



O-riginal O-ring

Circular brick stitch pendant.

LESLIE ROGALSKI, EDITOR IN CHIEF

Photo by Jim Lawson; all other photos courtesy of the author.

People clamored for this project when it was displayed on *Beading Daily* (beadingdaily.com), so here it is by popular request. Brick-stitch a single row of cubes and size 8° seed beads around a black rubber O-ring, then string size 11° cylinders between the size 8°s for detail. Add an easy bail to fit around a rubber cord. Industrial style for men and women!

WHAT YOU NEED

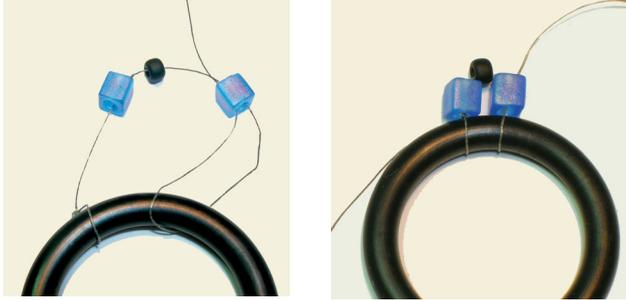
- About 28 size 4mm cube beads
- 2 g black size 8° seed beads
- 3 g white size 11° cylinder beads
- 1 Danco #15 O.D. (outer diameter) x 1/8" black rubber O-ring
- 1 black rubber necklace cord with clasp
- #10 beading needle
- FireLine or Nymo beading thread
- Scissors

ARTIST'S TIPS:

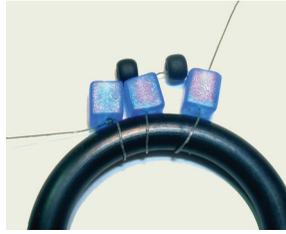
- When is a cube not a cube? When it's... *irregular!* Choose cubes of a uniform height (from hole to hole) for best results in this project.
- O-rings have two measurements: "O.D." is the outer diameter of a ring and is a number assigned by the company such as #15, #18, etc. You'll also see a small increment for the thickness/gauge of the ring: 5/32", 1/8", etc.

The ring

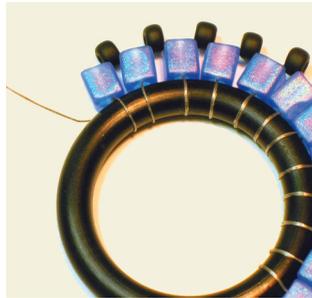
1 Thread your needle on 5' of thread. Tie a square knot around the ring, leaving a 5" tail. *Do not pull too tightly or the FireLine may cut into the rubber of the ring.* String 1 cube, 1 size 8°, and 1 cube. Pass around the O-ring and back up through the second cube. Do not pass through the size 8°. Pull the cubes against the O-ring.



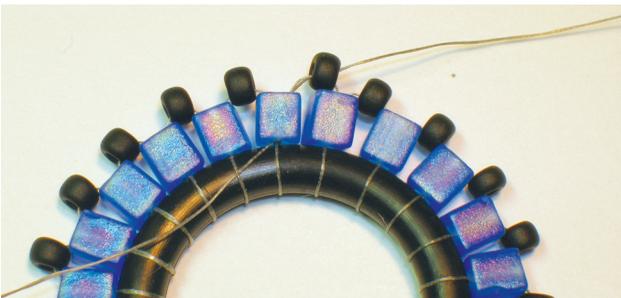
2 Pick up 1 size 8° and 1 cube. Pass down through the cube, positioning it clockwise on the O-ring next to your first cube. Pass around the O-ring and pass back up through the cube. Do not pass through the size 8°.



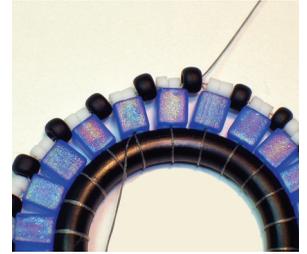
3 Repeat Step 2 clockwise around the ring. Allow the size 8°s to rest atop the spaces between the cubes. The size 8°s should not fall completely between each cube. Space your cubes and size 8°s to sit next to each other: The bottom edges of the cubes should touch each other against the ring, but the tops of the cubes will fan out.



