This is easily one of the most fun and challenging tatting designs I have ever done. Interconnected rings around a bead. No chains, just rings.

Wind a shuttle CTM with ball. This sample is size 5 Pearle cotton. It is about 1.5” across. The bead is about 1/8”.

This is NOT a beginner project. Pull a loop of thread between the ball and shuttle through the bead. Put the shuttle through the loop, and then tighten it loosely around the bead. Photo shows it not tightened enough yet.

All of the rings have stitch counts of (3 – 5 – 1 – 1 – 5 – 3) However, the rings join through the previous ring to the ring before that one.

Tat the first ring. Join the shuttle thread* to the thread around the bead. Tat the second ring. Join around the thread loop that goes around the bead. The thread loop will slide through these joins. It is not a lock join. Neither of these rings join to each other at this point. →

The third ring joins to the last picot of the first ring through the middle of the second ring. Ring (3 + 5 – 1 – 1 – 5 – 3)

Rings 4 & 5 are each tatted this same way, joining through the previous ring to the last picot of the ring before that. Between the rings join around the thread loop that goes around the bead.

Next, tighten the thread loop with these rings, and loosen the other side of the thread loop. That is why those are not lock joins, because the loop of thread has to be able to slide. Join around the thread on the second side of the bead, and tat three more rings as before.

In case you are not totally confused yet... the difficult part is coming. Take a break. Breathe, and take a walk.
OK, Continuing on.

The ninth ring joins to both the ring before the previous one, and to the first picot of the first ring.

Before tatting the tenth, (final) ring, gently pull the ball thread to close the loop around the bead.

You can see in this photo that the picots for the joins of the tenth ring are visible through the previous ring and the first ring.

Cut the threads from the ball and shuttle leaving a couple yards of tails to finger tat the final ring, which is a split ring. Wrap the thread tail for the hand ring of the tenth ring around the hand and then through from the back to the front below the join of the ninth ring and the first ring.

Split ring ( $3 + 5 - 1 / 3 + 5 - 1$ )

Be sure that everything is correct before closing this ring!

Each ring should join to two other rings through the adjacent rings. Each ring should be on top of the ring to its left and behind the ring to its right.

Finish as desired. I tatted a ring of 8 DS to attach an earring finding. This design is not easy, but the look is worth the trouble. It does work up surprisingly fast once you get the hang of it.

Enjoy!

* Shuttle join that is NOT a lock join:

Pull a loop of the shuttle thread under the core thread. Put the shuttle through this loop, and then tighten gently so that the join still slides on the thread that it wraps around.