Kaleidoscope connection

Connect a collection of kaleidoscopic components for a brick stitch bracelet that works up quickly.

designed by Julie Olah

materials
bracelet 7 in. (18 cm)
• 8 6° seed beads
• 4–6 g 11° seed beads in each of 4–6 colors: A, B, C, D, E, F
• clasp
• 3 9 mm split rings or soldered jump rings
• Fireline 6 lb. test, or nylon beading thread, size D
• beading needles, #10 or #12

Open circle

[1] On 1 yd. (.9 m) of Fireline or thread, pick up a 9 mm split ring or soldered jump ring and two color A 11° seed beads, leaving a 6-in. (15 cm) tail. Position the As side by side around the outside of the ring, sew through the ring, and sew back through the second A (figure 1, a–b). (For tips on keeping the first A in place, see the Editor’s Note, below.)
[2] Working in brick stitch (How-Tos), pick up an A, sew through the split ring or soldered jump ring as if it is a thread bridge, and sew back through the A just added (b–c).
[3] Repeat step 2 around the split ring or soldered jump ring to add about 14 As.
[4] When you reach the first A added, sew down through it, through the split ring or soldered jump ring, and back through the A (figure 2).
[5] Pick up two color B 11° seed beads, sew under the thread bridge connecting the first two As in the previous round, and sew back through the second B (figure 3, a–b).
[6] Pick up a B, and sew under the next thread bridge and back through the B (b–c).
[7] Continue working in brick stitch, adding one or two Bs per thread bridge to make the second round of Bs fit snugly around the first round of As. Tie a few half-hitch knots (How-Tos), but do not trim the working thread. End the tail (How-Tos).
[8] Make a total of three open circles, cycling through colors A–C or A–F.

Patterned circles

[1] On 1 yd. (.9 m) of Fireline or thread, pick up five As, and tie them into a ring with a square knot (How-Tos), leaving a 6-in. (15 cm) tail. Sew through the first A again (figure 4, a–b).
[2] Pick up a B, and sew through the next A in the ring (b–c). Repeat around, and step up through the first B added (c–d).
Working in circular peyote stitch (How-Tos), pick up two color C 11° seed beads, and sew through the next B (figure 5, a–b). Repeat around, and step up through the first C added (b–c).

Pick up a color D 11° seed bead, and sew through the next C (figure 6, a–b). Pick up a B, and sew through the next C (b–c). Repeat around, alternating Ds and Bs, and step up through the first D added (c–d).

Work a round of circular peyote stitch, adding a C for each stitch, and step up through the first C added (figure 7).

Pick up two Bs, and sew through the next C (figure 8, a–b). Pick up two Cs, and sew through the next C (b–c). Repeat around, alternating between two Bs and two Cs, and step up through the first pair of Bs added (c–d). Tie a few half-hitch knots, but do not trim the working thread. End the tail.

Make a total of four patterned circles, cycling through colors A–D or A–F.

Assembly

Connecting the circles

With your working thread exiting a pair of 11°s in a patterned circle, pick up an 11° in the color of your choice, a 6° seed bead, and an 11° in the color of your choice. Sew through an 11° in round 2 of an open circle and the adjacent 11° in the round (figure 9, a–b). Pick up an 11° in the color of your choice, and sew back through the 6°. Pick up an 11° in the color of your choice, and sew through the pair of 11°s your thread exited at the start of this step (b–c). Retrace the thread path to reinforce the connection, and end the thread.

Using the working thread from the open circle, sew through the beadwork to exit an 11° opposite the pair of 11°s in the connection made in the previous step. Pick up an 11°, a 6°, and an 11°, and sew through a pair of 11°s in a patterned circle as in step 1. Pick up an 11°, sew back through the 6°, pick up an 11°, and sew through the 11° adjacent to the one your thread exited at the start of this step. Retrace the thread path to reinforce the connection, and end the thread.

Connect the remaining circles as in steps 1 and 2, alternating between a patterned circle and an open circle. Do not end the thread on the last patterned circle.

Clasp

Using the working thread from the end patterned circle, exit a pair of 11°s opposite the last connection. Pick up an A, a 6°, an A, five Bs, half of a clasp, five Bs, and an A. Sew back through the 6°, pick up an A, and sew through the pair of 11°s your thread exited at the start of this step (figure 10). Retrace the thread path to reinforce the connection, and end the thread.

Add thread (How-Tos) to the patterned circle at the remaining end of the bracelet, and repeat step 1 to add the second half of the clasp.

EDITOR’S NOTE:
To keep the first A 11° seed bead added in step 1 of “Open circle” in place while you work the first round, try one of the following:
• Hold it in place with your thumb
• Tie the tail to the 9 mm split ring or soldered jump ring
• Add just one A in step 1, and anchor it in place by sewing through the split ring or soldered jump ring and back up through the A.

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