

Michael's

Made by you™



SEED BEADED

*Braided
Bracelet*

John Bead
ESTABLISHED 1954

What You'll Need

Use any selection of three colors of Size 11/0 or 10/0 seed beads.

Toho Japanese Seed Beads

11/0 Matte Olive Drab, SKU 10474812

11/0 Opaque Cream, SKU 10474774

11/0 SeaFoam Lined, SKU 10269955

or design your own!

You'll also need:

Wildfire Beading Thread, .006 Black, SKU 10470337

Size #10 Beading Needle, SKU 10332394

Beading Mat, SKU 10348546

Precision Scissors, SKU 10591717

Intermediate Bead-weaving

1 Hour Class

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In this class we will demo a technique to create a braided bracelet design using strands of seed beads. The design starts with a laddered base to build off where long strands are strung and joined in a five-stranded braid design. The finished bracelet features a button and loop closure shared in the previous class: Seed Beaded Button Closures. We will use the button we made in that class to finish this design.

Abbreviations

S11A - Size 11 Matte Olive Drab

S11B - Size 11 Opaque Cream

S11C - Size 11 Seafoam Lined

Step 1

You'll need about 170 inches of beading thread to work this design without adding thread. It is possible to work with a shorter length and add thread in-work. Leave 18 inches of tail thread to create button loops.

Begin by creating a laddered base with stacks of (2)S11. Work the first two stacks with S11A (Figure 1), the next two with S11B, the middle two with S11C, then work two more stacks of S11B and two more stacks of S11A.

Step 2

Step-up from the bottom bead of the last stack to exit from the top bead, then string (104)S11A. Work the last four S11A together in a ladder stitch stack as shown at the top of Figure 2.

Tip: (104)S11 will make the braided length of the bracelet 5.25 inches before clasp. Clasp as shown will add .75 inches, adjustable an additional .75 inches. Add 20 beads for an additional .75 inches.

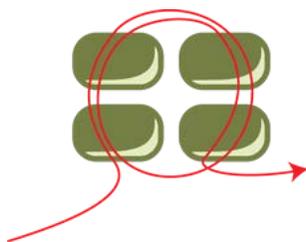


Figure 1

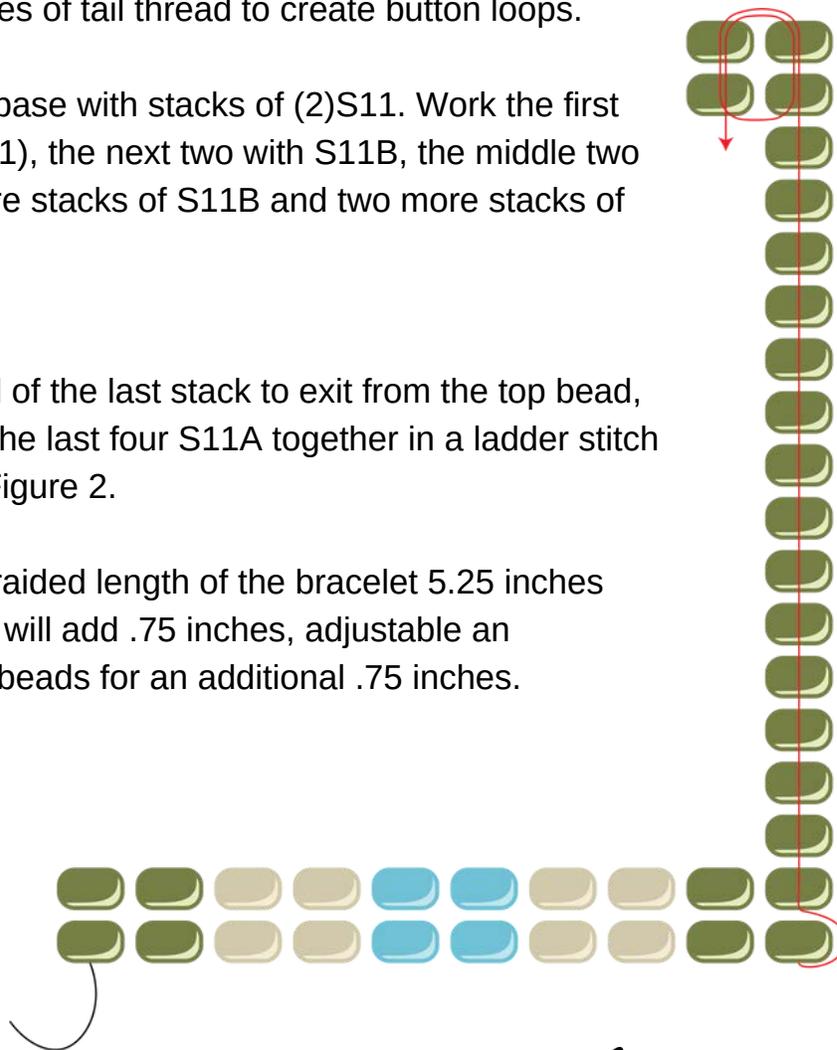


Figure 2

Step 3

String (100)S11A. Go through the (2)S11A in the laddered row below. Turn and come up through the adjacent (2)S11B. String (104)S11B. Ladder stitch the last four together (Figure 3).

