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# SILK TATTING LESSON BOOK --WITH-- ILLUSTRATIONS

**Belding Bros. & Company**



MANUFACTURERS OF *Carlson Currier*

FAST DYE GRAND PRIZE TATTING SILK  
SPECIAL HARD TWIST EACH SPOOL CONTAINS 125 YARDS PURE SILK

1886

Abbreviations used: *ds.* double stitch; *p*, picot or purl; \*, repeat from preceding \*; *r*, ring; *ch*, chain; *lp*, long picot; *cl*, clover leaf.

THE MATERIALS for making tatting are a strongly twisted Carlson Currier Pure Tatting Silk and a shuttle.

SHUTTLES. The tatting shuttle consists of two oval blades, pointed at both ends, and joined together in the middle. A good shuttle contributes materially to rapid and perfect execution of the work, and attention should be paid in its selection. In filling the shuttle, be careful not to wind on too much silk at once, or the blades will spread open at the ends and the silk become soiled by constant contact with the worker's hands.

### FIRST POSITION OF THE HANDS (Fig. 1)

The construction of the knots or stitches appears at first sight to present great difficulties but will be easily mastered by attention to the illustrations given. One thing to be constantly borne in mind is that when the right hand has passed the shuttle through the loop, it must stop with a sudden jerk and hold the silk tightly extended until the left hand has drawn up the knot.

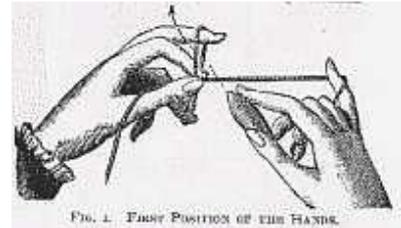


FIG. 1. FIRST POSITION OF THE HANDS.

After filling the shuttle, take the end of the silk between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, and the shuttle in the right, pass the silk over the third and fourth fingers of the left hand, bring it back toward the thumb and cross the two silk threads under the fingers, as indicated in Fig. 1. Pass the silk that comes from the shuttle round the little finger of the right hand and give the shuttle the direction shown in the engraving.

### SECOND AND THIRD POSITION OF THE HANDS (Figs. 2 and 3)

Make the shuttle pass between the first and third fingers, in the direction indicated by the arrow in Fig. 2 and bring it out behind the loop. Here the first difficulties for beginners arise, and until they have sufficiently mastered the movements of both hands we advise to pay careful attention to the following instructions.

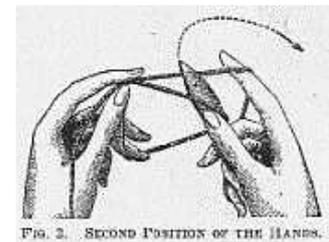


FIG. 2. SECOND POSITION OF THE HANDS.

As soon as you have put the shuttle through the loop, place the right hand on the table with the silk tightly extended, leaving the left hand perfectly passive.

Then, raising the third and fourth fingers of the left hand with the loop upon them, pull up the loop, stretching the silk tightly in so doing, by extending the fingers. By this movement a knot is formed, the first part of the "double knot," or "double stitch," which is the most common one in tatting.

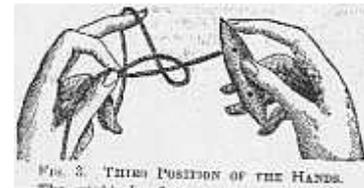


FIG. 3. THIRD POSITION OF THE HANDS.

Remember that the right hand must be kept perfectly still as long as the left is in motion, and that the knot must be formed of the loop silk that is in the left hand.

The right hand, or shuttle silk, must always be free to run through the knots: if it were itself formed into knots it would not have the free play needed for loosening and tightening the loop on the left hand, as required.

