

Michael's

Made by you™

Workshop: Russian Spiral Stitch



John Bead
ESTABLISHED 1954

Materials

John Bead Czech Glass Seed Beads Size 8/o
Purple Chalk, SKU 10549090

*Two tubes are
needed for color
selection

*John Bead Czech Glass Seed Beads Size 6/o
Amber Mix, SKU 10627185

Wildfire Beading Thread .006, SKU 10390892

Size #12 Hard Beading Needle, SKU 10348545

1.5mm Leather, SKU 10386330

19mm Button, SKU 10159817

Precision Scissors SKU 10591717

Chain Nose Pliers SKU 10121794

Beading Mat SKU 10348546

Cocktail Straw and a Drinking Straw



During class we will work through the 8/o 6/o version, but samples and bead counts will be shared for other variations, including this one made with:

11/o Light Violet Matte, SKU 10627229
6/o Amber Mix, SKU 10627185

We will also cover this version's finishing technique.

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In this workshop we explore in detail the Russian Spiral Stitch. Class will be structured a little differently than our usual classes. Because we have more time, students will be able to work along and ask questions as they go.

First 30 minutes - Intro

We will start by introducing the project and the instructor will demonstrate how to get the stitch going. Then we will take questions on getting started with the stitch.

For the next 45 minutes, students will have time to work on their bracelets with instructor support.

At the 1:15 mark, we will show two leather cord finishing methods. This should take about 25 minutes.

The remaining 20 minutes of class will be dedicated to answering questions while students work on finishing their bracelets.

Abbreviations in this document:

S6A - Size 6/0 Czech Seed Bead in Color A

S6B - Size 6/0 Czech Seed Bead in Color B

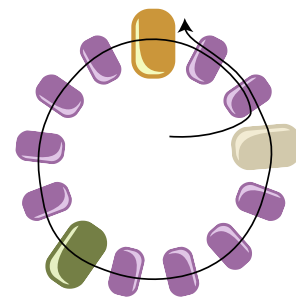
S6C - Size 6/0 Czech Seed Bead in Color C

S8 - Size 8/0 Czech Seed Bead

Colors A, B, and C
were selected from
6/0 Amber Mix

Step 1

Cut 70 inches of beading thread. Leaving a 10" tail, string (2) S8, (1) S6A, (4) S8, (1) S6B, (4) S8, (1) S6C. Go back through all the beads, then continue again through the first (2) S8. This is ring 1.



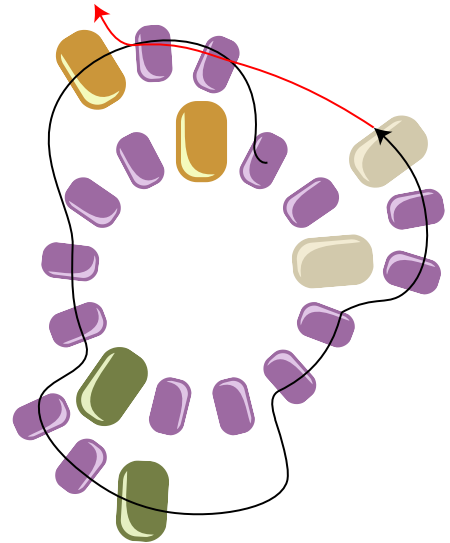
Tip: You can either use a stopper bead or go through the ring twice to firm up the ring.

Step 2

Pick up (2) S8 and (1) S6A. Skip the S6A and the next (2) S8 in ring 1. Go through the next (2) S8 in ring 1.

Pick up (2) S8 and (1) S6B. Skip the S6B and the next (2) S8 in ring 1. Go through the next (2) S8 in ring 1.

Pick up (2) S8 and (2) S6C. Go through the first (2) S8 added in this ring 2. This is stepping up.

