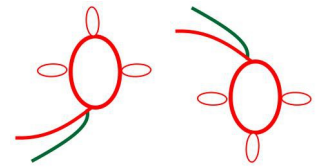


Making rings, chains and joins.

If you are working with the same colour for both the rings and chains you can wind your shuttle and leave attached to the ball. If you are using two different colours you will have to join them with a weaver's knot – preferably. As you get more used to the craft of tatting you will find other and better ways to start your work by hiding the ends within the double knots.

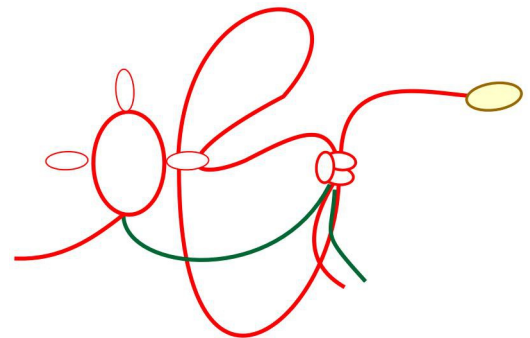
A pattern normally starts with a ring. This is made according to the pattern's instructions. Once the ring is closed it is usual for the pattern to say 'reverse work'. Reverse means top to toe or toe to top - you turn the work upside down, standing it on its head so to speak. See diagrams opposite.



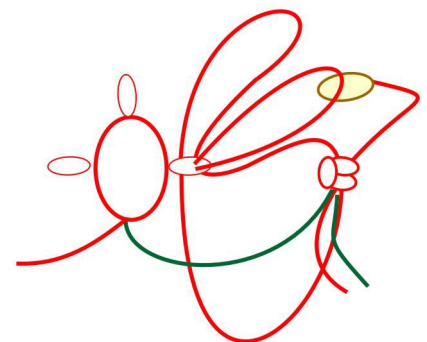
After the chain has been worked the pattern again indicates that the work has to be reversed.

You may find that after you've worked a few further doubles on the second ring that you are told to join to a previously worked picot. This is often annotated with a + sign. A join is really quite simple.

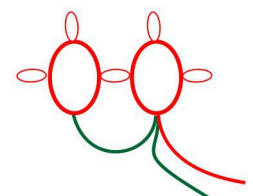
Find the picot you need to join to in a previously worked element of the pattern and take a small crochet hook down through that picot (down join). Alternatively you can take the hook UP through the picot (up join).



Catch the thread that goes round the back of your hand and close to the last double stitch that you've worked. Pull this thread up through the old picot and then pass your shuttle through the new loop that you've made by pulling the core thread through the picot.



The final thing to do is to pull the thread running round the hand (using the first finger of the left hand) gently to tighten up your join. When learning it is best to check now that the thread is still sliding through the doubles and join you have just made. After a while you won't need to.



Now you are ready to tackle any pattern which involves rings and chains. There are many other [exciting techniques](#) which can be added to your repertoire but these basics will allow you to make very pretty lace without them.

Although the link above takes you to the techniques on my pages it is very useful to 'google' the technique you want and find other tatter's input.