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*Once you learn  
a handful of stitches,  
you'll be amazed  
at the jewelry you can  
create and wear!*



*Quirky Quilted Drop Earrings, p. 74*

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# INTRODUCTION

One of the things I love most about beading is its versatility. After you have learned a handful of stitches, the sky is the limit with the jewelry you can create and make. A unique bead color or shape can turn a basic beadweaving stitch into a truly spectacular piece of jewelry.

My goal in writing this book was to introduce you to some of my favorite stitches and new ways to use those stitches to create stunning beaded jewelry. Whether you are brand new to beadweaving, ready to take your beginner skills to the next level, or an experienced beader looking for a refresh on a classic stitch, the projects in this book will propel you forward on your bead journey.

I've organized each chapter in the book by type of stitch, and I've explored nine stitches to offer you 27 innovative beaded jewelry projects. Each chapter contains three projects: a necklace, bracelet, and earrings. I also offer an alternative design option for each project so you can truly customize your beaded jewelry to your personal style preference. The alternative design options build off the techniques from the main project, and include additional skills, stitches, and embellishments to further your beading repertoire.

You can certainly flip through the book and make a project that speaks to you—or dive into a specific chapter with a stitch you love. However, if a beadweaving stitch is brand-new to you, I encourage you to begin with the first project in that particular stitch's chapter, as it will lay the foundation for weaving that stitch. All other projects in each chapter build from the first project, so a thorough understanding of the basic stitch from that project will give you the skills and confidence you need to successfully create the other projects in that chapter.

You will find my personal tried-and-true tips and techniques sprinkled throughout the pages of this book. My goal was to share with you as much of my beading knowledge as possible for you to use as a reference. These tips will provide assistance and guidance as you bead.

My aspiration for this book is to make you fall in love with bead weaving as much as I have, so I truly hope you enjoy learning the stitches I've presented and have fun beading the projects I created. You might find you like some stitches better than others—I'll admit, I have my favorites, too—but regardless of how you use this book, I hope it inspires your own unique beadweaving exploration.

Let it bead,  
Marla



*Pearled Floret Earrings  
design option, p. 92*

# MATERIALS AND TOOLS



seed beads

## Beads

As you'll soon discover, beads come in a wide variety of sizes, shapes, materials, colors, and finishes. The projects in this book include glass **seed beads** in size 15°, 11°, 8°, and 6°; glass cylinder beads in size 11° and 10°; and some varying sized beads in various shapes. The most important thing to note about bead sizes is the larger the number size, the smaller the bead. For example, a 15° seed bead is small and a 6° seed bead is significantly larger.

Seed beads are round, and they are available in a variety of sizes, colors, and finishes. **Cylinder beads**, often referred to by the brand name Delica, are more rectangular, or cylinder-shaped, than seed beads, but are also available in a variety of sizes, colors and finishes.

**Druk beads** are larger round glass beads. **Crystals** are glass beads with many facets (you will find Swarovski and Czech crystals, among other options). Crystals may be round, bicone (a three-dimensional diamond shape), or rondelle (a round, squat shape). **Crystal pearls** are man-made glass pearls that are perfectly round and great for stitching. **Fire-polished beads** are faceted, oblong glass beads.

**Drop beads** are shaped like teardrops and come in multiple sizes. **Two-hole beads** have two stitching holes. There are a ton of different shapes available—I've used Brick beads in this book.

### tip

- When I find a color or finish on a bead I really love, I will purchase the same bead in a variety of sizes.



cylinder beads



drop beads



bicone crystals



Brick beads



crystal pearls

# POLKA DOT PARADISE NECKLACE

After you've mastered flat, even-count peyote, it's time to take this stitch to the next level. Use this circular version of peyote to bezel around crystal rivolis and then connect them together with bicone crystals to create a center focal piece that is enhanced with pearl and crystal neckstraps.



