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INTRODUCTION

“How was your trip to the bead store?”

“Amazing! There were so many colors and shapes of beads! It was hard to choose just one or two strands. But, here, look what I bought!”

“Wow! Those purple beads are gorgeous!

What are you going to do with them?”

“Um... I don't know.”

Have you ever had a similar conversation? This book might help you answer the question of what to do with that beautiful strand, vial or tube, of beads that you've just bought. Projects in this volume will be stitched with no more than a handful of beads. In other words, the total number of different beads you will need to complete a project will never exceed five. Within these pages you will find a beautiful bracelet made with just two kinds of beads, 4mm round beads and some 11^o seed beads. With three kinds of beads, 4mm Czech fire-polished beads and two sizes of seed beads, a gorgeous pair of earrings can be a reality. It is possible to make a stunning rope with four types of beads. And when you choose five types of beads, necklaces and pendants are possible.

The projects in this book are organized by the number of bead types they utilize. Within each of those categories, the projects increase in complexity. Some are quick and easy to make, like the Little Urchin Earrings. Some are great for stitching in front of a movie, like the Karina Rope. Some will have to be completed over several evenings, like the Constance Bracelet. As your beading skills develop, you will be able to master more complicated designs, like the Lagoon Earrings, or tackle more involved stitches, like hexagonal weave in the English Country Garden Bracelet. This book is for the beginner, and the more experienced bead stitcher, if you're looking for projects that don't require a long list of materials.

Stitching the projects in this book is a creative pastime. Creativity has always been a part of my life. When I was young my mother let me sew with her box of scrap fabric. She showed me how to knit and crochet. In later years, there were so many other creative things to try: cross stitch, quilting, spinning and weaving, dyeing, quilling, silk ribbon embroidery and photography. This love for creativity also spilled over into my formal education as a musician and music educator.

I have always liked beads but I didn't take them too seriously until a niece gave me a pair of hand-made earrings. I liked the design but they needed a bit of adult intervention. I went to our local bead shop for supplies and discovered a universe of shiny round things with little holes in them. Books and magazines showed me that there was a whole realm of beading beyond simple stringing. Having been given the space and permission to create as a child served me well as an adult. Now here I am, sharing my love of creating with you.

I create what I love and I love what I create. I am thankful for having been given this opportunity to create projects for these pages. I hope that you will enjoy stitching them as much as I have enjoyed making them for you.

DIANNE BRACELET

This bracelet uses exactly 100 4mm round beads—a good number when you're purchasing beads by the strand. It is not difficult to stitch and doesn't take long to make.



Stitch Used

Beadweaving

Finished Length

7½ in. (19cm)

Materials

Beads

- 100 4mm round beads
- 5g 11° seed beads
- 1g 15° seed beads

Supplies

- 2 5mm jump rings, 18-gauge silver-plated
- 12mm toggle clasp, silver
- Basic Toolkit, p. 6

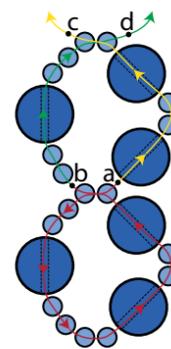


FIGURE 1

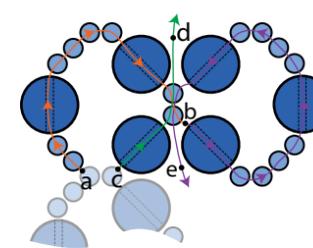


FIGURE 2

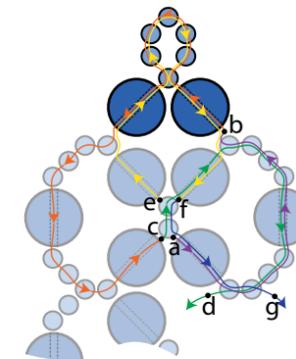


FIGURE 3

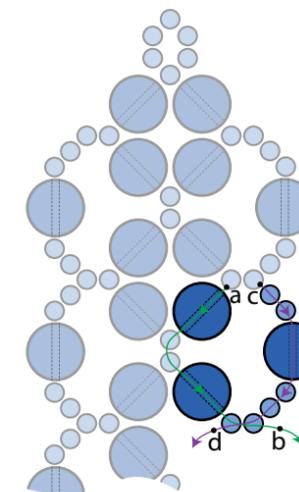
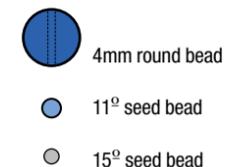


FIGURE 4

Make the Bracelet

The two needles change sides constantly. The term right-hand needle refers to the needle on the right hand side of the work at that point. It may have been the left-hand needle in the previous step.

1 Cut 5 ft. (1.5m) of beading thread. Attach a needle to each end. On one needle, pick up four 11° seed beads, a 4mm round bead, four 11°s, a 4mm round, two 11°s, and a 4mm round. Sew through the first two 11°s picked up (**figure 1, a–b, red**). Slide the ring of beads to the center of the thread.

