



Spellbinding

Bead Jewellery



Spellbinding Bead Jewellery

JULIE & CHRISTINE ASHFORD



D&C
David and Charles
www.mycraftivity.com

A DAVID & CHARLES BOOK
Copyright © David & Charles Limited 2008

David & Charles is an F+W Publications Inc. company
4700 East Galbraith Road
Cincinnati, OH 45236

First published in the UK and US in 2008

Text and illustrations copyright © Christine Ashford and Julie Ashford 2008
Photography and layout copyright © David and Charles 2008

Christine Ashford and Julie Ashford have asserted their right to be identified as authors of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, by photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

The designs in this book are copyright and must not be made for resale.

The author and publisher have made every effort to ensure that all the instructions in the book are accurate and safe, and therefore cannot accept liability for any resulting injury, damage or loss to persons or property, however it may arise.

Names of manufacturers, bead ranges and other products are provided for the information of readers, with no intention to infringe copyright or trademarks.

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7153-2865-1 paperback
ISBN-10: 0-7153-2865-4 paperback

Printed in
by
for David & Charles
Brunel House Newton Abbot Devon

Commissioning Editor: Jane Trollope
Editor: Bethany Dymond
Designer: Mia Farrant
Project Editor: Betsy Hosegood
Production Controller: Bev Richardson
Photographer: Kim Sayer

Visit our website at www.davidandcharles.co.uk

David & Charles books are available from all good bookshops; alternatively you can contact our Orderline on 0870 9908222 or write to us at FREEPOST EX2 110, D&C Direct, Newton Abbot, TQ12 4ZZ (no stamp required UK only); US customers call 800-289-0963 and Canadian customers call 800-840-5220.



Contents

Simply Spellbinding... 6

Projects

Aurora – bringer of dawn 8

Mermaid – mystical sea maiden 20

Calypso – passionate seductress 30

Gaia – earth goddess 42

Dryad – tree nymph 52

Morgan le Fay – healer and sorceress 64

Galadriel – queen of the elves 47

Titania – queen of the fairies 84

Snow Queen – cruel ice queen 94

Persephone – queen of the underworld 104

Materials, Tools and Techniques

Beads 118

Findings 120

Tools 122

Working with needle and thread 123

Working with pliers 123

Suppliers 126

Acknowledgments 127

Index 128



Simply Spellbinding...

Spellbinding Bead Jewellery is a journey through a mythical world where we have allowed our imaginations to roam free, exploring the design potential of the materials we use every day in our work in new and challenging ways that we hope will inspire you to develop your own beadwork.

We have been working with beads and other materials in jewellery making for many years now, and are well known in the UK beading world for our beading kits and workshops. This book has given us the chance to share some of our inspirations and designs: here we bring together our skills in small beadwork and wire work, combined with our other passions – extravagant and intricate jewellery and costumes from history, drama and art.

For each of the ten main chapters, we find inspiration from strong female figures from myth or fiction that have

fired imaginations for millennia. In the introduction to each chapter we give you a glimpse into our design process: how each character inspired a train of thought that led to the finished pieces of jewellery. We found that all of the characters suggested to us both a colour and a basic form for the main pieces. Later in each chapter we also show examples of some pieces worked in different colours as well as adaptations of the designs.

The projects cover a wide range of jewellery techniques, from structural wirework and macramé to small bead

weaving and embellishment. There are two or three main projects in each chapter and plenty of suggestions that we hope will inspire you further.

We have written all of the projects in this book in the same way that we approach our kits and workshops – from first principles. Due to the strong nature of the characters that we are representing, and therefore the complexity of the designs, some beadwork experience would be useful for the majority of the projects, although it is possible for a beginner to complete any of the designs.

◆ = Quick & Easy

◆◆ = Simple

◆◆◆ = Intermediate

Easy as one, two, three...

To help you to choose the projects best suited to your level of experience, we have given each project a bead rating – the fewer the beads, the easier the project:

◆◆◆◆ = More Advanced

All the main projects have full step-by-step instructions, but the additional projects at the end of the chapters are less specific to encourage you to make your own design decisions about the number of beads, symmetry of the piece, level of texture and so on. This is where the confidence gained from a little prior beading experience is most useful.

We have had a fantastic time exploring themes and characters, taking a design and moving it in different directions in a way that is not possible in other formats, and we hope that you enjoy making the projects just as much.



Aurora inspired us with the form of the rising sun and the colours of the dawn – yellow, apricot, rose, gold and clear crystal (see page 8).



For the Dryad pieces we were drawn to the greens and browns of the forest and to the forms of leaf and vine (see page 52).



The colours of Persephone's jewellery are those of the pomegranates and its seeds, which she ate while in the underworld and which bind her to it forever (page 104).



Calypso lived on an island, so her jewellery (page 30) captures the colours and forms of the sea. Rocks, pebbles and netting are reproduced with beads and wire in blues, greens and silver.

Aurora

Bringer of dawn

In Greek legend, Aurora is goddess of the dawn, and every morning she drives her four-horsed chariot across the sky to lead her brother Helios, the sun, into position. The clouds of night roll away and the horizon lightens before her as she brings light and hope to each new day.

The Aurora necklace, bracelet and earrings are three easy projects that, through the sophisticated use of soft colour graduations, belie the simplicity of the underlying technique. The designs are based around simple wirework that can be achieved with minimal experience of plier use.

To achieve the flow of colour for the rays of the dawn we have chosen quite a complex mix of colours and we will later demonstrate how, by using a simpler palette, you can achieve a completely different feel in the finished jewellery. We will also be exploring how an aspect of this design can be adapted to make a brooch (page 19).



With its wonderful sunrise colours, this sparkling necklace seems to exude warmth and life. Now all you need is the outfit to go with it.



