

Very Charming Beaded Bead Tutorial
Onye Ndika



This tutorial will empower you to create the beaded beads similar to the beads pictured in the image of the bracelet above. I created this design while exploring options for the collectible “charm beads” such as what is commercially available & strung on silver ‘Euro-styled’ chain bracelets, and able to be interchangeable.

A few design caveats: In order to make the design accessible and not cost-prohibitive, I listed all glass beads in the supply list, namely Czech 3mm fire-polished crystals and 11/0 delicas. Even these beads can be easily substituted with 6/0 seed beads as the base and standard 11/0 seed beads (Japanese or Czech).

You could also attempt the design with 6/0 seed beads and metal seed beads (as in the image), with the understanding that metal beads may oxidize or fade over time. Keep this in mind when choosing your seed beads for the embellishment steps. I find that luster or ceylon seed beads provide a lovely shine without quickly fading.

Techniques used: “double-pass” triangle weave, PRAW-3

I call this “double-pass” to substitute the term “two-needle,” since these instructions require use of monofilament without the use of needles.

If you are unfamiliar with PRAW (prismatic right-angle weave), Jill Wiseman does an explanation of the mechanics in this video: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=n681vY7ll6g>

See the blog link below for additional insight into PRAW:

<https://interweave.com/article/beading/stitch-prismatic-right-angle-weave-cindy-holsclaw/>

Supplies needed to create one (1) beaded-bead:

30” of 6lb. Trilene* monofilament, 18 3mm Czech fire-polished crystals, 2-3 grams of 11/0 delicas.
(*I highly recommend this specific brand for its composition and longevity. If you choose a less expensive brand, you may find that you need to scale down to 4lb. thickness. Stren™ is also suitable but feels thicker.)

Tools needed: beading surface, side-cutters for wire (or nail clippers), sharp awl or pin (hat, safety or sewing).
In a pinch, a normal-sized safety pin or sewing (not beading) needle will work.

This tool is useful for gently and quickly undoing a mistaken pass or an accidental knot in your line.

Beaded-Bead Base Assembly

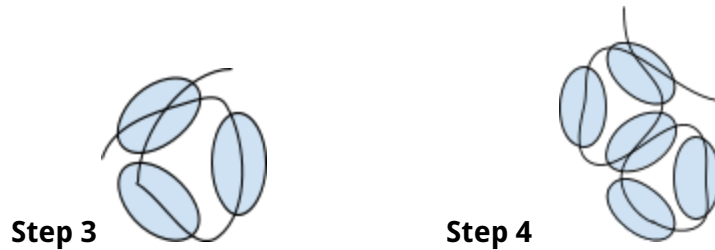
Step 1: Gently stretch out your monofilament to be sure it is not too curly and is not twisted or tangled. Take & hold each end of the monofilament in each hand.

The line in your dominant hand will act as your “needle.” So that last inch of the line is how much you would have extended from each of your fingertips.

Step 2: Using the line in your dominant hand, pick up three crystals. Criss-cross through the third crystal you picked up.

Step 3: Hold the tips of the monofilament in your non-dominant hand. With your dominant hand, grab the third crystal, and gently pull until you have cinched all three crystal beads into a triangle.

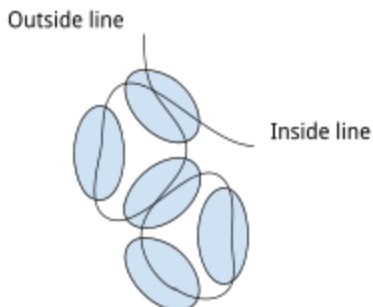
Step 4: Take one tip of the monofilament in your dominant hand, and pick up two crystals. Criss-cross through the second crystal you picked up.



