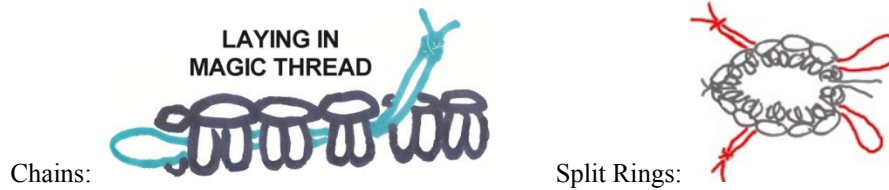


HOME

Magic Thread Trick – Sue Hanson © 2014

There seems to be some confusion about this technique. Let me see if I can confuse you even further! OK a long document & may seem complicated at first but once mastered it takes no time at all

Description: It is a loop of thread that is laid parallel to the core while working in order to pull through the tails & save having to sew in ends. It is placed while working ready to hide ends on completion. It needs to be at the back of the work with a FULL stitch at each end so that the work is not distorted



Here's how to do it... and there are many variations on the same idea:

I work one-sided tatting, so when I'm tatting from the back of the work I reverse the order of the ds
So I start my chain with the 2nd half of a double stitch...

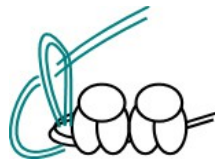
For the "Magic Thread" I use a micro filament fishing line called "Power Pro" 20lb test Advantage - it is a memory filament so it can be bent out of the way & it will stay put

Cut a short length of microfilament, fold in half & make a double overhand knot at the ends, so it doesn't open when being pulled....

Normally I lay "Magic Threads" in the first and last chains but I've also included a sketch for Split Rings

The "loop" is laid where the tail is to be pulled through & "knot end" where comes out

After laying in the Magic Thread - tuck ends through the loop to hold it in place while working and bend it out of the way as the work progresses



HINTS* To make it easy to hide a tail or lay in a magic thread. Keep it short and in position:
1st move of ds (under) position the tail in front
2nd move of ds (over) position the end at the back
Flip it through the turned half stitch with tip/hook of shuttle

So I'm adding the "Magic Thread" at the back of the work & miss the first half stitch of the chain because it has a habit of turning & thus makes it difficult to pull through the tails...

Also remember always lay tails/magic threads into a "full ds", so end after a full ds

Ending the work:

Cut tails & join the end to the start of the tatting do not make a lock join - just pull through the tail of the core thread from front side to the back joining it to the base of a ring (usually)

Make a reef knot (AKA double knot) being left over right, then right over left so it lays flat

Preparation: Lay work flat so you can see what you are doing....

Tidy all the loops & tails and have them all facing away from the "double knot"

To help finding the loop - pull on one side of the knotted end to open the loop...

Then tuck the tail through the loop, leaving some spare thread...

Pull on both threads of the knotted end of "Magic Thread" to close the loop...

Gently pull the loop with the tail inside until almost at the entry part...

Now hold the work between the "flat pinch" of thumb & finger of one hand to control the work while pulling through the magic thread

Grab the knot end with your other hand's fingers inside the knot end of the loop and YANK!

Use one short, sharp pull & yes "yank" it firmly...

DO the same with the other tail & then ensure all threads are pulled through correctly & trim the tails...

There is even a little trick to this. DON'T go in with the scissors to cut. Partially close the blades and slide them down until you reach resistance and then snip. This way you cut the tail not the Lace :-)