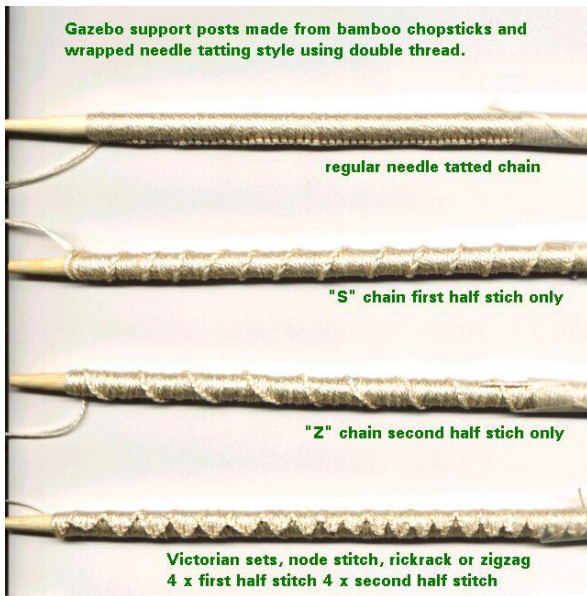


Chains, Chains, Chains; Chains of Tatting

Josephine Chains & Victorian Sets

These chains are made by tatting a multiples of either half stitch in repetition. Picots can be placed which face either direction in the technique. Working just one half stitch when making a chain creates a "twisted", or "rickrack" style chain.

Working both half stitches in sets, 4 first half stitches followed by 4 second half stitches, modern notation 4:4 x # of repeats, creates "Victorian sets", rick-rack tatting, zig-zag tatting or the node stitch.



In this photo we see several types of chains.

1. A regularly tatted chain (needle tatting example, all picots are still on the needle.)
2. A chain tatted using the first half stitch only, also called an "S" chain.
3. A chain tatted using the second half stitch only, also called a "Z" chain.
4. A chain tatted with Victorian sets, in this pattern 4 x first half stitch followed by 4 x second half stitch. Also called node stitch, rickrack stitch & zigzag stitch.



"Twist" in corded threads & spun yarns is often labeled S-twist & Z-twist due to the respective slant of the central sections of those two letters.

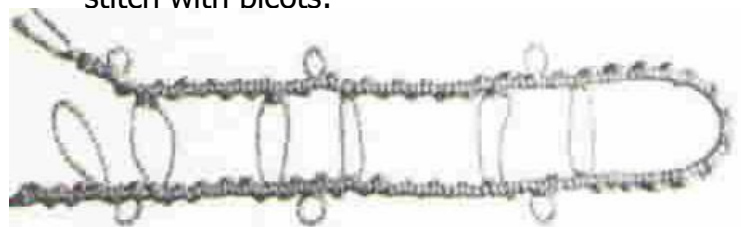
Photo public domain courtesy of Wikipedia.org.

Examples of Chain Treatments

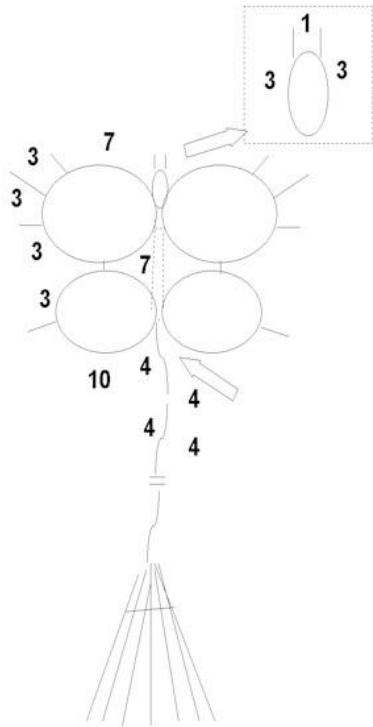
A diagram from Rebecca Jones' "The Complete Book of Tatting," page 49, which illustrates the zig zag or rick-rack type effect:



This excerpt from [\(see review\)](#) Elgiva Nicholls' "Tatting Techniques," page 113, shows a set stitch with picots:



Thank you to Sharon Briggs who donated this pattern for the class to practice the set stitch.



Sharon's bookmark utilizes sets of stitches for the "tail". It allows the students to do a "chain only" pattern that actually looks like something when they're done.

The sample picture was actually done with SCMR's before I knew what they were called. I've done variations of this with a small daisy and a small heart although I haven't tried doing the heart one in chains only.

Sharon says this is 1) quick, 2) uses only chains, 3) simple and 4) didn't have any ends to hide.

Using CTM, start in the middle and work toward both ends. I've had students use a safety pin to keep the starting picot open until the ring is completed.

The butterfly starts at the bottom arrow and when it is completed, threads are back to the bottom and the tail is just a continuation done in sets of stitches with a tassel added at the bottom to hide the ends.

I thought it was a clever idea and real newbies can do it quickly with a great sense of accomplishment whether they do it chain only or with rings.