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Carnivale

Designed by Naomi Key

Fun and colorful buttons inspired the wonderful Mardi-Gras feel of this necklace. Luscious colors, great texture, and sparkly crystals—makes you want to just dance in the street, doesn't it?



Resources: Crystal buttons, bicones, drop, and butterfly from *SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS* (CREATE-YOUR-STYLE.COM); colorful buttons available through *Michaels* (Michaels.com).

Project instructions begin on p. 76.

Carnivale

Designed by Naomi Key

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What You'll Need

Materials:

- 3 Buttons: 35mm (1), 28mm (1), and 20mm (1)*
- Lacy's Stiff Stuff
- Ultrasuede®
- 1 tube each size 11/0 Seed beads—two complementary colors
- 1 tube size 15/0 Seed beads—complementary color
- SWAROVSKI ELEMENTS:
 - 2 8mm Bicone Crystals—Fuchsia AB 2x
 - 1 6mm Butterfly—Fuchsia
 - 2 12mm Buttons—Crystal Volcano
 - 36 4mm Bicone Crystals—complementary color
 - 10 4mm Round Crystals—complementary color
 - 1 15mm x 8mm Briquette—Rose
- 28 Magatama beads—pink
- 2 Hand-dyed silk ribbons—complementary colors
- Strong beading thread

Tools:

- Beading needles

Additional Supplies:

- Basic beading supplies, glue

*Buttons shown are available at Michaels.

For product information, see Sources of Supply on p. 93.

Dimensions: Pendant is 2 in. wide at the top, 1¼ in. at the bottom, and 6 in. long

Intermediate project

Econo-tips:

- Have fun experimenting with buttons of all sizes and colors! Check your sewing stash for some great ideas.
- Replace the buttons with some of those souvenir pins or even the magnets from your last great adventure!

Instructions:

Note: PT (pass through) means to move your needle through a bead in the same direction that the beads have been strung. **PBT** (pass back through) means to move your needle through a bead in the opposite direction. Note that the following instructions are general instructions for all three buttons.

1. With scissors, cut a piece of felt that's larger than the button by at least ½ in. on all sides. Apply an even layer of glue to the button's back and press it firmly against the backing material. Avoid putting glue under the button's holes—it will be much easier to embellish later if you don't have to needle through dried glue. The purpose of the glue at this point is to hold the button on the backing, but your bead stitching is what will be holding it all together.

2. **Base row.** Thread your needle with 2 yds. of thread and tie a knot in the end of the thread. On a slant, pass the needle through the felt from back to front, coming out on the edge of the cab. You will begin backstitching: Pick up two beads, lay them along the cab, and needle down at the end of the two beads next to the cab. Needle up from the back side, PT the two beads and pick up two more beads (Fig. 1), and go down through the backing next to the button. Continue in this manner around the cabochon, making sure that there's an even number of beads around the cabochon when finished. (**Note:** Stay close to the cab when beading around it; you'll be trimming the fabric around it and you don't want to cut any threads.) PT all beads around the cabochon twice to straighten any beads not quite lined up.

3. **Peyote rows.** With the needle exiting from one bead from your base row, pick up one size 11/0 seed, skip one bead on the base row, and PT the next bead. Add a bead, skip a bead, PT the next bead—continue all the way around. When you get to the first bead of this row, step-up. Add one peyote row of size 11/0 seeds, and then one peyote row of size 15/0 seeds. Play with your color here, making every row a different color.

4. Sew a crystal Button over the buttonholes: Bring the needle up from back to front through a hole in the cab and go through one crystal Button hole. Pick up a size 15/0 seed bead, one 4mm Crystal, and one size 15/0 seed bead. Pass down through the other hole of the crystal Button. Reinforce this a few times, and then tie off. (For the smaller button with the crystal Butterfly, come up through the buttonhole, pick up two seed beads, and pass down through the other hole. Come back up through the first hole, pick up two seed beads, and then pass down through the second hole. Come back up through the first hole, go through one bead, add the Butterfly, go back through a



seed, and then go down through the other hole of the button. Tie off.)

