

Reviews of Diane Fitzgerald's

Favorite Beading Projects



Kristal Wick (Swarovski Ambassador's Site) 2-25-12

Can I just say every time I've bumped into Diane Fitzgerald, I feel I should curtsy as one would in the presence of royalty, such as a queen. Of course I'm usually wearing sandals or Crocs; neither lend themselves well in curtsying not to mention, Diane isn't decked out in a ruffly, layered, poof skirted ball gown either, so I just say "Hey Diane." But we all know she is indeed seed bead royalty!

And I have the pleasure of perusing through her latest book from Lark due out March 6, 2012, Diane Fitzgerald's Favorite Beading Projects. With 24 delicious projects ranging from Stringing to Beadweaving; a lovely Forward by the renowned Jean Campbell; and an inspiring Gallery, she finally got me! Diane's 11th book has captured me with it's simpler projects and I've got a needle threaded with a pile of seed beads ready to start her Diamond Chain Bracelet project before I've even finished looking through the entire book! I've always admired her innovative and complex dedesigns yet felt afraid to move beyond my safe and beloved peyote stitch to try any of her fancy masterpieces. This book has changed all that for me.

Diane makes it very enticing to dive in and join her on her personal beading path. The quality of the images is spectacular as well as the easy to follow colored diagrams. I also must comment on the friendly font and layout of this book—simply delightful and inviting. I love her wide range of techniques and skill level of the projects presented. Gotta' go now, Diamond Chain Bracelet is calling me, no wait...maybe I'll start with Midnight Snowflakes...no wait....

Tammy Powley, About.com Jewelry Making 2-25-12

"I was surprised at how many of the projects in this book were not overly complicated, so there is a range here as far as required skill level. For jewelry makers who only have a little beadweaving or stringing experience, you will find a number of projects that you can very easily make. Intermediate and advanced jewelry makers will have little trouble making any of the designs in this book. As far as designs, they are not the type of beadwoven jewelry that is more of an art statement than a piece of jewelry you could comfortably wear. These are fashionable and wearable." (5-star review)

Jennifer Van Benschoten <<http://www.facebook.com/VanBeads>> 2-25-12

"These projects represent the very best of Diane's extensive technical knowledge when it comes to crafting beaded jewelry. There are knotting projects, beadweaving projects and assemblage projects that use some basic wire skills to create. Not all of the projects are technically challenging for an advanced beader, but they are most inspiring. In the Buddhist tradition of getting back to a 'beginner's mind,' some of these projects will provide a wonderful and welcome break when you just want to bead something beautiful. If you want to expand your general jewelry-making skills to include work with fibers, fabric, and knotting, this is the book for you. Diane has really allowed herself to develop as an artist over the course of her career, and this book is a delightful compilation of all the skills and techniques she has mastered along the way. For any serious bead artist looking for something new to try, Diane Fitzgerald's Favorite Beading Projects will provide hours of enjoyable beading projects."

Shala Kerrigan, 2-25-12 <http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art175377.asp>

"Diane Fitzgerald is very well known in the beading community; she's been writing books and helping bead-ers learn new techniques for years. This collection of her favorite projects is a great resource for people who are just starting with bead weaving. The projects are dramatic, wearable, and use a variety of stitches that are diagrammed well enough for a beginner to follow. Each of the projects has complete instructions. So instead of an introduction providing an overview of materials and techniques, it starts with an introduction to Diane Fitzgerald and her contributions to the beading community written by another notable luminary, Jean Campbell. Then it gets straight into the projects. Starting for absolute beginners is the One to Many Strand Necklace, which is an older project of Diane's that works just wonderfully with today's trend for statement necklaces. The many strands are dense, heavy with seed beads, and well balanced by graduated beads in the 'one strand' part. Then the projects get more complicated: ropes worked around cord cores, peyote, netting, brick stitch and square stitch, hexagonal weaving and other stitches. My favorite projects in this book are: Apple Blossom Necklace, a netted tube worked over a core and accented with a bead embellished ribbon flower; Button Doll Ornament - this little button man reminds me of necklaces I strung for my daughter when she was little, (with) a simple thread path to make something adorable; Yao Necklace, a very dramatic looking necklace made in motifs which are square stitched; (and) Shimmering Waves - super easy peyote variation that makes a gorgeous necklace. One of the things I like best about this book is the supplies for the necklaces are very easy to find. Very standard bead types make it a project book that's very accessible. A good bead store should have everything you need except for some supplies you might need to find at a craft or fabric store."

Stacie Hooder 2-27-12 <http://jewelrymaking.craftgossip.com/giveaway/diane-fitzgeralds-favorite-beading-projects/>

As promised yesterday, I have another giveaway drawing for you to enter! [Diane Fitzgerald's Favorite Beading Projects](#) offers instruction for making 24 of Diane's favorite class projects. Jean Campbell's foreword gives many well deserved accolades to Diane for her extensive knowledge of beading history, of beading materials, and teaching approach that encourages students to create their own designs. Jean says, "Working through any of these projects might feel like attending a special Diane Fitzgerald workshop, but in the comfort of your own bead studio." As you have already seen with the [Fortune Teller Beads Necklace](#), Diane's work speaks for itself. Who would want to miss a one-on-one beading lesson with Diane through the wonderful projects in her book?