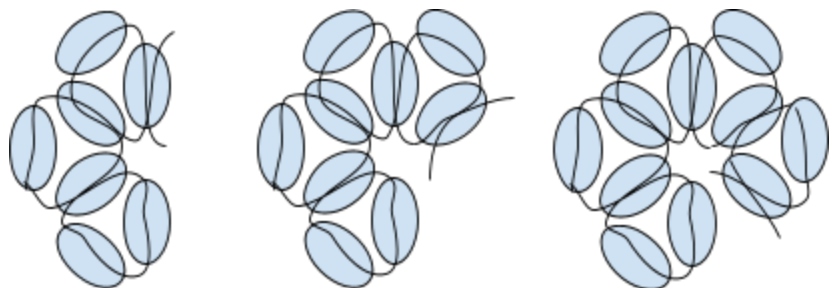
Step 5: Just as in step 3, cinch these two beads into a second triangle by pulling the lines until the beads are snug against one another. *Notice which line faces into the beadwork, this will be referred to as the inside line. The line that faces away from the beadwork will be referred to as the outside line [see diagram].*

Step 6: Using the outside line, repeat steps 4 + 5 three more times. You should now have five triangles [see diagrams].

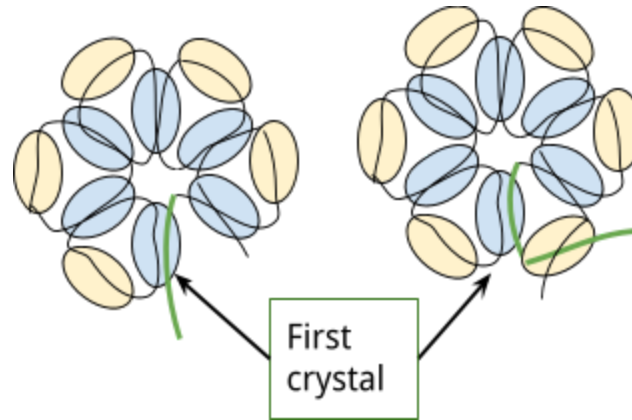
Step 5



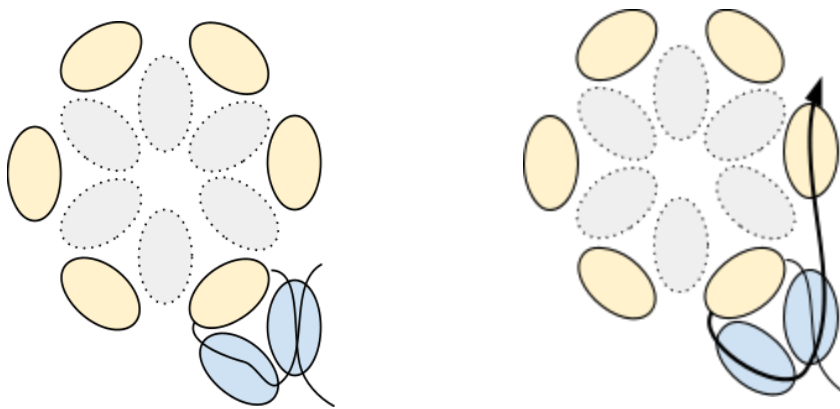
Step 6



Step 7: Pass the inside line through the first crystal, which is nearest to it. Presently both lines are facing away from the beadwork. Pick up one crystal, criss-cross through it, and cinch. You should now have six triangles in a circle. *The structure should resemble a flower, made up of 12 crystals. From here onward, the beads on the outer edge of the flower will be referred to as 'petals'; these beads are the base on which you will build the next six triangles. The beads within the flower are referred to as the center beads.*

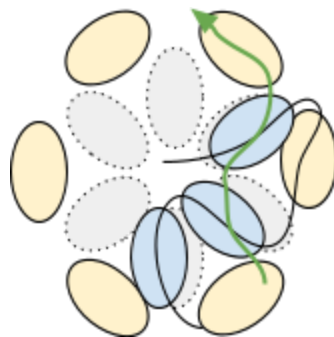


Step 8: With the tip of the monofilament in your dominant hand, pick up two crystals. Criss-cross through the second crystal and cinch.

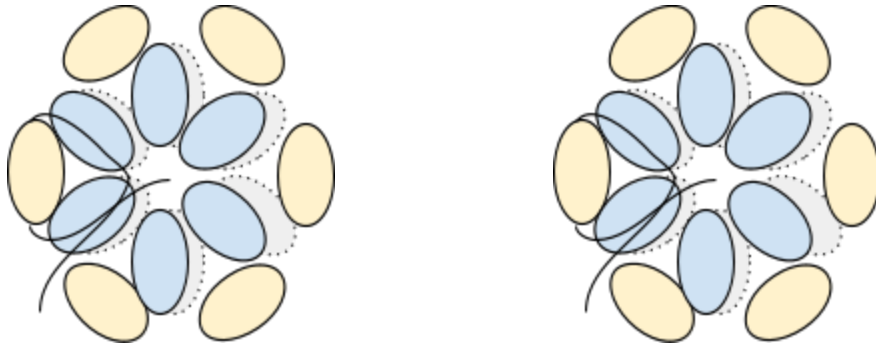


Step 9: With the line in your dominant hand, pass the outside line into the next petal nearest to it [See diagram, above right].

