

# Tatted Christmas Tree

By Jennifer Williams



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## ABBREVIATIONS

R	ring
CH	chain
cl	close ring
RW	reverse work
p	picot
vsp	very small picot
LP	long picot
VLP	very long picot
SLT	shoe lace trick
sj or ↓	shuttle join
DNRW	do not reverse work
SH	shuttle (as in SH 1)
SS	swap shuttles
B	bead (3B = 3 beads)
→	join to.....

# Tatted Christmas Tree

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The **Christmas tree** is tatted with size 20 thread. Each branch is tatted over 20 gauge, green coloured wire, and florist's tape is used for the assembly.

The **candle holders** are tatted with Altin Bstak, (which is equivalent to about size 40) colour 2351, for the candles you need Mill Hill long bugle beads and a size 11 seed bead (or larger than the hole in the bugle bead).

The **baubles** are tatted in size 80 thread with seed beads of your choice and a  $\frac{5}{8}$ inch / 1.5 cms wooden bead painted gold with nail varnish.

The **decorations** are made using size 20 thread and a variety beads.

The **star** was tatted with a fine gold thread, worked double, and is a ring with uneven long picots separated by a double stitch. The one in the picture was tatted by Jean Johnston.

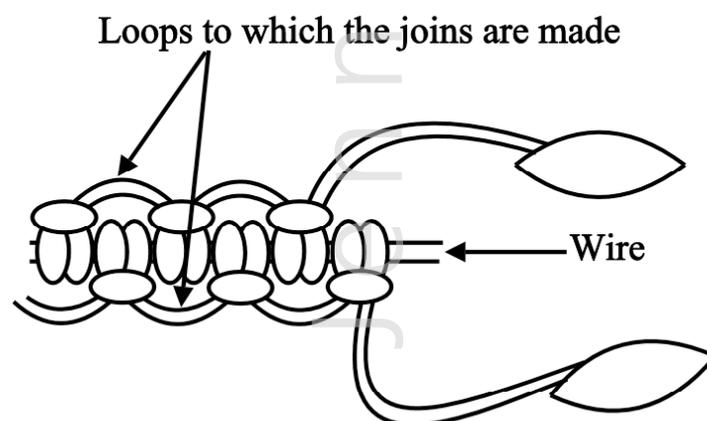
## The Christmas Tree.

Cut 36 pieces of wire 10 – 12 inches / 25 – 30 cms long. With round nosed pliers curl one end into a very small ring (which will be hidden by the tatting). This ring acts as an anchor from which to start the pearl tatting and it prevents your work from sliding off the wire. Do not cut the wire when the required number of double stitches have been worked as the bare wires will be bound together later to form the trunk.

### **Branch 1** Make 1

Wind two shuttles CTM with enough thread to work the pearl tatting.

Pass a loop of thread through the ring on the wire and bring the shuttles through this loop. Work 1 double stitch with shuttle 1, then turn the work over and make 1 double stitch with shuttle 2. This is repeated along the wire for the required number of times. For the first 'branch' pearl tat for about 3 – 4 inches / 8 – 10 cms. Do not cut the wire.



**Branch 2** Make 3

As for 'branch 1,' working at least 22 ds with each shuttle. Cut thread leaving long enough ends to secure later.

Wind a shuttle but do not cut from the ball.

Work towards the tip of the branch on one side of the pearl tatting, then back along the other side.

Joins are made to the 'loops' between the double stitches of the pearl tatting.

Start by joining to the 17<sup>th</sup> loop from the start of the pearl tatting and working towards the tip of the 'branch'.

CH. 8, RW

R. 5, p, 5, + to 5<sup>th</sup> loop along, 5, p, 5 cl RW

CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 5 RW

R. 4, + to previous ring, 4, + to 4<sup>th</sup> loop along, 4, p, 4 cl RW

CH. As above but do not RW, sj to 4<sup>th</sup> loop along,

CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 3 sj to 3<sup>rd</sup> loop along (this should be at the end of the first side)

CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 5 sj to 1st loop on second side

CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 3 sj to 3<sup>rd</sup> loop along

CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 5 RW

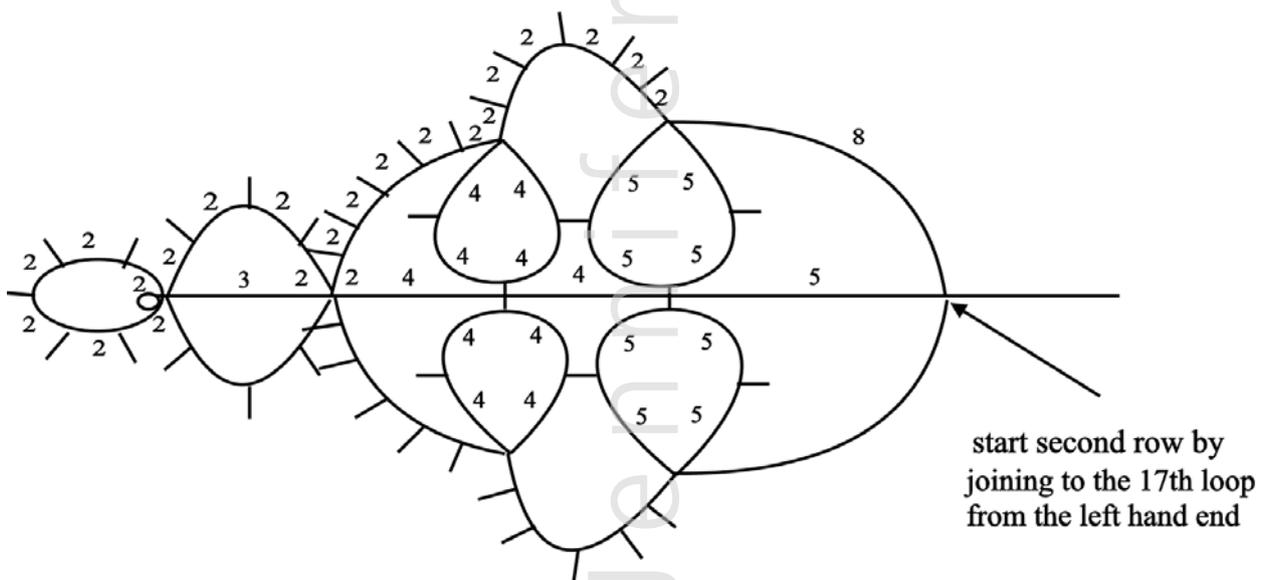
R. 4, p, 4, + to 4<sup>th</sup> loop along, 4, p, 4 cl RW

CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 5 RW

R. 5, + to previous ring, 5, + to 4<sup>th</sup> loop along, 5, p, 5 cl RW

CH. 8 cut and tie to the 5<sup>th</sup> loop along. Secure ends

first row pearl tat 22 ds with  
each shuttle to cover the wire



**Branch 3** Make 4

Work as for branches 1 and 2 for at least 25 ds with each shuttle.

Wind a shuttle but do not cut from the ball.

R. 6, p, 6, + to 17<sup>th</sup> loop from the point, 6, p, 6 cl RW

CH. 8 RW

R. 5, + to previous ring, 5, + to 5<sup>th</sup> loop along, 5, p, 5 cl RW

CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 5 RW

R. 4, p, 4, + to 4<sup>th</sup> loop along, 4, p, 4 cl RW

CH. As above but do not RW, sj to 4<sup>th</sup> loop along,

CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 3 sj to 3<sup>rd</sup> loop along (this should be at the end of the first side)

CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 5 sj to 1st loop on second side

CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 3 sj to 3<sup>rd</sup> loop along

CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 5 RW

R. 4, + to previous ring, 4, + to 4<sup>th</sup> loop along, 4, p, 4 cl RW

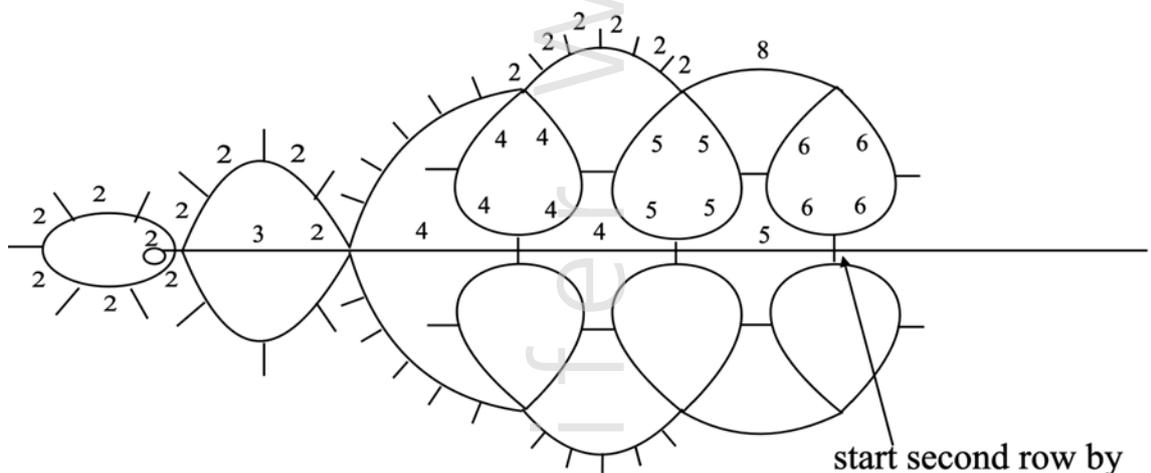
CH. 2, (p, 2,) X 5 RW

R. 5, + to previous ring, 5, + to 4<sup>th</sup> loop along, 5, p, 5 cl RW

CH. 8 RW

R. 6, + to previous ring, 6, + to 5<sup>th</sup> loop along, 6, p, 6 cl. Cut and secure ends.

first row pearl tat 25 ds with  
each shuttle to cover the wire

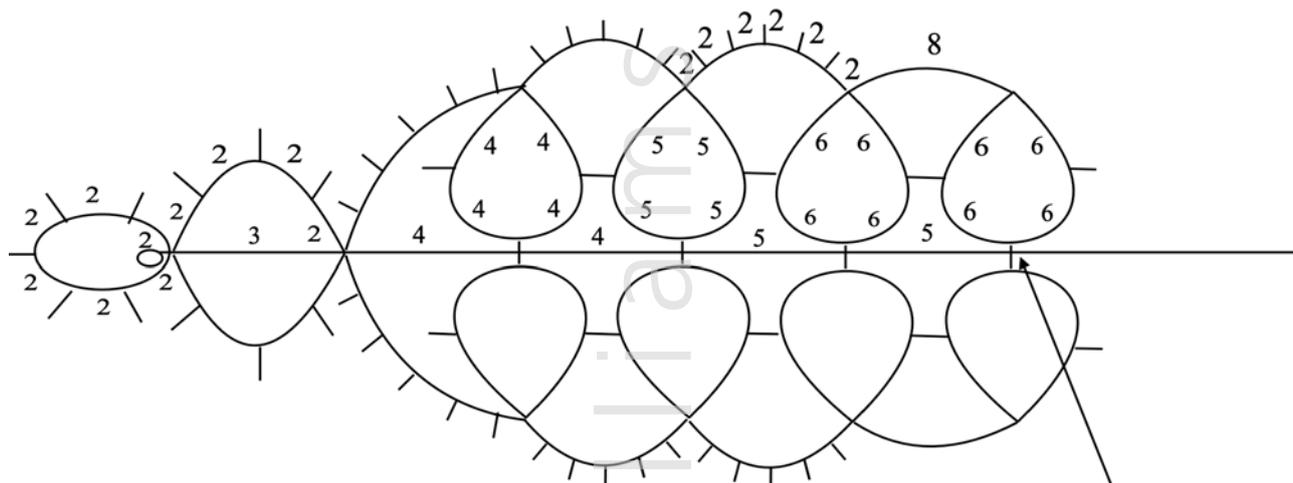


start second row by  
joining to the 17th loop  
from the left hand end

Continue working from the diagrams making 5 of the 4<sup>th</sup> branch, 6 of the 5<sup>th</sup> branch and 16 of the 6<sup>th</sup> branch. This will give a 'full' tree but the shape can be changed by working a different number of each branch size.

