

Explore
COlor
variations in
ladder stitch

Two quick stitches combine to create fun and easy bracelets

designed by **Julz Stewart**





Whip up a ladder stitch base, and prepare to be delighted at how quickly you can create a casual, comfortable bracelet that you embellish with colorful 11° seed beads.

stepbystep

[1] On 4 yd. (3.7m) of Fireline, leaving a 10-in. (25cm) tail, use 8° seed beads to stitch a three-bead ladder (Basics, p. 140 and **figure 1**). Mine is 54 rows long. (To alter the length of your bracelet, stitch fewer or more rows.)

[2] Exit the last row of the ladder, and pick up two color A 11° seed beads, an 8°, three As, half the clasp, and three As. Sew back through the 8° (**figure 2, a-b**). Pick up two As, and sew back through the last row of the ladder (**b-c**). Reinforce the beads just added with a second and third thread path. Exit at **point c**.

[3] Pick up five As, and sew through the middle 8° on the base, two rows from where your thread is exiting (**figure 3, a-b**). Pick up five As, and sew

through the first row of 8°s (**b-c**). Then sew through the next row (**c-d**).

[4] Repeat step 3 with color B 11°s, reversing the direction of the thread path, as shown in **figure 4**.

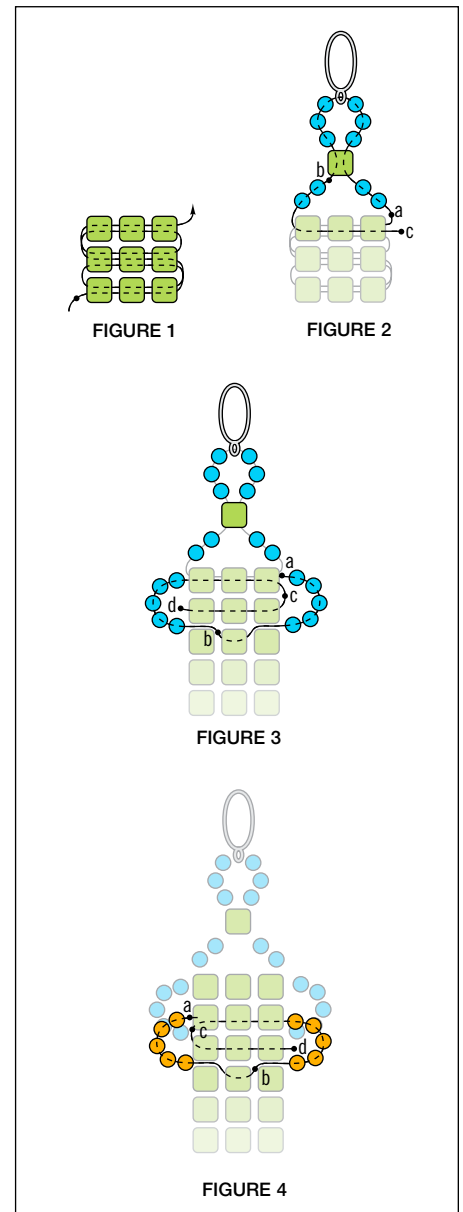
[5] Repeat steps 3 and 4 with the color C, D, and E 11°s, making a repeating pattern with the five colors.

[6] When you reach the first row, repeat step 2, using the other half of the clasp. Secure the working thread in the last few rows by weaving in the thread and tying half-hitch knots (Basics) between a few beads. Trim the thread.

[7] Secure the tail in the same manner as the working thread. ●

Contact Julz in care of Busy Beads, (951) 695-3338.

The base of this bracelet is made with 8° Japanese cylinder beads. They are very uniform and have large holes that work well when used for embellishment.



MATERIALS

bracelet 7½ in. (19.1cm)

- Japanese seed beads
5g size 8°
1g each of size 11°, in each of 5 colors:
A, B, C, D, E
- toggle clasp
- Fireline 6 lb. test
- beading needles, #12

EDITOR'S NOTE: You can use another shape or size of seed bead instead of the 8° Japanese seed beads, but you may need to alter the number of 11°s it will take to make the embellishment across the top of the base.