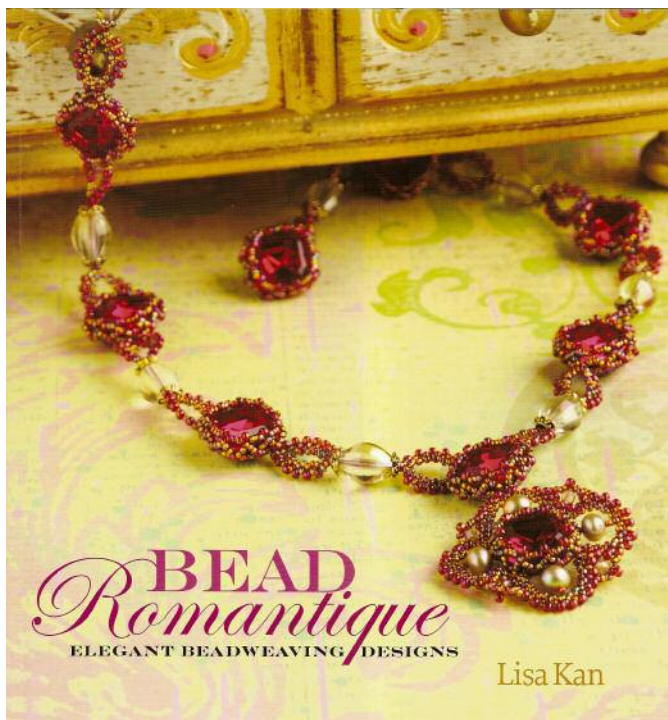


Bead Romantique:

ELEGANT BEADWEAVING DESIGNS

BY LISA KAN

Soft cover, 144 pages, Interweave Press 2008. \$24.95.



The Elizabethan and Victorian eras are renowned for their opulent, elegant jewelry. If you are drawn to this jewelry and would like understandable directions for creating updated versions that are eminently wearable in the modern world, take a look at *Bead Romantique: Elegant Beadweaving Designs* by Lisa Kan.

Kan presents seventeen original designs with illustrated step by step instructions for making bracelets, chokers, necklaces and earrings that will take you back in time to 19th Century Europe, the Jazz Age, or the Renaissance.

You are not likely to find designs like Kan's in any other book. While she draws on conventional stitches like right-angle weave (RAW), peyote, and herringbone, she combines them in such clever and novel ways that you might not recognize the techniques at first. She also uses a clever mélange of materials in her alluring designs: vintage crystals, drops, Swarovski rivolis, triangles, rhinestones and pearls. Some of the pieces also incorporate wirework, chain, filigree, and wire mesh. Mixing these elements with seed beads ranging from size 15° to 8° gives her pieces texture and interest, but they never looks too busy.

Many projects—like the opulent Victorian Diamond cuff bracelet and my favorite, the Rivoli Y Drop necklace—look intri-

cate and complicated to make. But though I had never made a bezel for a rivoli before, I was able to make one on the first attempt with Kan's easy to follow instructions. Be warned, however: several projects use size 15° beads and switch from one stitch to another, making *Bead Romantique* more suited to intermediate and advanced beaders than beginners.

Kan deftly covers materials, tools, tips and tricks in the beginning of the book and reviews basic knots and bead stitches at the end. She also includes a helpful project resource list of where she purchased the components for each project, and contact information for each supplier.

Bead Romantique is an inspirational book that offers enough fresh designs and new techniques and ideas to make it a worthy addition to your beading library.



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