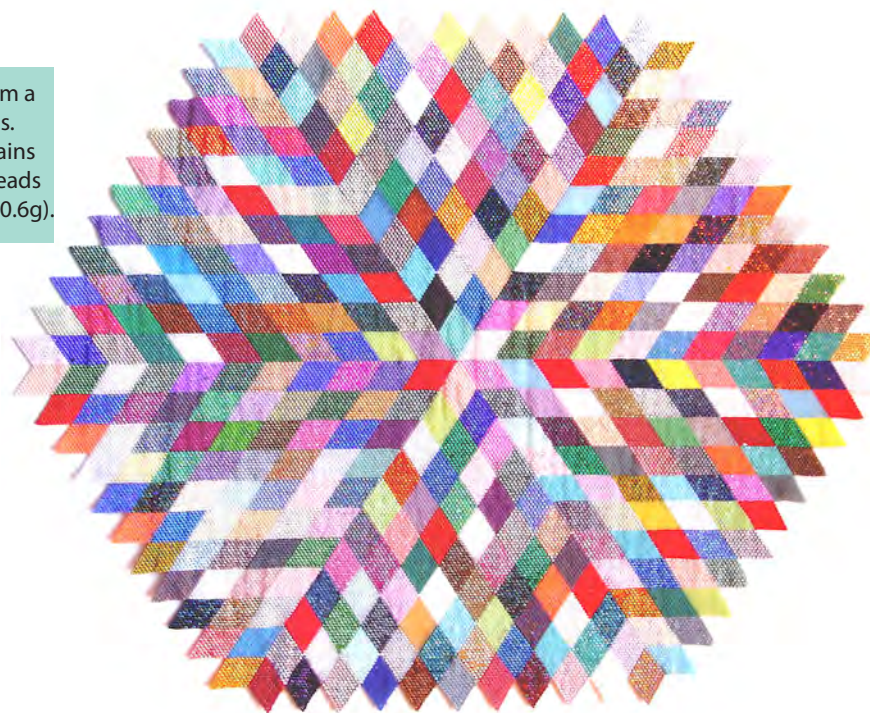


Brick Stitch - Making A Delica Mat

We all have a few beads left over from previous projects and sometimes we have beads that we bought for no particular reason other than we really liked the colour. If you have a stash of left-over or abandoned Delicas this is a great idea which grows bit by bit - you decide when to stop or not!

The mat is made from a series of diamonds. Each diamond contains exactly 100 Delica beads (approximately 0.5g - 0.6g).



The diamond shapes slip-stitch together to make up the mat.

You need six diamonds for the centre of the mat but you can then add as many diamonds as you fancy.

If you have not worked with Brick Stitch before you will need to download the worksheets Brick Stitch 1 and Brick Stitch 2 from the techniques tab on the website. Work a practice square as suggested so you can get used to the stitch and a feel for the tension in the thread. The mat is easier to make than the practice square!

1 Prepare the needle with 1.5m of single thread and tie a keeper bead 70cm from the end. Work a foundation row of 10 beads (fig 1).

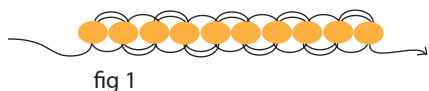


fig 1

3 Turn the needle as shown in fig 4 to emerge from the top of bead 8 of the row just completed, to be in the correct position to start the new row with a two bead stitch. Work to the end of the row as before.

Continue to the top of the diamond shape repositioning the needle at the start of each row.

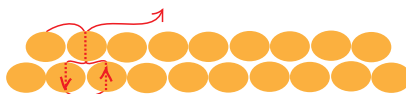


fig 4

2 Pass the needle back up through bead 9 on the foundation row (fig 2) and start the new row with a two bead stitch (fig 3). Work to the end of the row with single bead stitches.

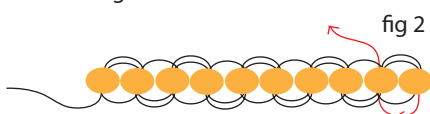


fig 2

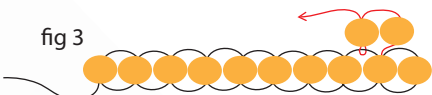


fig 3

4 For the top bead of the shape thread on a single bead, pick up the thread loop and pass back up through the new bead. Pass the needle back down the other bead from the last row (fig 5).

