

FB LIVE: 10.3.18

Abacus Looming



Project by Janice Parsons

With Janice Parsons and Drea Carbone on FB Live

Episode Notes by Drea Carbone

Photography by Drea Carbone and Karen Marshall

What's this? Live from the East Coast? It's true!

Janice and Drea tried their hand at filming an episode of FB Live from Janice's new condo in Virginia...all with just Janice's cell phone! We made it work and we loved being able to connect with everyone while Kate is away. We learned a lot...both about this loom project and about filming an episode of FB Live.

We hope you had fun and enjoy the project and our work!

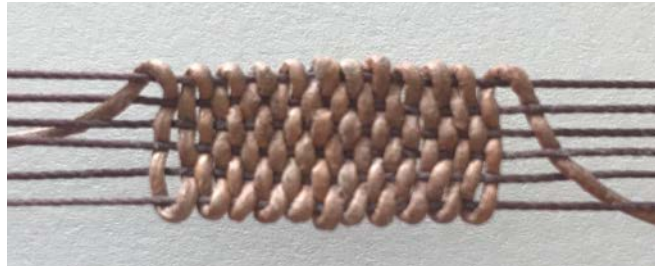
We had lots of news to share and a lot of camera troubles (we're learning!), there will be links and photos about it all at the end of Notes.

Want to skip the chit chat...and our camera difficulties?

Fast forward to **Minute Marker 17:00** to get right to the learning.

Minute Marker 17:00

Janice was inspired by Kate's [Textile Looming](#) from November 2017, when Kate used C-Lon to add a decorative weft to her bracelet.

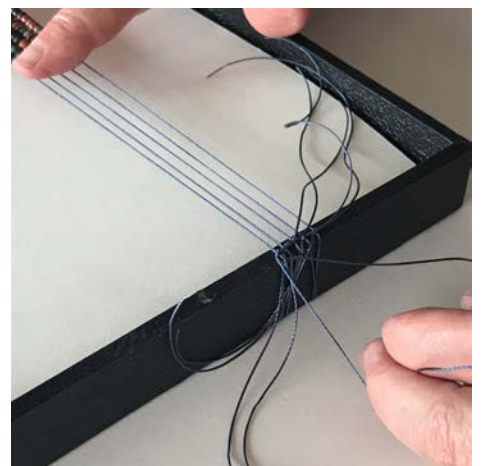
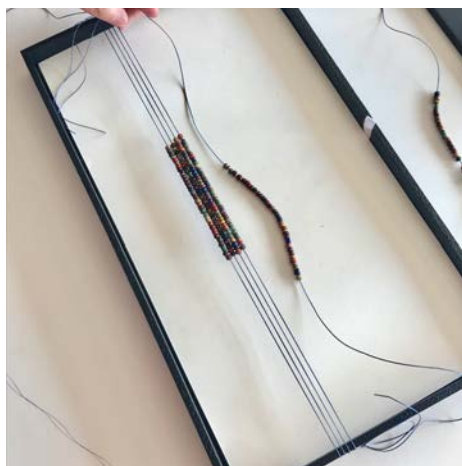


Janice tried it here using .5mm leather as the weft and C-Lon as the warp. This is Janice's experiment—she wants an entire bracelet made just like this! But for today, we're using this as just a bit of decoration to our overall piece. Taking her cue from our new Popcorn Padres, she created an eclectic piece that had both the decorative fiber weft from Kate's Textile Looming, woven beads, and loose beads that allow for the "abacus" style movement the bracelet was named after.

Minute Marker 20:00

Let's get started. We're using our Deep Dish Project Tray as a loom, but you could use a shoebox lid or a regular loom, if you wanted. Janice is most comfortable weaving this way, she finds it easiest. In many loom projects you will use one continuous warp thread wrapped around and around...but not in this piece. It's much easier to attach each individually, because each warp thread has loose beads strung right onto it.