Lorelei Eurto posted reviews on her blog of Diane Fitzgerald's Favorite Beading Projects 2-28-12 <http://loirelei1141.blogspot.com/2012/02/book-review-and-giveaway.html>:

What a wonderful concept ... a collection of favorite projects taught by author Diane Fitzgerald over a span of several years! The projects included range from beginner to advanced and cover a wide range of techniques and styles. Flipping through it, my eyes are tickled by the wonderful colorful photography, and as a beader I am ... inspired by the beauty and uniqueness of each piece. Diane has put together a strong body of work here, and I recommend this book if you are running low on inspiration! My favorite project is Tie-One-On, one of the prettiest pieces I've seen using shells and knotting.

Sig Wynne-Evans on her Beaded Bear blog: <http://beadedbear.blogspot.com/2012/02/book-review-diane-fitzgeralds-favorite.html#links>

"Each of Diane's books is a gem. This one is no exception. There are two dozen varied projects in the book. Want some fancy stringing? It's in here. How about an elegant crystal necklace fit for a queen? Are you wanting to make a collection of little flower baskets to wear pinned to your spring jacket? How about at least 9 variations to go with several jackets? Or maybe you think life is a bowl of cherries and you want something 3D to wear to prove it? Whatever style you may be looking for — elegant, whimsical or classic — you should be able to find something that will become your favorite. OK ... maybe more than one. Fine, you got me ... at least a dozen if not more. All projects are beautifully photographed. Directions are clearly illustrated. So go buy this book!" —

Mikki Ferrugiario reviews Diane Fitzgerald's Favorite Beading Projects : (<http://thebeadedcarpet.blogspot.com/2012/03/books-books-oh-so-yummy-books.html>) (3-9-12)

Diane Fitzgerald's Favorite Beading Projects
"I think this is a very well thought out book ... even a little sneaky, in a good way. Diane cleverly introduces seed beads by showing mouth-watering projects that take the reader from simple stringing designs into actual bead woven designs. I love smart people and smart things, and I can honestly say Diane and this book fall into those categories. If you have ever looked at seed beads or bead weaving and thought 'I can't do that,' buy this book! If you know someone who has drooled over your designs and said 'I could never do that,' buy them this book! The designs are delightful and temptingly easy enough for a beginner."

Review from Razine Wenneker on the Rite-It blog:

Diane Fitzgerald states in the introduction that she started down this interesting and rewarding path over 20 years ago. How fortunate we fellow beaders are that she followed this journey. As I viewed the many pages of captivating projects ... her sense of balance, color, and use of materials demonstrate a wonderful eye for design. She incorporates seed beads and large and small beads in a myriad of colors and shapes. The instructions are very well defined with no questions left unanswered. Overall, this is a very exciting book. Diane Fitzgerald, as a wonderful teacher and influence, has once again whet our appetite to add to our stash of beads and go for it!

<http://artquiltmaker.com/blog/2012/03/book-review-diane-fitzgeralds-favorite-beading-projects/>

"Tips and techniques are woven throughout the book. This book has a whopping 24 projects. At an MSRP of \$27.95, that is about \$1.04 per pattern. If you want to try a lot of different techniques, this is a good book to buy. Throughout the book, the author shows very clearly how to put the beads together into the larger units needed to make the project. This book has wonderful pictures of different beads used. Enjoy this inspirational book."

CraftTestDummies.com

<http://www.crafttestdummies.com/craft-product-reviews/book-review-diane-fitzgeralds-favorite-beading-projects/>

"If you are an intermediate or advanced beader you will find plenty of projects that you might enjoy making and even some to challenge you. I like that the book not only contains the projects like the Art Deco Necklace but also includes a couple of photos after the instructions to inspire you to create variations on the original project. The hardcover lays flat for easy reference. There is a project gallery at the end of the book for further inspiration. This is a book that I intend to keep on my shelf. I already have 3 or 4 other projects book marked to make in the future." -

<http://www.beading-arts.com/2012/03/book-review-diane-fitzgeralds-favorite.html>

Do you love Diane Fitzgerald and her amazing work as much as I do? You'd better, or else let me tell you ... you're just plain wrong!

In this beautiful brand new Lark publication, Diane Fitzgerald's Favorite Beading Projects, Diane shares 24 never-before-published projects that actually span both her incredible 20 year career and her amazing technical skills. If you've ever wanted an introduction to beading like Diane, this book is it. It would be great if all of us could actually take a class from her, but since that's not practical for some people, here's your chance to have Diane sitting right with you as you work through her projects.

I would recommend this especially for beginners or advanced beginners who would like to be challenged to broaden both their skills and the materials they work with. The instructions are easy to follow and have great tips included for creating your own variation on her projects. Crystals, seed beads, Lucite, pearls, two-holed beads, fabric, fused glass, lampwork beads, buttons, pressed glass shapes ... Diane can do it all!