

## facebook LIVE: 1.24.18

### Master Class: Designing A Cuff



*Project by Janice Parsons  
With Janice Parsons &  
Kate Richbourg FB Live  
Episode Notes by Drea Carbone  
Photography by Baranduin Briggs*

In her quest for finding useful and beautiful components to sell, Janice came across classic Egyptian clasps...bar clasps that enable multi-strand beadwork to really shine. But how to design with so many strands? Don't panic!

Designing is a lot easier than you think, Janice says. Referring to her popular Tricks of the Trade handout, Janice wants to remind us all that all our handmade jewelry can easily be museum-quality creations.

If you'd like to skip the chat and get right to the learning...  
Start at **Minute Marker 6:20** for discussion about the Project  
Start at **Minute Marker 13:00** to begin the lesson.



### **Minute Marker 13:00**

Janice and Kate talk about length. Measuring the wrist generously is important with a cuff bracelet, since the bracelet is so wide it needs to fit at a thicker part of the wrist and not just at the narrowest part, near the “hips” where your wrist meets your hand.

You also need to take the clasp itself into consideration when measuring. If you create your beadwork itself to the measurement of your wrist, your bracelet will end up too long once you add the clasp. Be sure to factor in the width of the clasp when you’re planning. The Cleo 5 clasp we are using is half an inch wide.

### **Minute Marker 20:20**

Cut your lengths of Soft Flex, 12” is a good length so you have plenty of space on either end of your strung beads for crimping to your clasp at the ends...plus some leftover in case of a mistake!

Now it’s Scotch Tape time...Janice even jokingly advises buying stock in it! You want to have tape flags at the end of each length of Soft Flex to hold your beads in place. You’ll also be taping your Soft Flex down to your work surface to hold them and help you plan your side-by-side designs.



## **Minute Marker 24:00**

Janice starts to string. Pointing out that she begins with smaller beads, she moves on to the larger beads, the 4mm Czech Fire Polish and 6mm Czech Melons, as well as selections from the West African Mixes. Your ends need to be tapered to enable easier crimping and attaching to the clasp. It'll also ease up on the bulk of the piece, and your bracelet will flow well.

Kate begins to snip links off the Teardrop Bauble chain, which we are using in a unique way. Rather than using the chain as-is, we're working with just the embellishments on it: the little teardrops. They make a really cute addition, adding texture and depth.

Janice adds a heishi disc and doesn't like it. Don't be afraid to go with your gut and make decisions on what you do and don't like. If it doesn't look right? Take it off!

Having strung about 2" on this first strand, Janice tapes it down and starts on her second strand. She tapes it in place, refers to her first strand, and has Kate begin stringing. Once again, begin with smaller beads. Note that the ladies are arranging their strands according to where the loops on the clasp would be, so that each strand they design will be laying approximately where it will end up when the piece is finished.



See how they're coming together? The middle strand is reaching a point where it's neighbor is a bit "skinny," therefore a good spot to add a larger bead or two. Keep in mind it's not just bead shapes you are mindfully lining up, but also colors and finishes.

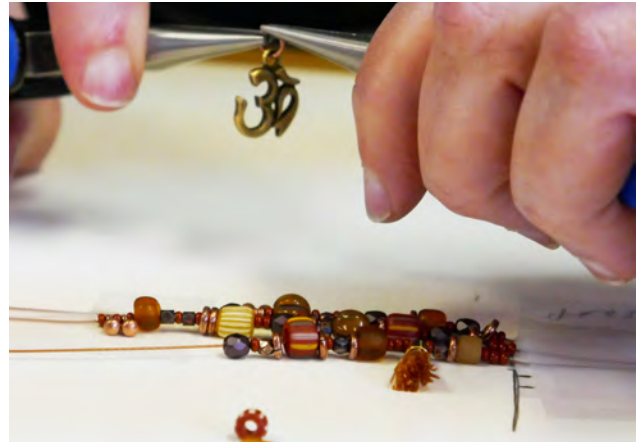
### **Minute Marker 40:00**

JP takes a moment to discuss another topic we have a great handout on: [Marketing Your Jewelry](#). "Value yourself more than you think you're worth," she tells us. This is something we've seen come up a few times lately in our [Facebook Community: Around The Bead Table](#). Many beaders tend to undervalue their work but also their time. Don't forget, it takes more than just materials to create your art!