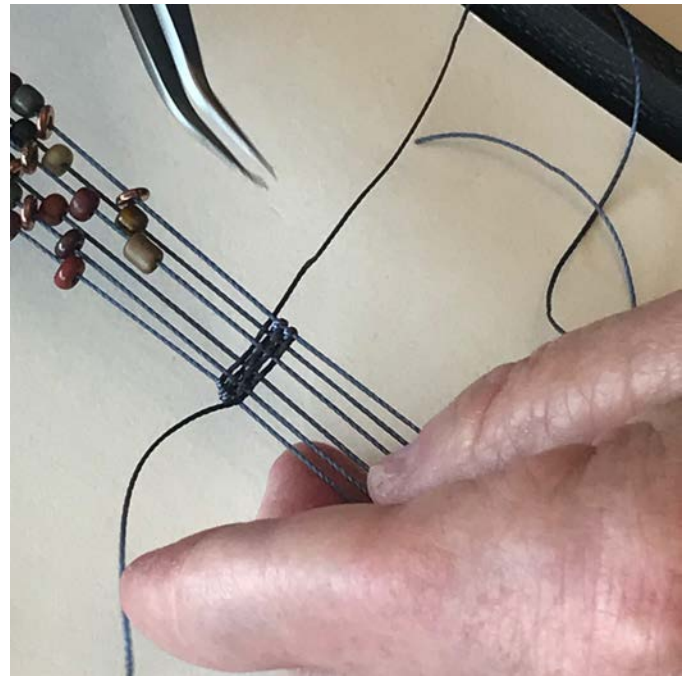
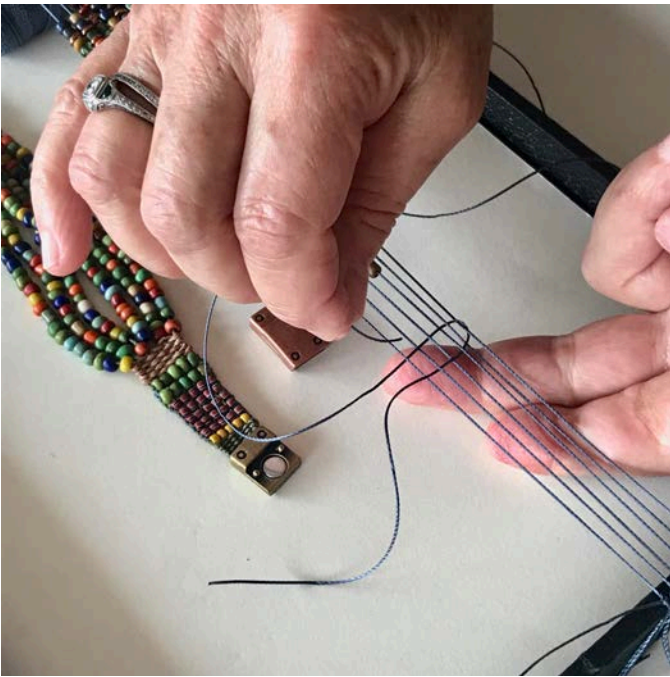
For the show, Janice has pre-strung most of her threads, and shows how she attaches the last couple. She cuts six lengths of Regular C-Lon, about one yard in length each. Pre-string your beads on the threads and tie them around your design tray. Janice uses a strand of Mushroom Popcorn Padres with some Tierra Heishi in Antique Copper thrown in, stringing about 4" of beads...she later discovers this is a bit too long, and we address that later in the episode! Knot the C-Lon closed right at the edge of the tray, using it to help tighten your threads...two overhand knots will secure it.



Minute Marker 27:30

With her six strands secured and her spool of C-Lon underneath them to add some tension, Janice can start her first decorative weft. With a length of C-Lon (your length will depend on just how much of this decorative weft you want, you do you!) start weaving over and under your warp threads, then back and forth to create a small length of “textile” weft. This will be visible, but part of it will also be living inside your clasp. It’s easy to slide this weft along your warp threads, so it’s not super important to have this directly in place—don’t stress! As you weave, your warp threads will tighten together a bit, measure up against your clasp to ensure it’s a width that will fit inside.

