



Simple Spiral Sampler

Pattern and instructions by Gail DeLuca

Simple Spiral is an easy stitch to learn, and a beginner favorite around the shop. This tutorial takes the simple spiral stitch to the next level and encourages you to experiment with different combinations of sizes, shapes and colors of beads.

Refer to my blog on the Fundamentals <http://www.whitefoxbeads.com/bead-weaving-fundamentals-essential-stuff-for-successful-stitching/> for information on adding thread, clasp ideas and more.

Tools and supplies

- Size 8 Seed Beads in three colors
- Size 11 Seed Beads in four colors
- Size 15 Seed Beads
- 3.4mm Drops
- Beading thread - Fireline 6lb
- Beading needles, size 10
- Bead blanket or other work surface
- Scissors

Simple Spiral is worked with “core” beads and the “loop” beads. In this project we will be using all size 8 seed beads for the core for the entire length. We will vary the loops, changing every 12 core beads. Stitch to desired length, joining the ends together to wear over the head. For bracelets or shorter lengths, add a clasp of choice.



This illustrates four segments of our sampler, you can make your sampler as long as you like!

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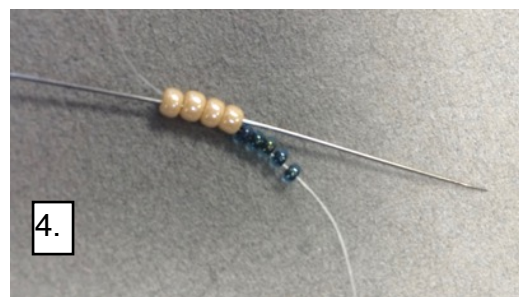
Get Started Learning Simple Spiral

1. Thread a needle with about 4-6 feet of thread, whatever you are comfortable working with.
2. To get started, we will be using a cream colored size 8 seed bead for the core, and a blue size 11 seed bead for the loops.

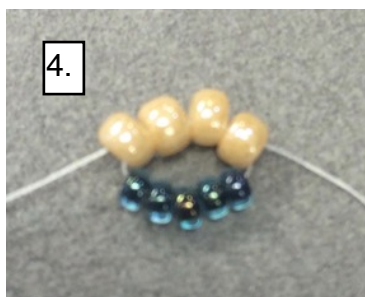


3.

3. String four size 8 seed beads and five size 11s.

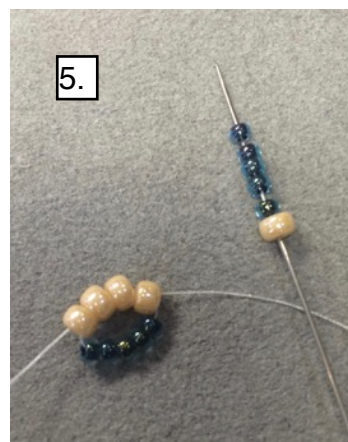


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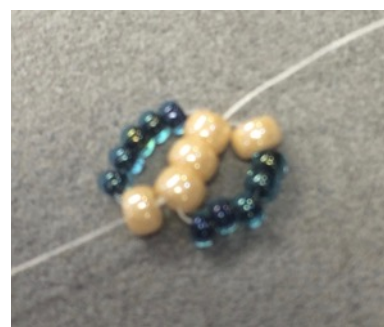


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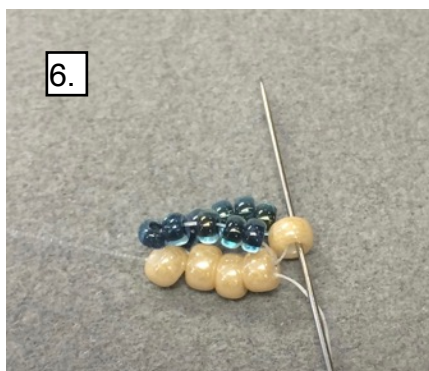
4. Stitch through all four size 8 seed beads again, pull the thread all the way through forming a loop. (Take care to keep an eye on the length of the tail here, making sure to leave 8", more if you're attaching a clasp with it later)



5.



5. String one size 8 bead and five size 11s. Stitch through the "top" three size 8s in the core. This refers to the three farthest away from the tail. DO NOT count the size 8 you just strung as one of the three.



6. Now, stitch through the size 8 you added in step 5.



7. Push the loop around to one side (I usually always push to the left, but lefties may find the opposite direction more natural. It doesn't matter as long as you **always push to the same side throughout the project.**) It will look like the photo for this step.



8. Repeat steps 5-7 until you have 12 core beads. It will look like this. If it does not, you may not be doing step 7 properly.

This completes one segment. For this sampler project, I change up the bead combination every twelve core beads. Play and experiment! Change the core color every few segments, every segment, or don't change them at all - your choice!

Continue stitching until you reach the desired length. Finish with a clasp, or if making a long necklace, you can just join the ends together.

Some bead combinations to try:

For the loop beads, use any of the following combinations, or come up with your own:



size 15, 3x size 11, size 15



size 15, size 11, size 8, size 11, size 15



size 15, size 11, drop, size 11, size 15

- Vary the colors, shapes and sizes so that no two sequences are alike.
- Try a loop that's a few beads longer - see how you like it.
- Play with the size to create texture - some sequences can be thinner and some thicker.
- Pay attention to color and light/dark value of beads to play with contrast
- Experiment to see how some colors affect other colors. This is a great exercise to see how colors work together - sometimes you just need to take a few stitches to see the final appearance. Beads change when you get them together - what may have looked super bright in the tube, can get toned down depending on what you combine it with.

Stitch until you get the desired length. Add the clasp of your choice, or join the ends together for a long necklace.

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