### **Minute Marker 42:18**

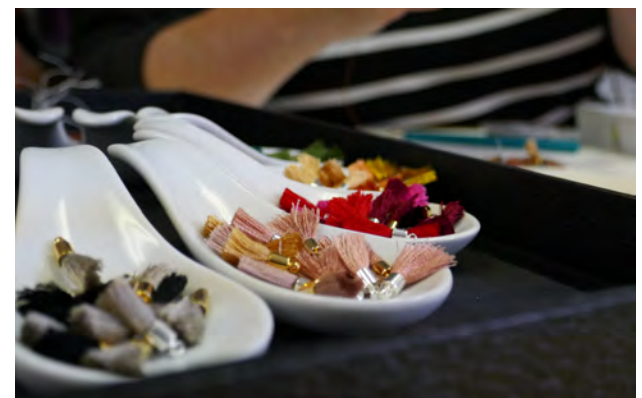
Kate brings us back to the in-progress brown colorway, called Grounded. The ladies discuss where to add their larger dangling elements, the charms and tassels. Kate demonstrates the proper way to close a jump ring, and reminds us: if it's not closed, it's open!



Kate shares a little story that's relevant to our construction: when her Gran made pasta sauce, she didn't have a recipe...she simply added ingredients until it was right. We're working on the same principle here. We have guidelines, but there's no exact formula to create. "Taste as you go," and adjust your design as needed.



Watch as Kate and Janice discuss the flow of this method of designing. You're arranging beads not only down the length of each "lane," but also across the multiple strands. Changing up one small thing can change the entire look of the piece, as discovered when auditioning different tassel colors. The Beige, the Blush, and the Gray tassels each give Grounded a completely new style.



 **Kim**  
January 26 at 12:38pm

Attn: wrap experts. This is my 1st one. I used a free sample of Victorian Christmas from [Beadshop.com](http://Beadshop.com) and an unofficial challenge from Kate to see what we would use it for. The section length is based on available beads from the sample which I love but I don't think it's working. The transition sections and button all end in the same place. I want to ladder on copper wheat chain but I'm not sure if I should continue or start over. Thanks for your guidance.



