

Gumdrop the Bird

Design by Nancy Jenner
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Materials:

- **A** = 11/0 **Miyuki** seed beads for **body**, 4 grams
- **B** = 11/0 seed beads for **feet & beak**, 11 beads
- **C** = 11/0 **Miyuki** seed beads for **wings & tail**, 1 gram
- **D** = 8/0 seed beads for **eyes**, 2 beads (use beads that are average in size, not overly wide)
- Thread to match body beads or 6# Fireline
- Cotton balls or other stuffing material
- Size 11 needle and other standard beading equipment

NOTE: It's important to use Miyuki beads for the body, wings, and tail. Fatter seed beads like Toho or Matsuno do not work well for this design.

NOTE: The pattern is written to include marker beads that match the colors used for the feet, tail, and wings. This will make it easy to see where things attach after beading the body and the marker beads become part of the design.

Body:

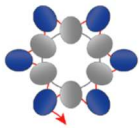
- Always step up at the end of each row, even if not indicated.
- It may be helpful to lay out the beads for each row before you bead it so that you don't miss the step up.
- Keep the beadwork flat through Row 7.

Row 1: Using body color A, string 6 beads on a comfortable length of thread, leaving a 6-7" tail thread to be woven in later.

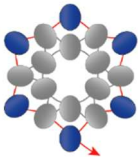
Sew through all 6 beads + 2 beads to create a circle.



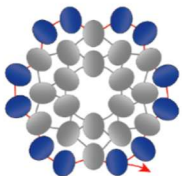
Row 2: Working in peyote, add 1A bead between each bead, step up = 6 beads.



Row 3: Peyote 1A bead between each bead, step up = 6 beads.



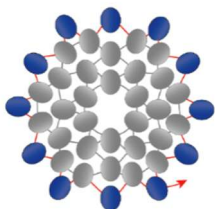
Row 4: (String 2 A beads to create an increase and then go through the next bead added in the previous row.) Repeat 5 times, step up into the first bead of the first pair added = 12 beads.



Row 5: Peyote between each bead and pair of beads added in previous row in the following manner:

Peyote 4A, 1B, 1A, 1B, 5A, step up = 12 beads.

➔ **Note that the two foot marker beads are added to Row 5. Refer to Row 7 photo for placement reference.**



Row 6: Peyote 1A bead between each bead, step up = 12 beads.

Row 7: (Peyote 1A, increase with 2 A beads) x 6, step up = 18 beads.

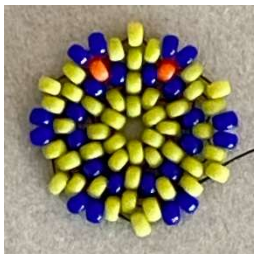


Photo: The blue beads indicate the increases, and the orange beads are the foot marker beads.

Row 8: Peyote 18A between each bead and pair of beads added in previous row = 18 beads.

→ **Adjust your thread tension to allow the beadwork to gently curve on Row 8.**

Row 9: Peyote 14A, 1C, 3A = 18 beads.

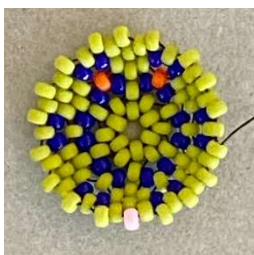


Photo: The pink bead (at the bottom of the photo) is the tail marker bead in Row 9.

Row 10: Peyote 18A = 18 beads.

Row 11: Peyote 18A = 18 beads.

Row 12: Peyote 18A = 18 beads.

Row 13: Peyote 18A = 18 beads.

Row 14: Peyote 18A = 18 beads.

Row 15: Peyote 18A = 18 beads.

Row 16: Peyote 5A, 1C, 10A, 1C, 1A = 18 beads.

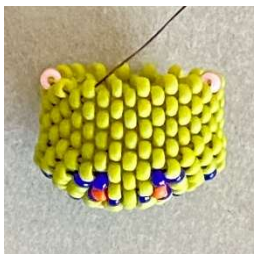
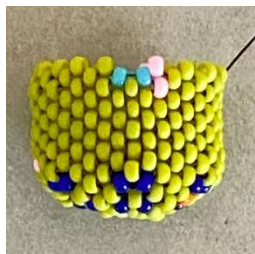


Photo: The two pink beads (along the top) in Row 16 are the lower wing marker beads.

Row 17: Peyote 18A = 18 beads.

Row 18: Peyote 4A, 1C, pass through the next bead without adding a bead to create a decrease, peyote 8A, pass through the next bead without adding a bead to create a decrease, peyote 1C, 2A = 16 beads.

→ The decreases occur on the sides of the body, lining up to the side increases in Row 7.



Photos: The light blue beads indicate the Row 18 decreases, and the pink beads are wing marker beads added in Rows 16 and 18. The dark blue beads near the bottom of the body are the increases.

Row 19: Peyote 1B, 15A (including 1 bead above each of the gaps created by the decreases in Row 18) = 16 beads.