**Branch 4** Make 5

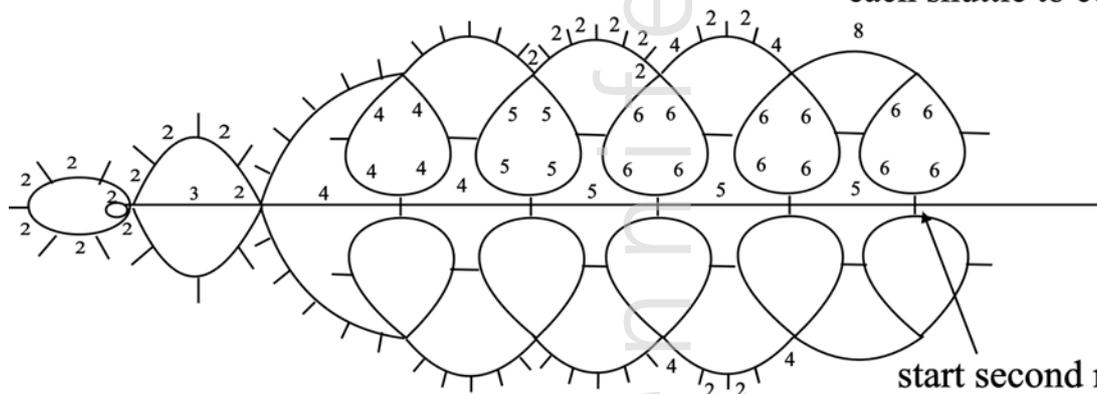
first row pearl tat 30 ds with each shuttle to cover the wire



start second row by joining to the 22nd loop from the left hand end

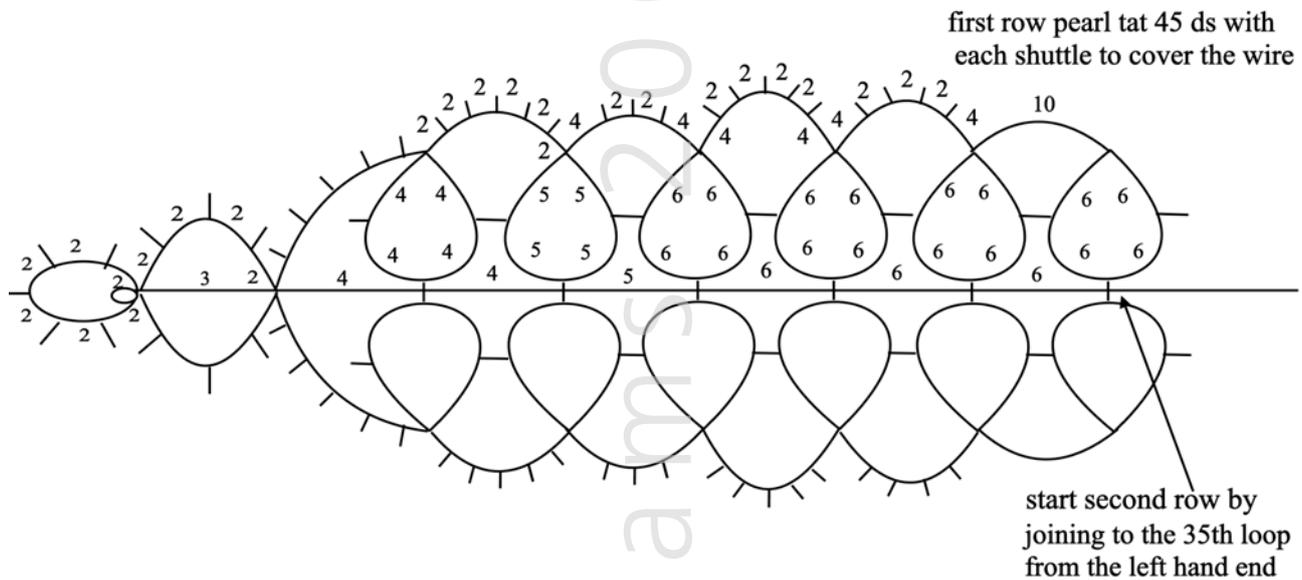
**Branch 5** Make 6

first row pearl tat 37 ds with each shuttle to cover the wire



start second row by joining to the 27th loop from the left hand end

**Branch 6** make 16



When all the branches have been worked secure all the ends and stiffen them to help them keep their shape.

To assemble the tree, first lay the branches out in order of size.

- 1) Take the first branch, the one that has just the pearl tatting, and wind the florist's tape round once or twice to cover the end of the tatting – this will be the trunk of the tree.
- 2) Take one of the smallest branches, hold it with the trunk and wind the tape round once or twice, covering the end of the pearl tatting, to hold it in place.
- 3) Continue adding the branches, rotating the trunk a bit each time. Do not space them out or the tree will be spindly.
- 4) Continue winding the tape for about 2 inches / 5 cms after the last branch to make the trunk. Cut the wires level and cover the sharp ends with the florist's tape.
- 5) Now hold the trunk in one hand, and fold down the branches one by one with the other.