## *Supplies*

- 4 12mm crystal rivolis
- 98 4mm crystal bicones
- 86 4mm crystal pearls
- 1.5g 11° seed beads
- 1g 11° cylinder beads
- 1g 15° seed beads
- 2-strand clasp
- Braided beading thread, 6-lb. test
- Beading needle, size 12

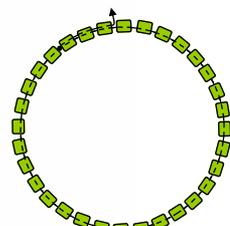


figure 1

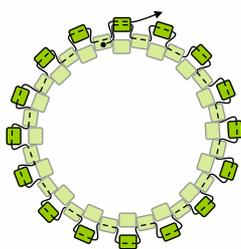


figure 2

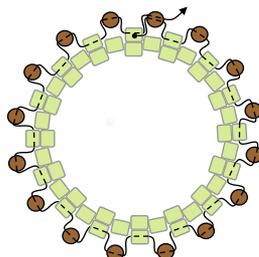


figure 3

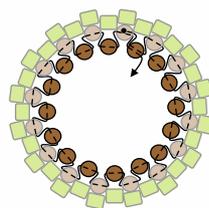


figure 4

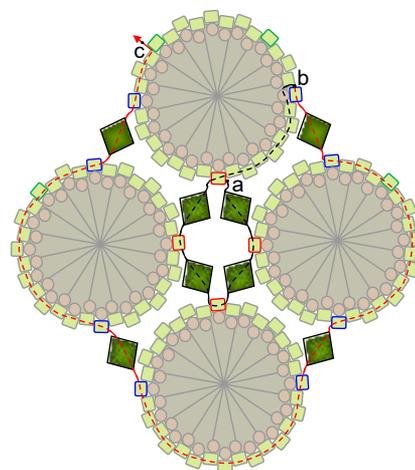
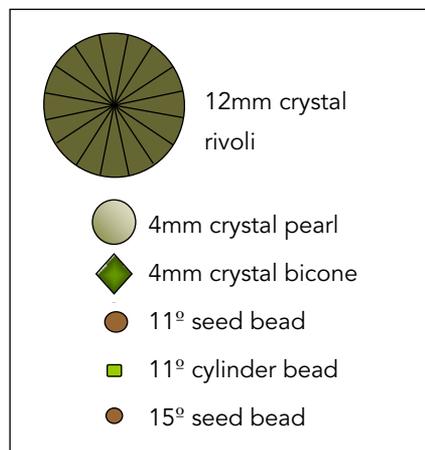


figure 5

## Bead around (or bezel) the rivolis

**1.** Thread a needle on a comfortable length of thread, and pick up 32 11° cylinder beads. Tie an overhand knot (Basic Techniques, p. 9) with the working thread and tail thread, leaving a 6-in. (15cm) tail (**figure 1**). These beads will shift to become the first and second round as the third round is added.

**2.** Round 3: Pick up a cylinder, skip the next cylinder in the previous round, and sew through the following cylinder. Continue this stitch for a total of 16 times. Step up by sewing through the first cylinder added in this round (**figure 2**).

**3.** Round 4: Pick up a 15° seed bead, skip the next cylinder in the previous round, and sew through the following cylinder. Continue adding 15°s this way for a total of 16 times to complete the round. Step up by sewing through the first 15° added in this round (**figure 3**).

### note

Maintain tight tension while adding the 15°s in this row. The beadwork should begin to cup inwards with the addition of the smaller beads.

**4.** Round 5: Pick up a 15°, skip the next 15° from the previous round, and sew through the following 15°. Continue adding 15°s this way for a total of 16 times to complete the

round. Step up by sewing through the first 15° added in this round (**figure 4**).

**5.** Sew through the beadwork, hiding the thread path, so the needle is exiting an up-bead along the other edge of the beadwork. You will be exiting a cylinder in Round 1.

