

River of Pearls Necklace

By Jill Wiseman

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Supply List

- 35 grams size 11 seed beads
- 3 grams size 8 Delicas
- 112 6mm Swarovski glass pearls
- Two hole slide clasp
- Fireline (6lb)
- Size 10 beading needles



This necklace is made in two steps. First you'll create two brick stitch triangles, and then you'll string seed beads and pearls between them for a dramatic 8-strand necklace. Add your clasp, and you'll be ready to wear your new creation!

Make the triangles

Cut a length of Fireline (thread) that's about 18" long and thread your needle. This is enough to stitch one triangle. You will need to flatten the end of the Fireline to get it through the eye of the needle.

I suggest you make each triangle, end the threads, and then attach a brand new longer thread to start adding the strands between the two triangles.

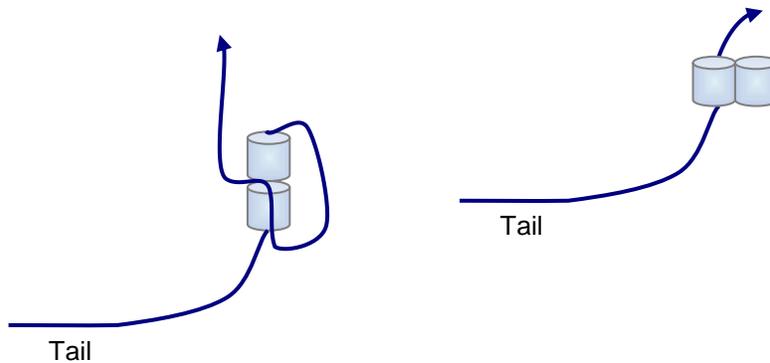
Note on the instructions: The beads you are **adding** in each step will be the green ones.



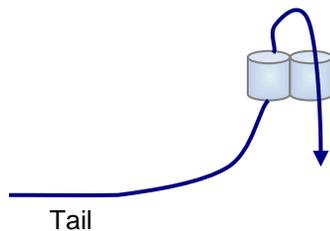
Step 1 – Ladder stitch start

Pick up 2 Delicas and pull them down your thread so you have about a 4-6" tail remaining below them.

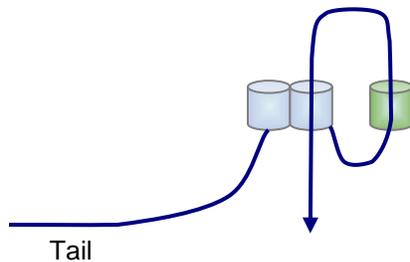
From the tail end moving back up, pass through the first bead – the second bead will fold over so that you'll have 2 beads sitting next to each other. (You might have to nudge them with your finger to fold over the way they should.)



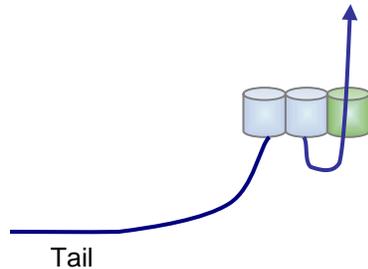
Without adding any beads, pass through the bead on the right so you're at the end of the section and you're ready to add another bead.



Pick up a Delica, and pass through the bead on the left, going through it on the side with no thread already coming out of it (this side will flip every time you add a bead.) You're anchoring the bead you just picked up to the rest of the section.



Now you need to get to the end of the section again to be able to add more beads, so without adding any more beads, pass through the bead on the right to get to the end.



BIG GIANT TIP:

- Remember that when you add a bead, you'll need to anchor them to the bead strip by **passing through the opposite side from where the working thread is exiting.**
- Then you'll have to get to the end of the strip to be in position to add more beads by passing through the bead you just added.

Continue adding beads one at a time until you have a row 8 beads wide.

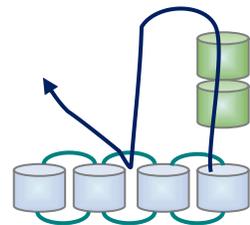


Step 2 – Brick stitch rows 2-6

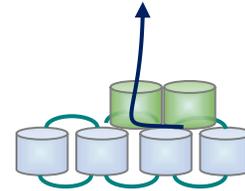
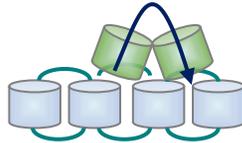
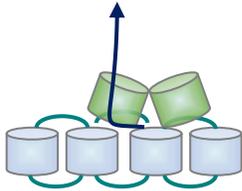
If your thread is not already coming out the top of your beads, simply flip the beads over so it is.

****A new row in brick stitch always begins with adding 2 beads.**

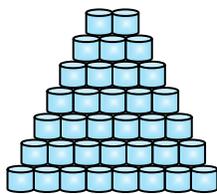
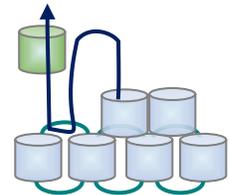
So pick up 2 beads and needle under the thread that's holding the **second** 2 beads in the base together. (Make sure you skip the first thread intersection.) You'll want to needle from the back to the front – in other words, so your needle is coming at your chest. The 2 beads will tilt towards each other.