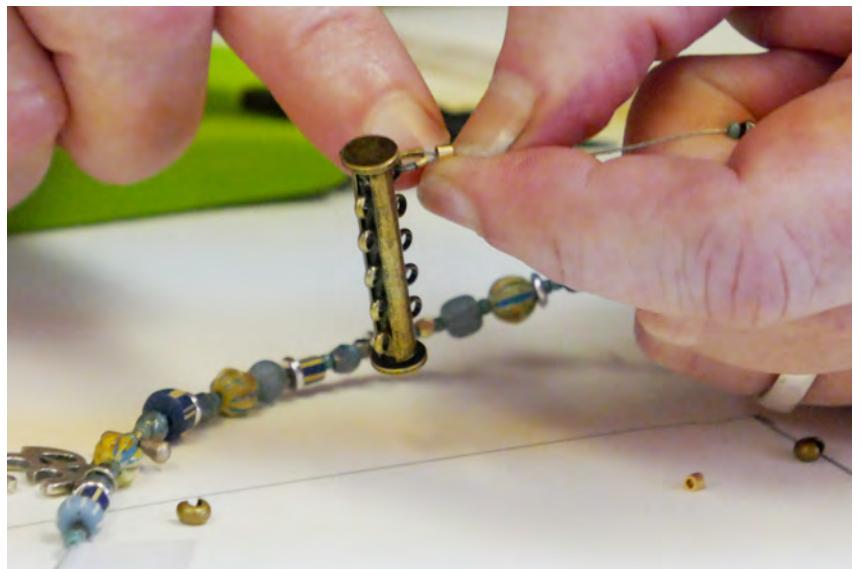
## **Minute Marker 59:50**

"I want you to stop." That's what Janice says! Truly! When you get to a point where you're stuck, when you're just not sure where to go...just stop. Take a breather, take a break, walk away, come back later. Rely on your friends and your bead family, too! Beading alone has its perks...but asking for help, advice, and ideas is one way to get some perspective or an idea that you may not have come up with on your own. Sometimes we get too involved in our own work and we can't see the bigger picture anymore. Our [Facebook Community](#) is a great source in cases like these. We see plenty of "in progress" work, and it's handy to have a whole crew of people weighing in with ideas or to boost confidence in your design!

## **Minute Marker 1:14:00**

Janice and Kate bring out the blue colorway, Flow, to show how to finish the piece. Kate wants you to also take a good step back before closing. You're in a different mindset, coming from the design to the technical. But, for the purposes of the show...Kate crimps on! Kate uses the same techniques we've seen before, but for a refresher check out our [Skill Builder: Using Crimps, Guardians, and Covers](#).

Kate points out the teeny space between her Wire Guardian and her Crimp Tube...it's essential to leave a bit of room so your crimp cover has room to go around the tube. It's also important to finish the piece while your clasp is closed... imagine attaching a strand to the wrong loop on one side? Yikes! Go slow, and attach one full strand at a time, taking care to attach to the correct corresponding loops on the clasp for each strand. Kate mentions that her design is visually tight—but not physically tight. If your beaded Soft Flex is crimped without just a bit of air, it won't sit nicely.



### **Minute Marker 1:28:30**

Here's a really good tip: use an oval jump ring when attaching your chain to the clasp. This helps keep your chain securely fastened. Rather than use a round jump ring, which could possibly open despite your best efforts to close it securely, an oval jump ring will by nature sit in a position where the opening will not rest against the link of chain or the loop of your clasp...and have less chance of letting that chain link slip out.

Kate shows how and why she uses lengths of chain just a hair longer than the beaded strands. The beads are big, and therefore take up more space diameter-wise, and would hide the chain if both elements were the same size. You want to be able to see those gorgeous links peeking through!



Keep consistent as you're adding your strands and chain, being careful to attach in the same positions on both sides of your clasp, you don't want to end up with twisted strands!