Remove the needle from the thread end leaving the thread hanging loose - do not tie any knots yet. Remove the keeper bead and attach the needle to this end of the thread.

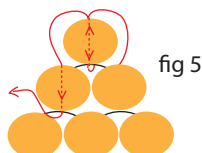


fig 5

You will need -
A minimum of six colours of Delica beads - at least 100 beads of each colour (approximately 0.5 - 0.6g)

Nymo or Superlon D beading thread - a selection of colours to tone with the Delicas or a neutral shade such as Ash

A size 10 beading needle

5 Work this end of the diamond as for the other starting with a row of nine beads (fig 6). Leave the thread end loose and remove the needle.

Make five more diamonds in your chosen colours.

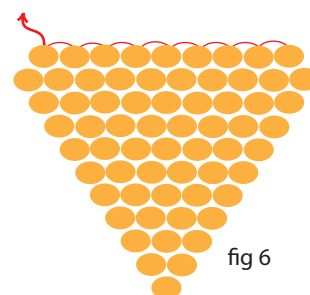
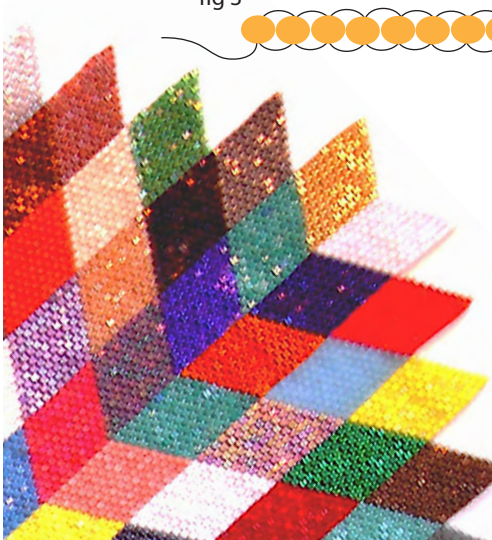


fig 6



6 Bring the diamonds together into a six-pointed flower shape (fig 7) swapping the positions until you are happy with the colour sequence.

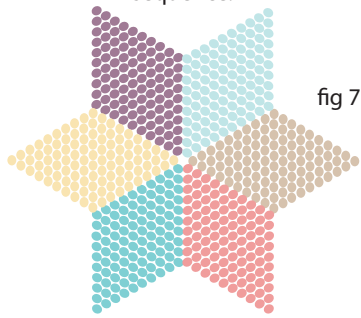


fig 7

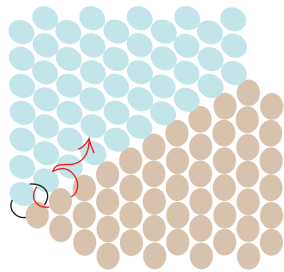


fig 8

7 Attach the needle to the thread end at the tip of one of the diamonds. Slip-stitch this diamond to the adjacent diamond working from the centre of the flower arrangement outwards (fig 8). Remove the needle and leave the thread end loose.

8 Move the needle onto the thread end on the inner tip of the new diamond and slip stitch to the next diamond around the flower shape. Repeat to join up all of the diamonds. Check that the mat will lie flat and not pucker around the seams. If it does, relax the threads through the seams and then finish off these thread ends only.

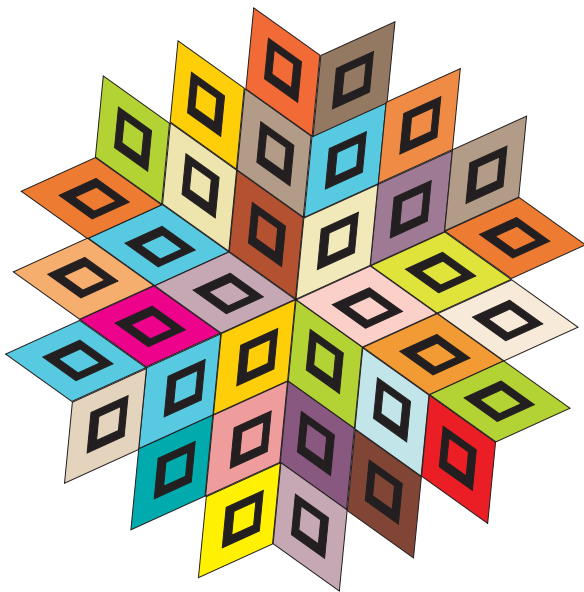
If you want to keep the mat to this size finish off the remaining thread ends now. If you want to continue adding to the mat leave the thread ends loose for the moment so you do not block the holes in the beads with knots. Only finish off these thread ends once you have the next layer of diamonds attached around the edge of the mat (and so on).

