

THE BEAD HOLD

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The Queen Mother's PAUA BRACELET Instructions



MATERIALS NEEDED

- 50cm of Japanese filament cord
- 10 x pieces of paua with 3 holes drilled in the center
- 1 x paua toggle (a thin piece) with 2/3 central holes
- A selection of glass feature beads, 3 - 4 per piece
- 3 - 4 colours of seed beads size #11 and #8
- #10 beading needle and Silamide thread

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- A bead mat to work on
- A sharp pair of scissors

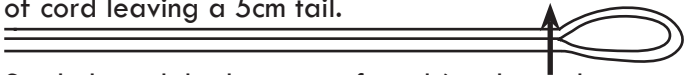
Getting Started

1. Measure off 2 nose - to - arm lengths of thread from your card. Thread your beading needle and then bring the needle to the centre of the thread.



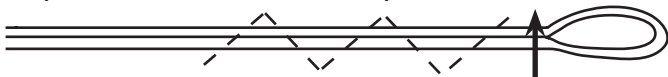
2. Take the bracelet cord and fold it in half.

The folded end will form the loop that goes over your toggle piece. The loop should be approximately 2/3 the length of your toggle. Grip the appropriate spot and, using your needle and thread, stitch through both pieces of cord leaving a 5cm tail.

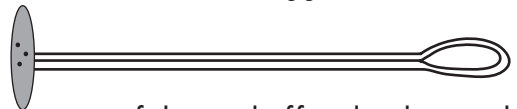


Stitch through both pieces of cord (in almost the same place) back and forward five more times. This is your anchoring stitch. Trim the tail when done.

3. Now, we want to join the two pieces of cord together. Using a zig-zag stitch, tack your way down the cord away from the loop until it is the right size for your wrist. The end of the stitching should come to the middle of the loop when the cord is around your wrist.



4. Lay your toggle piece on top of both pieces of cord at the end of your stitching. Sew the toggle on like a button, going through the cord every time you go up or down a hole. Make sure the toggle is sewn down very firmly.



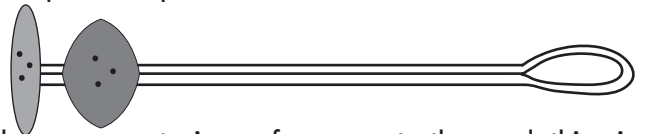
Cut the remnants of the cord off under the toggle and sew through the ends several times to stop them from fraying.

Sew on your paua pieces

Tack down the back of the cord approx 2cm away from your toggle. Stitch up to the top side. This is where you will sew your first piece of paua.

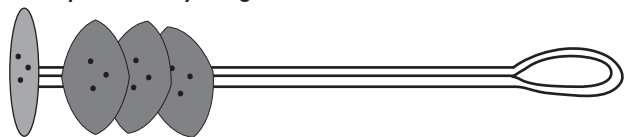
- lay the paua onto the cord, there should be a 1cm gap between this paua piece and your toggle.

- come up one hole and down another with your needle and thread, making sure you stitch through the cord with every stitch. Make three tight stitches in total so you have a triangle of stitches on your piece of paua.



- lay your next piece of paua onto the cord, this piece should slightly overlap (or underlap) the first piece. This is so when the bracelet wraps around your wrist the cord does not show. Stitch it down tightly so there is a triangle of thread on the top side.

- continue stitching on each piece of paua, overlapping each piece as you go.



Ensure that the holes in the paua are not being overlapped as these are needed for the embellishment.

Keep adding paua until you reach the loop. The last piece of paua should slightly overlap the loop.

Embellish your shell base

Now you will embellish the shell pieces with your feature beads, using the techniques shown on the right hand side of this page.

We recommend you do one 'pass' down the shell base, embellishing 2 of the 3 holes on each piece of shell. Then come back down for a second 'pass' to fill the gaps, and add any extras.

