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Introduction

Beaded ropes and chains—often cast in a supporting role for spectacular pendants, focals, or embellishment—have stepped forward to the limelight in this new compilation. Cast aside the utilitarian aspect of these jewelry mainstays, and focus instead on the many creative ways to stitch these lush lengths.

The 27 designs in this book explore a variety of stitches and stitch combinations that create luxurious rope-style jewelry, which is equally at home on the neck or wrist. The designs leave plenty of room for customization both in length and bead shapes, colors, and finishes. With eleven techniques and many variations—including herringbone, peyote, right-angle weave, spiral rope, St. Petersburg chain, bead crochet, and kumihimo—you’ll have fun experimenting with familiar stitches or learning new ones as you create beautiful jewelry.

Each project is identified by stitch. All are explained in detail in the Basics section at the end of the book; take a moment before beginning a project to brush up on your basic skills, if needed.

Twenty contributing designers share projects in these pages in styles ranging from classic to contemporary and in difficulty from easy to advanced.

First published in this volume are new projects from Julia Gerlach, Jane Danley Cruz, Linda Gettings, Beth Stone, Anna Elizabeth Draeger, Isabella Lam, Carolyn Cave, Adele Rogers Recklies, and Rebecca Ann Combs. We asked these leading designers to create projects that used the newest bead shapes and finishes, as well as popular rope and chain stitching techniques.

We are fortunate to feature such interesting work. Please take the time to read about all the designers and their accomplishments on the contributors’ page and to visit their respective websites to see more of their stunning work.
Bumps on a Rope

Add tiny “bumps” to a herringbone rope with 15° seed beads, and stitch accent pearl clusters for a classic necklace. Make this necklace with or without a favorite pendant.

designed by Julia Gerlach
Rope

1 On a comfortable length of thread and leaving an 8-in. (20cm) tail, make a ladder using six color A 11\(^\text{th}\) seed beads.

Form the ladder into a ring by sewing through the first and last beads.

2 Work in rounds of tubular herringbone stitch as follows:

Rounds 1–3: Work three rounds using As.

Round 4: Work a round using an A, a 15\(^\text{th}\) seed bead, and an A for each stitch (photo a).

Round 5: Work a round using As, skipping the 15\(^\text{th}\)s in the previous round. For each stitch, be sure to push the 15\(^\text{th}\) in the previous round to the outside of the tube (photo b).

Rounds 6–9: Work four rounds using As.

Round 10: Pick up two As, and sew down through the next A in the previous round. Pick up a 15\(^{\text{th}}\), and sew up through the next A (photo c). Repeat these two stitches twice, and step up through the first A added in the round (photo d).

Rounds 11–12: Work two rounds using As and skipping the 15\(^{\text{th}}\)s in round 10. As you stitch, make sure to push the 15\(^{\text{th}}\)s to the outer surface of the tube.

Rounds 13–48: Repeat rounds 4–12 four times.

Round 49: Repeat round 4.

3 Work a pearl cluster: Pick up a color C 3mm pearl, a color B 11\(^{\text{th}}\) seed bead, and a C, and sew through the next 15\(^{\text{th}}\) in the previous round (photo e). Repeat this stitch twice to complete the round, and step up through the first C and 15\(^{\text{th}}\) added in this round (photo f).

4 Pick up a C, a 15\(^{\text{th}}\), and a C, and sew through the next B in the previous round (photo g). Repeat this stitch twice to complete the round, and step up through the first C and 15\(^{\text{th}}\) added in the round (photo h).