### FOURTH POSITION OF THE HANDS (Fig. 4)

The second part of a knot is formed by the following movements:

Pass the shuttle, as in Fig. 4, from left to right, between the first and third fingers through the extended loop; the right hand seizes the shuttle in front of the empty loop and extends the silk; the left hand pulls up this second part of the knot as it did the first. As it is necessary to thoroughly understand making this "double knot," it is well to practice on it until it can be made rapidly.

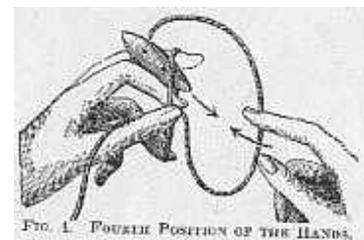
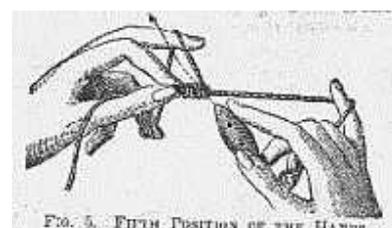


FIG. 4. FOURTH POSITION OF THE HANDS.

### FIFTH POSITION OF THE HANDS (Fig. 5)

When the second stitch forming the double knot has been made, the two hands resume the position shown in Fig. 1. Figure 5 reproduces the same and shows us a few finished stitches as well.



### POSITION OF THE HANDS FOR MAKING A PICOT (Fig. 6)

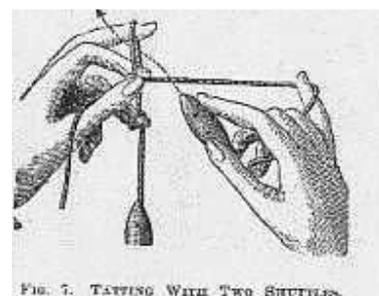
Picots are introduced into tating patterns as they are into knitting and crochet. They also serve to join the different parts of a pattern together and render a great many pretty combinations possible.



A little care is necessary with a beginner in getting the picots of even size, Figure 8 gives an illustration of the open picot, while Fig. 9 shows the close picot.

### TATting WITH TWO SHUTTLES (Fig. 7)

Two silk threads are used in tating when the little rings are not to be connected together at the bottom by a silk thread, when you want to hide the passage of the silk to another group of knots, and when silks of several colors are used.



When you work with two shuttles, tie the two silk threads together. The best knot for this is made thus:

Place the end of silk **A** under end **B** between the left-hand thumb and finger. Take shuttle **A** and bring its silk up over left thumb and under end **A**. After stopping to bend end **A** back and putting left-hand middle finger on it to hold it, carry silk **A** down under the thumb over end **B** close to the crossed silks. Through the loop over the thumb made by silk **A** pull end **B**, laying it over straight to the left and putting thumb over the whole. Now draw shuttle **A** down until its silk is pulled tight. It will close over the silks underneath and make an indissoluble knot. Trim close.

Pass one silk thread over the third finger of the left hand, wind it twice around the fourth finger, and leave the shuttle hanging down.

Pass the second shuttle into the right hand and make the same movements with it as you do in working with two silk threads, the shuttle-silk (with which the knots are made must lie between the two silks of the loop, so that the end of the silk laid around the hand hangs down, free in front, only held by the thumb of the left hand.

When the second silk is only used to make chairs it can be used from the spool quite as handily as from a shuttle, in which case the spool silk is passed around the fingers of the left hand and held between the thumb and forefinger.

In working with two silk threads, remember that the scallops just finished should turn downwards.

In the directions for tatted articles, abbreviation *ds* is used for this "double knot" or "double stitch."

### OPEN AND CLOSE PICOT (Figs. 8 and 9)

These are formed of single stitches, leaving a loop on the extended silk, as shown in Fig. 8, and a short length of silk between the stitches: finish the second half stitch, and when you have pulled it up join it to the preceding stitch. In this manner the picot represented in Fig. 9 is formed quite naturally.



FIG. 8. OPEN PICOT.



FIG. 9. CLOSE PICOT.

