

The Beaded Pinecone

Presented by McBead Creations, 2013

Supplies Needed:

42 Magatama Dagger Beads, Colour A
41 Magatama Dagger Beads, Colour B
2 metres of 6-lb Fireline
1 head pin, 2" long
1 8-6mm bead cap or disk spacer bead

Tools Needed:

1 Japanese Beading Needle, Size 13 or 16
Scissors
Round-Nosed Pliers
Wire Cutters
Beading Mat

Please Note:

There are two directions on each Dagger Bead. The hole is slanted, therefore there is an "uphill" direction and a "downhill" direction.



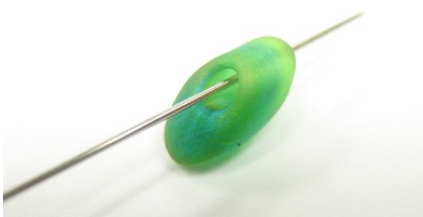
Instructions:

1. Cut a piece of Fireline 2 metres long. Feed a beading needle on at one end and pull 12" of slack through. At the base of the needle, fold your thread. Hold the thread 1 cm away from the eye of the needle and roll the needle in your fingers. This will spin the thread and provide resistance as you bead.



Creating Row 1: Contains 4 Daggers. Technique: Ladder Stitch Colour B

2. Feed on 2 dagger beads. The first dagger bead will be fed on in the "uphill" direction. The second bead will be fed on in the "downhill" direction.



(#1)

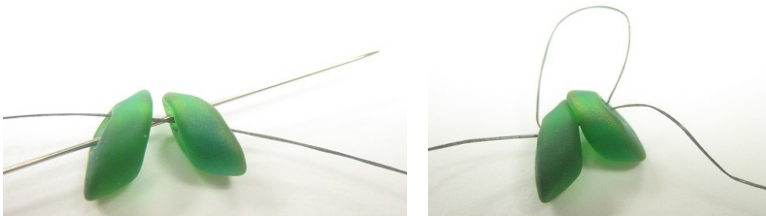


(#2)

- Slide the beads down to 12" from the opposite end of the thread. This means you will slide them down approximately 1.5 metres down the thread.



- Feed your needle again through beads 1 and 2, in the same direction as before. If you feed backwards, they will fall off. You will start with bead 1 and then bead 2. Pull your thread through, making sure the beads stay approximately 12" from the end. You may wish to hold the daggers while you pull. Pull snugly.



- As if opening a book or cracking a walnut shell roll/open the daggers apart. Roll them down onto your beading mat so that your threads are coming out from underneath as shown below. Pull the thread just so that there are no spaces, but do not pull too tightly.



- Feed on a new Dagger bead, in the "uphill" direction. Slide it down to the other 2 Dagger beads. Lay it down beside bead #2 and be sure the thread is facing up.



7. Feed your needle “downhill” through bead #2 and pull snugly but not tightly. Then feed “uphill” through bead #3, your newest bead. The thread will once again be facing up and the beads #2 and #3 are secured to each other. Repeat by feeding your needle once again down through bead #2 and up through bead #3. Pull snugly. This simply re-enforces your first row.



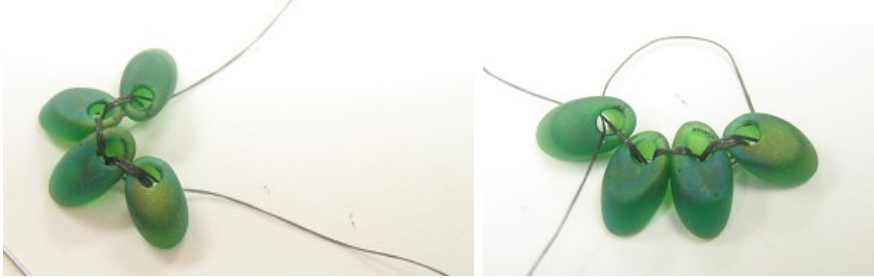
8. Feed on 1 more Dagger bead, this time in the “downhill” direction. Slide it down to the first 3 beads. Lay bead #4 down such that the thread is underneath and that it is lying as shown below.



9. Feed up through bead #3 from below, and pull your thread through. Line up beads #3 and #4 side by side again. Feed “downhill” through bead #4 again and pull snugly. Your thread should now be underneath bead #4. Repeat Step #9 to re-enforce the connection between beads #3 and #4.



10. You now have 4 Dagger beads attached together. We must now attach beads #4 and #1 together. Bring bead #4 around towards bead #1 to make a circle. Feed your needle **up** through bead #1 and pull snugly. Then feed it **down** through bead #4. Repeat once more by feeding again up through bead #1 and then down through bead #4.



11. Now pull extremely tight. It will begin to “cup” and fold up slightly. This is good. Your shorter thread should be coming out of the cup. The long thread with the needle should be coming out the back of the “cup”.