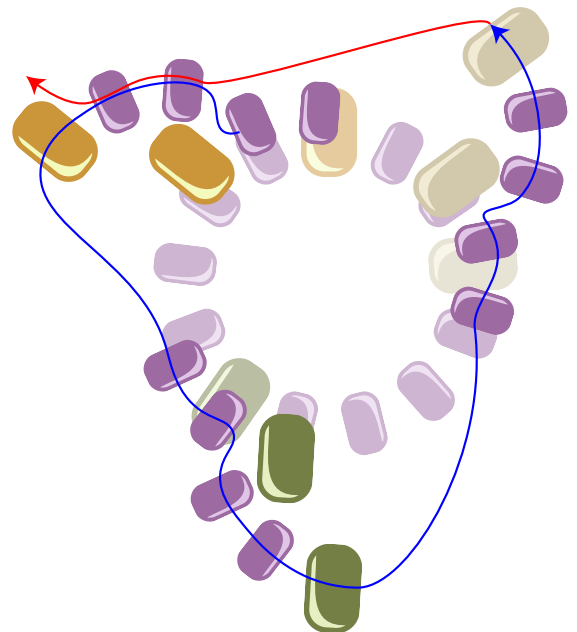


Step 3

Pick up (2) S8 and (1) S6A. Go through the next (2) S8 in ring 2.

Pick up (2) S8 and (1) S6B. Go through the next (2) S8 in ring 2.

Pick up (2) S8 and (1) S6C. Go through the first (2) S8 added in this ring 3.



Step 4

Repeat Step 3 to desired length, minus 1 inch.

When you need to add thread, bring in a new strand and weave around through several rows, stepping up along the existing thread path. You know you've got a good weaving in when the tail of this new thread doesn't move anymore when you pull on the strand. Create three more rows, then weave the old working thread up into those rows and trim.

Use the same method to weave in remaining thread at the end of your bracelet. Repeat this weaving in step with the tail thread left in Step 1.

Step 5

Finishing Method 1

Cut a length of 1.5mm leather cord that is 3x longer than your stitched piece. Fold this cord over at the midpoint. Slide the button onto one side and bring it to the middle. Tie an overhand knot with both cords, just below the button.

Bring both strands through the spiral rope. I find that if the leather has a natural curve to it that it helps to curve the spiral when feeding the leather through. You can also try using a drinking straw to help get the leather through. Pull the button and knot up against the spiral.

Tie an overhand knot with both strands with the leather as it exits the other side. Using your button to measure, tie a second, overhand knot with both strands. This will form a button hole. If desired, tie an additional overhand knot for an adjustable fit. Trim the ends of the leather cord.



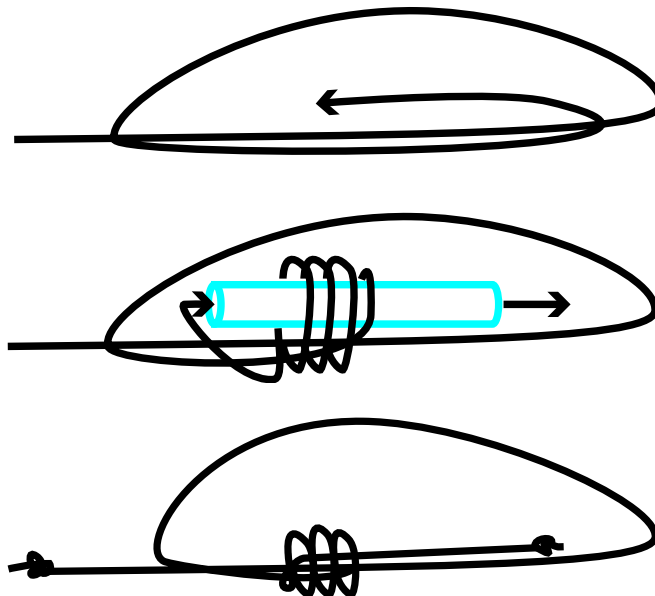
Finishing Method 2

Another fun way to create a closure for beaded ropes is to run a single strand of 1.5mm leather through and tie an adjustable knot. It can help to use a cocktail straw to perform this knot.

Start with a length of leather cord that is 2.5 to 3x the length of your rope. This extra length is helpful when forming the knot. Bring the cord through the spiral rope, leaving one of the strands longer than the other. Overlay the strands and with the longer one, turn and wrap (coil) around the other strand. Bring the tail of the strand you are coiling with through all the coils just made and tighten.

Tip: this is tricky to do without an aid. It can help to lay a cocktail straw across the strands, then coil around them together. Then bring the leather cord through the cocktail straw as a way to get it through the coils. After that, pull the straw out. Now the cord is through its coil. Pull to tighten.

Tie an overhand knot on each of the ends of the single strands. The strand that is coiled around should slide. You can loosen and tighten the bracelet.



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