Candy Dodecahedron
Beaded Bead

Created by Cindy Holsclaw

www.beadorigami.com  beadorigami.etsy.com  beadorigami.blogspot.com  facebook.com/beadorigami

The Candy Dodecahedron beaded bead uses the geometry of the dodecahedron to gather thirty beads into one ball-like structure. The Candy Dodecahedron beaded bead measures about 15 mm (0.6 in) in diameter, and can be woven from several different types of beads for completely different looks. String one on a cord for a simple necklace, use two for sparkly earrings, or combine several in different sizes for a stunning ensemble of jewelry!

Materials for one beaded bead:
• (10) 4 mm crystal bicone beads (A)
• (10) 4 mm crystal bicone beads (B)
• (10) 4 mm crystal bicone beads (C)
• Fireline thread, 6 lb test

Tools:
• Beading Needle, size 11 or 12
• Scissors

Materials Notes:
A wide variety of beads can be used in this design, including round glass, crystal, or semiprecious stone beads, even irregularly-shaped freshwater pearls. Also, several additional colorways can be applied to this design. Check out the “Inspirations and Variations” section at the end of this pattern.

Materials Resources:
For a list of suppliers for the beads needed for this project, please visit www.beadorigami.com/patterns.html#MaterialsResources
Notes on Illustrations:
Throughout this pattern, newly-added beads are marked with a letter, while beads passed through during a particular step are numbered.

Instructions:

The Candy Dodecahedron beaded bead is woven in the shape of a dodecahedron, a geometric structure with twelve faces, each in the shape of a pentagon. This pattern uses a 3D variation of right angle weave to position the thirty beads in this design such that they lie on the edges of the dodecahedron. To create this design, you will begin by weaving the first face of the beaded bead with five beads in one color. Next, you will weave five additional faces using fifteen beads in two more colors. Then you will add the remaining ten beads to create five more faces, and finally reinforce the last face with thread along with the rest of the beaded bead. If you are experiencing difficulty creating this design, please see the notes under “troubleshooting” at the end of this pattern.

Step 1: Cut and stretch a 4 ft length of thread. Pick up
• (5) 4 mm bicone crystals (A)
Leave a 6 in. tail.

Step 2: Pass through all of the crystals in the same direction to form the first face of the beaded bead, and continue through the first crystal one more time. Gently pull the beadwork taut.

Step 3: Pick up
• (1) 4 mm bicone crystal (B)
• (2) 4 mm bicone crystals (C)
• (1) 4 mm bicone crystal (B).
Step 4: Pass through the first crystal again (the crystal labeled with a 1 in Figure 4) to complete the second face of the beaded bead. Continue through the next A crystal (labeled with a 2). Pick up
- (1) 4 mm bicone crystal (B)
- (2) 4 mm bicone crystals (C).

Step 5: Pass through the B crystal labeled with a 1 in Figure 5, and continue through the A crystals labeled 2-3 to complete the third face of the beaded bead.

Step 6: Repeat the second half of Step 4 from “Pick up” through step 5 two times to complete the fourth and fifth faces of the beaded bead. See Figure 6. Continue through the B crystal labeled with a 1. Pick up
- (2) 4 mm bicone crystals (C).

Step 7: Pass through the B, A, and B crystals labeled 1-3 to complete the sixth face of the beaded bead. Continue through the C crystal labeled with a 4.

The beaded bead is now half-complete, and the beadwork should start to form a rounded bowl shape at this point.
Step 8: Pick up
• (1) 4 mm bicone crystal (B)
• (1) 4 mm bicone crystal (A)
• (1) 4 mm bicone crystal (B).

Step 9: Pass through the C crystal on the sixth face (labeled with a 1 in Figure 9), and continue through the C beads labeled 2-4 to complete the seventh face of the beaded bead.

The beadwork will start to ball up and form a round structure in the subsequent steps. However, for the purposes of illustration, Figures 9-14A are shown flat.

