

The Henna Page "HowTo"

Knotwork
for Henna Artists



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The Henna Page TM TapDancing Lizard TM LLC

All patterns, henna, and photography by Catherine Cartwright-Jones © 2004

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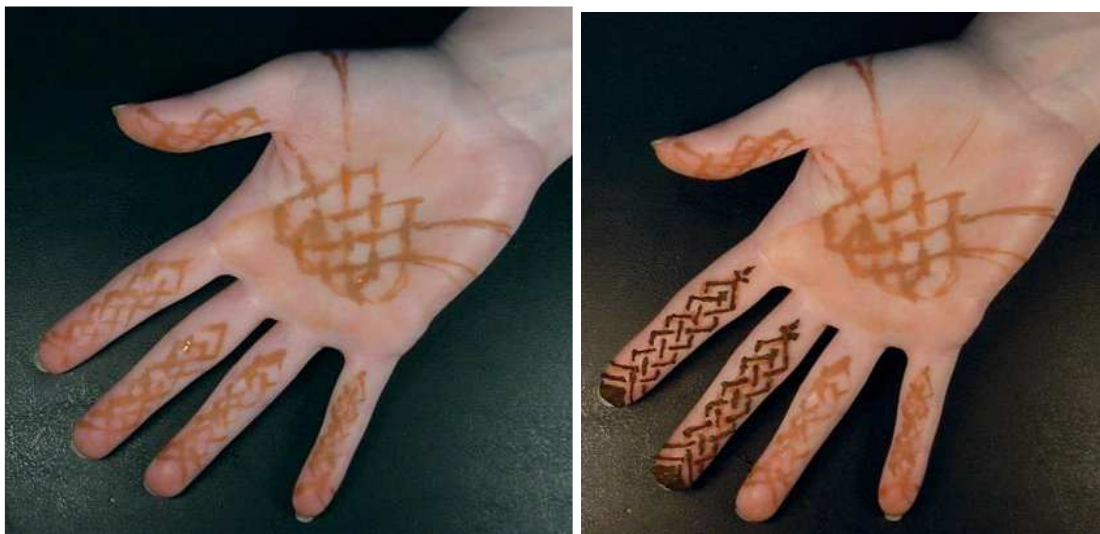
Always use safe, natural red-brown henna in your henna work. Never use any “black henna” product containing para-phenylenediamine to stain skin. Para-phenylenediamine may cause severe injuries to both artist and client.

Knotwork is simple if you know a few tricks!

Get an aquarellable pencil, a soft watercolor pencil.



You can draw on damp skin with an aquarellable pencil. You can dip an aquarellable pencil in water and draw on skin. You can also use a non-greasy, non-waxy eyebrow pencil. These won't interfere with the henna stain.



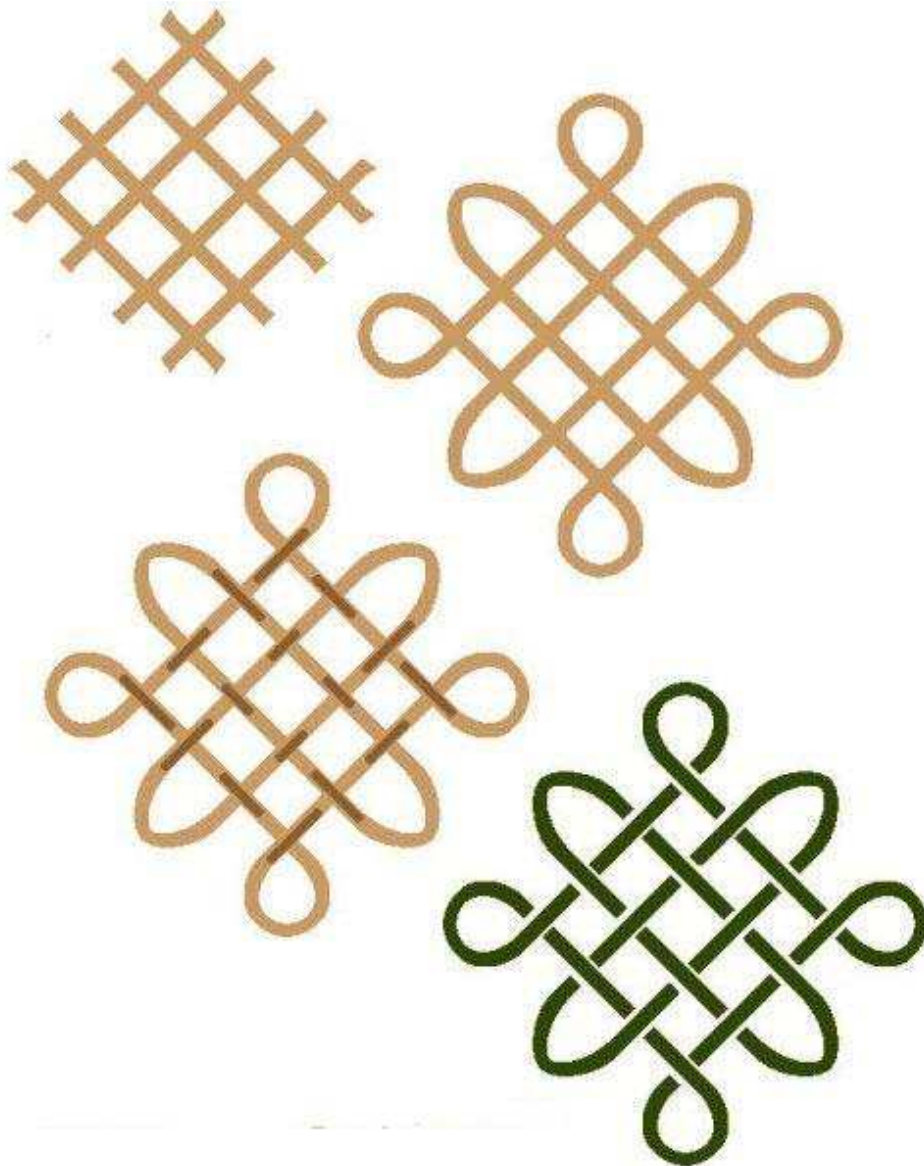
Draw in the rough pattern first. Then find the “over-under” strokes and mark those in. Clean up the irregularities and mistakes and before you start the henna work.