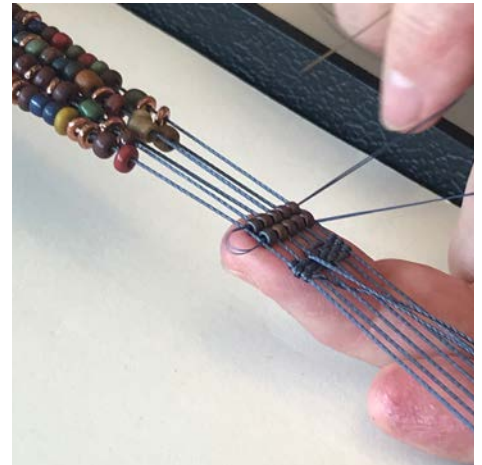
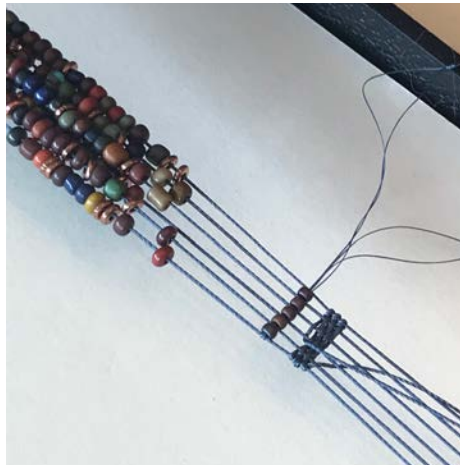
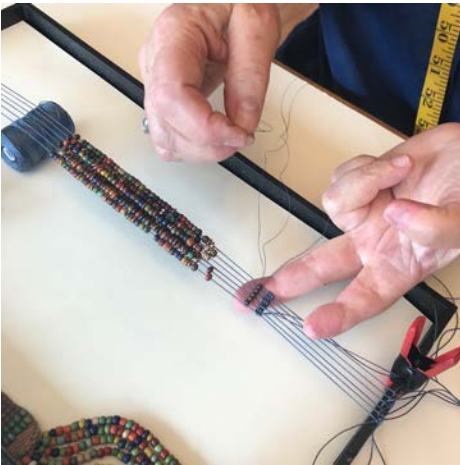
Janice uses knotting tweezers to help her weave, but a Big Eye Needle may help you as well, if it’s too tricky for you to do without.



See on Janice’s finished sample, Abacus, how the green C-Lon weft tapers down at the very ends to fit into the clasp? We’ll show more on finishing this piece towards the end of the episode—but this is your goal for this decorative weft.

