

# Star chain by Mairi Carlton

## You will need:

- Selection of 4mm and 3mm bicone crystals
- 5 – 6g size 11/0 seed beads
- 4 – 5g size 15/0 seed beads
- Optional – fastening of your choice



## Method

- The chain is made up of joining a number of stars together which can be any size or colour that you want – a good way to use up some of your stash!
- The chain can be made long enough to go over your head or you could add a fastening

## Round 1

- Thread your needle with approximately 3 feet of thread – you will be using single thread – and pick up 6 x 11/0 seed beads.
- Run them down towards the end of your thread and tie them in to a circle, leaving enough of a tale to weave in

## Round 2

- Pass your needle through the next 11/0 and pick up 2 x 11/0
- Pass your needle back through the first 11/0 only – the second one becomes the top bead of a little stalk.
- Then pass your needle through the next 11/0 in the round
- Repeat the above 2 steps until you have added the 2 bead stalks in between each of the original 11/0s in the round



## Round 3

- Pass your needle back up through the first 2 11/0s of round 2 – the first little stalk
- Pick up one 4mm bicone and pass your needle through the top bead only of the next little stalk
- Continue to pick up on 4mm bicone and pass through the next stalk until you have completed the round and have 6 x 4mm bicones sitting in place
- Pass your needle through all the beads in this round again and finish with your thread coming out of one of the 11/0s



**NOTE** Don't pull your thread too tight or you will force the star to buckle.  
You may want to press it between your fingers to encourage it to lie flat



# Star chain by Mairi Carlton

## Round 4

- With your needle exiting one of the 11/0s in between 2 of the crystals, pick up 7 X 11/0
- Pass your needle through the 11/0 in the gap between the next 2 crystals, encouraging the new 11/0s to sit around the edge of the crystal
- Repeat this around the star until you have added 6 sets of new 11/0s, finishing with your needle coming out of the 11/0 where you first started this round



## Round 5

- Continue to pass your needle through the first 3 x 11/0 of the 7 you added last round
- Miss the 4th and then pass your needle through the next 3 x 11/0
- If you pull gently the 4th (middle) seed bead will 'pop out' to a point
- Repeat this around the other sets of 7 x 11/0
- When you reach the beginning, move your needle through the first 3 x 11/0 of the first point and through the 'popped' 11/0

## Join

I have given a suggestion for the joining beads, but you can alter this to use whatever you like here

- Pickup 15 x 15/0 – 1 x 11/0 – 1 x 4mm – 1 x 11/0 – 15 x 15/0 – 1 x 11/0
- Pick up 1 x 15/0 and skipping the first 15/0 of the set already on the thread, pass your needle back through the next 13 x 15/0, heading towards the middle crystal in the join
- Pick up 1 x 15/0 and pass your needle through the 1 x 11/0 – 1 x 4mm – 1 x 11/0
- Pick up 1 x 15/0 and skipping the 1<sup>st</sup> 15/0 of the set already on the thread, pass your needle through the next 13 x 15/0, heading towards the star
- Pick up 1 x 15/0 and pass your needle through the 11/0 where you started
- Pull the beads gently into place – not too tight or the join will become too rigid – and secure your threads into the star



# Star chain by Mairi Carlton

## To continue

- With a new thread, make up a new star following rounds 1 – 3
- When adding the beads in round 4, when you get to the last set, use the single 11/0 at the end of the join as your middle bead of the set
- Complete round 5 to 'pop' the middle beads in the set
- Work your thread around to 4<sup>th</sup> point of the new star which is opposite the join and add a new set of joining beads
- Secure your threads in and repeat, adding as many stars as you wish



**NOTE** If you are not adding a fastening, when you add your final joining beads, instead of picking up a single 11/0 at the end of the join, pass your needle through the 'popped' 11/0 on the first point of the very first star

## Options for stars

### Bigger star

- Follow the above instructions but add 9 x 11/0 in round 4

### Smaller star

- Follow the above instructions but add 3mm crystals in round 3 and 5 x 11/0 in round 4

## Fastening

I would suggest adding your fastening in the middle of the joining beads as follows

- Coming out of the 'popped' 11/0, pick up 15 x 15/0 – 1 x 11/0 – 1 x 4mm – 1 x 11/0 – 3 x 15/0 – first part of fastening – 3 x 15/0
- Pass your needle through the 1 x 11/0 – 1 x 4mm – 1 x 11/0
- Pick up 1 x 15/0 and skipping the first 15/0 of those already threaded, pass your needle through 13 x 15/0
- Pick up 1 x 15/0 and pass your needle through the 11/0 where you first started
- Pass your needle around through all the beads again and secure into the chain
- Repeat at the other end to add the second piece of the fastening



[www.internationalbeadingweek.com](http://www.internationalbeadingweek.com)