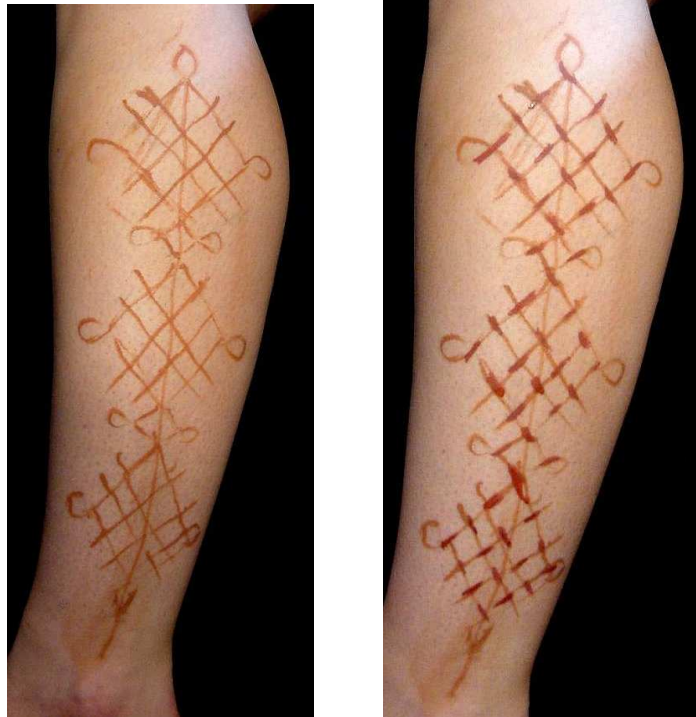
If you have the basics drawn in pencil first, it's easy to do complex patterns!

Here's a more complex pattern based on a very simple knot frequently used in Islamic art:

Here is how to construct the knot:



Draw this knot step by step to make a very complicated pattern!

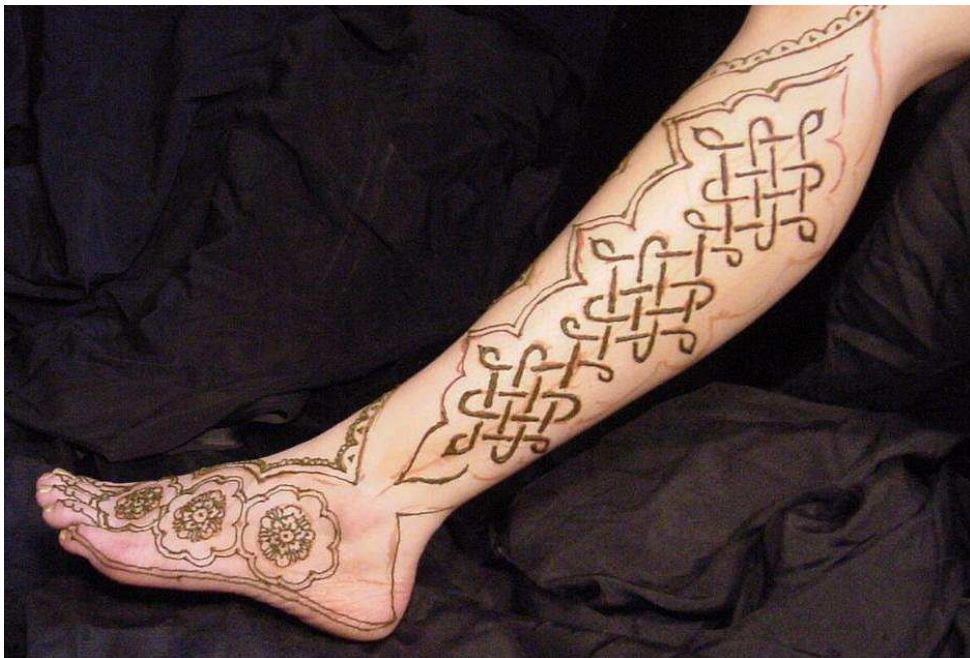


Sketch in the basic grid, and find the over and under with aquarellable pencil. Then, sketch in the rest of the pattern so it is symmetrical.





Start the henna work over the pencil sketching.



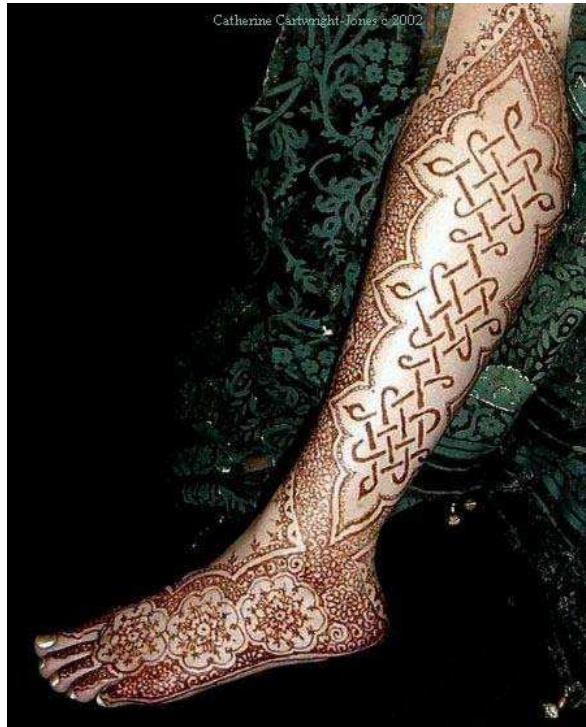
When the knotwork is done, do the major outlines and elements.



When the important stuff is done, fill in the spaces with little flowers and spirals.



Keep on filling. It looks complicated, but it's very easy!



All done!

Here is another version of the same knot:

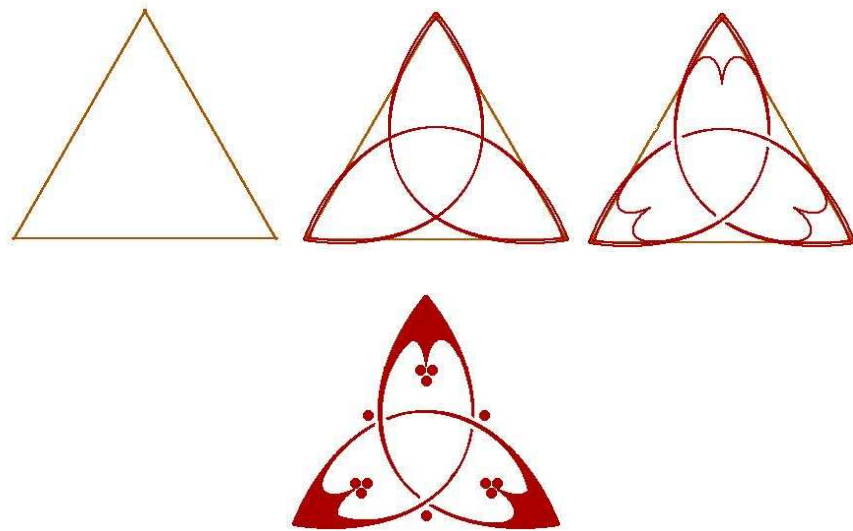
Its simple to do, but dramatic! The Arabic word between the knots is “Victory”