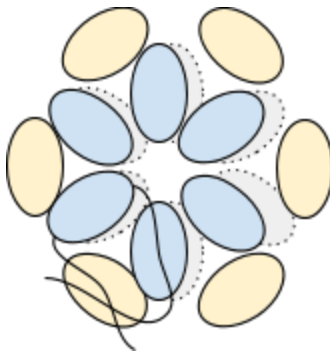
Step 10: Pick up one crystal, criss-cross through it and cinch. *(This forms the 8th triangle)*



Step 11: Repeat steps 9 and 10 three more times. you should now have 11 triangles, and zero crystals left on your beading surface [see diagram below, at left].



Step 12: Using the inside line (that presently rests above the center beads), pass through the first (center) bead in this row of triangles, which was the first of the two beads that you picked up in Step 8. Criss-cross through the last petal bead.



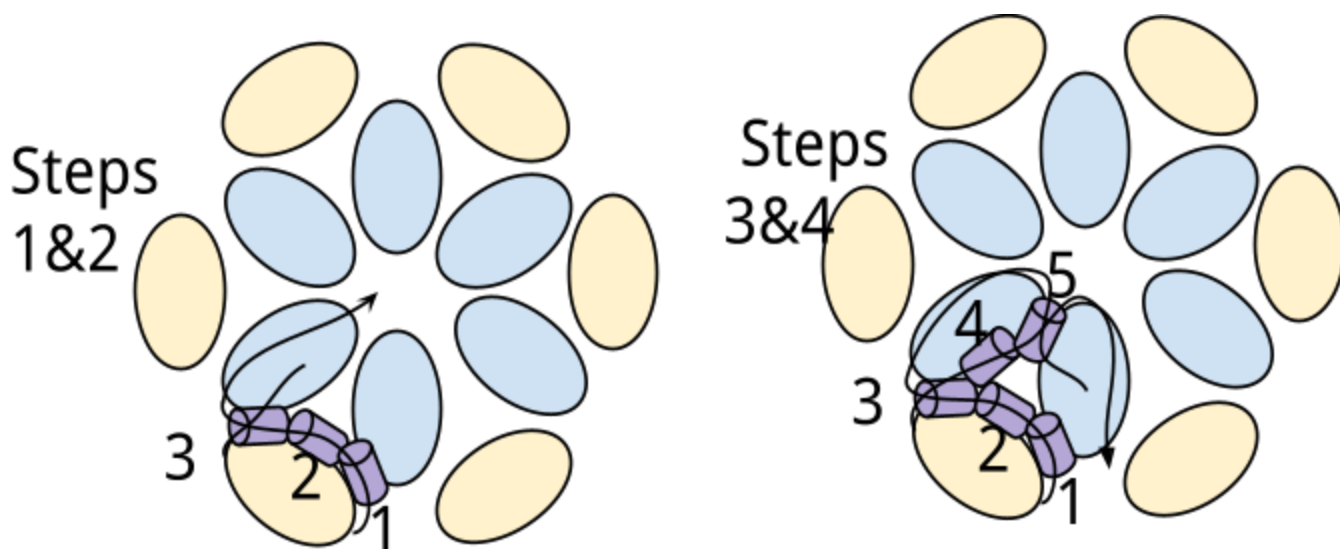
Now you are ready to embellish your beaded-bead.

Embellishment - Twelve Triangular Prisms Using PRAW-3

Preface: As you manipulate the current structure of your beaded-bead, think of each of these tiny triangular faces as the floor of a 'building,' which are triangular prisms. To track the delicas & their placement, they are numbered 1-6.

