

A Few of Our Favorite Things Netted Ornaments

Designed by Cheri Carlson

Beads can make simple ornaments come alive with holiday magic! These ornaments were covered with a netting stitch to create a fabulous display. The pattern is the same for each ornament, but number of beads can vary. You can embellish them with fringe for an even fancier look.



String two TOHO 15/0 bead rounds in 24K gold lined crystal onto a needle and thread, followed by one Swarovski 3mm faceted round in Crystal Golden Shadow. Repeat this pattern until you have 14 crystals on the thread. This number of beads can vary depending on the size of the ornament, but the focal beads (in this case crystals) need to be an even number. Form a circle with the beads by bringing your thread back through the first beads you added. Make sure there are two seed beads between the first and last crystal.



Slide the ring of beads around the top of the ornament and make sure it fits well. Tie a knot in the thread once you are satisfied. Thread the needle so that it is coming out of the next crystal and the knot is hidden inside.



Remove the ring from the ornament. It is easier to work with the beads off of the ornament for now. String eight seed beads onto the thread and one 3mm crystal. Then, add ten seed beads and one Swarovski 4mm faceted round in Crystal Golden Shadow. Repeat this pattern twice. Then, add ten seed beads, one 3mm crystal, eight seed beads, one 3mm crystal, six seed beads and one 3mm crystal. Place the ring over the top of the ornament. The last crystal added will be the bottom bead. The bottom bead should fall about three quarters of the way or more to the bottom of the ornament.



Now we are going to turn the thread and head toward the top ring. Add six seed beads, a 3mm crystal and eight seed beads. Then, bring the needle through the existing crystal. The object is to string the beads to match the pattern of the existing string, using the existing beads as connections. Next, add ten seed beads, a 4mm crystal and ten seed beads. Then, go through the existing bead as shown.



Repeat this process all the way to the top, then go through the next crystal on the ring. Then, work your way down again. At this point, you will see the beginnings of the "net" formation.



Continue to the bottom. When you get to the bottom, turn and work your way to the top again. Continue this process until you reach the halfway point (the seventh crystal in the ring). If you are running short on thread, tie the thread off by weaving it into a previous existing strand and then knot it. Then tie a new thread on in the same manner and weave it back to where you left off.

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At this point, it can become difficult to do the work on a flat surface without getting the threads and beads tangled. We recommend placing it on something that can support it, like a styrofoam cone. We pinned the beaded ring to the top. Continue beading in the same manner. When you get to the 14th crystal in the ring, go through it and work the strand as normal to the bottom.



With the last crystal in place, you will now start to "zip up" the net. Turn the thread, add six seed beads and then go through the 3mm crystal on the very first strand of beads, as shown.



Add eight seed beads, cross over to the last strand and go through the existing 3mm crystal. Then, add ten seed beads, cross over to the first row and go through the existing 4mm crystal. Continue this process to the top. Knot and tie off the thread. If the thread is long enough to continue, weave it through an existing row of beads to the bottom of the ornament. If needed, <http://www.artbeads.com/bead-weaving-thread-tips.html> title="Bead Weaving Thread Tips">add a new thread to the bottom of the ornament and exit out of a crystal.



Place the beaded net over the ornament. Now you will want to cinch up the net at the base of the ornament. Bead sizes and ornaments can vary, so yours may not work out exactly as ours did. We took the thread and gathered it through all of the bottom crystals to cinch up a ring at the bottom of the ornament. Then, we were able to see approximately how many seed beads would fit between each crystal, as shown here.



We used two seed beads between each crystal. If you use too many, the netting will be saggy. So, it is better to have a tiny bit of thread showing and a tight fit.

Now you know the basic technique for making netting around ornaments. Here are the bead counts for the other ornaments we made.

Silver ornament: the ring at the top has a pattern of two TOHO 15/0 bead rounds in galvanized aluminum and one Swarovski 3mm faceted round in Crystal Silver Shade repeated 13 times. The netted strands include seven seed beads and one 3mm crystal, then ten seed beads and one Swarovski 4mm Crystal Silver Shade faceted round repeated twice. To cinch it up, add one seed bead, one 3mm crystal and one seed bead between each bottom crystal.

Pink ornament: The ring at the top has two TOHO 15/0 bead rounds in silver-lined rosaline and one Swarovski 3mm faceted round in Vintage Rose repeated 13 times. The netted strands include eight seed beads and one 3mm crystal, then ten seed beads and one Swarovski 4mm Vintage Rose faceted round repeated twice. Then, eight seed beads and one 3mm crystal, followed by six seed beads and one 3mm crystal. To cinch it up, add one seed bead, one crystal and one seed bead between each bottom crystal.