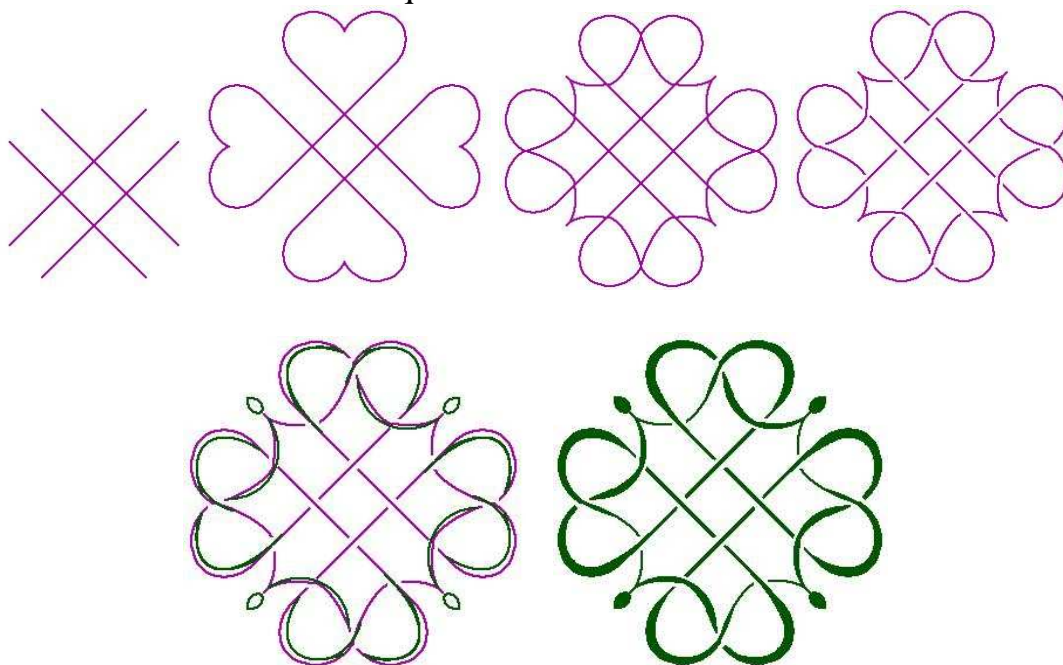
Here are some knotwork patterns, step by step:

- 1) Sketch the basic form lightly in pencil.
- 2) Fill it out.
- 3) Find the “over-under.”
- 4) When you have it the way you want it, apply henna!

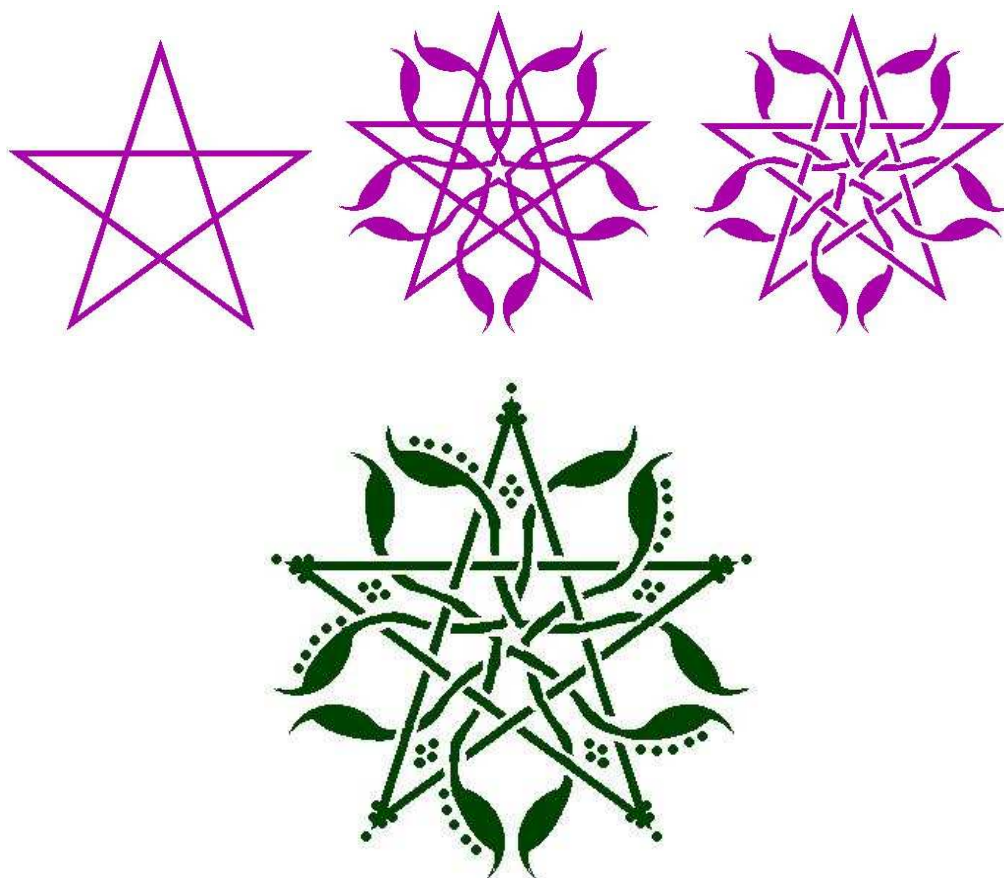
The first knot is based on a triangle:



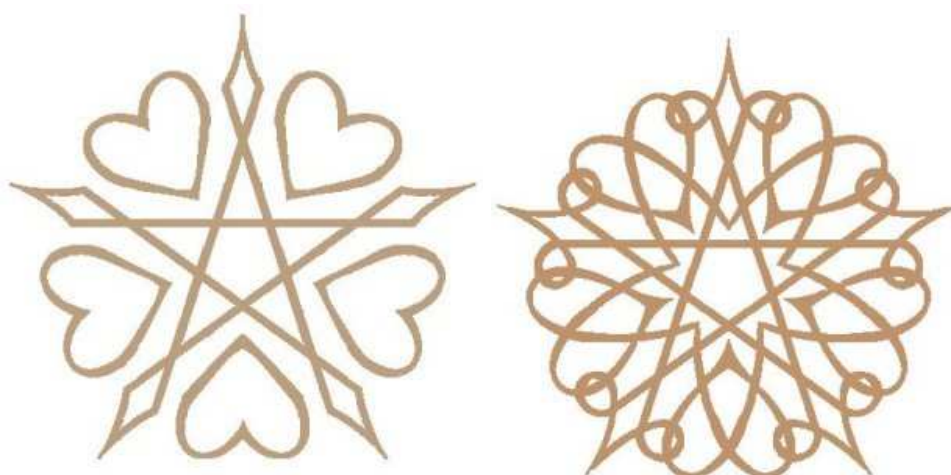
The next knot is based on a square and hearts:

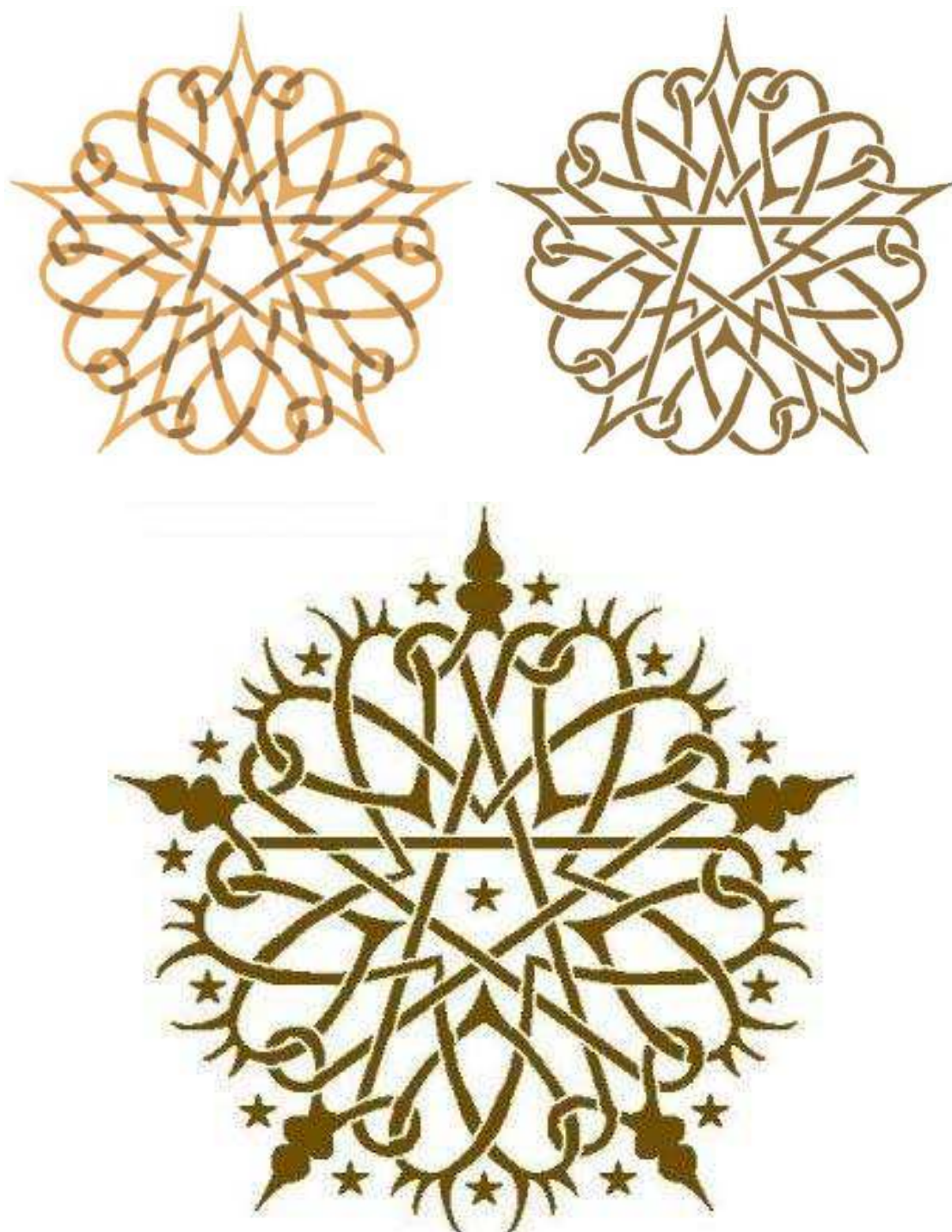


Here's a knot based on a pentagram:

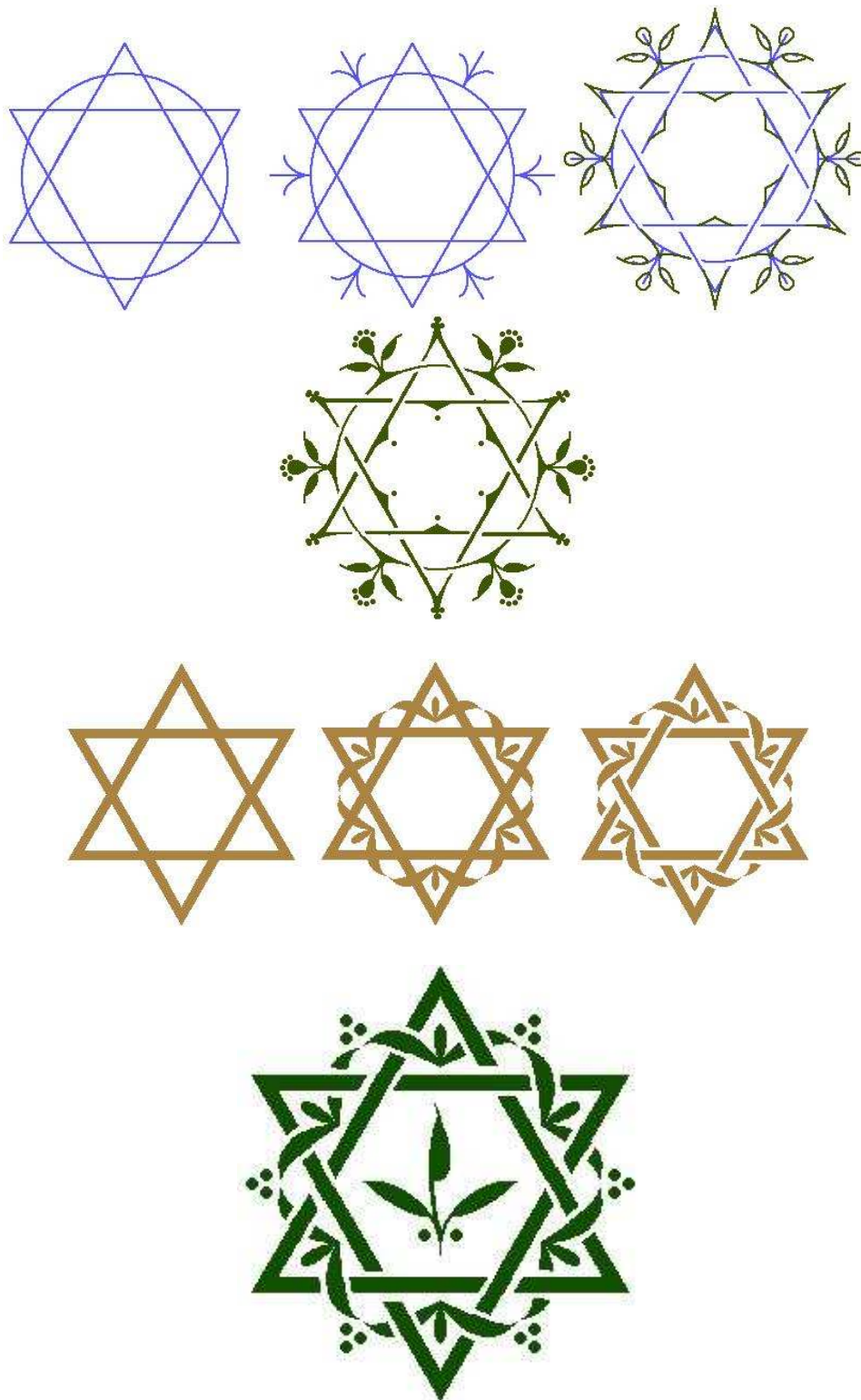


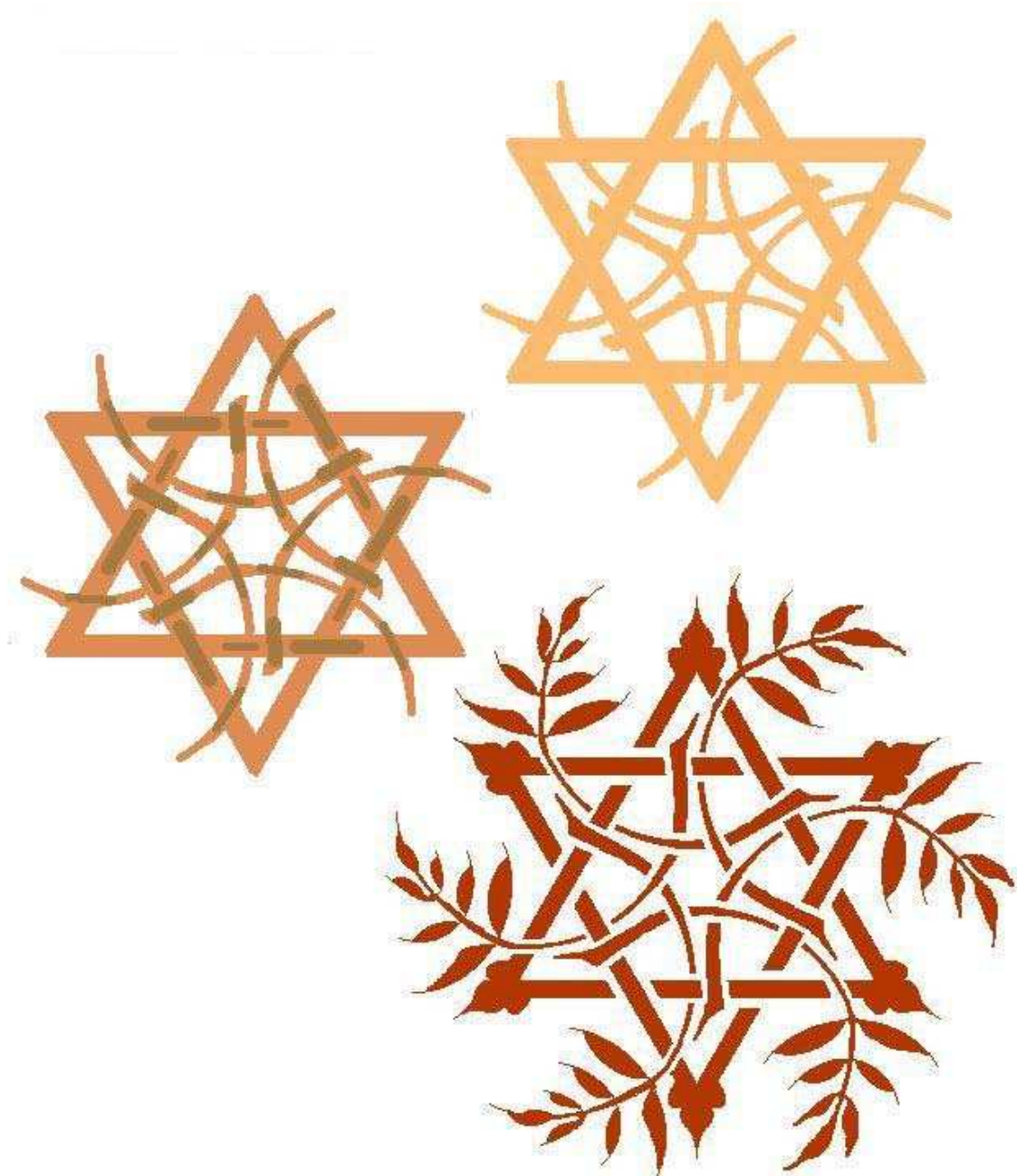
And another pentagram with a heart that's more complicated:



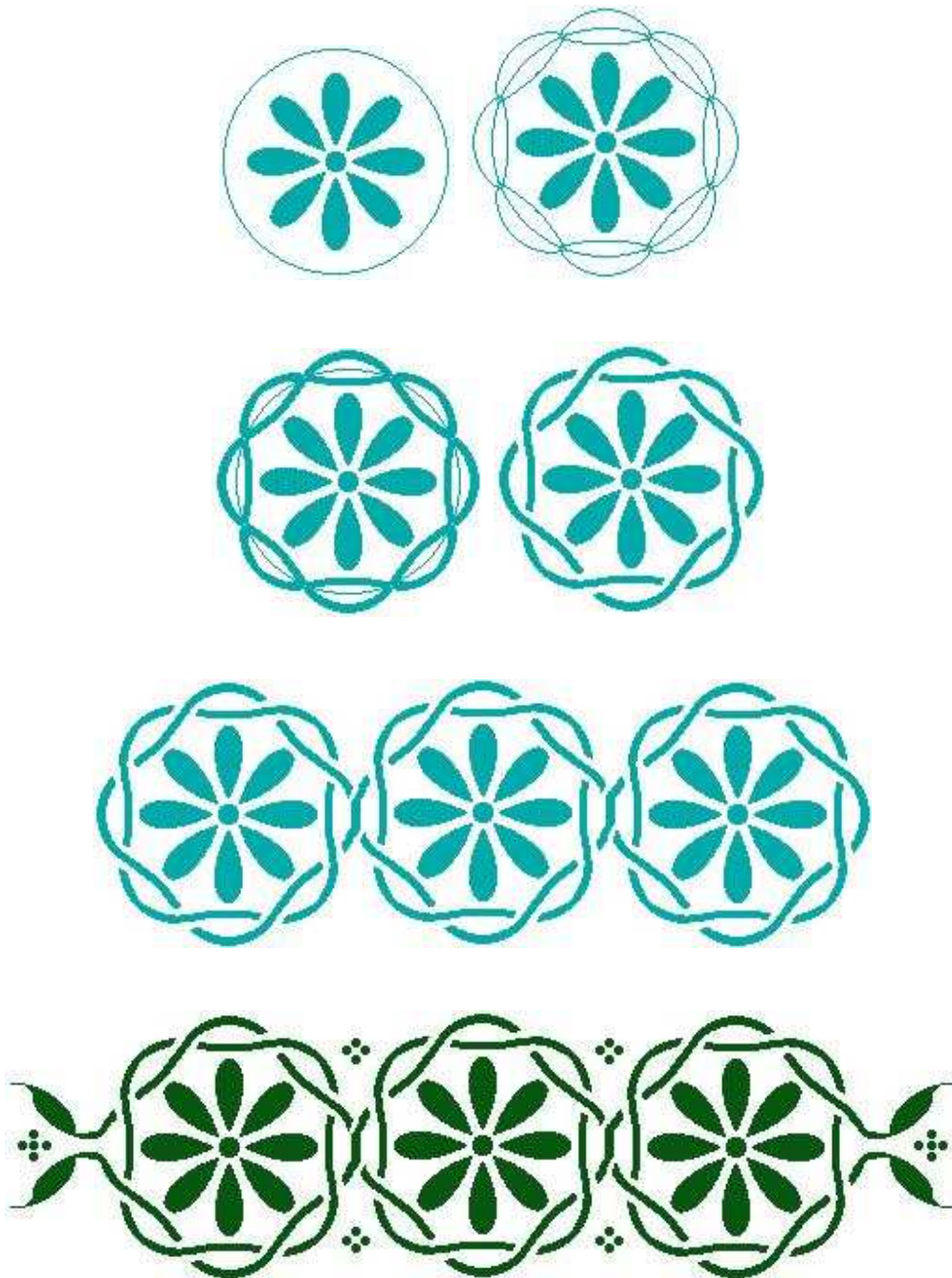


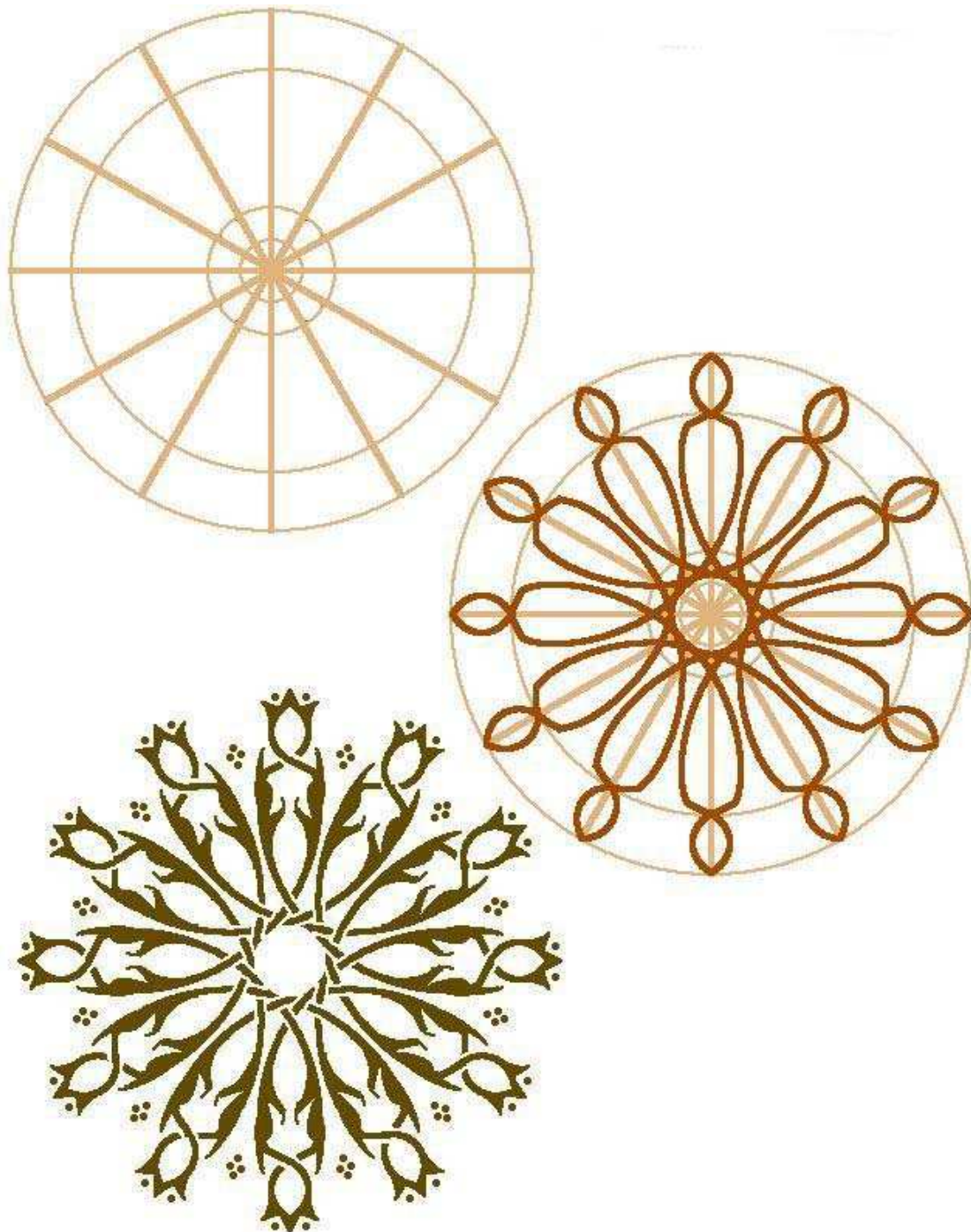
The six-pointed star knots below are based on Jewish henna patterns from Morocco.



