

The colors of this paisley design work together brilliantly—in every sense. The gold of the bag's top and clasp is reflected in a number of the beads, especially those 15° beads outlining the edge. All the bag's colors come together in its rainbow of a rope handle.

golden paisley bag



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before you begin

In this project you'll use a panoply of techniques. You start with a rectangular base, then build the bag off the base with side increases for the first 15 rounds. Near the top, you switch to back-and-forth stitching so you can attach the bag to a metal-hinged clasp. Finally, you make a twisted bead rope handle with all the bead colors. One special threading note: For each fuchsia square in the stitch chart, you'll be threading on three 15° beads. When stitching, bring all three down the thread and catch them in one stitch. This will create a sharper corner than if only one bead was used in that place.




what you need

beads (for two sides)


Bead count is for the two sides, rectangular base, and gusset. For the handle, add 160 beads of each color.

All Czech 11° seed beads:

-  #17020 silver-lined light gold (712 beads)
-  #89010 silver-lined topaz (914 beads)
-  #23580 silk light olive (456 beads)
-  #54430 opaque olive (2,102 beads)
-  #63020 opaque light blue (424 beads)
-  #33210 opaque marine blue (370 beads)
-  #23720 silk pale pink (310 beads)
-  #23940 silk medium pink (294 beads)
-  #BL568 silk rose (302 beads)
-  #28020 lustered light amethyst (406 beads)
-  #23040 opaque amethyst (460 beads)
-  #58200 lustered bright green (184 beads)

-  #25511 silk dark sage (244 beads)
-  #48102 lustered transparent crystal (4,674 beads)
-  #23980 opaque black (4,910 beads)

additional materials and tools

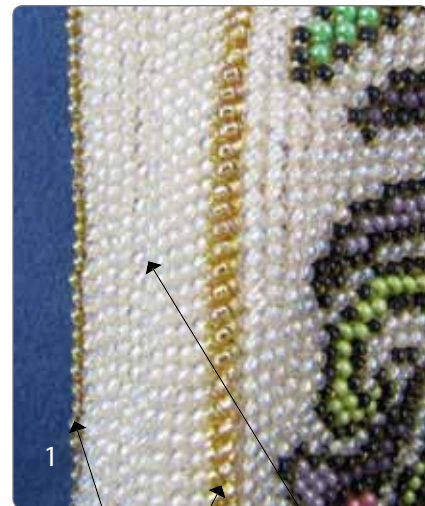
-  Matsuno #32 15°, silver-lined gold (832 beads)
- #12 perle cotton, bisque color, 20 g
- Metal-hinged clasp with sew holes, 5½ to 6 inches (14 to 15.2 cm) long
- Strong nylon thread for sewing bag to handle
- 22-gauge brass wire, two 4-inch (10.2 cm) pieces
- 2 bead caps, ¾ inch (9.5 mm) diameter
- Crochet hooks, beading needles, and scissors
- White glue
- Wire cutters
- Pliers

what you do

- 1 Following the directions on page 27, create a rectangular base. The initial chain for the base is 52 stitches. Work until the base is 10 rows deep and 53 beads wide. Break your thread; pull it through the last loop and secure it in the crochet.
- 2 Following the stitch chart on page 119, thread on beads in sections of six or seven rows. You should thread straight across in horizontal rows and also connect straight across chart gaps. Thread each diagram row twice to make a two-sided bag. (See the overview on page 116). For each fuchsia square, thread on three 15° silver-lined gold beads.

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3 The rectangular base forms the bottom of the bag. The short sides of the rectangular base, when continued upward as you crochet the pattern, will form the side gussets. The gussets will then have beads on each side. To begin creating the sides, attach your thread in the center of one of the sides of the rectangular base, so there are five stitches to the corner in that side. Crochet the five gusset beads to the corner. In the corner stitch, make two stitches, one that has three 15° beads, and one that has the first bead of the pattern (see photo 1). Crochet with beads across the row. After the last pattern bead, crochet three 15° beads in the same space to make the increase. Crochet the gusset beads until you reach the corner again, then repeat as for the other side of the bag.