## Candle holder and candle



The candle holders are tatted with Altin Bstak, which is equivalent to about size 40, colour 2351, but you could use another thread of similar thickness. For the candles you need Mill Hill long bugle beads ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch / 12.5 mm), a size 11 seed bead (or larger than the hole in the bugle bead) and a beading needle.

Worked with a shuttle only, leave an end of about 8 inches / 20 cms

R.1 3, (p, 3,) X 5 cl

R.2 3, + to last picot on ring 1, 3, (p, 3,) X 4 cl

R.3 3, + to last picot on ring 2, 3, (p, 3,) X 4 cl

R.4 3, + to last picot on ring 3, 3, (p, 3,) X 3, + to 1<sup>st</sup> picot of ring 1, 3 cl

Leave a very small space and continue

R.5 (to hold the candle) 12 cl small enough to fit round the bugle bead

R.6 repeat ring 5

Cut leaving an 8 inch / 20 cms end.

Pull the end through to the under side of the candle holder and tie to the starting thread.

Thread one of these ends onto the beading needle and pass it up through the centre of rings 1 – 4, and through rings 5 and 6 then through a bugle bead. Pull the thread right through then pass the needle through a seed bead, back down the bugle bead and down to the underside of the candle holder and secure.

Rings 5 and 6 should be held in place by the bugle bead, but a securing stitch made with the spare thread can be made if desired.

The two ends can be used to tie the candle holder to the tree.

## Baubles

The baubles are tatted in size 80 thread with seed beads of your choice.

Wooden beads,  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch / 1.5 cms diameter and gold, silver or red nail varnish.

Start by threading the wooden beads on cocktail sticks and painting them with the nail varnish.

### Pattern 1 (green with green beads)

This pattern can be worked using two shuttles or by making a SLT, where necessary, to position the threads correctly for the next element.



SH 1 R.A 5, p, 5, p, 5, p, 5 cl RW

CH 10 DNRW but SS

SH 2 R.B 5, p, 5, p, 5, p, 5 cl RW

CH 10 DNRW but SS

\*SH 1 R.C 5, + to R.A, 5, p, 5, p, 5 cl RW

CH 10 DNRW but SS

SH 2 R.D 5, + to R.B, 5, p, 5, p, 5 cl RW

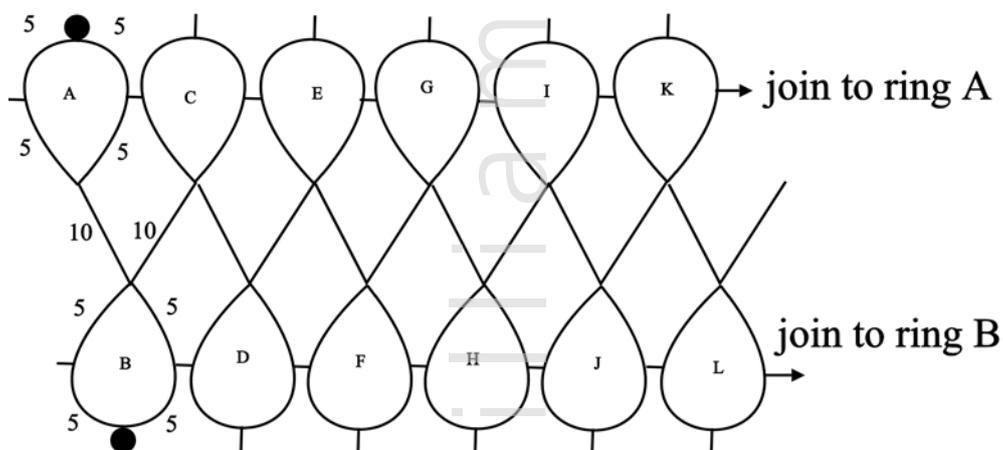
CH 10 DNRW but SS

Repeat from \* four times but remember to join ring K to ring I and ring A, then slip in the wooden bead before joining ring L to ring J and ring B.

