



National Beading Week Buddy Charm

~Ingredients~

30 x 4mm Crystal Bicones, Fire Polished Beads or Pearls

50cm 0.25 mm Nylon Illusion Cord (e.g. Supplemax)

30cm Cord Colour A (I used Soutache braid)

30cm Cord Colour B

Mobile phone loop

~Tool Box ~

Scissors

2 x Size 10/0 needles

'Frag Check' or clear nail varnish

Pliers



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Introduction

Crystal balls are so much fun to make and are useful when designing larger pieces of jewellery. They can be worn individually, strung on a simple necklace wire or used for dangles. For this project we will use one for the head of the NBW Buddy Charm.

The 30 bead ball is technically a dodecahedron, consisting of 12 sides. Each side is made with a cluster of 5 beads.



Getting started

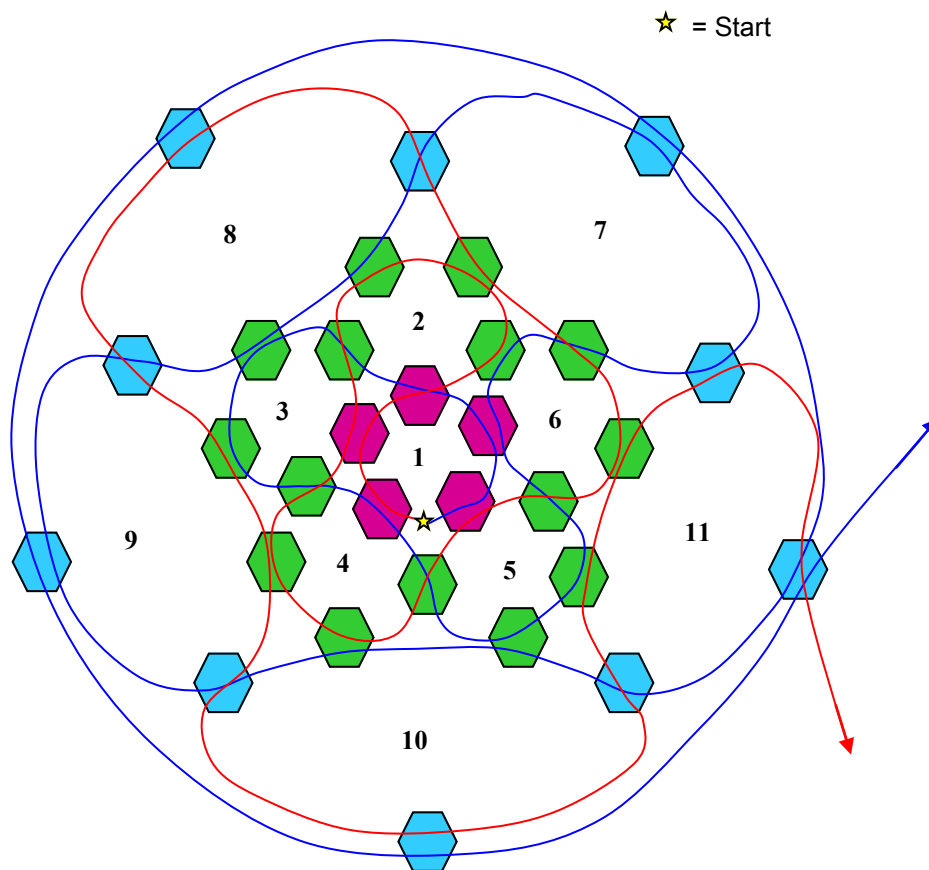
When making 3D objects with crystals it is best to use nylon (Illusion cord) thread. It has more 'body' or 'substance' than other beading threads, it's really strong and won't get cut by the crystals. I find it is a good idea to repeat the thread path in each step, this gives you a really solid shape. However, you might like to wait until you are familiar with the techniques before trying this as it makes it harder to undo if you have to do any reverse beading, and you can always repeat thread paths when you have finished. You can use needles with nylon thread (size 10), just flatten the ends with pliers to help thread through the eye of the needle but you don't need to leave a long tail, just an inch or two. If you don't use needles you can colour the ends of the thread with a permanent marker pen, this makes it easier to see when working.