→ Add stuffing.



Photo: The orange bead is the lower beak bead added in row 19.

Row 20: Peyote 16A = 16 beads.

Row 21: Peyote 3A, decrease, peyote 7A, decrease, peyote 3A, 1B = 14 beads.

→ The decreases occur on the sides of the body directly above the decreases in Row 18.



Photo: The light blue beads indicate the decreases in Rows 18 and 21.

Row 22: Peyote 1D, 10A, 1D, 2A = 14 beads. The step up is through the D (eye) bead.

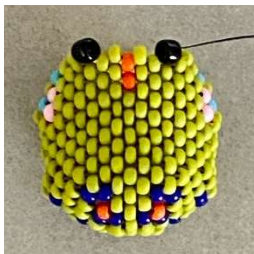


Photo: Row 22 complete, with the step up through the eye bead.

Row 23: Peyote 14A = 14 beads

Row 24: Peyote 1A, decrease, peyote 6A, decrease, peyote 5A = 12 beads.

→ The decreases occur on the sides of the body directly above the previous decreases.



Photo: Row 24 complete, showing the decreases (light blue beads) on the sides of the body.

Row 25: Peyote 12A (including 1 bead above each of the gaps created by the decreases in Row 24) = 12 beads.



Photo: Row 25 complete.

Row 26: Peyote 12A = 12 beads.

→ Add a bit more stuffing, using an awl (carefully!) to evenly manipulate the stuffing into a firm “gumdrop” shape. To allow the bird to sit flat, avoid overstuffing the bottom of your bird. The feet marker beads should be level to the flat surface it will sit on.

Row 27: (Peyote 1A, decrease) x 6 = 6 beads.



Photo: Row 27 complete, with the light blue beads indicating the decreases.

Row 28: Peyote 6A = 6 beads.

Row 29: Peyote 6A = 6 beads. Pass through all 6 beads. Secure and weave in the tail thread. The working thread (if long enough) will be used to add a third bead to the beak and then to create the feet.

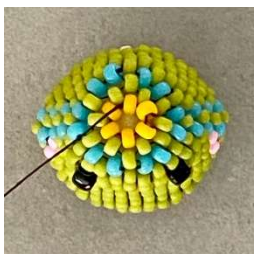
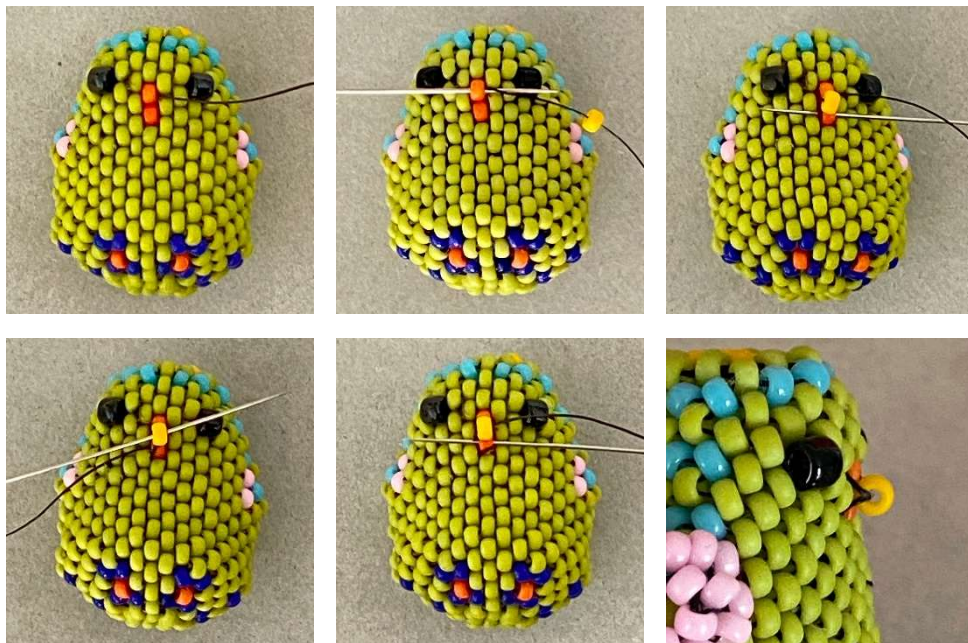


Photo: Row 29 complete, with yellow beads used to indicate the 6 beads added in Row 29.

