

“The Lady” Earrings

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Please feel free to e-mail me if you have any questions about this pattern.



This is a rather large earring. Using size 60 thread, it is about 2 ¼ inches (5.5 cm) long. This includes the long beaded picot, but does not include the hook.

Abbreviations:

B	Bead
C	Chain
CTM	Continuous Thread Method
CWJ	Catherine Wheel Join
LTR	Loop Tatted Ring
P	Picot
R	Ring
RW	Reverse Work
SR	Split Ring
-	Picot
+	Join
/	Division between sides of a split ring.

Directions for a Loop Tatted Ring: A loop tatted ring (LTR) is a ring that is finger tatted, using a small loop of thread as if it were a shuttle, similar to the second half of a single shuttle split ring. The technique allows you to place a bead before a ring, such that the shuttle thread passes through the bead both before and after the ring. The two threads therefore end up back in position to continue tating without having to pass a thread outside the bead.

To make a LTR, first unwind enough thread from the shuttle to give yourself plenty to work with. Pull a loop of thread through the bead using a crochet hook. Wrap the loop around your hand just as you would for a normal ring. After the “pinch”, continue pulling thread through the bead until you have a long enough loop to finger tat the ring with. This loop will be your core thread. Tat the ring as directed, using the loop as if it were a shuttle. To close the ring, pull on one side of the loop — only one side will close the ring; the other side will move the shuttle. After closing the ring, flip the loop around it so that the loop is wrapped around the base of the ring above the bead. Pull on the shuttle to tighten the loop. Wind the excess thread back onto the shuttle and continue tating normally.

When making a LTR, keep your tension very relaxed. If you tat too tightly, you may have trouble tightening the loop.

Other techniques used in this pattern include split rings, joining on the second half of a split ring, Catherine wheel joins, and working with beads. It is assumed that the tatter is familiar with these techniques. If you are not, you can find directions for them on many websites.

For each earring, begin with two shuttles wound CTM. Shuttle 1 is loaded with 4 beads in color 2 (black seed beads in the example photo) and 18 beads in color 1 (pale lavender seed beads in the example). The color 1 beads are tatted last and so should be added to the shuttle first. Shuttle 2 is loaded with 1 bead in color 2 and 6 beads in color 1, or you could use color 2 for all seven of these beads. You will need an additional 5 beads in color 1, as well as a 3 mm bead for the center of the bottom half, and whatever beads you wish to use on the long beaded picot (I used a total of 8 seed beads, two 3 mm beads, and one 8 mm bead for this picot).

Additionally, you will need a small crochet hook or other tool for adding beads, and a paperclip to hold the beads in place on the long picot.

Shuttle 1:

- A. R 4-4-4-4.
- B. R 4+4-4-4.
- C. R 4+4-4-4.
- D. R 4+4-4-4.
- E. SR 4+4/4+4. RW.

Shuttle 2:

Using your crochet hook, pick up one of the loose beads of color 1 and pull a loop of thread through this bead.

- F. LTR 12-12. This P should be 4 mm long when closed. RW.
- G. C 9, slide up 1 B from shuttle 2 and 3 B from shuttle 1, 9, 1 B from shuttle 2 and 3 B from shuttle 1, 9, 1 B from shuttle 2 and 3 B from shuttle 1, 9. RW.
- H. R 12, use crochet hook to add a 3 mm B to P on previous R,+12. RW.

Shuttle 1:

- I. R 8, very long P, 4-4. The very long P needs to be long enough to hold all of the beads that you want strung across the bottom of the earring. To ensure this, I suggest that you string them on as you make the P and use a paperclip to hold them in place until you join this P later on.
- J. R 4+4-4.
- K. R 4+4+ to very long P, 8.

Shuttle 2:

- L. C 9, slide up 1 B from shuttle 2 and 3 B from shuttle 1, 9, 1 B from shuttle 2 and 3 B from shuttle 1, 9, 1 B from shuttle 2 and 3 B from shuttle 1, 9. Join between split ring and bead.
 - M. C 6, slide up 1 B from shuttle 1, 6.
- Using crochet hook, add a bead of color 1 to the free P of the first ring made, and do a CWJ.
- N. C 6, 1 B from shuttle 1, 6.
 - Add a bead to the next free P and do a CWJ.
 - O. C 6.

Shuttle 1:

- P. R 24.

Shuttle 2:

- Slide up the last B from shuttle 2.
- Q. C 6.
 - Add a bead to the next free P and do a CWJ.
 - R. C 6, slide up 1 B from shuttle 1, 6.
 - Add a bead to the next free P and do a CWJ.
 - S. C 6, slide up the last B from shuttle 1, 6.

Join between the SR and the bead. Cut and tie, hide ends.

For clarity, here is a picture of the motif worked without beads. The letters correspond to those in the instructions.

