## Nirvana Beads <br> EXCEPTIONAL CZECH GLASS FOR ARTISTS



## Nette@ EarringS

Designed by Amy Haftkowycz from Trixie's Jewel Box

## Skill Level: Beginner

Stringing beads is a fun way to create jewelry that has the exact style and fit you are looking for. There is no end to the way you can combine beads in stringing projects, so let your imagination run wild!!
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Tools:

- Wire Cutters
- Chain Nose Pliers or Crimping Tool - 1 pair


## Materials for 3 Strand Clasp:

- 12x8mm Faceted Oval Beads Color 1 (10-12 beads)
- 12x8mm Faceted Oval Beads Color 2 (10-12 beads)
- 8 mm Melon Beads (14-16 beads)
- 8/0 Toho Seed Beads (33-39 beads)
- Three-Strand Clasp (1 piece)
- Crimp Beads
- Beading Wire



## Materials for 5 Strand Clasp:

- Materials for 5 Strand Clasp:
- 6 mm Round Druk Beads Color 1 (25-30 beads)
- 6 mm Round Druk Beads Color 2 (25-30 beads)
- 6 mm Round Druk Beads Color 3 (25-30 beads)
- 4 mm Round Druk Beads (24-30 beads)
- 3mm Fire-polished Beads (60-70 beads)
- Five-Strand Clasp (1 piece)
- Crimp Beads
- Beading Wire



## Materials for 7 Strand Clasp (14 strand bracelet):

- Seven-Strand Clasp (1 piece)
- 8/0 Toho Seed beads (50 beads)
- 4mm Melon beads Color 1 (50 beads)
- 4 mm Melon beads Color 2 ( 50 beads)
- 4mm Firepolished beads Color 1 (50 beads)
- 4 mm Firepolished beads Color 2 ( 50 beads)
- 4mm Firepolished beads Color 3 (50 beads)
- 3mm Firepolished beads Color 1 (50 beads)
- 3mm Firepolished beads Color 2 ( 50 beads)
- 4mm Round Druk beads Color 1 (50 beads)
- 4mm Round Druk beads Color 2 (50 beads)
- 5 mm Melon beads ( 25 beads)
- $3 \times 5 \mathrm{~mm}$ Rondelles (30 beads)
- Crimp Beads
- Beading Wire

| $26 \times 36 \mathrm{~mm}$ Seven Strand Box Clasp Oxidized Brass (1 pc) SKU: BRO/045-L | 8/0 TOHO Round Bronze (800 Beads) <br> SKU: 7129/R-08-221-L | 4 mm Melon Blue Turquoise with Picasso Finish (50 Beads) SKU: ML4/017 | 4 mm Melon Pale Yellow with Picasso Finish and Turquoise Wash - Long Strand (50 Beads) SKU: ML4/002-C | 4 mm Faceted Round Firopolished Bead Blue Green with Etched and Picasso Finish ( 50 Beads) SKU: FP4/058-L |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4mm Faceted Round Firepolished Bead Medium Sky Blue with Picasso Finish (50 Beads) SKU: FP4/052-L | 4 mm Faceted Round Firepolished Bead Scarlet with Picasso Finish (50 Boads) SKU: FP4/117-L | 3mm Faceted Round Firepolished Bead Golden Bronze ( 50 Beads) SKU: FP3/057-L | 3 mm Faceted Round Firepolished Bead Blue Green with Picasso and Etched Finish (50 Beads) SKU: FP3/161-L | 4mm Round Druk Tea Green and Yellow Ivory with Picasso and Etched Finish (50 Beads) SKU: D4/051-L |
| 4mm Round Druk Red with Picasso Finish (50 Beads) SKU: D4/062-L | 5 mm Melon Blue Turquoise with Picasso Finish (25 Beads) SKU: ML5/017 | 3×5mm Rondelle Maroon with Picasso Finish ( 30 Beads) SKU: 0873/RON5 |  |  |

The techniques and concepts covered in this tutorial work for any type of clasp and any size of bead. You can use small beads or large beads; 2 -strand clasps or 7 strand clasps; you can double-up strands or string them individually. The possibilities are endless!