In every kind of tatting, the double stitch that comes after the picot is independent of the loop. Thus, if the directions say,  $2 d s, 1 p, 3 d s, 1 p, 2 d s$ , etc., you must count the  $d s$  that served to form the loop and not make  $2 d s, 1 p, 4 d s$ , etc. To join the different rings, oval, etc., together by means of picots, take up the silk that runs over the left hand with a crochet needle or pin, inserting it into the picot downwards from above, draw the silk through, pass the shuttle through the loop thus formed, and pull it up like any other stitch.

### SINGLE OR HALF KNOTS. JOSEPHINE PICOTS (Figs. 10 and 11)

The Josephine picot or purl, as it is also called in tatting, consists of a series of single or half knots formed of the first knot only. These picots may be made of 4 or 5 knots, or of 10 or 12 knots.



FIG. 10. SINGLE OR HALF KNOTS. SMALL JOSEPHINE PICOT.

FIG. 11. SINGLE OR HALF KNOTS. LARGE JOSEPHINE PICOT.

**DETACHED SCALLOPS.** Make  $12 d s$  with one shuttle, then tighten the silk so as to draw them together into a half ring; the next  $d s$  must touch the last  $d s$  of the scallop before it.

**SCALLOPS JOINED TOGETHER AT THE TOP.** With one shuttle make  $4 d s, 1 p, *8 d s, 1 p, 4 d s$ , close the half ring,  $4 d s$ , draw the thread through the  $p$  and repeat from  $*$ .

**SCALLOPS WITH PICOTS.** Make with one shuttle  $4 d s, 1 p, *3 d s, 1 p, 2 d s, 1 p, 2 d s, 1 p, 2 d s, 1 p, 3 d s, 1 p, 4 d s$ , close the ring.

Leave sufficient length of silk, before beginning the next ring, for the rings not to overlap each other.

Make  $4 d s$ , draw the left-hand silk through the 5th picot of the preceding ring, and repeat from  $*$ .

Rings are always made with one silk thread, chains with two. Picots are of ordinary length unless a long picot ( $l p$ ) is indicated. When the directions say "r 3 p separated by  $2 d s$ " or  $ch$  the same it means  $2 d s, p, 2 d s, p, 2 d s, p, 2 d s$ ; that is, there must be as many  $d s$  before the first  $p$  and after the last as there are between; but if they say r, or  $ch, 3 d s, 3 p$  separated by  $2 d s, 2 d s$ , it means  $3 d s, p, 2 d s, p, 2 d s, p, 3 d s$ .

A clover leaf is a group of three or more rings as indicated, made close together.

When a ring or other part is to be repeated three times it means that you are to make that part three times not counting the one already made, or there will be four when finished.

Never tie and cut the silk if it can be inconspicuously carried to the next point, as the knots are even more unsightly.

It will be well for the beginner to practice on the simple edges and insertions which follow before attempting the more intricate patterns.

**Fig. 12 EDGING.**

This is the simple edge our grandmothers made, and it is very dainty when made with silk thread and used on the edge of footing to trim handkerchiefs or is suitable for edging ruffles for underwear and children's clothing. It may be made with any number of stitches between picots and with two or more picots if desired.

To make like illustration, r 3 p separated by 3 ds ( 3 ds, p, 3 ds, p, 3 ds, p, 3 ds close), leave three-eighths inch of silk, repeat r, joining by first p to last p in preceding r. Repeat indefinitely.



FIG. 12. EDGING.

**Fig. 13 DOUBLE ROW OF RINGS**

This may be used as an edge or as an insertion with the simple edge. Ring 3 p separated by 3 ds, turn, leave one-fourth inch silk, r joined by first p to last p of last r, turn, leave one-fourth inch thread, r joined by 1st p to last p of 2nd r. Repeat from star indefinitely.

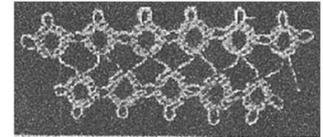


FIG. 13. DOUBLE ROW OF RINGS.