The beaded beads are made using the two needle method of cross weaving, and whilst it might feel a little awkward at first, I always think this technique is more intuitive than working with a single thread. A little perseverance, and you will soon be ambidextrous!

Finally, one or two tips to help you when working 3D objects ...

1. When working, try not to turn your work over, otherwise you may end up weaving in a different direction.
2. For this project we will be working in an anti-clockwise direction. Therefore, the left hand thread will always weave through existing beads, and the right hand thread will work around the outside edge, picking up new beads.
3. If you have to leave your work for any reason, it's important to remember the number of the step you were working or about to work (whichever you prefer).

Beaded Bead (head)



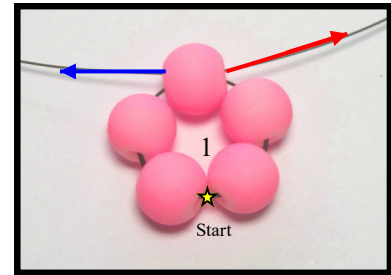
See Pages 4-6 for Step by Step instructions and diagrams



Beaded bead (head)

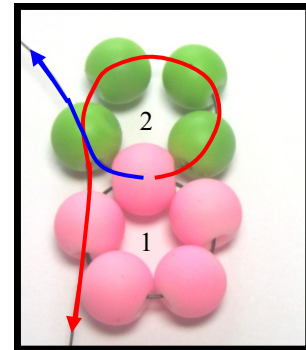
1. 1st Round

On a 50cm length of 0.25mm nylon thread, pick up 5 beads and cross your threads through the last bead added. Slide the set of beads to the middle of the thread so your working threads are the same length.



2. 2nd Round

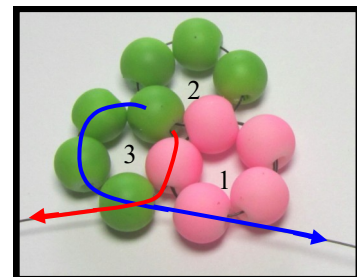
With your right hand (RH) thread, pick up 4 beads and cross your threads through the last bead just added. Weave your left hand (LH) through the adjacent bead.



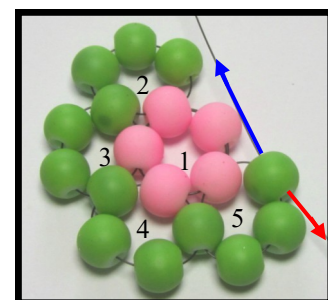
Note

As your threads cross through a bead, your RH thread will become your LH and vice versa.

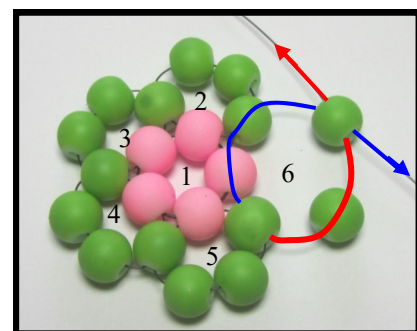
3. With your RH thread pick up 3 beads and cross your threads through the last bead just added. Weave your LH thread through the adjacent bead.

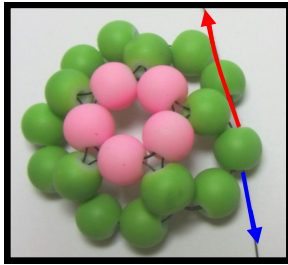


4 & 5. Repeat Step 3 twice more.



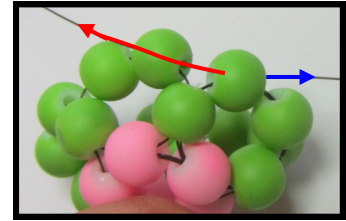
6. Take your LH thread through the last bead of the original ring, up through the first bead added in Step 2. With your RH thread pick up 2 beads and cross your threads through the last bead just added. At this stage your work will begin to form a cup shape. Try and maintain a tight tension.



