Learn How to Stitch Beaded Ropes Using Herringbone Stitch, Spiral Rope, and More!
FREE BEADING PATTERNS FOR BEADED ROPES:
Learn How to Stitch Beaded Ropes Using Herringbone Stitch, Spiral Rope, and More!

TECHNIQUES p. 18
For most of us, our introduction to beaded ropes came by way of making tubular versions of our favorite off-loom bead-weaving stitches, or by creating a classic spiral rope. There’s something incredible about watching a few rounds of bead stitching turn into a fabulous beaded rope.

Beaded ropes have come a long way in the last few years, evolving from a simple solution for hanging a beaded pendant or making a simple beaded bracelet to becoming stand-alone works of wearable beaded art. Beaded ropes can be made from just about any off-loom bead-weaving stitch, including right-angle weave, peyote stitch, herringbone stitch, square stitch, or brick stitch. Working a tubular form of any off-loom bead-weaving stitch will give you a beaded rope that’s unique and just full of possibilities for embellishing!

Adding beaded embellishments to your beaded ropes is half the fun of creating with these tubular bead-weaving stitches. Whether you prefer to include pearls and crystals, tiny glass beads, or even more seed beads of varying sizes and shapes, you can create unique beaded rope projects for any occasion. Take a look at these five free beading projects that we’ve chosen to get you started playing and experimenting with beaded ropes!

• Learn how to finish any beaded rope with a clever wire ending when you stitch up the Omega Connector by Sharon Bateman. The project itself is shown with an African Helix beaded rope, but you can easily adapt this technique to any beading stitch you like.

• Herringbone stitch is always a popular way to make a beaded rope, and Maggie’s Weave by Marlene Blessing shows just how easy it is to create patterns and texture in a beaded rope made of this stitch. Accented with handmade glass lampwork beads, this earthy fashion-forward necklace can be designed to suit any taste or occasion.

• The classic spiral rope pattern gets a whole new funky turn in Scarlett Lanson’s Aegean Sea lariat. This cleverly embellished spiral rope can be worn a number of different ways, and the brass focal ring is a classic design element for modern beaded jewelry.

• If you love color, you’ll be thrilled to stitch up Kerrie Slade’s Eye of the Peacock lariat, using an easy twisted herringbone rope to support two fun peacock “feathers”. Crystal rings and Lapis gemstone beads make this a bold beaded necklace project.

• Finally, the Satin Spirals Bracelet by Julie D’Amico-Beres puts a fun spin on easy spiral rope. Using brightly colored Czech fire polished beads and crystal pearls, this beaded bracelet is the perfect playground for your whimsically-shaped clasps!

So the next time you need a fun beading project to exercise your creativity and practice your favorite tubular bead-weaving stitches, look no further than a beaded rope! What will you create with your beaded rope?

Bead Happy,
**Omega Connector**

*Cleverly hidden wirework to begin and end any beaded tube.*

This wire and bead connector makes adding a clasp much simpler and also reduces wear on the threads at the ends of a necklace. It is designed for any seed bead project that forms a hollow tube. The necklace shown here uses a helix tube, but you can begin peyote, herringbone, or netted tubes in the same way, and increase them to any diameter you like. After the base tube is made, embellish it with a focal bead and freeform netting and peyote stitches to turn a choker into a living landscape.

### Materials
- Two 4” gold wires
- Size 11° black and copper-lined seed beads
- Two 4mm round beads
- Focal bead, pendant, or button
- 6mm accent beads
- Size D beading thread to complement bead color
- Jump rings
- Clasp

### Notions
- Beading needle
- Wire cutter
- Round-nose pliers

**Step 1:** Using the round-nosed pliers, bend a double loop at one end of the 4” wire. Slide one of the 4mm beads onto the wire. Repeat on the second wire.

**Step 2:** Using a yard of thread and a needle, string 4 black size 11°. Pass through all again and tie a knot. Trim the tail.

**Step 3:** Slide the circle of beads onto the beaded wire. Hold onto the long end of the wire and work a helix by stringing 2 black and 3 copper beads and passing under the thread between the next 2 beads (Figure 1). Pull the thread tight. Work around the circle, stringing 5 beads and passing under the thread between the next 2 beads.

