



Big Bold Tassel

Instructions by Gail DeLuca

My classic tassel, re-booted to make it big and bold (and easier to stitch with larger beads!) Hang it from a simple herringbone rope or add sections of some sparkly fire polish as you stitch.

Beads and supplies:

Size 8 seed beads color A
 Size 8 seed beads color B
 Miyuki long drop beads
 4mm Firepolish Beads color A
 4mm Firepolish Beads color B
 8mm Firepolish Beads
 Fireline, 6lb
 Size 10 beading needle
 work surface



1. Begin with a 6' length of thread. String 6 size 8 seed beads color A, stitch through them again forming a circle, and stitching through then next bead again so the circle will sit right. (leave a 6" tail)



2. Stitch peyote stitch for 2 more rows, using size 8 seed beads color B. (string a size 8, skip a bead and stitch through the next bead in the circle. Do this two more times.) This may be easier to see if you leave the beads flat and loose.

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3. Step up into the first bead you added in step 2. Tug on the thread to begin to form a tube.



4. Now you can more easily see where to take your next stitches. Add another row of peyote using color B. (string a size 8, skip a bead and stitch through the next bead. The bead you stitch through should be a color B)

5. Step up into the first bead you added in step 4.



6. Continue adding two rows of each color until you have 10 rows total (this will look like 5 stripes of color). Make sure to do the last step up. This completed tubular peyote stitch is the "base".



7. Now we will add the loops on the tassel. We are working from the bottom of the base (where your working thread is now) to the top (where your tail thread is now). String 9 color A, 1 color B, 1 8mm Fire polish, 1 color B. Stitch through the 8mm Fire polish again, string one color B, and 9 color A.



8. Stitch through the next bead in the last row of peyote stitch.

9. Repeat steps 7-8 two more times (a total of 3 loops.)



10. Step up into the next row of color A beads in the base, heading toward the top. Your thread should be exiting a color A bead.



11. Add another set of loops as in steps 7-9, stitching into the A beads in the base. It's still kind of a peyote stitch - on TOP of the base beads.

12. Step up into the next row.



13. Now, let's add another set of 6 loops, as you did in steps 7-11, reversing the colors and using a long drop bead instead of the fire polish bead. Since we are using a drop bead, you can just string it without adding the extra size 8 to hold it on.



14. Now, let's add another set of 6 loops, as you did in steps 7-11, but making the loops shorter and changing the color again.

String the following sequence for each loop in this set: 5 color A, 1 color B, 4mm Firepolish Color A, 1 color B, 5 color A.



Your tassel should look something like this by now....

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15. For the last set of 6 loops, string two size 8 Color B, one Firepolish color B, and two size 8 Color B.



View from the top after step 15.



16. Step up through two size 8 color A to get to the top of the tassel.

17. String 4 color A and stitch into the next bead in the top row of the base.

18. Stitch up through a bead A in the base and the next two A's you just added.

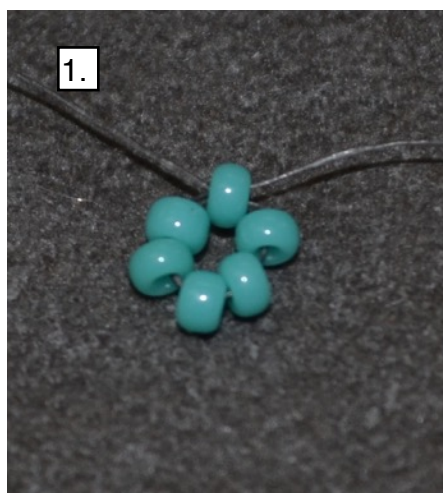
19. String 4 more color A and stitch down through the opposite two A's you added in step 17.

20. Stitch up through 4 A's. Continue this stitch to create enough length to form a loop (20 pairs of beads in my sample). Attach the end to the base, forming a loop. Secure your remaining thread, and also the tail thread.

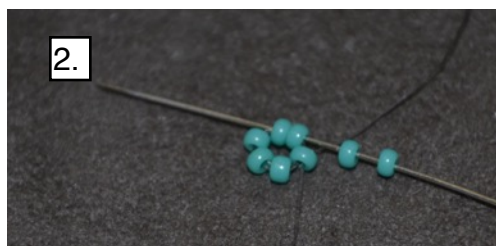
Herringbone Necklace to hang tassel from:

Stitch 2" sections of Tubular Herringbone, adding embellishments using fire polish beads between the sections. Add a clasp as desired.