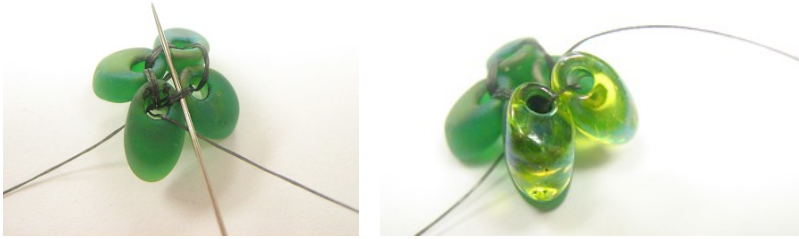


Creating Row 2: Contains 6 Daggers. Technique: Brick Stitch Colour A

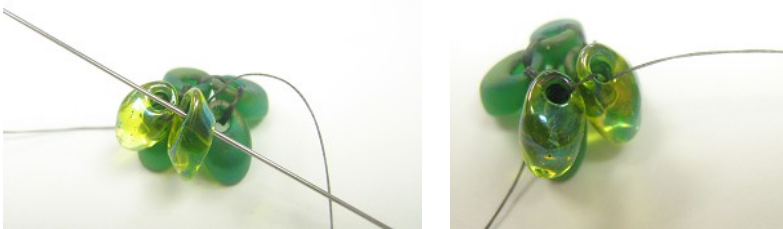
12. Feed on 2 Dagger beads. The first is “uphill” and the second is “downhill”. Feed them down the thread to the beads in Row 1.



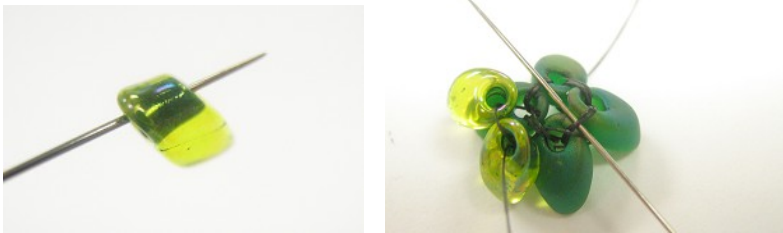
13. Feed your needle under the threads joining beads #1 and #2 from Row 1. Pull the thread through snugly.



14. Feed your needle up through the second bead, “uphill” through the hole. Pull snugly.



15. Feed on 1 Dagger bead in the “downhill” direction. Slide it down to the rest of the beads. Feed your needle under the threads joining beads #2 and #3 together. Pull snugly.



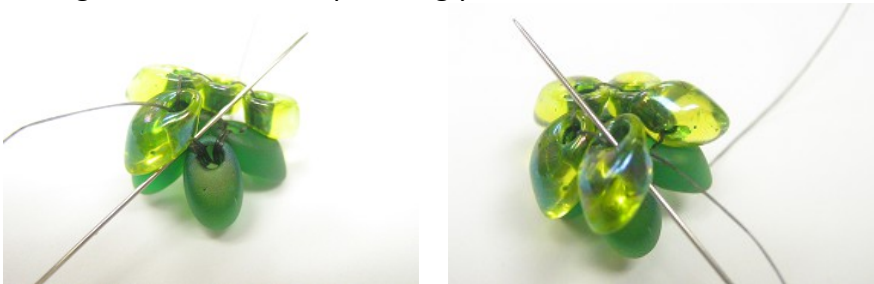
16. Feed up through the third Dagger bead. Pull snugly.



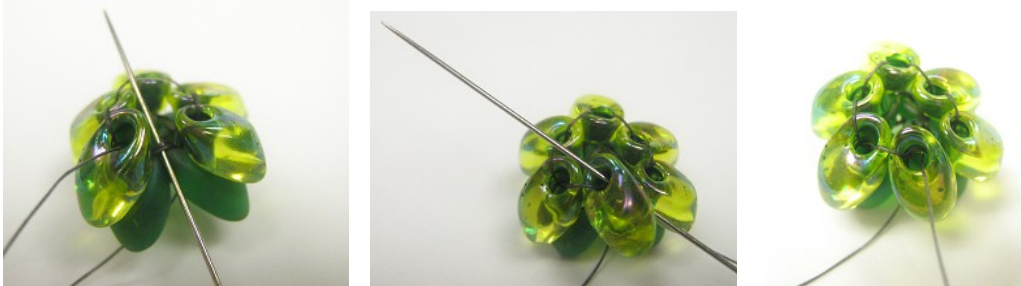
17. Feed on a 4th Dagger bead, again in the “downhill” direction. Slide it down to the rest of the beads. Feed your needle under the threads joining beads #3 and #4 from Row 1. Pull the thread. Feed up through the 4th bead and pull snugly.