5. Trim all excess material from around the felt backing. The trim line is the outer edge of the beads on the outside bead row. Be careful not to trim too closely! It's important that you don't cut any of the threads that you used to apply the beads. Glue the Ultrasuede® to the back side of the trimmed cab. Do not bring glue all the way out to the edges, as you will be sewing through them—this will hold the layers together and won't make it so hard to get through both layers. Let dry, and then trim the Ultrasuede® to match the felt backing.

6. Thread needle with 2 yds. of thread, tying a small knot at the end. Slip it in between the layers, hiding the knot. Stitch up through the backing. *Pick up one size 11/0 seed and pass down through the material to the back. Stitch up through the material near the edge, coming up through the added bead.* Repeat from * to *, moving over one bead's width for each added bead (Fig. 2). To finish, after adding the last bead, push the needle down into the first bead (Fig. 3) before weaving the end into the beads on the front to tie off.

Note: This project, like all beading projects, is open to your interpretation. As the fancy hits you, please feel free to embellish, embellish, embellish. If you would like to add another row around the base row for extra embellishment, now would be the time to do it. I used two techniques here: a picot edging on the first and third buttons, and a twisted edge on the middle button, with an embellishment of crystals on the row above the edgings.

7. **Picot edging.** Bring the needle through the backings and up through the same edge bead. *Pick up two size 11/0 seed beads (I alternated colors here), a

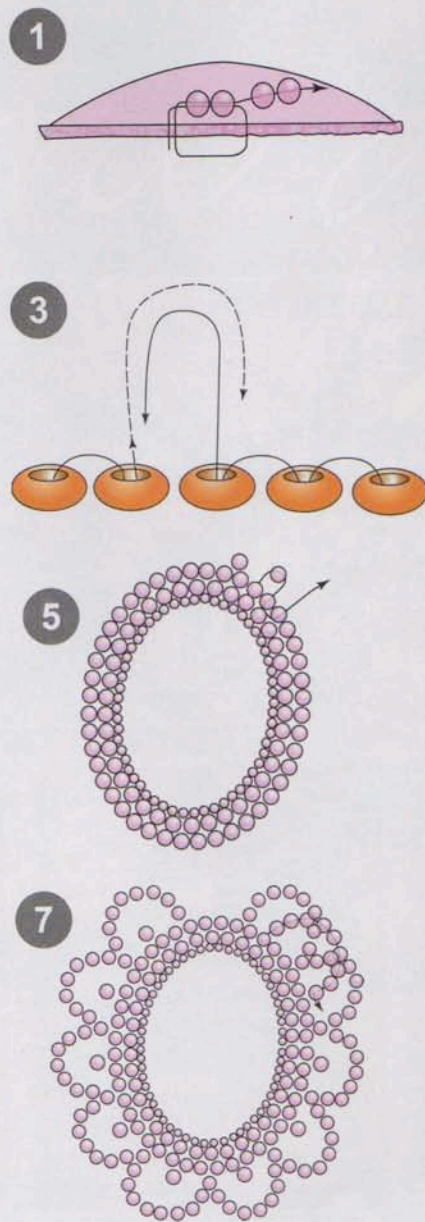
drop, and two more size 11/0 seed beads. Skip one edge bead and go down through the next edge bead. Come up through the next edge bead*. Repeat from * to * all the way around the button (Fig. 4). Step-up to the next row, and then PT several beads. We're ready to add crystals! The placement for these should be between the drops from the previous row. *Add one size 11/0 seed bead, one 4mm Crystal, and one size 11/0 seed bead. Skip one bead from this peyote row and PT the next size 11/0 seed bead.* Repeat from * to * all the way around the button. Repeat this for the third button, using the Briquette on one of the picots instead of a small glass drop.

8. *Twisted edge.* Find the center of the top of the cabochon. You will want to leave two to three beads open at the top. Begin a new thread and come up through the first bead next to the center bead. Pick up one size 11/0 seed bead. Stitch down into the next edge bead and pull the thread to position the bead to lie sideways between the edge beads. This bead is referred to as the *picot bead*. Come up through the bead next to it, add a bead, and pass down through the next bead (Fig. 5). Repeat this all the way around the cab until you reach the center, remembering to leave two to three beads open at the top. To add the first twisted strand, stitch up through the first edge bead and picot bead. Pick up eight size 11/0 seeds and PT the third picot bead. Add another eight beads, skip a picot bead, and PT the next picot bead. Continue this all the way around (Fig. 6).

