

## Bunnies and Tulips for Easter 2021 by Kathleen Minniti



The Bunnies are wreaking havoc in my Tulip bed! We'll do the pattern for the little buck-toothed **Bunnies** first, then the Tulips. Worked in size 20 thread, this bunny is only about 1.5 inches tall

### Materials:

- Two shuttles wound CTM, with several yards on Shuttle 2 and only about ½ yard on Shuttle 1.
- Paperclip for SCMR, if desired
- Standard tool kit (hook, scissors, etc.)
- Beaded version:
  - 1 Eye bead loaded onto Shuttle 1
  - 1 Nose bead loaded onto Shuttle 2
  - Loose beads for carrot

### Techniques:

- Rings
- Chains
- Self-Closing Mock Rings (SCMR)
- Thrown-off Rings (TOR)
- Dot Picots or beaded picot (nose – bead optional)
- Bead on core thread (eye – optional)
- Beads added to picot (carrot – optional)

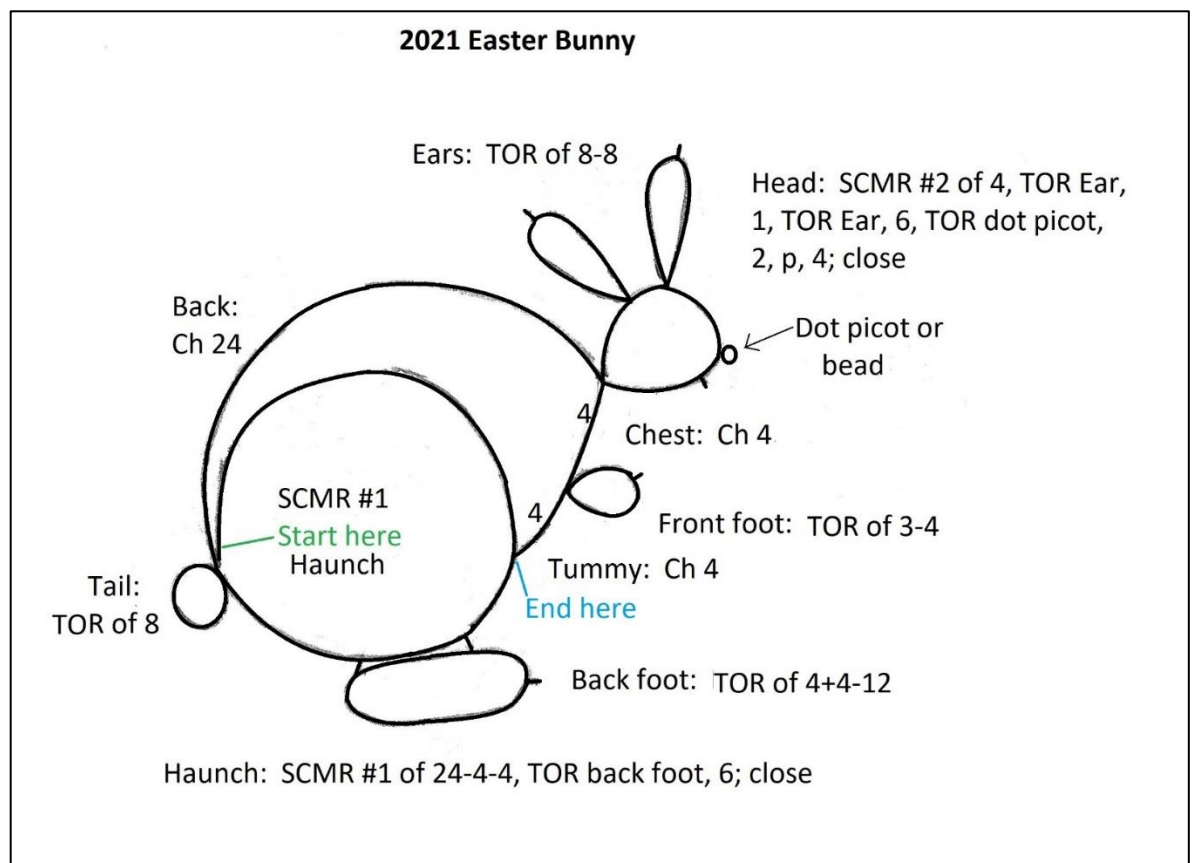
**Begin with the bunny's haunch**, using Shuttle 1 as worker and Shuttle 2 as your ball thread for the SCMR. You'll work around the top of the haunch, work two small joining picots along the chest and tummy, then throw off the hind foot. Switch to Shuttle 2 for the back foot, attach it to the second picot, and switch back to Shuttle 1 to finish that first SCMR.