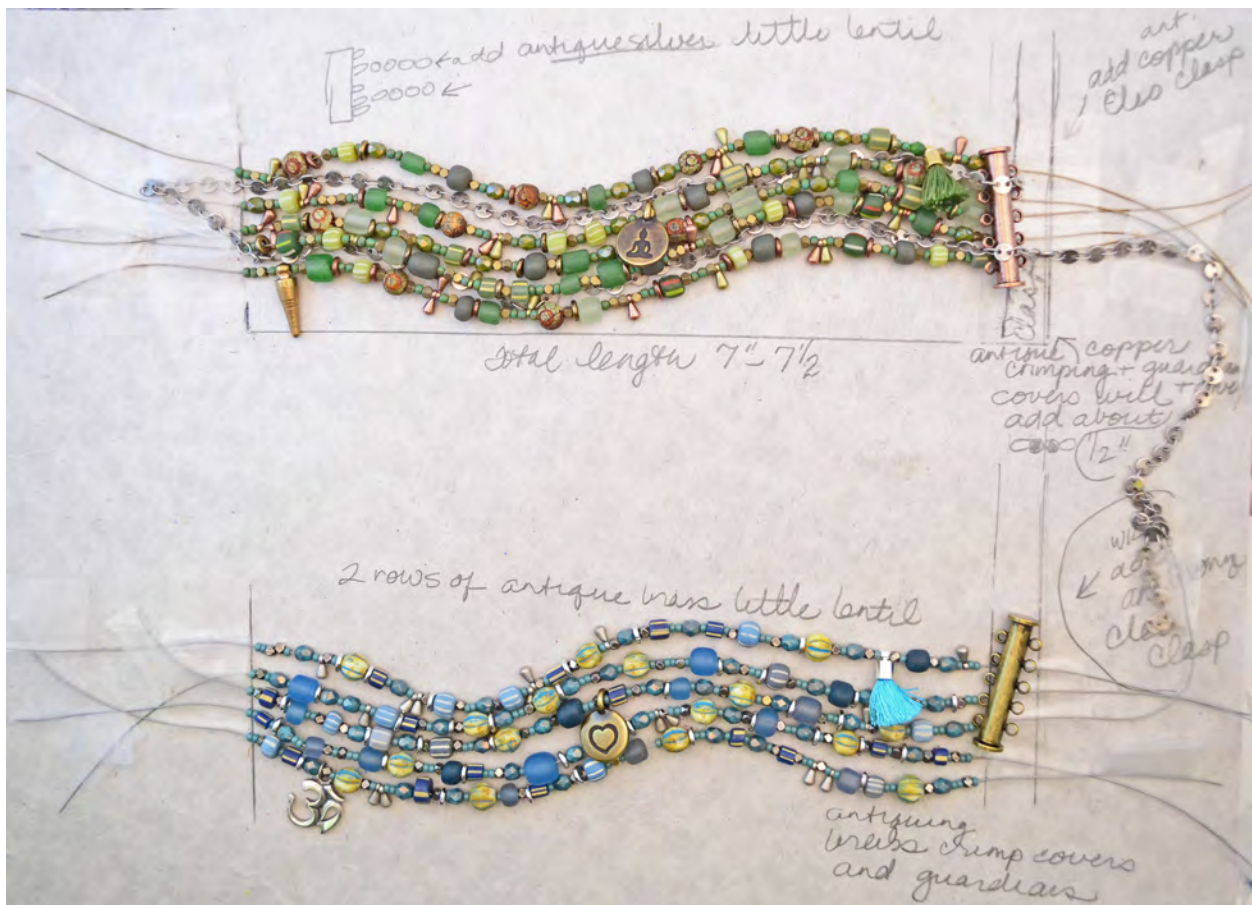
The ladies briefly discuss tape vs. bead stoppers before closing the episode out...Kate feels like the bead stoppers might be a bit too bulky while you're trying to design, but it's really a personal choice. Janice stresses that if you're used to doing things one way to keep doing them that way! Don't stress over the small stuff—just create! And, of course, enjoy!





That's all, gang! Wasn't that a fun and informative episode? It's always so great to have JP back on camera and sharing her expertise, and with Kate to throw in all her technique tricks, it's a perfect storm of creativity!

Thank you so much for joining us, and we'll see you back here for our next episode, with Emily giving us a great lesson in the basics of wire. See you then!



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[Bead & Button 2018 Class Preview with Kate & Janice](#)

[Kate's Classes at Bead and Button](#)

## Links to Learning, Products, & More...

[Class Handouts and Skill Builders](#)

[Tricks of the Trade Handout](#)

[Marketing Your Jewelry Handout](#)

[Floating Spaces Handout](#)

[SoftFlex 101 Part 1 & SoftFlex 101 Part 2](#)

[Using Crimps, Guardians, and Covers Skill](#)

[Builder](#)

[Mini Steel Rulers](#)

[Xuron Maxi-Shear Flush Cutters](#)

[Xuron 4-in-1 Crimping Pliers](#)

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[Charms and Pendants](#)

[Make a Point Pendant](#)

[Tassels](#)

[Chain: Teardrop Bauble & Little Lentil](#)

[Jump Rings](#)

[Crimps, Covers, Guardians, and Soft Flex](#)

[11/0 Seed Beads and Czech Seed Beads](#)

[Heishi Metal Beads](#)

[Little Shadows](#)

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[4mm Czech Glass Fire Polish](#)

[Czech Glass Melons](#)

[West African Mix Beads](#)

[Tribal and Trade Beads](#)

[Vintage Finds Chips](#)