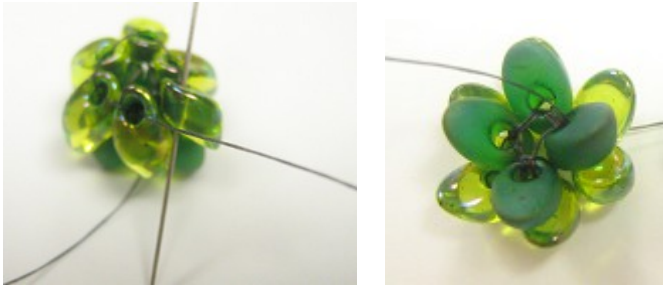
18. Feed on a 5th Dagger bead, again in the “downhill” direction. Slide it down to the rest of the beads. Feed your needle **again under the threads joining beads #3 and #4** from Row 1. This is because you are increasing the number of beads per row. So, beads #4 and #5 of Row 2 are sharing the joining thread underneath. Pull the thread. Feed up through the 4th bead and pull snugly.



19. Feed on a 6th Dagger bead, in the “downhill” direction and slide it down. Feed your needle under the threads joining beads #4 and #1 from Row 1. Pull your thread and feed up through your 6th bead from the bottom. Pull tightly.



20. Now, without adding on any new beads, feed down into bead #1 and pull your thread. Then, feed up through bead #6. Repeat to re-enforce, making sure that your thread is eventually sticking up out of bead #6 from Row 2.



Your pinecone should look like this.

Creating Row 3: Contains 8 Daggers. Technique: Brick Stitch Colour B

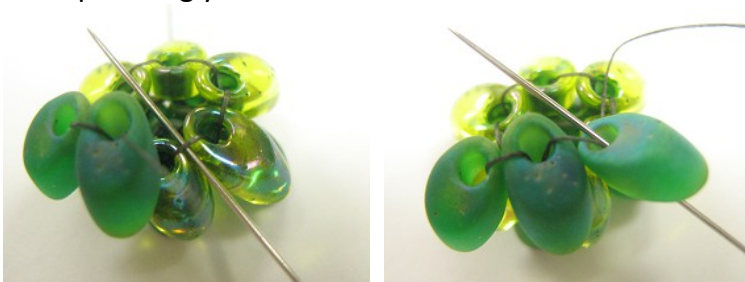
21. Feed on 2 Dagger beads of colour B. Bead #1 in the “uphill” direction and Bead #2 in the “downhill” direction. Slide them down to the rest of the pinecone.



22. Feed your needle under the thread between beads #6 and #1 of Row 2. Pull your thread through all the way. Feed your needle up from the bottom of bead #2. Pull your thread snugly.



23. Feed your needle under the thread attaching beads #1 and #2 of the previous row. Then string on dagger bead #3 in a “downhill” direction. Feed your needle up through bead #3 and pull snugly.



24. Add on a 4th dagger by feeding your needle into the dagger and under the thread between the 2nd and 3rd beads of the previous row.



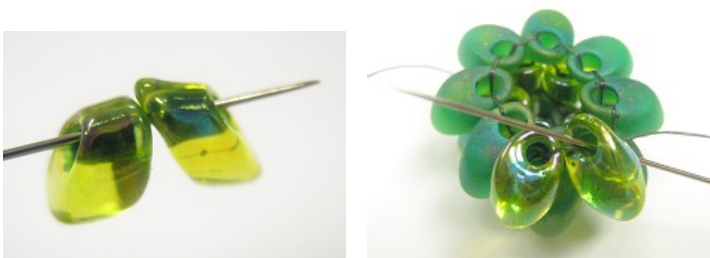
25. Continue adding beads on in the same fashion. In this row, beads #5 and #6 will share the joining thread of the previous row. Therefore, they go on one at a time, but into the same spot, between beads 3 and 4 of the previous row.



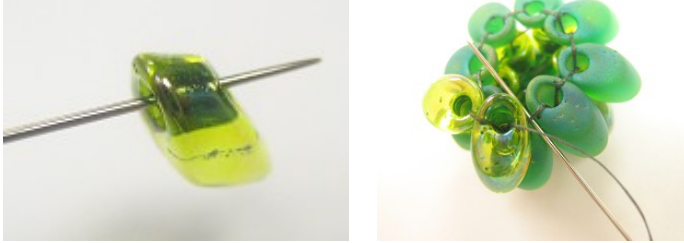
26. Beads #7 and #8 of Row 3 are put on one at a time, and into the last 2 spaces in the row. Don't forget to wrap beads #8 and #1 together, and re-enforce the stitch, as in Step #20. Be sure that your thread is out on the top before you proceed to row 3.

Creating Row 4: Contains 10 Daggers. Technique: Brick Stitch Colour A

27. Feed on 2 beads of colour A, making sure the first is "uphill" and the second is "downhill". Feed your needle under the thread joining beads #6 and #1 from the previous row. Pull snugly. Feed up through bead #2.



