

Christmas



Fast

Bead a simple swag ornament for elegant holiday decorating

by **Anna Elizabeth Draeger**

This Victorian-inspired ornament can stand alone or mix easily with any décor. The beads and crystals give off enough sparkle to lend elegance and interest to any tree or mantle. Beautiful and easy to make, the ornament will be a delightful surprise for everyone on your gift list.

stepbystep

Loops

- [1] String 36 seed beads, alternating one 6° seed bead and two 11°s, to the center of a 4-yd. (3.6m) length of thread.
- [2] Tie the beads into a ring with a surgeon's knot (Basics, p. 170) leaving a 2-yd. (1.8m) tail. Sew through the first 6° again (figure 1, a-b).
- [3] Pick up five 11°s, five 3-cuts, five 11°s, a 6°, eight 11°s, and four 4mm crystals. Sew through the first crystal (b-c).
- [4] Pick up eight 11°s, a 6°, five 11°s, five 3-cuts, five 11°s, and a 6° (c-d).
- [5] String the second half of the loop as the mirror image of the first (d-e).
- [6] Sew through the first 6° on the ring and the next six beads (e-f).
- [7] Repeat steps 3-4 (f-g).
- [8] Pick up five 11°s, five 3-cuts, and sew through the side 6° on the previous loop (g-h).
- [9] Pick up eight 11°s and sew through the side crystal on the previous loop (h-i).
- [10] Pick up eight 11°s and sew through the 6° on the previous loop (i-j).
- [11] Pick up five 11°s, five 3-cuts, and five 11°s. Sew through the 6° and the next six beads on the ring (j-k).
- [12] Make a total of five loops by repeating steps 7-11.

Connect the first and fifth loops

- [1] Pick up five 11°s, five 3-cuts, and five 11°s. Sew through the 6° on the first loop (figure 2, a-b).
- [2] Pick up eight 11°s and sew through the crystal on the first loop (b-c).
- [3] Pick up eight 11°s and sew through

the 6° on the first loop (c-d).

- [4] Pick up five 11°s, five 3-cuts, five 11°s, a 6°, five 11°s, five 3-cuts, and five 11°s. Sew through the 6° on the fifth loop (d-e).

- [5] Pick up eight 11°s and sew through the crystal on the fifth loop (e-f).

- [6] Pick up eight 11°s and sew through the 6° on the fifth loop (f-g).

- [7] Pick up five 11°s, five 3-cuts, and five 11°s. Sew through the 6° on the ring (g-h). Retrace the thread path on the ring. Weave through the beads and

exit a 6° at the bottom of a loop.

Close the bottom

- [1] Pick up two 11°s, one 6°, and two 11°s (you may have to adjust the number of 11°s to make the bottom ring snug against the ornament). Sew through the bottom 6° on the next loop.
- [2] Repeat, sewing the loops together to form a ring.

- [3] Reinforce all the beads in the bottom ring with a second thread path. Secure the thread with half-hitch knots (Basics) between a few beads and trim.