Aurora Necklace



This elegant necklace would look wonderful worn with a polo-neck top or a plunging neckline. It is made in several easy stages and the clear step-by-step diagrams help you at every stage – you really don't need a lot of experience with jewellery making to be successful. The fan, which represents the rising sun, is made first; then you add the fringing and side straps and finally create the cluster at the centre.



You will need

Bead Box

- 21 topaz AB crystal bicones, 4mm **A**
- 15 pale jonquil AB crystal bicones, 4mm **B**
- 25 pale pink AB crystal bicones, 4mm **C**
- 23 rose pink AB crystal bicones, 4mm **D**
- 2.5g of Delica beads DB411 (galvanized apricot gold) **E**
- 2g of Delica beads DB070 (lined rose pink AB) **F**
- 2g of Delica beads DB233 (lined crystal/yellow lustre) **G**
- 2g of Delica beads DB1531 (opaque pale yellow Ceylon) **H**
- 3g of size 3 silver-lined crystal bugles **J**
- 3g of size 3 silver-lined gold bugles **K**
- 3g of size 3 silver-lined pink bugles **L**
- 3g of size 10/0 metallic gold-coloured seed beads **M**

Fabulous Findings

- 6mm (1/4in) corrugated spacer bead **N**
- 39 gilt eyepins, 5cm (2in)
- 16 gilt headpins
- 12cm (4 3/4in) of 0.6mm (22-gauge) half-hard gilt wire
- Ten 3.8mm (3/16in) gilt jump rings
- 1.5m (60in) of very fine 0.010 flexible beading wire
- Two French crimps
- Lightweight clasp set

Tools

- Round-nosed pliers
- Wire cutters
- Crimping pliers or snipe-nosed pliers

Make it easy on yourself Read on

Before you begin each section, read through all the instructions for that part. This may sound boring when you are keen to get going but believe us, everything runs much smoother when you know what you are going to be doing next.

Making the fan

The fan section, representing the rising sun, is the foundation of the whole design. It comprises 13 beaded eyepins that are strung onto a loop of wire. This loop is then finished on each end with the same beading arrangement, creating 15 beaded wires in all. Its colours are those of the sun's rays – yellows and clear crystal.

4 Thread the 13 prepared pins from step 1 onto the free end of the 0.6mm wire, pushing them around the circle to make the fan shape – it will be a tight fit. When all the prepared pins are threaded on add 1J, 1H, 1G, 1B and 1G, giving you a total of 15 strands. As before, push these beads down to the edge of the circle, making a little kink in the wire, if necessary, to stop the first bugle bead from pushing onto the circle. Trim the excess wire and make a loop (fig. 4) as in step 3.

1 Thread 1G, 1B, 1G, 1H and 1J onto an eyepin. Trim the pin to 6mm (1/4in) from the top bead and make a loop parallel to the loop at the bottom of the pin as shown in fig. 1. Repeat to make a total of 13 prepared pins.



fig. 1

2 Using the widest part of the round-nosed pliers, make a circle 6mm (1/4in) in diameter in the middle of the 12cm (4 3/4in) length of 0.6mm wire so the two ends of the wire make a shallow V shape, as shown in fig. 2.

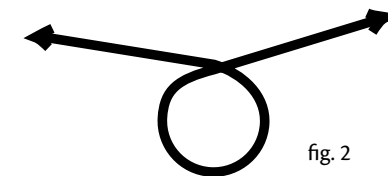


fig. 2

3 Onto one end of the wire thread 1J, 1H, 1G, 1B and 1G. Push the beads down to the edge of the circle in the middle of the wire – if necessary make a small kink in the wire so the first bugle bead (J) does not start to pass around the circle. Trim the excess wire above the G bead to 6mm (1/4in) and make a loop at 90° to the angle of the large circle in the middle of the wire, as shown in fig. 3.

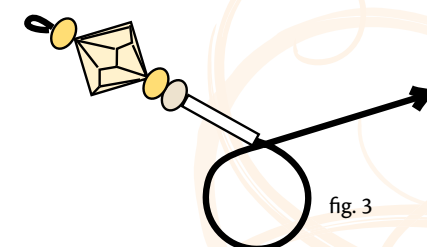


fig. 3

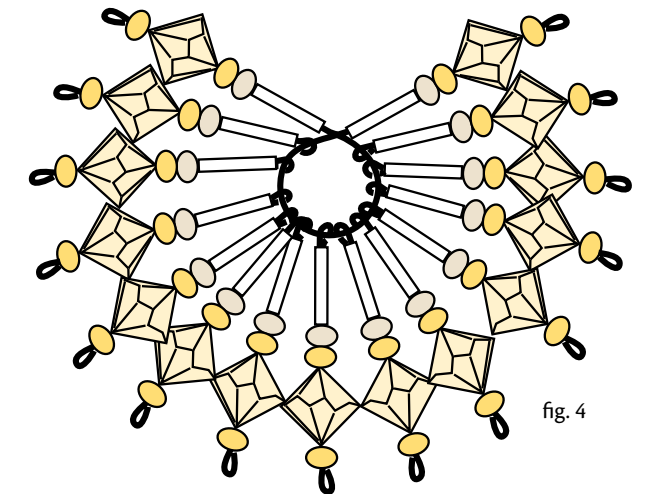


fig. 4

Did you know?

The Northern Lights

Aurora gives her name to the Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, a phenomenon seen only in the northern hemisphere of the world. It manifests itself as a strange light, often green or red or a mix of colours that swirls and shimmers in the autumn sky. The AB crystal bicone beads used for the jewellery here have been coated so that they reflect colour like the Aurora Borealis, hence the letters AB.