

# Pattern project — Pixie torc

Jennifer Airs

This intermediate level Torc is 19" long (48cm) and took me about 12 hours to stitch. I stitched the two parts of the torc independently and then joined them through the focal bead. The colour scheme, colour change order and length of torc can all be changed to match any focal bead. Each of the two beaded sides measures 7.5" (19cm): adding/subtracting 4 rows on each side lengthens/reduces the Torc by 0.6" inch (1.5 cm).

I started this design with a Delica bead colour scheme I put together a couple of years ago and mixed it in with tubular herringbone and the idea of thorny bamboo-type nodules on the tube. My sample piece was about 4" long and I thought it would look great with one of Lorna Prime's focal beads – I've used a lot of her stunning beads in beadwork.

I sent Lorna a photo and asked if she could make me a focal and a toggle clasp – I thought one of her ring mandrels would work for the toggle. Lorna made me some stunning, part-frosted beads and this torc is the result of our collaboration. Lorna used white instead of the amber in my original sample and I loved the way it adds light to the rest of the colours: so I changed my colour scheme slightly by replacing amber with white.

## Materials

- 2g DB 74 Fuchsia lined crystal AB
- 3g DB 201 White pearl Ceylon
- 3g DB 707 Transparent cobalt
- 4g DB 786 Transparent frosted teal
- 2g DB 918 Sparkling dark aqua green lined crystal (looks green)
- 3g DB 1340 Dyed silver lined fuchsia
- A few toning size 11/0 and 8/0 beads (I used Miyuki 1614 transparent frosted teal from another colour scheme of mine)
- Toning bead thread (I used green and white)
- Crystal Fireline D (6lb)
- Size 10 and 13 needles
- Scissors
- Focal bead and clasp

## Method

### Rows 1 to 15

The diagrams show thread paths in black and beads as rounded squares through which the thread passes:

- Row 1 – using Fireline and frosted teal beads pick up 8 beads and stitch through the first 3 beads again. See Fig 1.
- Row 2 – (pick up 2 beads, stitch through 2 row 1 beads) x 4. Stitch through the first bead of row 2 – this gives the step up at the end of the row.
- Tension the piece after each row – the tension should be quite tight in this part of the torc.
- Herringbone a further 13 rows; the tube will first form a cup and then firm up into a tube as more rows are stitched.

Change to beading thread – adding in and ending stacks of herringbone makes the tube less flexible.

### Introducing a new colour: rows 16–19

- Introduce a new colour (cobalt) by stitching 1 bead of that colour between the herringbone 'stacks' in row 16. The step-up remains at the start of the same herringbone stack.
- See Fig 2. In row 17 stitch 1 new colour bead to each of the beads introduced in row 16. Note that the new bead is added by stitching through the bead in the previous row, picking up the new bead and stitching back through the new bead in the previous row before stitching back into the herringbone.
- Repeat for row 18.
- In row 19 stitch 2 new colour beads to each of the new colour beads in row 18 in the same way.

### Changing colour: rows 20–23

- Herringbone row 20 in the two colours.
- See Fig 3. In row 21 stitch 1 bead of the old colour to the top of the old colour herringbone stitches in row 20 and herringbone the new colour. Note that the darkened bead to ease tracking between diagrams.
- See Fig 4 the step-up has moved to the next new colour stack. Herringbone the new colour only, tightening the thread between 'stacks'. Threads can loop over the nodules, so check for this regularly.

### Continuing the Torc

- Herringbone a further 5 rows in the new colour – this will look like 6 rows above the old colour nodules and you may find it simplest to keep track of where you are by setting out the beads for these rows in advance.
- Introduce new colours as above. This torc has the following colour changes:

| Number of herringbone rows | Colours                             |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5                          | white, fuchsia                      |
| 4                          | green, silver lined fuchsia, green  |
| 3                          | fuchsia, white, cobalt              |
| 2                          | teal, cobalt, green, white, fuchsia |

### Ending the Torc

- Fig 5. The final section starts with a 2 single bead colour change to green. Discontinue the fuchsia with nodules as usual, herringbone 1 row in green.
- Introduce silver lined fuchsia with 2 single beads then introduce a single bead of white on each side of the 2 bead silver lined fuchsia increase using the thread path shown in the bottom left quadrant of Fig 5.
- Complete this row and work a second row of single white beads (stitched back to the previous row) and herringboned silver lined fuchsia and green beads.
- The final row adds a single bead to the top of the green and silver lined fuchsia "stacks" while stitching through the top white single beads.
- Repeat the steps above to make a 2nd piece of beadwork to match the first

### Joining the two halves

- Fig 6. Use about 18 inches of Fireline to join the two halves of the torc through the focal bead. Stitch through one of the beads in the row below the introduction of the final silver-lined fuchsia section from the outside and leave a 6 inch tail. The beads in this row are shown dark in the left diagram.

