



Comet Anemone

Dazzling fringe bracelet.

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Photo by Jim Lawson.

My favorite anemone bracelets contrast the tip beads against the fringe stem beads for a truly lush look. I'm a fan of matte metallic against matte frosted colors, or light, bright tips against dark fringe. This dazzler of a project shows brilliant crystals against rich matte black for optimum sparkle.

See the Try This! on page 28 for more anemone bracelet ideas.

Once you learn this popular fringe technique, there's no limit to the sizes, colors, and types of beads you can try.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 30 g size 6° matte black seed beads (for fringe stems and core beads)
- 230-250 Swarovski Comet Argent light 4mm bicones or rounds (for tips)
- Matching silver or crystal-set clasp
- 2 crimp tubes
- .018 flexible beading wire
- FireLine 8lb
- Beading needle
- Scissors
- Crimping pliers
- Wire cutters
- Bead Stoppers

ARTIST'S TIP

To make this bracelet, crimp clasps onto a core strand of beads, then sew fringes between the beads.

Determine your bracelet length

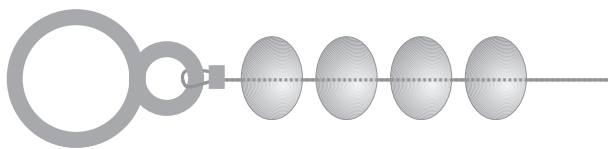
1 Make the core finished length at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " larger than your desired length because the fringes fill out space and will otherwise cause the bracelet to be too tight. Always add at least 6" of extra wire to allow a 3" tail at both ends for easier crimping of your clasp and then subtract the clasp's length.

Example: For a 7" bracelet with a 1" clasp, subtract 1" for a subtotal of 6", then add $\frac{3}{4}$ " of extra fringe space for a subtotal of $6\frac{3}{4}$ ". Now add the extra 6" for crimping ease, and your wire total is $12\frac{3}{4}$ ". Better-safe-than-sorry tip: Cut a piece of wire longer than needed!

Crimping the core strand of beads

2 Thread 3" of beading wire through a crimp and one clasp loop. Go back through the crimp and pull the wire so the crimp rests close to the clasp loop but leaving the clasp loose enough to swing freely. Crimp tightly with crimp pliers.

3 String on enough core beads as desired for length (minus the other half of the clasp) but *do not crimp* the other clasp yet! Place a Bead Stopper close to the last bead, leaving a generous length of tail to crimp later on. Allow about a bead's width of space between the stopper and the bead next to it. By waiting to crimp the other end of the core, you'll be able to adjust the length of your bracelet if you need to add or subtract to the core. As you add fringe, your core beads will spread out along the wire, and you may need to reposition the Bead Stopper once or twice for your ideal length.



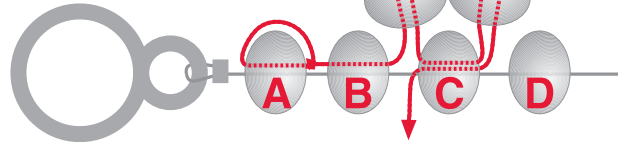
Adding the fringe

You will create 8 fringes at a time, 4 between each core bead, before moving down the length of the bracelet. Hold the fringed part of your bracelet in your non-sewing hand as you work to keep your thread from getting tangled in the fringes.

4 String a comfortable length of thread onto a needle. Starting at the crimped clasp end, leave a 5" tail and stitch through the first core bead. Tie a double square knot with your tail and working thread between the first 2 beads of your core (beads A and B in the diagram).

5 Stitch through the second core bead (B) exiting between the second and third core beads (B and C). Create fringe 1: Pick

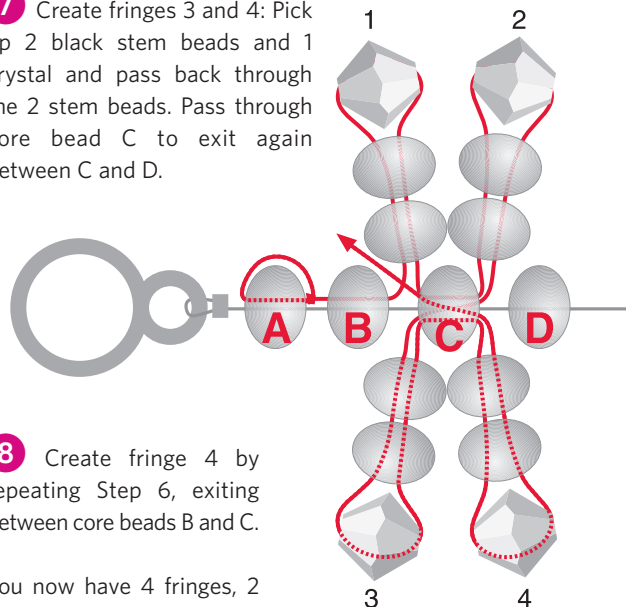
up 2 black beads (these form the stem of the fringe) and 1 crystal (for the tip). Pass back through the 2 stem beads and continue through the third core bead (C), exiting between core beads C and D.