### African Helix Tube

**Figure 1**
**Step 4:** String 5 beads (2 black and 3 copper) and pass under the thread between the second and third beads of each set (Figure 2). Pull tight. Repeat this step, working on all the sets until you have 1” or more in length.

![Figure 2](image1)

**Step 5:** Turn your work upside down, so the unfinished end of the wire is up. String a decorative pressed glass, 6mm, or crystal onto the wire. Use the round-nose pliers to make a loop on the end and trim the excess wire. This will form a link for your clasp.

**Step 6:** Work the length of your necklace. When you want to end it, pass back up through the last 3 beads added. Pass through the third bead of each set around the tube, but do not pull closed. Push the bead end of your second wire connector down into the tube. Pull the thread tight around the connector. Pass through the third bead of each set again and tie off your thread.

**Step 7:** String a decorative bead onto the wire and make the loop as in Step 5. Add jump rings and a clasp to complete the necklace.

### Freeform Embellishing

**Step 8:** Add the centerpiece bead along the center surface of the necklace rope, sewing it down by running through the beads. Use freeform netting and/or peyote to add embellishments as desired. If you are making bat wings or spider webs or whatever—begin netting (see Techniques, page 18) with 5 black beads per stitch along a section of the rope, stitching through single beads across the outer spiral of the helix. Continue netting with 5 beads per stitch to make a 1” triangle. Work peyote stitch (see Techniques, page 18) up one side of the netting to desired length (Figure 3). Work a second layer of netting and peyote to add more freeform texture and color.

---

Sharon Bateman lives in Northern Idaho and has been beading professionally since the early nineties. She can be reached for questions or comments at www.sharonbateman.com.

**Resource for focal tagua nut carved bead:**
Red Horse Ranch, 25051 Buckskin Drive, Laguna Hills, CA 92653; (949) 831-1316.
Named for the designer’s Grandma Maggie, this necklace was inspired by the graphics in JoAnne Zekowski’s lampworked beads. This fashion-forward piece combines her spectacular beads with herringbone-stitched tubes, silver beads, and chain.

Techniques:
:: ladder stitch
:: herringbone stitch
:: stringing
:: crimping
:: wireworking

See p. 18 for helpful technique information.
1) TUBES. Use size 11° seed beads to work 2 herringbone-stitched tubes:

Round 1: Use 6’ of thread to work a strip of ladder stitch 6A long, leaving a 4” tail. Stitch the first and last beads together to form a ring (fig. 1).


Rounds 39–113: Repeat Rounds 2–38 twice. Work 1 round using A. Secure the thread and set aside.

Repeat entire step for a second tube.

2) FOCAL PENDANT. Use the 20-gauge wire to form a simple loop. String the size 6° bead, the 10×5mm rondelle, the 17×8mm rondelle, the 18×14mm cone, the 23×10mm rondelle, and the 19×3mm disc; form a wrapped loop large enough to accommodate the rollo chain (fig. 2). Set aside.

3) NECKLACE. Use 12” of beading wire to string 1 crimp tube and one end of the rollo chain; pass back through the tube and crimp. Cover the tube with 1 crimp cover. String 1 black disc, the 12×6mm rondelle, 1 black disc, 1 basket-weave tube, 1 black disc, 1 herringbone-stitched tube, 1 black disc, 1 basket weave tube, 1 black disc, 1 crimp tube, and one half of the clasp. Pass back through the tube, crimp, and cover. Use the rollo chain to string the focal pendant’s wrapped loop. Beginning on the free end of the rollo chain, repeat entire step using the 14×7mm rondelle in place of the 12×6mm rondelle and the other half of the clasp.

MARLENE BLESSING is editorial director for Beadwork magazine. She is also a frequent presenter on the PBS-TV show Beads, Baubles, and Jewels, as well as the coauthor of four titles in the Create Jewelry series from Interweave Books.