**Fig. 14 EDGE MADE WITH TWO SILK THREADS**

Ring 3 p separated by 3 ds. Take the spool silk as directed above and ch 4 ds, p, 4 ds. Drop spool silk, turn, and repeat r, joining as in simple edge.



FIG. 14. EDGE MADE WITH TWO THREADS.

**Fig. 15 INSERTION TO MATCH FIG. 14.** Make an edge like the last, then a 2nd row, joining each ring to a p of a r in the 1st row.

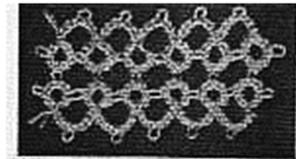


FIG. 15. INSERTION TO MATCH FIG. 14.

**Fig. 16. CLOVER LEAF EDGE**

\* Ring 3 p separated by 3 ds, close; close up ring 3 ds, join to last p in 1st r, 3 ds. 3 p separated by 1 ds, 3 ds, p, 3 ds close; close up ring 3 ds, join to last p in 2nd r, 2 p separated by 2 ds, 3 ds close. Chain 4 ds, 3 p separated by 2 ds, 4 ds, turn. Repeat from star.

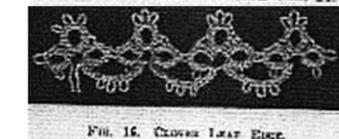


FIG. 16. CLOVER LEAF EDGE.

Figs. 17, 18, 19. WAIST FRONT AND YOKE

MATERIALS-C. C. Co. Pure Tatting Silk. Two shuttles are necessary. For convenience sake call one shuttle A and the other B. Join the two silk threads.

First round - With shuttle A r 1 ds, 12 l p separated by 2 ds, 1 ds close and tie the two silk threads together.

Second round - Put silk B round the left-hand fingers, holding it between thumb and fore finger. With shuttle A ch 2 ds, 1 p, 1 ds, p, 1 ds, 1 p, 2 ds. Fasten to first p below. Repeat 11 times.

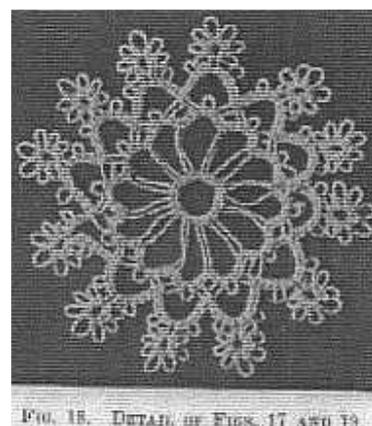
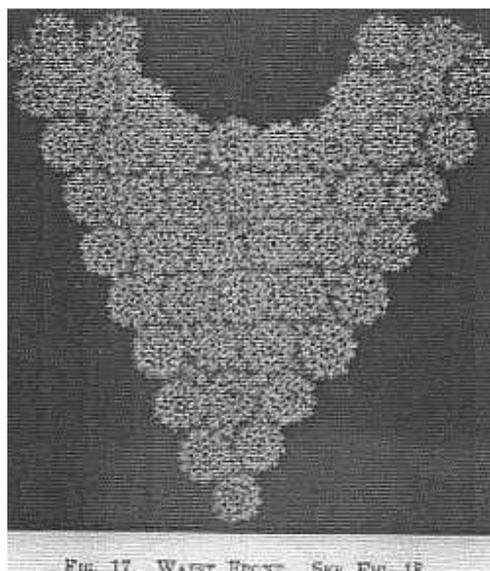
Third round - Pass both silk threads up on the under side and fasten by slipping shuttle A through loop of silk B drawn through the last p of 12th scallop and also 1st p of 1st scallop of round previous. Put silk B round the fingers and with shuttle A ch 3 ds, p, 2 ds. Drop shuttle A and with shuttle B r 7 p separated by 1 ds, close. These picots should be graded in length, commencing short, increasing to 4th and decreasing again. Drop shuttle B, but keep silk B round the fingers and with shuttle A ch 2 ds, p, 3 ds. Join to 3d p of 1st scallop and 1st p of 2nd scallop of previous round. Repeat 11 times, tie silks together and trim close.