Lace the bottom – with a crochet hook pass a bead onto each picot in turn holding in place with a needle and thread, pull up the thread and tie, then add a 7<sup>th</sup> bead to the centre of the cluster, tie the ends and secure.

Lace the top in the same way but bring both ends up through the 7<sup>th</sup> bead and use them to tie to the tree.

### Pattern 1



### Pattern 2 (pink silver beads)

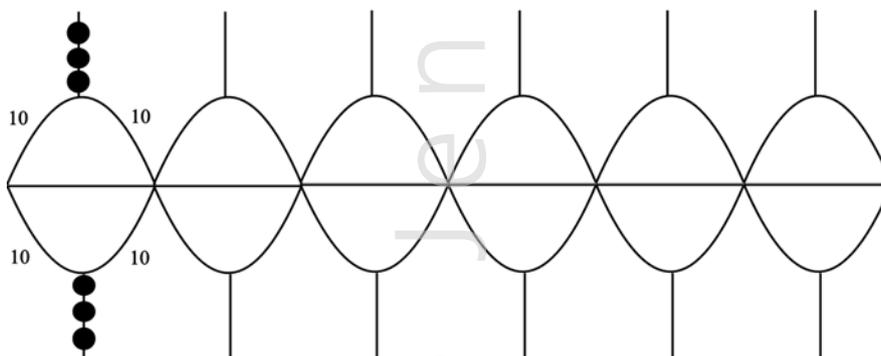
Measure the size of three beads together and cut a picot gauge just a little wider.

SR. (10, LP, 10 / vsp (on 1<sup>st</sup> SR only) 10, LP, 10) X 6, cut and tie to the vsp on the 1<sup>st</sup> SR. Secure ends.



Lace the bottom – put three beads on each long picot and secure with a needle and thread. Pull up the thread and add one bead to the centre. Secure the ends.

Lace the top in the same way – after inserting the bead – and bring the threads up through one or two beads and tie to the tree.



**Pattern 3** (red with gold beads)



Row 1 leave a very small space between the rings.

R.A 6, p, 6, p, 6, p, 6 cl

\*R.B 6, + to ring A, 6, p, 6, p, 6 cl

Repeat from \* 5 times (7 rings) remembering to join ring G to rings F and A.

Row 2

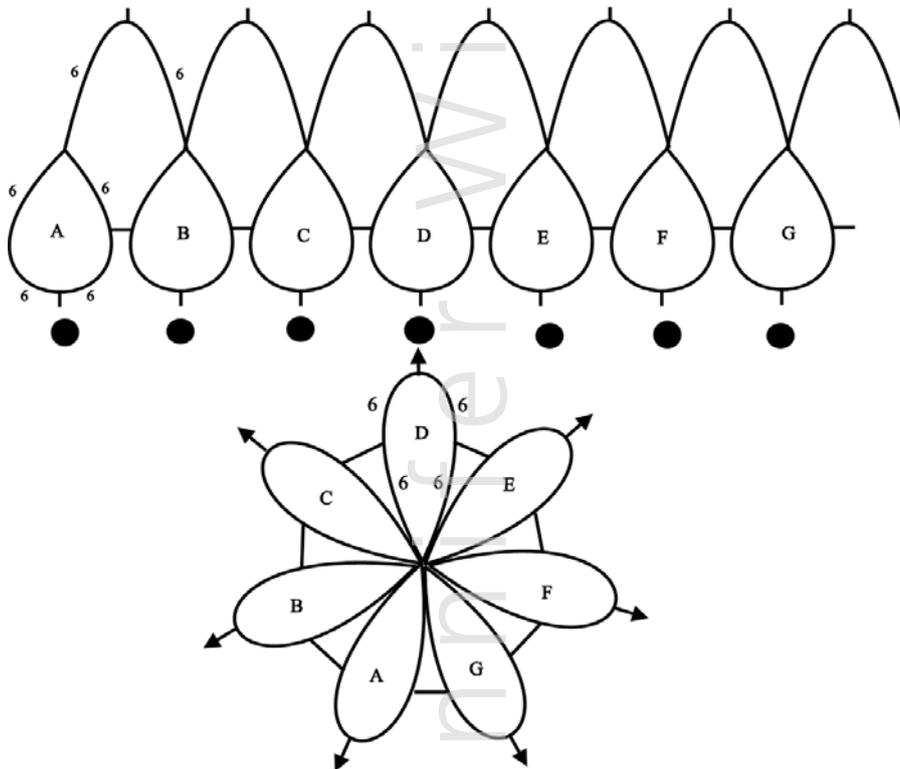
R.A 6, p, 6, + adding a bead to ring A of row 1, 6, p, 6 cl RW

CH 6, p, 6 RW

\* R.B 6, + to previous ring, 6, + adding a bead to ring B of row 1, 6, p, 6 cl RW

Repeat from \* joining rings C, D, E, F and G of row 2 (adding a bead each time) to the consecutive ones of row 1.