MATERIALS
- 3 g chocolate opaque size 11° seed beads (A)
- 5 g mocha opaque size 11° seed beads (B)
- 5 g matte metallic iris gray size 11° seed beads (C)
- 1 matte dark gray size 6° seed bead
- 10 black 8×3mm pressed-glass discs
- 1 black/grey 10×5mm lampworked rondelle
- 1 taupe 12×6mm lampworked rondelle
- 1 taupe/light taupe 14×7mm striped lampworked rondelle
- 1 taupe/light taupe 17×8mm striped lampworked rondelle
- 1 taupe/metallic/black 18×14mm bumpy lampworked cone
- 1 metallic gray 19×3mm swirled lampworked disc
- 1 taupe/brown/olive 23×10mm dotted-and-striped lampworked rondelle
- 4 sterling silver 8×26mm basket-weave tubes
- 1 sterling silver 7×13mm hook clasp with 2 decorative 5×15mm tube links and 1” of 5mm round extender chain
- 4 sterling silver 2mm crimp tubes
- 4 sterling silver 3mm crimp covers
- 2” of sterling silver 2mm rollo chain
- Gray nylon beading thread
- 4” of sterling silver 20-gauge wire
- 24” of .018 beading wire

TOOLS
- Scissors
- Size 11 beading needle
- Wire cutters
- Chain-nose pliers
- Round-nose pliers

FINISHED SIZE: 23¾” (ADJUSTABLE TO 24¼”)

ARTIST’S TIPS

When starting a herringbone-stitched tube, you may find it easiest to work over a knitting needle or the handle of a paintbrush for the first several rounds.

If you desire stiffer tubes, first string size 11° seed beads (or as large as your tube will accommodate) onto your beading wire, then slip the tube over the seed beads.

RESOURCES
Check your local bead shop or contact:
- Seed beads: Beyond Beadery, (800) 840-5548, www.beyondbeadery.com
- Lampworked beads: JoAnne Zekowski, (706) 468-9543, zdesigns@mindspring.com
aegean sea
Scarlett Lanson

A Mediterranean palette of bronze, blue, and lime is woven into a beaded collage of copper, brass, seed beads, crystals, pearls, and pyrite. Thread the two lariat ropes through the embellished brass ring to display a beautiful confluence of color and texture.

ARTIST’S TIP
Feel free to work sections with techniques other than those used here. It’s a collage, so you can explore other stitches and materials to make a piece that is uniquely you.

TECHNIQUES
:: brick stitch
:: picot
:: spiral rope
:: fringe
:: peyote stitch
See p. 18 for helpful technique information.
Beading a Collage

This piece began with a smattering of copper, brass, bronze, and pyrite spread across two bead mats, competing for my attention and pleading to be part of this project. I set out to make a beaded collage, something that could tie all of these elements together without clashing. Combining these mediums with beadweaving produces a piece with a lovely weight to it. One of the first necklaces I ever designed was in this style, a lariat with two very long ropes that wrapped around the neck and flowed through a pendant in the center. With the addition of freshwater pearls, crystals, and seed beads in blue, bronze, and green, I was able to assemble this piece—an earthy and textural creation that reminded me of a Grecian goddess and mixed the metals beautifully.

Focal

1) EMBELLISHED RING. Use 3’ of thread to brick-stitch a crown of seed beads onto the filigree ring, creating the end of the lariat:

Crown: Leaving a 4” tail, anchor the thread at the outside edge of the ring. String 1E, *1C, 1A, 1C, and 1E; pass through an opening in the filigree ring, about 1/8” from where you last exited, and back up through the last E strung. Repeat around from * to add a total of 18E. Connect the first and last E with a 1C/1A/1C picot (Fig. 1). Weave through beads to exit the second C of the first picot.

Bail: String 1D; pass through 1C/1A/1C of the next picot. String 1D; pass through the first C in the following picot. String 1A, 1B, 1D, 1 rondelle, 1D, 1B, and 1A; pass through the first C exited in this section to form a loop (Fig. 2). Repeat the thread path to reinforce. Secure the thread and trim. Set the ring aside.