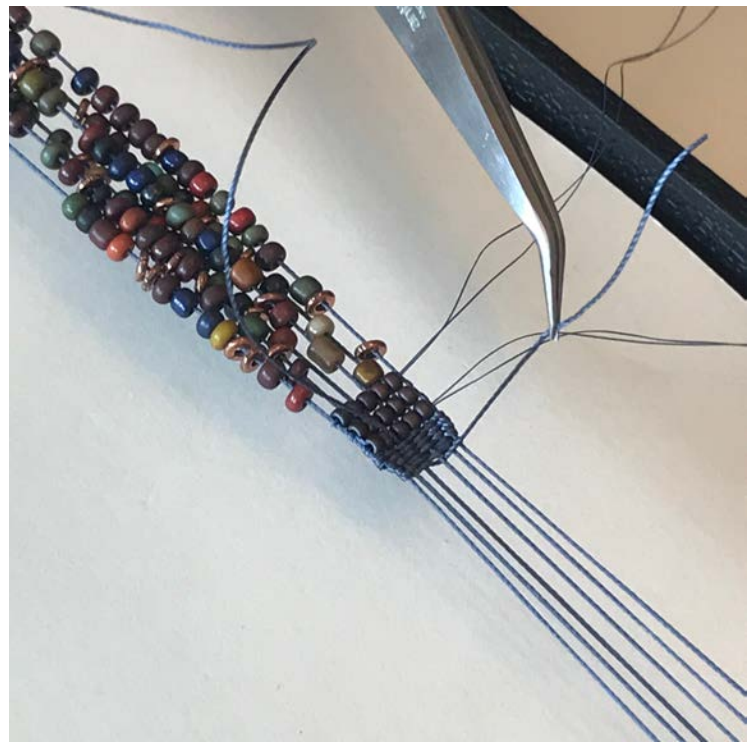
Minute Marker 35:30

Once your C-Lon decorative weft is finished, we'll start weaving beads in just as normal loom work goes. You've seen us do this before, we know! Janice is using KO thread doubled on a Size 10 beading needle. She strings five 8/0 seed beads and brings them up and under the warp threads, positioning them between these threads before pulling her thread taut. Pushing the beads up with her finger, she slides her needle back through the beads, grazing the tops of the bead holes, ensuring that she isn't catching any other threads with her needle and securing the beads in place. We like to reinforce the first row or two of loomed beads.



Once Janice has established a few rows of loomed beads she goes back to working on the C-Lon decorative weft to lengthen it and tighten it to taper it down to a size that will fit into the clasp.

Make sure you've got enough rows that are the right width to fit into the clasp opening. You can measure the depth of the clasp/s opening by sticking a toothpick inside and marking it with a pen, then compare it to your weft. (We discuss this later on, at **Minute Marker 1:14:00**)

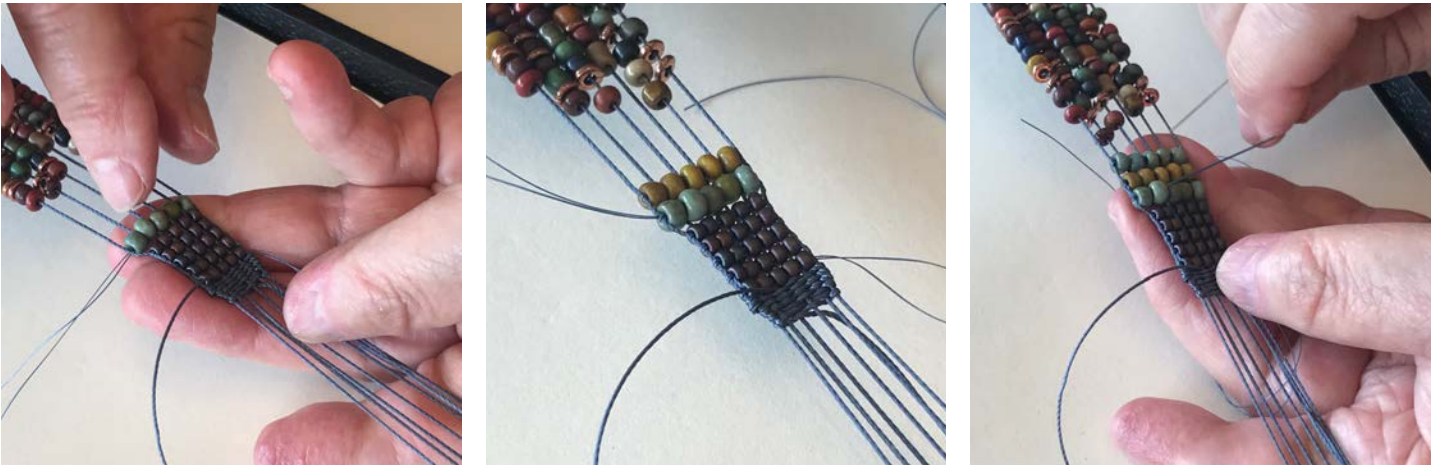


(At Minute 45:00 the feed was interrupted by the FEMA testing for the emergency alert system happens! Yikes! Just a test...but the cats didn't like it!)