2 With the left-hand needle, pick up two 11°s, a 4mm, and four 11°s (**b–d, green**). With the right-hand needle, pick up a 4mm round, two 11°s, and a 4mm. Sew through the last two 11°s added by the other needle, in the opposite direction, so the threads cross (**a–c, yellow**).

3 Repeat step 2 13 more times.

4 With the left-hand needle, pick up two 11°s, a 4mm, four 11°s, a 4mm, and two 11°s (**figure 2, a–b, orange**). With the right-hand needle, pick up a 4mm and sew through the last two 11°s picked up by the other needle (**c–d, green**). The threads will now head up and down. Using the lower needle, pick up a 4mm, four 11°s, a 4mm, four 11°s, and a 4mm. Sew through the same two 11°s the thread was leaving (**b–e, purple**).

5 Using the lower needle, follow the thread path through a 4mm round, four 11°s, a 4mm round, and four 11°s added last (**figure 3, a–b, purple**). Pick up a 4mm and six 11°s. Sew back through the first 11°, and pick up a 4mm. Sew through four 11°s, a 4mm, four 11°s, and a 4mm on the opposite side of the bracelet (**b–c, orange**). Retrace the thread path through two 11°s, a 4mm, four 11°s, a 4mm, and four 11°s of the same loop as a–b, but in the opposite direction (**figure 3, c–d, green**). With the remaining needle, sew through the 4mm to the left, the 4mm above it, the six 11°s forming a loop,

the 4mm to the right, and the 4mm under it, ending back at the same bead the thread was leaving (**e–f, yellow**). This reinforces the clasp loop and positions the thread for the next step. Retrace the thread path through two 11°s, the 4mm of the last loop made, and the following two 11°s (**figure 3, f–g, blue**).

6 Using the left-hand needle, pick up a 4mm. Sew through the two 11°s between the next adjacent two 4mms. Pick up a 4mm and two 11°s (**figure 4, a–b, green**).

tip>>>

If you would like the bracelet to be longer, you will need more than 100 beads. Each repeat of the pattern requires an additional six beads and increases the length by ⅜ in. (1cm).



ASTRID ROPE

Herringbone stitch makes an elegant rope and can be made with seed beads and a few accent beads. Once you have mastered the basic stitch, try some of your own embellishments.

Stitch Used

Tubular herringbone

Finished Length

25½ in. (65cm)

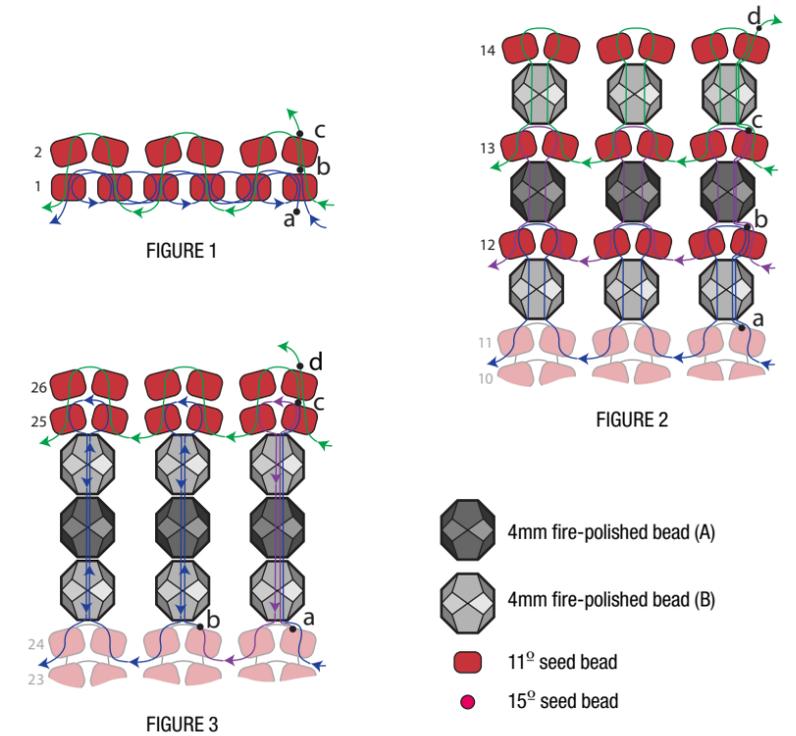
Materials

Beads

- 63 4mm Czech faceted fire-polished beads, black (A)
- 221 4mm Czech faceted fire-polished beads, hematite (B)
- 17g (5½ strands) 11^o Czech seed beads, transparent red
- 2g 15^o seed beads, rainbow red

Supplies

- Basic Toolkit, p. 6



Make the Rope

1 Cut a long length of beading thread. Attach a needle to one end and a stop bead 6 in. (15cm) from the other end. Using 11^o seed beads, make a beaded ladder (see p. 10) six beads long. Join the last bead to the first to form a ring (**figure 1, a–b, blue**). Don't pierce any threads in this round, since it will be undone to add the clasp.

