

Floral Fanfare

Weave colorful
netted posies

by **Allie Thompson**

Stylishly retro, fast, and fun, these flower brooches are a breeze to make. Pin them on hats, scarves, jackets, shoes, and shirts singly or in clusters. When choosing beads, almost anything goes. Select a color, then find beads of different shades, cuts, and finishes.



[a]



[b]



[c]



[d]



[e]

stepbystep

Flower base

[1] Thread your needle with a yard (91cm) of Silamide. If you are using Nymo, work with a yard of doubled thread. (To condition the Nymo, see Basics, p. 172).

[2] Stitch the flower's base as follows:

Round 1: String an 8° and an 11° six times, leaving a 6-in. (15cm) tail (**figure 1, a–b**). Sew through all the beads plus the first 8° again (**b–c**) to form a circle.

Round 2: Pick up one 8° (**c–d**), go through the previous 8°, then go through the new 8° again (**d–e**). Pick up three 11°s and one 8° (**e–f**). Go through the next 8° on round 1 and back through the last 8° on round 2 (**f–g**). Repeat until you have picked up a total of 24 beads and are back at **point d**.

Rounds 3–6: Work as in round 2, but pick up five 11°s in round 3, nine 11°s in round 4, 12 11°s in round 5, and 15 11°s in round 6 (**figure 1 and photo a**).

Petals

[1] Weave through the beads to reach round 1 on the base. Exit an 8°.

[2] Add three layers of beads on top of each base round. Use

different shades of 11°s for each petal layer.

Round 1: Pick up three 11°s, then go through the next 8° on the base round (**figure 2, a–b**). Repeat around to **point a**. Make a second layer, passing through the same 8°s but picking up four 11°s. Repeat for a third layer, but pick up five 11°s (**figure 2 and photo b**).

Round 2: Go through an 8° on the next base round (**figure 3, a–b**). Pick up five 11°s, then go through the 8° on the base round (**b–c**). Repeat around to **point b**. Make the second layer with six 11°s between 8°s. Make the third layer with seven 11°s between 8°s (**figure 3**).

Round 3: Go through an 8° on the next base round. Pick up eight 11°s for the first layer, nine 11°s for the second, and ten 11°s for the third (**photo c**).

MATERIALS

flower brooch 2 x 2 in. (5 x 5cm)

- 1g seed beads, size 11°, 5–9 different shades
- 1g Japanese seed beads, size 8° to match 11°s
- Silamide or Nymo D conditioned with beeswax or Thread Heaven
- beading needles, #12
- safety pin or pinback



Round 4: Work as in the previous rounds, but pick up 11 11^s, 12 11^s, then 13 11^s for each layer.

Round 5: Repeat, but pick up 14 11^s, 15 11^s, then 16 11^s.

Round 6: Repeat, but pick up 17 11^s, 18 11^s, then 19 11^s.

Pin attachments

I like the durability of a safety pin, but feel free to opt for a pinback. Use the thread tails to sew the pin onto the back of the flower (photo d). Go through the 8^s and thread bridges, but do not sew through the 11^s. Weave in the tails, knot them with half-hitches (Basics), then trim the excess thread. ●

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

For a center variation, use bugles for the first petal layer (photo e). Pick up a bugle and 11^o seed bead. Skip the seed, sew through the bugle again, then go through a base bead. Repeat around. After all the petal layers are added, the bugles stand up, resembling stamen.

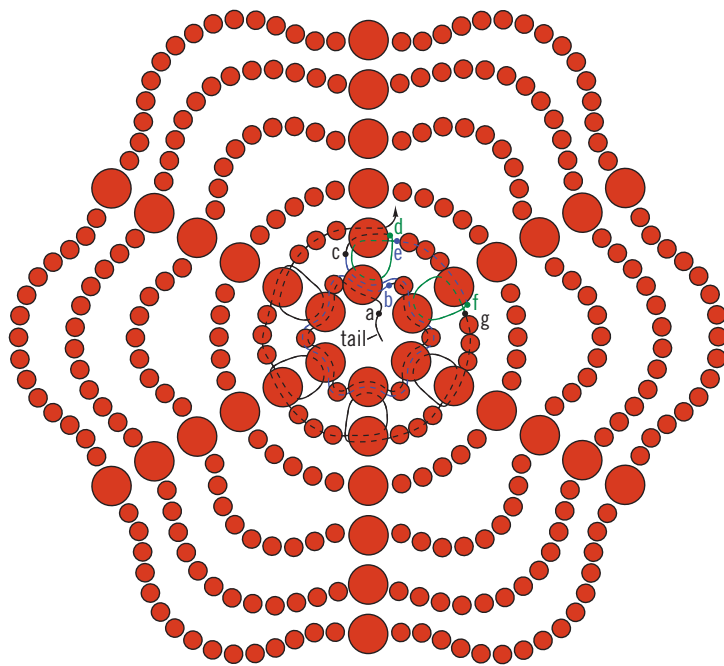


FIGURE 1

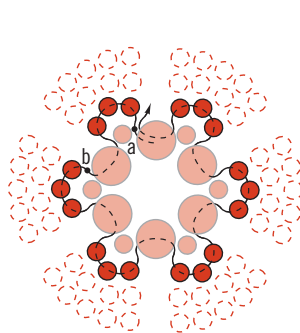


FIGURE 2

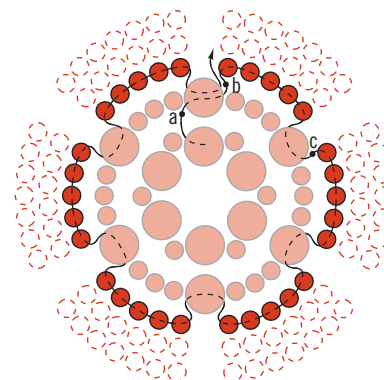


FIGURE 3

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