Materials

- 3 g matte olive size 15° seed beads (A)
- 3 g metallic light bronze size 15° seed beads (B)
- 1 g metallic light bronze size 11° seed beads (C)
- 10 g antique copper size 11° metal seed beads (D)
- 2 g matte metallic blue size 8° seed beads (E)
- 126 brass 3mm faceted cornerless cubes (F)
- 106 lime 3mm crystal bicones (G)
- 48 rust 4mm half-round potato pearls (H)
- 7 jonquil satin 6mm top-drilled crystal bicones
- 4 lime 6x9mm crystal ovals
- 8 olive 6x8mm oval pearls
- 10 turquoise Picasso 6x4mm pressed-glass rondelles
- 5 pyrite 8mm rounds
- 1 brass 22mm filigree ring
- 11 1/2’ of copper 3.5mm rollo chain
- Smoke 6 lb braided beading thread

Tools

- Size 12 beading needle
- Scissors
- Wire cutters

Finished Size: 22” (Adjustable)
ROPE

2) SPIRAL. Start 3’ of thread that exits out from one of the Ds bordering the rondelle on the bail. String 3D (core beads), 1B, 1A, 1E, 1A, and 1B; pass up through the 1D on the bail and the last 3D strung (Fig. 3a). String 1D, 1B, 1A, 1G, 1A, and 1B; pass up through the top 4 core beads (Fig. 3b) and push the loops to the left. String 1D, 1B, 1A, 1F, 1A, and 1B; pass up through the top 4 core beads and push the loop to the left. Repeat the entire sequence twice to work a total of 9 loops in the established pattern. Exit from the last D strung.

3) EMBELLISHED RONDELLE 1. String 1 rondelle and 1D; pass back through the rondelle and the last D exited to center the rondelle between the seed beads. String 8B; pass through the D just added. String 8B; pass through the final D from the spiral. Weave through all the beads surrounding the rondelle again to reinforce; exit from the D added in this section (Fig. 4).

4) CHAIN EMBELLISHMENT. String 3A, one end of one 25-link piece of chain, and 2A; pass through the last D exited. Repeat the thread path to reinforce and exit from the end link. String 1H and 1B; pass back through the H and the link to form a fringe. String 1G and 1B; pass back through the G and through the next link up the chain. String 1F and 1B; pass back through the F and the last link exited. Continue embellishing the next 2 chain links in the same manner to add a total of four H fringes, two G fringes, and two F fringes. Note: Each link should have 2 fringes to cover a total of 4 chain links (Fig. 5). Weave back through the fringe to reinforce. Secure the thread and trim.

5) EMBELLISHED RONDELLE 2. Use 3’ of thread to string 1D, 1 rondelle, and 1D, leaving a 3” tail. Pass back through the rondelle and through the first D strung to center the rondelle between the seed beads. String 3A, the free end of the previous chain, and 2A; pass through the nearest D, the 3A just strung, and the link (Fig. 6a). Add a section of fringe as in Step 4; do not trim the thread (Fig. 6b).

6) PEARL NEST. Work rounds of peyote stitch around an oval pearl:
- **Base**: String 1 oval pearl and 1D; pass back through the pearl and through the last D exited from the previous section.
- **Rounds 1 and 2**: String 9C; pass through the first D added in this section. String 9C; pass through the last D from the previous section.
- **Round 3**: Work peyote stitch around the pearl using 1A in each stitch off the C and D. Note: The A will sit on the back of the pearl. Step up for the next round by passing through the first C added (Fig. 7).
- **Round 4**: Work peyote stitch off the C of Round 1 using 1C in each stitch, cupping the beadwork around the pearl. Step up through the first C added in this round.
- **Round 5**: Work peyote stitch around with 1F in each stitch (Fig. 8). Weave through beads to exit from the 1D opposite the rondelle.

7) BICONES. String three 6mm bicones and 1D; pass back through the bicones and through the last 1D exited to center added. Weave through all the beads surrounding the rondelle again to reinforce; exit from the second D (Fig. 6c).

**ARTIST’S TIP**
Lengthen the necklace by incorporating longer pieces of chain for the second chain section or work longer lengths of spiral rope. Just be sure to make the adjustments evenly to both ropes.

