

a bit of lace

WHETHER IT'S THE PEEK-A-BOO quality or the intrigue of the positive and negative space resulting from the pattern, lace has intrigued us since it first became popular in the sixteenth century. Embellish bold machine-made lace with beads to create a fanciful adornment that will never go out of style.

1) PREPARE. Cut the lace into one 7" piece and one 19" piece. The long piece should have 10 flowers; the short piece should have 5 flowers.

2) EMBELLISH. Use seed beads and crystals to embellish the lace flowers:

Edging: Tie a knot at the end of 2' of thread and stitch from back to front through the edge of the full end flower on the 7" lace piece. *String 1 seed bead, sew into the edge of the flower 1 bead space from the last exit point from back to front; before pulling tight, pass through the thread loop just formed to form a buttonhole or blanket stitch (Fig. 1). Repeat from * around the edge of the lace flower, following the lace's pattern to define the flower petals as desired (Fig. 2). *Note:* To stitch beads on the front of the flower to define the petals, stitch under a few threads on the face of the lace (instead of the edge) to form a thread loop (Fig. 3).

Roses montées: Sew through the lace from back to front to exit at the base of a flower petal. Securely sew 1 rose montée to the lace. Repeat to add 5 roses montées to the flower center (Fig. 4, blue thread).

Marguerites: Sew through the lace from back to front on a leaf near where the marguerite will be placed. String 1 mar-

guerite and 1 seed bead; pass back through the marguerite and into the lace (Fig. 4, red thread). Repeat the thread path several times to reinforce; secure the thread and trim.

Repeat this step to embellish three more of the lace flowers in the same way, leaving the partial end flower blank.

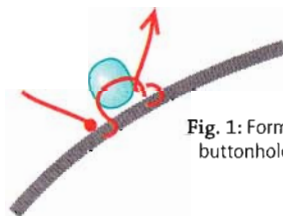


Fig. 1: Forming a buttonhole stitch



Fig. 2: Adding beads to the edge of a lace flower



Fig. 3: Stitching onto the surface of the lace

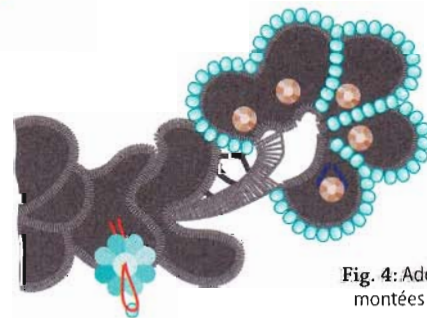
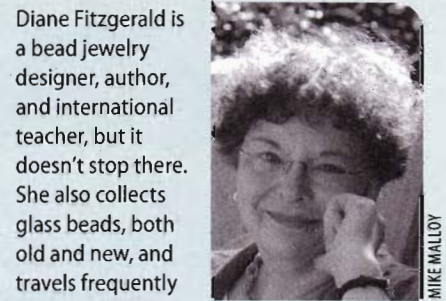


Fig. 4: Adding the roses montées and marguerite



Diane Fitzgerald is a bead jewelry designer, author, and international teacher, but it doesn't stop there. She also collects glass beads, both old and new, and travels frequently to learn more about beads and to encourage beaders. Diane's skills are based on formal training in design, color, and communications, and she finds endless inspiration from her students as well. Visit www.diane.fitzgerald.com.

MATERIALS

- 5 g turquoise opaque size 15° Japanese charlottes
- 68 topaz 2.6mm (size SS9) roses montées
- 12 Bermuda blue 8mm crystal marguerites
- 4 black size 3 (7mm) sew-on snaps
- 30" of black 1½" wide floral lace
- Black size D nylon beading thread

TOOLS

- Scissors
- Size 10 or 12 beading needles

FINISHED SIZE: 26"



TECHNIQUES

buttonhole or blanket stitch
fringe

See p. 94 for helpful
technique information.

PROJECT LEVEL ●○○○

See p. 4 for project-level information.

Artist's Tips

Earrings are another beautiful way to wear embellished lace. Paint (see p. 26) and/or embellish a single lace flower and stiffen it with Pledge with Future Shine acrylic floor finish. Once dry, use E-6000 glue to attach an earring finding to the back. Similarly, you can form a pretty brooch with a cluster of flowers sewn together and overlapping; sew a pin back to the back of the embellished flowers.



Fig. 5: Stitching on the snaps

3) FINISHING. Securely sew 2 snap halves to the back of the first embellished flower; sew the other snap halves to the face of the blank flower so the snaps match the first set (Fig. 5).

Repeat Step 2 to embellish the 19" lace piece, this time embellishing all of the flowers except only half of the final flower. Position the snaps so that when snapped together with the short piece of embellished lace, the two form a Y-shaped necklace. Ensure that all the roses montées sit on the inside of the necklace and that the 2 embellished lace pieces stack cleanly to conceal the snaps when closed. ♦

RESOURCES Check your local bead shop or contact: Wrights "Black Flower Venice" lace: Dove Originals Trims, (860) 623-9320, www.doveoriginalstrims.com. Snaps: Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores, (888) 739-4120, www.joann.com. Jacquard Lumiere fabric paint: Jacquard, (800) 442-0455, www.jacquardproducts.com. Swarovski marguerites (article 3700) and roses montées (articles 53100, 53102, and 53103), seed beads, and Nymo beading thread: Fire Mountain Gems and Beads, (800) 355-2137, www.firemountaingems.com.

Artist's Tip

You can make your embellished lace pieces more versatile by wearing them in more than one way. For example, the necklace featured here can also be worn as a 19" necklace with 7" bracelet. In the same fashion, you can connect a short length of embellished lace to a bracelet to form a choker.



Embellishing Lace with Paint

Lace can be painted with fabric paints. Diane used Jacquard Lumiere metallic fabric paints, which are known for their smooth flowing quality and flexibility after drying. The samples here were made with the Lumiere Mini Exciter Pack, which contains eight half-ounce bottles in these luscious colors: pearl turquoise, pearl white, metallic bronze, halo violet-gold, metallic olive, halo pink-gold, pewter, and metallic gold. Shake the bottle well, squeeze a small amount onto waxed paper, and apply the paint to the lace with a small paintbrush.

Blending the paint colors adds interest and highlights. To blend colors, squeeze two small dots of paint onto waxed paper, and after applying one color to the lace and before it dries, apply the second color with brush strokes from the center of the flower toward the outer edge. Apply a lighter color to the edge of each flower to help define the shape. You can add bead or crystal embellishments to painted lace; be sure the lace is thoroughly dry before doing so.





DIANE FITZGERALD HONORED WITH SPUN GOLD AWARD

The Textile Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, awarded its annual Spun Gold Award to *Beadwork* Designer of the Year, Diane Fitzgerald. The award honors those from the upper Midwest who have dedicated their lives to fiber arts. Most recipients focus on weaving, quilting, dyeing, or sewing; Diane is the third beader to be honored. During her career, Diane has traveled to more than thirty-five countries to learn and teach, including South Africa, Germany, and the Czech Republic. She's also authored more than a half-dozen beading titles, including *Shaped Beadwork* (Lark Crafts, 2009), *The Beaded Garden* (Interweave, 2005), and *Zulu Inspired Beadwork* (Interweave, 2007).
— Michelle Mach

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