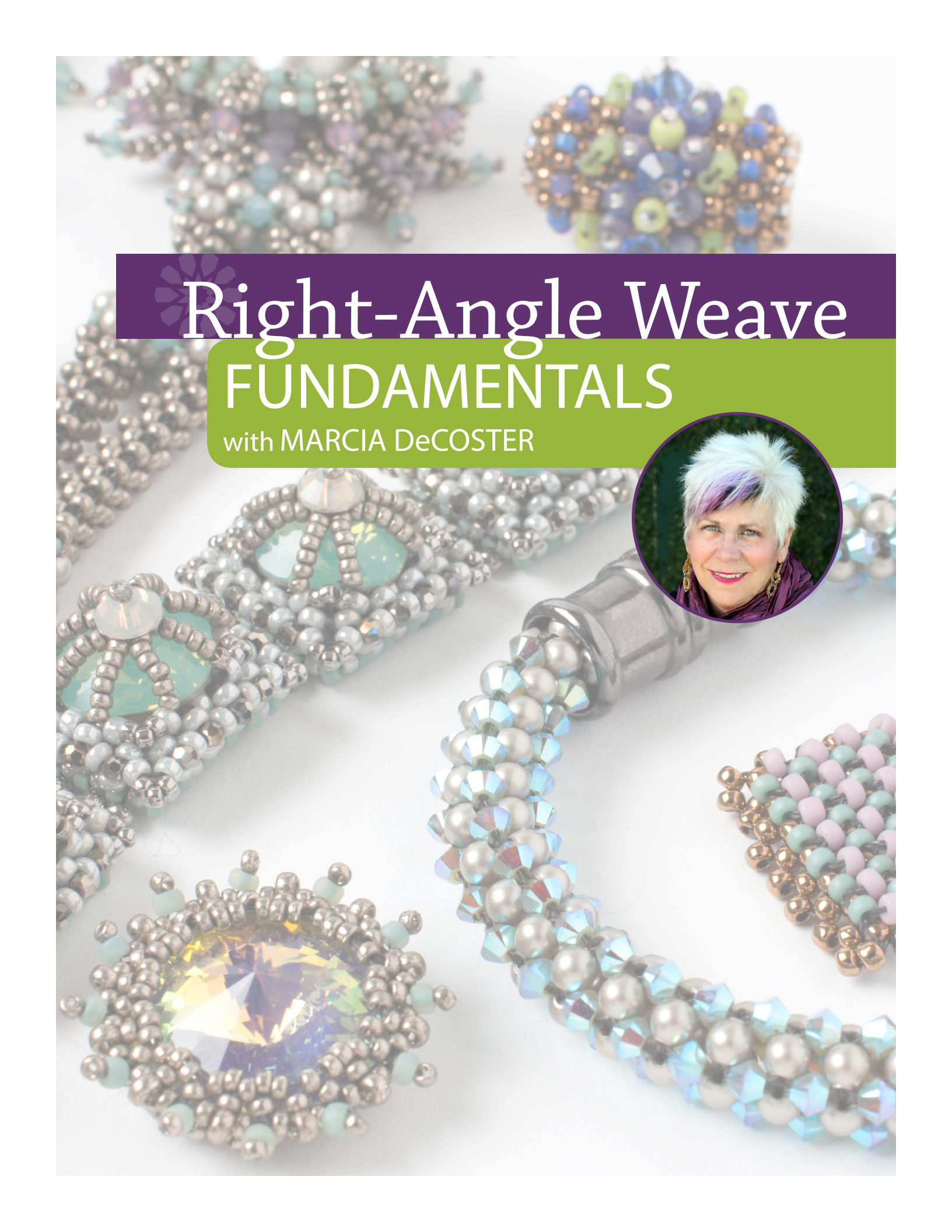




Right-Angle Weave FUNDAMENTALS

with MARCIA DeCOSTER



Right-Angle Weave

FUNDAMENTALS

with MARCIA DeCOSTER

Basic (Flat) Right-Angle Weave

Pick up 4 beads and tie an overhand knot. Pass through 1 bead. Pick up 3 beads and pass through the first bead from the opposite side. Pass through 2 beads to arrive at the new side bead. Repeat for the desired length. Weave to exit a top bead at the end of the row. Pick up 3 beads and pass through the top bead from the opposite side. The first unit of every row will have 3 beads. The second and all subsequent units will have only 2 beads as you are sharing both the side bead from the previous unit and the bottom bead from the previous row (Fig. 1).

