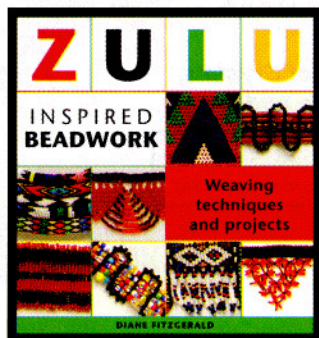


Adapted from *Zulu Inspired Beadwork* by Diane Fitzgerald, \$24.95, Interweave Press, available at your favorite bead or book store, by calling (800) 272-2193, or visiting interweave.com.



Netted Diamonds

Diane Fitzgerald

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For some time, bead artist and instructor Diane Fitzgerald has puzzled the technique intricacies of traditional Zulu beadwork—and shared her many discoveries with beaders around the world. In her new book *Zulu Inspired Beadwork*, Diane lovingly documents several dozen beading techniques, many never before published. As she says in the book's introduction: "These examples further my belief that the Zulus are the most clever and creative of any beadworkers in their methods of weaving beads." We know you'll enjoy making these lovely Netted Diamonds earrings, just a small sampling of the book's twenty-five stunning designs.



Netted Diamonds

This design was inspired by an old Zulu belt made with netted diamonds of black, white, and red seed beads dangling from a netted band. The instructions are for hexagon netting with decreasing, and you may use the diamonds for earrings or as pendants on a necklace. You will begin the diamonds along the vertical center line and work each side outward. The pattern calls for two colors.



Materials for two diamonds

Size 11° seed or cylinder beads
or size 12° Toho 3-cuts:
2 g dark (D), 2 g light (L)

4mm bicone crystals, 2

Earring findings, 2

Nymo D thread

Beading needle

Wax

Hexagon Netted Diamond Earrings, with a crystal dangle, worked with black cylinder beads and size 12° bronze Toho three-cut beads. About 1" wide and 2" long.

Opposite: Belt or bandolier, worn diagonally across the chest, is made with hexagon netting. Probably from the 1960s, it is worked with green monofilament line. About 28" long.



Figure 1

Thread a needle with $\frac{3}{4}$ yd of thread. String 6D and slide them to the center of the thread. Tie the working thread to the tail, forming a ring of beads in the middle of the thread (Figure 1). (The tail will be used to work the second half of the diamond.)

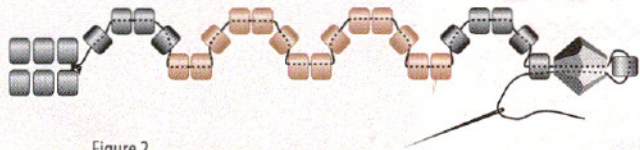


Figure 2

Row 1: Add 4D, 14L, 5D, 1 bicone, 1D. Pass back through the bicone and the next D (Figure 2).

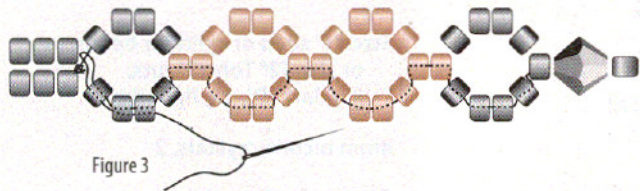


Figure 3

Row 2: Add 4D and pass back through the next 2L on the strand; add 4L and pass back through the 7th and 8th L on the strand; add 4L and pass back through the last 2L on the strand; add 4D. Loop the thread around the thread at the knot in the previous row, then pass back through the last 3D added (Figure 3).

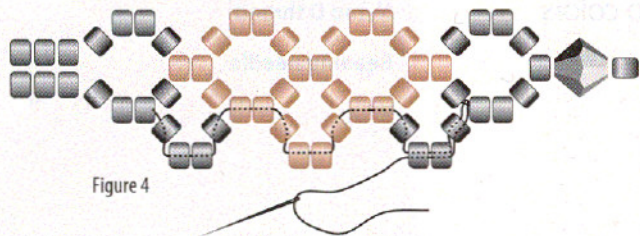


Figure 4

Row 3: Add 4D and pass back through the 2 center beads of the next set of 4L; add 4L and pass back through the 2 center beads of the next set of 4L; add 4D. Loop the thread around the thread between the 2D as shown in Figure 4, then pass back through the last 3D added.

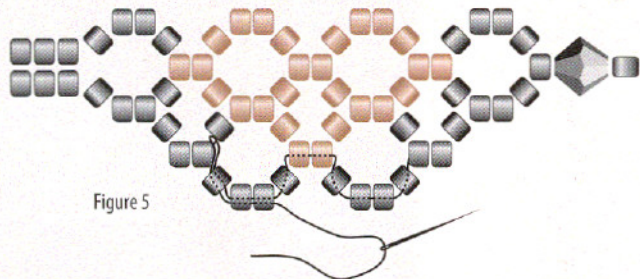


Figure 5

Row 4: Add 4D and pass back through the 2 center beads of the next set of 4L; add 4D and loop the thread around the thread between the 2D as shown in Figure 5, then pass back through the last 3D added.

Row 5: Add 4D and pass back through the 2 center beads of the next set of 4D. Make a half hitch knot between the beads, weave in the tail and clip the thread (Figure 6).

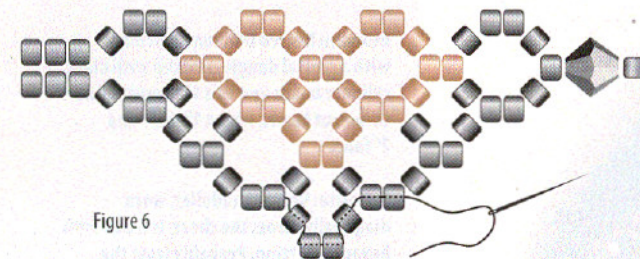


Figure 6

To complete the second half of the diamond, thread the needle with the tail. Pass through the first 3D after the knot in Row 1 (Figure 7). Work Rows 3–5 as for the first side. Open the loop of the earring finding and insert the six-bead loop in the earring loop. Close the loop. ♦

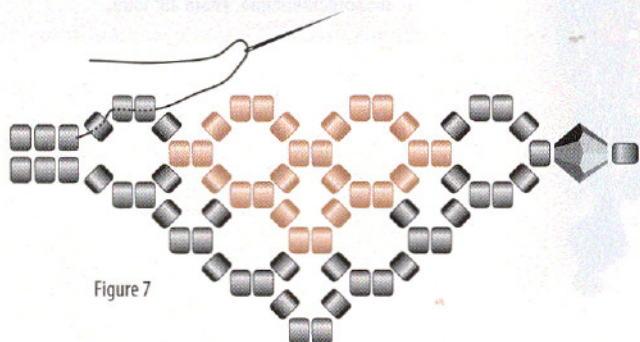


Figure 7

