

Silver and Diamonds

- a Russian Collar

by Alexis
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The inspiration to this collar came from a television show, where an old russian collar made from silver and diamonds was shown. I have neither – however I have beads! ☺
The embellishment of the netted part was made with Celia Martin's instructions for a beaded christmas ornament cover: „Holiday elegance“ in „Bead and Button“ December 2000 (a free project on <http://www.beadandbutton.com>). I do thank her for her permission to use her technique in my instructions.

Materials:

Opaque black seed beads size 11 (size 11) (sb)
Clear silverlined seed beads size 11 (size 11) (sb)
Clear silverlined seed beads size 10 (size 10) (6 pieces) (sb)
Clear silverlined seed beads size 6 (4 mm) (13 pieces) (sb)
Twisted clear silverlined bugle beads size #5 (10 mm) (20 pieces) (bu)
Black firepolished crystals 6 mm (3 pieces)
Black firepolished crystals 4 mm (2 pieces)
Black firepolished crystals 3 mm (2 pieces)
Clear firepolished crystals 6 mm (6 pieces)
Clear firepolished crystals 4 mm (6 pieces)
2 clamshells (the parts that are used to attach the closure)
Closure (I used a lobster claw closure)
Thread, needle
Optional: a piece of thin wee (ca. 0,4 mm), that is used for reinforcement of the netting part.

When I'm writing "seed beads" ("sb"), I mean the size 11. If other seed beads are used, I'll indicate the size.

This is the whole diagram:



We are beginning with the meanders in square stitch



1. We are making the middle of the long side rows first, and then the outer rows, because the first row of square stitch is somewhat looser than the other rows. Our meanders should be sturdy, because we are attaching the net and the necklace part to them.

First we take a black sb and go through it in the same direction again. This is the so-called stopper bead (thus the whole does not slip so easily from the other end of the thread). 1/3 of the thread should be left for later. Then we take nine silver sb and two black sb and go through the first of the two last sb in the same direction, then through the second. Next is another black sb.



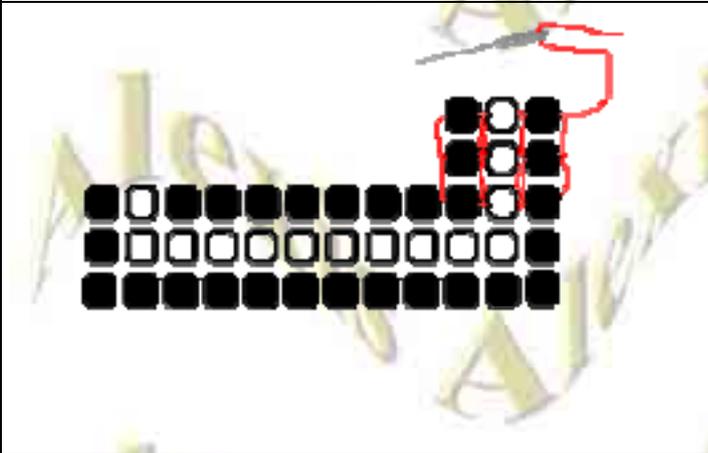
2. We are following the red thread path going through the silver and the black sb of the first row and through the two black sb of the second row. Then we take another black sb, are going through the silver one directly below, the next silver and back up through our black sb of the second row. Take another black sb. Follow the green thread path and go through the silver directly below and the one at its side and up through the two black sb (the one added before and the one just added now).



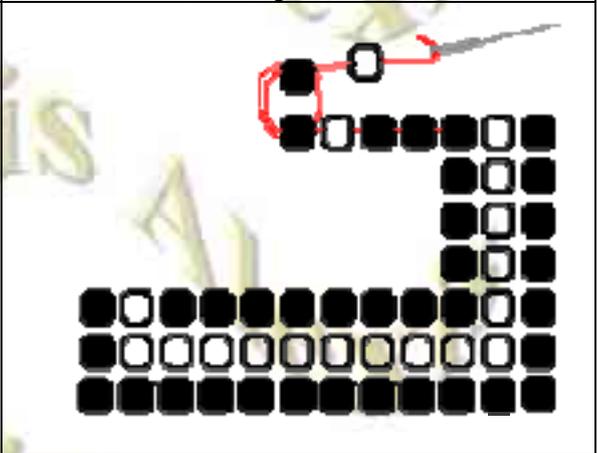
3. At the end of the row we are going through the very first sb we took and add another black sb in square stitch. Add one silver, eight black, one silver, one black.



