

Making

TIARAS

and Designer Jewellery



Jema Hewitt



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Introduction

Hello and welcome to *Making Tiaras and Designer Jewellery*. In this CD book I've created six more tiara designs with matching necklaces and earrings. I hope these will inspire you to make the projects as shown for your own special occasions, or use the techniques to create your own designs. A star system grades the projects in difficulty: from * (easy) to *** (more difficult).

As a designer, I'm often asked: 'Where do you get your ideas from? And how can I have ideas like that?' Well, often my ideas come from the wedding or ball gown itself, picking up on a detail of embroidery or bead type. Sometimes they come from the theme of a wedding such as 'stars' or 'blossom'.

Sometimes it's the gown's colour that inspires me. Although many weddings still favour traditional white and crystal decoration, I have found that increasing numbers of brides are requesting glorious colour in their gowns and accessories.

Even the venue, which in this non traditional age may be a gothic castle or a fabulous garden, will suggest styles and shapes to me.

Once I have all this in my mind, then I'll start trying colour combinations and putting beads together. I have small clear pots in which I put a pinch of each bead to see how they react together. I'll think about the wire colour at this stage too.



The Author: Jema Hewitt

Jema Hewitt is a professional costume designer, working on projects for films, theatre and museums, specialising in period clothing and jewellery. She is the owner of Kindred Spirits Bridal-Originals, a couture wedding dress company that designs and creates historical and coloured wedding gowns.

Jema's love of vintage beads and embroidery developed naturally into teaching and writing on a variety of subjects, from tiaras to corsetry. She has written two books on beaded jewellery and is a regular contributor to magazines.

To see more of Jema's work, go to Kindred Spirits at:

www.bridal-originals.co.uk

or read her blog at:

sparklygemblogspot.com



Elven Crown Tiara, page 00

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Briar Rose Tiara, Pendant and Earrings, page 00

Finally I do a little sketch of the shape of the tiara and fill in the focus points, a cluster of beads in the centre, or perhaps tall branches in a radiating pattern. Then I leave it for a day or two!

When I come back to the design, I may love it, or I may change elements of it, only when I'm sure of what I'm trying to achieve will I start putting beads onto wire.

There are lots of things you can do to help you have better ideas too. Look at other peoples' designs, not to copy, just to be inspired and take ideas from. Go to art galleries and museums with a sketchbook and look at colours, shapes and details of paintings, textiles, ceramics – and jewellery. Then practise, practise, practise! Don't expect your first piece to be perfect in every detail. If you don't like something you can always cut it apart and rebuild the components.

I often take inspiration from historical eras, as the creation of historically based gown designs is the main work of my business Kindred Spirits Bridal-Originals. You will find your own inspirations and from there be able to work on a collection of pieces that shows off your own style!

Have fun,

Jema

NOTE ON COPYRIGHT

I often get asked about copyright issues, so here's my explanation.

All the projects in this book may be created for personal use only. The designs may not be made for sale without prior permission from the author.

It is always illegal to make a copy of another designer's work without permission,

Obviously, you can take inspiration from other people's work and learn from their use of techniques and materials, but making an exact copy is not fair on the designer who spent hours working out all the details and is trying to make a living from his/her work.

Never, ever pass off your own work as that of another designer. Be proud of your own creations!

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