For Beginners

Strung necklace with spiky beaded beads

Embellish a simple ladder stitch base with crystals to make spiky beads, then unite them with a strand of gemstones, crystals, or glass beads for a necklace that highlights a favorite pendant perfectly.

by Julia Gerlach

step by step

Beaded beads

[1] Thread a needle on 1 yd. (9m) of Fireline or conditioned Nymo (Basics), and, leaving a 6-in. (15cm) tail, pick up six color A 11° seed beads. Sew through all six beads again, and pull tight so you have two stacks of three beads sitting side by side (figure 1, a–b).

[2] Pick up three As, sew back through the previous stack of three As, and continue through the three As just added (b–c). Continue stitching a three-bead ladder (Basics) until you have five stacks of three beads (c–d).

[3] Bring the ends together, sew through the first stack of As, and continue through the last stack of As to join the ladder into a tube (figure 2).

[4] Sew through the first A of the next stack (figure 3, a–b).

[5] Pick up a color B 11°, a 3mm crystal, and a color C 11° (b–c). Skip the C, and sew back through the 3mm crystal (c–d). Pick up a B, and, going in the same direction, sew back through the A your thread exited to begin this picot. Sew through the next A in the ladder (d–e).

[6] Repeat step 5 to add picots over the other As in the ladder row.

[7] Repeat steps 4–6 until you've made a picot over every A on the tube.

[8] Sew into the beadwork, secure the thread tail with a few half-hitch knots (Basics) between beads, and

EDITOR’S NOTE: If you want to stitch your beaded beads with Fireline but are using light-colored beads, try using Crystal Fireline. It’s just as strong as the original, but, since it’s clear, it won’t diminish the sparkle of the crystals. As an added bonus, it won’t get your hands dirty.
trim. Secure the other tail.

[9] Repeat steps 1–8 to make a total of ten beaded beads.

Blue-and-salmon necklace
[1] Cut a 24-in. (61cm) piece of beading wire. Center a 5mm kyanite bead, three 1.5mm beads, and a 5mm (photo a). Center the pendant over the 1.5mms.

[2] On one side of the pendant, string a beaded bead (photo b).

[3] String a 5mm, a 1.5mm, a 5mm, a 1.5mm, a 5mm, and a beaded bead (photo c).


[5] String five 5mms and a 1.5mm three times, and then string three 5mms (photo e).

[6] String a 3mm bead, a crimp bead, a 3mm bead, and half of the clasp. Go back through the 3mm beads, the crimp bead, and the last three 5mms (photo f), and crimp the crimp bead (Basics). Trim the excess wire.

[7] Repeat steps 2–6 on the other side of the pendant.

Green-and-purple necklace
[1] Cut a 24-in. (61cm) piece of beading wire. Center a 5mm crystal, three 3mm beads, and a 5mm. Center the pendant over the 3mm beads.

[2] On one side of the pendant, string a beaded bead.

[3] String a 3mm bead, a 5mm, a 3mm bead, a 2", a 3mm bead, a 5mm, a 3mm bead, and a beaded bead.

[4] Repeat step 3 three times.

[5] String a 3mm bead, a 5mm, a 3mm bead, and a 2\" six times, and then string a 3mm bead and a 5mm.

[6] String a 3mm bead, a crimp bead, a 3mm bead, and half of the clasp. Go back through the last six beads, and crimp the crimp bead (Basics). Trim the excess wire.

[7] Repeat steps 2–6 on the other side of the pendant.