

1410-2

Claudia Chase demonstrates a new technique for the show by making a fiber and bead cuff bracelet on a loom.

Mirrix Tapestry/Bead Cuff



This kit contains the following:

Brass cuff one inch wide
C-Lon Cord size 135

Various yarns including hand-dyed silk, perle cotton, linen, rayon floss and novelty

yarns
8/0 and 11/0 seed beads
ultra-suede

Necessary tools not included in the kit:

A Mirrix Loom with shedding device and a ten dent warp coil
A piece of cloth for holding beads
A size 10 beading needle
A tapestry needle
A tube of E-6000 glue
Scissor
Measuring tape

Warping your Mirrix Loom:

Warping method: for tapestry, one thread of C-Lon cord per dent
Warp Coil size: 10 dents
Number of warps: 15
Finished length of piece: 7 inches

You can use any of the Mirrix Looms with shedding devices to create this lovely bracelet. If you don't own a ten dent coil, you can use the twelve dent. Once you've warped your loom, spread out the coil on top so there are ten dents per inch.

Reduce your loom's height to minimize the amount of warp you will use. If you have a larger Mirrix Loom, this can be accomplished by using the extra warping bar. I like to weave a piece on both the left and right side of the loom at the same time.

Weaving

Weave a header about a quarter inch long using the C-Lon cord.

You will be weaving straight lines of thread and beads. You decide the order. The threads in this kit all look beautiful together. In the below piece I am using two threads at a time for a more interesting color effect. Make sure that you do not pull too tightly when you wrap around the edges so that your edges remain straight.

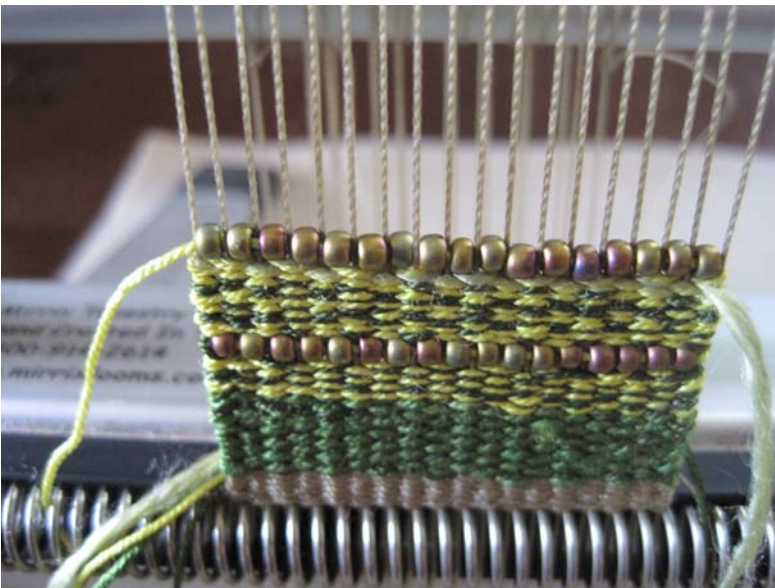
(Note: it is helpful to buy one of the tapestry books on our site if you are not familiar with weaving yarn or want to learn a variety of tapestry techniques.)

To weave the beads, thread a ten inch length of beading thread into a beading needle.

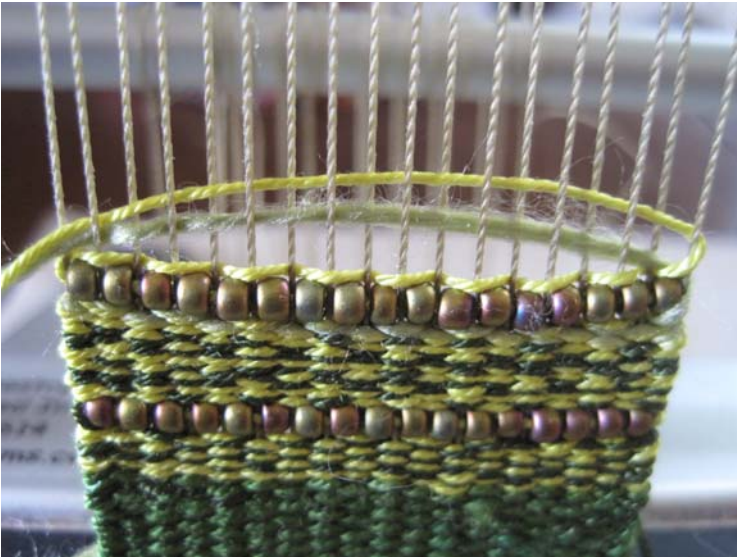
Tie an overhand knot. You will be using this needle with a loop of beading thread to thread the 8/0 beads onto your yarn. Loop the end of the last piece of yarn you've woven through thread on the needle. Pick up 14 beads with your needle and slide those beads down the beading thread and onto one of the yarns. (Remember, I was using two pieces of yarn for the tapestry part but only threaded the beads onto one of the threads.)



Weave the yarn with the beads, placing one bead between each thread.



Weave the empty thread above the beads. In this case I then join that thread with the second and thread and continue weaving.



When you've almost reached seven inches, weave about a quarter inch of the C-Lon bead cord. Put some glue on the edge of the header and footer so that the weaving does not ravel when you remove it from the loom. Let the glue set.

To remove the weaving from the loom, loosen the tension on the loom and remove the warp bar. Lay your piece flat and trim the ends so that you have at least four inches left to work with (the longer the better). Tie overhand knots with warp pairs. When you've tied all the knots, trim the warp to about an inch in length.



Assembly:

Ultrasuede: Lay the beadwork on the Ultrasuede and trace the outline of the tapestry onto the Ultrasuede. Trim the Ultrasuede to match the size of the beadwork.

Gluing: Use a toothpick to spread a thin, even layer of adhesive over the back of the tapestry and to one side of the Ultrasuede. Place the brass cuff blank between the two and sandwich them together. Smooth both pieces to remove any gaps and make sure they two pieces are aligned.

Edging: Cut a yard length of C-Lon thread. Bury the end between a corner of the beadwork and the Ultrasuede. You will begin a pico stitch by entering the back of the tapestry, picking up three 11/0 beads and sewing through the ultrasuede. Continue sewing the back and front together with three beads per stitch.

Tips:

-Make sure that you do not pull too tightly when you wrap around the edges so that your edges remain straight. Measure the width of your piece frequently to make sure you are not pulling in on the sides.

-The woven beads will help keep your piece at an even width so (at least for your first piece) weave in a row of beads at least every $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

-Make sure that your yarn is fine enough that it completely covers the warp threads.

-Push down the weft threads with your fingers after you've woven a few rows to create as dense a piece as possible.

-You always want your ends to be on the back of your piece. End a color by sticking your thread through to the back (somewhere in the middle) and start a new thread where that thread ended as if it was a continuation of that same thread. This way, your ends will be neatly hidden away when you finish your piece.

-You can use any tapestry techniques in this cuff but we suggest beginners start with simple lines and weft blending.

Guest:



Claudia Chase

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