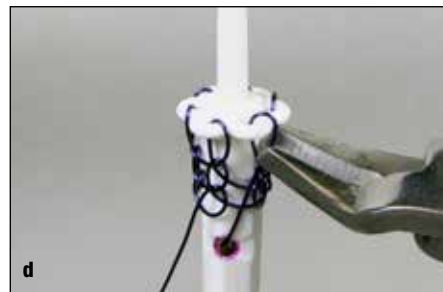
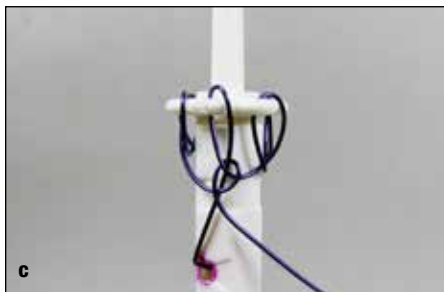
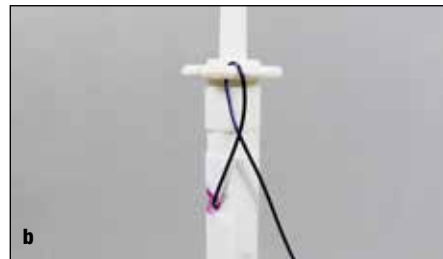
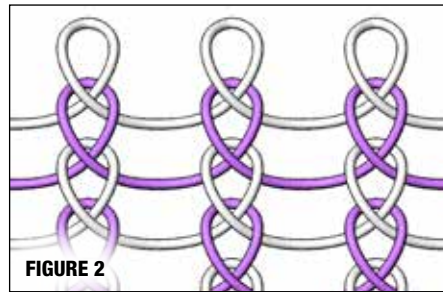
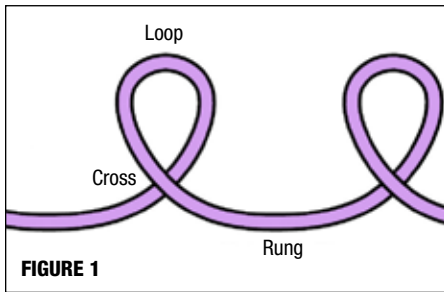


# Beaded Viking knit necklace



Add dimension and sparkle to Viking knit by incorporating beads into the weave and working with two different colors of wire simultaneously.

By Stephanie Eddy



## Viking knit basics

Viking knit is made up of a series of loops that intersect each other. There are three parts to a Viking knit weave: the loop, the cross, and the rung (**figure 1**). When working single-loop Viking knit, the working wire always goes behind the loop where the wire crosses in the previous row, which places the new loops below the loops in the previous row (**figure 2**).

If you are right-handed, you will make counterclockwise loops. If you are left-handed, you will make clockwise loops. The instructions for this project are for right-handed weaving.

Straighten the wire as much as possible between your fingers, and keep the tip of the working wire straight to get under the loops. Work with the natural curve of the wire, forming large circles that you can then pull into tighter loops.

## Anchor round

**1** Insert the six-loop head into the shaft of the Lazee Daizee tool. Cut 4–6 ft. (1.2–1.8 m) of color A 26-gauge wire.

Insert one wire end into the upper side of the anchor hole, leaving a 1-in. (25.5 mm) tail exiting from the lower side (**a**).

**2** Press the tail against the shaft with your left middle finger, and steady the tool head with your forefinger. Guide the working wire counterclockwise down through the nearest hole in the head, crossing it over the first leg of the loop (**b**). Continue to form a total of six loops around the shaft.

## Round 1

**3** Continue to form counterclockwise loops by bringing the working wire behind the crosses (labeled in figure 1 as “cross”) in the anchor round (**c**). The size of the loop should be slightly smaller than the width of one of the shaft’s flat panels and still leave room for the rung.

