



Bright Star Beaded Bail

I made one of these little beaded bails years ago and was asked for the pattern, but I never had the time to properly assess what I had done, so it sat in the “To Do” list. Happily, I’ve now managed to re-work it, so here’s the pattern! It’s worked entirely in size 15° Czech Charlottes, which can make it quite a daunting project if you worry about using the very tiniest beads, but I have no doubt that this can also be worked in ordinary size 15°s and probably 11°s too, to capture larger or chunkier pendants, such as 30mm Cosmic Rings and large crystal drops.

Skill level: Intermediate.

Techniques: Peyote, Herringbone.

Specific Requirements

8 x Size 15° Czech Charlotte Seed beads (A)
153 x Size 15° Czech Charlotte Seed beads (B)
1 x Swarovski #5000 2mm Crystal Round (C)
1 x Swarovski #5328 4mm Crystal Bicone (D)
1 x Swarovski #4137 22x16mm Cry. Cosmic Oval (or similar pendant of approx. 4mm thickness)

General Requirements

3lb Fireline in Smoke or Crystal as appropriate
Needle – Size 15

Before we start....

The Bright Star Bail consists of two identical 4-point shapes (I’ve called them stars). You will make one complete star, then build almost a complete second one, but share the tip beads of the top and bottom points, whilst trapping the pendant.

If you are going to be working in the size 15° Czech Charlottes, then it is really helpful to be using a size 15 needle and very fine thread, such as 3lb Fireline, as I’ve advised in the requirements list, as there will be some “weaving through” in the process, which can get tight and fiddly.

I made a tiny dangle inside the oval because I wanted to fill the little void, but it isn’t a necessary part of the structure.

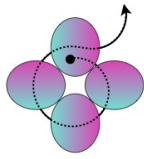
Here’s an after-thought! Don’t add the dangle, but make a second Bail positioned at the bottom of the oval and have the dangle hanging below, externally.

For those of you who know my patterns, here’s a slight departure from the norm. I’ve tried to create slightly more self-explanatory diagrams, with two new visuals:

- The new beads to be picked up in each row are shown with stronger outlines.
- I’ve added a caption for each diagram for those of you who like to set out a little pile of the correct number of beads for the row.