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**materials**

**both projects**
- 2 bead caps
- clasp
- beading needles, #12
- beading thread

**necklace with pendant**
- electroformed glass and filigree pendant, Tammy Rae Wolter (www.tammyrae.com)
- 3mm crystal pearls
  - 18 cream
  - 72 bronze
- 12–14 6mm crystal pearls (light bronze)
- 11\(^{\text{th}}\) Seed beads
  - 5 g color A (metallic steel blue)
  - 1 g color B (purple)
- 1 g 15\(^{\text{th}}\) seed beads (bronze)

**necklace without pendant**
- 3mm crystal pearls
  - 24 color D (cream)
  - 96 color C (petrol)
- 11\(^{\text{th}}\) seed beads
  - 5 g color A (Caribbean mix)
  - 1 g color B (bronze)
- 1 g 15\(^{\text{th}}\) seed beads (bronze)
Layered Ladders

Choose your style: Use pearls and gemstones to create the look of fine jewelry, as in the bejeweled bracelet at right; use drops and seed beads for a hint of sophistication, as in the center bracelet; or go for fresh casual with seed beads, as in the necklace to the left.

designed by Lisa Keith
Start with a double ladder base that twists as you stitch it, then decide how much you want to embellish your base—if at all.

**Bejeweled Bracelet**

**Layer One: Twisted Double Ladder**

1. On a comfortable length of Fireline, pick up four color A 1.5mm cube beads, and sew through all four beads again to form two stacks of two beads, leaving a 6-in. (15cm) tail.

2. Pick up two As, and sew down through the previous pair of As and up through the prior pair of As (fig. 1).

3. Pick up two color C 1.5mm cube beads, and zigzag through the last two pairs of As (fig. 2).

4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until the band is the desired length, ending and adding thread as needed. You’ll see the twist form after a few inches.

**Layer two: Side Embellishments**

Layer two follows the thread path between the ladders, and adds beads to hide the thread.

1. Exiting an A, pick up two color C 110 seed beads, and sew through the next pair of Bs (fig. 3, a–b).

2. Pick up a color D 100 hex-cut bead, and sew through the next pair of As (b–c).

3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 along the length of the bracelet.

**Layer Three: Edge Embellishments**

Layer three adds embellishment to each corner of the square.

1. Exiting an end C, pick up a 2mm pearl, and sew through the next pair of Cs (fig. 4, a–b). Pick up a 2mm gold-filled round and a 2mm crystal on the other (c–d).

2. Sew through the beadwork to exit the end D on the other side. Pick up a 3–4mm pearl or drop bead, and sew through the next D (fig. 5, a–b). Pick up a 3–4mm gemstone chip or rondelle and a 130 Charlotte, sew back through the gemstone, and sew through the previous D, the pearl, and the following D (b–c). Following a right-angle weave thread path, continue to add a pearl or drop bead in each stitch along one edge and a gemstone and a Charlotte in each stitch along the other edge (c–d).

3. Still working on the D surface, continue following a right-angle weave thread path through the Ds, but pick up two 130 Charlottes for each stitch on the edge with the gemstones (photo a), and a C, a Charlotte, and a C for each stitch on the edge with the pearls or drops (photo b). Position the new beads under the beads in the previous layer. This helps the gemstone and a pearl or drop embellishments stand up. Complete both edges.
Out for a Spin

While you’re most likely to see lentil beads at the end of a dangle, they really stand up and get noticed in this project. Add them to a simple spiral rope for a lavish, jewel-toned necklace.

designed by Carol Perrenoud
Side by Side

This necklace is based on a stitch that I learned from a friendly shopkeeper in Ephesus, Turkey. The stitch, known in Turkey by names such as Snakes Bones or Railway, is normally done with small beads and fine thread and used to trim textiles. It lends itself to experimentation and looks entirely different when made with larger beads. Work this stitch side to side—you don’t have to guess at length. Add an eye-catching clasp to finish.

designed by Adele Rogers Recklies
materials
necklace 22 in. (56cm)
• 48 8mm acrylic beads
• 48 6mm acrylic beads
• 9 yds. Glisten novelty knitting yarn
• 8 1/2 in. (21.6cm) 20-gauge, silver-colored craft wire
• 4 in. (10cm) 22-gauge, silver-colored craft wire
• ceramic clasp (Sarah Lee Rhoads)
• 20 5mm silver-colored jump rings
• size F (3.75mm) crochet hook
• wire cutters
• roundnose pliers
• chainnose pliers
• needlenose pliers
• size 18 tapestry needle

Necklace
Gauge: six beads crocheted into three pairs = 1 1/4 in. (3.2cm)

String the Necklace
String an 8mm bead and 16mm bead 48 times (photo a) for a crochet piece that measures approximately 21 in. (53cm) minus the clasp. See p. 64 for tips on stringing beads onto yarn.

