

# Whirling, Blossoming, Sparkling TRIANGLE WEAVE

DIANE FITZGERALD



It's funny how things happen. Not long ago, a 1930s beaded purse leaped off the table at an antique show and landed right in my hands. We bonded immediately, but it was \$24, so I resisted and laid it down again. I was pretty sure that the oval wooden beads were done in a stitch resembling a right-angle-weave that I had tried some time ago, so I didn't think I needed to buy it. But, as it turned out, I decided I *did* need that purse to nudge me into working with this stitch.

The triangular weave used on the purse intrigued me. I immediately flashed to all the patterns it could help me develop: hexagons, flags, diamonds, and point-to-point triangles. The inherent movement of triangular patterns makes cartwheels whirl, flowers blossom, and stars sparkle. And to achieve that kind of movement, working with triangles is just plain easier than working with right-angle woven squares.

My first attempt was to recreate the shape of the old purse itself. I didn't have any oval wooden beads, but I did have some glass rice beads in transparent amber. They would do. I prepared doubled waxed thread to accommodate the large bead holes, and off I went. The rhythm of the stitch came quickly and soon I had finished the first row. As I continued I learned more with each stitch, finally completing the purse's shape.

Next came a couple experiments with bracelets, but they were all pretty simple with straight sides. What if I wanted to do a necklace shaped to fit? First I made a grid to design the shape of the piece. Rummaging through a box of beads, I came across a bag of aluminum tubes in a variety of colors. I picked them pretty much at random as I worked, sometimes forming part of a star with the brighter colors and



sometimes forming triangles with the more subtle colors. To strengthen and enhance the piece, I later added 3mm black druks (round beads) at the intersections.

Now it's your turn. Follow the instructions for a bracelet with straight sides first (see photo, page 26). Keep in mind that, like right-angle weave, you can only turn and go into adjacent beads—you can't jump across to connect the triangles. Once you've mastered a simple bracelet, try your hand at making a shaped bracelet using the pattern shown or a necklace with your own pattern. Rice beads work best for learning, but if you don't have any, use elongated or oval beads, bugles, or even three seed beads as your unit for a triangle side.

Now I'm dreaming of a huge shawl of whirling pinwheels in size 15's . . .

*Designer's note:* Bead numbers refer to position only, not number of beads.

ROW 1

*Step 1:* Double two yards of thread, wax heavily so the strands stick together, and leave a 4" tail. String beads 1, 2, and 3 and tie in a loop to form a triangle. PT bead 1 again. Hold the work with the triangle on its base and the knot to the right.

*Step 2:* String beads 4 and 5. PT beads 1, 4, and 5 (Figure 1).

*Step 3:* String beads 6 and 7. PT beads 5, 6, and 7 (Figure 2).

*Step 4:* String beads 8 and 9. PT beads 7, 8, and 9.

*Step 5:* String beads 10 and 11. PT beads 9 and 10 (but not 11).

ROW 2

*Step 1:* String beads 12 and 13. PT beads 10, 12, and 13 (Figure 3).

*Step 2:* String beads 14 and 15. PT beads 13, 14, and 15 (Figure 4).

*Step 3:* String bead 16. PBT bead 6. PT bead 14 (Figure 5).

*Step 4:* String beads 17 and 18. PT beads 16 and 17.

*Step 5:* String bead 19. PT beads 3, 17, and 18 (Figure 6).

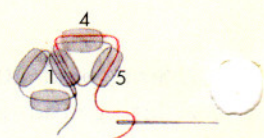


Figure 1

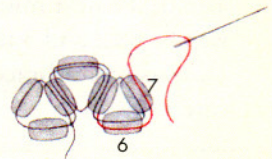


Figure 2

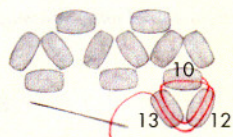


Figure 3

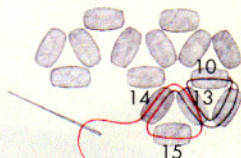


Figure 4

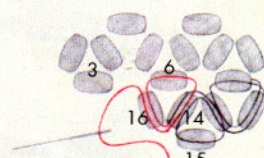


Figure 5

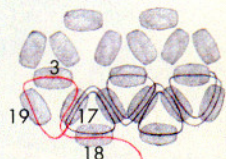


Figure 6

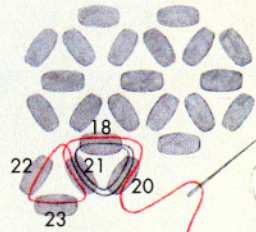


Figure 7

MATERIALS

- Rice beads
- Size D beading thread
- Clasp or button

NOTIONS

- Size 12° beading needle
- Scissors
- Bees wax

ROW 3

- Step 1: String beads 20 and 21. PT beads 18, 20, and 21.
- Step 2: String beads 22 and 23. PT beads 21, 18, and 20 (Figure 7).
- Step 3: Complete the row as you have with the other two rows.  
To beg the next row, see Figure 3.  
Rep Rows 2 and 3 to reach desired length.  
To finish your bracelet, add a clasp or button and loop closure. ❁

*Diane Fitzgerald lives and maintains her store, Beautiful Beads, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and travels around the country teaching beadwork and buying beads (what a life!). She is continually on the lookout for new beadwork stitches and variations on old ones. You may contact her at [dmsbeads@bitstream.net](mailto:dmsbeads@bitstream.net).*

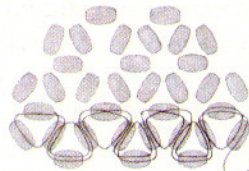
RESOURCE

Rice beads: Shipwreck Beads, (800) 950-4232. They also have 4 × 6, 5 × 10, and 5 × 13 diamond ovals.

Increasing & Decreasing



Row-end increase



Row-end decrease from the left



Row-end decrease from the right