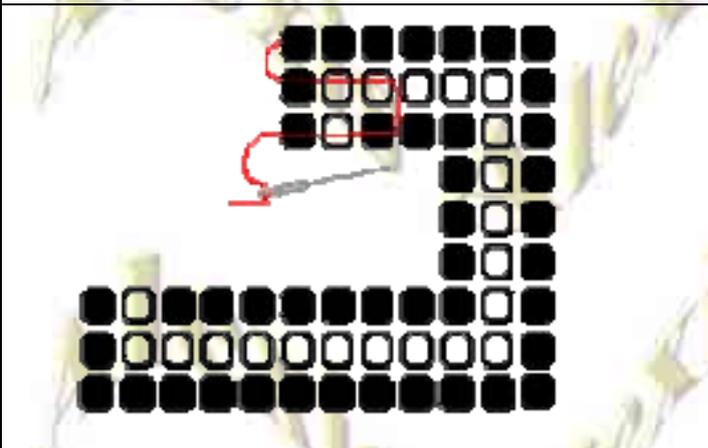
4. The next rows are only three sb wide and are made with a black sb, a silverlined and a black sb:



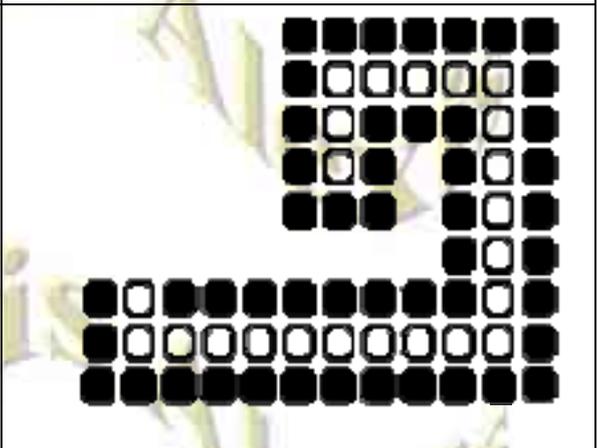
5. At the end of the fourth 3-bead-row we take two black, one silverline and two black sb and attach the last black sb over the one before. Then we are adding five silver and one black sb (see step 6).



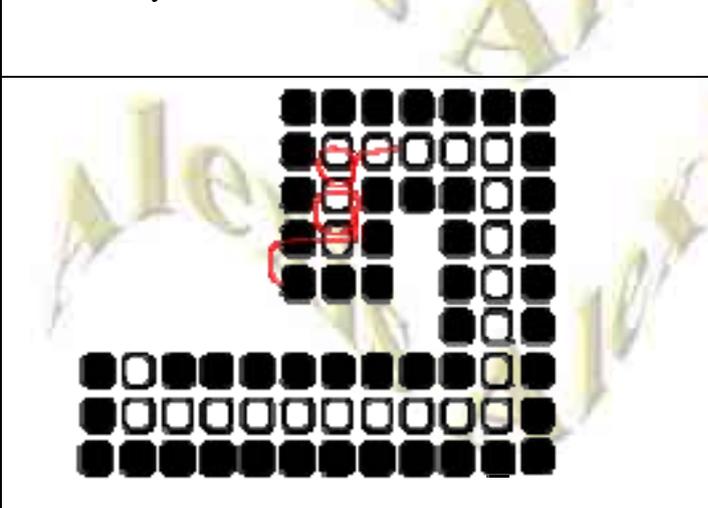
6. Now we are adding a row of black sb after which we are going through the rows to be in position for the next row.



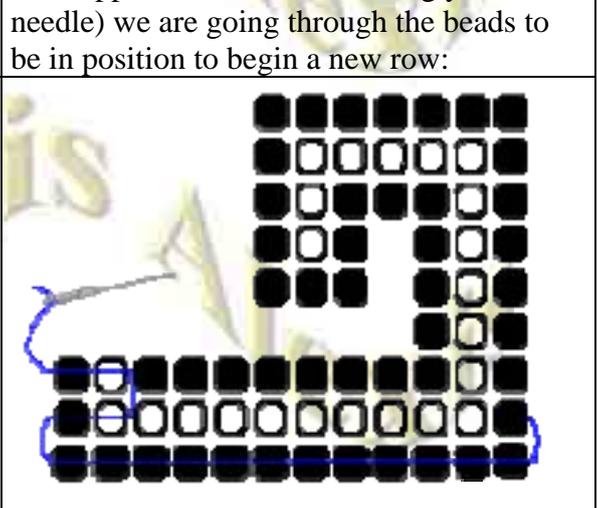
7. We are adding one row in black – silver – black and one row in black:



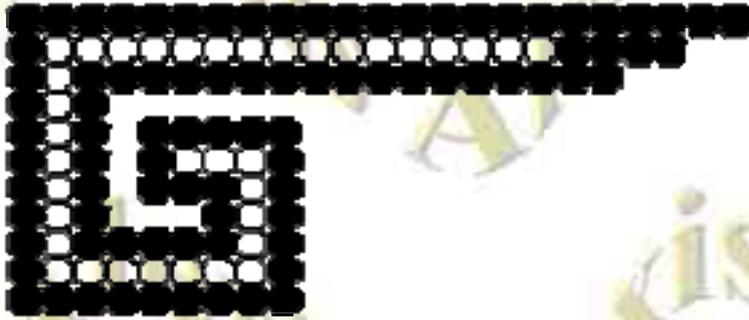
8. Now the inner curve of the meander is done, and we can bury the thread end:



9. With our other thread end (wind it from the stopper bead before attaching your needle) we are going through the beads to be in position to begin a new row:



10. We are working fourteen rows black – silver – black, two rows with three black sb, two rows with two black sb and two „rows“ with one black sb:



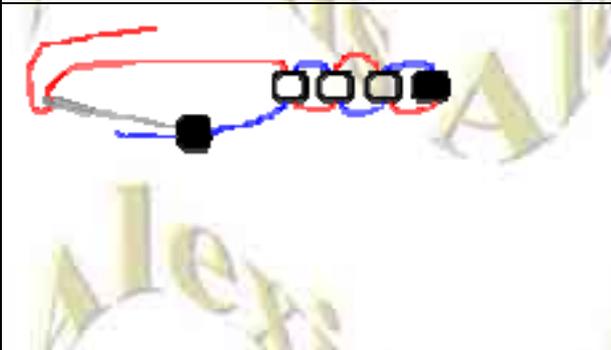
11. Bury the thread and your first meander is done!
And because it was so much fun – we are making a second one. ☺

Now the diamond shape in brick stitch

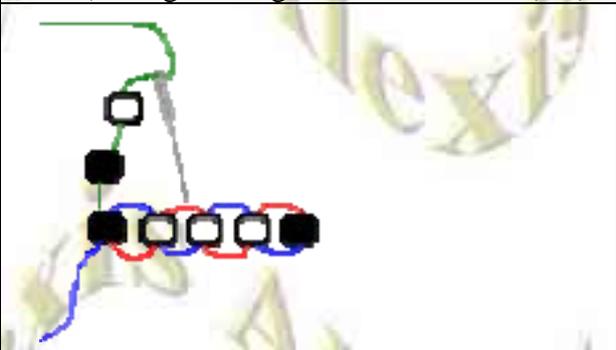


<p>1. We take one black, three silver and one black sb. The first should be in the middle of the thread – we will use it later (sounds familiar, doesn't it ☺):</p>	<p>2. Then we go back through the last silver sb:</p>
<p>3. Through the next silver sb:</p>	<p>4. Through the first silver sb:</p>

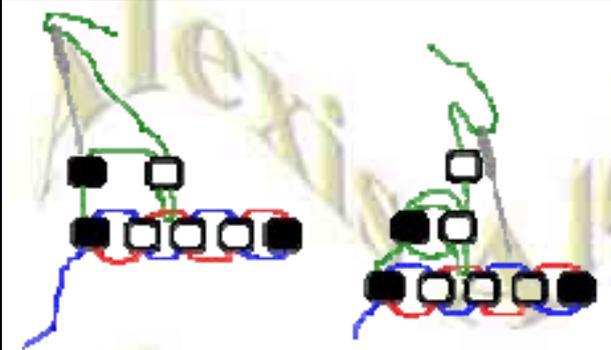
5. At the end through the first black sb:



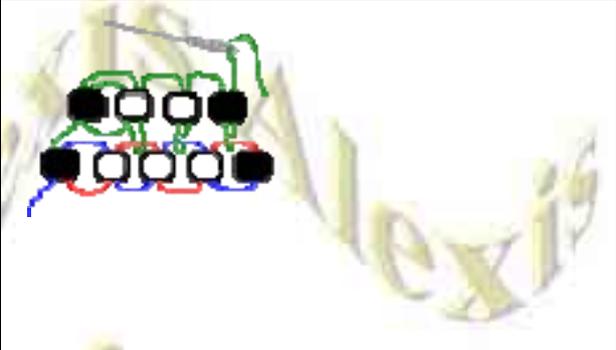
6. We take a black and a silver sb (green thread) and go through den second bow (red):



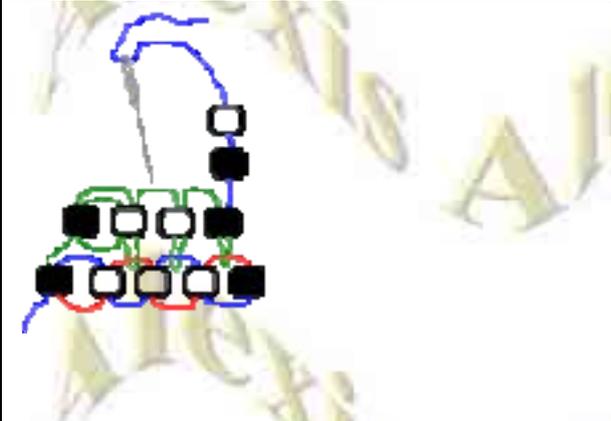
7. Then we go back through the silver and the black sb just added. Go through the silver bead again. Next is one silver sb, and we go through the next (blue) bow (green thread path) and up through the silver bead just added.



