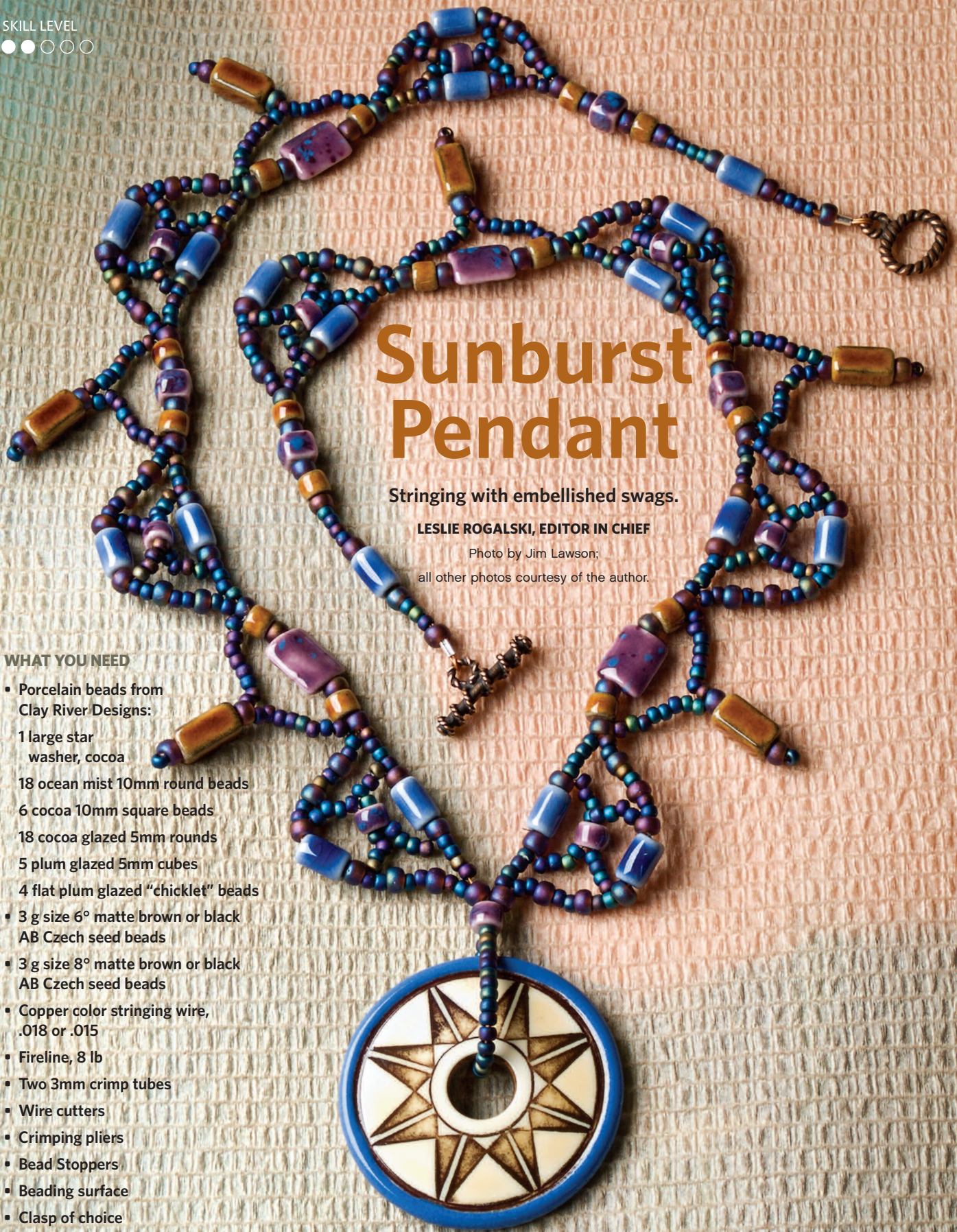


project

SKILL LEVEL



Sunburst Pendant

Stringing with embellished swags.

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Photo by Jim Lawson;

all other photos courtesy of the author.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Porcelain beads from Clay River Designs:
 - 1 large star washer, cocoa
 - 18 ocean mist 10mm round beads
 - 6 cocoa 10mm square beads
 - 18 cocoa glazed 5mm rounds
 - 5 plum glazed 5mm cubes
 - 4 flat plum glazed "chicklet" beads
- 3 g size 6° matte brown or black AB Czech seed beads
- 3 g size 8° matte brown or black AB Czech seed beads
- Copper color stringing wire, .018 or .015
- Fireline, 8 lb
- Two 3mm crimp tubes
- Wire cutters
- Crimping pliers
- Bead Stoppers
- Beading surface
- Clasp of choice

I fell in love with Clay River porcelain beads on my last trip to Tucson. I chose a focal pendant with a sunburst graphic and enough matching accent beads to let me play around with designs back in my studio. Once I'd strung the basic necklace with swags, I knew I wanted a more substantial look, so I embellished using matte seed beads to add texture and to contrast with the glaze of the porcelain beads.