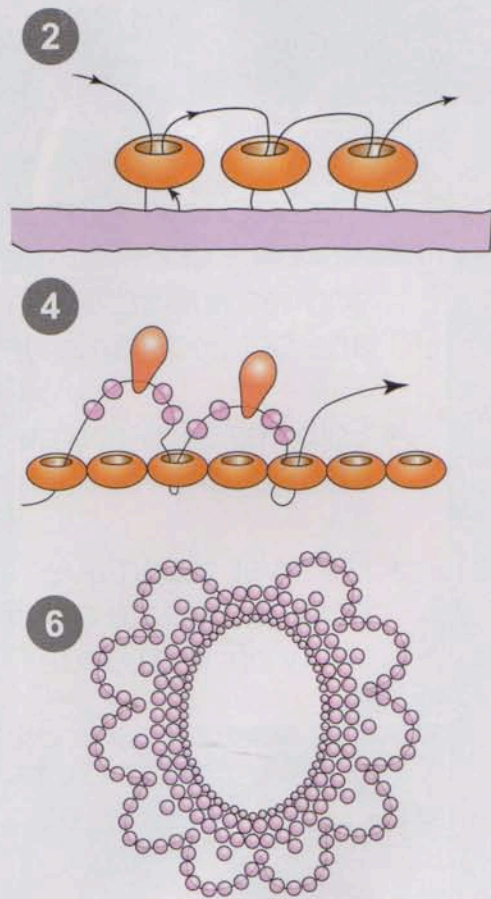
9. Weave the needle through the beads to the side where you started the twisted edge, and needle out of the next empty picot bead. Start under the previous strand and loop it over to pass through the next empty picot bead (Fig. 7). Repeat around the cabochon until done. At the end of the row, step-up to the next row. *Pick up two size 11/0 seeds, a 4mm Crystal, and two size 11/0 seeds. Skip the next two seed beads in this row and PT the third seed bead.* Repeat from * to * around the button.

10. *Creating the bail.* Pick up the largest button. Weave through the beadwork so that the needle exits from the top center beads. Pick up three size 11/0 seeds and go down through the last center bead. Weave around to come back up through the same bead and PT these three seed beads. *Pick up three more seeds, go back through the three previous seed beads, and then PT the three new seed beads*. Repeat from * to * for desired length of bail, and then PT the first three beads again, forming a loop. Reinforce.

11. *Joining the buttons.* Start with the largest button. Directly across from the bail, PT one of the edge stitch beads. Pick



up three size 11/0 seeds, an 8mm Bicone, and three size 11/0 seeds. Needle down through an edge stitch bead on the next button and come back up through the edge stitch bead. *Pick up three size 11/0 seeds, PT the 8mm Bicone, pick up three size 11/0 seeds, and PT the next edge stitch bead on the first button*. Repeat from * to * once more. I added several small straps next to the large Bicone to stop the buttons from turning around. Come up through the next edge stitch bead, pick up 14 seeds (I used two colors here), and attach through the next edge stitch bead on the other button. Skip one edge stitch bead, come up through the next one, and pick up 16 size 11/0 seeds. Attach to the other button, skipping one edge stitch bead and going through the next one. Repeat on other side of the large Bicone. Repeat entire step to attach the third button to the second button. On the outside strap, I added a little Crystal



embellishment: Starting at base, PT three seed beads. Pick up three size 11/0 seed beads, a 4mm Crystal, and three size 11/0 seed beads. Skip three seed beads and PT two seed beads. Pick up three size 11/0 seed beads, a 4mm Crystal, and three size 11/0 seed beads, and needle through to the end of the strap. Repeat this three more times on each outside strap.

12. Slip your pendant onto a ribbon and enjoy!

If you have questions concerning this project, contact the editors of *Bead Design Studio*.

E-mail: editors@beaddesignstudiomag.com
 Website: www.BeadDesignStudioMag.com

"One of my favorite parts of beading is the collecting (I know you all know what I am talking about), and the chuckling when you get home from a bead show as you spread out all your new lovelies. I also like knitting, gourds, polymer clay, and felting. (I just don't have enough time or room to try anything else.)"

- Naomi Key