Padded Ring Snowflake

This snowflake has three core threads in the center ring. It makes it look a bit puffier. Instructions for tatting a padded ring are included at the end of these instructions. The thread I used is some OLD size 10 knit cро-sheen. The sample is about 3 inches across. This is NOT a beginner pattern!

Begin with two shuttles CTM.
S1
Wrap the core thread around your hand three times, and then tat unflipped stitches around the core threads [this is like the 2nd half of a split ring]
Padded Ring (3 – 3 – 3 – 3 – 3 – 3) Follow the padded ring instructions to close this ring.

Split Ring to climb out to the next round (7 – 3 / 7 – 3) turn
S1 Chain [Very Small Picot ] 7
S2 thrown off Josephine ring (1DS. 7 1st half DS, one 2nd half DS) close ring
S1 Chain 5
Mock Ring (MR) (1 – 1 – 1 – 1 – 1 – 1)

The sixth ring joins to the previous Ring, the Centre, and the first ring. After tatting the sixth ring you have three options:

1. Chain 7 JR 5 MR 5 JR 7 Join to the VSP at the beginning of the first chain, THC
2. Chain 7 JR 5 Split chain with thrown off JR to beginning picot to finish the point of the snowflake, and then Split ring (1 – 1 – 1 / 1 – 1 – 1) Tie the ends to make a loop for hanging.
3. Chain 7 JR 5 Join new S3 & Ball thread to the beginning VSP Chain 7 JR 5, and then tie the Core threads together, Split Ring (1 – 1 – 1 / 1 – 1 – 1) Hide one end on each side in the core of this SR. Cut the hidden tails off and use the other two threads to make a loop for hanging, or... Use the 4 thread tails as part of a tassel. Add a loop of thread at the middle picot of the MR opposite from the tassel. This is the option I show in the photo at the top of the page.

Note: to close a three core padded ring you pull the outer core a little, then the middle core a little, then the inner core completely. Then close the middle core completely, and then close the outer core completely. The following instructions were written for a different project in 2006.
Padded Rings

To shuttle tat a padded ring you should begin with a shuttle filled with the desired amount of thread, CTM Continuous Thread Method [DO NOT CUT THE THREAD FROM THE BALL]

Wrap the thread around your hand as if you were going to make a normal shuttle tatted ring, but then wrap the thread around a second time and hold it in the “pinch”. This will make the core thread go around twice through the middle of the stitches.

You can wrap three times to make a thicker padded ring. This requires identifying first one core thread ring then the next to close the ring. If you understand the concept, it should be obvious how to do this.

Tat ALL DS the direct method, second half first; first half second, DO NOT FLIP the stitches. This is direct tatting, just like the second half of a split ring. The stitches should be a little looser than I usually tat, but then I tat quite tightly. If your stitches are too tight it will be difficult to close the ring.

When the tatting is completed, and you are ready to close the ring, Hold the tatted stitches between your thumb and finger to keep them from twisting, and pull a little thread through using the tail. See instructions to close a padded ring on the next page.

These padded rings do not require an extra thread that has to be worked in when the piece is finished, just the shuttle and ball thread the same as most other tatting. The Padded Rings look thicker because there is a second core thread.

**Reverse Stitches**
NOT FLIPPED

**Pinch**
Threads are held between thumb and first finger.

**Thread Tail**
This thread is attached to the ball, or wound on a second shuttle.

**Core Threads**
The thread is wrapped two times around through the core in padded rings.

**Outer Loop**

**Shuttle**
Thread from the shuttle makes the Reverse Stitches.
How to close a padded ring

1. **Tail**
   Pull this until one of the loops of core thread is a little shorter than the other one.

2. **Outer core thread**
   This is the thread to pull so that the other loop of core thread almost disappears inside the padded ring. Pull it until there is only a little bit of the second loop. See the photo below. If this loop is closed tightly it will be impossible to close the second loop without breaking the thread.

3. **Tail**
   When one loop of the core thread is pulled through, the outer loop will be large. To close the ring completely pull the tail until this loop disappears inside the ring also.
Consecutive Padded or Direct Rings

To tat another direct ring NEXT TO a previous ring you simply hold the ring you just tatted in your right hand (assuming you are tatting right handed). Wrap the tail thread for your next ring around your left hand. Position the previously tatted ring in the pinch so that the first Reverse Stitch of this ring is tatted immediately next to the previous ring.

To close each padded ring follow the instructions on the previous page.

To join to the previous ring pull a loop of the shuttle thread up through the previous picot and insert the shuttle through this loop. Take care pulling this join snug. Be sure that the loop of thread is pulled up so the two rings are close together before the loop is closed.

To join the last ring to the first position both rings so that the core threads and shuttle thread and tail are all on the top side of the work. Join the two rings as above, then continue tatting the remainder of the reverse stitches and close the ring as described.

With a little practice this should all be easy to do. Several patterns are included in this work that provide experience in tatting padded rings. I suggest that you tat a few practice rings before starting on a serious work, and fat thread (size 10 or 20) makes it easier to see what you are doing when learning anything new.

The rosettes at the center of the Riego Diamonds are a good piece to practice making and joining padded rings. With 204 of them required to make the Parasol cover, that is a LOT of practice.