Fig 1

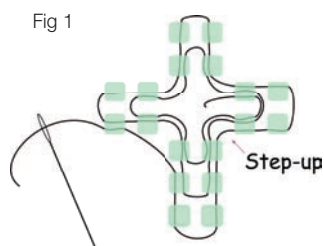


Fig 2

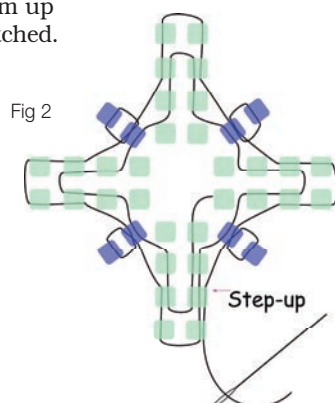


Fig 3

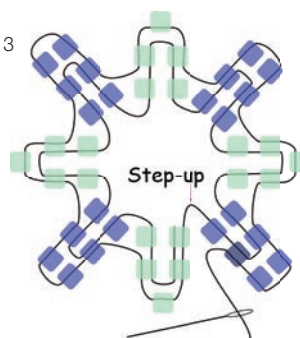
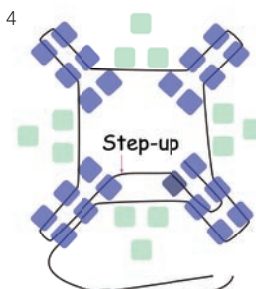


Fig 4





Photos: Graeme Morris, Diags: Jennifer Airs

- Stitch through the focal bead and into a corresponding bead on the other piece of beadwork from the inside to the outside: draw the thread through until there is about half an inch of free thread either side of the bead.
- Stitch back through the outside of the next bead into the inside and back through the focal bead.
- Space the beads you stitch through fairly evenly around each beadwork piece, and make 7 passes through the focal bead.
- Leave the second tail on the outside of the torc. Pull both tails at the same time with a firm but gentle pressure, settling the focal bead a few times and pulling up the slack.
- Stitch in the tails and neaten the thread when the focal bead is firmly held between the two halves of the Torc. The left-over thread can be used to attach the clasp.

#### Attaching the ring and bar

- Lorna's lampworked clasp is a ring and bar. The ring has texture on 3 sides but the fourth side is plain and I used peyote

stitch in teal delicas and Fireline around this side to attach the clasp.

- I attached about 16 inches of Fireline to one end of the torc and stitched two beads into the top of a herringbone stack and between that stack and the next as shown in Fig 7.
- I then peyoted 2 bead rows as shown in Fig 7 – I stitched 21 rows before the

strap was long enough to hold the ring firmly to the torc.

- I then attached the strap to the other side of the torc around the plain side of the ring before securing and neatening the thread.
- For the bar, I attached about 8" of Fireline to the other side of the torc, stitched around the end of the piece and picked up  $1 \times 8/0$ ,  $7 \times 11/0$  beads, 1 bar,  $1 \times 8/0$  then stitched back through the bar,  $11/0$ 's and final  $8/0$  and settled the beads.
- I stitched back into the top of the herringbone about 2 beads away from where I'd exited and stitched through the seed and bar beads again before stitching back into the herringbone and settling the beads.
- I repeated the stitching – changing to a smaller needle for the last pass. I made sure that the bar was firmly attached before securing and neatening the thread.



Fig 5

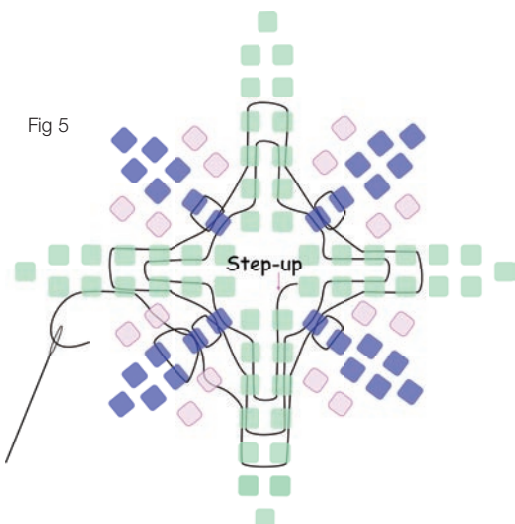


Fig 6

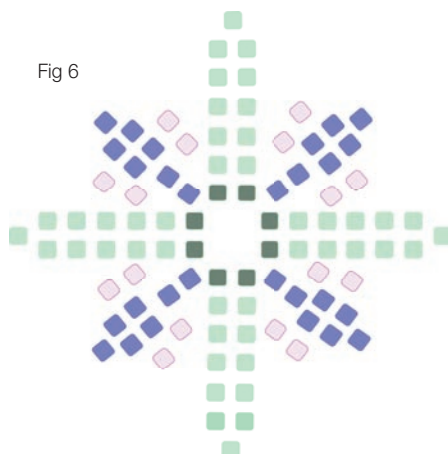


Fig 7

