

Michael's

Made by you™



*Using the Bracelet
Design Board*

John Bead
ESTABLISHED 1954

Materials

John Bead Czech Glass Seed Beads in Size 10/0
Iris Brown, SKU 10479044

Bead Stringing Wire, 19 Strand .015in (.38mm), SKU 10121912

Crimp Tubes #2, SKU 10162864

Red Kyanite Stone Beads Value Pack, SKU 10633459

Aurora Borealis Glass Leaf Beads, SKU 10631527

Precision Scissors, SKU 10591717

Blumenthal Lansing Crystal & Silver Gem Buttons
SKU 10159847

Soft Suede Lace Value Pack, SKU 10210246

8mm Jump ring from Finding Variety Pack, SKU 10186866

Bracelet Bead Design Board, SKU 10219446

Chain Nose Pliers, SKU 10121794

Bent Nose Pliers, SKU 10121795

Basic Crimper, SKU 10332396

Flush Cutter, SKU 10121797

Beading Mat, SKU 10348546

Beginner Basic Stringing

One Hour or Less

Intro

In this class we will create a three-wrap bracelet design using the Bracelet Design Board. The featured design is strung on beading wire and uses John Bead Czech Glass Seed Beads to simulate a knotted look. Any beads can be used. The bracelet is finished with a fun, suede cord button closure that can be made adjustable.

The goal of the class and the inspiration design is to show how the design board can be used to create fast and customizable jewelry.

Step 1

Working directly from the beading wire spool, begin to string beads in your design, starting with four seed beads (for a button closure), then alternating interest bead with a seed bead. The seed beads add visual interest as well as enhance flexibility on the wire.

Using the Bead Design Board, lay the beginnings of your bracelet onto the board over the bracelet size of choice. The board can be used to help with both sizing and distributing the beads you may wish to lay on the front of the wrist, such as the leaves in the class sample.

Continue to string the remaining beads, laying any additional wraps along over the first.

Tip: When the bracelet is worn on the wrist, keep in mind that our wrists get bigger as each wrap layer wears further up the arm. This is why simple math to figure out multiple wraps doesn't always fit as planned. We can simulate this using the design board by laying each new wrap alongside the former on the board.

When creating your last wrap, leave open 1 inch of space to become the closure.

Step 2

String on a #2 crimp tube and your button. Bring the wire back through the crimp bead. If possible, continue with the wire through your first bead. Pull that connection tight together. Leave some air on the loop around your button shank so it can move freely.

Using the basic crimper, crimp using the back section of the tool. Close the crimp using the front section of the tool. Trim the excess wire under tension, using flush cutters, just above the bead (or above the crimp tube if the wire would not fit through the first bead).

Step 3

Cut the bracelet free from the spool, making sure to leave at least 5 inches of extra length past your last bead - you'll need that to attach the crimp.

String a crimp tube to sit just above your last bead. Hold up and adjust the bracelet, making sure there are not any large gaps. Then lay the bracelet down on the work surface, or use the design board, to circle the design in the shape it would be worn. This helps with not making the crimp too tight.

Bring the tail back through the crimp and the first bead, leaving a loop of beading wire that is about the size of an 8/0 seed bead. We will put a jump ring through that in the next step. Crimp the crimp tube as described in Step 2 and trim the tail under tension.



Step 4

Open an 8mm jump ring using chain nose pliers and bent nose pliers. Attach to the loop of beading wire we created in Step 3 and close. Cut a length of suede cord 10 inches long. Bring it through the jump ring and fold it over at the middle. Tie an overhand knot as close as you can to the jump ring. Lay the suede cord over the button and tie a second overhand knot. Test that the button will fit between the knots and then tighten by pulling the cords apart. Trim remaining cord after the second knot.

Tips and Ideas

To create an adjustable design, cut more suede cord and add a second knot after the first, leaving a space for the button.

If you're selling your work at a craft show or online, you can create bracelets in each of the four sizes on the design board and offer this option to clients. In shows, selling in person, I usually display the 7" version, then offer that I do have other sizes available to interested shoppers.

Online, I offer each of these sizes as a variation. I include photographs of the bracelet on the design board.

As designers, our customers are looking to us to help them choose the right bracelet size. Many customers, if asked to measure their own wrist, will measure tight. I always tell clients to measure their favorite bracelet, then choose the size I offer that is closest to that.

Enjoy your bracelets and best of luck in your business!

Share your designs with
#JohnBead and
#MakeItWithMichaels

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