**Fig. 3**: Working the first two loops of the spiral ropes

**Fig. 4**: Adding and embellishing the first rondelle

**Fig. 5**: Embellishing the chain with fringe

**Fig. 6**: Adding more fringe and the second rondelle

**Fig. 7**: Working the back of the pearl nest

**Fig. 8**: Peyote-stitching the front of the pearl nest

Repeat Step 3. Repeat Step 2, this time working the loop sequence four times for a total of 12 loops.
and snug the bicones. Pass through the bicones and 1D to reinforce (Fig. 9). Repeat Step 2, working the loop sequence five times for a total of 15 loops; exit from the final D added.

8) LARGE PEARL FRINGE. String 1 oval pearl and 1D and pass back through the oval pearl and through the last D exited; repeat to add a second fringe (Fig. 10).

Repeat Step 2, working the loop sequence six times for a total of 18 loops. Repeat Step 3. Repeat Step 2, working the loop sequence seven times for a total of 21 loops.

9) PYRITE BEAD 1. String 1 pyrite round and 1D; pass back through the round and through the last 1D exited to center the round. Pass through the round and 1D to reinforce. Repeat Step 2, working the loop sequence eight times for a total of 24 loops.

10) CRYSTAL OVAL. String 1 crystal oval and 1D; pass back through the crystal oval and through the last D exited to center the crystal oval. Pass through the oval and 1D to reinforce. Repeat Step 4 using one 15-link piece of chain.

11) PYRITE BEAD 2. Use 3” of thread to string 1D, 1 pyrite round, and 1D, leaving a 3” tail. Pass back through the round and through the first D strung to center the round between the seed beads. String 3A, the free end of the previous chain, and 2A; pass through the nearest D, the 3A just strung, and the link. Repeat Step 4 to embellish this end of the chain but do not trim the thread. Weave through beads to exit from the first D added in this section. Repeat Step 2, repeating the loop sequence eight times for a total of 24 loops. Repeat Step 10 using one 25-link piece of chain.

12) END OF FIRST ROPE. Leaving a 3” tail, use 1’ of thread to string 1D, 1 pyrite round, and 1D. Pass back through the round and through the first D strung to center the round between the seed beads. String 3A, the free end of the previous chain, and 2A; pass through the nearest D, the 3A just strung, and the link. Repeat Step 4 to embellish the end of the chain. Secure the thread and trim.

13) SECOND ROPE. Repeat Steps 2–10 on the other side of the bail’s rondelle. Repeat Step 11 using one 30-link piece of chain. To embellish the free end of the chain, use 1’ of thread to string 1D, 3A, the chain’s end link, and 2A; pass through the D just strung to form a loop.

To wear the necklace so that the design is symmetrical, hold the brass ring in front of you, wrap each rope in opposing directions around the back of your neck, then insert the ends of the chain into the ring one at a time.

For an asymmetrical configuration, hold the ropes together, wrap them around the back of your neck, and then slide the ends through the ring.

At just nineteen, SCARLETT LANSON has discovered many new and ingenious ways to stitch with seed beads. Her creative uses of crystals, gemstones, and pearls in tandem with woven beadwork make her designs stand out. She intends to publish an inspirational book for beaders and run her own bead store in the future. Visit her website at www.thebeadersmuse.com and contact her at scarlatte424@yahoo.com.

RESOURCES
Check your local bead shop or contact:
Kits including FireLine braided beading thread and Swarovski crystals: Scarlett Lanson, scarlatte424@yahoo.com, www.thebeadersmuse.com.

© F+W MEDIA, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. F+W MEDIA GRANTS PERMISSION FOR ANY OR ALL PAGES IN THIS ISSUE TO BE COPIED FOR PERSONAL USE. BEADINGDAILY.COM
Crystal cosmic rings and lapis lazuli beads are paired to form the eye of this beautiful beaded peacock “feather.” Add a spiral herringbone rope and the resulting lariat is art nouveau gorgeous.
1) ROPE. Leaving a 16” tail, use 4’ of olive green thread, cylinder beads, and spiral tubular herringbone stitch to form a rope:

Ladder round: Work a strip of stacked ladder stitch using the following beads in each stitch: 3B, 3B, 3C, 3B, and 3C. Stitch the first 3B and last 3C together to form a tube. Weave through beads to exit from the top of the first 3B stack.

