This is the interlaced rectangle Celtic knotwork (woven looking) drawing that we are going to make. We will also learn a few steps that we can use to design and draw other knot configurations based on this basic rectangle.

**MATERIALS:**
- Pencil – I prefer a mechanical pencil so that I’m not always sharpening it.
- Ruler or straight edge – If doing measurements, you need a ruler. If just drawing, a straight edge can help. If you are brave, you can draw your lines without either one.
- Eraser – Inexpensive white erasers can be your friends.
- Paper – I prefer graph paper at least for the design phase because it allows me to skip fiddly time consuming measurement steps. Different sizes of graph squares are readily available in stores and various software can also create the desired graph squares to make the size of knotwork drawing that you want. For this tutorial, we are going to wind up with a 4 x 3 inch rectangle. We will use graph paper with ¼ inch squares. That can give the final line width of about 3/8 inch shown in the example above. Note that the drawing illustrations in this tutorial are not to scale.
- Transfer materials – If you are planning to transfer your design for embroidery, quilt design, or incorporation into a different artwork, use appropriate transfer materials and method.

**START:**

1. Decide what size drawing that you want. In this tutorial, our size is given at 3 x 4 inches. Near the top of the page, lightly draw a box 4 inches (16 squares) wide and 3 inches (12 squares) tall. The sides of the box are called walls. This is because the lines must stop or go around a wall for a knot.
Inside the box, lightly make dots as shown. Note that the outside edge of the dots are all ½ inch (2 squares) from the walls and 4 squares (1 inch) horizontally and vertically from each other.

![Figure 1a](image)

2. Begin drawing lines.

Some people like to draw all of the lines in one direction and then all the lines in the other direction. Some like to start in one place and follow that one line all the way until the pattern is complete – kind of like doodling. Either way works, although the doodling type method requires keeping more steps in your head at one time. A combination of the two methods can work well in creating new designs or filling unusually shaped spaces. Doodling until a pleasing design is established can then be followed by polishing and finalizing with the more regimented method. We already know our design, so this tutorial will address the more regimented method of drawing an interlaced rectangular Celtic knot.

Draw all your lines in one direction, making sure they cross half way (2 squares) between the outside dots (Figure 2a). You can skip a space half way in line with the next vertical dot or erase that space when done drawing the lines (Figure 2b).

![Figure 2a](image)

**OR**

![Figure 2b](image)
3. Draw all your lines in the opposite direction making sure they also cross half way (2 squares) between the outside dots. Skip a space where they cross the other solid lines. Note that the skipped spaces with the solid lines drawn through them causes the drawing to begin to look woven or interlaced.

![Figure 3a](image)

4. Draw points on the corners and round or square off where the lines if continued would bump into a wall (the outside box).

![Figure 4a](image)

If you are satisfied with this line design for your purposes, you can erase the dots and the box and transfer to other media for your intended use of the drawn Celtic knotwork.

OR

You can use this line design as the basis for other designs. To make the wider line or ribbon width drawing at the start of the lesson:
5. Start with your dots in the square the same as you did in steps 1 and 2.

6. Similar to step 3, draw all your lines in one direction, except make sure that your lines cross 1 square after and 1 square before the outside dots. Plan on erasing the spaces at the intersections that show the weaving when done drawing the lines.

7. Repeat step 6 in the other direction.
8. Similar to step 4, draw points on the corners and round or square off where the lines if continued would bump into a wall (the outside box). Remember that you are representing a wide line or ribbon instead of the single line so both sides of that ribbon need to be drawn.

![Figure 8a](image)

Figure 8a

9. Starting inside the ribbon near the top, follow the ribbon all the way through the design and erase every other pair of lines as you encounter an intersection. If done correctly, the woven interlacing of over and under, over and under, should become apparent. This effect can be enhanced with shadowing. When done, erase the dots and the box.

![Figure 9a](image)  (8a with dots and lines erased)  ![Figure 9b](image)  (same thing with shadows)

10. More walls can be inserted to add more interest. Walls must be perpendicular and/or horizontal, never diagonal. The same rules that we used for the outside box apply wherever a wall occurs – draw points in corners and round or square off where the lines/ribbons bump into a wall. The other steps remain the same.
11 Rectangles can be joined for other shapes:

Figure 11a (vertical and horizontal walls in center and dots kept on purpose)
Further enhancements can be done by turning the single ribbon into more than one. You can make designs in the ribbons. You can color the background. Or you can take this wherever YOUR imagination takes you.

There are many methods used for drawing Celtic knotwork, including software specifically designed for the purpose. Tutorials are available on the internet when “drawing Celtic knotwork” is searched. There are also many books with a variety of instructions. This is the method that I have found that works best for me.