

Remember - the ANKARS way of tatting demands sticking to the ANKARS 'rules.' Some things may be done a bit differently from your usual way of tatting, but if you don't follow the rules, you may not get the results you expected.

Beads/sewing on beads:

What thread is used to stitch on the beads?

I would use a thin nylon thread - preferably the 'clear' kind. I've seen it in fabric stores locally. I think Coats & Clark is what's available where I live. Be sure you use the nylon thread, though. Nylon is one of the threads beading sites recommend for use with anything bigger than seed beads.

Tails can be left longer and then used to sew beads on?

Rina uses tails to stitch the beads on, but warns **not** to leave them **too** long, for they can tangle and create a problem/delay.

It makes perfect sense considering that they often use multiple threads in ANKARS.

But she insists on using separate thread to attach a clasp to a necklace or a bracelet, when/if you need to replace the clasp your tatting won't be damaged.

Keep in mind, though - Rina often uses nylon threads, which are less likely than cotton threads to fray and/or break if one of the large beads has some roughness on the inside or on the edge of the hole.

Do you sew the beads in using a needle into the rings?

We'll talk more about how to sew the beads on in a later lesson, but yes, you will use a needle.

The size of the rings has to be fit to the beads?

You can tat the pin (or necklace) first, THEN go to the bead shop or to your bead stash and find beads that fit the tatting in the colors you like. This is what I plan to do.

OR you can choose the beads you want and try to fit the tatting to the bead. I prefer finding beads that fit my tatting AFTER I tat the jewelry.

I have to know how many ds needs around the bead what I want to sew in it?

To find approximately how many DS you need to go around a bead, you can tat a chain that fits the bead, then count and see how many DS are in the chain. It won't be 'perfect,' but it will be pretty close.

Are we working on the coral pin next time too? Or are we done with that in class? What about the beads? Can we talk about how to sew the beads onto pin next time?

I believe we will be talking about how to sew the beads on in a future lesson. This will include the pin. As always, if you run into difficulties, you can e-mail Georgia, Nina, or me (Stephanie) for help.

Are the beads listed for the next lesson used to sew/stitch onto the pin?

No, they are for the central part of the necklace. There are no lists/pictures for the beads on the Coral pin. Looking at Rina's pin, we can use whatever beads we have and use our creativity to decorate tatted foundation. It is not necessary to decorate the pin exactly the way Rina did. She encourages us to be creative. When you see the necklaces made by her students (in a later class), you will see how very different the same pattern can look if decorated differently.

Joins/picots:

Is it just a regular down join?

I interpreted most of the pictures as 'up' joins. Rina gave Nina specific instructions - keep reading:

Making regular 'Ring to Ring' join (join up? or down?)

- Crochet hook goes into joining picot (of previous ring) from left to right and under knotting thread of your current ring,

pull knotting thread up making a loop large enough to accommodate your shuttle.

BUT THIS IS NOT ALL!

- Do not forget to place your middle finger into that loop though picot BEFORE taking crochet hook out.

- This will prevent your join from getting twisted, and your tatting will look better.

- Then go through that loop with your shuttle,

return your middle finger into initial position (inside your current ring),

complete the join, and

continue tatting your current ring.

For those of you who have Rina's book, the regular 'ring to ring' join is shown in detail on pages 36-37.

Size and function of picots in ANKARS tatting (are there decorative picots in ANKARS?) (Rina's answer, translated by Nina)

Picots in ANKARS tatting are mostly joining = small.

Rina sometimes uses decorative picots, but she does not like them, because it is jewelry, women wear it, and decorative picots get squashed, bent, or otherwise distorted, and this upsets the appearance of the whole piece.

They don't like picots in ANKARS?

Remember, this is jewelry - you will be wearing it. Picots can bend and twist and get all messed up if you are wearing the jewelry and moving around. This is why Rina does not use decorative picots on ANKARS tatting.

What they don't tell you is where to put the picots so that the rings can be attached to the others.

Rina's picots are mostly for joining. All picots in the pin pattern are joining picots. There are no 'extra' picots on the pin, and there IS a picot for every join, I promise. (big smile)

In picture 10, do the large rings join to each other or the small rings between them?

You make the first large ring, then the first small ring, which is joined to the large ring (and on top of the large ring). Then you make the next large ring, which is joined to the same picot as the small ring, but the large ring is placed BEHIND the small ring, next to the first large ring. Small rings on top, large rings behind.

Thread(s):

Which thread is used in Pag 3 pic 14?

I don't think Rina mentioned the thread/kind of thread specifically.

Is there a tool to use to help put the special metallic thread mix together?