Lace the top - thread a length of thread about 10 inches /25 cms long onto a beading or fine needle, place the wooden bead inside the tatted shape and, with the needle, pick up all the picots on the chains, tighten the thread and tie. Pass the needle down through the hole in the wooden bead, add 3 gold beads then bring the needle up through the wooden bead again. Add another gold bead then use the ends to tie to the tree.



**Pattern 4** (turquoise with silver beads)



Row 1

R.A 4, p, 4, p, 4, p, 4 cl RW

CH 5, p, 5 RW

\*R.B 4, + to previous ring, 4, p, 4, p, 4 cl RW

CH 5, p, 5 RW

Repeat from \* 4 times (6 rings) remembering to join the last ring to the first.

Row 2

R.A 4, p, 4, p, 4, p, 4 cl RW

CH 5, + with a bead to one of the chains on row 1, 5 RW

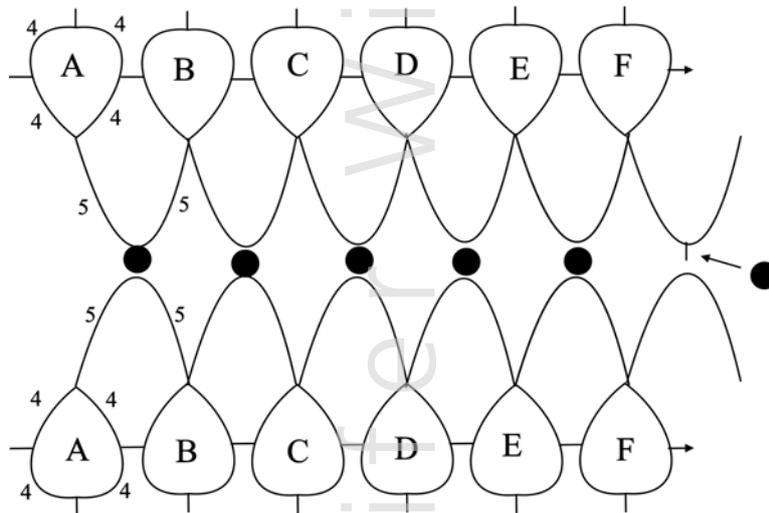
\*R.B 4, + to previous ring, 4, p, 4, p, 4 cl RW

CH 5, + with a bead to the next chain on row 1, 5 RW

Repeat from \* to the end **NB** slip the wooden bead in place before the last two joins are made.

Lace the bottom – with a length of thread on a beading, or fine, needle gather the 6 free picots on the rings and add a ‘cluster’ of beads, tie and secure the ends.

Lace the top – the same as for the bottom but leave the ends to tie the bauble to the tree.



**Pattern 5** (purple with gold beads)



Row 1

SR (6, p, 6 / vsp (on 1<sup>st</sup> SR only) 6, p, 6 cl) X 7

Cut and tie to the very small picot on the 1<sup>st</sup> split ring. Secure the ends.

Row 2 leave a very small space between each ring.

R.A 5, p, 5, + with a bead to a picot on a split ring of row 1, 5, p, 5 cl

\* R.B 5, + to ring A, 5, + with a bead to the picot on the next split ring of row 1, 5, p, 5 cl

Repeat from \* 5 times remembering, on the 7<sup>th</sup> repeat, to join to ring A as well as the previous ring.

Cut, leaving long enough ends to add a cluster of beads when attaching to the wooden bead.