Round 1: String 2B; pass down through the top 1B in the next stack and up through the top 2C in the following stack. String 1B and 1C; pass down through the top 1C in the next stack and up through the top 2B in the following stack. Step up for the next round by passing up through the first bead added in this round (Fig. 1).

Rounds 2 and on: Repeat Round 1 until the tube measures about 40”, adding new thread lengths as required. To create continuous stripes, always add the same-color bead pair as those in the herringbone-stitch column underneath the exit point.

End: Weave through the final 3 rounds using a ladder-stitch thread path to match the opposite end. Do not trim the working or tail threads. Set the rope aside.

2) EYE. Use 7’ of gold thread and circular Peyote stitch to work the center of an eye:

Round 1: String 3A and pass through the beads again to form a tight circle, leaving a 20” tail. Pass through the first A strung.

Round 2: Work circular Peyote stitch using 2A in each stitch for a total of 6A. Step up for the next round by passing through the first 2A added in this round.

Round 3: Work 1A between each A added in the previous round for a total of 6A. Step up through the first A added in this round.

Round 4: Work 2A in each stitch for a total of 12A. Step up through the first A added in this round.

Rounds 5 and 6: Work 1A between each A added in the previous round for a total of 12A; step up through the first bead added in this round. Repeat to create Round 6.

Round 7: Work 2A in the first stitch and 1A in the second stitch; repeat around in this pattern to add a total of 18A. Step up through the first 2A added in this round.

Rounds 8–10: Work 1A between each A added in the previous round for a total of 18A; step up through the first bead added in this round. Repeat twice to create Rounds 9 and 10.

Round 11: Work 2A in the first stitch and 1A in the second stitch; repeat around in this pattern to add a total of 27A. Step up through the first 2A added in this round.

Round 12: Work 1A between each A added in the previous round for a total of 27A. Step up through the first bead added in this round (Fig. 2).

Point: Work 1A in each stitch for a total of 6A only. Work decreasing flat Peyote stitch off this base, using 1A in each stitch, until there is just 1A in the row (Fig. 3).

Edge: Ladder-stitch a round of B to the edge of the beadwork, securing every other B to the nearest A (Fig. 4); make sure the round contains an even number of Bs. (The sample shown uses 50B). Secure the thread and trim.

3) EYE FEATHERS. Work a series of multiple-drop brick stitches and picots to create an edging for the eye:

Stacks: Start 7’ of green thread that exits out from the edge B at the top of the point. String 12B; pass under the nearest exposed thread loop at the edge of the ladder-stitched round and pass

---

MATERIALS

7 g 24K gold-lined cream opal size 11° cylinder beads (A)
30 g transparent green AB size 11° cylinder beads (B)
20 g semi-matte silver-lined medium blue size 11° cylinder beads (C)
2 Bermuda blue 14mm crystal rings
2 lapis lazuli 8mm rounds
Gold, olive, and blue size D nylon beading thread

TOOLS

Scissors
Size 11 beading needle

FINISHED SIZE: 43¾”
Back through the last 6B to form a brick stitch. String 6B; pass under the next thread loop and back through the 6B just strung. String 6B; pass under the thread loop just used and back through the stack of 6B just strung (Fig. 5). Repeat to add 1 more stack of 6B. *String 5B, pass under the next thread loop, and pass back through the 5B just strung; repeat to add another stack of 5B to the same thread loop. Repeat around the eye from * to add a total of twelve 5B stacks. Change to 4B stacks until you reach the mirror point where you ended the 5B stacks. Work twelve 5B stacks, then work five 6B stacks. Note: The beadwork will ruffle. Secure the thread and trim.

**Picots:** Start 7” of blue thread that exits out from the top of the second 6B stack added. String 3C and pass down through the entire adjacent stack and up through the next, forming a picot (Fig. 6). Repeat around, stopping 1 picot short to leave the final two 6B stacks open at the center top of the eye.