## Round 2

**4** Continue to form counterclockwise loops behind each cross in round 1. Again, you should have one loop on

## difficulty level



## materials

necklace 20–22 in. (50.8–55.9 cm)

- Permanently colored round wire with a copper base
  - 30 in. (76.2 cm) 20-gauge (0.8 mm)
  - 50 ft. (15.2 m) 26-gauge (0.4 mm), color A
  - 25 ft. (7.6 m) 26-gauge (0.4 mm), color B
- **32** 6 mm beads
- **74** 4 mm beads
- **72** 3 mm beads
- 1 g 11<sup>º</sup> seed beads
- **2** end caps with 6–7 mm opening
- **2–3** 6 mm jump rings
- toggle clasp
- 30 in. (76.2 cm) plastic tubing, 1/8-in. (3 mm) diameter (available at plumbing or industrial supply stores)
- **2** pairs of chainnose, flatnose, and/or bentnose pliers
- roundnose pliers
- wire cutters
- 1/4-in. (6.5 mm) Lazee Daizee tool with six-loop head
- pin tool or awl
- soft cloth
- permanent marker (optional)
- drawplate
- drawing gloves (poly-coated knit gloves, available at home improvement stores)
- dishwashing liquid (optional)

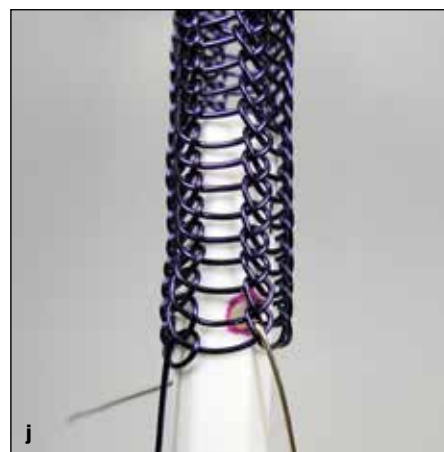
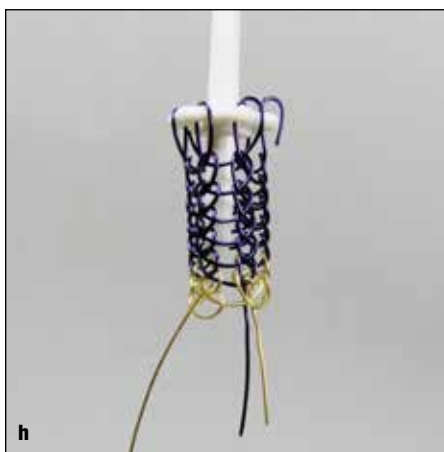
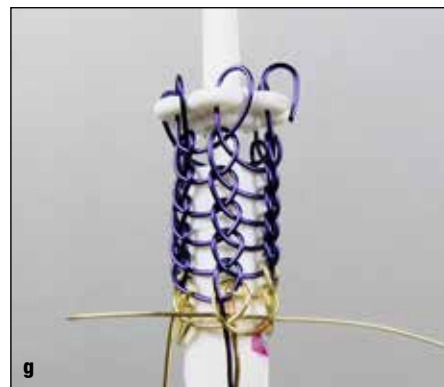
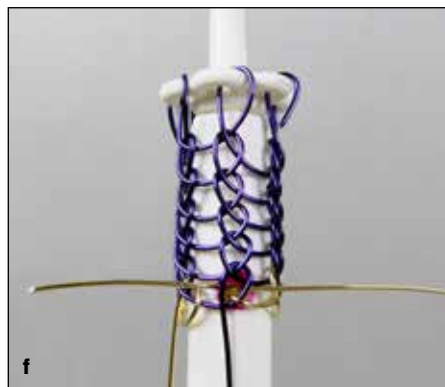
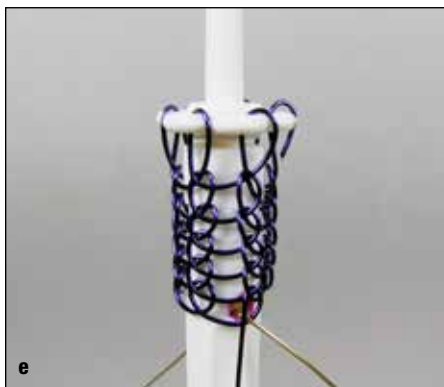
*Kits available from Stephanie Eddy, [www.stephanieeddy.com](http://www.stephanieeddy.com).*

each panel on the shaft. Notice that the loops are beginning to form columns — one column centered on each panel.

**tip** If the anchor tail is in the way, move the tool head slightly to one side.

## Round 3 and beyond

**5** Cut the first wire loop (the loop from which the wire exits the upper end of the anchor hole) just below the tool head (**d**). Remove the wire tail by pulling it out the lower end of the anchor hole.



