

Sculptural Flower Ring

Diane Fitzgerald

This springy flower ring isn't just bloomin' pretty—it's also a wonderful conversation starter! Just alter the colors of the petal and center beads to vary the look.

Materials

- Delica beads in two colors (A and B)
- 8mm round pearl or faceted bead
- Nymo D beading thread in color to complement beads
- Future Acrylic Floor Polish

Notions

- Size 12 beading needle
- Scissors
- Thin cardboard
- Paper toweling

Step 1: Using 1½ yd of double and waxed thread, create a strip of ladder stitch (see "Techniques," page 105) using color B that is 3 beads wide and long enough to wrap around your finger. Join the ends. Do so by passing through the first row and then again through the last row twice. Secure the thread and trim close to the work. Set aside.

Step 2: Using 1 yd of single waxed thread, create a strip of ladder stitch 2 beads wide and 16 beads long using color A. This will be your flower base.

Step 3: With your thread exiting the last bead on the base,



Hip to Be Square

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A Swarovski crystal cube is the focal point for this fashionable ring. It is made with a band of square stitch, three rows wide, and with two short rows added to support the base of the crystal.

Materials

- 1 Swarovski crystal 8mm cube bead
- 3 g Delica beads in color to complement crystal
- Size D Nymo thread

Notions

- Size 12 sharps needles
- Scissors

Step 1: Using 2 yd of thread, string 4 Delicas. Pass through all beads again, exiting the fourth bead strung. Do not knot. Hold the beads upright in a square (Figure 1) to begin square stitch (see "Techniques," page 105).

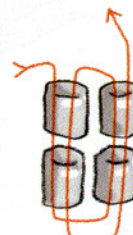


Figure 1

Step 2: String 2 Delicas. Pass down through two beads on the left, and work up through three beads on the right (Figure 2).



Figure 2

Step 3: Working with a loose tension, repeat Step 2 until the length of the band fits around your finger at the widest part of the knuckle. Work a third row of square stitch along the length of the band.

Step 4: Weave through the outer row of beads until you have reached the halfway point. Form a base for the crystal cube by