Minute Marker 48:00

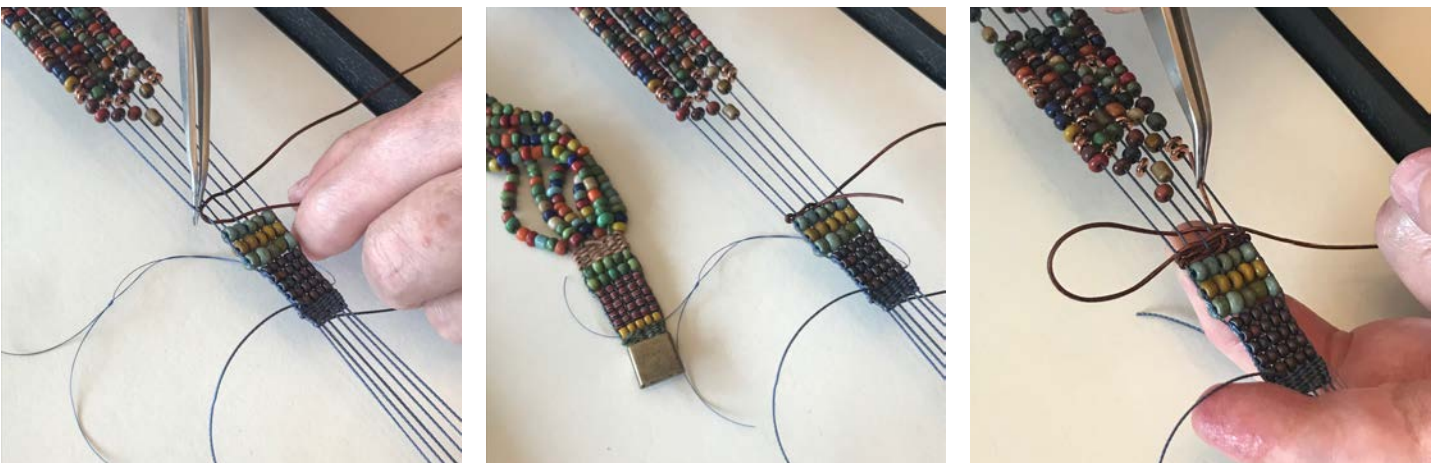
With the C-Lon decorative weft complete and five rows of 8/0s woven in, Janice adds a row of Padres into the loomwork. She discovers as she beads that due to their irregular size she may have wanted to choose more uniformly sized beads, culling some of the larger ones—but no matter! We power through it and make it work, and it looks fantastic. Two more rows of Padres and Janice thinks this looks just how she wants it. Make sure you're creating yours as you like it, too! Weave in more or fewer rows of beads, make it look just how you want!

As usual, when you are finished, bury your thread by zigzagging it well back into your beadwork and snip your tails.



Minute Marker 56:00

It's time to weave in the leather! This section of decorative weft is done with .5mm leather. Push this weft right up against the woven beads and weave towards the loose beads. A viewer, Kristine, comes up with a bright idea for us! We align the tail of the leather alongside one of the inner warp threads and weave right around it to both hide and secure the tail. When finished, Janice ends her weft by gluing her leather tail down and onto the weft she's just woven. Just some Zap glue and "smush" it down! Let it dry and check that it's secured.



Minute Marker 1:10:00

Once your decorative C-Lon weft, your woven bead rows, and your decorative leather weft are all complete, measure how long that section is. Take into consideration that you will have two of these sections plus the middle section of loose “abacus” beads when calculating your total length. This is a bracelet that is easily customizable to your wrist size. Make your decorative wefts longer or shorter, create more rows of beads (or less!) and make your loose bead middle section as long as you like!