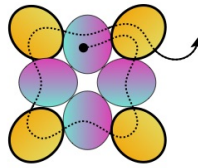


1



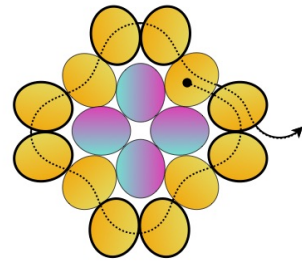
Pick up 4A

2



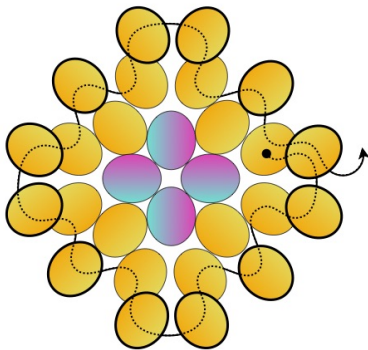
Using B, position 4 new beads

3



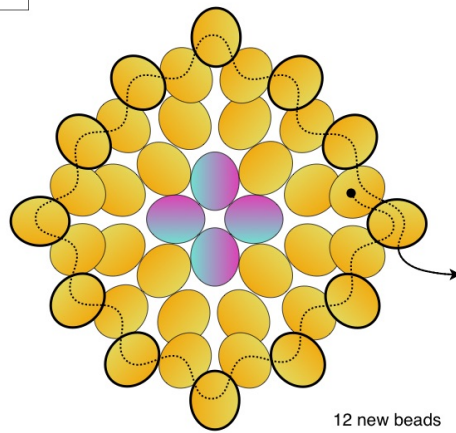
8 new beads

4



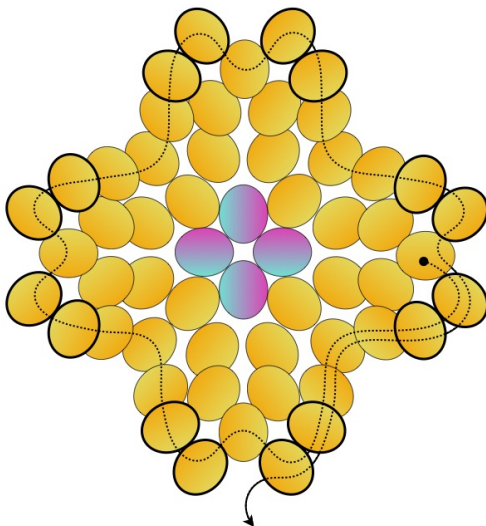
12 new beads

5



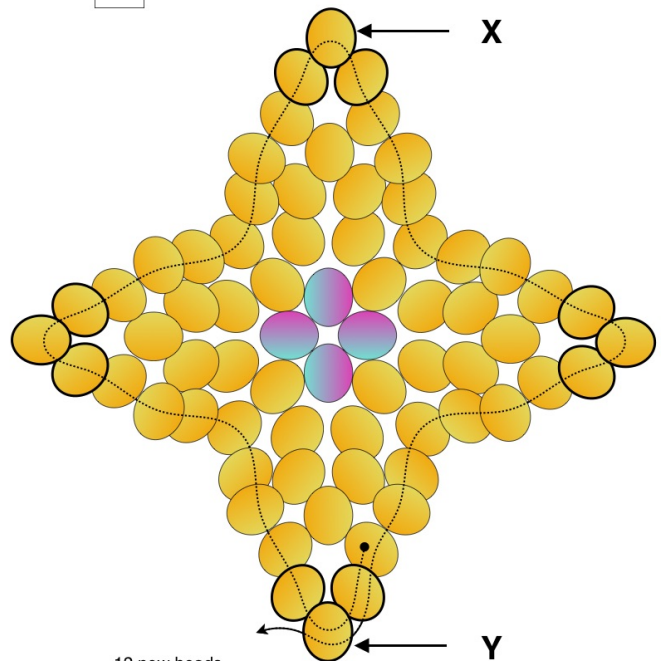
12 new beads

6



16 new beads

7



12 new beads

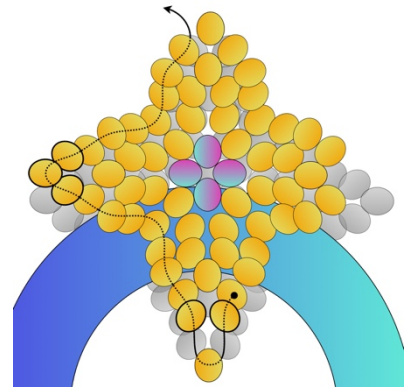
Using 1m/40" thread and leaving a tail thread of 15cm/6", follow diagrams 1-7 to complete your 1st Star, and finish off both the working and tail threads.

The two tip beads, marked X and Y in diagram 7, will be shared when you make your 2nd Star.

I have faded the colours of the 1st Star to prevent confusion, but beads X and Y remain highlighted.

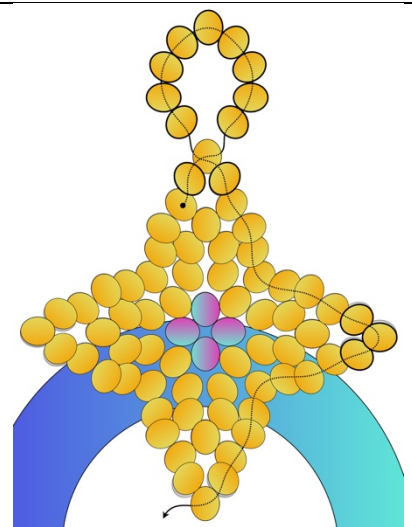
8)

- With a new thread, work steps 1-6 as for the 1st Star.
- Now is a good time to finish off the tail thread.
- Pick up 1B, pass through bead Y of the 1st Star, pick up 1B.
- Weave through to the next point of the Star (West in this diagram).
- Pick up 3B and weave through to the North point, to exit as in the diagram.
- Position your crystal pendant between the two Stars.



9)

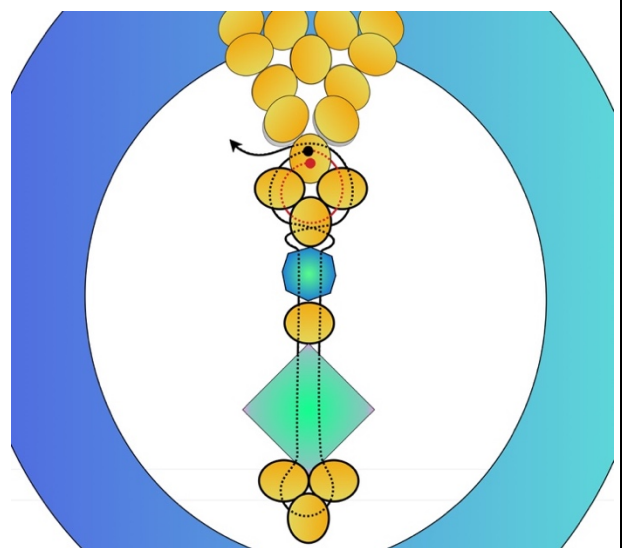
- Pick up 1B, pass through bead X.
- Pick up 9B and pass through bead X again, in the same direction, making a loop.
- Pick up 1B, weave through to the East point and snuggle up, ensuring the loop is secure.
- Pick up 3B and weave through to the South point, exiting bead Y as in the diagram.



10) For the dangle we'll add an extension to the South point:

- Pick up 3B and pass again through the Y bead.
- Weave through two of the 3B just picked up to exit the extension tip bead (exiting from the right hand side in the diagram).
- Pick up 1C, 1B, 1D, 3B.
- Missing out the last 3B, pass back up through 1D, 1B, 1C.
- Pass through the extension tip bead via the left hand side.
- Weave through the remaining 1B extension bead and Y, to exit as in the diagram.
- Snuggle up and finish off the working thread.

To hang the pendant from a fine chain, I made a simple, independent, beaded chain link using 11B. As large drop crystals have a small hole, don't share bead Y when making the 2nd Star; make a South point, then make a bridge of 2 or 3B to connect the two South points through the crystal hole.



And that's it! Congratulations, you've completed your Bright Star Bail.