9 Moving on - you will need another 12 diamonds to make the next layer around the edge of the mat. Make the diamonds as before. Stitch the new diamonds into pairs before stitching into place between the 'petals' of the first flower shape.

An important Note About Delicas

Not all Delicas are colourfast in light and water. Avoid colour lined beads for light-fastness and dyed or galvanised colours for water fastness, or don't use your mat on a sunny windowsill or underneath a vase of flowers in water.

Add Variety with Simple Patterns & Colour Choices

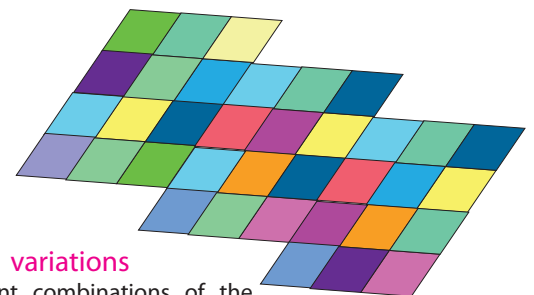
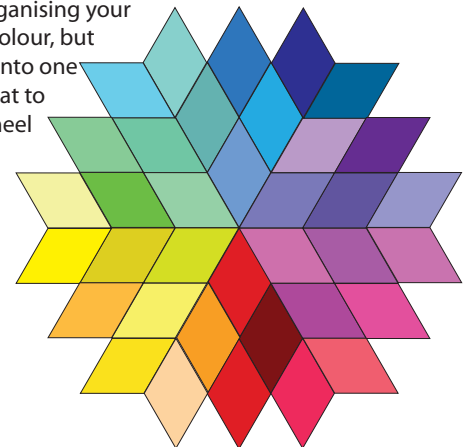


variations

Put a little pattern into the diamonds with a common coloured Delica bead to draw really different colours within the design together

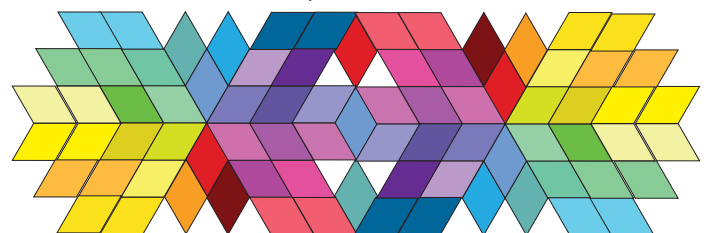
variations

Think about organising your beads of one colour, but different tones, into one section of the mat to create a colour wheel

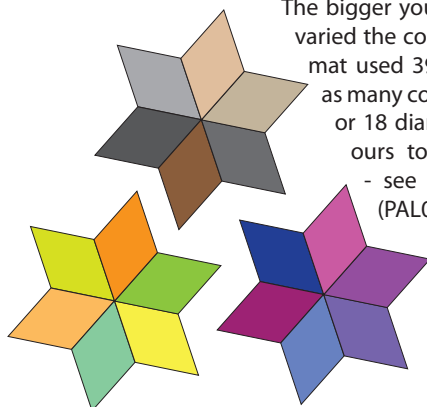


variations

Try different combinations of the diamond shapes to make a longer, narrower-shaped mat



This mat idea has triangular shaped holes left at the centre. Try out different patterns and see what you can create



The bigger you make the mat the more varied the colours can be - the original mat used 396 diamonds! (and nearly as many colours). For smaller mats (6 or 18 diamonds) use all bright colours together or monochromes - see the Delica Palette Boxes (PAL001 - PAL012) for colour combination ideas