2 Work rounds as follows:
Round 2: Pick up two 11^os. Sew down through the 11^o below and up through the next 11^o. Repeat two more times, to the end of the round, sewing up through the first bead again (**b–c, green**). This is one round of tubular herringbone stitch.

Rounds 3–11: Work as in Round 2 nine times.

Round 12: Pick up a color B 4mm bead and two 11^os. Sew down through the B, down through the 11^o in the round below, and up through the next 11^o. Make sure the two 11^os just picked up sit side by side. Repeat two more times, ending where this round started. Step up into the next round by sewing through the first B and first 11^o added in this round (**figure 2, a–b, blue**).

Round 13: Work as in Round 12 using color A 4mm beads (**b–c, purple**).

Round 14: Work as Round 12 using Bs (**c–d, green**).

Rounds 15–24: Work as in Round 2 10 times.

Round 25: Pick up a B, an A, a B, and two 11^os. Sew down through the three 4mms, down through the 11^o in the round below, and up through the next 11^o (**figure 3, a–b, purple**). Make sure the two 11^os just picked up sit side by side. Repeat a–b two more times, ending where this round started. Step up into the next round by sewing through the three 4mm beads and first 11^o added in this round (**b–c, blue**).

Round 26: Work as in Round 2 (**c–d, green**).

Round 27: Pick up two 11^os. Sew down through two 11^os. Pick up three 15^o seed beads, two Bs, and three 15^os. Sew down

tip>>

The illustrations show the work as if it were flat. The thread path pictured includes the step-up to the next round.

LIEBESLIEDER EARRINGS

Use a handful of SuperDuos and some seed beads to make these cute earrings. They don't take long to make and don't require many beads, so make a few pairs to match your wardrobe.



Stitch Used

Circular netting

Finished Diameter

1¼ in. (34mm)

Materials

Beads

- 3g (28 beads) SuperDuos, matte turquoise bronze picasso (A)
- 3g (28 beads) SuperDuos, ruby matte (B)
- 0.5g 11^o seed beads, rainbow berry red
- 0.5g 15^o seed beads, cherry red (C)
- 0.5g 15^o seed beads, metallic gunmetal (D)

Supplies

- pair of earring wires, silver
- Basic Toolkit, p. 6

Make the Earrings

1 Cut 28 in. (70cm) of beading thread. Pick up seven color A SuperDuos. Sew through all seven again, to form a ring. Leaving a tail of about 2 in. (5cm), tie the two thread ends together into a secure square knot. Sew through one or two beads with each thread, in opposite directions. Sew through the unused hole of the A (**figure 1, a-b, orange**).

2 Pick up a color D 15^o seed bead, two color B SuperDuos, and a D. Sew through the same hole of the A, plus the D and two Bs just added. Pick up two 11^os (**b-c, purple**). Pick up two Bs and a D. Sew through the upper hole of the next A in the opposite way that you are working. To clarify, if you are working in a clockwise direction, use the next SuperDuo in a clockwise direction but sew through it in an anti-clockwise direction. Pick up an D and sew through the

two Bs again. Tighten the loop just formed. Pick up two 11^os (**c-d, blue**). Repeat c-d five more times. Sew through the first two Bs again (**d-e, green**).

3 Sew through all of the 11^os and Bs, exiting the first B past where this round began. Change direction and sew through the second hole of this B (**figure 2, a-b, green**). Pick up two Cs. Send the needle under the two 11^os and slip the working thread up between the two beads. Sew back through the second C just picked up, tightening the thread, thereby having it "snap" in place on the thread between the two 11^os. Pick up a C. Sew through the unused hole of the next B. Pick up a A and sew through the unused hole of the next B (**b-c, purple**). Repeat b-c six more times, ending back at point b. Sew through the first and third Cs added (**c-d, blue**).

-  SuperDuo (A)
-  SuperDuo (B)
-  11^o seed bead
-  15^o seed bead (C)
-  15^o seed bead (D)

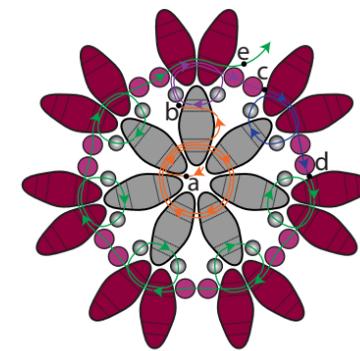


FIGURE 1

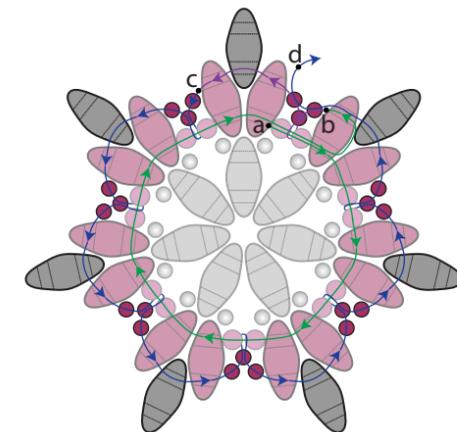


FIGURE 2

tip >> Check to see that both holes of the SuperDuos are open.