

# Social Butterflies



Work a bracelet of adorable butterflies in Ndebele herringbone stitch

by **Stacey M. Summerhill**

The butterfly house at the Detroit zoo is one of my favorite places to spend the afternoon. I love how the butterflies fly around me, landing gracefully on my arm or my hair. I designed this bracelet to capture those relaxing afternoons and to honor the pageant of fluttering wings.





## stepbystep

### Butterflies

#### Body

**[1]** On a 1-yd (90cm) length of Fireline, work a four-bead ladder (Basics, p. 146) using seed beads (**figure 1**).

**[2]** Stitch the first and fourth beads together to connect them into a ring (**figure 2, a-b**).

**[3]** Tie the working thread and tail together with a square knot (Basics). Sew up through the first bead (**b-c** and **photo a**).

**[4]** Work row 2 in tubular herringbone stitch (Basics). Pick up two beads and sew down through the next bead on the previous row (**figure 3, a-b**). Sew up through the third bead. Pick up two beads and sew down through the fourth bead (**b-c**). Then sew up through the first bead on the previous row and the bead above it on the row just added (**c-d**).

**[5]** Repeat step 4 until you have a total of nine rows (**photo b**).

#### Antennae

**[1]** Pick up six beads. Skip the end bead and sew back through five beads and all the herringbone body beads (**photo c**).

**[2]** Sew up through the adjacent stack of body beads (**photo d**).

**[3]** Repeat step 1 to make the second antenna.

#### MATERIALS

bracelet 7½–8½ in. (19–21.6cm)

- 24 10 x 8mm teardrop glass beads vertically drilled ([www.firemountain.com](http://www.firemountain.com), search crys 10x8 teardrop)
- 5g seed beads, size 11°
- toggle clasp
- Fireline 6 lb. test
- beading needles, #12

#### Wings

Working one side at a time, add the wings to the herringbone body.

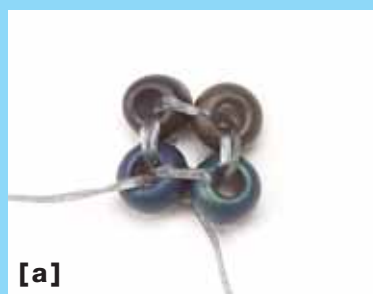
**[1]** Sew under a thread bridge next to the bead the needle exits and tie a half-hitch knot (Basics). Then sew back up through the end three beads in the stack.

**[2]** Pick up a seed, a teardrop bead narrow end first, and a seed and position the beads against the body. Sew back through the teardrop, pick up a seed, and sew through the next two beads on the stack (**photo e**).

**[3]** Repeat step 2 to add the top half of the wing and exit the ninth bead on the stack.

**[4]** Sew down through beads nine and eight on the stack (no antenna) at the back of the body (**photo f**). Pick up nine seeds and sew through the bead at the tip of the top half of the wing (**figure 4, a-b**).

**[5]** Pick up ten seeds and sew down through bead five on the stack (**b-c**). Sew back through six of the ten







[e]



[f]



[g]



[h]



[i]

beads just added (c-d).

**[6]** Pick up four seeds and sew through the bead at the tip of the bottom half of the wing (d-e). Pick up nine seeds and sew down through bead two and bead one on the stack (e-f and photo g).

**[7]** Now add seed beads around the wing on the front of the butterfly. Sew up through beads one and two on the front stack. Pick up nine seeds and sew through the bead at the tip of the bottom half of the wing.

**[8]** Pick up ten seeds and sew up through bead five on the stack. Sew back through the first six beads just added, pick up four seeds, and sew through the bead at the tip on the top half of the wing. Pick up nine seeds and sew through beads eight and nine on the stack.

**[9]** Sew down the other stack on the front of the body and repeat steps 1-8 to add a wing on the other side of the butterfly.

**[10]** Secure the working thread and tail with half-hitch knots between a few beads and trim.

**[11]** Make five butterflies for a 7½-in. (19cm) bracelet and six for an 8½ in. (22cm).

### Connections

**[1]** Secure a comfortable length of Fireline in the top right wing of a butterfly so it exits the bead at the tip (figure 5, point a).

**[2]** Pick up a seed (a-b) and sew through the corresponding bead on a second butterfly. Sew back through the bead and the tip bead on the first wing (b-c). Reinforce the thread path with a few more passes.

**[3]** Weave down through the beads on the wing of the first butterfly and exit the bead at the tip on the bottom half of the wing. Repeat step 2 and connect the the bottom half of the wings (photo h).



FIGURE 1

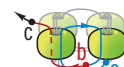


FIGURE 2

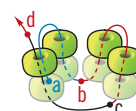


FIGURE 3

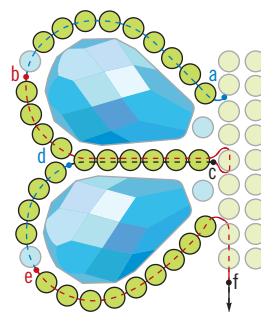


FIGURE 4

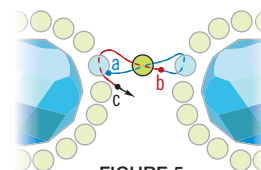


FIGURE 5

**[4]** Secure the thread in the bead-work with half-hitch knots between a few beads and trim.

**[5]** Repeat steps 1-4 to connect the remaining butterflies.

### Clasp

**[1]** Secure a comfortable length of Fireline in the wing of one of the end butterflies and exit the bead at the tip of a wing.

**[2]** Pick up four seed beads, sew through the loop on the round end of the toggle, and pick up four seed beads. Sew through the bead at the tip of the other wing (photo i).

**[3]** Reinforce the thread path with a second pass and end the thread.

**[4]** Repeat steps 1-3 with the other end of the bracelet, stringing seven beads to attach the bar end of the toggle clasp. •

Contact Stacey via email at [staceysummerhil@earthlink.net](mailto:staceysummerhil@earthlink.net).