

Belleflake

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This snowflake is a variation on the Christmas Snowflake. For those of you who don't like throwing rings from the second side of split rings, this could be a better pattern for you!

You will need:

- * Size #20 thread
- * Two shuttles
- * One 8mm - 15mm small bell available at Spotlight in packets of 10 for about \$2.50 and a small jump ring, bought or home made
- * PVA glue
- * A little water
- * A decent paintbrush (one that won't shed its fibers over your work! The best brush for this job is a flat brush.)
- * A piece of Gladbake or Gladwrap and a piece of paper towel to blot the excess PVA from the Belleflake.



Wind the two shuttles CTM (Continuous Thread Method - which means to wind one shuttle with thread, then measure-off another amount of thread, cut it from the ball and wind it onto the other shuttle. You end up with one length of thread with a shuttle wound from each end.)

Begin at Ring A on the diagram. Name your shuttles '1' and '2'. Using shuttle 1, tat 8ds, tiny picot - and I mean *reeaaaaally* tiny - 10ds, cl.

Ring B is a mock ring. Begin by using Shuttle 1 over your left hand and Shuttle 2 in your right, ready to chain. Unwind about 10cm of Shuttle 2 and leave it hanging in a loop - that is, leave some thread hanging and draw the thread about 10cm down toward the shuttle into the pinch of your left hand, ready to start the stitches. The threads should look like they usually do when starting a chain, only there's a loop of thread hanging down in the space of the palm of your left hand. Chain 7ds. Drop the chain so far and using only Shuttle 1, make the first thrown ring of 8ds, close. Pick up the chain as before, 7ds, picot, 1ds, longer picot, 1ds, picot as first, 7ds. Drop chain again and make second thrown ring of 8ds using Shuttle 1, pick up chain, 7ds. Close the mock ring by threading Shuttle 2 through the loop of thread left at the beginning of the mock ring. Thread the shuttle from the back of the loop to the front, making sure to untwist the loop before passing the shuttle through. Gently pull on Shuttle 2 to draw the mock ring closed. Tension the work before continuing.

Ring C is a split ring of 10ds / 8ds. Continue around the diagram tating lots of Rings A, B and C until five complete trefoils are made, making the last Ring C a regular ring and joining to the first Ring A as you go. Sew in ends.

Using an old bowl, combine 50% PVA 50% water and stir to smooth with your paintbrush. Lay the Belleflake on a piece of Gladbake or Gladwrap and gently paint it with the mixture. Turn and repeat if necessary. Take a piece of paper towel and blot any excess from the work. This is important to do to the centres of the rings, especially the little rings of 8ds and the picots, otherwise you will end up with rings gummed-up with glue. Place the flake on a clean patch of the Gladbake and allow it to dry, making sure that you've tweaked it into shape before leaving it.

Open your jump ring with pliers (sideways, not by stretching it wide) and thread it between the thread space made between a Ring A and C. Thread the bell onto the jump ring and close.

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