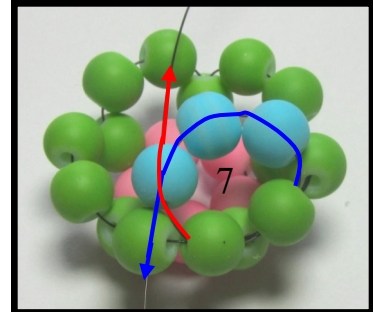


3rd Round

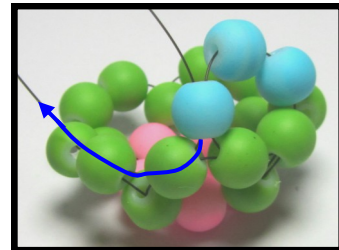
Weave your **LH** thread through the adjacent bead (this is the 2nd bead added at Step 2).



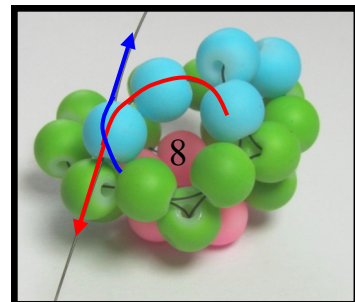
7. With your **RH** thread, pick up 3 beads and cross your threads through the last bead added.



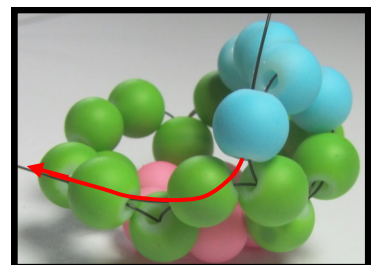
Then weave your **LH** thread through the adjacent 2 beads.



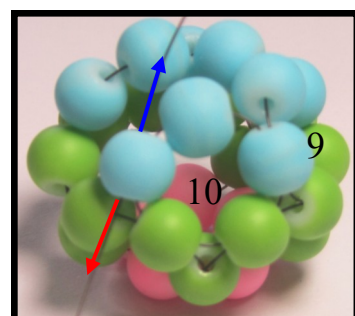
8. With your **RH** thread pick up 2 beads and cross your threads through the last bead added.



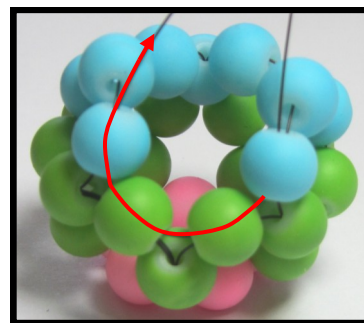
Then weave your **LH** thread through the adjacent 2 beads.



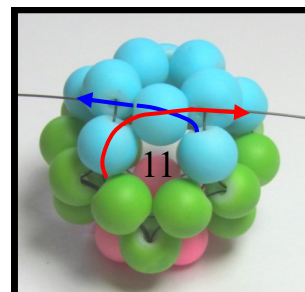
- 9 & 10. Repeat Step 8 twice more.



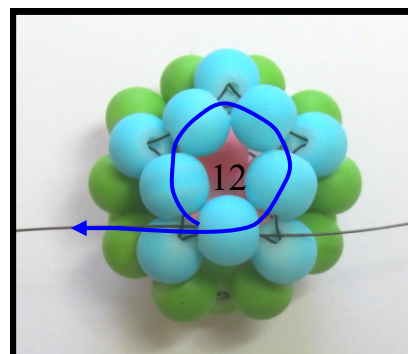
11. Weave your **LH** thread through the adjacent 2 beads then up through the first bead added in Round 3.



With your **RH** thread pick up 1 bead and cross your threads through it.



12. Weave either of your threads around the top beads to join into a ring.



Weave through the beads to bring your ends together, knot your threads then weave through several beads and snip off. If your beaded bead is a bit loose weave through all the steps again to strengthen.



To make the body

Step 1 Cut a length of cord 30cm long and fold in half (Colour A). Poke the folded end through the beaded bead. If you have trouble getting your cord through the hole, pass a piece of nylon thread through the looped end of the cord and then pass both ends of the nylon thread through the beaded bead and then pull the cord through. Discard the nylon thread.



