

bead buzz

Chelsea Carr and Allison Mackin

We want to hear from you! E-mail beadwork@interweave.com with beading tips, pictures of your work, questions, and information on what your local bead guilds and groups are up to. Check our website, beadworkmagazine.com, for corrections, announcements, and free projects. Plus, chat with other beaders in our forums at beadingdaily.com.

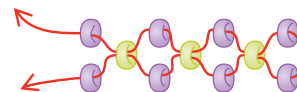


BeadforLife is a nonprofit organization dedicated to lifting families out of poverty through the power of beads. Impoverished Ugandan women roll beads out of recycled paper, which are sold either as loose beads or as necklaces, bracelets, or earrings. After paying the bead-makers fair-trade prices for their work, BeadforLife invests the remaining proceeds in antipoverty programs that help the beaders and those in their communities start businesses and build a better life. To learn more and to purchase beads or finished jewelry, call (888) 339-5901 or visit www.beadforlife.org.

READER'S TIP

Quite by accident, I believe I discovered an easier way to start the first three rows of flat peyote stitch.

While trying to learn two-needle right-angle weave, I made a slight mistake: Instead of going through the single bead in the opposite direction, I went through it in the same direction. I have not seen this technique before, but I realize that this stitch has been around for hundreds of years and that this technique may have been discovered already.



Give it a try: String 1 bead on each needle, pass both needles through a third bead. Continue building the row in the same manner. To finish, knot the tail and working threads, remove one needle, and step up through an end bead.

CHRISTINE VAZQUEZ/SEWICKLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

W.O.R.D. What Our Readers Did

I love to work with color. It is how I express emotions, and it sets a tone for the piece that I am creating. The lizard is one of my favorite animals; it means a lot to me spiritually, as well as being an inspiration itself for color and patterns. The beads in this piece are completely stitched into muslin, starting with purple at the head, flowing down and around to orange at the tail. I wanted the colors of the beads to blend evenly as if I were painting. I also wanted the eyes to pop a bit, so I used orange cat eyes that create a contrast with the purple.

MALLORY MARCUM/GREENWOOD, INDIANA



I was inspired to make this necklace when I first became interested in beading. I like symmetry and jewelry with geometric shapes. Based on the Russian wave technique, this piece combines Japanese seed beads, bugle beads, and Swarovski crystals with right-angle weave, peyote stitch, netting, and other beadweaving techniques. The first version I made is jet black, but I found that I can easily and dramatically vary the look of the necklace by changing the colors and the arrangement of the motifs.

MAIKO KAGE FELTON/IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

These bracelets were inspired by a plain wooden bangle bracelet I found in a sale bin at a local craft store. The bangle sat on my workbench for weeks until inspiration struck me to cover it in beads, but how? After several attempts to create something that was not only wearable but well made, I came up with the idea to create a band of triangle beads using peyote stitch. I then carefully glued the stitched band to the bangle using jewelry cement. Because my first attempt did not look as sophisticated as I wanted, I now spray paint the remaining bangles before adding beads. I have created these bracelets in over fifteen colors and have had the good fortune of selling them in several museum gift shops and a department store in Yorkshire, United Kingdom. Thank you, Beadwork, for providing great ideas and inspiration to this self-taught beader!

MELISSA HATHCOCK/HOUSTON, TEXAS



Oops... In our August/September 2010 issue, the phone number in Katie's Finds for the Argentium Dexterity Clasp from Rio Grande should have been (800) 545-6566.