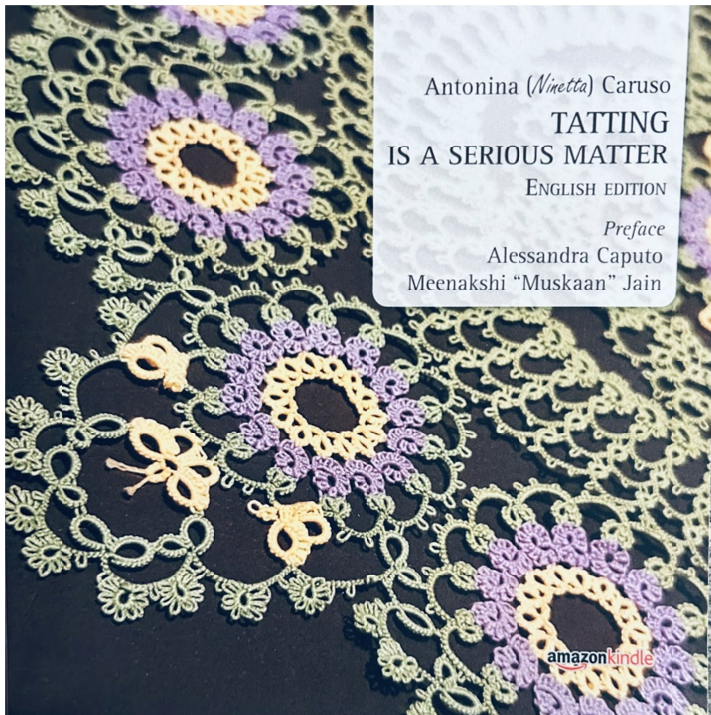


Book Review: Tatting Is A Serious Matter by Antonina (Ninetta) Caruso, Italy

Written by Anita Barry



This new book cover shouts with joy! A full-color original doily tatted with lively lavender, daisy-yellow and meadow greens swirl with innovative treble tatting stitches created by well-known designer and long-time tatter, Antonina (Ninetta) Caruso in Italy. It is "Tatting Is A Serious Matter" English Edition. This soft cover book has 144 pages of glorious color. The pages are 8.5"x 8.5" (21.5cm x 21.5cm).

First published in Italian in 2022, the English version of this book was made possible by the extraordinary efforts of Karen Cabrera in Florida, USA and Meenakshi (Muskaan) Jain in New Delhi, India. In this book Ninetta is sharing her extensive research into the history of tatting. She is also introducing her innovative "Treble Tatting Stitch" technique.

Interestingly, Ninetta mentions her research uncovered an old description of tatting as "not being a serious matter..." among lacers. Then, further research revealed tatting being "a serious matter" in lacemaking, which explains the title of this book. Stimulating curiosity in others is Ninetta's desire. So much so, she challenges others to explore possibilities, to add to tatting's evolving potential, to strive to learn more, and to want to dig deeper into its history.

The first section of this book contains notes compiled by Ninetta on the historical background from her Italian perspective. Ninetta's personal experience, her studying, and her research result in an interesting and original overview. It's a rich peek at tatting in Italy, historically and technically. Using photo tutorials, large clear diagrams and photographs Ninetta describes elements of knotting, Cluny tallies, Victorian sets, roll tatting, mixed lace forms and techniques. Her simple manner effectively leads readers from the Italian tatting past, into the present and forward toward the future of tatting.

In the second section of this book Ninetta explains a new stimulating technique. First she defines and dissects tatting movements. Then in wonderful full-color images she presents her treble tatting stitch (tds) with all its versatility.



Left: Treble tatting stitch forming spiral rings.

Particular care was given to illustrate threads and shuttles using numbers, arrows, and dotted directional lines. Pictures show clear movements, stitches and variations. Special QR codes on the pages of the book link to video tutorials. Ninetta's treble tatting stitch can be on rings, chains, split rings, split chains, with beads, graduated, et al. As she points out, the possibilities are still evolving. A pattern for Bezel Embellishment is tucked between pages 87-90. It's in this chapter that Ninetta's passion for discovering new combinations of tatting movements is revealed. Ninetta has incredible talents, curiosity and innovation!



Fig. 37.



Video 3 - treble tatting - climbing round without cutting the thread]

A treble tatting stitch ring and special QR code to video tutorials.

The third section of this book is Ninetta's stylish "Swirling Butterflies" doily pattern. This creation is a statement. It is truly "between tradition and innovation" as printed on the back cover of this book. Here traditional rings and chains are married with her innovatively-created curly treble tatting stitch. Tradition and innovation. This master tatter has prepared 30 pages of personal mentoring using clear charts, close-up full-color photographs, numbered directional diagrams, and written explanations for guidance. Each round is clearly shown in color-coded diagrams or explained in written instructions. Ninetta appears to have covered the ground each step of the way toward tatting her epic creation.