## Links to Project's Ingredients...

### Designing a Cuff and Recipe

#### Origins

- 1 Cleo 5 Clasp- Antique Copper
- 1 Spool Soft Flex .014 Golden Bronze
- 1 Tube West African Mix- Nature
- 1 Strand 4mm Nebula Wasabi
- 1 Strand Hematite- Matte Light Gold
- 1 Pkg 6mm Old Pottery
- 1 Tube Aged Travertine Stripe-Green
- 1 Pkg Tierra Heishi- Antique Brass
- 1 Pkg Tierra Heishi- Antique Copper
- 1 Foot Bauble Chain- Antique Brass
- 2 Feet Little Lentil Chain- Antique Silver
- 1 Tiny Tassel- Olive/Gold
- 1 Make A Point Pendant
- 1 Asana Charm- Antique Brass
- 1 Pkg Assorted Crimp Tubes
- 1 Pkg Crimp Covers- Antique Copper
- 1 Pkg Wire Guardians- Antique Copper
- 1 Pkg Oval Antique Silver Jump Rings

#### Flow

- 1 Cleo 5 Clasp- Antique Brass
- 1 Spool Soft Flex .014 Satin Silver
- 1 Tube West African Mix- Water
- 1 Strand 4mm Persian Turquoise Picasso
- 1 Strand 6mm Melons- Ivory Turquoise Wash
- 1 Strand Little Shadows- Antique Silver
- 1 Tube 11-4481 Duracoat Opaque Eucalyptus
- 1 Pkg Tierra Heishi-Silver
- 1 Foot Bauble Chain- Antique Silver
- 2 Feet Little Lentil Chain- Antique Brass
- 1 Tiny Tassel- Turquoise/Silver
- 1 Heart Charm- Antique Brass
- 1 Sacred Symbol Two- Silver
- 1 Pkg Assorted Crimp Tubes
- 1 Pkg Crimp Covers- Antique Brass
- 1 Pkg Wire Guardians- Antique Brass
- 1 Pkg Oval Antique Brass Jump Rings

#### Grounded

- 1 Cleo 5 Clasp- Antique Copper
- 1 Spool Soft Flex .014 Copper
- 1 Tube West African Mix- Earth
- 1 Strand 4mm Pastel Bronze
- 1 Strand 6mm Czech Melons- Orange Brick
- 1 Hank Sol Gel Czech Seed Beads 11/0- Brown
- 1 Strand Little Shadows- Antique Copper
- 1 Pkg Tierra Heishi-Antique Copper
- 1 Foot Bauble Chain- Antique Copper
- 1 Foot Bauble Chain- Antique Brass
- 2 Feet Little Lentil Chain- Antique Brass
- 1 Tiny Tassel- Beige/Gold
- 1 Full Lotus Charm- Copper
- 1 Sacred Symbol Two- Brass
- 1 Pkg Assorted Crimp Tubes
- 1 Pkg Crimp Covers- Antique Copper
- 1 Pkg Wire Guardians- Antique Copper
- 1 Pkg Oval Antique Brass Jump Rings

#### **You will also want to have:**

Xuron 4-in-1 Crimper, Xuron Maxi Shears, Chain Nose Pliers, and Bent Nose Pliers

The first question asked each week on Facebook Live...

## "What are you wearing?"



As always, there was lots of bling being worn! Janice wore two necklaces given to her by Kate and Emily. Emily's is the inspiration for Patterning With Stones, only done with a variety of pearls. Kate created a large-linked chain and hung meaningful pendants from it as a goodbye necklace when JP moved to Virginia. Janice's bracelets? Her favorite, Trail Ride, of course...also a wooden bead stretchy bracelet featuring 2002's 25th anniversary of beadshop.com bead, and two hinged bangles given to her by her mother, Lydia. Rounding out Janice's jewelry was a tiny Heart on my Sleeve made by Emily, pinned to her scarf.

On Kate, we saw two of her favorites, her April 2017 FTF Loomed Wrap, and her version of Trail Ride done with studded leather. Kate's ring is a real stunner: handmade by Kate herself, it features a large Kingman Turquoise stone at the center, flanked by sterling stamped accents and two Ruby cabochons.