Crochet the Necklace
Set Up Rows
1. Leaving a 5-in. (13cm) tail, make a slip knot and work a chain stitch. Slide down a 6mm bead and work a chain stitch over the bead (photo b).
2. Slide the 8mm bead down and work a chain stitch over the next bead (photo c).
3. Twist the top (8mm) bead 180 degrees horizontally to get to the 6mm bead and make a single crochet in the thread holding that bead (photos d, e). Notice the two beads are now almost side by side.

Main Crochet
1. Slide down the next 6mm bead and work a chain stitch over the bead (photo f).
2. Turn the work 180 degrees (photo g), insert the hook in the loop holding the 8mm bead previously crocheted (photo h) and make a single crochet. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until necklace is approximately 21 in. or the desired length. An example of three repeats of the crochet stitch can be seen in photo i.
3. Leaving a 5-in. tail, cut thread, and fasten off.

Wire Connectors
Make Wire Connectors
1. Cut a 4 1/4-in. (10.8cm) piece of 20-gauge wire. Fold it gently
Staggering Sparkle

Kumihimo worked with lentils and larger 8" seed beads creates a lush rope with plenty of depth and dimension.

designed by Rebecca Ann Combs
Basics

3 Pick up two As and a B, and sew through the last A picked up in the previous stitch (c–d).

4 Pick up two As, and sew through the last A picked up in the previous stitch (d–e).

5 Repeat steps 3 and 4 to make the chain the desired length.

Variations

Separating flowers

1 Work the first stitch as in steps 1 and 2 of your preferred method.

2 Pick up two 11's, and sew through the two corresponding 11's in the previous stitch and the two 11's just picked up (fig. 3, a–b).

3 Work the next stitch as in steps 3 and 4 of your preferred method (b–c).

4 Repeat steps 2 and 3 to make the chain the desired length.

Making Rows

Choose your preferred method. These instructions use “Start with half of a ring.”

1 Work a row of daisy chain to the desired length using eight 11 seed beads for the rings and a 3mm fringe drop in each center (fig. 4, a–b).

2 To step up, sew through the next two 11's. Pick up six 11's, and sew through the last two 11's from the previous stitch and the first 11 picked up in this step (b–c).

3 Pick up a 3mm, and sew through the opposite 11 in the ring and the next four 11's (c–d).

4 Sew through the top pair of 11's in the next stitch of the previous row, pick up an 11 and a 3mm, and sew through the adjacent 11 to the 11 your thread exited at the start of this step (d–e).

5 Pick up three 11's, and sew through the first 11 picked up in this step (e–f).

6 Repeat steps 4 and 5 for the length of the row.

SPIRAL

Spiral rope

The spiral rope has a core of beads around which loops of beads rotate.

1 On a comfortable length of thread, pick up four color A and three color B 11 seed beads, and sew through the four As again (fig. 1), leaving a 6-in. (15cm) tail. The Bs will create a small loop.

2 Pick up an A and three Bs, and sew through the top three As from the previous stitch and the new A added in this stitch (fig. 2). Push the new loop of Bs to the left so it rests on top of the previous loop.

3 Repeat step 2 for the desired rope length. There are numerous ways to vary the spiral rope. Try making:

- loops with an 11, a 4mm pearl or crystal, and an 11.
- loops with an 11, a 6mm offset-hole lentil bead, and an 11.
- a double spiral in which a second set of loops is added in the groove created by the first set of loops.

Russian Spiral

Russian spiral is a variant of tubular netting. It is usually stitched with beads in two sizes—often two sizes of seed beads, or seed beads and either bugle beads or crystals—resulting in alternating stripes circling the tube.

1 On a comfortable length of thread, pick up a repeating pattern of two 11 seed beads and an 8 seed bead three times, and tie the beads into a ring with a square knot,