**After you close SCMR #1**, use Shuttle 2 to make a little ring for bunny's tail, then switch back to shuttle 1 to chain up his back. (That's why I labelled it a "TOR".) In the photo, the bunny with a carrot has "Tufted Picots" for his tail to make it fluffy. You could also work regular picots between each stitch for a fluffy tail.

**The head** is another SCMR (#2), throwing off rings for his ears and to create the Dot-Picot nose. The picot under the nose can be short, long, or left out altogether. I cut a long picot to create whiskers on one of the bunnies and left a short picot for buck teeth on the other bunny shown in the photo. You could even leave the "teeth or whiskers" out completely, if you like. If you want to add a bead carrot, make that picot long enough for 3 or 4 beads PLUS enough room to get your crochet hook through the end when join to it later. **If you add an eye bead**, it should be slid up the core thread in place of one of the double stitches above the nose.

**After closing SCMR #2**, you'll work a chain down the bunny's chest, switch to Shuttle 2 for his front foot, then back to Shuttle 1 for the tummy. Tie off to the very first picot on SCMR #1 and hide your ends. **If adding a carrot**, join to the mouth picot after loading beads onto it instead of working the toe picot on the front foot TOR.

**Tip:** To hide ends using the magic thread trick, tat over your loop for several stitches just before the first picot in the first SCMR. Hide the second loop in the tummy chain after the front foot TOR.



The **TULIP** is about 2.5 -3 inches tall when worked in size 20 thread. By using some advanced techniques, there are no ends to hide when you are done.

**Materials:**

- 1 Shuttle with roughly 1 1/2 yards of thread for the petals
- 2 Shuttles wound CTM for the stem and leaves; about 1.5 to 2 yards on each side.
- Standard tatting tools (hook, scissors, etc.)

**Techniques & Abbreviations**

- Folded Rings
- ANKARS-style layered rings with right-hand join
- Padded tatting
- Single-Shuttle Split Rings (SSSR) [also known as Loop-tatted split rings]
- Lock Join
- DS = Double Stitch
- P = Picot
- vsp = Very Small Picot

**ROUND 1 - Petals**

The petals are worked as three rings with one shuttle with no bare thread between them. Begin by leaving a long tail - you will want to be able to wrap it around your fingers to tat over it; 8 - 10 inches should work.

