

QUEEN BEAD'S DONUT CLUSTER INSTRUCTIONS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 x Acrylic Donut Type Bead or similar
- 1 x main leaf or charm, 2 - 4 smaller leaves/top drilled beads
- 10 - 20 x 4mm Swarovski bicone crystals or similar
- 3 - 6 x 6mm Swarovski bicone crystals or similar
- 3 x main flower beads, through drilled
- 4 - 8 other beads (6mm - 10mm) that fit in with your colour scheme
- 2 x colours of #11 seed beads, 1 x colour of #8 seed beads (more colours are fine if desired)
- 1m of tigertail or softflex, a clasp, and crimp beads to make the neck piece with.

PREPARATION

Thread your needle with 2 good arm lengths of Silamide. Bring the needle to the middle of the thread.

Spill your seed beads out onto your mat in small neat piles. It may help to have a note of the size above each colour.

RECIPE

1. Pick up the following and slide them down your thread, leaving a 12cm tail.

1 x 4mm crystal, 5 x #11 seeds, a large leaf, 5 x #11 seeds

Bring your needle back up through the *4mm crystal* only and pull tight.

Knot the working thread and the tails together tightly twice.

2. Pick up 1 x #11, 1 x 4mm crystal, 1 x #11, 1 x 6mm crystal, 6 x #11.

Bring your needle and thread back down through the *6mm crystal* only.

Pull your thread tight. You should have a seed bead loop on top of the 6mm crystal.

3. Pick up 3 x #11 (second colour), a flower, and 3 x #11 (second colour). Go back up through the flower, the first 3 #11's and the 6mm crystal. Pull everything tight, so no thread can be seen.

4. Stitch around the seed bead loop, and back down through the 6mm crystal.

5. Pick up 5 x #11 (any colour that suits), a 6m crystal and 3 x #15. Ignore the #15's and stitch back up through the 6mm crystal, the seed beads and the first 6mm crystal again. Make sure everything is pulled up tight then stitch through half of the seed bead loop.

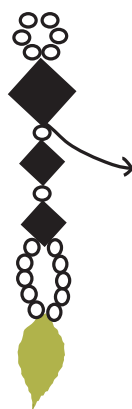
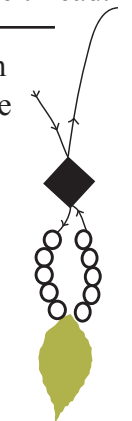
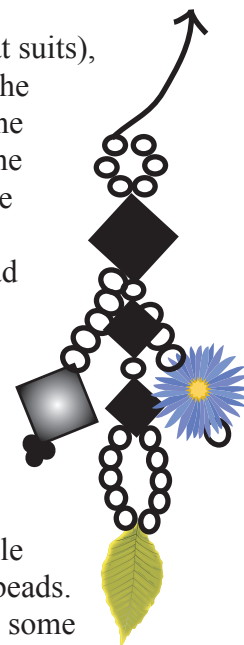
6. Pick up 1 x 4mm crystal,, 1 x 6mm crystal, 1 x 4mm crystal and 12 #11 seed beads.

Hold this up to the bottom of your donut. If you think the dangle should be longer, add some seed beads. If you think it is too long, remove some seed beads. When you are happy with the length, add a 4mm crystal and enough seed beads to comfortably loop around the donut. Stitch back down the 4mm crystal and make sure everything is pulled up tight.

7. Pick up 6 more #11 seed beads, colour of your choice. Then add a flower or other feature bead set. Finish with three seed beads, then stitch back up through the feature bead/s (skipping the last seed beads), the #11's and the 4mm crystal and the base of the loop around the donut. Make sure that everything is pulled up tight, then stitch back through the whole donut loop, and back down through the 4mm crystal again.

8. Take your small leaf or spear. You want it to sit in between the flower/feature you just put on and the larger bottom cluster. Slide on enough seed beads for the leaf/spear to sit in approx the right place. Slide on the leaf/spear and three more seed beads. Ignore those 3 seed beads, the leaf and the next three seed beads. Bring your needle and thread all the way up the rest of the seed beads and pull everything up tight. Your leaf/drop should be sitting in a small loop.

9. Stitch back up through the top 4mm crystal and donut loop, then back down through the 4mm crystal again. Now, stitch back down through the first length of seed beads and crystals (the line the main bottom cluster is hanging off. Stitch through the first crystal and then stop.



10. Make a half hitch knot in between the two crystals. Stitch down the 6mm crystal and make another knot. Stitch down the *other* side of the loop, make another knot. Finally, stitch through several more beads and cut your thread.

11. Finish your tails of thread as instructed.

WHAT NOW?

Some will be happy with their donut as is, especially if the donut is small and/or you prefer a finer or simpler finish. If this is the case, move on to 'Finishing Off.'

If you want the cluster dropping from the donut to be thicker, add another the same way as you just have, but make it shorter, and make sure that the feature beads in the new cluster are not directly opposite the feature beads of the original cluster.

- You may just want two drops of beads on the new cluster rather than the three of the original cluster
- Often it is good to use smaller feature beads on the smaller cluster
- You can keep adding cluster elements, shorter or longer, until you are happy with the piece.
- The bigger the donut, the more clusters you can have dripping from it.

FINISHING OFF

1. Take your tigertail, and thread enough seed beads to the middle of it to make a loop that will go around the top of the donut bead.

2. Thread one of the ends of tigertail through the donut. Take a larger feature bead and slide it over BOTH ends of tigertail. Push the feature bead down until it meets the seed beads. The seed beads should form the loop and the donut will sit in the center of the loop. If the loop is a bit small or big, just take the feature bead off again, add or remove seed beads as required and slide the feature bead down again.

3. Using a bead board or your mat, plan the sides of your necklace. You will want your largest feature beads first, spaced out with seed beads, smaller beads and spacers, then your smaller feature beads then finally just seed beads to give you the desired length. You might want to do this a section at a time so you don't get overwhelmed by having to plan it all in one go.

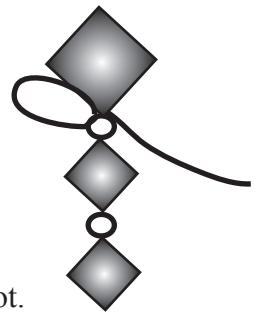
4. Once you are happy with your design, string your beads onto each side. Check the length in the mirror and when happy, attach your clasp.

TO FINISH YOUR THREAD

Using half hitch knots

Working flat on your mat, fold the working thread in a gap between beads so that a small loop is formed.

Bring the needle and thread through that loop and pull tight to make a knot.



Stitch down through the next bead and make another knot. Repeat. Now, stitch through another few beads and, using a sharp pair of scissors, trim the thread close to the beads.

When finishing tails (rather than the working thread) you will probably find it easier to finish one thread at a time - it will certainly be easier to thread the needle!

ATTACH THE CLASP

Once you are happy with the length of your necklace it is time to attach the clasp.

1. Take off the last bead on one side. Slide down a crimp, the same bead you just took off, another crimp, and one half of your clasp.
2. Take the end of the wire, turn it around, and pass back through the last crimp, the bead, the first crimp and several of the other beads, ignoring the clasp. Pull tight until the clasp sits in a small loop approx 4 -5 mm long.
3. Squash both crimps firmly and trim off the excess wire. Repeat for the other side.