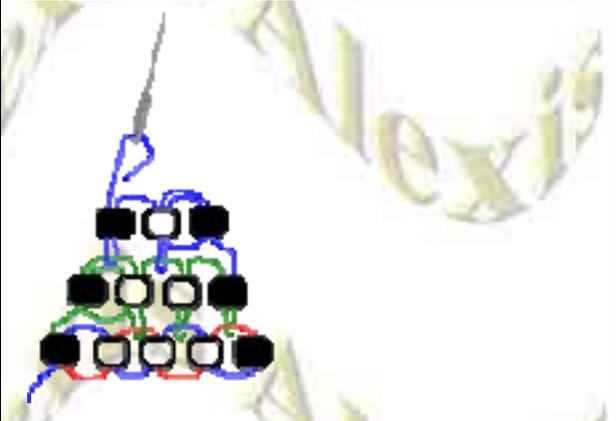
8. Then we add one black sb:



9. For the beginning of the next row we take again one black and one silver sb and make a circle around both like in step 7:

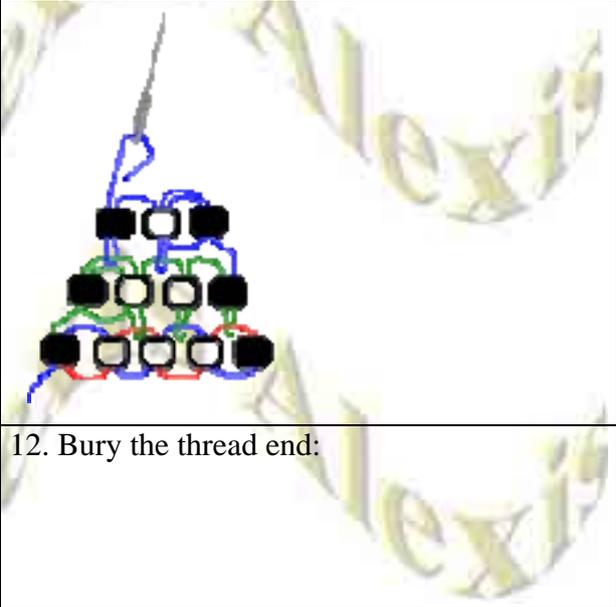


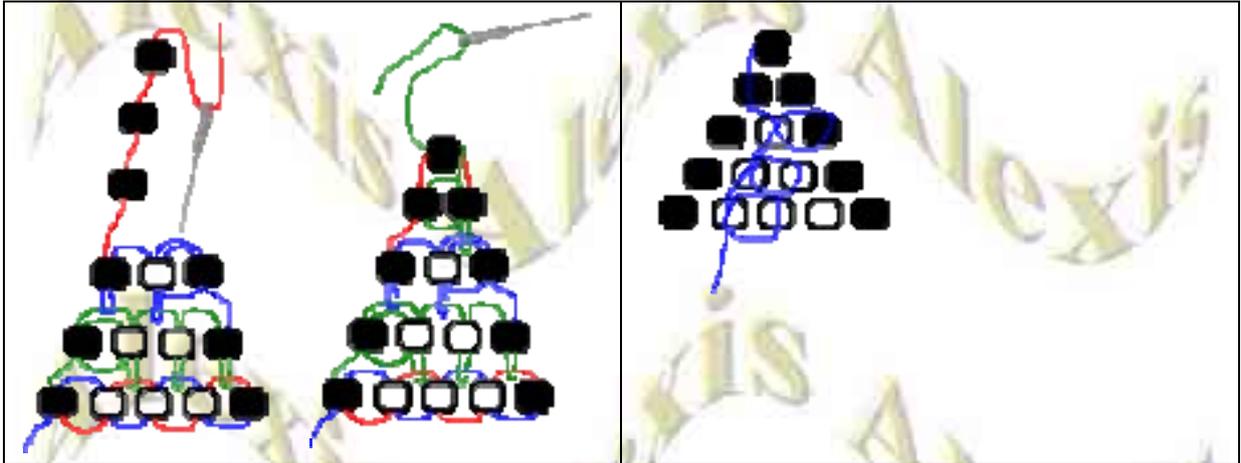
10. Follows one more black sb:



11. For a change (it was getting boring, right?) we take three black sb, go through the second bow and make our "beginning of row circle" around the first and the last sb (see red and green thread path)

12. Bury the thread end:

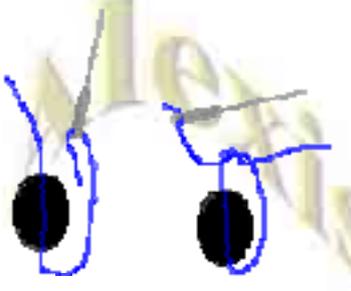




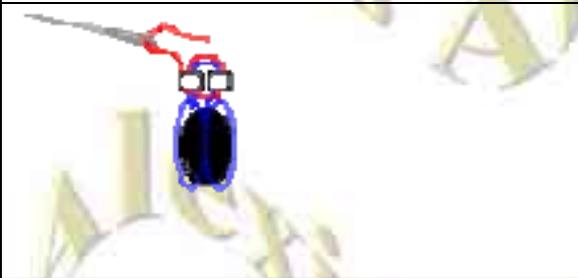
13. Now we make the second half of the diamond with the other half of thread, but don't bury the thread end, you will use it to attach the diamond to the oval.

