

ADVICE ON CLOSING LARGE RINGS AND SEWING BEADS TO FINISHED ANKARS TATting FROM TATTERS IN CLASS MARCH 11, 2013

Very large rings - advice:

REMEMBER THAT WE NEED TO PRACTICE RINA'S EXERCISE.

If you normally tat very tight, tat the way you normally do. Don't try to tat even tighter. If you normally tat loosely, you will probably want to tighten up your tatting a bit.

The large rings take quite a bit of practice before they close easily, and sometimes you get a 'stubborn' one that just does not want to close. Keep working on it.

Stick your finger in the loop of thread as you are closing the ring to keep it from twisting. If you keep letting the shuttle untwist as you tat the ring, the thread should not have a tendency to twist, but it doesn't hurt to make sure. Twisted, kinked thread when closing a ring is no fun.

Be VERY careful NOT to let any 'extra' twist get into the thread, they close more easily. Every time you add more thread to the ring as you tat, let the shuttle hang and untwist first - before you pull more thread into the ring and continue tatting.

To close the large ring start by sliding the ds from the left side then slide then the next 10 or so. Slide several at a time. When you do them all start on the left again until the ring is tight. It is slow but it prevents the LAST des from tightening too much. The ring will not ruffle if you do not pull the core thread first.

You may need to hold the ENTIRE ring in the pinch - using 3 fingers and the thumb - and you may need to 'wiggle' the DSs a bit if it does not want to close smoothly.

Try sliding the DSs around a bit then close the ring a little bit, then slide the DSs apart a bit, then close the ring a bit more - over and over until it finally closes without breaking.

Try using something like Thread Heaven or quilting wax on the core thread.

Polyester slides easier than cotton, maybe that's the trick for large rings.

If your hands are very small and you cannot hold the entire ring in the pinch, even with 3 fingers holding it, try laying your work on a table or some other flat surface and then gently pull the thread to close the ring. You can use the palm of your hand to hold the ring.

Sewing beads on - advice:

They (ANKARS tatters) use very fine sewing needles to sew beads on.

A beading needle is too skinny to use. It needs to be stronger to get through the DS.

You can use tails for sewing beads on if the tails are in the right place. If not, you will need to use a separate thread.

If you use a new thread (nylon beading thread) instead of tails when you sew beads on, it is easy to remove the beads and re-stitch them if you don't like the way it looked the first time you sewed them on. (You can't do that very easily - without messing up your tatting - if you have used the tails to sew the beads on.)

Always use a new thread to sew clasps on. That way, if you ever need to replace the clasp, it will be easy to remove and replace without messing up your tatting.

Note that the tutorial advises that we use a small bead before and after the large beads so that the edge of the holes does not cut the thread.

You could try using a small beading needle to get the thread through the beads (or stiffen the end of the thread, then switch to a sewing needle, sew the bead on, switch back to the thin beading needle to put the next bead(s) on the thread, switch back to the sewing needle, and keep alternating. It is a lot of steps to sew on the beads, but if you are having trouble finding a strong enough sewing needle that is fine enough to go through the beads, this method will probably work.

Be aware that stitching beads onto your tatting can take as long as tatting the foundation. When you consider how good the quality of your finished tatted (and beaded) piece will be, taking some extra time and effort to sew on the beads no longer seems like such a lot of work.