

Create a colorful spiral necklace
with netting and seed beads

Primary Twist

by **Beth Stone**

After I got my hands on the elusive “white-cover” Russian beading book (*Art of Bead Weaving* by Maya Anufrieva), I went on a beading bender, eagerly trying out new stitches. This happy outcome takes its fabulous twirl from a stitch called “Russian spiral weave,” a netting variant. But the streamlined style and vibrant colors are sheer American exuberance brought to bear on this Old-World technique.

stepbystep

Netted tube

[1] Start a 3-yd (2.7m) length of thread and pick up two 11° seed beads and one 8° three times, for a total of nine beads.

[2] Leaving a 1-yd (.9m) tail, sew through all the beads again in the same direction to form a ring. Exit the first 11° (figure 1, a-b).

[3] Pick up an 8° and two 11°. Sew through the 11° after the next 8° on the ring (figure 2, a-b). Repeat around the ring (b-c). Step up through the first 8° and 11° (c-d).

[4] Repeat step 3 until you reach the desired length. For the necklace at right, I changed bead colors every 1½ in. (3.8cm). For the necklace on p. 82, I alternated 1½ in. of black and white seed beads with ¼ in. (6mm) of various colors.

[5] To close up the tube, stitch the last round, picking up an 8° instead of an 8° and two 11°. Sew through the three 8°s just added a few times and cinch the tube closed (photo a). Secure the working thread by tying half-hitch knots (Basics, p. 142) between a few beads. Don't trim the thread. Set aside.

Clasp

[1] Thread a needle on the long tail and pick up 24 11°. Sew into a bead on the opposite side of the netted tube to form a ring (photo b and figure 3, a-b).

[2] Sew around the tube, following the thread path of the netting, and exit the bead below point a (b-c). Work one round of peyote over the new beads (c-d). Sew through the tube as before (d-e). Increase to two-drop peyote in the fourth round.

[3] Continue alternating a row of single bead peyote with a row of two-drop until the ring is the desired size. I usually work six to eight rounds. Secure the thread in the beadwork and trim.

[4] To make the toggle end of the clasp, start a 1-yd. length of thread. Pick up 20 11°s and work flat, even-count peyote (Basics) for 12 rows.

[5] Fold the peyote strip so the first and last row of beads are aligned. Zip up (Basics) the two ends to form a tube.

[6] Flatten the tube and stitch an 11° between the up beads along both sides of

the tube (photo c). Secure the threads.

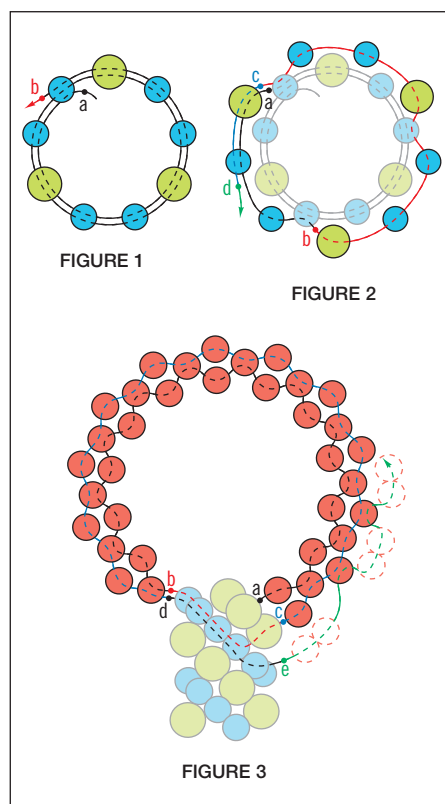
[7] Working with the thread at the cinched end of the tube, pick up eight 11°s. I like to use two colors.

[8] Sew through a bead or two at the center of the toggle bar. Pick up an 11°, skip the last 11° strung in the previous step, and sew through the remaining 11°s (photo d).

[9] Sew through two 8°s on the end of the tube and retrace the thread path from the 11°s to the toggle bar.

[10] Reinforce the thread path a few more times, sewing through different 8° pairs on the end of the tube each time. Secure the thread and trim. ●

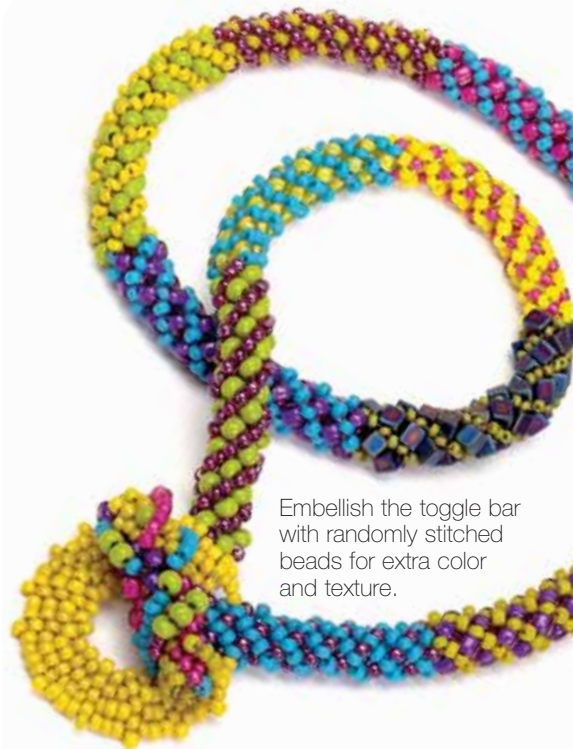
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MATERIALS

necklace 18 in. (46cm)

- seed beads
 - 15g size 8°, two to six colors
 - 15g size 11°, two to six colors
- Nymo D conditioned with beeswax, or Fireline 8 lb. test
- beading needles, #12



Embellish the toggle bar with randomly stitched beads for extra color and texture.



EDITOR'S NOTE: The open end of the netted tube will flatten as you weave through it to stitch the clasp's loop end.

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