Note: In right-angle weave you alternate between clockwise and counterclockwise directions. Depending on how you start, up or down from the first side bead, and how many units you complete, the direction may be different from the illustration. If your thread is exiting up from a side bead, you will pick up your 2 new beads first and travel counterclockwise through the next bottom bead, the side bead of the previous unit, and the top and side beads of the new unit. If your thread is exiting down from a side bead, you will pass through the next bottom bead first, pick up your 2 beads, and travel clockwise through the previous side bead, the bottom bead, and the new side bead. Alternate between these two steps until the row is complete.

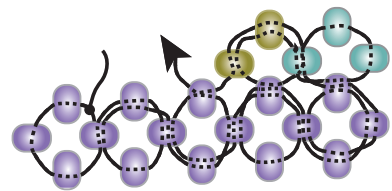


Fig. 1

Join

To join a flat piece of right-angle weave into a tube, align the two ends adjacent to one another. Exit a side bead, add a bottom bead, pass through the opposing side bead, add a top bead, and pass through the first side bead, the new bottom bead, and the next side bead. Subsequent units require only 1 bead to complete each unit (Fig. 2).

Note: As in the previous note regarding thread direction, your thread may not be exiting the side bead from the bottom as indicated here. In that case, you would add the top bead first and then the bottom.

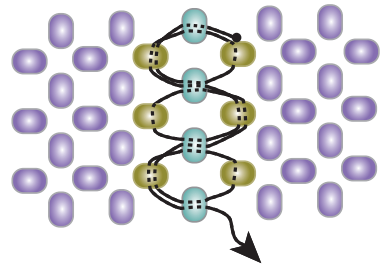


Fig. 2

Tubular Right-Angle Weave

Work the desired number of units as in flat right-angle weave, minus one. Exiting the side bead of the last unit, pick up 1 bead and pass through the side bead of the first unit. Pick up 1 bead and pass through the side bead of the first unit and the first bead added. To begin the next row, pick up 3 beads and pass through the first bead you are exiting from the opposite side, the side bead, and the next top bead (Fig. 3).

Complete the row, adding 2 beads for each unit until you have only 1 bottom bead left. This is the last unit. It will share the side from the first unit, the side from the previous unit, and the bottom from the previous row. Only 1 bead will be required to complete this unit (Fig. 4).

Embellishing

Typically, embellishment beads are added after the right-angle-weave fabric is created by passing through a bead on the base, picking up a bead, and passing through the next bead on the base. This results in adding structure to the piece.

There are times when I prefer to add that bead while I am weaving the original base. I find this maintains the fluidity of the fabric, and each unit can be woven in the same direction using less thread in the holes, also contributing to fluidity. To do so, right-angle-weave row 1 of the base to the desired length. On unit 1 of row 2, pick up 3 base beads and pass through the base bead you are exiting. Pick up 1 embellishment bead and pass through the next bottom base bead. Pick up 2 base beads and travel clockwise through the side bead of the previous unit of the base and the bottom base bead. Continue to the end of the row, always traveling clockwise and picking up 1 embellishment bead before entering the next bottom base bead (Fig. 5).

Circular Right-Angle Weave and Changing Bead Counts and Sizes

Circular differs from tubular right-angle weave in that size or the number of beads in a unit are used to create a circle of flat beadwork as opposed to a tube.

Begin with a flat piece of right-angle weave, the desired number of units minus one. Join the two ends by adding a top and bottom bead as in tubular right-angle weave (Fig. 6). Add additional units as in tubular right-angle weave, but increase either the size or the number of beads at the top of the unit to maintain a flat surface (Fig. 7).

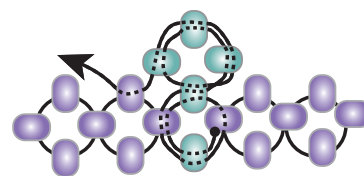


Fig. 3

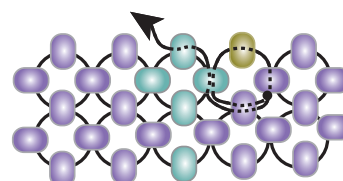


Fig. 4

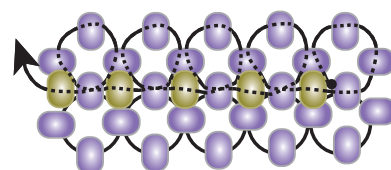


Fig. 5

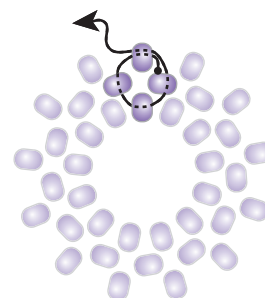


Fig. 6

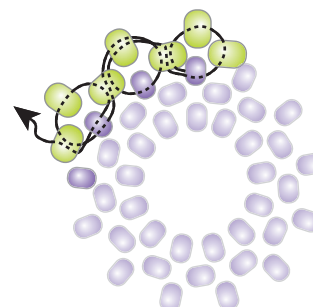


Fig. 7

Two Beads to a Side

This would be woven as in basic right-angle weave with the exception that 2 beads make up each side of each right-angle weave unit. Start by picking up 8 beads, and then weave adjacent units by adding 6 beads (Fig. 8).