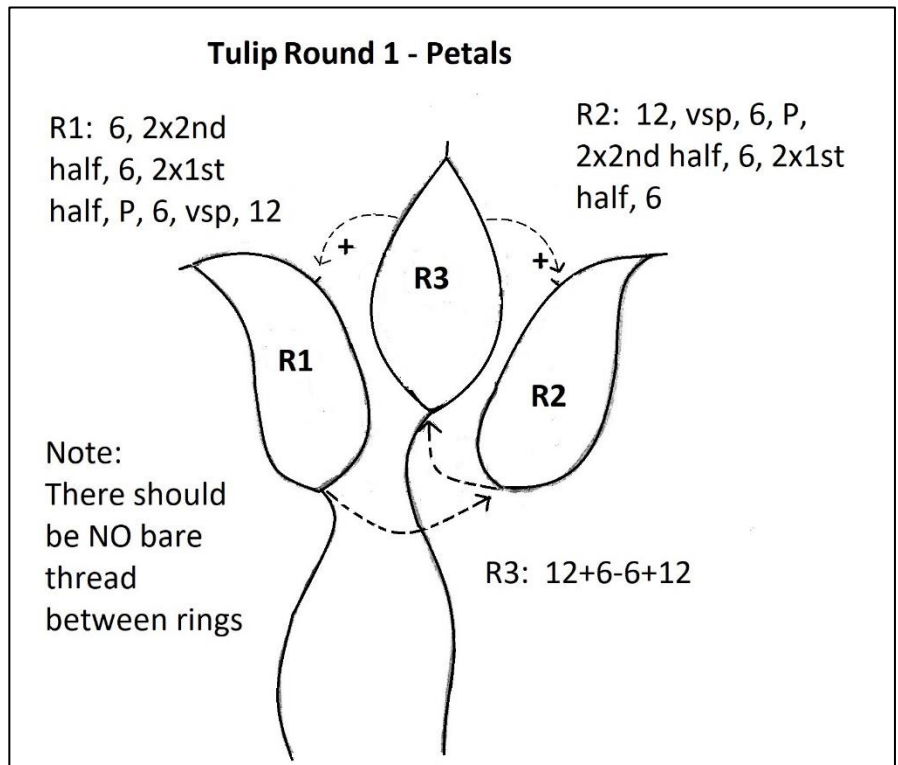
**R1:** 6DS, 2 second half stitches, 6DS, 2 first half stitches, P, 6DS, vsp, 12DS; close

**R2:** 12DS, vsp, 6DS, P, 2 second-half stitches, 6DS, 2 first-half stitches, 6DS; close

Fold R2 back out of the way to work R3 until you're ready to join to it.

**R3:** 12DS, Join to R1, 6DS, P, 6DS, Join to R2, 12 DS; close. Leave long tail and cut free of shuttle.

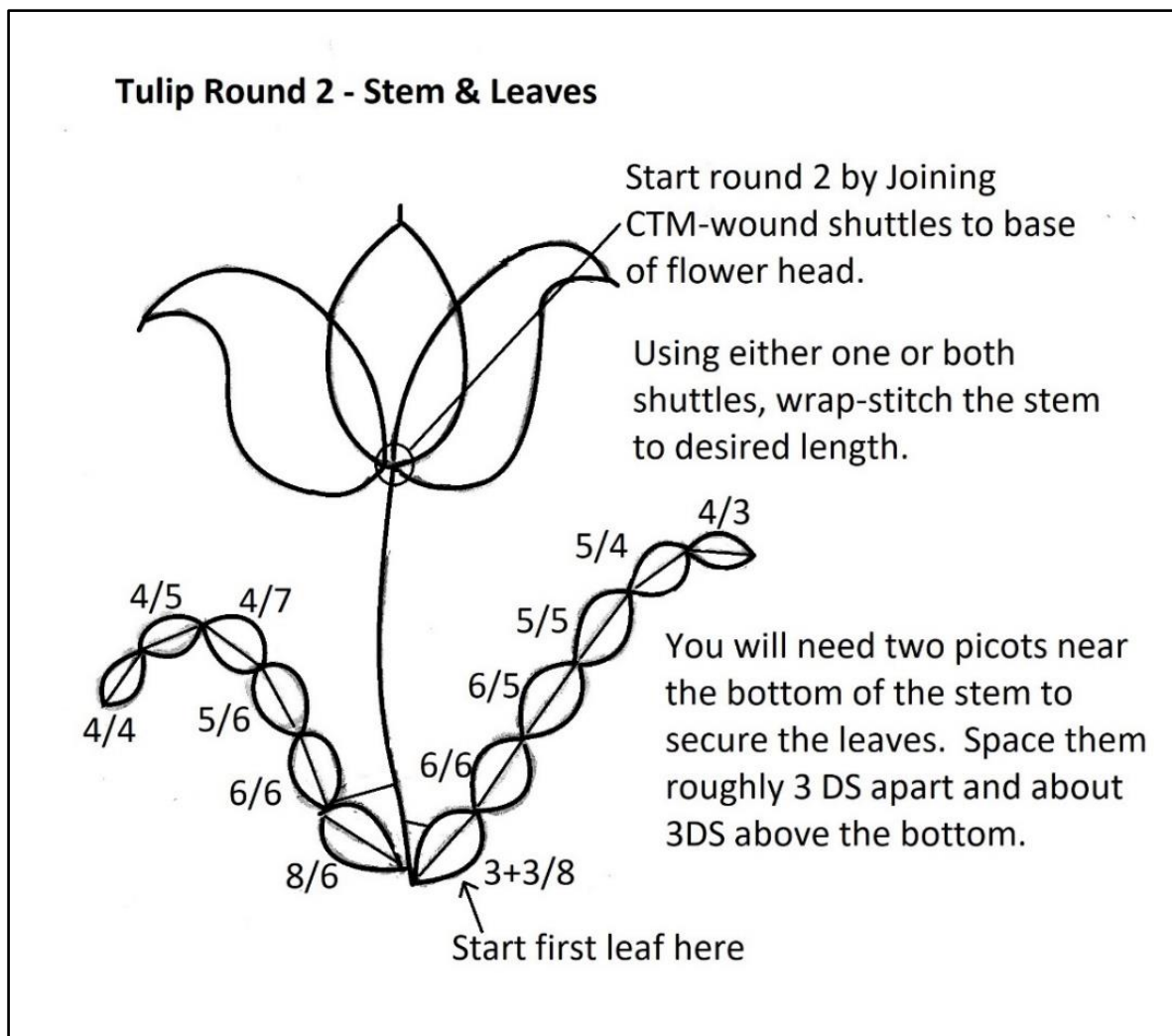
**TIP 1:** With these "folded" rings, the shuttle thread will want to twist around - DO NOT post your shuttle before closing, as it will only make things more difficult.