Here is the oval pendant in flat round brick stitch:

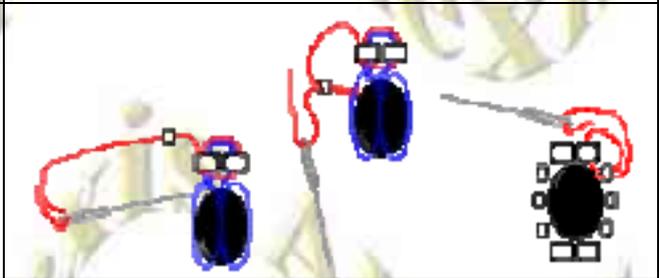


<p>1. We go through one black 6 mm crystal and knot the thread ends:</p>	<p>2. Then we go back through the crystal, up on the opposite side and back through the crystal:</p>
	
<p>3. We take two size 10 silverlined sb:</p>	<p>4. Go with the needle under the thread around the crystal and up again through the second sb:</p>
	

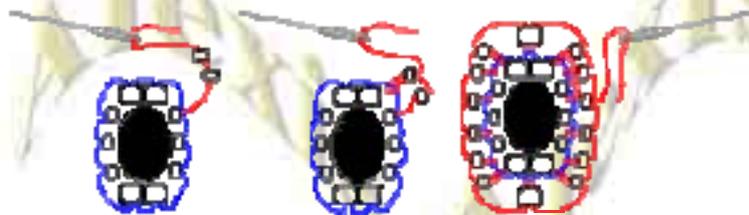
5. Make a circle around the two sb and the two are lying side by side:



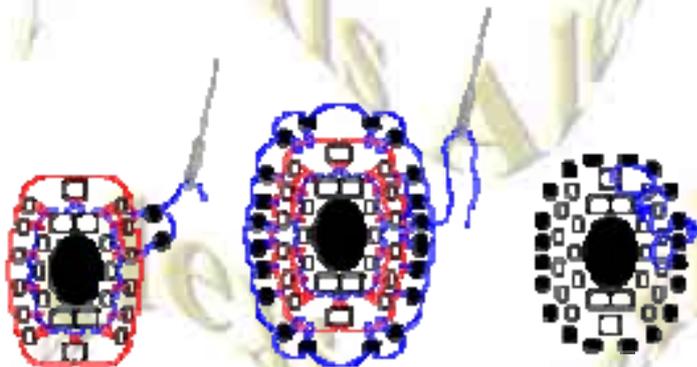
6. Now we add three individual size 11 sb in brick stitch, then at the lower hole of the crystal two size 10 sb and again three size 11 sb. The last is fastened to the first size 10 sb.



7. The second row of brick stitch is beginning again with two size 11 sb that are attached to the next bow. Now one size 10 sb is attached to the bow between the two size 10 sb first row, two 2mm sb to the next bow, one size 11 sb in each of the next two bows, two size 11 sb over the next bow and we are at the lower End! Here follows one size 10 sb over the bow between the two size 10 sb of the first row. The second side is worked analogous, the last bead attached to the first of the second row.

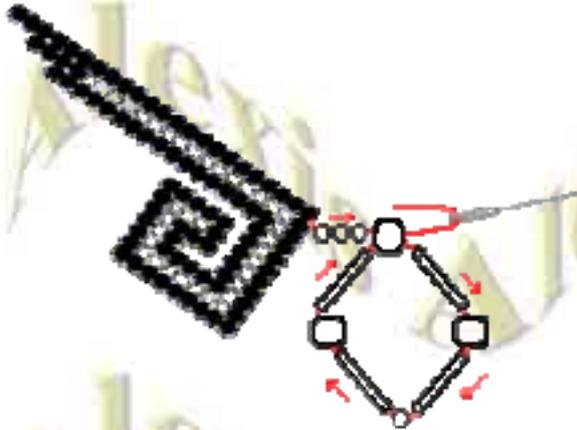


8. The third and last row of the oval is worked with black size 11 sb. The distribution to the bows of the second row: two sb for the beginning of the row to the second bow, then two sb sewn individually to the next bow (in front of the size 10 sb, two sb to the next bow, then one sb each over the next two bows, two sb to the next (the middle) bow, one each to the next two bows, two sb to the next bow (in front of the size 10 sb). The second side is worked analogous, the thread end buried.

