

stitch pro { RUSSIAN SPIRAL }

Jean Campbell



In the late 1990s a handful of Russian-language beadwork books hit the United States. Beaders here went wild, deciphering the instructions despite the language barrier, because they were so excited to try out techniques they had never seen before. The leaves, fringes, chains, and ropes that graced the pages of these books would forever be known as “Russian” to beaders here, including the lovely spiral rope I’d like to show you in this installment of *Stitch Pro*.

Russian spiral is one of the easiest spiral ropes to do, but I also like it because it’s so versatile. You can interchange bead color, size, and type fairly easily for dramatically different results. And because you add several beads at a time when you stitch, it works up fairly quickly.

MATERIALS & TOOLS

Size 11° seed beads (A)

Size 8° seed beads (B)

Size D nylon or 6 lb braided beading thread

Scissors

Beading needle

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Round 1: Place the needle on the thread and string {1B and 3A} three times, leaving a short tail to weave in later. Tie a knot with the working and tail threads to form a tight circle. Pass through the first B strung (Fig. 1). *Note:* In this example, the A beads are purple and B beads are green.

Round 2: String 3A and 1B, then pass through the next B of Round 1; repeat twice (Fig. 2).

Rounds 3 and on: String 3A and 1B, skip the nearest 3A, then pass through the next B of the previous round; repeat to the desired length (Fig. 3). *Note:* There is no step-up with this technique, as the nets created with each stitch just continue to spiral up like a staircase. ♦

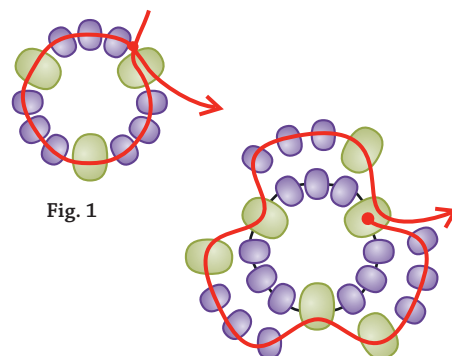


Fig. 1

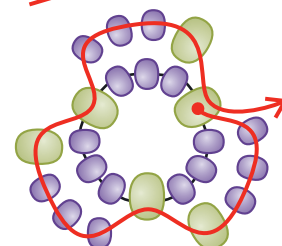


Fig. 2

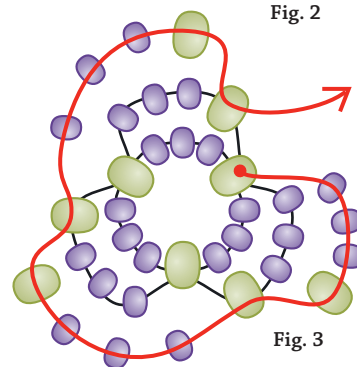


Fig. 3

Try this!

- I’ve used size 11° and size 8° beads in my sample to accentuate the spiral in this rope, but you may use just about any combination of bead sizes for nice

results. Just be careful one size of bead isn’t so small that it slips inside the holes of the other beads.

- Slowly increase the number of size 11° beads between the size 8° beads to form a cone.

- For a very boxy chain, use bugle beads instead of the 3A in each net.