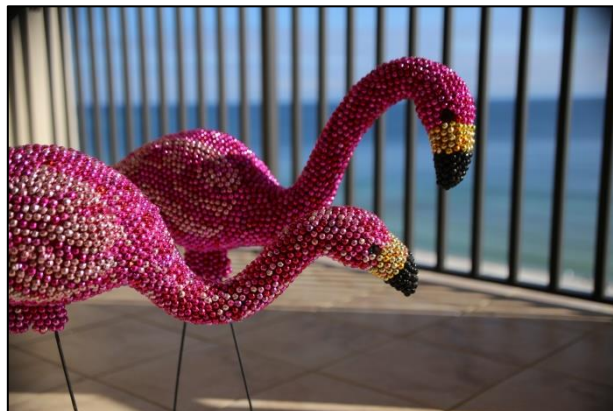


Bead Mosaics

Dorie Parsons

- **Select base**

- A non-flexible base is best to keep beads from popping off.
- The base may be flat or three dimensional.



- **Planned or spontaneous design**

- Planned—Draw a simple outline of your design on the base.
- Spontaneous—Assemble the beads you want to use and play with them on the base to determine your design.
- Consider the color of the base—Because you can see the background between the beads, you may want to paint the background all one color to give the design unity or you might want to paint the design parts different colors to help define the shapes. A dark background reduces contrast. A bright, metallic background adds sparkle.
- Decide on bead size and shape—Using beads that are all similar gives the mosaic unity. Using different shapes or sizes adds variety and emphasis.



- **Prepare the beads**

- Wash and dry the beads if you caught them at a parade.
- Decide whether you are going to use strands of beads or cut them into individual units. Using strands lets you easily add swirls and outlines. Individual beads lets you make more detailed shapes and makes it easy to mix colors.
 - Cut the strands—Find where the strand is melted together and cut out and discard those two melted beads.
 - If you are using individual beads, cut them apart. Throw away discolored beads. You may want to use nail clippers to snip off the remaining string.
 - Sort the beads into containers by color.

- **Glue the beads onto the base**

- On a flat surface—Use a clear-drying glue such as Elmer's for an inside mosaic. Use a clear-drying permanent glue for work to be displayed outside. The slow drying time will allow you to reposition the beads if necessary.
- On a three dimensional surface—Use a glue gun for an instant bond.