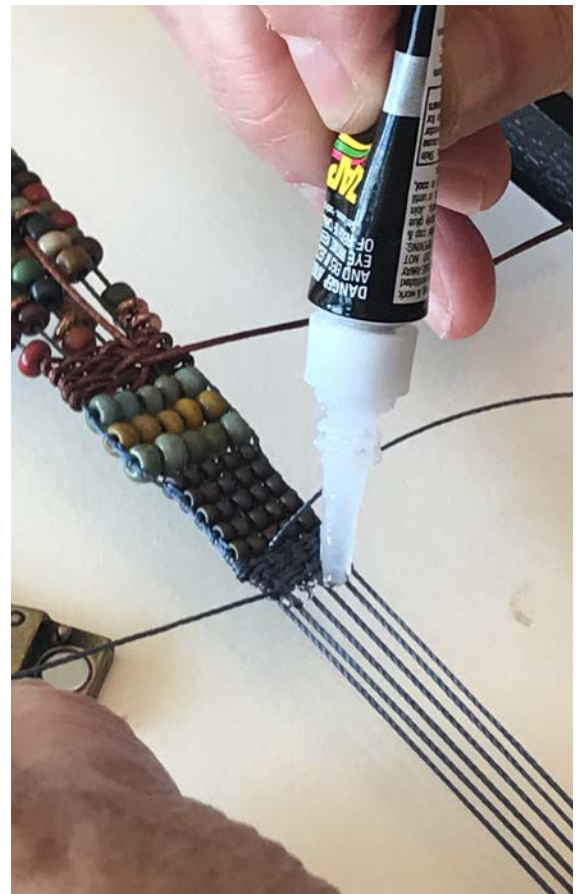


Janice finds that she has too many pre-strung beads, it'll make her bracelet too long. She just slides them right out of her way, then she can begin her leather weaving on the other side and work her way out through the woven bead rows and decorative C-Lon weft and then into the clasp.

Minute Marker 1:16:00

Janice explains how to end the bracelet and attach the clasp. It's the same way we usually do this, don't fret!

A dab of Zap glue on the tails of your weft threads will secure them. Some viewers mention tucking them into beads...give it a shot! Janice found that gluing the tail right onto the weft worked for her. Glue the very edge of the C-Lon weft well, and let it dry. Once completely dry, cut the warp threads, add more glue, and insert into the clasp.



Now, we didn't finish this sample on air, we just didn't have time, of course. Janice finished the piece later in the afternoon, and while these aren't Karen's usual flawless photos of a finished piece (nor did we have Baranduin's beautiful shots that we usually see from the Lives!), we think you can get the idea!



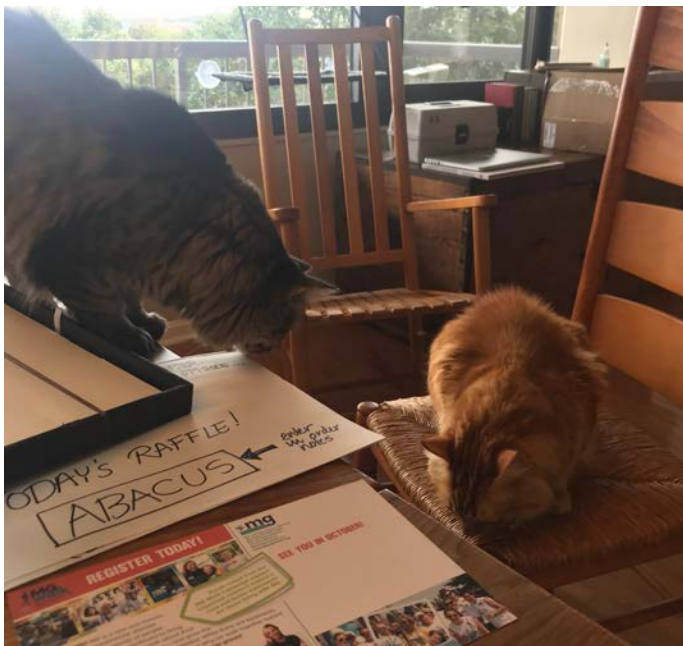
You can find the updated project with photos on our [Textile Looming Project Page](#), this color way made live on air is called [Along the River](#). The previously completed sample is called [Abacus](#). Janice will be mailing the sample out to the office, so check back soon if the page hasn't been update yet!



