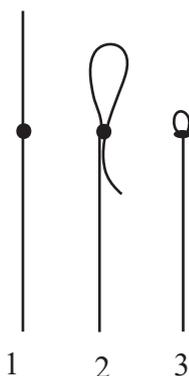# Summer Queen Necklace

You will need . . .

- 1 x strand of feature beads 4mm/6mm/8mm
- 45 - 55 grams of seed beads (7 - 8 tubes)
    14 grams #8
    the rest #11 in 1 - 2 colours
- 2 x large metal cones
- 2 x feature beads
- 4 x spacers/smaller feature beads
- 40 cm of tigertail or softflex
- a clasp

- Conso or similar stringing thread
- a number 12 beading needle & a straight pin
- a small length of nymo
- 6 crimp beads
- a bead mat and a pair of sharp scissors
- beeswax is helpful too

Prepare the tigertail

1. Cut your tigertail/softflex in half.
2. Slide on a crimp bead 5cm down one end of a wire and fold the short end back through the crimp. *The loop should be 1.5 cm long*
3. SQUASH the crimp and trim wire
4. Make another loop the same size on the second strand of tigertail.

1   2   3

Make a harness

1. Take 12 cm of nymo - the fine white thread. Thread one end through your needle, double the thread and knot the ends together leaving a 2cm tail. This is your harness, an elongated eye to your needle.

Move the knot so it is at the side of the harness. If you have trouble threading beads over the knot later, it is because the knot has moved to the bottom again.

Measure off 4 consecutive nose to arm lengths of conso from the reel and cut. Thread one end through the harness and then double the conso so the needle and harness sit in the middle. Wax your Conso if you choose (or use your saliva!).

Start

1. Pass the ends of the conso through the loop in one piece of tigertail (about 4cm worth). Knot the ends tightly to the loop - 3 or 4 knots on top of each other.

2. Spill your larger seed beads onto the mat. Hold your needle horizontal to the mat and thread about 45cm worth onto the conso, and push all the way to the end (hard against the tigertail loop) being careful to avoid tangles.

3. Thread your needle through the loop on the second piece of tigertail/softflex. Pull all the thread through so that the beads sit close to the loop. Knot your thread tightly to the loop once or twice. You are now ready to start your second strand.

4. Now take your stand of feature beads and lay them against the first strand you have beaded. In order to get them to be the same length, you will need to add some seed beads at each end. It is beast to measure it eg. 2cm each end. Then thread that length of seed beads, all the main feature beads, and the last little length of seed beads. Push down to the end of the thread. This strand should be a similar size to the first.

5. Check there is no thread showing between the beads, and knot the conso to the second tigertail loop to join. You will now have 2 strands of beads attached to a length of tigertail at each end.

Continue beading more and more strands . . .

Your necklace will be at least 10 - 12 strands in total, if not more (stop if it is getting too thick for your taste).

Continue with your smaller seed beads, adding strand after strand, knotting on to a tigertail loop at the end of each.

In our samples we have used plain bead strands, but you can mix the colours/sizes together as you please.

As you add more strands, you may want to make some a little longer, or shorter, to help the feature strands stand out. It is really important to work this out by *holding the completed strands up in the air in a curve*, as it would be around your neck. If you try to work it out in a straight line on your mat, it will go wrong . . .

Adding thread

You will need to add thread on a few times as you run out. Simply finish the current thread at the end of a strand by knotting it tightly to the tigertail/softflex loop 3-4 times, then cut the thread, leaving a 3mm tail.

Thread a new length through your harness and knot it on to a tigerttail/softflex loop as you did at the start. Then continue with your strands.

Using Beeswax

Running your long length of Conso through some beeswax or artificial wax, will help prevent tangles and make you thread more managable. It is not essential, but it can make life easier.

Run your thread lightly through the wax twice. If you over wax, it may be harder to put your smaller beads on the thread.

Make More!

This is such a versatile technique that can be used on any beads, for necklaces or bracelets. Findings only packs are available with the threads/needles/cones/finishing findings you need - just add beads!

Finishing the ends . . .

1. Once you are happy with your strands, finish your thread by knotting tightly to the tigertail loop at the end of your last strand. Knot 4 times and then trim your thread close to the last knot.

2. Next, use clear drying craft glue or clear nail polish to coat all the knots on each loop really well. Allow to dry.

3. Take a bead cap and thread it over each end of tigertail, sliding down to cover the knotted ends and the tigertail loops.

4. Slide down your end bead set in the pattern of your choice, 2 crimp beads and your clasp

5. Bring the tigertail back through the crimp beads, and pull tight. Do allow a small loop for the clasp to sit in, if it is too tight it will be stiff. SQUASH crimp and trim ends.

6. Finally, use a crimp cover to hide the squashed crimps. Hold in your crimping tool or chain nose pliers. Cover the crimp beads and gently squash together until the crimp cover looks like a small round bead.

Now, enjoy wearing!
xx
Queen Bead