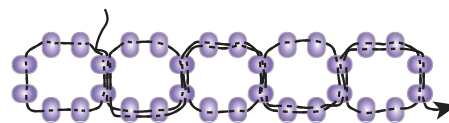


Fig. 8

Layering

Weave a base of right-angle weave the desired size. The work may be left flat or joined into a tube. Exit a bead on the base, pick up a bead, and pass through the next bead on the base. Repeat for the desired number of rows (Fig. 9).

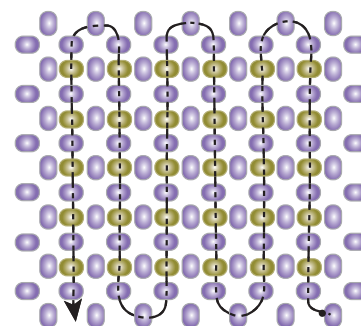


Fig. 9

Exit one of the beads added in Fig. 9. Pick up 1 bead and pass through the opposing bead from Fig. 9. Pick up 1 bead and pass through the original Fig. 9 bead, the first bead added, and the opposing Fig. 9 bead. Repeat across the row and for additional rows as desired (Fig. 10).

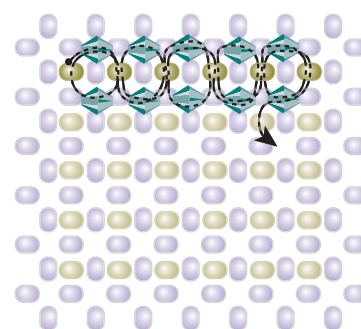


Fig. 10

Cubic Right-Angle Weave

Building the first cube

Traditional right-angle weave is worked with 4 beads. The number of beads to a side may vary, but they are treated as 1 bead. I think of them as bottom, side, top, and side.

In cubic right-angle weave, there are 6 surfaces, each consisting of the 4 beads as described above. I think of them as a floor, 4 walls, and a ceiling. For the sake of simplicity, we will work with 1 bead to a side.

To build the floor, pick up 4 beads and tie an overhand knot. Pass through 1 bead (Fig. 11).

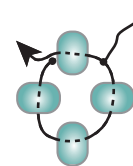


Fig. 11

To build the first wall, you will need a side, a top, and a side bead. Pick up 3 beads and pass through the floor bead you are exiting. Here is where we depart from traditional right-angle weave. Instead of passing through the side bead, you will pass through the next floor bead (Fig. 12). Right now the 3 new beads are on the same plane as the floor; however, like a tip-up building, in a few stitches it will be pulled into an upright position at right angles to the floor.

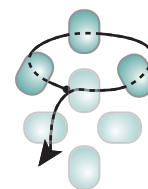


Fig. 12

Like in traditional right-angle weave, you have a bottom bead in place from the floor, and you now have a side bead in place from the first wall. To build the second wall, you will pick up a side and a top bead and pass through the side bead from the first wall, the bottom bead, and into the next bottom bead (Fig. 13).

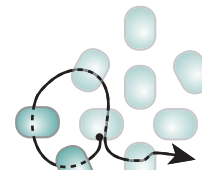


Fig. 13

The third wall is built the same with the addition of a side and a top bead. This is again where we depart from the traditional in that we are always moving in the same direction and not alternating between clockwise and counterclockwise. After passing through the next bottom bead, you will also pass through the side bead from the first wall (Fig. 14).

You now have a side bead from the first wall, a bottom bead, and a side bead from the third wall. To build the fourth wall, pick up 1 top bead and pass through the side bead of the third wall, the bottom bead, the side bead of the first wall, and the top bead of the first wall (Fig. 15). At this point, a gentle pull will bring up the 4 walls, and the tops of these walls will create the ceiling of the first cube and the floor of the next cube.

Note: You will see some cubic right-angle weave directions that take one additional pass through the top 4 beads after the walls are in place. I do not take this extra step as the building of the next set of walls essentially puts this same thread in place. If it helps you to see the top of the cube better, then by all means try this approach.

Exiting the floor bead, build the next cube by repeating the previous steps using the top of the cube just completed as the 4 floor beads (Fig. 16).

If you are making a length of cubic right-angle weave 1 cube wide, continue to repeat these steps for the desired length.

Building width in cubic right-angle weave

Once you have achieved the number of cubes you desire in length or width, it is possible to begin creating cubes off of any of the 4 walls.