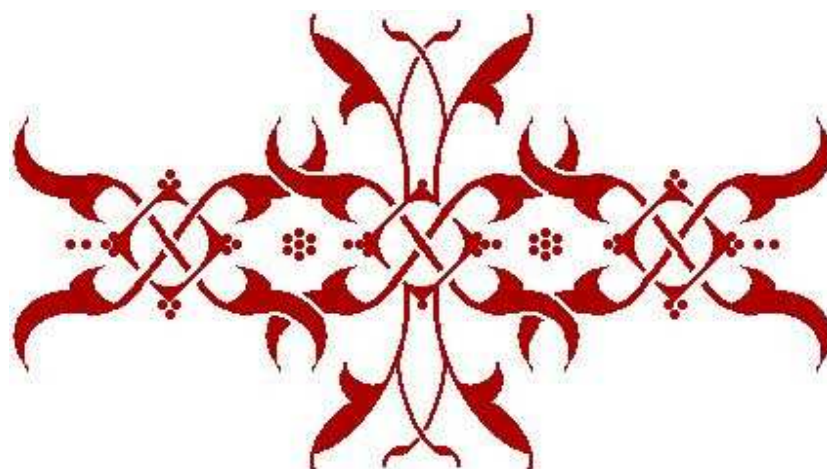
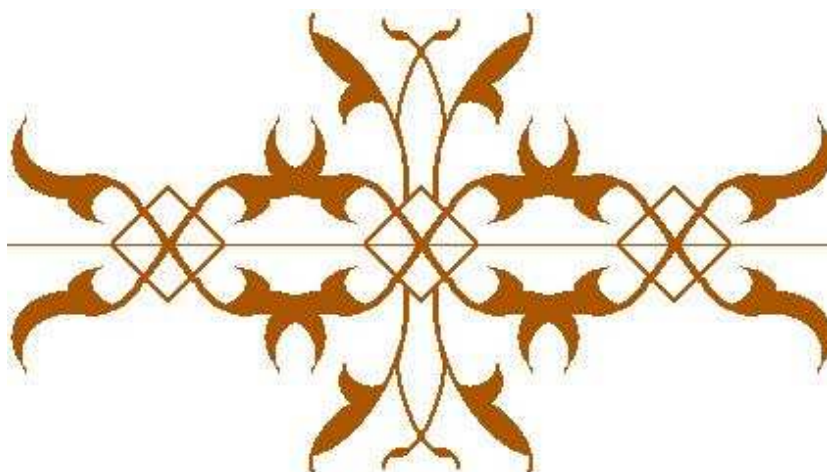
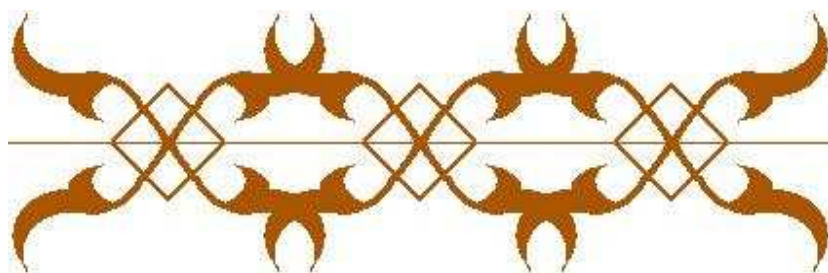
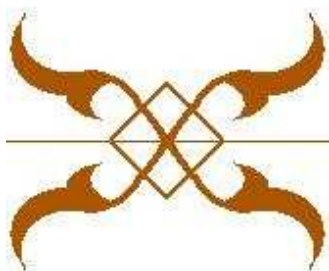


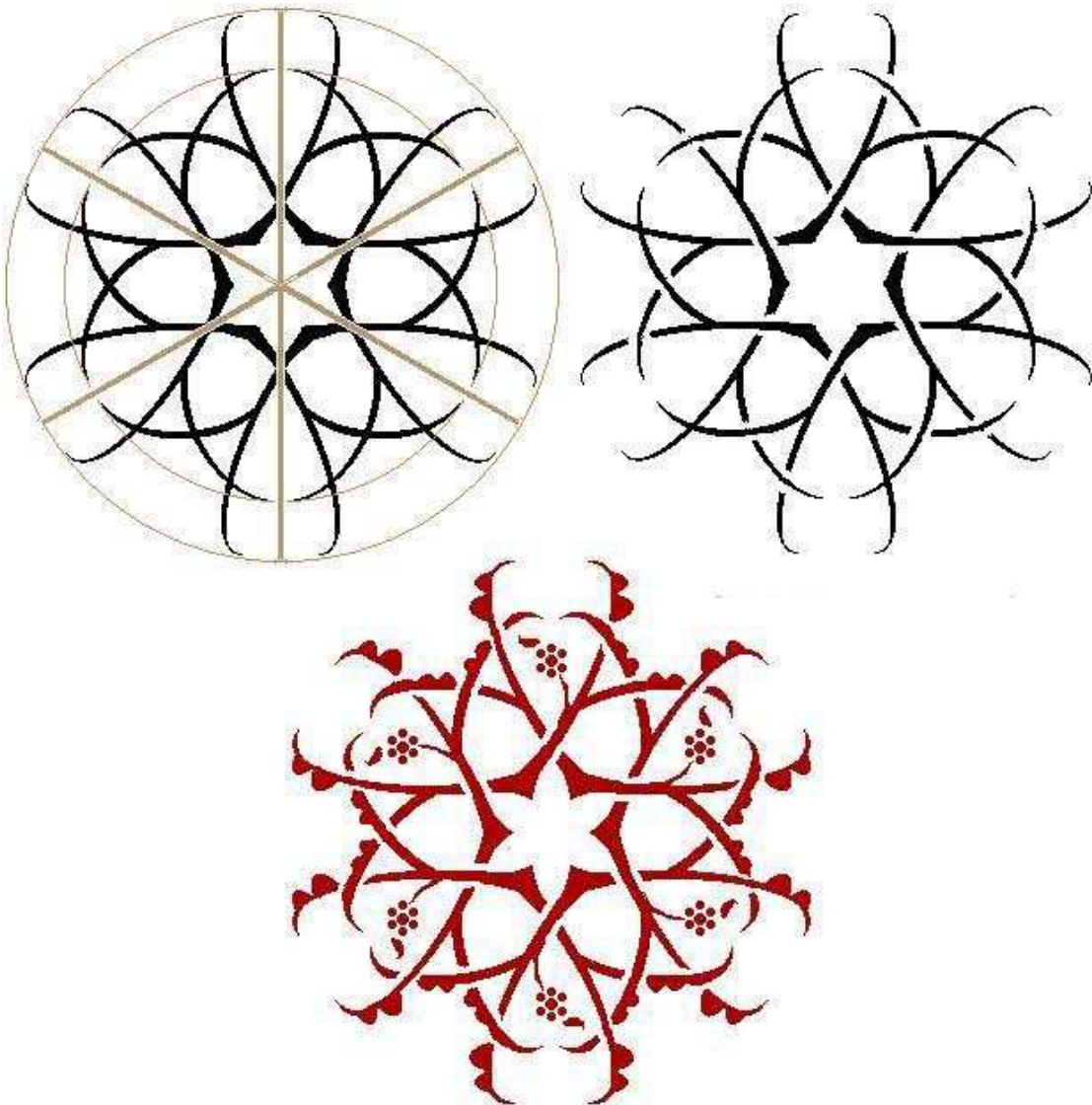
Here are more knots:



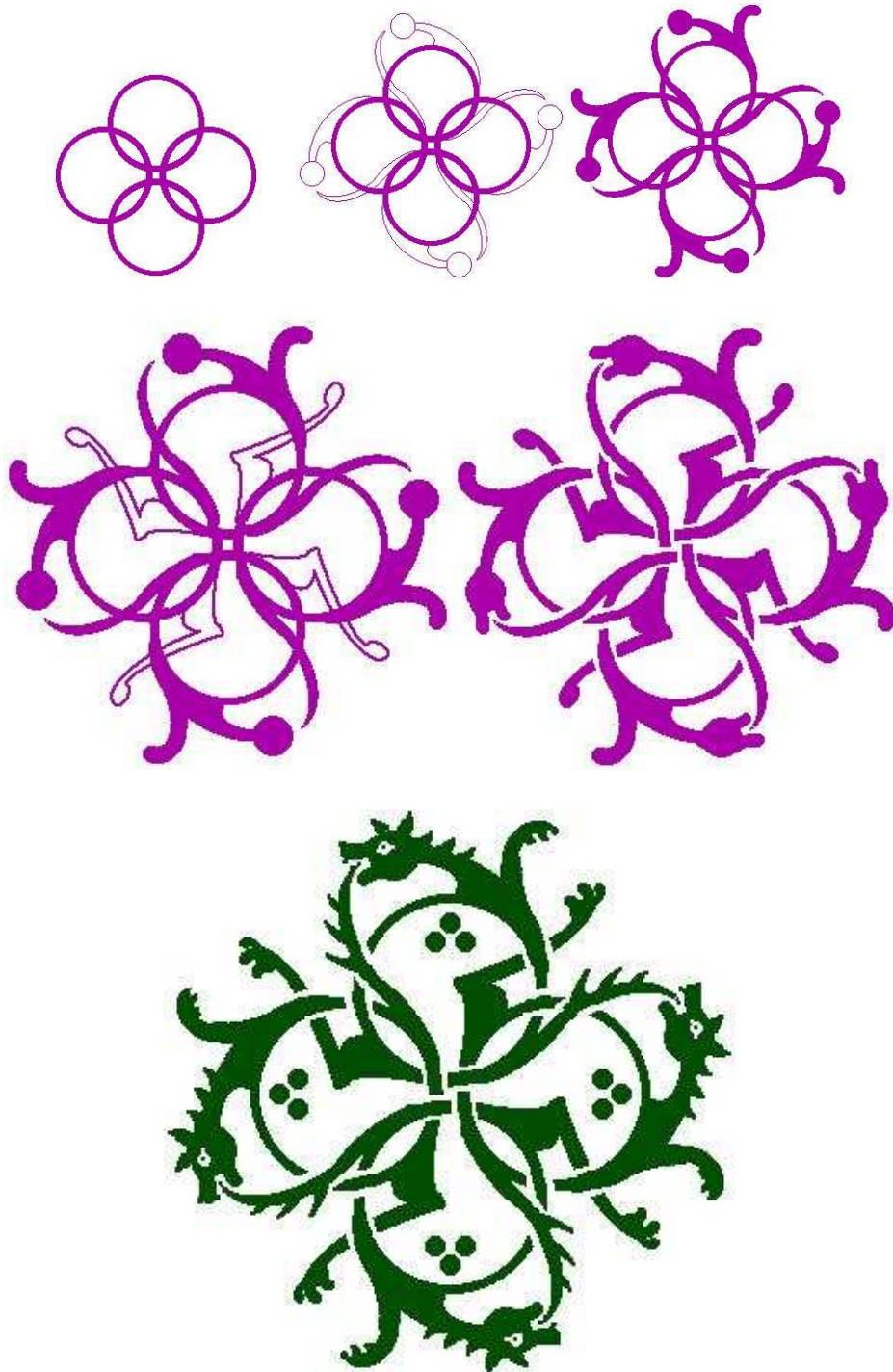








Drawing beasts isn't beastly if you know how!



The next two patterns are adapted from knotwork in Medieval Spanish Christian manuscripts:





Thank you for your interest in henna! To learn more about how to do henna, visit The Henna Page, <http://www.hennapage.com>, and its sister sites. The Henna Page and TapDancing Lizard, <http://www.tapdancinglizard.com>, have pattern books for you! Aquarellable pencils are available from your local art store and Mehandi.com, <http://www.mehandi.com>.

Please always use safe, natural henna, and never Black Henna! For more information on how to do henna safely and naturally, visit the “how” section at The Henna Page, <http://www.hennapage.com/henna/how/index.html>, and to learn how dangerous Black Henna can be, visit <http://www.hennapage.com/henna/ppd/index.html>.