Not that I know of. When I fill a shuttle I usually place my balls of thread in an empty tissue box (sometimes in 2 boxes, depending on the thread I'm using), place the box(es) on the floor in front of me, and wind carefully, making sure that ALL strands of thread actually DID get wound onto the shuttle (there's nothing worse than discovering a strand of thread going around the side of the shuttle after you've filled it, and realizing it was from somewhere in the middle). I also am very careful not to pull on any of the threads - the metallic ones will stretch, and if you pull on the thread when you are filling a shuttle, you may wonder how your metallic thread ended up so SHORT after you've been tatting a while. For needle tatters, I think I would use my thread directly from the empty tissue boxes - maybe sit them on a table next to you or on the floor next to your chair.

What size threads do they normally use to make up the whole?

We tried to determine thread sizes that would work best for these patterns. I believe Rina uses sewing-thread size threads, but she uses several strands at a time (if you look closely at some of the pictures with the pin pattern, you can see multiple strands). Depending on where you live, you may (easily) be able to purchase the same threads Rina uses, or you

may not. This is why we did some experimenting with threads that ARE easily available, even in a relatively 'small' town. If need be, there's always 'online ordering,' too. Do some experimenting, starting with the threads you can get easily in your area. Different patterns may require different threads (or more/fewer strands wound together onto the shuttle as 'one' thread).

I have a terrible time trying to tat with DMC metallic...wants to twist and break.

Are you using it with another thread? Are you using the 3-ply kind that comes on a spool or the kind that comes in a small skein? Some of the metallic threads do better than others. When in doubt, feel the thread. If it is VERY smooth, it should work, but it still may break. When testing various threads, occasionally even the thicker threads broke. Tie it back together, smile, try again, and hide the ends.

Tatting tension:

You will find Rina's exercise very helpful. Practice it every day: 5 to 10 minutes a day is all you need, but pay careful attention to what you are doing. This will eventually make a difference in all your tatting, and it will help with tatting tension.

Should the tatting be so tight it is difficult to close the ring?

Some of those large rings are going to be difficult to close, regardless of how loose or tight they are. Your tatting should be very firm. You may need to adjust your tatting tension, you may not. I tat tightly all the time - for me, it was not an issue. For people who tat loosely, they will need to pay specific attention to tightening up their tension. Experiment a bit with the thread you're using and the pattern. You will find what works best for you and the way you tat with some careful experimentation.

Practice Rina's exercise - 5 to 10 minutes a day, every day, will help make things easier. It is not 'instant,' but it DOES work. It has made quite a lot of difference in my own tatting [Stephanie] already - I have been practicing the exercise since October, but noticed changes in my tatting within a month or two.

*The CD 'tatting hands' made by PTG a few years ago shows how different individual ways of tatting are, but the ANKARS way of tatting demands 'sticking to **their** rules.' If you don't follow the rules, you may not get the results you expect.*

Closing rings:

You will find Rina's exercise very helpful. Practice it every day: 5 to 10 minutes a day is all you need, but pay careful attention to what you are doing. This will eventually make a difference in all your tatting, and it will help with closing rings, especially those very large, hard-to-close rings.

What do you do when you can't get a ring to close all the way?

Practice Rina's exercise - 5 to 10 minutes a day, every day, will help make things easier.

It is not 'instant,' but it DOES work. It has made quite a lot of difference in my own tatting [Stephanie] already - I have been practicing the exercise since October, but noticed changes in my tatting within a month or two.

(Note from AKTATTER: When the ring is still in your pinch and you need it to close a little bit more, that exercise will help. For me, it is a matter of rotating my left wrist away from my body to get the perfect close. Keep practicing!)

Drop your shuttle VERY often and let the thread unwind. If you forget to drop the shuttles often enough, the thread(s) can get a kink in them that can make closing a ring very difficult, if not impossible.

If you do get a kink in your core thread, stop closing the ring as soon as you notice it. Drop your shuttle, allow the thread between the ring and the shuttle to unwind, THEN open the ring a bit. This seems to allow the core thread to relax a bit. If your metallic thread stays kinked, gently rub it with something smooth and 'round' (like a pencil) and see if you can get it to relax and straighten out.

Sometimes a ring will close, but ALL the strands of thread did not 'close' with the ring. If this happens, VERY GENTLY and CAREFULLY pull on each strand of thread, while holding the ring in the pinch with your other hand. Usually this is all that is necessary to coax all the strands back to their proper places.

Would the Double DS (DDS) work for the large rings?

It would change the thickness of the tatting and unless you adjusted the DS count, it would make the large rings even larger. Large rings using the Double DS can be difficult to close, also, so using them for ease of closing the larger rings would not really help.

Jane Eborall's technique page for the Double DS:

<http://www.janeborall.freeservers.com/doubledouble.pdf>

[NOTE: Another name sometimes used for the Double DS is the 'Balanced' DS.]