**ARTIST’S TIPS**

- **Make two smaller peacock eyes to create a bold pair of matching earrings.**
- **For a more delicate look, use a different-color crystal ring (such as vitrail light) and softer-toned cylinder beads. You can also use black components to create a dramatic “midnight peacock” effect.**

**RESOURCES**

Check your local bead shop or contact:


**KERRIE SLADE** has been beading for about seven years and sells her work via her website, at craft fairs and galleries, and on Etsy.com. She has had projects published in several beading magazines. See Kerrie’s work at www.kerrieslade.co.uk or www.kerrieslade.blogspot.com.
The materials used in this bracelet take basic spiral stitch to the next level with crystal pearls that appear to spin at the edge of fire-polished beads.

**ARTIST’S TIP**

It’s important to have good-quality sharp scissors used only for beading. Dull scissors can damage a piece of thread and thus make it difficult to pass through the needle.
1) SPIRAL. Add a tension bead to the end of 10’ of thread, leaving a 10” tail. String 4A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1C, and 1B; pass through the 4A to form a loop (Fig. 1). Push the loop to the left.

2) CLASP. Use the working thread to string 1A and half of the clasp; pass back through the final 2A and the last B added. Weave through the spiral beads to exit through the A just added (Fig. 3). Repeat the thread path several times to reinforce. Secure the working thread and trim. Remove the tension bead and repeat this step using the tail thread to add the other clasp half.

Fig. 1: Working the first spiral loop

Fig. 2: Adding the second spiral loop

Fig. 3: Attaching the clasp

MATERIALS

2 g matte charcoal size 11° seed beads (A)
2 g gunmetal-lined clear size 11° seed or cylinder beads (B)
180 gray 3–4mm fire-polished rounds (C)
90 light gray 4mm crystal pearl rounds (D)
1 antique silver 13mm flower toggle clasp
Smoke 6–8 lb braided beading thread

TOOLS

Size 12 beading needle
Scissors

FINISHED SIZE: 7¼”

RESOURCES

Check your local bead shop or contact:

JULIE D’AMICO-BERES has been beading for five years and co-owns Northwest Beads Jewelry and Gifts in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. Married for sixteen years, she also enjoys boating, scrapbooking, baking, reading, and shopping for beads in exotic locales.

Looking for Great Design Ideas?

**Step by Step Wire Jewelry** is the only magazine devoted to bringing you the very best in wire!

Order **Step by Step Wire Jewelry** today at stepbystepwirejewelry.com
STRINGING
Stringing is a technique that uses beading wire, needle and thread, or other material to gather beads into a strand.

CRIMPING
Crimp tubes are seamless metal tubes used to secure the end of a beading wire. To use, string a crimp tube and the connection finding (i.e., the loop of the clasp). Pass back through the tube, leaving a short tail. Use the front notch of the crimping pliers to gently press the length of the tube, causing the tube to form into an oval and the wire ends to line each side of the tube. Move the tube to the back notch of the crimping pliers and firmly press the tube down, enclosing the wire ends in separate chambers of the crescent shape. Rotate the tube 90° and use the front notch to fold the two chambers onto themselves, forming a clean cylinder. Trim the excess wire.

FRINGE
Exit from the foundation row of beads or fabric. String a length of beads plus 1 bead. Skipping the last bead, pass back through all the beads just strung to form a fringe leg. Pass back into the foundation row or fabric.

PICOT
A picot is a decorative net, most often made with 3 beads, used to embellish a beadwork surface.

HERRINGBONE STITCH
Begin with a foundation row of odd-count ladder stitch. String 2 beads, pass down through the second-to-last bead in the ladder and up through the next bead. String 2 beads, pass down the next bead and then up through the following. Repeat to the end of the row. To end the row, pass back through the last bead strung. To begin the next row, string 2 beads and pass down through the second-to-last bead of the previous row and up through the following bead. Repeat, stringing 2 beads per stitch and passing down then up through 2 beads of the previous row. The 2-bead stitch will cause the beads to angle-up in each column, like a herringbone fabric.

