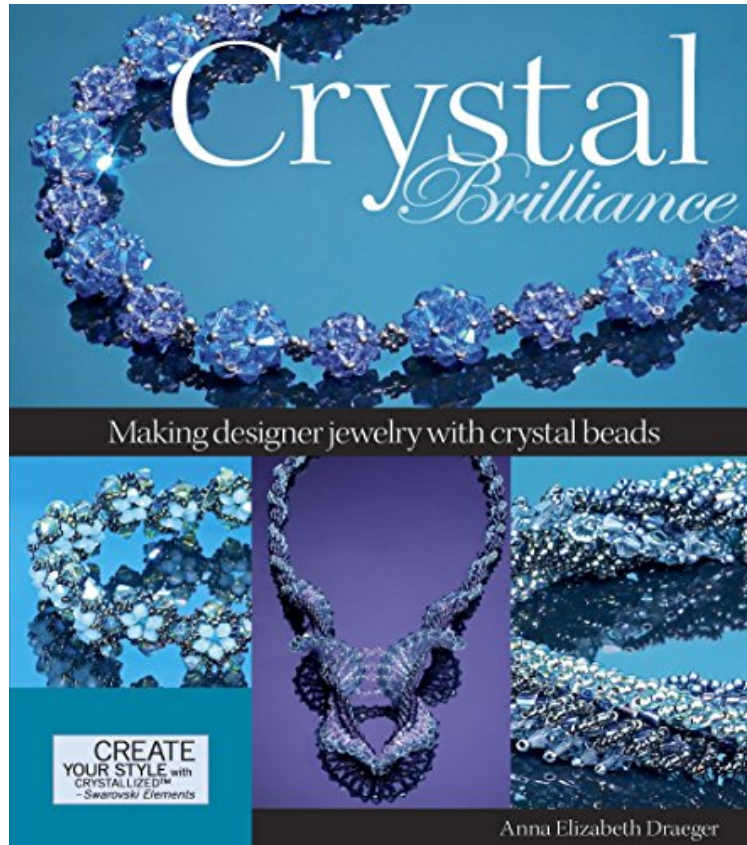


[Read free] Crystal Brilliance: Making Designer Jewelry with Crystal Beads

## Crystal Brilliance: Making Designer Jewelry with Crystal Beads

*Anna Elizabeth Draeger*

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**Anna Elizabeth Draeger : Crystal Brilliance: Making Designer Jewelry with Crystal Beads** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crystal Brilliance: Making Designer Jewelry with Crystal Beads:

35 of 36 people found the following review helpful. Brilliance Indeed! By Book Lover I just received this book today after waiting six months since I pre-ordered it. It was a nice surprise that it was released a few days earlier than expected. This book is astonishingly wonderful. If you love beading with crystals and you love doing beadwork more intricate than simple stringing, I think you will love this book. The book begins with a short introduction that addresses some issues about materials and techniques. It's nice to see a beadwork book that assumes the beader actually has some prior knowledge. You won't find an extensive review of needles, threads and beads cluttering up the front of this book. (Thank-you!) At the back of the book are brief (really brief-- 3 pages) beading basics instructions. Then the projects begin on page 14. The projects feature mostly Swarovski bicone crystals and Swarovski fancy stone shapes, glass pearls, seedbeads in sizes 11 and 15, and cylinder beads (Delica, Aiko, etc) in sizes 11 and 8. The projects are beautiful. I found almost all of them to be projects I can see myself making. And several are just screaming at me to stop this writing nonsense and get out the beads!!! To find such a high proportion of projects I'd actually make in one book is extremely unusual. It's practically unheard of! As you can see using the "Look Inside" feature of this listing the

