

THE BEAD HOLD

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Lady Natalia's RUSSIAN ROPE Instructions



MATERIALS NEEDED

- 4 x tubes Japanese # 11 seed beads, ranging from dark to light
- 1 x stopper bead - size 11 or 15
- A clasp/ toggle or button
- Silamide or fireline
- 2 x size 12 needles

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- A bead mat to work on
- A sharp pair of scissors
- Pen and paper

Preparation

- Thread your needle with 3 good arm lengths of Silamide. Bring the needle to the middle of the thread.



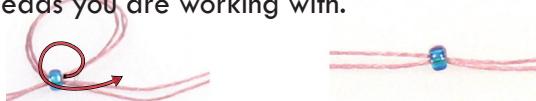
- If you are using Fireline, use one strand only and thread up 2 arm lengths



- Take several small pieces of paper and mark them 'A,' 'B,' 'C' 'D.' Spill out the appropriate colour seed bead under each on your bead mat according to your materials list. Even if you are an experienced stitcher this will make following the instructions much easier!



- Anchor a stopper bead 15cm from the end of your threads, preferably a totally different obvious colour to the beads you are working with.



Dig your nail into this bead and make sure it can move up and down the thread - you need to be able to remove it at a later date.

Getting started . . .

WARNING FROM QUEEN BEAD!

This stage will look messy and silly and just plain wrong! Trust us and keep going just as directed, it all pulls together and makes sense shortly :)

1. Pick up the following: 1 x A, 2 x B, 2 x C, 2 x D



Slide them down to your stopper bead.

2. Stitch back through all the beads you have just put one to form a circle. Do not go through the stopper bead!

Stitch through the single A bead again and pull your thread up tight so that there is no thread showing between the beads. Pushing the stopper bead up to the base of the circle is a good way to get it tight.

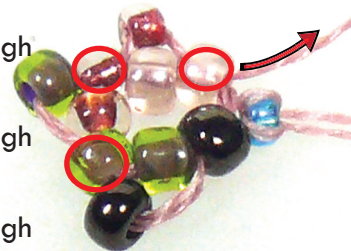


3. Working Clockwise:

- pick up 1 x A, stitch through the second B in the circle.

- pick up 1 x B, stitch through the second C in the circle.

- pick up 1 x C, stitch through the second D in the circle.

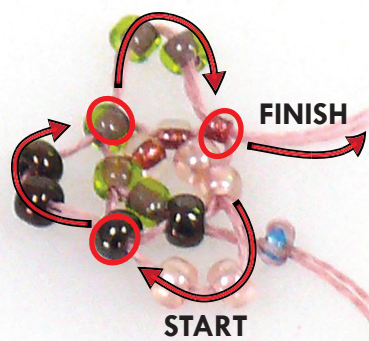


4. Working Clockwise:

- pick up 2 x D, stitch through the A from the last round (circled in red) - it will be sticking out from the base circle

- pick up 2 x A, stitch through the B from the last round (circled in red) - it will be sticking out from the base circle

- pick up 2 x B, stitch through the C from the last round (circled in red) - it will be sticking out from the base circle



Pull the working threads firmly several times to tighten the rows you have just done. Your beads should tighten to form a cup shape - the beginning of your tube.



Take a good look at your cup/tube. You will see that the colours are sitting in groups of 3 beads each

5. Working Clockwise:

- pick up 2 x C, stitch through the next middle D (circled in red) - it will be sticking out from the previous row a little.

- pick up 2 x D, stitch through the next middle A (circled in red) - it will be sticking out from the previous row a little.



- pick up 2 x A, stitch through the next middle B (circled in red) - it will be sticking out from the previous row a little.

- pick up 2 x B, stitch through the next middle C (circled in red) - it will be sticking out from the previous row a little.



Continue on in this fashion, round and round, until you have approx. 10cm of thread left. Change your thread and then continue on until your rope is the desired length!



6. For the last 2 rows, pick up 1 bead each stitch instead of 2 - this will taper the second end to match the first.

TIPS:

- Don't worry about forgetting which colour bead you are to pick up - it will always be the same colour as the bead your thread is currently coming out of e.g. You have just passed through your C colour, that is the next colour you will pick up.
- As your rope grows there is more to hold on to and it is easier to keep your tension firm. Grip the rope toward the top and pull your working thread firmly every row to maintain good tension.
- You will always be passing through the middle bead of the three as you circle around. As your rope grows and you keep your tension tight, you will notice that the middle bead sits higher than the others and it is easy to both see and pass through.

CHANGING YOUR THREAD

- Thread your second needle and pass through several beads approx 2cm below the thread needing changing. Pull your thread through, leaving a 2cm tail.

- Stitch around and through several beads in a circular fashion, then stitch up a couple of beads and make another circle.

- Work your way up to the old thread (making at least 3 circles as you go to lock in the new thread) and pass through the exact same beads the old needle and thread are coming out of (it is very important your new thread starts in the exact same place the old one finished).

- Stitch several rows with the new thread, then go back and finish the old thread in the same way you started the new one, just working down the tube instead of up.

ATTACHING A CLASP

Use the tails of your thread at the start to attach the button/toggle to the first end. Use your working thread to make a button loop/other side of toggle at the other end once the length is correct.

First side - button or toggle

Pick up 4 x #11 seed beads, go through the loop of the button/toggle, and pick up another 4 #11 seed beads. Stitch through a bead on the other side of the tube so that the button/toggle sits in a loop. Stitch around the loop twice more to make it strong.

Second Side - toggle

Just as for the first half of the toggle above

Second Side - loop

Pick up enough seed beads that when folded into a loop they go over the button. Stitch through a bead on the other side of the tube and double check the loop size. Stitch around the loop twice more to make it strong.