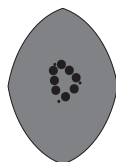
Make sure that your feature beads are spread evenly across the bracelet. You don't want all the leaves at one end or all the flowers on the first four pieces of shell.

Please note: the following instructions are a guide only. You can make whatever changes you like!

1. Stitch up through one of the holes in your shell. Pick up 2 or 3 small seed beads, and stitch down another hole. Every time you stitch downward, you must go through the cord.



Repeat until you have a triangle of seed beads on top of the shell. This will hide your thread, and also make the bracelet base stronger.

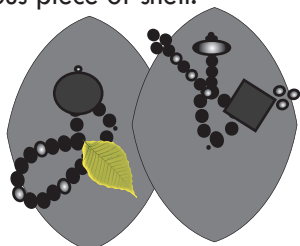


2. Come up through a hole. Pick up a larger feature bead then a seed bead and stitch back through the large bead, the same hole and the cord (all together) and pull tight, as per embellishment technique #1.



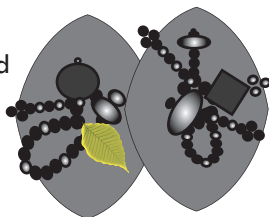
Then, come up a different hole. Make a seed bead loop. Come back up the same hole and pick up a leaf. Stitch it down into the same hole.

3. Tack across the back of the cord and come up through a hole in the next shell piece. Make a frond, and then a feature bead ladder coming out of the same hole. Next, come up a different hole, and sew down a different larger feature bead than on the previous piece of shell.



Continue in this fashion, embellishing two holes of every piece until you reach the end. Remember to embellish the toggle piece as well, but just with seed beads as anything much bigger will catch on the loop.

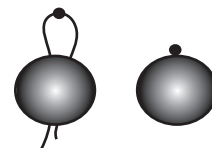
Then, turn and come back down and fill in the last hole of each piece. Add more fronds and loops etc where needed to fill in any gaps so your bracelet looks lush. Once you are done, finish your thread securely, and enjoy wearing your bracelet!



Embellishment Techniques

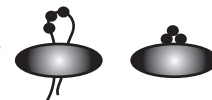
1. Plain Feature Bead

Pick up a feature bead and one seed bead. Stitch back through the feature bead and the cord (NOT through the seed bead) and pull tight. The seed bead acts as an anchor and holds the feature bead in place.



2. Picot Feature Bead

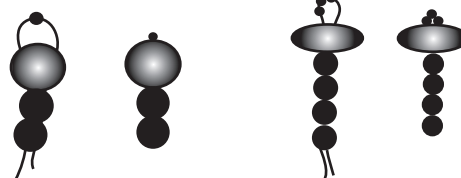
Try using 3 seed beads instead of 1, this will give you a small triangle or 'picot' on top of the feature bead.



For large beads and leaves it is a good idea to stitch through them 2 - 3 times to help keep them in place.

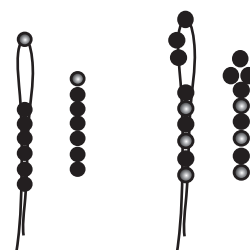
3. Feature Bead Ladder

Build your smaller feature beads up on your larger seed beads. Pick up 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 seed beads (depending on the length you would like), your feature bead, and 1 or 3 small seed beads. Ignore the last seed bead/s and stitch back through the other beads and the cord.



4. Frond

As above, but using a longer length of seed beads to start, and no feature bead.



5. Seed Bead Loop

Pick up a length of seed beads, alternating colours if desired until you have 1 - 2 cm of beads. Now, stitch down through the same hole you are coming out of. The more beads, the bigger the loop.



Changing Your Thread

Come to the back of the bracelet. Stitch through the cord in almost the same place 4 - 5 times, keeping your tension nice and tight. With the last stitches, wrap the thread around the needle before taking the stitch to make a knot.

Thread your needle again, and start the new thread in the same way, stitching through the back of the cord 4 - 5 times.

This is what you do every time you need to change your thread throughout the project.