To determine how long your beaded section should be, take a snug measurement of your wrist (Figure 1), and then subtract the width of the clasp including the loops (Figure 1a) from this wrist measurement. The result is how long the beaded section, not including the crimps beads, should be. Once you add the crimp beads and loop of beading wire around the clasp, the finished length of your bracelet will be the perfect fit!

This method is a great general guide for achieving a good size; however since everyone is different in how they like their bracelets to fit, I recommend frequently trying your bracelet on while working. This way, if the fit is too tight or too loose, you can make adjustments before you've poured too much work into your project. Additionally, bead size can also affect how long your beaded section should be. Smaller beads usually require a shorter beaded section for a good fit, whereas larger beads may require a longer beaded section (ie, when working with larger beads, you may need to add $1 / 4^{\prime \prime}-1 / 2^{\prime \prime}$ or more to the length you get after you subtract the length of the clasp from your snug wrist measurement in order get a good fit).

When working with larger beads, using a smaller bead, such as an 80 seed bead, as a spacer in between the larger beads helps with the bracelet's flexibility.

TIP: If you don't have a tape measure, wrap a piece of string around your wrist and then measure it against a ruler.


## CREATING A BRACELET

1- Using the technique described in the "NOTES" above, determine how long your beaded section(s) need to be. Once you've calculated this length, add 3 " to it, and then use wire cutters to cut the beading wire to this length. Example: For a bracelet that requires a 5 " long beaded section, you would cut the beading wire to a length of 8 ".

2- Separate the clasp before you begin stringing beads (Figure 6). Slide a twisted/tornado crimp tube onto one end of the wire. Pass the wire through one of the loops on the clasp and then back down through the crimp tube, leaving a short tail and forming a small loop or wire around the loop on the clasp (Figure 7). Note that you want this loop of wire to be small enough that it doesn't overtake the design, but large enough that the wire/strand of beads can move freely. If the wire loop is too tight against the clasp, it will put pressure on the beading wire that will eventually result in it breaking. Once you've got the size of the wire loop set, use chain nose pliers to flatten the entire length of the crimp tube (Figure 8, Figure 9).

3- Begin stringing beads onto the beading wire. As you do this, be sure that the first several beads cover the small tail (Figure 10). Continue stringing beads until you reach the desired length. Remember that when you measure the beaded length, only measure the beads; do not include the crimp tube or the loop of beading wire in this measurement (Figure 11).

4- Once you've reached the desired length, slide a crimp tube onto the beading wire. Pass the beading wire through the loop on the second half of the clasp (making sure that you have the clasp properly oriented so that it matches/ closes correctly) and then back through the crimp tube and 2-3 of the Czech glass beads, forming a loop of beading wire around the loop of the clasp (Figure 12). Pull everything in snug, so that the crimp tube is against the beads, and the beading wire loop is not too big or too small (Figure 13). Before flattening the crimp tube, double-check the flexibility of the beaded strand: it should be flexible enough so that it can easily wrap around your wrist, but tight enough that there are no gaps in the beading wire. Additionally, now is a good time to test the length of your bracelet. Since the crimp tube is not crimped yet, be very careful, but try the bracelet on to make sure if it is a good fit. If it needs any adjustments in length, remove the clasp and crimp tube, make the adjustments, and then try it again. Once you've double-checked the length/fit and flexibility of the beaded strand, use the chain nose pliers to flatten the entire length of the crimp (Figure 14).

5- Trim off the excess beading wire. To do this, hold the beading wire with your non-dominant hand, and press the flat side of the wire cutters firmly against the beads (Figure 15). Snip the beading wire off (Figure 16).

6- Once you've established that the length of the bracelet is perfect, you can begin stringing the rest of the strands. You can use the first strand you strung as a guide for the rest of the strands, or you can continue using a ruler to measure the length. Both methods work just fine, but do try the bracelet on after stringing each strand to make sure it still fits the way you want it to.

7- Repeat Steps 1-6 until you've completed your bracelet. Wear and enjoy!!

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