**6.** Place a 12mm rivoli face down into the beadwork.

**7.** Rounds 6–8: Repeat steps 3–5 on the back of the rivoli. End the threads (Basic Techniques).

**8.** Repeat steps 1–7 three more times for a total of four beveled rivolis.

## Connect the rivolis

**9.** Exiting a cylinder added in Round 2 of a beveled rivoli (shown in red in **figure 5**), pick up a 4mm bicone crystal, and sew through a center cylinder (shown in red) on the second beveled rivoli. Continue picking up a crystal and sewing through the center cylinder (shown in red) in a beveled rivoli until all four rivolis are connected. Then, sew through the beadwork to exit a cylinder on the side of the beveled rivoli (**figure 5, a–b**). Sew through the center cylinder (shown in blue), located eight beads away from the cylinder where the inner crystals are connected.

# CONFETTI BRACELET

Learn the basic herringbone stitch while beading this multi-strand bracelet. Strands of herringbone are beaded with seed beads and fun two-hole beads that add pops of confetti into the design every few rows. It's a party bracelet in every sense of the word!



## *Supplies*

bracelet, 6¼ in. (15.9cm)

- 12 7mm two-hole cabochon beads, color A
- 7 7mm two-hole cabochon beads, color B
- 7.5g 8° seed beads
- Button with shank
- Braided beading thread, 6-lb. test
- Needle, size 10

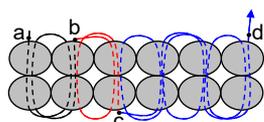
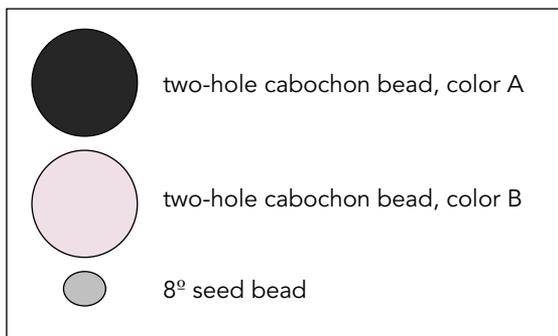