Three-bead corner

Step-up in center of gusset

4 Continue working in rounds, stepping up at the center of one gusset (see photo 1 again), until you reach the back-and-forth section. Following the top of the chart, thread the rows back and forth. Crochet using the back-and-forth technique, decreasing as needed. Crochet both sides of the bag the same.



threading overview

finish the bag

5 Secure all tail threads within the crochet and trim them. Attach the metal clasp to the bag by sewing with the nylon thread. Secure the threads inside with one bead; make two passes of thread through each bead if possible (see photo 2).



Anchoring beads

make the strap

6 Make one 14-inch (35.6 cm) strand of each color of 11° bead; leave thread ends of 4 inches (10.2 cm) on both ends of each strand. Gather one end of all the strands together and tie a tight knot. Compress all the beads together so there is no slack on the threads; remove or add beads as necessary to create even strands. Tie a knot in the other side, making sure there are no visible threads. Trim both ends to 1 inch (2.5 cm) long (photo 3).



3

7 Glue the knots at the ends of the strap (photo 4). Bend each section of the brass wire in half. At each end, loop a wire section through the bead strands inside the knot (photo 5).



4



5

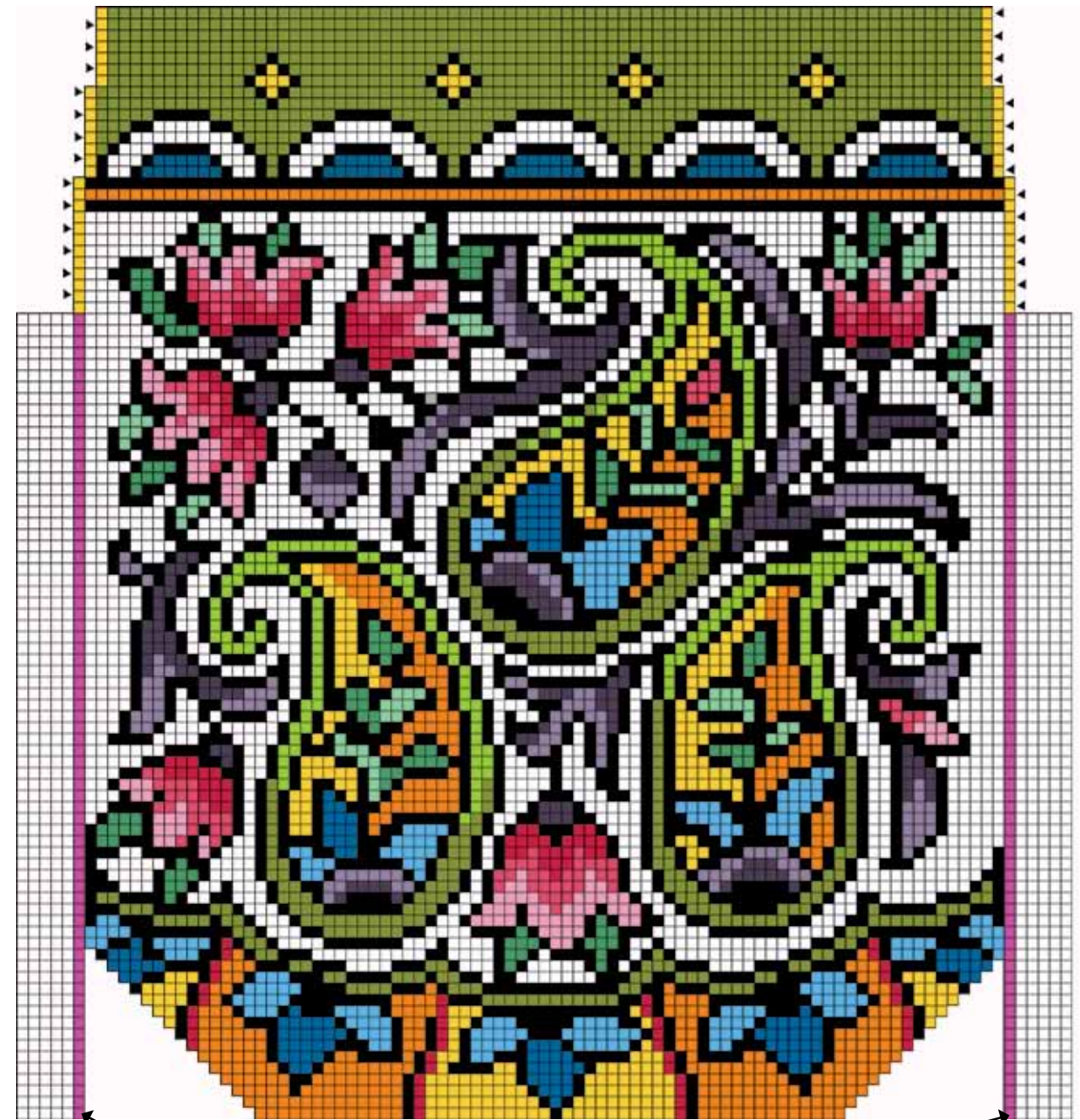




8 Slip one of the bead caps in place over the two wires at each end (photo 6). Make a bend and slip the doubled wire through the handle hole (photo 7).



9 Twist the wire around itself on one side until secure; trim with wire cutters. Twist the rope tightly, and hold the position so the twist remains as you attach the other end of the handle to the hole (photo 8).


















Thread straight across in horizontal rows

Connect straight across chart gaps

Add three 15°s in the fuchsia spaces along the edges of the main design area—the sixth row in from both left and right.

KEY

	silver-lined light gold (712)		opaque marine blue (370)		opaque amethyst (460)
	silver-lined topaz (914)		silk pale pink (310)		lustered bright green (184)
	silk light olive (456)		silk medium pink (294)		silk dark sage (244)
	opaque olive (2,102)		silk rose (302)		lustered transparent crystal (4,674)
	opaque light blue (424)		lustered light amethyst (406)		opaque black (4,910)

