

## Sunflower in Maltese Tatting

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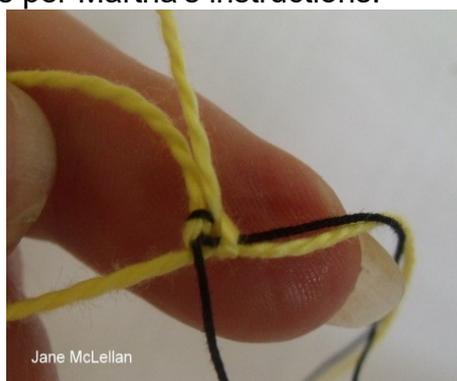
To make the flower, it is essential to know how to make Maltese Rings. This flower uses Martha Ess's instructions from her Tat's Amore website. This is her ring #3, with a ring inside the Maltese ring.

### Materials

2 shuttles, one wound with size 10 yellow thread and the other size 20 black thread. Add 24 very small beads to the black thread before beginning.

### Method

Tie shuttle threads together, make a loop with yellow thread. The first half stitch is made with both shuttles together, as per Martha's instructions.



Shuttle 1: 1 ds, long picot, 2 ds.

Note, I used a scrap of card 35 mm wide, held sideways, as a picot gauge:



Shuttle 2: Put shuttle thread over hand and around pinky. Slide one bead close to work and then work 2 stitches in black, unflipped.



Shuttle 1: long picot, 3 ds.

Alternate shuttles in this way until there are 6 'petals'.

#### Inner Ring

Do one black stitch as before. Then drop yellow thread, and reverse work. Using shuttle 2, put 6 beads on the back of the hand. Make a ring: 1 ds, then slide a bead from the core thread and from the shuttle thread, 1 ds. Repeat until there are 3 sets of beads. Then make a small picot, adding a bead from the shuttle thread below it. Continue with the ring, adding beads as before until all the beads from the core thread are used up. (Note, see Jane Eborall's Winsome Drop earrings for this method). Close ring.



#### Petals continued

Go back to the yellow thread and work one black ds. Then continue as before with long picot, 3 ds, followed by bead and 2 black ds until there are 5 petals on the second side. Work black ds and then join to the picot on the inner ring:



Finish with yellow, working the second half of the last ds with both shuttles. Close. Note, it can be difficult to close, so try not to tat too tightly. Hide ends or use them to sew the sunflower to something.

Voila!