DESIGNER *of the Year*

Diane Fitzgerald

Diane Fitzgerald is a bead jewelry designer, author, and international teacher, but it doesn't stop there. Diane's skills are based on formal training in design, color, and communications, and she finds endless inspiration from her students as well. Don't miss her twelfth book, *Diane Fitzgerald's Favorite Bead Projects* (Lark Crafts, 2012). Visit www.dianefitzgerald.com.

pulsating diamonds

FORM PATTERNED BRICK-STITCH DIAMONDS—

beginning with a clever peyote-stitch start row—then stitch them together to form this electric necklace.

1) UPPER HALF. Work the starting rows with peyote stitch, then add brick stitch to complete the upper half:

Rows 1 and 2, Stitch 1: Use 9' of thread to string 2A and 1B; pass back through the first A, leaving a 6' tail to work the lower half of the diamond. Tie the working and tail threads together and adjust the beads so the sides (not the holes) of the second A and B touch (**Fig. 1**).

Rows 1 and 2, Stitch 2: String 1B; pass back through the B in the row below (**Fig. 2, blue thread**).

Rows 1 and 2, Stitch 3: String 1C; pass back through the B in the row above (**Fig. 2, red thread**).

Rows 1 and 2, Stitches 4–23: Continue in peyote stitch with 1 bead in each stitch, following the bead colors in **Fig. 3**.

Row 3: String 1A and 1B; pass under the thread loop between the second and third beads of the previous row and back through the B just added (**Fig. 4, blue thread**). Pass down through the first bead, then up through the second bead again to "lock" the beads into place (**Fig. 4, red thread**). *String 1C; pass under the thread loop between the next 2 beads of the previous row and back through the bead just added. Repeat from * across the row, adding beads in this order: 1D, 1E, 1F, 1E, 1D, 1C, 1B, and 1A.

Rows 4–11: Repeat Row 3 eight times, following the bead colors in **Fig. 5**. *Note:* There will be a natural decrease at the beginning and end of each row.

Row 12: String 2A; pass under the thread loop between the second and third beads of the previous row. Pass back up through the second A just added (**Fig. 6, blue thread**).

Row 13: String 1A; pass down through the nearest 2A of the previous 2 rows. *Note:* The hole of this A will sit horizontal instead of vertical (**Fig. 6, red thread**). Secure the working thread and trim.

Fig. 1: Beginning Rows 1 and 2 with Stitch 1

Fig. 2: Adding Stitches 2 and 3 in Rows 1 and 2

Fig. 3: Completing Rows 1 and 2

Fig. 4: Beginning Row 3

Fig. 5: Stitching Rows 4–11

Fig. 6: Adding Rows 12 and 13
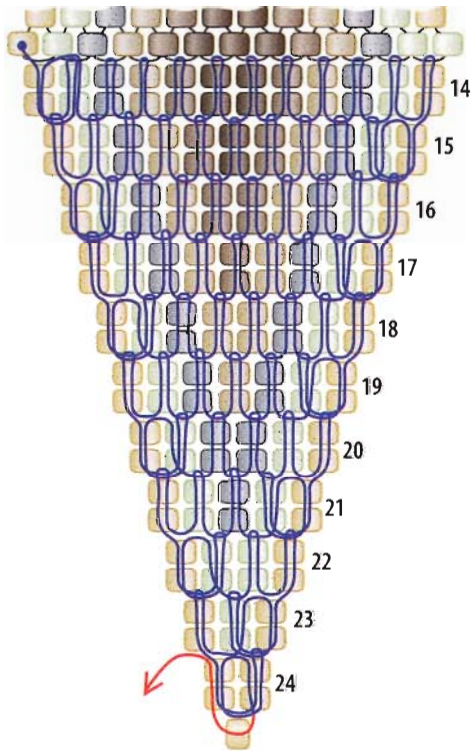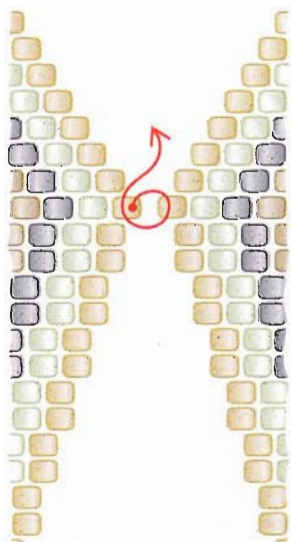
2) LOWER HALF. Brick-stitch the bottom half of the diamond using 2 beads in each stack to form a sharper point:

Row 14: Use the tail thread to string 2A and 2B; pass under the thread loop between the second and third beads of Row 1 and back through the 2B just added. Pass down through the first 2 beads, then up through the second 2 beads again to "lock" the beads into place. *String 2C; pass under the thread loop between the third and fourth beads of the previous row and back through the 2 beads just added. Repeat from * across the row, adding beads in this order: 2D, 2E, 2F, 2F, 2E, 2D, 2C, 2B, and 2A.

Rows 15–24: Weave through beads to exit down through the first bead of Row 1. Repeat Rows 3–12, adding 2 beads instead of 1 for each stitch to form stacked brick stitch (**Fig. 7, blue thread**). *Note:* The first stitch of each row will have 4 beads in it; continue to "lock" these 4 beads into place as before.

Row 25: String 1A; pass down through the first 2A added in the previous row (**Fig. 7, red thread**). Secure the thread and trim. Set the diamond aside. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 eighteen times, interchanging colors as desired in subsequent diamonds, for a total of 19 diamonds.

3) ASSEMBLY. Start 12" of new thread that exits up from an end bead of Row 1 on 1 diamond. Place another diamond next to the first one; pass down through the end of Row 1 on the second diamond and up through the same end bead of the first diamond (**Fig. 8**). Repeat the thread path several times to reinforce; secure the thread and trim. Repeat to connect all of the diamonds to each other. Stitch one half of the clasp to each end of the diamond strand through the Row 1 end beads. ✦

Fig. 7: Stitching the lower half of the diamond

Fig. 8: Connecting the diamonds

Try this!

Brick-stitched diamonds offer myriad possibilities in not only colorways but in how they are assembled and arranged. You can dangle the diamonds, stack one or more on top of each other in decreasing sizes, elongate them, connect them diagonally with accent beads between, or even combine them with square stitch to make three-dimensional shapes as beads.

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MIYUKI Delicas:
Colors: 5 grams of each color
Color A: Matt Gold MIYUKI 331
Color B: Matt Aqua MIYUKI374
Color C: Matt Dark Gray MIYUKI 306
Color D: Shiny Bronze MIYUKI 22L
Color E: Matt Brown MIYUKI 322
Color F: Transparent Brown Matt MIYUKI 764

TECHNIQUES

peyote stitch
brick stitch

*See p. 94 for helpful
technique information.*

PROJECT LEVEL ❶❶❶

See p. 4 for project-level information.

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