String the basic necklace.

- 1 Cut two 30" pieces of wire.
- 2 String 26 or enough size 8's on *both* wires to loop around through the center of the medallion, pushing the beads to the center of both wires. Bring all four wire ends through an accent ceramic bead and pull the accent to the medallion to tighten the loop of seed beads. Make sure your wire ends are even. Divide the four wires into two pairs, each pair having wire A and wire B.



- 3 On wire A of each pair of wires, string Sequences 1-4 two times, adding a final Sequence 1 at each end.

Sequence 1: 1 size 6°, 4 size 8's, 1 size 6°, 1 blue oblong accent, 1 size 6°, 4 size 8's, 1 size 6°.

Sequence 2: 1 brown 5mm, 1 size 6°, 1 purple flat accent, 1 size 6°, 1 brown 5mm.

Sequence 3: Repeat Sequence 1.

Sequence 4: 1 brown 5mm, 1 size 6°, 1 purple cube, 1 size 6°, 1 brown 5mm. Place a bead stopper on both A wires.



- 4 On wire B of each pair of wires, string 2 size 8's, 1 size 6°, 2 size 8's, 1 size 6°, 2 size 8's, 1 size 6°, 1 blue oblong accent, 1 size 6°, 2 size 8's, 1 size 6°, 2 size 8's, 1 size 6°, and 2 size 8's. Create a swag by skipping beads on wire A and threading the end of wire B through the last size 6° in Sequence 1 and through all the beads in Sequence 2. Exit the last size 6° after Sequence 2. →



project **sunburst pendant**

5 Create a second swag by stringing the same sequence as in Step 4. Thread through all the beads in Sequence 3 and exit the last size 6° at the end of that sequence.

6 Repeat Step 5 to create a third and fourth swag, but after the fourth swag, bring the rest of the wire through all the beads remaining; reposition the bead stopper on both wires in that pair. Repeat Steps 4-6 on wire B of the other side of the necklace. Each side of the necklace now has two wire ends in bead stoppers.



7 Remove a bead stopper on one end. Slide onto both wires a 2mm crimp, a clasp, and bring the wires together back through the crimp and through the last size 6° just strung. Pull taut but allow the clasp a little slack to move freely, especially if you're using a bar and toggle. Crimp tightly and trim ends. Repeat for the other end of the necklace, making sure to pull both strands evenly so the necklace has only a slight slackness, without open spaces between any beads.



to left through the size 6°, the blue accent bead, and the size 6° in the base strand of the swag.



9 Pick up 4 size 8°s and sew through the purple round from left to right. Pick up 4 more size 8°s and tie a sturdy surgeon's or double square knot with the working thread and tail between the size 6° and size 8° beads. Weave both thread ends into the beadwork, hiding the knot inside the size 6° bead, and trim.



Add designs inside the swags

8 Thread a 12" piece of Fireline. You will be creating a figure-eight thread path. Leaving a 4" tail (just enough to tie into a knot), sew from right to left through the size 6°, the blue accent bead, and the size 6° in the loop of the first swag. Pick up 4 size 8°s, 1 purple round accent, and 4 size 8°s, and sew from right

- 10 Repeat Steps 8 and 9 inside each swag.

Add drop embellishment between swags.

- 11 On a 12" piece of Fireline, string 8 size 8°s, 1 size 6°, 1 cocoa 10mm, 1 size 6°, and 1 size 8°. Go back through the size 6° and the 10mm, pick up 8 more size 8°s, and sew through the beads strung in Sequence 2. Knot the working thread and tail securely and weave the ends into the beadwork; trim ends. Repeat for Sequence 4 sections between swags.



RESOURCES: Porcelain Beads: Clay River Designs, www.clayriverdesigns.com, clayriverdesigns@yahoo.com. Seed beads, wire, tools, Bead Stoppers, and findings: Check your local bead store.



LESLIE ROGALSKI is editor in chief of Step by Step Beads, and a contributing editor to Step by Step Wire Jewelry. She has been an artist and writer (among other things) all her life.



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