

Ways to Place Beads Jane Eborall © 2015

Placing beads in tatted pieces can be done in many ways. All beads in this section will be pre-loaded to either the shuttle or chain threads. These effects can all be achieved in both rings and chains.

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This is probably the first placement of beads that a tatter will meet. The bead is simply placed at the back of the hand before making the ring and then moved into place when and where the pattern states. It often replaces a picot. I use the abbreviation 'B'. When working a chain the bead is simply moved along the chain thread into position when required.

To achieve the bead placement opposite three beads are placed on the thread which goes round the back of the hand before starting the ring. Once reaching the point where they are needed they are moved along the thread to lie next to the last double made. For this I use the abbreviation BBB as there are three beads shown. From 1 to 5 beads work well to achieve different effects. Same idea applies to chains.

In this example the bead is left on the shuttle until it's needed (both for rings and chains). I use the abbreviation MB for this which means 'move bead'. When arriving at the notation (MB) the bead is moved from the **SHUTTLE** close to the last double worked. This places it within the work and under the thread going round the hand.

In this example both the previous techniques are used. So, you would have 3 beads on the thread round the hand and one on the shuttle to remain there until needed. Work according to the pattern and when arriving at BBB MB move all beads into place as before. Again varying quantities of beads may be used and this again applies to chains too.

This example shows a bead which has been placed on the thread round the hand before forming the ring. This time the bead hasn't been used in the tating so when the ring is closed it is then 'trapped' at the base of the ring. Applies solely to rings.

Beads can also be added to split rings. In this first example the beads are left on their appropriate shuttles until required. The yellow bead on shuttle 1 would be placed at the back of the hand before starting (B). The purple bead would be on shuttle two and would be moved into place when required – MB.

To achieve the next effect all the beads are on shuttle 1 and the purple one is at the back of the hand before starting the split ring.

Work the first half of the split ring moving a bead from the **SHUTTLE** into the position shown by the yellow bead opposite. It lies next to the last double worked (MB). Finish the first side of the split ring.

Using the second shuttle work up to where the bead is positioned. Now move the bead from the back of the hand (MB) along the ring thread to position it next to the last double worked. Continue and finish the second side of the split ring.

