
Note B: The last picot on the hen ring will be used to bring the second chick close to the mother hen. Make it small and approximately the same size as the picot mentioned in Note A.

The second pattern is referred to as "*Hen, Chicks and Eggs*".

Add to the basic pattern an additional strip of double sided matching rings.

R 4 \mp 4 - 4 - 4 cl r RW Leave $\frac{1}{8}$ " space.

R 4 \mp 4 + (join to matching rings on previous round) 4 - 4 cl r. RW Repeat.



A note about the strange symbol that looks like a T with a cross on it: This symbol has a different meaning depending upon where you are in the pattern. In the first repeat, it is a picot; in subsequent repeats, it stands for a join.