Step 1: Using your dominant hand, pick up delicas 1, 2 & 3; criss-cross through the third delica and cinch. *This is the first 'wall' of the 'building.'*

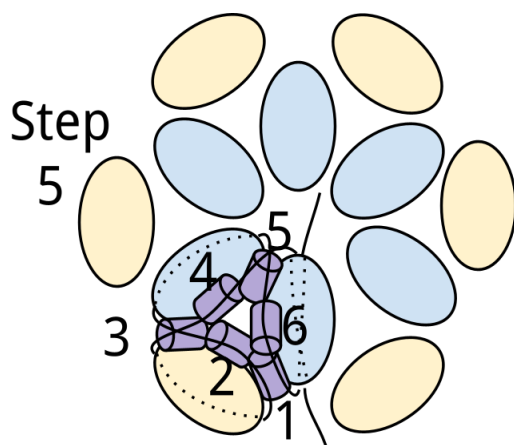
Step 2: Pass the inside line (which should be in/near your non-dominant hand; see arrow) into the center bead to which it is nearest, then pull and cinch.



Step 3: Using your outside line (which should be in/near your dominant hand), pick up delicas 4 and 5. Criss-cross through delica #5 and cinch. *This is the second 'wall' of the 'building.'*

Step 4: Pass the inside line (which should be in/near your non-dominant hand) into the center bead to which it is nearest, then pull and cinch.

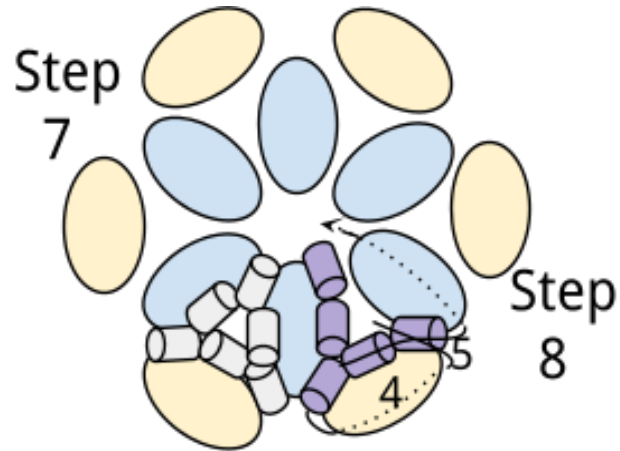
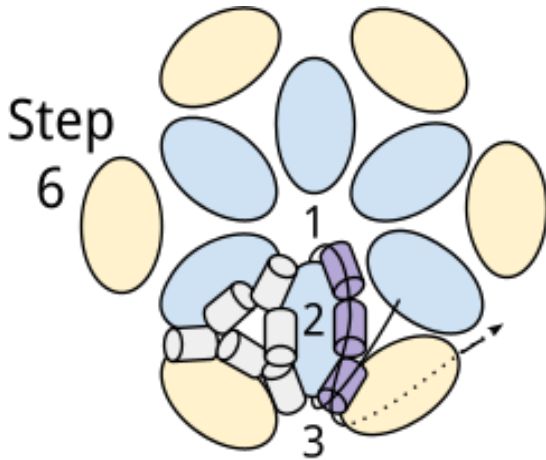
Step 5: pick up delica #6 with your outside line, pass through delica #1 and exit through the center bead (which is the same crystal you traveled through in step 4; it is the last bead in the 'floor' under delica #6). *The placement of delica #6 completes the 'third wall' of the prism.*



The next steps are quite similar to the above steps, but notice that, as you build your prisms, you are covering the surface of the "flower" in a circular direction (see diagrams).

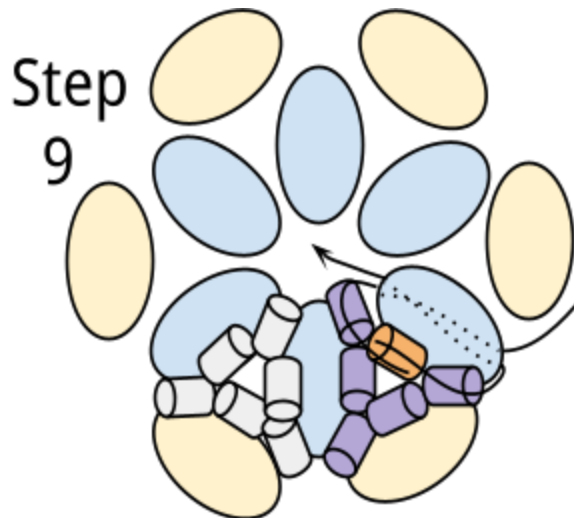
Step 6: Using your inside line, pick up delicas 1, 2 and 3; criss-cross through delica #3. Using what is now your outside line, pass through the next petal bead. Pull both lines and cinch.

