



Keep it simple

Create easy multi-strand necklaces with seed beads

by Emily Quinn

I adore seed beads. These tiny snippets of the rainbow can be bought in abundance cheaply. By hank or by gram, by tube or by pack, however I purchase them, new batches of seed beads always make me feel rich. But I try to keep admiration sessions with my seed bead stash private because an uninitiated observer (like my husband) wouldn't understand my pirate-like glee as I gloat over my horde.

Seed beads are also the workhorse of beads. Used to set off larger, more expensive beads or to weave an off-loom or loomed design, they quietly do the job, calling little attention to themselves. But here are two multi-strand necklace designs in which seed beads grab the limelight. The first features one luscious

color of 8° seed beads, and the second uses a colorful assortment of seed bead sizes and a handful of pressed glass beads.

stepbystep

monochrome necklace

- 1 Decide how long you want your necklace to be. A standard neckline length is 18 in. (46cm), but you might want to add a few extra beads to allow for the fullness.
- 2 Attach a split ring to the loop on each part of the clasp. Split rings open like a key chain ring (split ring pliers are useful for opening the rings). Once you've inserted an end of a split ring in the clasp loop, use your chainnose pliers

to turn the ring until it is seated properly (**photo a**).

- 3 Attach the hooks of 3 bead tips to each of the split rings with roundnose pliers (see "Basics," p. 136). Subtract the length of the clasp, rings, and bead tips from the finished length to determine the length of your bead strands.

- 4 Cut 2 pieces of nylon bead cord 3 times that length, thread a twisted wire needle onto each, and pull the needles to the center of each cord. Tie all four ends together with an overhand knot (see "Basics") and dot the knot with nail polish. Bring both needles through a bead tip from the hook end to the outside (**photo b**).

- 5 Now string the correct length of

beads on each strand. String both strands through a bead tip on the other split ring, stringing toward the hook, and cut off the needles. Make sure the beads are snug and tie the cords together with a square knot (**photo c** and “Basics”). Dab the knot with nail polish applied from the tip of a needle and trim the ends when dry. Using chain-nose pliers, squeeze the halves of the bead tips together, enclosing the knots (**photo d**).

⑥ Repeat steps 4-5 with the next pair of bead tips. Tie three strands together with three needles for the strands with three needles for the strands between the last pair of bead tips.

multi-color necklace

① This necklace is slightly graduated—the second strand is ½ in. (1.3cm) longer than the first and the third strand is 1 in. (2.5cm) longer. Decide on the length of your first strand.

② Measure the length of the clasp and split rings and subtract it from the length you chose for the first strand as in step 3 above.

③ Thread a needle with a cord cut 3 times the finished length of the first strand and tie the ends together with 2-3 overhand knots (see “Basics”). Dab the knots with clear nail polish or glue. When dry, trim the threads and string a bead tip, pulling the knot inside the cup. Close the bead tip with chainnose pliers. Attach the bead tip to one of the split rings as in step 3 above.

④ String *an 8° seed bead, a 6° seed

bead, an 8° seed bead, and an 11° seed bead*. Repeat from * to * until you reach the desired length.

⑤ String a bead tip and finish as in step 5 above. Attach the second bead tip to the other split ring.

⑥ Repeat step 3 for the second strand. String * three 11° seed beads and an 8° seed bead*. Repeat from * to * until you have reached the desired length. Finish as in step 5.

⑦ Repeat step 3 for the third strand. String *a 6mm Czech glass bead, a 6° seed bead, an 8° seed bead, a 6mm glass bead, an 8° seed bead, and a 6° seed bead*. Repeat from * to * until you have reached the desired length. Finish as in step 5.

⑧ Attach the split rings to the clasp. ●

materials

for each necklace

- 6 Bead tips
- 1 Clasp
- 2 Large split rings, 6mm
- Nylon bead cord, #0 or 1, in a coordinating color
- Clear nail polish
- Tools: chainnose and roundnose pliers, twisted wire needles, split ring pliers (optional)

monochrome necklace

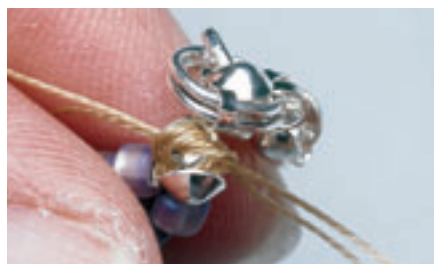
- 20-30g or 1 Hank 8° seed beads

multi-color necklace

- 10g 11° Seed beads, burgundy
- 10g 8° Seed beads, light amber, purple/iris-lined
- 10g 6° Seed beads, silver-lined matte teal
- 41 6mm Czech pressed glass beads



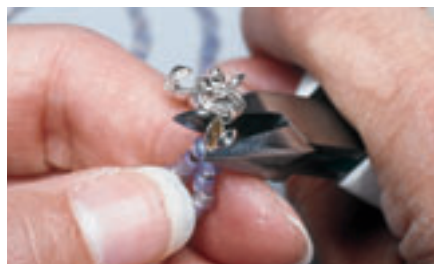
a



c



b



d