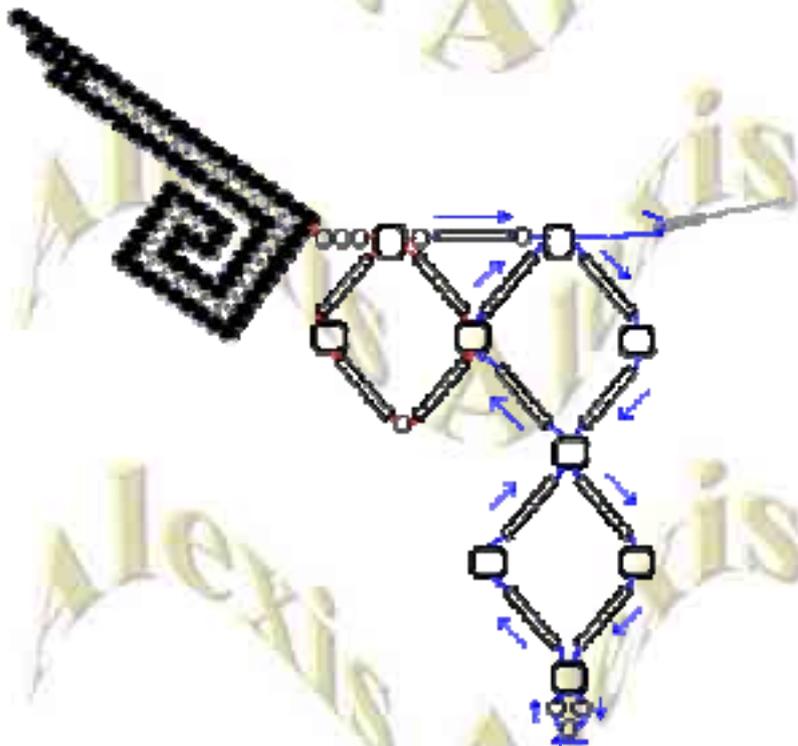


Now we are joining our parts with a net

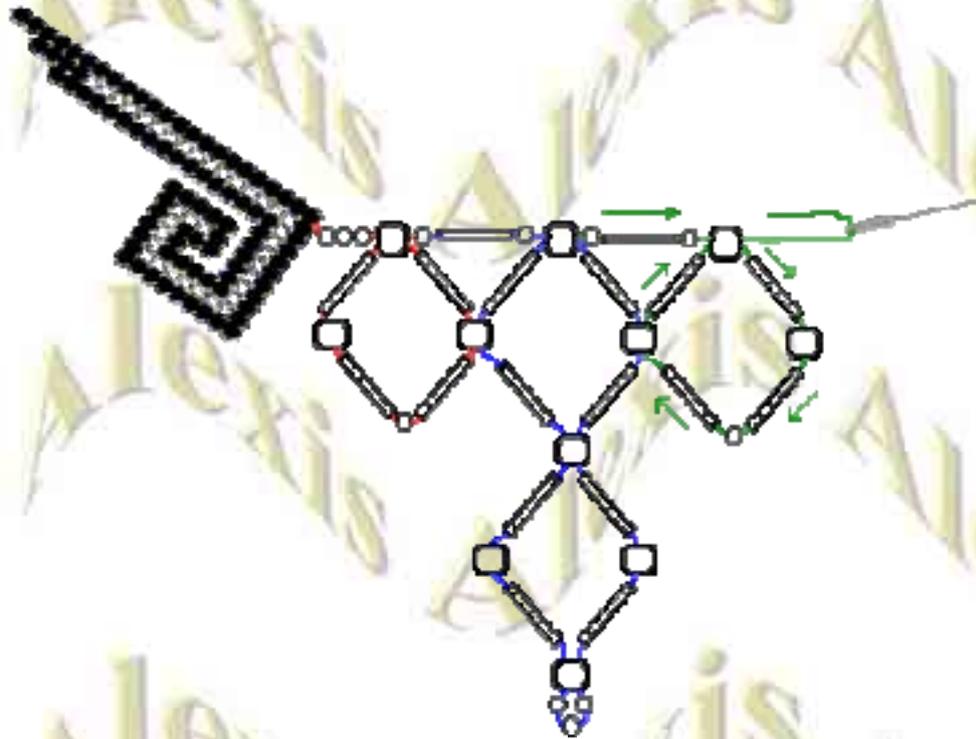
1. Sew your new thread into the meander in a way that you are coming out between the first and second sb of the longest side row. Then we take three size 11 sb, one size 6 sb, one bu, one size 6 sb, one bu, one size 11 sb, one bu, one size 6 sb, one bu and go through the first size 6 sb in the same direction as before:



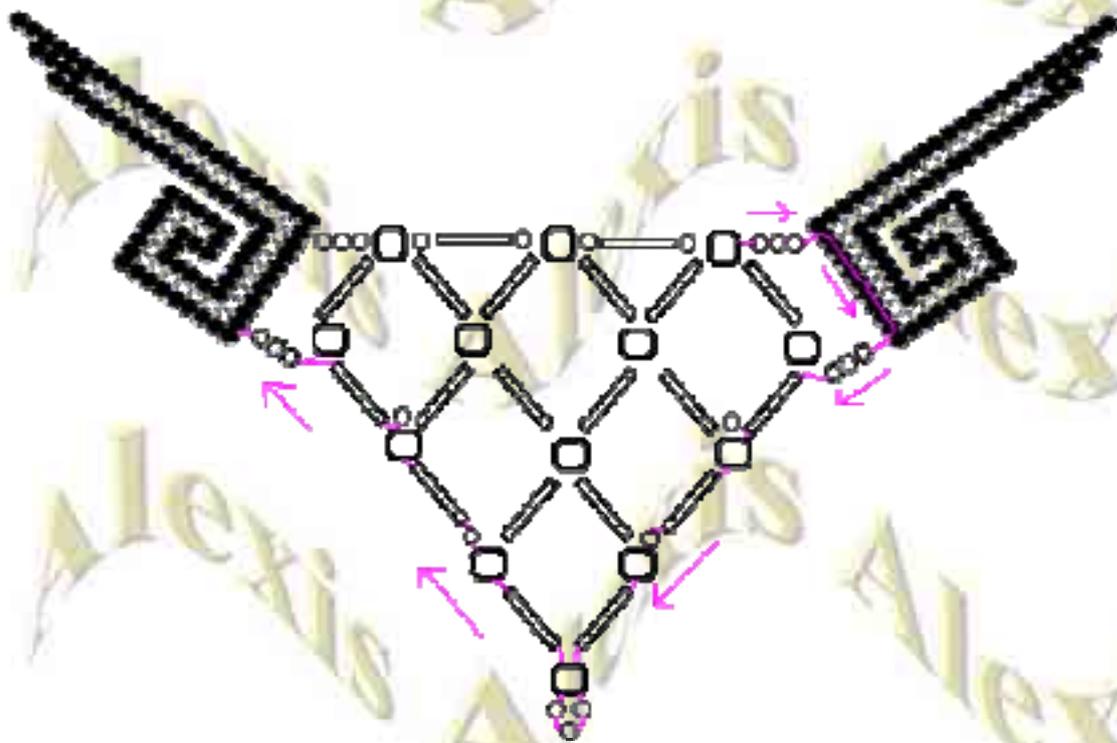
2. Take a size 11 sb, a bu, a size 6 sb, three size 11 sb and go back through the last size 6 sb. We take a bu, a size 6 sb, a bu and go through the third size 6 sb. We take a bu and go through the right size 6 sb of the first step, take a bu and go through the first size 6 sb of this step.