Step 7: Using your inside line (which should be in/near your dominant hand), pick up delicas 4 and 5. Criss-cross through delica #5 and cinch.

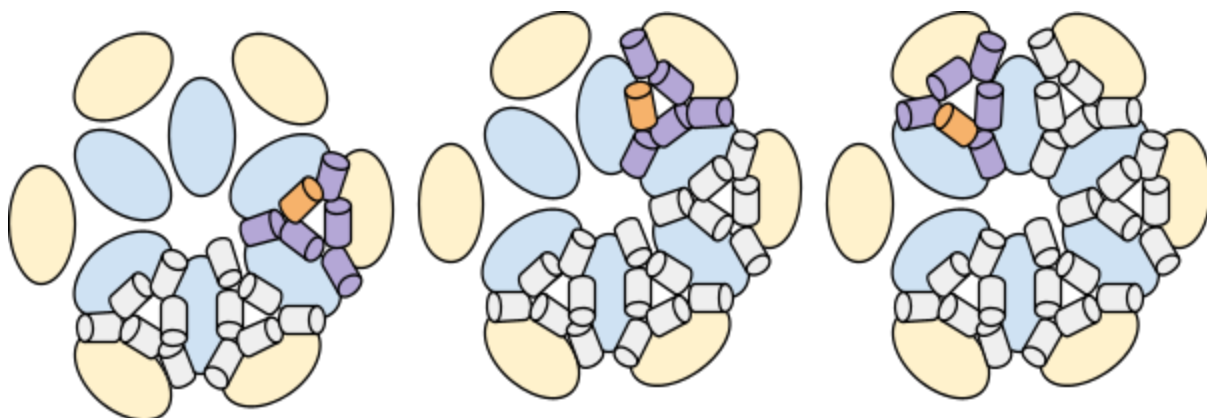


Step 8: Pass the inside line (which should be in/near your dominant hand) into the center bead to which it is nearest, then pull and cinch [see dashed arrow].

Step 9: pick up delica#6 [colored orange in the diagram, below] with your inside line [see line with arrow in diagram below, pass through delica #1 and exit through the center bead (which is the same crystal you traveled through in step 8; it is the last bead in the 'floor' under delica #6).



STEP 10: **REPEAT STEPS 6-9** THREE MORE TIMES to “build” three more “buildings.”

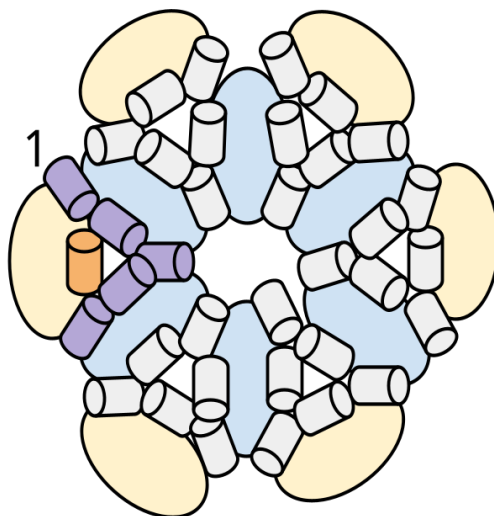


Step 11: REPEAT STEPS 1-5 to cover the LAST triangle in the flower.

START WITH THE OUTSIDE LINE [see the placement of delica #1].

When this step is done, both lines will have criss-crossed through the last petal bead.

You are now ready to flip the beaded-bead over and embellish the other side!



Finishing

A) Take one tip of the monofilament, pick up two delicas and pass through the adjacent petal. Repeat this twice. B) Using the opposite tip, take one tip of the monofilament, pick up two delicas and pass through the adjacent petal. Repeat this once. C) Pick up two delicas. Cinch all beads firmly in place, Tie a square knot. Weave the tips of the monofilament into the adjacent beads, and use your side-cutters to trim any excess line.