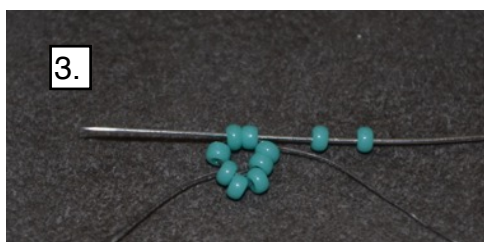
Tubular Herringbone:



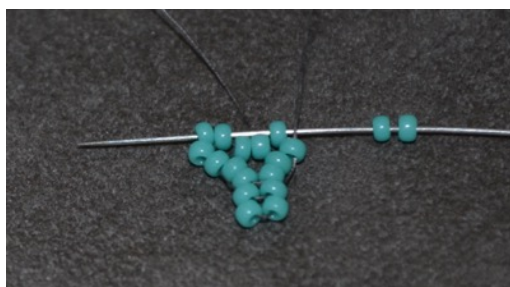
1. Begin with 6' length of thread. String 6 beads and stitch through the beads again, and again through the first bead. This will form a circle as shown. Leave an 8" -12" tail.



2. String two beads and stitch through the next two beads.



3. String two beads and stitch through the next two beads.



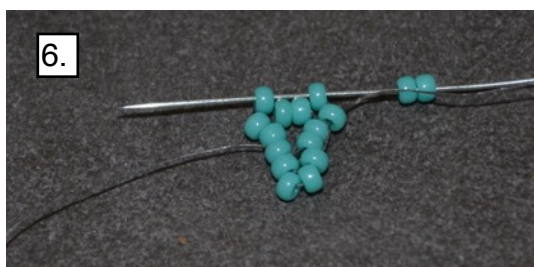
4. String two beads and stitch through the next **THREE** beads.

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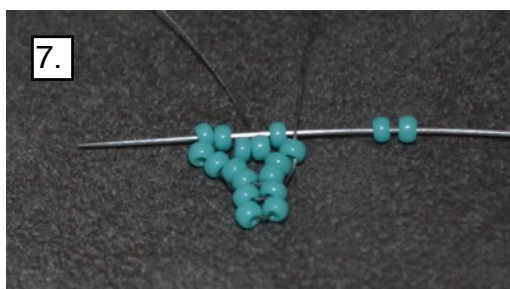
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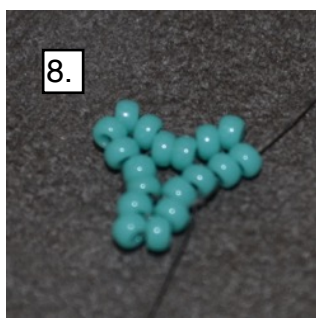
5. String two beads, stitch through the next bead, skip over two beads and stitch through the first bead of the next herringbone pair.



6. String two beads, stitch through the next bead, skip over two beads and stitch through the first bead of the next herringbone pair.

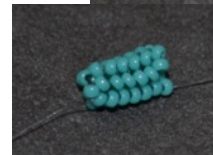
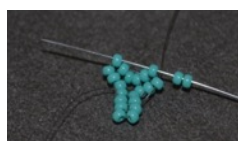


7. String two beads, stitch through the next bead, skip over two beads and **stitch through the next two beads as shown**. This is the "step up" stitch



8. You now have three rows complete, and it's fine for it to sit flat as shown in the photo. Notice that there are three distinct "columns" of bead pairs. We will continue to work in columns of two beads. As you add successive rows, snug your thread and the columns will form into a tube. As you add rows, it is normal for the last row added to kind of fan out. This will be pulled together as you add the next row, and so on.

Stitching Row 4 and beyond:



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To transition to accent beads:



Transition Row 1: Stitch 1 bead (instead of 2), 3 times to finish the row.

Step up into first bead added in row 1

Stitch through the three beads in row 1.

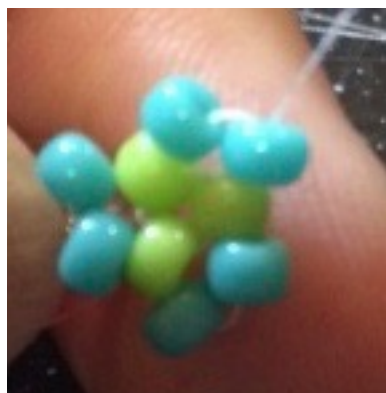
String a 4mm Firepolish, an 8mm Firepolish, and a 4mm Firepolish, and three Size 8 Color B.

Stitch through the three size 8s again.

Stitch back through the 4mm, 8mm and 4mm.

Stitch around the three size 8s.

Stitch through the 4mm, 8mm and 4mm again, and through one of the three size 8s.



To continue herringbone, stitch two size 8s Color A between each of the three size 8s (Color B). Continue with herringbone for desired length until the next transition section.



Add a clasp as desired, or make your rope long and connect it together! Just remember to add your tassel before connecting.

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