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Ring in the new year

designed by Anna Elizabeth Draeger

Capture the magic of the seasons with one pattern for an easy crystal ring, bejeweled ornament, and a simple beaded band.

**RING TOP**

1) On 2 yd. (1.8 m) of thread, pick up a repeating pattern of a color A 4 mm bicone crystal and a color C 3 mm bicone crystal four times. Tie them into a ring with a square knot, leaving a 12-in. (30 cm) tail. Retrace the thread path, and sew through the next A and C (figure 1, a–b).

2) Pick up a color D 3 mm bicone crystal, an A, and a D. Sew through the C, going in the same direction, and continue through the next A and C in the ring (b–c). Repeat this stitch three times to complete the round, and sew through the next D and A (c–d).

3) Pick up a color E 15\(^{10}\) seed bead, a color B 4 mm bicone crystal, and an E, and sew through the next A (d–e). Repeat this stitch three times (e–f), retrace the thread path (not shown in the figure for clarity), and continue through the next E and B (f–g). Set the working thread aside.

4) With the tail exiting an A in the first round, pick up an E, a D, a C, a D, and an E. Sew through the A your thread is exiting, going in the same direction, and continue through the next four beads in the ring, exiting the opposite A (figure 2, a–b).

5) Pick up an E and a D, and sew through the C added in the previous stitch (b–c). Pick up a D and an E, and sew through the A your thread exited at the start of this step. Continue through the next C and A (c–d). End the tail.

**RING BAND**

1) With the working thread exiting a B in the outer round, pick up an E, a C, an E, a B, an E, a C, and an E, and sew through the B your thread is exiting (figure 3, a–b). Continue through the next E, C, E, and B (b–c).

2) Working in right-angle weave, repeat step 1 (c–d) eight times or until you reach the desired length.

3) To connect the last row of the band to the ring top, pick up an E, a C, and an E, and sew through the opposite B on the ring top. Pick up an E, a C, and an E, and sew through the end B on the band.

4) Reinforce the band by retracing the thread path, and end the thread.

**tension tip** Retracing the thread path with tight tension will cause the beads from the first steps to pop up and form the ring top.

**materials**

- Fireline, 6 lb. test
- beading needles, #12

- **bicone crystal ring,** 1 in. (2.5 cm) diameter
  - 4 mm bicone crystals
    - 13 color A (Preciosa, Siam AB)
    - 8 color B (Preciosa, light Siam AB)
  - 3 mm bicone crystals
    - 24 color C (Preciosa, emerald AB)
    - 8 color D (Preciosa, rose AB)
- 1 g 15\(^{10}\) seed beads (Miyuki 1010, silver-lined flame red AB)
- ornament 23/8 in. (6 cm)
  - 1 23/8 (6 cm) ornament ball (SparkleStyle; amazon.com)
  - 514 mm fire-polished beads (Preciosa, metallic red)
  - 1023 mm fire-polished beads (Preciosa, transparent garnet)
  - 2 g 11\(^{10}\) seed beads (Miyuki 4506, transparent seafoam Picasso)

- **band for gift topper** 1 in. (2.5 cm) diameter
  - 10 4 mm fire-polished faceted round beads (Preciosa, metallic red)
  - 203 mm fire-polished faceted round beads (Preciosa, transparent garnet)
  - 1 g 11\(^{10}\) seed beads (Miyuki 4506, transparent seafoam Picasso)

- **basics**
  - square knot
  - ending and adding thread
**Ornament**

Make a simple ornament using a long version of the ring band.

1) On 12 in. (30 cm) of thread, work as in step 1 of “Band” to make a strip of right-angle weave with 24 stitches, but substitute fire-polished beads for the bicone crystals (figure 4). Do not join the ends of the band, but end the thread. Make a second band with 25 stitches.

2) On 1 yd. (.9 m) of thread and leaving a 6-in. (15 cm) tail, pick up 18 color F 15° seed beads, an end 4 mm fire-polished bead from the band with 25 stitches, 18 Fs, and the other end 4 mm fire-polished bead from the 25-stitch band. Sew through all the beads again to form a ring but don’t pull it tight yet. Position the ring around the neck of the ornament, and retrace your thread path to reinforce the ring.

3) To attach the 24-stitch band, sew through the next six Fs (figure 5, a–b). Pick up an F, a 3 mm, and an F, and sew through an end 4 mm fire-polished bead on the remaining band (b–c). Pick up an F, a 3 mm, and an F, skip six Fs on the ring, and sew through the next six Fs, 4 mm, and six Fs (c–d). Pick up an F, a 3 mm, and an F, and sew through the other end 4 mm fire-polished bead from the same band (d–e).

**note** Make sure the 24-stitch band crosses on the outside of the other band at the bottom of the ornament.

Pick up an F, a 3 mm, and an F, skip the next six Fs in the ring, and sew through the following six Fs and 4 mm (e–f). Retrace the thread path to reinforce, and end the thread.

4) Add 12 in. (30 cm) of thread to the beadwork, exiting the outer band near where the bands overlap on the bottom of the ornament. Sew through an adjacent bead in the band below, and through the nearest bead in the outer band. Repeat this stitch several times to join the two bands together. End the threads.

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**Gift topper**

Make a ring that doubles as a bow holder to top a present — a bonus gift for a special friend. To do so, work as in step 1 of “Ornament” to make a band that is 10 stitches long. To join the ends into a ring, exit a 4 mm. Pick up an F, a 3 mm, and an F, and sew through the other end 4 mm. Repeat this stitch, retrace the thread path through the join, and end the threads.
Double diamond pendant
designed by Tamara Rubio
Make a pair of stylish and sparkly earrings.

**BASE**

1) On a comfortable length of thread, pick up a repeating pattern of an 11º seed bead and a 4 mm bicone crystal four times. Sew through the beads again to form a ring, leaving a 6-in. (15 cm) tail. Tie a square knot with the working thread and tail, and sew through the next 11º and crystal (figure 1, a–b).

2) Work in modified right-angle weave: Pick up an 11º, a 3 mm bugle bead, an 11º, a crystal, an 11º, a bugle, and an 11º, and sew through the crystal your thread exited at the beginning of this step (b–c).

3) Sew through the next 11º, bugle, 11º, and crystal (c–d).

4) Pick up an 11º and a crystal three times and then another 11º, and sew through the crystal your thread exited at the start of this step (d–e).

5) Sew through the following 11º, crystal, 11º, and crystal (e–f).

6) Repeat steps 2–5 twice, and sew through the next 11º and following crystal (f–g).

7) Pick up an 11º, a bugle, an 11º, a crystal, an 11º, a bugle, and an 11º, and sew through the crystal your thread exited at the start of this step. Continue through the first 11º and bugle just added (figure 2, a–b).

8) Pick up an 11º, a bugle, an 11º, a bugle, and an 11º, and sew through the next bugle in the adjacent column (b–c).

9) Pick up an 11º, sew through the adjacent bugle in the previous unit, and the following 11º, bugle, 11º, and bugle added in this unit (c–d).

10) Pick up an 11º, and sew through the next crystal in the adjacent column (d–e).

11) Pick up an 11º, a bugle, an 11º, a crystal, an 11º, and sew through the adjacent bugle in the previous unit. Continue through the following 11º, crystal, 11º, and bugle (e–f).

12) Repeat steps 8–11 twice, and sew through the next 11º and crystal.

13) Repeat step 4, and sew through the next 11º and crystal just added (figure 3, a–b).

14) Pick up an 11º, a bugle, an 11º, a crystal, and an 11º, and sew through the next bugle in the