projects are divided into several types: Classic, Romantic, Organic and Geometric. There are six or seven projects in each section, for a total of 26 gorgeous projects. I found the projects in all sections to be very attractive, although quite different in style. So if you like beading with crystals but you aren't the "romantic" style, you can probably find pieces to your liking in one of the other sections, such as Geometric. Each project begins with a photo of the completed item on a black background. And this black background is my only complaint about this book. I found it difficult to get a good impression of the details of many of the projects from the first photo. Fortunately the instruction pages generally include another photo of the item on the white page as well as a photo of the item made according to a "Design Option" which suggests variations for the project. The instructions are given in numbered steps with references to numbered diagrams showing what each step looks like, so this works well for beaders who prefer written word instructions and those who understand diagrams better, and even those like me who really want both. So far as I have read them, the instructions seem to be well-written and easy to understand and follow. While the projects are mostly at the intermediate level of beadworking skills, Anna notes that the first project in each section is one she believes is easier and can be achieved by a skillful beginner. The projects within each category then become progressively more difficult. The projects are mostly for bracelets and necklaces, with some variations to make pendants. Many of the bracelet designs could easily be made into necklaces instead. I am really going to enjoy using this book. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Torn About How to Rate this Book By Krazy Kindle Reviewer I really struggled to decide how many stars to give this book. For a little background, I am new to bead weaving and these are the first woven items I've tried with crystals. I love the two bracelets I've made so far and there are several more I hope to complete. On the positive side, there are lots of lovely designs with varying degrees of difficulty. I also really like the manner in which the instructions are written and the figures drawn (when they are correct - see below!). The design options given for each project are great. These show you how to either create a matching piece or how to use the same stitch and change up the look with different colors, shapes and sizes of beads. I will keep this book and likely make several more of the projects. Unfortunately, there are some pretty significant cons with this book as well. The photos of each project are terrible. Some of them look a little artsy, but almost none of them show the finished pieces well. They are all photographed on a dark background and many are at weird angles and/or only have a small area in focus. It is pretty much impossible to get any useful information while beading from the photos. I find this extremely frustrating, as I like to check my work against an actual [photographic image of the item I'm working on. Another issue with the bad pictures is that in many cases you can't even tell what the finished product will look like. I found it totally infuriating to weave two inches worth of a bracelet only to discover the design looked nothing like I had imagined and I hated it. My final complaint is about the steps and figures. As I mentioned above, I like the manner in which they are laid out, but it sure would be nice if they were all accurate. Yes, you read that correctly, some of the instructions are just plain wrong. I started out making the simple, Crown Jewels bracelet and that seems to have good accurate directions. I have the feeling I'll make lots of this basic design in various sizes as it's quick, easy and attractive. My current project is the Tide Pool bracelet and what a mess! The bracelet calls for a mix of 11/0 and 15/0 seed beads. In one often repeated step, you are supposed to string: two 15's, one 11 and two 15's. All well and good except that the diagram only shows three seed beads in those locations and they are all the same size!! In fact, all of the seed bead pictures in all of the figures are the same size. That's OK though, I figured I could ignore that one issue and follow the steps. Sadly, that didn't work either as the directions regularly call for the wrong size seed beads, constantly mixing them up. Now normally this wouldn't even be a huge deal, as I could double check in the photo. Of course, that's not possible here. All of that said, I have almost completed the Tide Pool and I love it. Even with my lack of experience I was able to figure out how this should be stitched. I just shouldn't have had to work so hard for it, when that's why I bought the book. I'm hoping that none of the other projects have these issues, but I'm not holding my breath. For the price of this book, it is totally beyond me that some funds couldn't have been spent on a pro photographer. In addition, how hard would it have been to give the draft to 10 or 20 beaders of various levels and have them attempt to make the designs?? That's all it would have taken to have caught the errors. Personally, I really hope the publisher steps up and at least puts corrected steps and diagrams online, so that we can download them. That seems to me to be the least they can do. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Its really a Crystal Brilliance! By Nakomia I Love this book because the designs are very precise. The only thing I don't like about the book is that it should've been longer, and maybe they should've been a little more descriptive with the color of beads you need for some projects. It is common sense of course, but when i am bead shopping i have to find the color. It would've been a little easier if they had the actual colors you need. Other than that its a really good book for intermediate beaders.

Crystal Brilliance delivers a collection of over 30 beautiful, creative projects that showcase the brilliance and hues of Swarovski crystals, along with inspiring variations on each. The projects feature gorgeous colorways and innovative variations on basic stitches. Published in association with Swarovski Elements, the book is filled with stylish and

innovative ways to use the Swarovski product line. These truly are elegant, wearable jewelry designs.