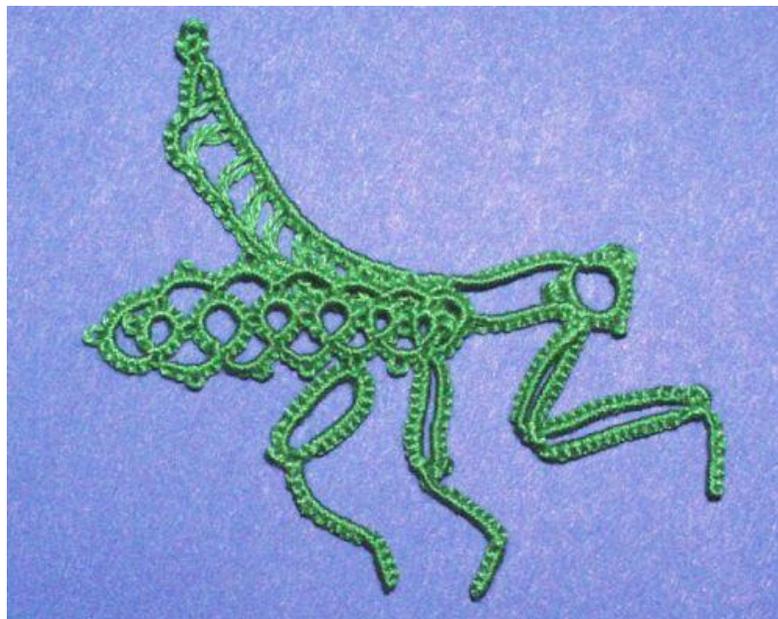


Martha Ess' Praying Mantis © Martha Ess April 2001

Martha writes, "This is my "final" version of the pattern. (Of course, no pattern is ever written in stone.) The mantis that is in the centerpiece being coordinated by Sherry Townsend is an earlier version which uses rainbow picots instead of beads for eyes, and lock stitch/reverse work instead of inward facing picots for all the leg joints. See variations at end.



Materials:

5 yds embroidery floss, split into two 3-ply strands
(size 20 cotton probably equivalent to 3 ply?)

2 3mm black beads

2 paper clips or safety pins to mark inward facing picots

2 shuttles

Abbreviations:

R ring

CH chain

SR split ring

LS lock stitch

+ regular join

SJ shuttle thread join

RW reverse work

DNRW do not reverse work

- picot

-- long picot

vsp very small picot

SECTION I

Begin at toe of middle leg, work down underside of abdomen to tip of tail, work back up the top side of abdomen, come around and complete thigh of leg.

Wind 2 shuttles CTM.

CH: shuttle 1 (SH1): 5 LS RW change shuttles

CH: shuttle 2 (SH2): 10 place clip for inward facing picot 10

DNRW change shuttles

R: SH1: 2 - 2 vsp 2 - 2 RW

CH: 2 - 2 RW

R: 2 + (to previous ring) 2 vsp 2 - 2 RW

CH: 2 - 2 RW

R: 3 + 3 vsp 3 - 3 RW

CH: 3 - 3 RW

R: 3 + 3 vsp 3 - 3 RW

CH: 3 - 3 RW

R: 4 + 4 vsp 4 - 4 RW

CH: 3 - 3 RW

R: 3 + 3 vsp 3 - 3 RW

CH: 6 - 6 + (SJ to vsp of same ring. Continue working CH across back, making SJ to vsp at tops of rings) 3 - 3 + 3 - 3 + 3 - 3 + 2 - 2 + 2 - 2 + 4 - 4 + (SJ to base of 1st ring) RW change shuttles, position thread around leg so that the next chain curves in opposite direction to leg.

CH: shuttle 2: 10 cut threads, tie in space of inward facing picot, and work in ends.

SECTION II

Begin at toe of front leg, make head beginning at side and ending at top, top of thorax, wing, underside of thorax, complete leg.

Beads are placed by bringing bead up next to stitch just made, make next stitch so that bead is like picot between stitches.

Place 2 beads on thread, wind evenly CTM on 2 shuttles. Let one bead "belong" to each shuttle.

CH: SH1: 8 place clip 12 vsp 2 place clip 2 + (to vsp) 10

DNRW change shuttles

SR: SH2: (move bead into ring ready for placement) 3 - 6 BEAD 3 / 3 BEAD 3 DNRW change shuttles

CH: SH1: 12 + (SJ to space above join to vsp of 1st ring of abdomen) RW change shuttles

CH: SH2: (3 --) 10 times (first 8 picots grow longer, last 2 shorter) Do not pull this chain too tight. RW

R: 2 - 2 DNRW change shuttles

CH: SH1: work back along wing, making SJs in the long picots: 5 + 4 + 3 + (2 +) 7 times 3 + (SJ to picot at front of abdomen) 8 + (SJ to base of SR) 12 + (SJ to inward facing picot) 15 cut threads, tie in space of inward facing picot, work in ends.

SECTION III Rear leg

Using the shuttle from Section II with the most thread remaining, pull out about 1 yd to act as ball thread.

CH: 5 LS 10 place clip 10 + (to 2nd p on underside of abdomen) 10 cut threads, tie in space of inward facing picot, work in ends.

VARIATIONS:

To make head with rainbow picots instead of beads. Picots must be very long. After joining, gently adjust arc shape.

SR: 3 - 6 -- 2 + (to picot just made) 2 / 3 -- 2 + (to picot just made) 2

To avoid inward facing picots, make leg joints by lock stitch and reverse work (you may need to add a RW where the leg meets the body, do what looks best to you). Omit the vsp on the front leg, or carefully join to it when you make the last part of the leg at the end.

When completing the legs, use a crochet hook to pull the thread through near the lock stitches to form joints at the leg joints.

For less of a 3D effect, the wing could be left out altogether. Maybe perhaps change the last CH of the abdomen from (4 - 4) to (2 - 4 - 2) and let the thorax be a CH of (10 + 4 + 8) joining to those two picots. I haven't tried this yet, so proceed with caution.