You'll straighten them up by passing up the Delica on the left (the second one you put on.) After coming back up, go down through the first Delica on the right and up through the Delica to the left again. Basically just circling around them to straighten and reinforce them.

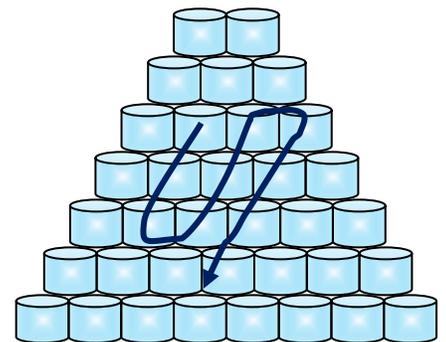


Now pick up a bead, needling under the next loop of thread holding the base row together (always moving to the left) and then passing back up through the bead you just added.



Continue adding beads to this row one at a time until you have 7 beads across (one less than you made on your first row.) Flip the piece after you've reached the end of your rows so you're always working in the same direction, and repeat Step 2, decreasing each row by one bead at the end until you have a triangle shape with the last row consisting of 2 beads.

You can end the tail and working threads by weaving them through the beads in a zig-zag pattern, changing directions with the thread at least three times. A sample path is shown below, but you can go through whatever beads you're near as long as you make sure the thread doesn't show. Then just cut off your thread ends. You'll add thread in the same manner, weaving through the beads, changing directions, until you get to the spot where you want the thread to exit to start adding more beads.



Make a second triangle the same way and end those threads off too.

Step 3 – Add the strands of pearls

Now we get to the really fun part! You're using a mixture of colors, so the hardest part of this is to let yourself be random in which pearls you pick up each time. Or, if you're like me, you find random so stressful that you'll end up analyzing the color pattern – which is fine too. 😊

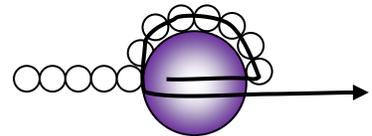
Step 3A

Attach a new thread in one triangle and work through the beads so your thread is exiting the first Delica on the long side. You'll want to use a longer thread here – I usually pull off about 1.5 or even 2 yards.

You'll be using all size 11 seed beads from here on, so you can put away any remaining Delicas.

Step 3B

Pick up 30 seed beads and a pearl. Then pick up 7 seed beads, and pass back through the pearl again. The seed beads will sit on the outside of the pearl. Now repeat that – another 7 seed beads and pass through the pearl again. If necessary, you can tug the pearl back down to snug up against the other seed beads in the strand so you don't have thread showing. I have to do this all the time.



Step 3C

Repeat Step 3B until you have the length you desire (see *Figuring your length* in the next section.)

Secure this strand to the opposite triangle by passing through the corresponding opposite Delica (or you can go through several) and then pass back down to the next Delica in the base row.



Step 3D

Repeat Step 3B, but you'll want to stagger the pearls as you add additional strands. So don't always start with 30 seed beads. Sometimes you might want to add 10 before the first pearl. Sometimes 20. You don't always have to put 30 between the pearls either. I would watch how the pearls were laying as I went along and sometimes I wanted a pearl right *there* and putting only 20 beads before it was the trick – and sometimes it was 35. So be flexible.

Try to keep your strands roughly the same length. Holding it up by one triangle and seeing how they fall is helpful in this.



Figuring the length

You'll want to take into account the length of the triangles and the clasp when you're figuring out how long your strands should be. The triangles + the clasp = 2". So if you want the necklace to be 18" when finished, you'll subtract 2" and your strands should measure 16".

After you've added your first strand, you can hold the piece up around your neck to estimate the length and make sure you're happy with the result before you go farther.

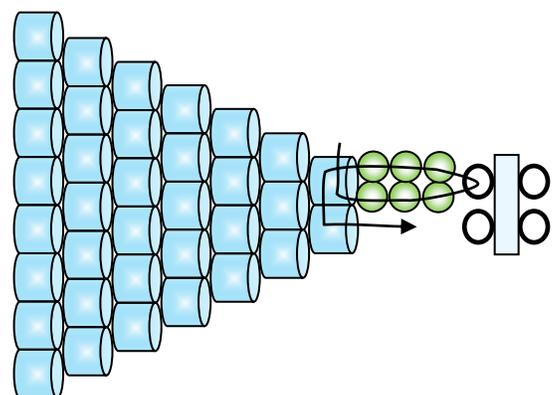


Attach the clasp

I like to start a new thread in the triangle to attach my clasp. Work the thread through the beads so it's exiting one of the two Delicas at the tip of the triangle.

Pick up three size 11 seed beads, pass through the first ring in the clasp, and then pick up three more size 11 seed beads. Pass back through the Delica you were just exiting.

Pass through the second Delica on the tip and repeat picking up 3 seed beads, pass through the second ring in the clasp, and then pick up another 3 seed beads. Secure by passing through the Delica your thread was exiting.



Your clasp is the point of most wear and tear in your jewelry. So you should reinforce the clasp attachments with two more passes of thread for security. No adding beads – simply pass through the seed beads attaching the clasp again.

Repeat this with the other half of the clasp on the other triangle. When attaching the second side, I like to keep my clasp closed so I make sure I attach it the right way (and not upside down – take it from my own bitter personal experience! ☺)

End off any remaining threads, and enjoy wearing your new necklace!

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