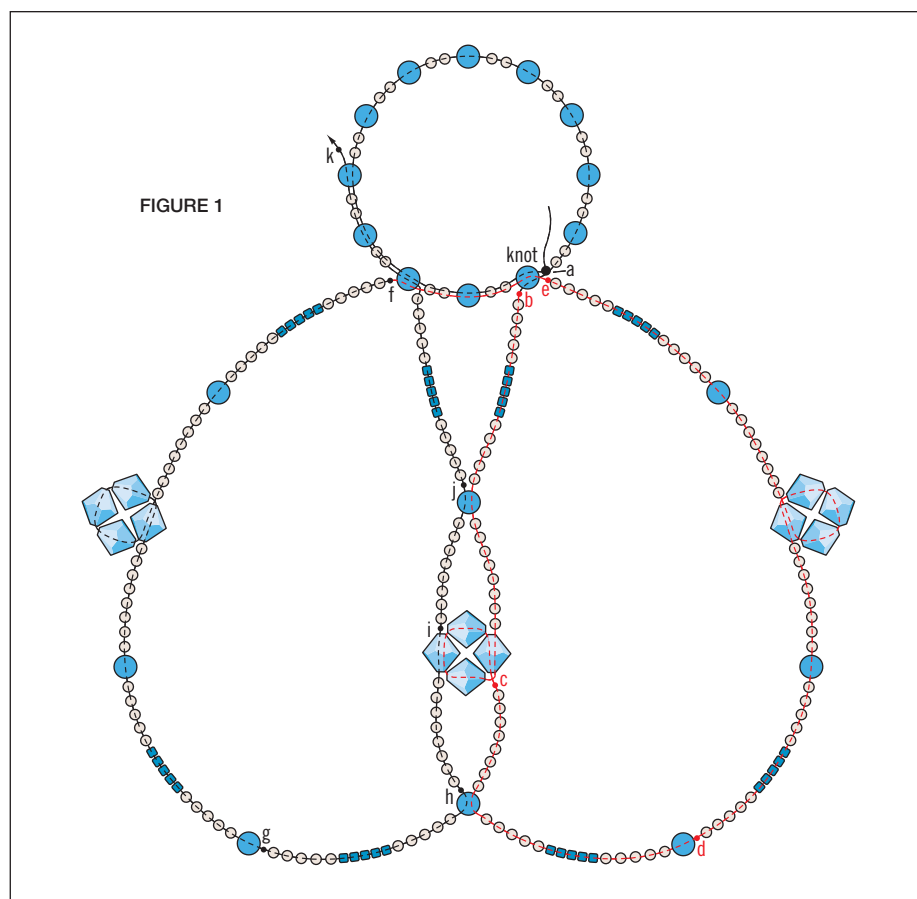


FIGURE 1

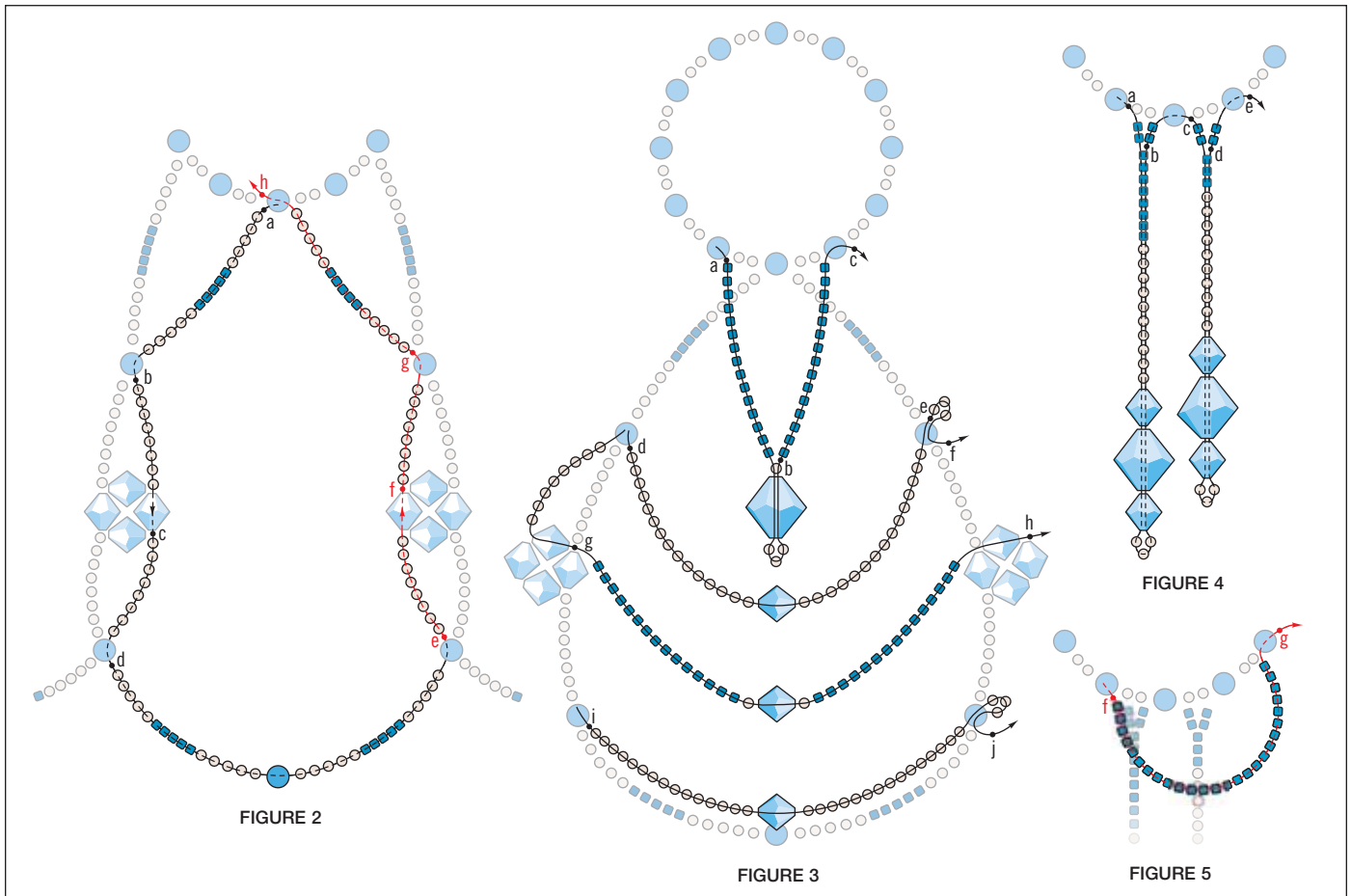


FIGURE 2

FIGURE 3

FIGURE 4

FIGURE 5

Embellishment

Top ring fringe

- [1] Thread a needle on the 2-yd. tail and exit a 6° on the original ring between two loops.
- [2] Pick up 15 3-cuts, one 11°, one 6mm crystal, and three 11°s. Sew back through the crystal and the 11° above it (figure 3, a–b).
- [3] Pick up 15 3-cuts, skip five beads on the ring, and sew through the next 6° (b–c).
- [4] Repeat steps 2–3 around the ring.

Side loops

- [1] Weave through the beads so the needle exits the first 6° above the crystals on a loop (point d).
- [2] String 15 11°s, a 4mm crystal, and 15 11°s. Sew through the next 6° on the other side of the loop (d–e).
- [3] Pick up three 3-cuts and go back through the same 6° (e–f).
- [4] Repeat steps 2–3 from loop to loop until you're back at point d.
- [5] Sew down through the 11°s and the top crystal (f–g).

- [6] Pick up 15 3-cuts, one 11°, one 4mm crystal, one 11°, and 15 3-cuts. Sew through the top crystal on the other side of loop (g–h).
- [7] Repeat step 6 for each loop and end at point g.
- [8] Sew down through the crystal and 11°s and exit the next 6°.