PEYOTE STITCH
For one-drop even-count flat peyote stitch, string an even number of beads to create the first two rows. Begin the third row by stringing 1 bead and passing back through the second-to-last bead of the previous row. String another bead and pass back through the fourth-to-last bead of the previous row. Continue adding 1 bead at a time, passing over every other bead of the previous row.

Two-drop peyote stitch is worked the same as one-drop peyote stitch, but with 2 beads at a time instead of 1 bead.

For odd-count flat peyote stitch, string an uneven number of beads to create Rows 1 and 2. String 1 bead, skip the last bead strung, and pass through the next bead. Repeat across the row (this is Row 3). To add the last bead, string 1 bead and knot the tail and working threads, clicking all beads into place. Start the next row (Row 4) by passing back through the last bead added. Continue in peyote stitch, turning as for even-count, shown above, at the end of this and all even-numbered rows. At the end of odd-numbered rows, add the last bead, string 1 bead, pass under the thread loop at the edge of the previous rows, and pass back through the last bead added.

For even-count tubular peyote stitch, string an even number of beads and knot the tail and working threads to form the first 2 rounds; pass through the first 2 beads strung. To work Round 3, string 1 bead, skip 1 bead, and pass through the next; repeat around until you have added half the number of beads in the first round. Step up through the first bead added in this round. For the following rounds, work 1 bead in each stitch and continue to step up at the end of each round.

For circular peyote stitch, string 3 beads and knot the tail and working threads to form the first round; pass through the first bead strung. For the second round, string 2 beads and pass through the next bead of the previous round; repeat twice. To step up to the third round, pass through the first bead of the current round. For the third round, string 1 bead and pass through the next bead of the previous round; repeat around, then step up at the end of the round. Continue in this manner, alternating the two previous rounds. It may be necessary to adjust the bead count, depending on the relative size of the beads, to keep the circle flat.

To make a midproject peyote-stitch decrease, simply pass the thread through 2 beads without adding a bead in the “gap.” In the next row, work a regular one-drop peyote stitch over the decrease. Work with tight tension to avoid holes.
**NETTING (SINGLE THREAD)**

Begin by stringing a base row of 13 beads. String 5 beads and go back through the fifth bead from the end of the base row. String another 5 beads, skip 3 beads of the base row, and go back through the next; repeat to the end of the row. To turn, pass back through the last 3 beads (one leg of the last net). String 5 beads, pass back through the center bead of the next net and continue.

**LADDER STITCH**

Using two needles, one threaded on each end of the thread, pass one needle through one or more beads from left to right and pass the other needle through the same beads from right to left. Continue adding beads by crisscrossing both needles through one bead at a time. Use this stitch to make strings of beads or as the foundation for brick stitch.

For a single-needle ladder, string 2 beads and pass through them again. String 1 bead. Pass through the last stitched bead and the one just strung. Repeat, adding one bead at a time and working in a figure-eight pattern.

**SPIRAL ROPE**

The basic formula for a spiral rope has larger beads as the center core, and smaller, and more, beads in the outer loops. Begin with 4A (core) and 5B (loop). Pass through the As again, forming a D shape. String 1A and 5B; pass through the top 3A and the 1A just strung. Repeat, stringing 1A and 5B, and passing through the top 4A for each stitch.

**BRICK STITCH**

Begin by creating a foundation row in ladder stitch. String 2 beads and pass under the closest exposed loop of the foundation row and back through the second bead. String 1 bead and pass under the next exposed loop and back through the bead just strung; repeat.

To decrease within a row, string 1 bead and skip a loop of thread on the previous row, passing under the second loop and back through the bead.

To increase within a row, work two stitches in the same loop on the previous row.

For circular brick stitch, work increases as needed to keep the work flat; at the end of each round, pass through the first and last beads to stitch them together, then string 2 beads to begin the next round.

---

**Beadwork Magazine Subscribe Today!**

Discover the inner bead artist in you.

*Beadwork* is a must-have for those of you who love making beaded jewelry. You’ll discover innovative beadweaving techniques and artist tips and tricks to build on your skills. PLUS you’ll discover great design advice from editors, other well-known designers, and talented readers just like you.

[beadworkmagazine.com](http://beadworkmagazine.com)