The Double DS is NOT used in ANKARS tatting.

Ring on Ring (RoR) elements:

Just to be clear, what is an RoR element?

RoR is 'Ring on Ring.' An 'element' is a 'stack' of rings. The stack may be only 2 rings, or it may be several rings, but it is the 'complete' stack for that small section of the pattern.

Is this an alternate (simple and complex RoR elements), or are both methods used for different patterns?

Simple rings on rings and complex rings on rings are not alternates, they are two different elements, the way and order of connecting rings are different (see RoR Tutorial).

They both have multiple rings in a 'stack' that forms a 3D element.

The elements (simple and complex) look different in finished jewelry, so both may be used in a single pattern (Coral Pin) depending on the appearance the designer has in mind.

Needle or shuttle?:

I wondered if the ANKARS would be easier with needle since the rings contain such a large amount of stitches?

Stephanie: It might be EASIER to close the rings, but you would have to use a needle small enough to make the tatting feel very firm and tight.

Nina: And how do you pull very tight stitches off that fine needle? I've never managed to do it, the tatting gets distorted, but I am not a proficient needle tatter, maybe experienced needle tatters have some helpful advice...

Patterns available:

The grey bracelet with the green beads what is in the previous pdf - is this pattern available?

The pattern for the silver green bracelet on the cover of "Ring on Ring Tutorial" with matching necklace (jewelry set "OLESYA") is part of Rina's teaching course.

The patterns are presented in the same way as the patterns for this class, that is:

- diagrams showing how to tat and
- diagrams showing how to decorate (what bead goes where), and
- detailed explanation/instruction for the project with pictures, minus my short hand notation, and all of that in Russian.

Students registered for the course buy the pattern from Rina. I do not know if Rina sells them online, you'll have to ask her directly rina-ankars@yandex.ru

Availability of ANKARS patterns on Internet:

The short answer: there are no ANKARS patterns on the Internet.

About Rina's patterns in English:

I [Nina Libin] seem to be the only one who has translated Rina's patterns to make them known to English-speaking tatters.

One in 2003 - Cluster Brooch "LORA" for my 'Lace of Beads' book #1, another in 2004 - Necklace "SANDY" for my 'Lace of Beads' book #4,

and two more in 2012-2013 for this class: "Coral Pin" designed specially for the Online class and the Necklace "Amethyst Winter" with a lot of

instructions from Rina's 2007 book "Tatting in ANKARS Technique", my reason stays the same: to make ANKARS Technique known to English-speaking tatters.

About ANKARS patterns in English on Irina Astratenko site. (are Irina's book/patterns good?)

Rina cannot tell, what she does say: Irina Astratenko has been Rina's student. But what she sells on her site <http://beadsky.com/>: separate patterns for ANKARS Jewelry and the book in English include only her own (Irina Astratenko) designs and her own interpretation of ANKARS.

Technique, there are none of Rina's patterns there.

I do not have her [Irina Astratenko's] book and do not know how she presents her patterns. Again, you have to ask her directly info@beadsky.com

Miscellaneous terms:

"French curves"?

Someone mentioned that the pin reminds one of 'French curves.' A French curve is a tool for drawing curves. The way it's shaped, you can find almost any curve you need, just position the little plastic tool on the paper, trace your pencil around the outside of the plastic shape, and you get a smooth curve, just the right shape and size. The shape of the curves formed by the rings in the pin do remind one a bit of a French curve.

For a picture of a French curve, see:

http://images.drillspot.com/pimages/2569/256924_300.jpg

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Below are the answers received from Rina:

1) Making regular 'Ring to Ring' join (join up? or down?)

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Tatting Hands DVD

An amazing collection of over 30 different styles of tatting. It begins with a few minutes on How-to-Tat and then 80 minutes of outstanding tatting with a surprise ending! "There is no one way to tat," says Georgia Seitz, the narrator. "The joy is in the journey and our hands take us all the way."

Comments

To see a 3.5-minute sampling, [click here](#).

Smaller file (2.5MB) <http://www.palmettotatters.org/fundraisers/TattingHandsSample100K.wmv>

or

Larger file (12MB) <http://www.palmettotatters.org/fundraisers/TattingHandsSample512K.wmv>

Formats:

1) The DVD will be a format for the US and Canada (NTSC). It will play in a computer and a stand-alone DVD player. Cost: \$15.

2) The Windows Media File will be for outside the US. It will play on any computer with Windows Media Player. Cost: \$12.

The Palmetto Tatters Guild thanks all of the tatters from across the globe that made this video possible. Thanks to Georgia Seitz for the narration and Kyle Whitlock for the music.