**TIP 2:** Once the ring is MOSTLY closed, stop and arrange the stitches so that they create the desired curves. Support the stitches in place as you close the last 1/4 inch. Massage the ring to ease any "traffic jams" to smooth the S-curves and adjust your tension as needed.

## ROUND 2 - Stem & Leaves

**Join the CTM-wound Shuttles** to the base of the blossom by pulling the middle up through the center petal, then lifting both shuttles and the cut tails through it. Snug it down firmly, then wrap the tails from the petals over your hand.



**Stem:** Work wrapped (unflipped) stitches to cover the tails. Use whatever style you like: alternate the shuttles a la Maltese tatting, or add one shuttle to the tails and work with the other for a padded Josephine chain to create a straight stem. For a curved stem, work unflipped DS with one shuttle over the other three threads.

Make the stem as long as desired, adding two picots near the bottom, one on either side of the stem. If you work a curved stem, you'll want to work a few 2<sup>nd</sup> half-stitches after the first picot to get the second picot on the other side. Refer to chart to see how far up the stem they should sit.

**Tip 1:** The length of the picots on your stem will directly affect how your leaves sit in relation to it. If they are large, the leaves will fall away almost flat; really small, and the leaves overlap the stem a little. Experiment!

**Leaf 1 (left in chart):** Begin tatting the leaf that is attached closest to the bottom first. That first SSSR is joined to the lowest picot on the stem, and the loop must be secured by lifting the cut tails and the other shuttle through it, rather than around the base of the ring itself as is usual. (Once the second leaf is started, it will be quite secure.)

Work five or 6 gradually smaller SSSR, varying size of sides to encourage curving of the leaves. Suggested stitch counts are shown on the chart. Finish the tip of leaf 1 as an SSSR, snug it up and cut the shuttle off - no threads to hide!

**Leaf 2:** Flip the flower so the bloom is down out of your way and cut the tails from the blossom. Be very careful not to cut your leaf threads! Work the first SSSR for leaf 2, then lock-join to the second stem. Continue working SSSR as for the first leaf, cutting the thread loose after the last one.

**Tip 2:** Make sure the lock-join is snug up against the top of the SSSR, or your leaf will look like it got broken. Alternately, leaving a little bit of a gap between any of the SSSR will create that effect; try it!

If you make several of these tulips, I encourage you to play with the stitch counts on the folded ring petals to change their curves to suit your taste; how about shifting 2 DS from one curve to the other? Also, play with the sizes of your SSSR to get fatter and curlier or straighter leaves.

Enjoy!