Step 10: Pick up
• (1) 4 mm bicone crystal (B)
• (1) 4 mm bicone crystal (A).
Step 11: Pass through the B crystal on the seventh face of the beaded bead (labeled with a 1 in Figure 11). Continue through the C crystals labeled 2-5 to complete the eighth face of the beaded bead.

Step 12: Repeat Steps 10 and 11 two more times to complete the ninth and tenth faces of the beaded bead. See Figure 12. Continue through the B crystal labeled with a 1.
Step 13: Pick up
- (1) 4 mm bicone crystal (A).

Step 14: Pass through the B crystal on the tenth face of the beaded bead (labeled with a 1 in Figure 14A). Continue through the C beads labeled 2-3 to complete the eleventh face of the beaded bead.

Pass through the B and A crystals labeled 4-5. Gently pull the beadwork taut to gather the beads into a ball structure. Figure 14B shows the beadwork after the beadwork has been pulled taut. The beads labeled 1 through 5 are identical in both Figures 14A and 14B.
Step 15: Pass through the A beads labeled 1-5 in a circle to reinforce the twelfth and final face of the beaded bead.

Step 16: Reinforce the entire beaded bead by weaving back through the beadwork until it is sturdy, filling the holes with thread in the process. Tie a full-hitch knot before entering one of the crystal beads, pass through a few more beads, and trim the thread. Re-thread the tail thread, and repeat this process. Your Candy Dodecahedron beaded bead is now complete!

Troubleshooting

• **Keep even tension throughout the beadwork.** While weaving the beaded bead, keep the tension of the thread tight enough to pull the beadwork into a spherical shape, but not so tight that the edges of the crystals fray or cut the thread. Nylon thread such as nymo is not recommended when crystals are used in this design.

• **Watch the thread!** In this project, it is easy to unintentionally wrap the working thread around part of the beadwork before proceeding to the next step in the project. At the end of each step and prior to continuing to the next step, check the path of the thread to make sure it is not wrapped around part of the beadwork.

• **When in doubt, refer to the dodecahedron.** It can be very difficult to construct a 3D beaded shape from a set of 2D instructions. There are numerous sources on the web to obtain rotating views of a 3D representation of an dodecahedron, which may aid in visualizing the completed beaded bead. See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dodecahedron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dodecahedron) or [http://www.mathsisfun.com/geometry/dodecahedron.html](http://www.mathsisfun.com/geometry/dodecahedron.html).
Color Variation

The Candy Dodecahedron beaded bead can be woven with five colors of beads, where symmetry is used to form an even color distribution on the finished beaded bead. Six beads in five different colors are used in this variation. Figure 16 shows this beaded bead at Step 14, and the beads are numbered in the order that they are added to the structure.

The photos below show this color pattern with both 4 mm bicone crystals and 4 mm Czech fire polished beads.
Variations and Inspirations

These beaded beads feature the 5-color pattern variation with Czech fire polish beads in pastel and jewel tones.

Since fire polish beads have rounded edges, nymo thread was used instead of Fireline to create these beaded beads. The same economical substitution can be used with freshwater pearls.

These Candy Dodecahedra earrings feature peach and grey freshwater pearls, and were created using a twist on the 5-color pattern variation seen above; peach pearls were used for four of the five colors shown in Figure 16, resulting in an even distribution of the grey pearls for an accent effect.

Contact Information

For questions or comments, please e-mail beadorigami@gmail.com

© 2012 by Cindy Holsclaw. All rights reserved.
The Candy Dodecahedron beaded bead looks beautiful with just one bead type. The above beaded bead was woven with 5 mm oval-shaped peach freshwater pearls.

The beaded bead below was woven with irregularly-shaped or “keshi” freshwater pearls, drilled at the edge so each individual pearl looks like a wavy teardrop. This beaded bead was strung through two openings with Czech glass beads and additional pearls for a simple, but elegant necklace.
If you’re interested in more beading designs like these, please consider signing up for my mailing list at www.beadorigami.com/contact.html - Mailing list subscribers receive monthly updates on the latest and greatest Bead Origami patterns, kits, and workshops, as well as exclusive discount codes!