In this example, I have built 3 cubes in width. Turn the work so that three walls are facing you and the thread is exiting the bottom edge bead, which will become your new floor (Fig. 17). Pick up 3 beads and pass through the bead you are exiting. This is your first wall (Fig. 18). To complete the cube, repeat the previous steps for building a cube on a cube, but using a side wall as the new floor. When the fourth wall is built, pass through the next floor bead in the second cube (Fig. 19).

The second cube is a bit different. The first wall is shared with the first cube and is already in place. Only three walls need to be built. To build the second wall, pick up 1 side and 1 top bead, pass through the side bead from the fourth wall of the first cube, the floor bead, and the next floor bead (Fig. 20).

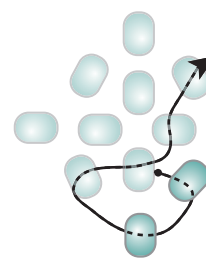


Fig. 14

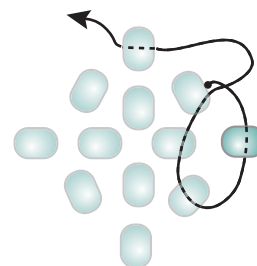


Fig. 15

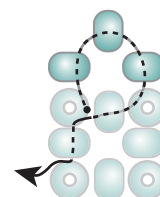


Fig. 16

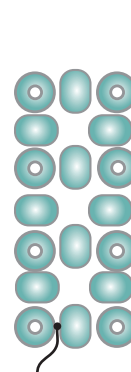


Fig. 17

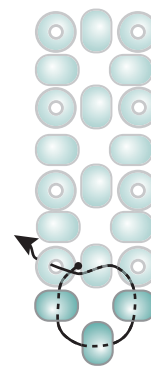


Fig. 18

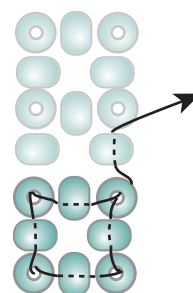


Fig. 19

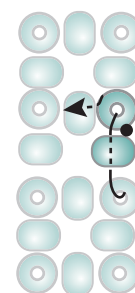


Fig. 20

To build the third wall, pick up 1 side bead and 1 top bead and pass through the side bead from the second wall, the bottom bead, the next bottom bead, and the side bead from second wall of the first cube (Fig. 21).

Once again the fourth wall requires only 1 bead. Pick up 1 top bead and pass through the side bead of the third wall and the floor bead of the next cube (Fig. 22).

As in the second cube, the first wall of the next cube is already in place and only three walls need to be built. To build the second wall, pick up a side and a top bead and pass through the side bead of the fourth wall of cube 2, the floor bead, and the next floor bead (Fig. 23).

To build the third wall, pick up a side bead and a top bead and pass through the side bead from the second wall, the floor bead, the next floor bead, and the side bead from second wall of the second cube (Fig. 24). To build the fourth wall, pick up a top bead and pass through a side bead from the third wall of the third unit, the floor bead of the third wall, the side bead, and the ceiling bead of the third wall (Fig. 25).

You are now ready to build as many additional rows of cubes as you like by repeating these steps.

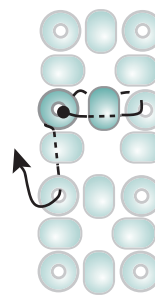


Fig. 21

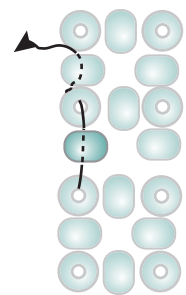


Fig. 22

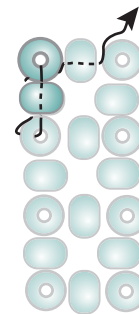


Fig. 23

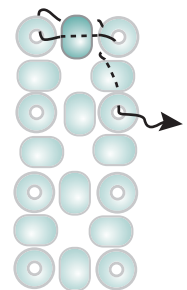


Fig. 24

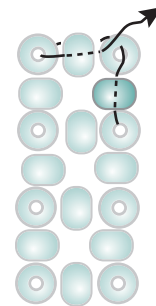


Fig. 25

[bio]

Marcia DeCoster's love for beautiful jewelry and the desire to create her own designs brought her to beads in the early 1990s. Remembering her own early attempts, Marcia recognizes that everyone learns differently and keeps this in mind while teaching and when creating her clear, concise, and comprehensive instructions and graphics. She was a Beadwork Designer of the Year in 2009 and is the author of several books, including *Marcia DeCoster's Beaded Opulence* and *Marcia DeCoster's Beads in Motion* (2013). Visit www.marciadecoster.com.