With fine needle work around the edge of the wheel. The stitch required is made by putting needle behind the silk into picot, then throwing the silk from the needle to the left under the needle. When the needle is drawn through the loop thus made it ties a hard knot. Commence with the 2nd p of any outer r, working into each p, and leaving silk enough between the p's to make a slight outward curve. After the last p of the r, simply slip the needle through the 2 short p's below, the silk crosses itself, tie into 1st p of next r, back into curved thread between the last 2 p's of previous ring, and then back into 2nd p of 3d r, 3d p, and so on. Continue in this way around the wheel, which will now lie flat and show its beauty.

Make 46 wheels.

Fig. 18 Detail of 17/18

From some dark, stiff stuff, such as cambric or silk, cut a pattern, which need not be too exact, of a pointed dress front, hollowing out the neck to fit. Pin one wheel in the pointed end. Above it, not quite touching it, pin two with two outside rings adjoining each other but not quite touching. Pin three in 3d row, placing middle one in straight line above the first one in the point. Increase the number of wheels in each row by one until eight wheels stand in the row at the neck. Let each interior wheel be in a straight line with the wheel in second line below. Pin three wheels, then two, in two rows on each side the neck.



Make 62 simple rings of 1 ds, 12 l p separated by 2 ds, 1 ds, like the center of the General Directions whenever it seems too wheels and pin a ring in the center of the vacant space between each two wheels.

Commencing, we will suppose, with the 2nd row of 2 wheels, with needle and silk thread tie into upper edge of left-hand wheel lying nearest the right-hand wheel, cross to right hand wheel, back to left, and thus continue as long as the wheels are near enough to allow stitches of uniform length. Then follow down the edge of either wheel until the simple ring can be reached, going on around this, fastening it to the wheel you are on, and then to the bottom wheel and around to the other wheel, then upward, and so on until you have filled the whole space between the 3 wheels with stitches of as uniform length as possible. Thus work the 46 wheels into one solid piece of "all over". The stitch needs no extra fastening, but the thread can be cut anywhere, and a new piece can be joined on in the manner described in the short to be handy. Should the wheels at the neck made too irregular an edge, insert simple rings, large or small as required.

For a stock collar to go with this front, cut a pattern out of cambric to fit the neck, make 26 or 28 wheels, according to the size of the collar, with 12 or 13 rings to go between, pin them on the pattern in two rows and work together.

The round dress yoke illustrated in Fig. 19 may be made by following the directions given for the waist front. The wheels are worked in the same way, and the collar, when finished, shows a very effective piece of tatting

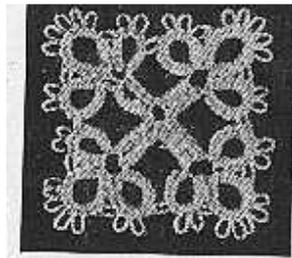


FIG 20. DETAIL OF FIG. 21.

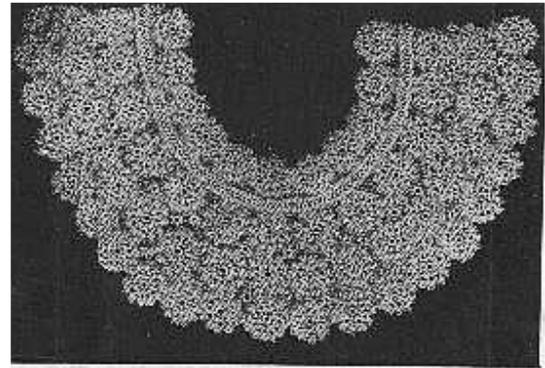


FIG. 19. DRESS YOKE. SEE FIG. 18.