28. Feed on 1 new Dagger bead, in the “downhill” direction. Feed your needle under the thread between beads #1 and #2 of the previous row. Pull snugly and then feed up through bead #3.



29. Create row 4 using a total of 10 Dagger beads. The 6th and 7th beads will share the same joining thread from the previous row. This is the way to increase the bead count from 8 in the previous row to 10 in this row.



30. Be sure to finish row 4 by securing bead #10 to bead #1.

Creating Row 5: Contains 10 Daggers. Technique: Brick Stitch Colour B

31. Feed on 2 Dagger beads, bead #1 in the “uphill” direction and bead #2 in the “downhill” direction. Secure them to the pinecone. Continue adding beads to row 5 by feeding them on in the “downhill” direction and securing them to the previous row. In this row, each bead will be secured to a different “joining thread” from the previous row. This is because there is no increase.



Creating Row 6: Contains 10 Daggers.

Technique: Brick Stitch

Colour A



Creating Row 7: Contains 10 Daggers.

Technique: Brick Stitch

Colour B



Creating Row 8: Contains 10 Daggers.

Technique: Brick Stitch

Colour A



Creating Row 9: Contains 8 Daggers.

Technique: Brick Stitch

Colour B

32. In this row, we will decrease the bead count to 8. This is done by skipping thread joints from the previous row. Feed on 2 Dagger beads, bead #1 in the uphill direction, the second bead in the downhill direction. Pull snugly and feed your needle up through bead #2. Continue until you have added bead #4.



33. After securing bead #4, feed on bead #5. Skip the thread joint between beads #3 and #4 from the previous row. Secure bead #5 to the thread joint between beads #4 and #5 from the previous row. Continue by adding beads #6, #7, and #8.



34. Once you have secured bead #8, skip the joint between beads #8 and #9 from the previous row and secure bead #8 and #1 of the current row together.

Creating Row 10: Contains 6 Daggers. Technique: Brick Stitch Colour A

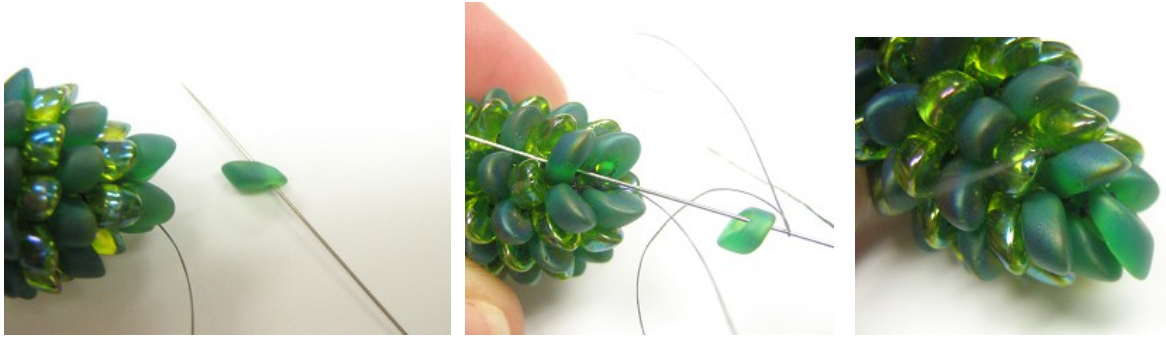
35. In this row, we will decrease again this time to 6 daggers. After you have secured your first 3 dagger beads as before, feed on your 4th dagger bead. Skip the thread joint between beads #2 and #3 from the previous row.



36. Continue by adding the next 3 dagger beads. Once you have secured bead #6, skip the thread joint between bead #6 and #7 from the previous row. Secure beads #6 and #1 from the current row and pull snugly.



37. Feed your needle under the thread joint between beads #6 and #1 of the current row and make 2 half-hitch knots. Then, feed your thread down through many beads, to secure it and lose it, then trim. Remove your needle from the excess thread.
38. Feed your needle now onto to the 12" of slack from Step 3. Feed on one more dagger bead of colour B, in the "downhill" direction. Feed the needle down through any one of the 4 dagger beads in row 1. Pull the thread through. Then feed your needle up through a dagger beside it, either to the left or the right. Make 2 half-hitch knots in the thread joint between those 2 daggers and then feed down through several rows of daggers to lose the thread. Trim your thread.



To make this pinecone into a pendant, feed a 2" head pin through it, starting in one of the 4 daggers in row 1. Feed all the way up through the pinecone and then through a bead cap or spacer bead. Bend the head pin at a 90-degree angle and leave only 1 cm of wire, cutting off any excess. With round-nosed pliers, make a loop with the rest of the pin. Add a bail if you wish.

Enjoy!