Elements “Ring on Ring”

From the book “Tatting in ANKARS Technique” (pages 115-119) by Rina Stepnaya, Moscow 2007

The text is translated from Russian by Nina Libin and arranged in a tutorial to explain the technique of tatting “Ring on Ring” element with step-by-step photographs and pictures of actual jewelry from the above mentioned book.

A few words about the technique:

Please do not mix it up with other tatting techniques having ‘RING’ in their names, in other words:
- This is neither ‘Ring inside Ring’ technique, widely known as Onion rings:
- nor ‘Ring off Ring’ as in recent design “Petal Dancer” by Rachel Mohler

‘Ring on Ring’ covered in this tutorial is a composition/element, developed for specific projects, and vastly used in ANKARS jewelry since 1997. It is the way/method to literally stack Ring on Ring, on Ring, on Ring, and so on, providing a 3D effect, as in the bracelet in the picture on your right.

As you will see there are two versions of “Ring on Ring” element, simple and complex. Both versions can use any number of rings, and the difference is the way you join these rings to each other.

- In simple “Ring on Ring” element you join rings directly in a usual way forming a 3D stack of rings as you go (pages 2 and 3).

- In complex “Ring on Ring” element you can tat rings in different order without joining, and then connect/arrange them in a stack by reaching through completed (smaller) rings to joining picots of the first (usually largest) ring, or whatever instructions there are in the pattern (pages 4 through 6).
**Simple version of the element**
**“Ring on Ring”**

Was developed in 1997 while working on collection “Zabella” (picture 1)

Look at the diagram (picture 2):

1) Tat the 1\(^{st}\) ring, close it, and start the 2\(^{nd}\) ring at the same point (picture 3)

2) Coming to the joining point, place the 2\(^{nd}\) ring on top of the 1\(^{st}\) one, and make regular join. **On the front side of your work the 2\(^{nd}\) (smaller) ring should sit on top of the 1\(^{st}\) (larger) ring** (see pictures 4 and 5)

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**Attention!**

If at the moment of completing the element your work is turned backside up, make sure that the 2\(^{nd}\) (smaller) ring is under the 1\(^{st}\) (larger) ring (see picture 6).

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**Master’s advice:**

In case you’ve placed the rings in wrong order, it is still possible to correct it. Take the fragments of joined rings and rearrange them to make sure that:

**on the front side of your work the smaller ring sits on top of the larger ring.**

However this rearranging by hand will slow you down and may distort the tatting, so you are definitely better off to make it right the first time.

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3) You can continue work and make another large ring joining it to the same picot of the 1st ring.
On the pictures 7–14 below you see how it looks when you use **“Ring on Ring”** element to make a stack of rings starting the next ring at the point of closing the previous one.
The whole composition is made with ONE shuttle no matter how many rings there are in your design.

*Master’s advice:*
Obviously the rings (small and large) in the motifs composed of numerous **“Ring on Ring”** elements could be of different size, all or some of them. Also keep in mind that each of those rings could have decorative picots or beads, or both, and may be decorated with larger beads stitched in, using a bead embroidery technique (pictures 16-17 below).
**Complex version of the element “Ring on Ring”**

This element was developed in 2003 while creating the collection “Vanished City”.

1) The upper of two diagrams on the right shows the sequence of tatting rings 1-4.

The lower diagram shows stitch count, and placement of picots, and joins for every ring.

Dotted line under 4 rings indicates that ALL rings start in the same point, but they are placed at a distance in the diagram to make it easier to read.

2) Tat the 1st ring, start the 2nd ring at the same point, and join it to the 1st ring when you come to joining point (position 2 on page 1). Start the 3rd ring at the same point as the previous two.

(See pictures 2 and 3 below)

3) While joining 3rd ring to the 1st one make sure to place the 3rd ring on top of the 2nd, and insert crochet hook into the matching picot of the 1st ring. When you come to tatting the 4th rings, go with your crochet hook through the 2nd and the 3rd rings to reach corresponding picot of the 1st ring, the one that holds the whole stack.

(See pictures 4 and 5 on the right)
Attention!

In complex element “Ring on Ring” there can be many rings, but no matter how many rings there are, on the front side they should look stacked: the largest at the bottom, and the smallest on top.

4) If at the moment of making the stack of rings your work is back side up, make sure to place every next ring under the previous one, and join them going through all the rings in between.

5) If according to the diagram you have to tat the rings in reverse order, the smallest first, the largest last. Start tatting every ring at the same point not joining them to each other at that instance. Then start the last (largest) ring at the same point. When you reach the joining point to the first (small) ring, stack the completed rings in proper order.

Remember that when the front side of the work is facing you the proper order will be the smallest ring on top and the largest at the bottom of the stack. If the back side of the work faces you, the largest ring should be on top and the smallest at the bottom.

To complete the join to the 1st ring place the crochet hook through all the previous rings. Do the same with the rest of the rings. Please keep in mind that large rings in “Ring on Ring” elements may have too many stitches and it may be difficult to close that ring, mainly if you start the stack with the smallest ring. To help with this pay attention to the quality of your tatting (ANKARS exercise will be helpful)

6) On the wrong side of your work the “Ring on Ring” elements of the stack should be as nicely finished as on the front (pictures 6, 7, and 8).
Master’s Advice:
Complex element “Ring on Ring” can be also made differently:

- Either start with ring 2, then tat rings 3 and 4, and after that ring 1 joining it to picots of previous rings as you go.

- Or start with ring 1, and continue tatting rings 4, 3, 2 joining them to ring 1 as you go.

- Or combine the above methods in one making joins to the corresponding rings either through intermediate rings or directly (see picture 9 below).

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The Coral Pin was designed by Rina Stepnaya in 2012 especially for the online class to illustrate the “Ring on Ring” technique.

See ‘Coral Pin.pdf’ for the Pin pattern.
There are 12 rings included in design.