

Though this stitch makes beadwork that often looks more like a starburst than a circle, it is indeed a netting technique, worked around and around in looping arches of strung beads. Any size rounds from 15° to 6° work best, but varying sizes, colors, and adding new shapes adds texture and detail in strategic intersections. Change the colors in each round when you first try this mesmerizing technique. Shown: Round 1 (tan), Round 2 (brown), Round 3 (gold), Round 4 (tan).

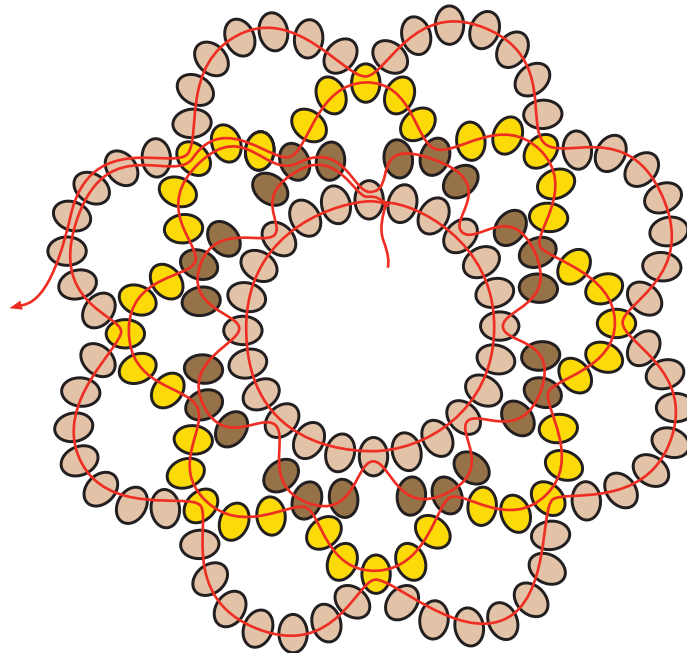
TIPS from Leslie

- It's easier to learn circular netting with an even number of beads in your circle for a concentric pattern. An odd number of beads makes your pattern spiral. But, string an odd number of beads in each subsequent round to have an exact center bead from which to build the next round.



- String enough beads to keep the piece flat. Too few beads and it will start to cup. Keep thread tension even but not too snug to keep the piece lying flat.

- Use a larger or different color bead as your center bead in each loop.



1 String 24 beads and tie in a snug circle, knotting between the first and last beads. Exit through bead 1.

2 Round 2 (brown beads): Work around the ring. String 3 new beads, skip 2 beads in the ring, and pass through the fourth ring bead. Repeat around the ring, stringing 3 beads in each new loop around the ring. When you reach the first set of 3 beads pass through the first 2 beads in that loop to exit the center bead in that loop. This is called “stepping up,” to be in position to start a new round.

3 Round 3 (gold beads): String enough beads to make a nice arch of beads to the center bead in the next loop in Round 2. Use an odd number: 5 beads are shown here. Continue working around in a circle, making new loops of beads.

4 Complete the last loop in Round 3 by passing through the center brown bead in the first loop of Round 2. Step up for the next round by passing through the first loop of this round to exit the center (gold) bead.

5 Round 4, larger loops of beads: String 1 loop to see how many beads will keep the piece lying flat; larger loops will create a ruffle, but too few will pull the work and make it cup the beads.

6 Finish by weaving the working end of the thread through existing thread paths back to the tail end. Make a knot with the tail and working thread and weave both ends into the piece; trim ends carefully close to the beads.