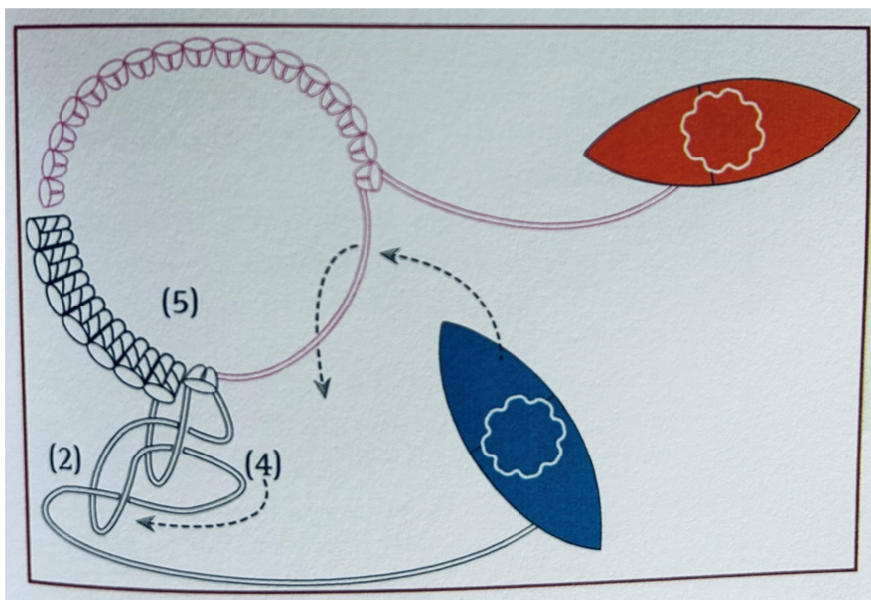


Diagram showing the reverse treble tatting stitch on a split ring.

The last section of this book is an Appendix to the second edition of her previously published book in Italian. This section includes a variant to the treble tatting stitch called the Balanced Treble Tatting Stitch (BTDS). And, it includes a well-guided 8-page pattern using the BTDS with detailed color-coded diagrams, large educational photographs and written instructions.

"Tatting Is A Serious Matter" can be purchased on www.Amazon.com.

With her simple manner and with great passion Ninetta is, in her words, "between art and craft". She begins with vintage lace ideas, adds new techniques, resulting in new modern appearances. What a marvelous inspiration for tatters!

Well-known innovative tatter, designer, demonstrator and promoter Antonina (Ninetta) Caruso has created an array of techniques in tatting including the Vapour Stitch, Curled Rings, a Bliplless Join method, to name a few. A recent contribution is the Captured Picot. Ninetta's Treble Tatting Stitch (tds) is a stitch with a first half and second half with texture, height, and a crochet-like image. The treble tatting stitch is "notably different from the double stitch", yet it can be used the same ways a double stitch is used. Ninetta's close friend and comrade Meenakshi (Muskaan) Jain in India describes Ninetta as having a "talent for bending threads to her will". (Together Muskaan and Ninetta are instrumental with an internationally collective project involving tatters world-wide tatting and

diagramming in modern notations all the patterns in a 1920 German tatting book titled "Die Schiffchen-Spitzen" by Frau Eleonore Endrucks-Leichtenstern. The Facebook site is called "Endrucks 1920 Project". The site is informative, evolving and offers tatting games and challenges.) Ninetta's own tatting blog is Chiacchierino facilissimo at <https://NinettaCaruso.blogspot.com> . On this site you'll find a wide-range of beautiful patterns and video tutorials Ninetta shares for free. She's a long-standing member and lace demonstrator in the "Ago, Filo e Fuselli" Association in Aprilia (LT), Italy.

I was gifted this book by Ninetta in the Vatican City when I traveled to Rome, Italy. I am so pleased to add it to my reference library of tatting books. Ninetta graciously met me at the obelisk in the Vatican City, within Rome, Italy. Swarming with tourists I signaled my position by raising a bright blue umbrella. Ninetta and her family saw the umbrella and located me. Within 30 minutes the heavens let loose with rain, umbrellas went up carpeting the Vatican City. Wow! What timing! We were both so excited to meet each other! Tatter to tatter – heart to heart. Our time together are moments precious to me. Thank you, Ninetta!



Anita Barry and Antonina (Ninetta) Caruso in the Vatican City, within Rome, Italy.