Step 4

String (100)S11B and go through the corresponding (2)S11B in the laddered row below. Turn and come up through the adjacent (2)S11C.

Repeat Steps 3 and 4 using the corresponding colors, to complete the strands as shown in Figure 4.

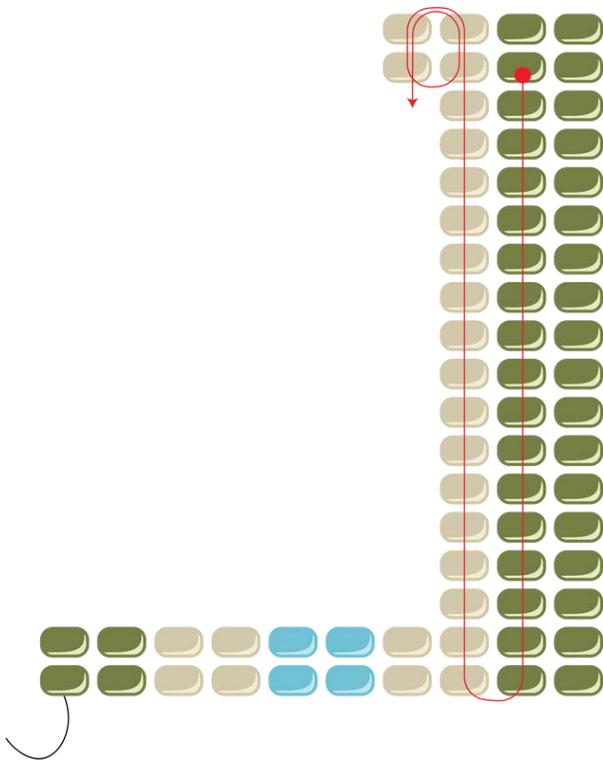


Figure 3

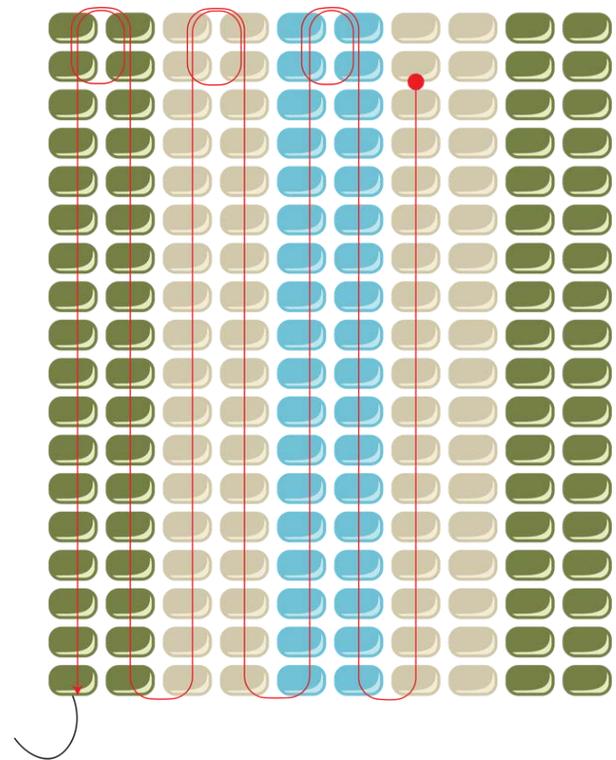
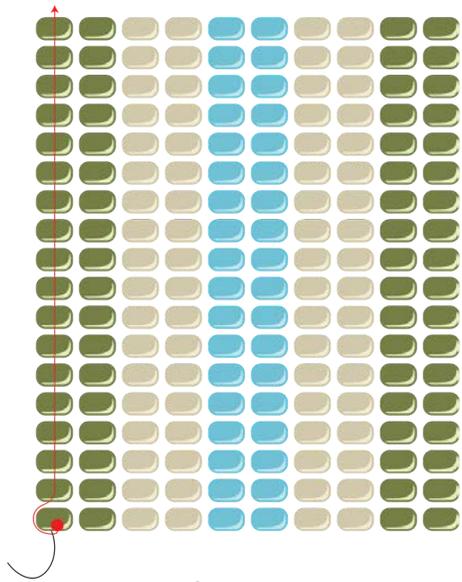


Figure 4

Step 5

Your working strand will now be exiting from the bottom, edge S11A, same as the tail thread. Do a step-up here from that bead through the one above. This locks in the edge bead to match what we did on the other side, and it gets the thread headed in the direction we need. Go through all of the S11A in the left-most strand to exit from the top left S11A. Remove the needle and leave the thread for now (Figure 5, next page).

