

# Bonnie Swank's Needle Tatting Tips for Helix Tatting

Use one tatting needle and switch core threads as you work; if you try multiple tatting needles the threads want to tangle. To keep track of your threads, number them by using a sharpie to put dots at the end of each thread to correspond with the shuttle numbers.

Use the amount of thread as stated in the pattern per shuttle. For CTM shuttles use double the amount stated for one shuttle and start needle tatting in the center of the thread. If the pattern requires a large amount of thread, use as much thread as you feel comfortable working with to start, (usually 2-3 yards) and add thread as needed. Since you usually have pairs of threads/shuttles, when I added thread I brought my needle through a chain of stitches so I could add ball thread on one side needle thread on the other side of the chain at the same time. After you add the thread you have to take the end of the thread through the cap of the stitch on each end of the chain to position the thread in the correct place for the next round.

I tat another few rounds before hiding the old thread ends.