**6** Continue to form loops around the shaft until you have about 1 in. (25.5 mm) of wire remaining. Keep the loops straight in each column.

**tip** Once you've formed a loop, bring the working wire down the length of the shaft. Hold the most-recent loop formed in place with your thumb. This will help to keep the loops aligned in their columns. You can use a pin tool or awl to help lift and position the wire. Be careful not to scratch the wire finish.

### Adding wire

**7** Position the weave so that the last loop made is lying on top of the anchor hole. Cut 4–6 ft. (1.2–1.8 m) of color A 26-gauge wire, and insert one end down through the last color A loop and the anchor hole, leaving a 1-in. (25.5 mm) tail (**e**). Note that in (**e**), we are using a different color wire for visual clarity; you should still be working with color A wire.

Also, keep in mind these terms: The column where the new wire is added is called the “add column.” Add each new wire in the same add column. The new wire that extends from the bottom anchor hole is a “new tail.” The wire left over from the previous weave is the “old tail.”

**8** Press your thumb over the anchor hole to keep both tails in place. Continue to make loops with the new wire (**f**) for one round.

**9** When starting the next round, the working wire must go under the cross and behind the old tail (**g**). This will form a loop or “keeper” around the old tail on the inside of the weave. Don't leave loose tails (those without a keeper) inside the weave, as the sharp ends can work to the surface and make the jewelry uncomfortable to wear.

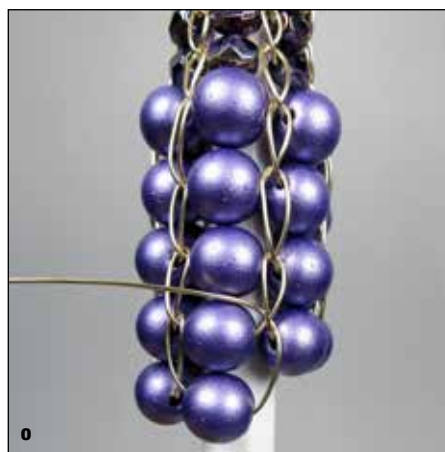
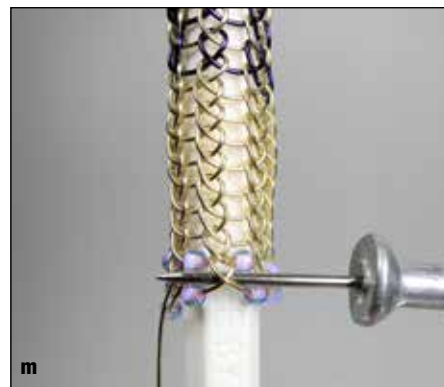
**10** When the round is complete, pull the entire weave off the shaft. Bring the old and new tails together (**h**). Place the weave back on the shaft.

**tip** If you don't remove the weave at this point, you might accidentally weave the tails into the main weave, and it will be difficult to remove the weave from the shaft. If this happens, try twisting the weave off the tool.

**11** Continue to form loops, adding a keeper around both tails for four rounds (**i**). Note that in (**i**), the shaft has been removed for clarity; your weave should remain on the shaft. Trim the tails to  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. (9.5 mm).

**12** Continue the weave for a total of 5 in. (12.7 cm) using color A wire. Add a new piece of wire as needed so that you end with at least 20 in. (50.8 cm) of color A working wire.

If you need to add wire at this point, you will discover that your weave will now be covering the anchor hole. Simply lift the weave off the shaft until the working end of the weave is closer to the anchor hole, and position the add column over the anchor hole, as in (**j**). Add another color A wire as before.



### Working with two wires

**13** Stop the color A wire one loop before the add column. Position the add column over the anchor hole. Cut 4–6 ft. (1.2–1.8 m) of color B 26-gauge wire. Insert the color B wire into the center of the loop and through the hole (**j**).

**14** Form the next four loops with color B wire, then drop color B, and work four loops with color A wire (**k**). The wires should not overlap each other; they chase each other in a spiral formation.

**15** Continue this method until you have four rounds of color B separated by three rounds of color A (**l**). End the color A wire with a final loop in the add column.

