





**Palmetto Tatters Guild**  
**Glossary of Standard Tatting Terms**  
**These are not all inclusive!**


**General Tatting terms:**

Abbreviation or symbol	Description and examples (for clarification)
( ) (open & close parentheses)	Clarification for joining usually. Example R: 5 + (last p of prev R) 5 – 5 – 5.
/ (forward slash)	Used as the indication on either split rings or split chains. The instructions after the slash are unflipped stitches on a ring or wrapped stitches on a split chain.
1stHS or d	First Half of a double stitch
2ndHS or s	Second Half of a double stitch
B or b	Bead (refer to the instructions/key/legend for each pattern for specific bead information)
Bet	Between
BTS 	Bare Thread Space
Ch 	Chain
Cl or . (period)	Close (ring). End of an elements instructions; can be used in place of Cl (close) for rings. Tension the core thread at the end of a chain for the desired curvature
CTM	Continuous Thread Method
DNRW	Do Not Reverse Work
ds or #	Double Stitch – with the # (pound symbol) is the number of stitches
J or +	Join
JK or ⊗Jk	Josephine Knot (Ring made of only the 1 <sup>st</sup> half stitches or only the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half stitches)
LCh	Lock Stitch Chain
lj	Lock Join (sometimes referred to as a Shuttle join; this locks the core thread and prevents the stitch from sliding)
ls	Lock Stitch – one half of stitch is flipped and the other is unflipped
mp	Mock or False picot
p or —	Picot
Prev	Previous
R 	Ring
Rep or * (asterisk)	Repeat. Repeating lines of a pattern. Example: Repeat from * 7 times
Rnd	Round (usually a term used for doilies)
RW	Reverse Work (like flipping a tail gate <sup>1</sup> )
SCh 	Split Chain

<sup>1</sup> Impeccable Tatting, 1996, Judi Banashek

*Check each pattern for symbols or terminology exclusive to that designer.*

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Abbreviation or symbol	Description and examples (for clarification)
SCMR or [ ] (paired square brackets)	Self-Closing Mock Ring: A ring made as if making a chain, but closed by dropping shuttle through a loop from the core thread then closing. Example: SCMR [4 – 4. ss R 3 – 3 – 3 – 3. ss 4 – 4.] Creates a ring off of a mock ring.
Sep	Separated
seta, setb or #:#	Set stitches where seta is the notation for 1 <sup>st</sup> half stitches and setb is the notation for 2 <sup>nd</sup> half stitches. Notation is sometimes seen with the number of 1 <sup>st</sup> half and 2 <sup>nd</sup> half stitches separated by a colon (:).
Sh#	Shuttle designation for multiple shuttle work (should be in the pattern legend), alphabetic designations maybe used as well.
SLT	Shoe Lace Tie
SR 	Spilt Ring consisting of the required number of flipped and unflipped stitches. Example: SR 5 – 5 / 5 – 5.
ss	Switch Shuttles
T&C	Tie & Cut – tie thread ends together, cut the threads, and securely hide the ends or knot together according to pattern directions.
TOR	Thrown Off Ring – also referred to a floating ring or a ring off of a chain.
TW	Turn Work – a side-to-side motion like turning a wheel.
VLP	Very Long Picot – length is typically given for the ‘open’ picot. The completed VLP will be ½ the specified length when the next double stitch is made.
VSP or ^ (caret)	Very Small or Construction picot
Wrap	These are typically unflipped double stitches on the second portion of a split ring or when tatting over multiple threads to create padded tatting.

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