figure 1

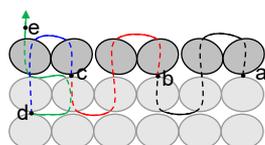


figure 2

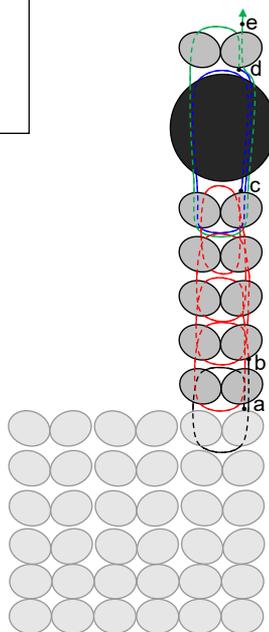


figure 3

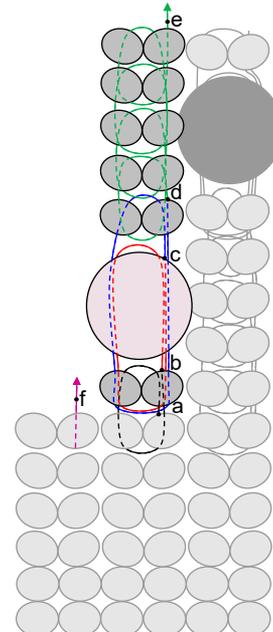


figure 4

## Herringbone stitch three beaded strands

1. Attach a stop bead on a comfortable length of thread, (Basic Techniques, p. 9), leaving a 6-in. (15cm) tail.
2. Pick up four 8° seed beads, and sew through all four 8°s again, positioning the beads side by side so they form two columns and the holes are parallel (**figure 1, a-b**).
3. Pick up two 8°s, sew through the previous column of two 8°s, and then sew through the new column again (**b-c**).
4. Work as in step 3 three more times (**c-d**).
5. Pick up two 8°s, and sew down through the 8° in the previous column and up through the following 8° (**figure 2, a-b**).
6. Repeat step 5 (**b-c**).
7. Pick up two 8°s, and sew down through the next 8° (**c-d**).
8. Sew up through the adjacent 8°, and sew diagonally up through the last 8° added in the previous step. This is a herringbone step-up (**d-e**).
9. Repeat steps 5–8 three more times.
10. Pick up two 8°s, and sew down through the next 8° and up through the previous two 8°s in the same row, and continue through the first 8° added in this step (**figure 3, a-b**).
11. Repeat step 10 four times (**b-c**).
12. Pick up a color A two-hole cabochon bead, sew down through the available hole and next 8°, and sew up through the next 8° and A (**c-d**).
13. Pick up two 8°s, sew down through the A and 8°, and sew up through the next 8°, A, and 8° (**d-e**).
14. Repeat step 10 four times.
15. Repeat steps 12–14 to the desired length (see “Tips”), adding and ending thread as needed (Basic Techniques). Set the remaining thread aside.
16. Attach a comfortable length of thread to the herringbone base, and exit the right bead in the middle herringbone column (**figure 4, point a**).
17. Pick up two 8°s, and sew down through the adjacent 8° and up through the corresponding two 8°s (**figure 4, a-b**).
18. Work as in steps 12–15 using Bs in place of As, and referring to **figure 4**.
19. Attach a comfortable length of thread to the herringbone base, and exit the right bead in the left herringbone column (**point f**).
20. Work as in steps 10–15 to make a third herringbone strand.



## BEAD EMBROIDERED BUTTON PENDANT

Turn a lovely button into a beautiful focal pendant. Using the basics of bead embroidery from the previous two projects, take the technique to the next level by backing the embroidered component and adding a tidy brick stitch edge.

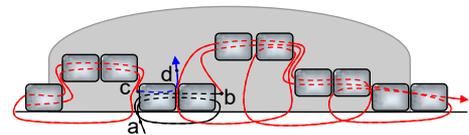
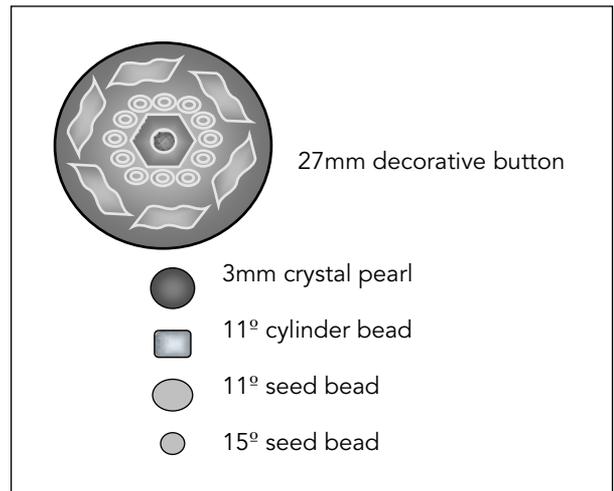


figure 1

## Supplies

- 27mm decorative button
- 32 3mm crystal pearls
- 2g 11° cylinder beads
- 1.5g 11° seed beads
- .25g 15° seed beads
- 3x3 in. (7.6x7.6cm) piece of beading foundation
- 3x3 in. piece of ultrasuede
- 2 9-in. (23cm) pieces of chain, textured cable
- Lobster clasp
- Braided beading thread, 6-lb. test
- Scissors
- E6000 adhesive
- 2 pairs of needle chainnose pliers

## Bead embroider around a decorative button

- 1.** Remove the shank from the back of the button, if it's not already removed, and glue it onto the beading foundation. Let the glue dry.
- 2.** Tie a triple knot at one end of a comfortable length of thread, leaving a 1-in. (2.5cm) tail (Basic Techniques, p. 9).
- 3.** Sew up through the foundation from back to front at the edge of the button. (It does not matter where, as long as the thread exits right next to the edge.)
- 4.** Pick up two 11° cylinder beads, and pull them snug against the foundation, positioning them next to the button. Sew through the foundation right next to where the second cylinder rests. Sew up through the foundation where the first cylinder rests, and continue through the first and second cylinder (**figure 1, a–b**).
- 5.** Pick up two cylinders, and pull them snug against the foundation, positioning them next to the button and previously added cylinders. Sew down through the