

A Study of Tatted Joins - Thoughts on Joining - The Shuttle Join

The purpose of the join is to integrate the tatting in progress with a piece of tatting previously accomplished. This can be joining ring to ring, ring to chain, chain to chain, or motif to motif.

The basic join uses a free-standing picot on a previously tatted ring/chain. The working thread of the new tatting segment is pulled up thru the join in a loop. The shuttle passes thru this loop carrying the foundation thread (shuttle thread) forward. The loop is then pulled back down thru the picot and the work is snugged up securely and tatting continues on the new segment

Consider the shuttle thread as a horizontal line. The basic join is completed above the line of tatting. The basic join can be anywhere in the 180° arc above the line of work.

But what if the join needs to be completed below the line of progression, downwards to a previous row/ring/chain? You may have read patterns that ask you to join in a seemingly impossible way. This situation calls for a different join, i.e., **the shuttle join**.

One uses the shuttle join to join down instead of up to the picot. It is used most often when doing lots of chainwork as in the edging of this Valentine's Day Heart Pillow.



The Shuttle Join Instructions

When joining to a tatted point below the horizontal line (below the line of progression,) the tatting is accomplished to the point of the proposed join. Be sure to snug up the double stitches and check the correctness of the work to that point as it is a real bear to undo. This will also enhance the curve of the work if desired.

Hold the shuttle thread gently and bring the work in progress over so that it touches the picot used to join.

Let the shuttle thread drop down behind the free standing picot or other point of attachment on the previous tatting. Pull a loop of the shuttle thread up thru the picot, slip the shuttle thru this loop, but do not tighten it yet.

Concentrate on pulling the shuttle thread straight up at a 90° angle when tightening it. Right or left hand tatters often work a slant into the shuttle join by pulling in their dominant direction. Pull straight up to avoid the slant.

Pull on one side of the loop only, so that the new tatting is drawn up to the old tatting and then hold both segments under the thumb while the shuttle thread gently pulls up the slack in the loop and tightens down. Continue to tat.

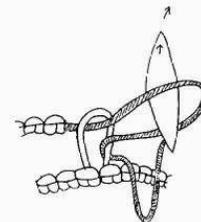


Fig. 85. Sometimes a pattern will call for joins in a chain to be made with the shuttle thread and when this is to be done you must take care that all the stitches prior to the join are pushed up tight, as once the shuttle thread has joined into a picot it will have been knotted and so any stitches before it that are too loose will have to stay that way.

R. Jones "Complete Book..." page 38