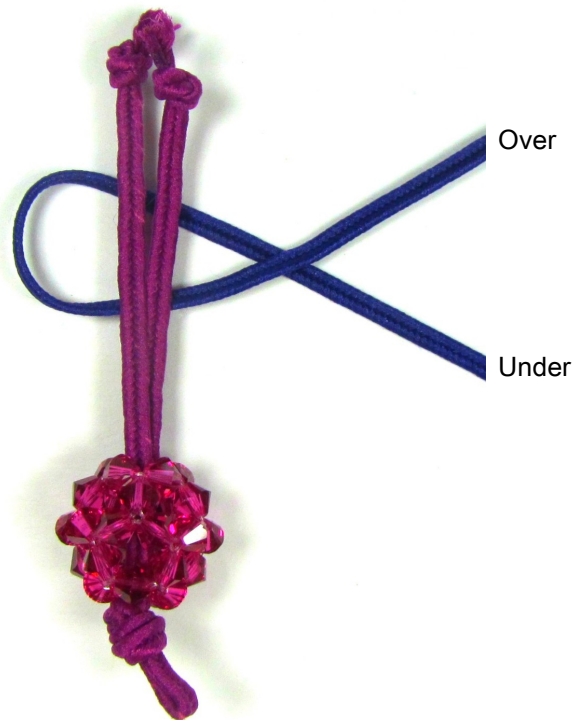
Step 2 Tie a knot at the folded end of the cord and push your beaded bead up against the knot.



Step 3 Tie knots on each cord about 4cm from the beaded bead, cut the excess cord and paint the ends with 'Fray Check' or clear nail varnish to stop the ends from fraying.



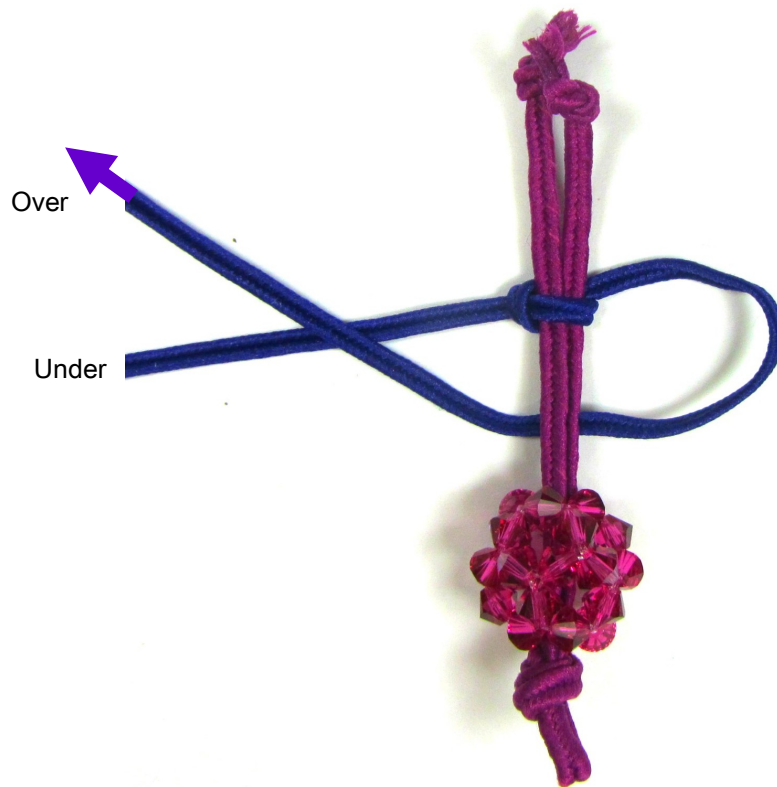
Step 4 Cut a second piece of cord (colour B) 30cm long and lay it on your work top as shown below with your Buddy laid on top, head nearest to you.



Step 5 Take the bottom cord over and pass it through the loop and tighten the knot



Step 6 Pass the right hand cord under the body and over the top of the left hand cord.



Step 7 Take the bottom cord and pass it through the loop and tighten the knot.



Step 8 Repeat Steps 6 & 7 until the body is the desired length.



Step 9 Tie knots at the end of each arm about 2cm from the body, cut off excess cord and paint the ends with 'Fray Check' or clear nail varnish. Add a mobile phone loop and you are done!