- [9] Repeat steps 2–4 from loop to loop (i–j) until you're back to point i.
- [10] Secure the thread and trim.

MATERIALS

one ornament

- seed beads
 - hank of 3-cut seed beads, size 12°
 - 15g Japanese seed beads, size 11°
 - 36 Japanese seed beads, size 6°
- 2-in. (5cm) diameter glass ornament
- Swarovski bicone crystals
 - 66 4mm
 - 18 6mm
- Silamide or conditioned Nymo D to match beads
- beading needles, #12

Bottom ring fringe

- [1] Secure a new thread in the beadwork and exit a 6° on the bottom ring (figure 4, a).
- [2] Pick up ten 3-cuts, ten 11°s, a 4mm, a 6mm, a 4mm, and three 11°s. Sew back through the crystals, the 11°s, and eight 3-cuts (a–b).
- [3] Pick up two 3-cuts and go through the next 6° on the ring (b–c).
- [4] Pick up five 3-cuts, ten 11°s, a 4mm, a 6mm, a 4mm, and three 11°s. Sew back through the crystals, the 11°s, and three 3-cuts (c–d).
- [5] Repeat step 3 (d–e).
- [6] Continue to add fringe between the 6°s on the ring.

Outer loops

- [1] Exit a 6° on the bottom ring, pick up 25 3-cuts, skip two 6°s, and sew through the next 6° (figure 5, f–g).
- [2] Repeat step 1 three more times.
- [3] Secure the threads and trim. ●

Anna Draeger is an associate editor at Bead&Button.