3. One size 11 sb, a bu, a size 11 sb, a size 6 sb, a bu, a size 6 sb, a bu, a size 11 sb, a bu and through the second size 6 sb of the second step, a bu, through the first size 6 sb of this step.

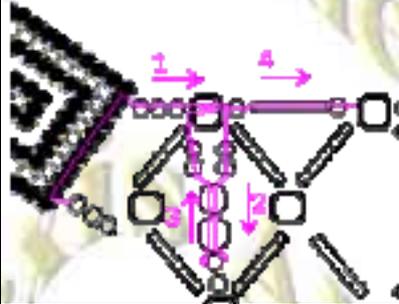


4. We take three size 11 sb, go through the side row of the second meander (entry and exit each between the first and second sb), take three size 11 sb, go through the bu of the previous step, take a size 6 sb, a bu, a size 11 sb and go through the size 6 sb, the bu, the size 6 sb, the picot of three size 11 sb, back through the size 6 sb, the next bu, the next size 6 sb. We take a size 11 sb, a bu, a size 6 sb and go through the bu of the first step, add three size 11 sb and go between the first and second sb of the first meander.

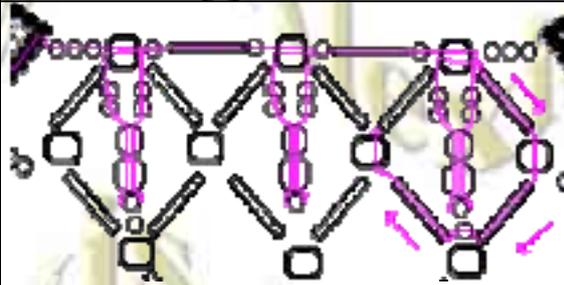


Embellishment of the net

1. We coming out between first and second sb again, go through the three size 11 sb and the size 6 sb, then we add two size 11 sb, a size 6 crystal, a 6 mm crystal and a size 11 sb, go back through the 6 mm and the 4 mm crystal, add two size 11 sb and go through the first size 6 sb in the same direction as before, through the size 11 sb, the bu, the size 11 sb and the next size 6 sb.



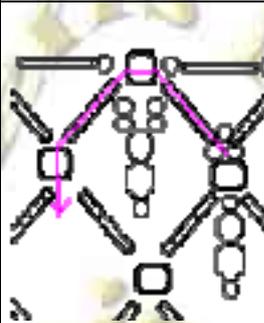
2. The next two are worked the same way. Then we go through the bu, the size 6 sb, the bu, the size 11 sb, the bu and the size 6 sb:



3. Now we make a "3 bead picot" over the size 6 sb. For this we take three size 11 sb and go down through the size 6 sb. We take a size 11 sb, a 4 mm crystal, a 6 mm crystal, a size 11 sb and go back through the 6 mm crystal, the 4 mm crystal and the size 11 sb.



4. Then we go through the size 6 sb of the net, the bu, the size 6 sb of the upper row, the bu and the size 6 sb.



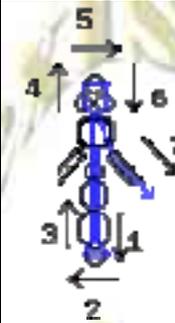
5. For the next drop we are going down first (size 11 sb, 4 mm crystal, 6 mm crystal, size 11 sb and back through the 6 mm crystal, the 4 mm crystal, the size 11 sb and through the size 6 sb of the netting) and upward for the picot (take three size 11 sb and go back through the size 6 sb).



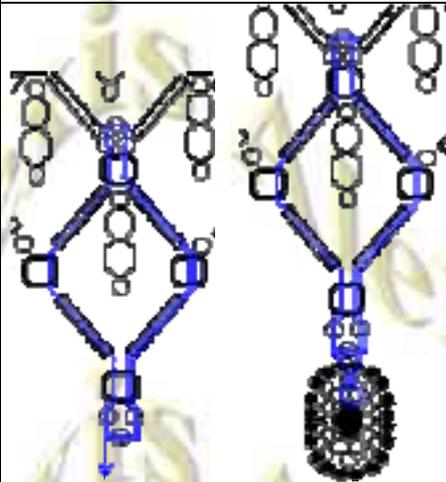
6. The way to the next drop is through the bu and the next size 6 sb.