Completing the beak:

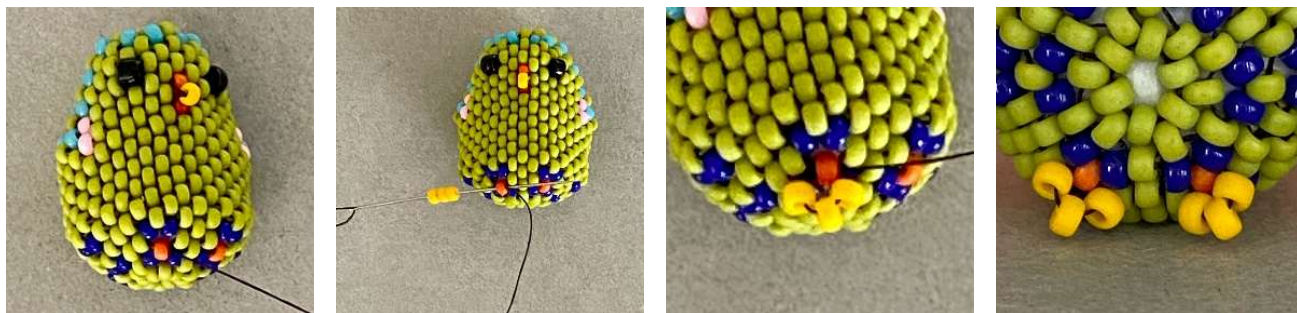
- Weave the working thread down to the upper beak marker bead.
- String 1 B bead and loop around the upper beak bead (square stitch).
- On the same side that the thread exits the upper beak bead, pass through the lower beak bead.
- Pass through the newly added beak bead.
- Pass through the lower beak bead. This centers the third beak bead between the upper and lower beak beads. Do not end the thread.



Photos: Completing the beak.

Creating the Feet:

- Weave the thread down the front of your bird to exit one of the foot marker beads.
- String 3 B beads and then loop around the foot marker bead. This creates a picot foot.
- Weave over to the other foot marker bead and repeat for the second foot. Secure and weave in the thread.



Photos: Adding the feet beads.

Wings & Tail (make 3):

Row 1: Using wing/tail color C, string 6 beads on 20" of thread, leaving a 6-7" tail thread to be woven in later. Sew through all 6 beads + 2 beads to create a circle.

Row 2: Working in peyote, add 1C bead between each bead, step up = 6 beads.

Row 3: Peyote 1C bead between each bead, step up = 6 beads.

Row 4: (String 3 C beads and then go through the next bead added in the previous row.) Repeat twice for a total of 3 picots. Secure and end the tail thread. With the working thread, weave over 1 "up" bead as shown in the photo on the right.



Rows 1-3.



Row 4 before weaving over 1 "up" bead.

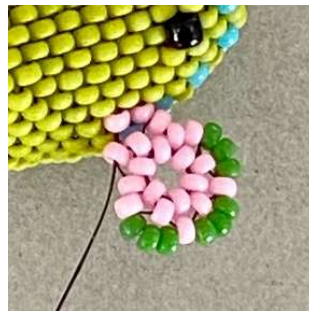
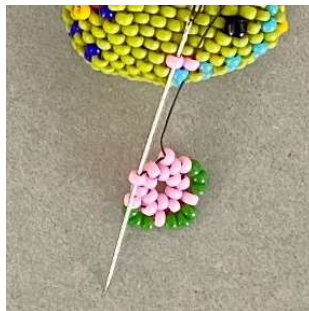


Row 4 is complete.

Attaching the Wings:

➔ **Waxing the thread before attaching the wings and tail helps provide a snug fit up to the body.**

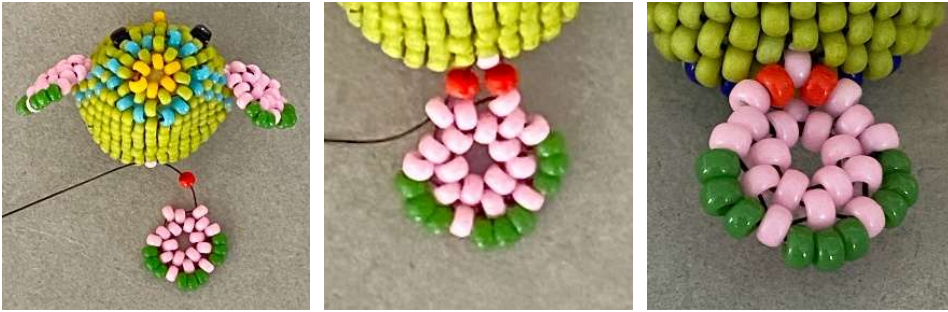
- With your needle going toward the front of the body, pass your needle through the upper wing marker bead.
- Turn and pass through the lower wing marker bead and then through the next "up" bead in the outer edge of the wing. Snug up the wing to the body.
- Weave the thread through the outer row of the wing, exiting the upper marker bead. Secure and weave in the thread. Repeat for the second wing.



Photos: Attaching the wing to the body.

Attaching the Tail:

- String 1 C bead and then go through the body tail marker bead on the back of the body.
- String 1 C bead and then go through the next “up” bead in the outer row of the tail. Snug up the tail to the body.
- Continue weaving the thread through the outer edge of the tail, exiting the tail marker bead on the body. Reinforce the thread path. Secure and end thread.



Photos: Attaching the tail to the body.

Congratulations, Gumdrop the Bird is complete!



Beaded by Shawn Brown



Beaded by Nancy Klimon