Note: Fringes should sit in a cluster *against* the core beads; don't try to pull them *in between* the core beads. Only your working threads come from the wire between core beads. Pull each fringe close in to the core bead by holding the tip crystal and gently pulling your working thread so the fringe stem slips down into position. Remember to also pull in the tip crystal against the stem beads before continuing. As your fringes fill out around each core bead, fringes will not come all the way to the core beads: This is correct. The last few fringes in each cluster may rest against previous fringes.

6 Create fringe 2: Pick up 2 black stem beads and 1 crystal. Pass back through the stem beads and back through core bead C, exiting between core beads B and C.

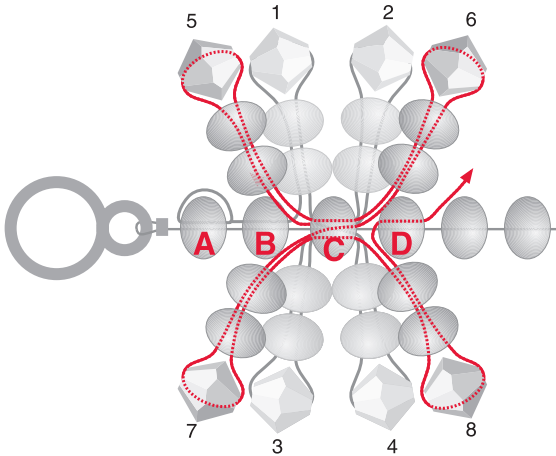
7 Create fringes 3 and 4: Pick up 2 black stem beads and 1 crystal and pass back through the 2 stem beads. Pass through core bead C to exit again between C and D.



8 Create fringe 4 by repeating Step 6, exiting between core beads B and C.

You now have 4 fringes, 2 between core beads B and C, and 2 between core beads C and D.

9 Repeat Steps 5 to 8 between the same core beads, adding 4 more fringes: Add 2 between core beads B and C, and 2 between core beads C and D. After picking up your fringe beads for fringe 8, sew through the next core bead, bead D.



10 Continue adding 4 fringes between each core bead, working your way toward the Bead Stopper end. About 8 core beads before your Bead Stopper, measure the bracelet around your wrist to see if you need to add or subtract core beads for a correct length. Shake your hand so the fringes flatten out against your wrist a bit for the truest test of fit. You'll notice now how the fringes add to the bulk of the bracelet!

How to add thread

When you're down to about 8" of working thread, exit the base of a fringe at the core beads. Knot the tail onto a new length of thread, making a surgeon's knot or double square knot as close as possible to the core, where it will be hidden by fringes. Thread

the new thread on a needle and stitch back through the core beads to the next-to-the-last fringes you just stitched. Follow the thread path through a fringe and return forward through the core beads to resume making fringes. Pull your new thread so the knot is hidden inside a core bead, weave both tails into the core beads, then carefully trim any exposed tail ends. Continue adding fringe.

Finishing

11 When you're satisfied your bracelet length is comfortable (remember to include the length of your clasp in that fit), add your crimp and clasp on the other side following Step 1. Leave a little room between the last few beads so you can fit your needle through.

Your last fringes should be between (you know what I mean) the last 2 core beads. Knot your tail snugly around that last bead as you did when you began your fringes in Step 3 and weave in the remaining thread through one of the fringes; trim carefully. At the other end of the bracelet, thread your starting tail on your needle and weave into a fringe to obscure; trim carefully.

Your bracelet may seem snug when you first put it on, but the fringes will flatten out against your wrist. Nice work!

RESOURCES: Check your local bead shop for all beads, crystals, and findings. FireLine fishing line may also be found at Wal-Mart or Cabelas.com.



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TRY THIS!

Create bunches of fringes around size 6 core beads strung between 10-12mm rounds.

Make random length, spiked fringes with bugle beads and varied sizes of seed beads.

Blast your bracelet with texture using a mix of coordinated colors and varied bead surfaces.

