

# Tips for Designers

## How to design **Creatively Rich, Artistically Perfect, and Phenomenally Yummy (C.R.A.P.P.Y.)** Patterns

There are many beaders who wish to become a designer. If you read the chapter “*I Wanna Become a Millionaire*” you will have discovered that there is an opinion held by many, that beadwork is a very lucrative business and that designing is one little niche in this “money rich” business. Furthermore it is believed that this little niche is the *fast* track to wealth and fame since it doesn’t take nearly as much time to design a pattern as it takes to bead it.

I have received many emails over time asking what bead program I use. These people who wrote to me wanted to use the same since their program just isn’t doing a good job. I have also received many emails from people who complained about designs they have bought from other sources that just were not working out well at all. It seems that some people think I have some magic, hard to find program, that will spit out designs with little effort. I think most programs have similar capabilities, you just need to have a little know-how and tricks to create a pattern.

Before I give you my secret tips for creating C.R.A.P.P.Y designs, let me give you a disclaimer. I **do not** claim that all my designs are C.R.A.P.P.Y. Some, without a doubt are, I will call them for what they are and proudly take credit for them. Some of my patterns, well...you can be the judge as to whether or not they are C.R.A.P.P.Y. More often than not, that distinction lies in the taste of the viewer.

### **Top Tips for Creating C.R.A.P.P.Y. Patterns**

1. Don’t bother learning to bead. You are only creating C.R.A.P.P.Y. patterns, so it doesn’t matter whether or not you know the stitch you are designing for. You are working with a computer program, not beads! You are selling C.R.A.P.P.Y. patterns, not beadwork!

2. Buy a bead program. Figure out which one is the best, or have someone tell you which one is the best, and hopefully it is free or incredibly cheap. As in other things, price is no indicator of how good something is. And forget the “learning curve”! You should be able to be up and running within 15 minutes. Right? That’s because we all know that bead programs do all the work for you. It’s just a matter of the right program and a few mouse clicks and you will be on your way creating C.R.A.P.P.Y. patterns!
3. Oh Clip Art heaven!!! Do you know how many images are out there waiting for you to transform them into C.R.A.P.P.Y. patterns!! Heck, many are even colored for you. Punch them into the program, the program tries to match the colors and it will spit out a C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern. Even those without color are fun. You know it’s like a coloring book for grownups. Pick colors, fill in the big spaces and you are done!. WOW that is really the utmost in creativity so only “advanced” designers should try this!. Choosing 5 colors that look good together all by yourself isn’t as easy as it looks. Thankfully, you don’t have to worry about how those colors look in real beads, as long as the program’s image looks good.
4. In no time, you should be getting to be proficient enough to be churning out 10 clip art inspired C.R.A.P.P.Y. patterns a day Don’t bother doing anything to a pattern that changes the look of the clip art! Why put in the extra work to dress up the C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern to make it look like you put thought into it? No one would appreciate it anyways. Don’t bother to take the time to find ways to make your C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern any more appealing. Borders, shaping, extra embellishment, if they want it, let the customer create it! You don’t need to labor over that! If the image as it is, is good enough for clip art, it’s good enough for a piece of beadwork.
5. Create big C.R.A.P.P.Y. patterns! Create C.R.A.P.P.Y. patterns that are detailed for a relatively small space. Don’t worry if you can’t get it right. You can always post the original image instead of the program-generated image (or god forbid the beaded image- see #1 above!). Maybe your customers are not savvy enough to notice the difference. They will think you did a job so good, it looks just like the original. Oh, don’t forget to claim how wonderful it works up even if you never saw it done! No one will question you why you didn’t put up the beaded image instead of the program-generated image. If they do, then of course the beadwork got stolen, and you lost the photo! They will buy the C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern on sympathy alone!
6. If you want to work on a large C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern here is the secret of how to make it look GREAT. Make the C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern big, at least 8 X 10. Then by the time you make it small enough to meet the web’s posting requirements it looks amazingly fabulous! Try it out! It does work. You’ll be cranking out 5 large C.R.A.P.P.Y. patterns a day, or more with very little work!

7. Don't bother culling down the bead colors from 120 down to say about 50. You need all those colors to maintain the original look of the painting. Work with as many colors as possible. It gives the impression that you really worked hard at getting the pattern right! More colors always means better!



19X 15 inches shrunk down for web posting  
A big C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern with no work.  
Time to create: 3 min. Doesn't look bad, does it?



Detail of C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern  
They will never see how muddled  
the face and hair really is!

8. Don't bother trying to repaint or to recolor the C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern. It's way too much work. Compare how the above illustration looks identical to an image of Lady of Shalott on the web. Why mess with it! As they say, if it's not broke, don't fix it!
9. If the computer picks pink or green for areas of a dog's fur, don't worry, the computer saw pink or green in the image. You know it's right, the computer is a higher form of intelligence. Trust it! Phooey on those who might say they never saw a dog with pink or green fur. Or if you must, you can always call it **ART**. If Andy Warhol got away with it, why not you?
10. Ignore nose pesky little odd colors in odd places. You can always say that odd color is the "spirit" bead. Or you can say that it is your signature bead so that no one else can claim your C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern to be their creation. After all, only you would put a brown bead in the middle of a blue sky. And you know the exact coordinates of where it is on your C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern, so they can't pull a fast one on you, you clever devil you!
11. If you convert your C.R.A.P.P.Y. peyote patterns to C.R.A.P.P.Y. loom patterns, trust the computer. Notice the jaggy lines the conversion did? Leave them! Don't smooth out the lines! Isn't that what creates a distinctive C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern? Those "jaggies" really add such character!

- 12.** Don't bother working up your C.R.A.P.P.Y. pattern with the type of bead you are designing for by your side. Heck, you might not even have the beads to work them up anyways. You might even hate that brand of beads and swear you will never work with them, but its what your program uses. You don't need to know how Delica Bead # 761 interacts with Delica Bead #731 or how Delica bead #69 interacts with Delica bead #256. They look different enough on the screen, they will assuredly work differently in beadwork. Taking consideration of finishes of the beads, such as are they transparent, opaque or silver lined is for anal people. Even if you were to wonder, you don't have the beads to check, so why invest in them, let alone work with them? What a waste of time! It's doubtful if such choices make a big difference anyways!
- 13.** Get lots of mileage with your C.R.A.P.P.Y. patterns! Change that 4 color clip art pattern to a different color scheme, and sell it separately. I doubt there is a customer out there who can make a color substitution on their own. Make patterns that differ in size by ½ inch by taking out the border, again, the customer will most assuredly never be able to do this on their own. Little tricks like this will bump up your pattern inventory. More patterns for sale will mean more sales. Remember that quality has no bearing on the chances your patterns will sell. Think of your C.R.A.P.P.Y. patterns as lottery tickets, the more you create, the more chances you have to win the sale!

No go forth and create! You have the secrets of creating the best C.R.A.P.P.Y. patterns! I wish you luck and happy designing!