

# Pattern project: Symmetrical netting

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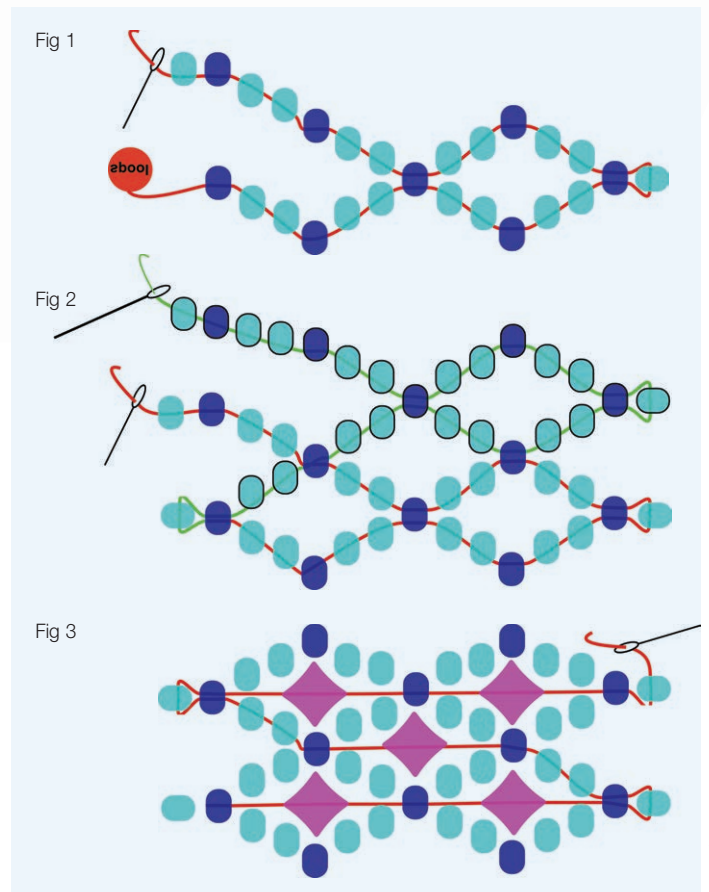
I was admitted to hospital a year or so ago after a very close encounter with a feral cat that left me needing intravenous antibiotics. My husband was magnificent in getting me to A&E at 4am and spending several hours a day with me for the 9 days I was kept in hospital. He kindly brought in several things for me, including some beading equipment. I tried to capture the shape of the symmetrical supporting ironwork of the gas holder I could see through the window in beads, and had settled into working netting with 2 needles in black and silver (the cuff) when I was discharged. The effort joined my UFO pile but I picked it up again later and



The choker



The cuff



completed the cuff and also made a choker in the technique. The use of 2 needles produces symmetrical netting, but is a little more challenging than (the unsymmetrical) normal netting.

## Method

First the technique; the diagrams show the method of working netting in this way, the rows can be any length and the nets can contain any number of beads although 5 bead netting (as used in the choker) is shown.

- Rows 1 and 2: Leave the spool attached to your thread, thread up one needle on about 1m of thread and lay out your beads for these rows. Fig 1 shows blue A beads and aqua B beads which would be laid out as 1A 2B 1A 2B 1A 2B 1A 2B 1A 3B 1A 4B 1A 2B 1A 1B. Following the red thread path in the figure: pick up 1A 2B 1A 2B 1A 2B 1A 2B 1A 1B and stitch back through the last A added to make a picot; pick up 2B 1A 2B and stitch through the corresponding A in Row 1 as in Fig 1; pick up 2B 1A 2B 1A 1B. Lay this needle aside (I stuck it securely through my bead mat).
- Rows 3 and 4: unspool about 1m of thread, attach a 2nd needle and layout your beads for this needle pass (shown with a dark outline in Figure 2): 4B 1A 4B 1A 3B 1A 4B 1A 2B 1A 1B. Following the green thread path in Fig 2: stitch up through the first A from Row 1; pick up 2B and stitch through the last A in Row 2 as in Figure 2 to complete that net; pick up 2B 1A 2B and stitch through the corresponding A in Row 2; pick up 2B 1A 1B and stitch back through the last A added to make a picot; pick up 2B 1A 2B and stitch through the corresponding A

in Row 3; pick up 2B 1A 2B 1A 1B. Lay this needle aside.

- Complete your netting by repeating rows 3 and 4 with alternate needles to the required length. To change threads, fasten and neaten both ends of the old thread; then unspool about 2m of new thread, attach a needle to both ends and start stitching.
- Embellish the nets by stitching in toning or contrasting beads as the red thread path shown in Fig 3.

## The Choker

### Materials

I used

- 8g main colour size 11/0 seed beads – A beads
- 4g contrast colour size 11/0 seed beads – B beads
- 1g toning size 15/0 seed beads – C beads
- Toning bead thread
- 266 crystal bicone beads
- Strong clear/frost cord

This is worked as in the diagrams for 5 bead netting using 2 colours of size 11/0 seed beads, toning size 15/0 seed bead picots and embellished with a variety of toning 4mm Swarovski Crystal bicone beads on strong bead thread. I added a fringe using a variety of different toning Swarovski Crystal beads. My beading is 11.25" inches (29cm); the clasp adds 1.5" (3cm); different measurements will require different numbers of beads.

My first row is 1C 1B 2A 1B 2A 1B 2A 1B 2A 1B 2A 1B 2A 1B 1C making it 3 nets wide alternating with 2 nets), but I added more nets at the centre. I used several colours of bicone beads (those I had readily

available) and stitched them into a pattern on the choker. I made a beaded ring clasp by stringing 10 × 4mm bicones, alternating with B beads, on strong bead thread and triple stitching them into a ring. I covered them with a piece of tubular beading on strong bead thread having 10 × 5-bead nets on the outside, 10 × 3-bead nets on the inside, and a buffer row if intermediate nets with 5 beads on one side and 3 beads on the other. I made a bar on triple, and tightly stitched, strong thread using 7 × 4mm bicone beads alternating with B beads and having C bead picots. I attached the bar and the ring clasp to opposite ends of the choker.

## The Cuff

### Materials

I used:

- 16g Miyuki size 11/0 seed beads – A Beads
- 1g Miyuki size 15/0 seed beads – C Beads
- 1g Czech 15/0 charlottes
- Beading thread
- 2 old buttons from my bead box

The cuff is worked as above in 3 bead netting, but uses just one colour of size 11/0 and 15/0 seed beads (as picots). It is embellished as above with contrasting size 15/0 Czech charlottes. My beading is 7.5" (19cm) long, the button fastening takes away 0.5" (1cm); different measurements will require different numbers of beads.

My first row has 29 size 11/0 seed beads with size 15/0 seed beads as picots, making it 7 nets wide (alternating with 6 nets)