Want to recreate the color way we curated for our FB Live raffle? Here are the ingredients:

- 1 [Bountiful Clasp- Silver](#)
- 1 Spool [Argentum Regular C-Lon](#)
- 1 Spool [KO Thread- Light Grey](#)
- 1 Pkg [.5mm Leather- Metallic Pearl](#)
- 1 Tube [8-4221 Duracoat Galvanized Lt Smoky Pewter 8/0s](#)
- 1 Pkg [Tierra Heishi- Bright Silver](#)
- 1 Strand [Popcorn Padres- New Rainbow](#)





Well, despite our technical difficulties and it being just the two of us, I think we did great! We had a lot of fun and we'll be back in the future for some "Bead Doctor" FB Lives that we'll plan for.

Next week, Kate is back and working with Dragon Scales...you don't want to miss it!

Happy beading!



Sammy and Sadie checking out the beads and the MG Awareness bracelet...it fell to the floor and somehow Sadie got to it first and carried it off!

To the right, this was our crazy setup! That's me trying to bend over to refocus the phone's camera without getting in the way!



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- info@beadshop.com
- kate@beadshop.com
- janice@beadshop.com
- emily@beadshop.com
- drea@beadshop.com

Links to Events and More...

- Last FB Live Broadcast: [Emily's Float](#)
- [Facebook Live Youtube Playlist](#)
- [FB Live Archive Page](#) on beadshop.com
- [Free Tip Friday YouTube Playlist](#)
- [FTF Archive Page](#) on beadshop.com
- [Beads Baubles and Jewels](#) show
- [The MG Walk Blog Post](#)
- [The "Beadshop Dotcom" Donation Page](#)

Links to This Week's Ingredients...

Textile Looming

Abacus

- 1 Bountiful Clasp- Antique Brass
 - 1 Spool Regular C-Lon- Olive
 - 1 Spool KO Thread- Denim
 - 1 Pkg .5mm Leather- Natural
 - 1 Tube 8-1233 Matte Mustard 8/0 Miyuki
- Seed Beads
- 1 Pkg Aged Brick AB Glow 8/0
 - 1 Strand Popcorn Padres- Earthbound



Along The River

- 1 Bountiful Clasp- Antique Copper
 - 1 Spool Steel Regular C-Lon
 - 1 Spool KO Thread- Denim
 - 1 Pkg .5mm Leather- Distressed Brown
 - 1 Tube 8-2005 Matte Metallic Dark Raspberry 8/0 Miyuki
- Raspberry 8/0 Miyuki Seed Beads
- 1 Pkg Tierra Heishi- Antique Copper
 - 1 Strand Popcorn Padres- Mushroom



You will also want to have:

Size 10 Beading Needles, Zap Glue, Old School Thread Clippers,
Deep Dish Design Tray and Insert

Links to Learning, Products, & More...

[Class Handouts and Skill Builders](#)

[Main Project Page](#)

[SkillBuilders](#)

[Tricks to Looming](#)

[Textile Looming](#)

[Beads & Gems](#)

[Padres](#)

[8/0 Seed Beads](#)

[Tierra Heishi](#)

[Stringing Materials](#)

[C-Lon](#)

[KO Thread](#)

[Cords](#)

[.5mm Leather](#)

[Components](#)

[Clasps](#)

[10mm Clasps for Leather](#)

[Tools](#)

[Size 10 Beading Needles](#)

[Big Eye Needle](#)

[Knotting Tweezer](#)

[Zap Glue](#)

[Old School Thread Clippers](#)

[Deep Dish Design Tray and Insert](#)

What did she wear?

Drea had a couple fun pieces on in this episode!



Drea's bracelet, made by our dear Bead Friend, Cindy Brook.



Drea's Zen of Stringing-inspired necklace, made with beads from her stash while the passenger on a road trip to Florida!