7. Follows another drop like in step 5.



8. Then we go through the bu, the size 6 sb, the next bu, the lowest size 6 sb and the next two size 11 sb and go through the uppermost left black sb of the oval, the middle size 10 sb, the left size 10 sb of the first row of the oval and back through the right size 10 sb, the middle size 10 sb and the right black sb of the exterior row. Go on through the lowermost of the 3 silverlined sb of the net (in the same direction as before), the next (left) size 11 sb, the size 6 sb and further through the bu and sb of the netting. You can repeat this round for reinforcement, if you can get through the holes of the beads another time.

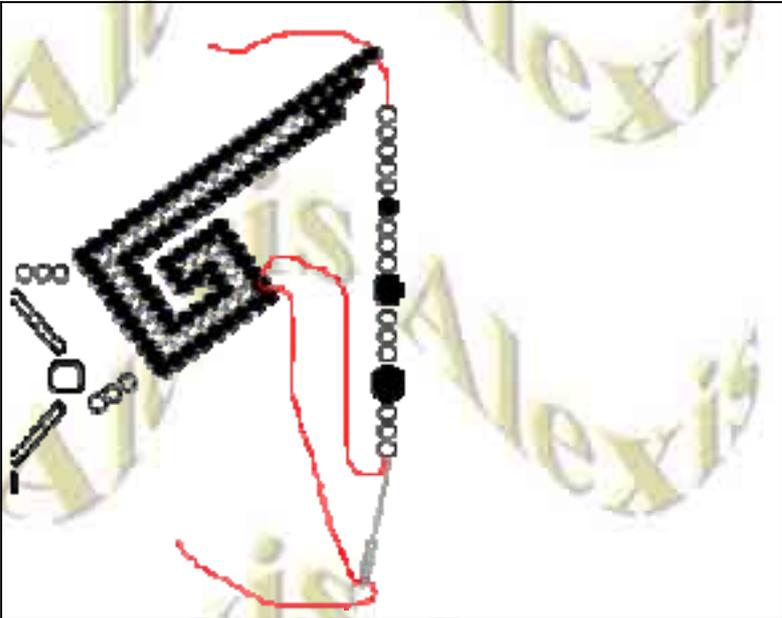


9. Now we are sewing the diamond to the oval:



Necklace and closure

1. We take a new thread and go down through the outermost sb of the meander, take five size 11 sb, one black 3 mm crystal, three size 11 sb, one black 4 mm crystal, three sb, one black 6 mm crystal and three sb. Then we go through the second to last sb of the meander from top to bottom and again through the sb and crystals.



2. Now add enough sb for the necklace part. The collar is looking its best if it is not too far from the base of the neck.



3. After the last sb we are going through a clamshell from below, take one more sb and go back through the hole of the clamshell and the necklace part of sb. During this we are knotting the thread again and again between the sb. The first end (from the beginning) is threaded and knotted through the necklace part, too.

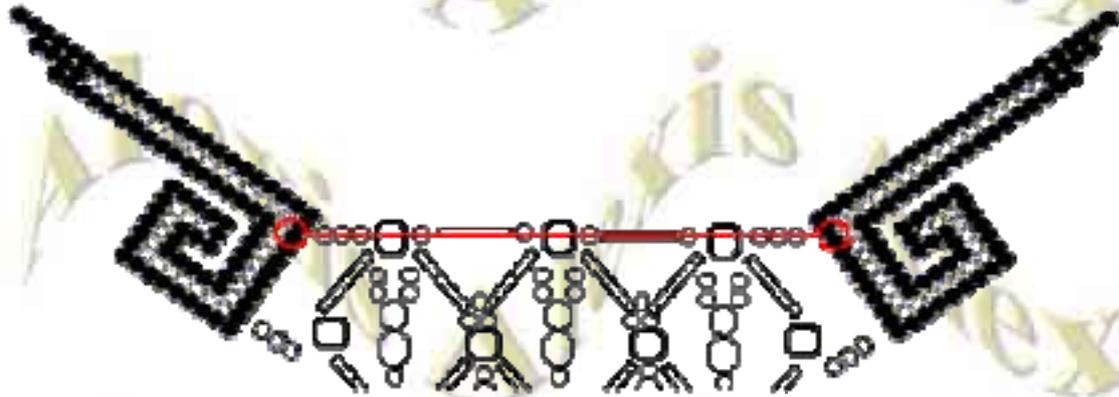


4. Close the clamshell with flat-nosed pliers. Add the first half of your closure to the latch and use round-nosed pliers to bend it to a loop.

Our collar has two meanders – repeat these steps on the second one.

Reinforcement with the wire

You do not need the wire, but the netting is lying better with reinforcement.
For this you are making a loop on one end of the wire, thread the wire on the backside of the collar through the uppermost row of the net, cut it about ½ inch after the last sb and bend the second end to a loop.



Finished! Take a deep breath and put on your collar. ☺

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