

King Protea Pin

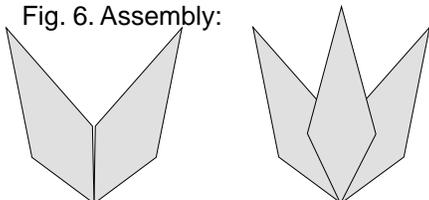
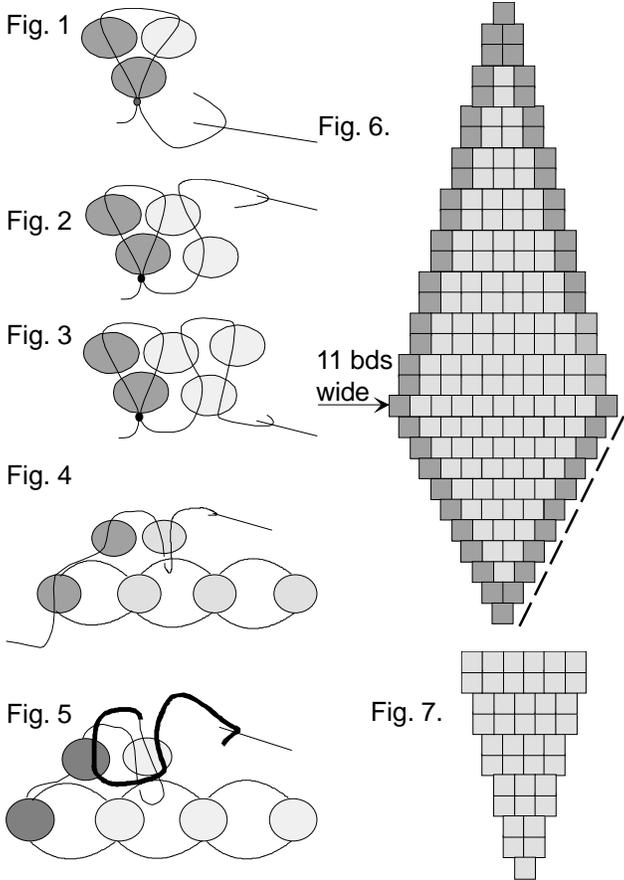
by Diane Fitzgerald

The Protea Pin was inspired by the stylized interpretation of South Africa's National Flower, the King Protea, which appears on South Africa's Coat of Arms. The flower has many stiff, pointed petals which form a cup around the outer rim. Inside the cup is a mass of white stamens which all bend toward the center. Often the flower is pink but the petal color may sometimes gradate from cream or light yellow at the bottom to bright pink or velvet red at the top.

Supplies:

Delica beads, 4 grams pink, 2 grams gold
 Nymo D thread to match beads
 Pinback, 1 1/4"

With brick stitch, make three petals as shown in Fig. 6, beginning with the widest single-bead row



which is 11 beads wide (marked with an arrow). Thread needle with 1 1/2 yds of thread. Leave a 1 yd. tail. Work the single-bead rows downward, decreasing at the beginning edge and locking the stitch, then with the thread tail, work the upper two-bead rows. Use the method below to work the first two single-bead rows, following the color chart:

1. String on three beads and go BT (back through) the first bead (Fig. 1). The first two beads should be in the edge color. Place the beads so they form a "T" and tie working thread to tail (Fig. 1).
3. Add one bead and go through third bead added in Step 1 (Fig. 2).
4. Add one bead. BT the bead added in the previous step (Fig. 3). Continue adding one bead, then BT the last bead added to complete the row, following the color chart.
5. Work remaining rows with decreasing brick stitch. Pick up two beads, catch the second loop (Fig. 4), then BT the last bead. Lock the stitch (Fig. 5).
6. Join two of the Fig. 1 petals with square stitch along the line shown in Fig. 1. Center the remaining petal on top of these two and sew in place.
7. Work two more petals with the lower part as in Fig. 1 but change the two-bead rows to rows 3 beads high.
8. Work one piece as shown in Fig. 6. With square stitch, join the long petals with the small triangle between them. Lay the first set of three petals over the longer petals and sew all layers together securely. Sew on a pinback.