4 Pick up the last size 8° and pass down through the first cube. Knot the working thread to the tail so the knot is hidden between the cube and the ring. Do not trim threads. Pass back up through the first cube and the next size 8° moving clockwise.

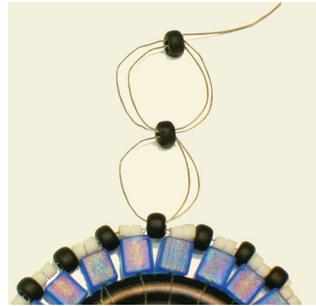


5 Pick up 2 cylinder beads and sew through the next size 8°. Work clockwise to add 2 cylinder beads between each size 8° around the ring. Don't pull too tightly or the beadwork will "cup"; you want it to lie flat. Exit through the first cylinders and size 8° strung.

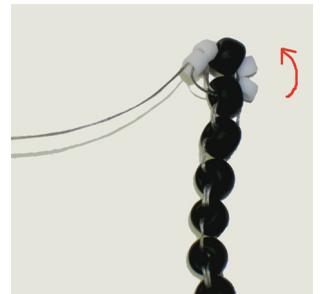


The bail

6 Create a ladder-stitched strip of size 8°s long enough to form a loop that will slide easily over the clasp of your chosen cord. The wiggly bead alignment will straighten out when cylinder beads are added in the following steps. Be sure the size 8° beads are pulled up against the previously strung beads in a tight ladder.



7 Add cylinder beads along both sides of the ladder working in a circular stitch. Round 1: Exiting the last size 8° in the ladder, string 2 cylinders and pass through the next ladder bead. String 2 cylinders, pass through the previous size 8° bead, and pass down through the first cylinders strung in this round.



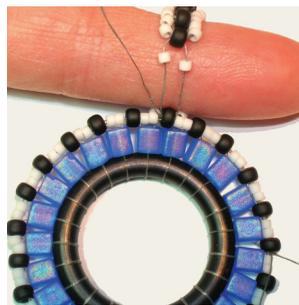
8 Round 2: String 2 cylinders. Pass through the next size 8°. String 2 cylinders, pass through the previous size 8° and down through the first cylinders strung in this round. Your stitching will always be in the same circular motion. Work 2 beads per stitch until the last size 8°; string 1 cylinder on each side.



9 Repeat for as many rounds as needed to reach the beadwork on your O-ring. Your last pass will be through the size 8° on the ring beadwork: String only 1 cylinder, pass through the size 8°, string 1 cylinder, pass through the previous size 8°.

10 Pass straight through all the cylinders on one side of the ladder, through the top size 8°, and down through all the cylinders on the other side. Exit through the size 8° in the ring beadwork.

11 Fold the ladder strip over to meet the O-ring. Make sure the loop is long enough to slide over your clasp. (If not, add more size 8°s and cylinders to the ladder or sew the bail directly around your cord.) String 1 cylinder and pass through the size 8° in the ladder. String another cylinder and pass through the size 8° in the beadwork. Pass through several cylinders in the ladder and through an adjacent size 8°, then pass down through cylinders to the ring.



Repeat through this thread path to secure the end of the ladder to the beadwork. Weave all ends into piece. Trim.



RESOURCES: Cubes, beads, and cords: Check your local bead shop. Danco O-rings: Check your hardware store plumbing section.

LESLIE ROGALSKI is editor in chief of *Step by Step Beads* and *Creative Jewelry* and senior editor of *Beadwork*.

TRY THIS!

- Use colored thread that will stand out from the black O-ring for extra impact as a design element.
- Play with different size 8° beads between the cubes and the way you string the cylinders . . . or don't use cylinders at all!

See your O-ring creations in an online showcase of readers' work! Send jpegs of your O-ring pendants to sbsbeads@interweave.com. Be sure to include your name, location, and e-mail.



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