making a rectangular base

An important part of the construction of a three-dimensional piece with gussets and corners is the rectangular base. We touched briefly on this in the section on working back and forth on page 20. Designs worked in the round with side gussets are usually started with a rectangular base; this takes the place of the starting chain in a flat design worked in the round. You'll build your first round of the design area on the outer edges of the rectangular base. Illustrations A and B show an overview of how the sides of a rectangular design are built from a flat rectangular base.

Illustration C shows the direction of the stitching, starting at the inside right lower corner. The rose-colored symbols show the corner turns in the creation of the rectangular base.

The rectangle itself is started with a chain. For the projects in this book with a rectangular base, the directions will indicate the number of chains required. If you're designing your own, you'll start with a chain that has *one fewer* than the number of stitches in the bottom row of the design area.

You'll work in back-and-forth rows. The number of back-and-forth rows you stitch will be one fewer than the width of the gusset. Refer to illustration D as you follow these steps:

Step 1

Build rows one on top of the last, turning at the ends of the rows, until you have one fewer than the desired number of rows for the width of the gusset.

Step 2

In the last stitch of the last row, work three single crochet with beads, thereby creating a squared corner.

Step 3

Now work down the side, placing one single crochet with a bead in the end stitch of each row but the last. In that end stitch, work three single crochet with beads, creating a second squared corner.

Step 4

Work across the bottom in the other side of the original chain, placing one single crochet with a bead in each stitch, except the last, in which you'll again make three single crochet with beads.

Step 5

Work up the opposite side, again placing one stitch in the end of each row. Make only one single crochet with a bead in the last stitch.

Step 6

The design side of the rectangular base has the same number of stitches as the base row of the design, as shown in illustration E.