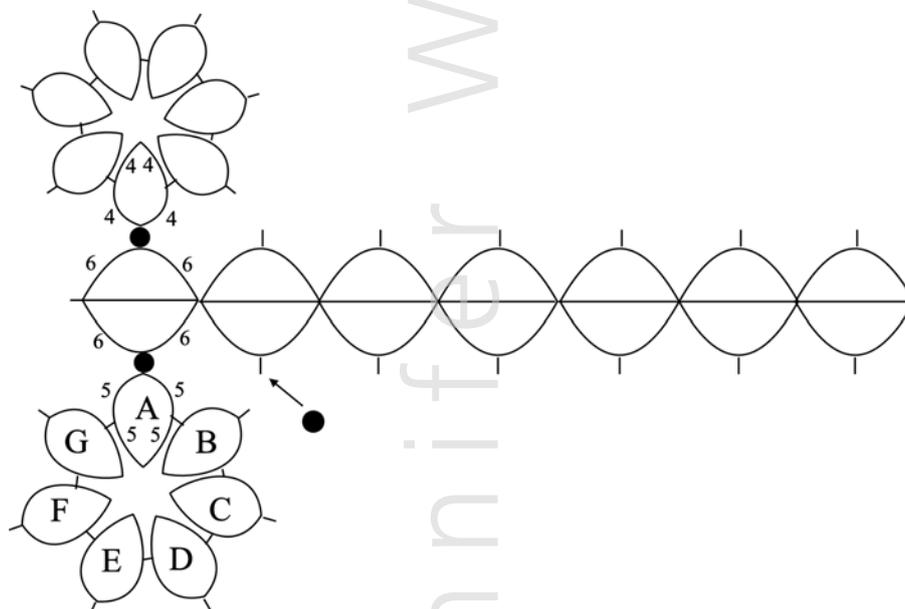
Row 3 leave a very small space between each ring.

**NB** slip the wooden bead in place, before completing this row, when the gap is just big enough to do so.

R.A 4, p, 4, + with a bead to a picot on the opposite side of a split ring of row 1, 4, p, 4 cl

\* R.B 4, + to ring A, 4,+ with a bead to the picot on the next split ring of row 1, 4, p, 4 cl

Repeat from \* 5 times making all the joins as for row 2, and slipping in the wooden bead before the gap is too small.



## Decorations

These are just ideas on which you can build.

- 1) Work with size 20 thread. Changing the colours and mix of beads will result in a variety of decorations.
- 2) To make the rings a real circle I used mock rings (a chain with, either a paperclip as an anchor, leaving a small hole when removed later to which to tie your ends, or just a loop through which the shuttle is passed before the mock ring is closed.)
- 3) When you have closed the mock ring string the required number of beads onto each of the two threads, push them up close to the mock ring, then make two or three knots, one on top of the other, close to the beads, cut and secure with clear nail varnish.

**NB** the knots must be bigger than the hole in the bead to prevent the beads slipping off.

### Pattern 1

String 9 beads and wind about 12 inches / 30 cms on your shuttle.  
Position the beads on the ball side before you start the mock ring.  
Start the mock ring with a paper clip or large loop (see note above) and

-  
Chain 10, B, 2, B, 2, B, 2, 3B, 2, B, 2, B, 2, B, 10.

Pull up the ring, cut leaving 5 inch / 12 cms ends and tie to secure.  
String 2 beads onto the two threads together, then 7 beads on each thread, push up close to the tatting and knot, then secure with clear nail varnish.



## Pattern 2

String 28 beads and wind your shuttle with about 12 inches / 30 cms thread and 7 of the beads, leaving 21 beads on the ball side.

Start the mock ring with a paper clip or large loop (see note before Decoration pattern 1) and -

Chain 2, \*3B (from ball thread) and B (from shuttle), 4, repeat from \* 6 times but work only 2 instead of 4 ds on the last repeat.

Finish as for pattern 1.



## Pattern 3

The stacked beads are threaded on VERY LONG PICOTS at the end. These very long picots should each be long enough to enable you to knot them when the beads are added.

String 24 beads and wind your shuttle with about 12 inches / 30 cms thread and 6 of the beads, leaving 18 beads on the ball side.

Start the mock ring with a paper clip or large loop (see note before Decoration pattern 1) and -

Chain 2, \*3B (from ball thread) and B (from shuttle), 2, VLP, 2,

Repeat from \* 4 times, 3B (from ball thread) and B (from shuttle), 2

Finish as for pattern 1.

Using a fine crochet hook thread 3 beads on each of the long picots, push them up close to the tatting, knot as before and secure with clear nail varnish.