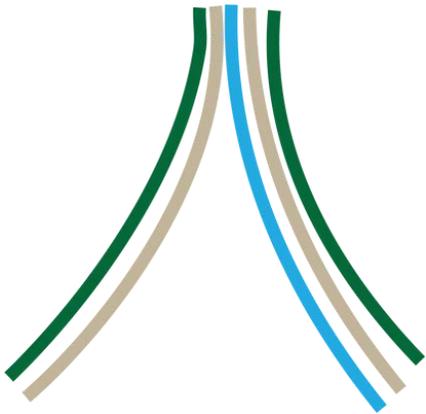


Step 6

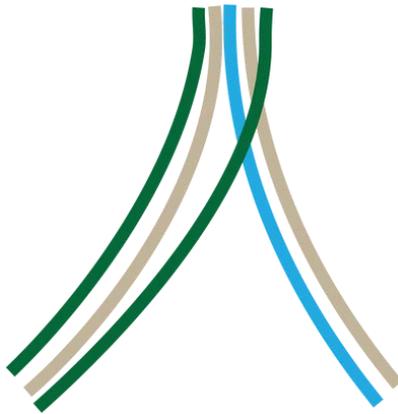
Set up to braid. Flip the piece so the loose strands are closest to you and use your needle to pin the laddered side to the bead mat. Use a paperweight on your bead mat if needed.

Begin a five stranded braid with minimal tension. The only thing you need to remember to do a five strand braid is this: move the outermost strand from the side with three over and across to the other side. Here's how it looks.

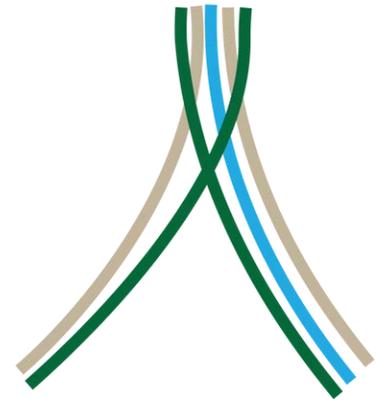
Figure 5



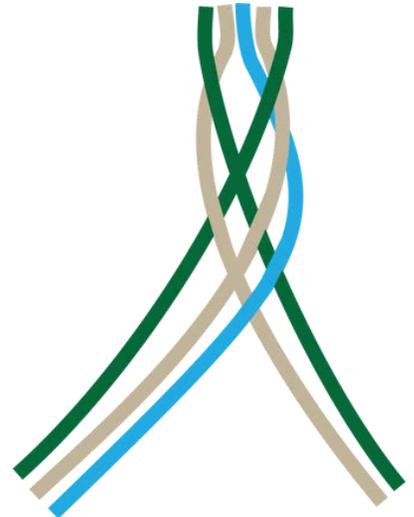
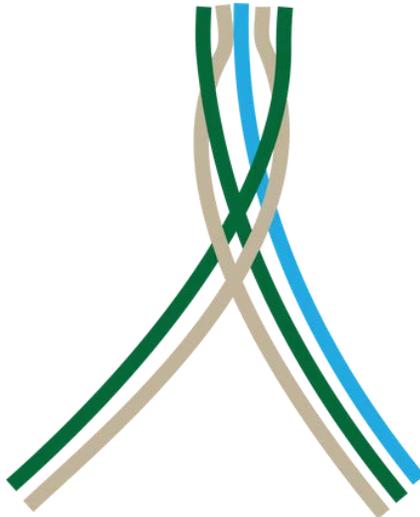
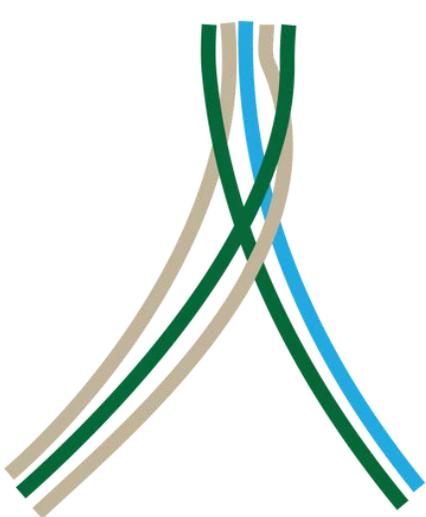
Separate the strands: three on one side, two on the other.



Move the outermost strand across to the other side.



Move the outermost strand across to the other side.



Step 7

Braid as described in Step 6 until you've got about half an inch left of the strands. Don't worry if your strand colors do not end in the same color order as the ladder on the starting side. It will still work out.

Use the thread that was brought up through the strand in Step 5 to ladder stitch together the row of braided ends as they are best positioned for your tension and length. In my sample below, the edge, green strands ended up second in from the blue. I laddered the green to the blue together first, then looped back through the green and connected the opaque cream to it. From there I laddered the cream to the next green and the green to the last cream.

Use the remaining working thread to weave back to the center. Using single column herringbone stitch, stitch out five rows. String your button, a 6/0 bead, an 11/0 bead, and go back through the 6/0 bead, then weave around using the herringbone as a place to turn, go back up, and reinforce. Weave in and trim remaining thread. Refer to our previous class, *Seed Beaded Buttons*, for more detail on creating the button.



Seed Beaded loops were created to clasp the button using the tail thread on the starting side.