**16** Continue with color B only, working over the top of color A. Bury the color A tail in the add column for several rounds, then trim the color A tail to about ¼ in. (6.5 mm). Continue working with color B for a total of six rounds.

### Adding beads

**17** String an 11° seed bead onto the color B wire, and form a loop. This results in the bead being positioned on the rung of the weave. Repeat to add beads to each rung for six rounds.

**tip** When adding a bead to the wire, first move the bead to the far left, and hold it in place with your thumb. Then form the loop. A pin tool (**m**) or awl may be helpful. You may also use the wide cone end of the tool to widen the weave.

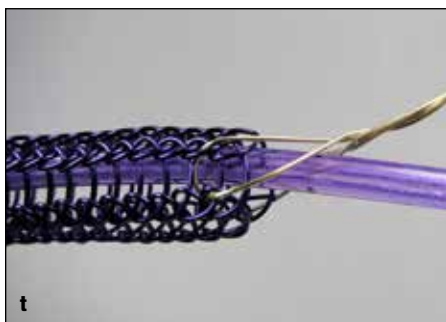
**18** Continue to add beads in the following pattern: six rounds of 3 mm beads; six rounds of 4 mm beads (**n**); and five rounds of 6 mm beads (**o**). The length of the loops should increase to match the height of the beads added to each rung (**p**).

**tip** When adding beads, keep the wire horizontal (**o**) until it is tight, and then drop it down to form an elongated loop (**p**). Place your thumb on this loop before adding the next bead.

### design options

Experiment to create different looks: Try a steely version with multiple beaded nodules, the subtlety of an analogous pink-and-copper palette, or a high-contrast piece mixing warm and cool tones.





**19** When you've completed the five rounds of 6 mm beads, reverse the pattern of 4 mm, 3 mm, and 11° seed beads (**q**).

**20** Work six rounds of unbeaded single-loop Viking knit with the color B wire only. Add a new color A wire and work with both color A and B until you have four rounds of color B separated by three rounds of color A. Work for a total of 5 in. (12.7 cm) with the color A wire only.

### Finishing

**21** Remove the weave from the shaft by snipping the top loops above the tool head (**r**).

**22** Roll the weave in a soft cloth (**s**) to condition it and align the beads.

**23** Cut a 30-in. (76.2 cm) piece of plastic tubing. If desired, color the tubing with a permanent marker. Insert the tubing into the body of the weave

so it extends from each end. Cut two 4–6-in. (10.2–15.2 cm) pieces of scrap wire, and bend each one in half. Guide the ends of each bent wire between two adjacent loops at one end of the tube, and twist all four wires together (**t**). You'll use these as handles while pulling the tube through the draw plate.

**24** Beginning with the 3/8-in. (9.5 mm) diameter hole, pull the weave slowly through the draw plate (**u**), keeping the columns lined up as straight as possible and stopping where the beads begin. Do not draw over the beads. Continue to draw the weave until it slides through the 1/4-in. (6.5 mm) hole. Repeat with the other side of the necklace.

**25** With drawing gloves, slowly begin to straighten and stretch the weave by hand (**v**). At the same time, form the weave into a curved shape, keeping the add column to the back. Trim the weave evenly at each end

to the desired length, allowing 2–3 in. (51–76 mm) for the finishing.

**26** Cut a 30-in. (76.2 cm) piece of 20-gauge wire on an angle. Straighten it as much as possible. Using a twisting, back-and-forth motion, string it through the plastic tubing so that the wire extends on each end.

**tip** If you have trouble getting the wire through the tubing, apply a dab of dishwashing liquid to the wire.

**27** On each end of the wire, string an end cap, a 6 mm bead, and a 4 mm bead (**w**).

**28** On each end of the wire, make a wrapped loop (**Basics**). Open a jump ring (**Basics**), and attach half of a toggle clasp. Close the jump ring (**x**).



*Stephanie Eddy, a jewelry designer for 40-plus years, is involved in all aspects of bead, wire, and jewelry design, from teaching to creating kits and tools.*

*She is the inventor of the Lazee Daizee Viking knit tools and has co-written several books on advanced Viking knit design and technique. Go to [www.stephanieeddy.com](http://www.stephanieeddy.com), or email her at [kitsforsale@stephanieeddy.com](mailto:kitsforsale@stephanieeddy.com).*