

FB LIVE: 10.24.18 Endless Necklace



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With Kate Richbourg on FB Live
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and Karen Marshall*

Today, Kate will go over how to work up an endless bracelet or necklace: that is, one that has no clasp. Today she'll teach how to make one with knotting on silk, or one that's strung on SoftFlex...but neither with a clasp! It's a versatile project and we love the look of endless pearls.

We lost power on our camera during today's broadcast just over an hour in to the broadcast, so you'll see notes on my usual Minute Markers to denote "Part Two" for when we need to switch to the second video, which can be found [here](#).

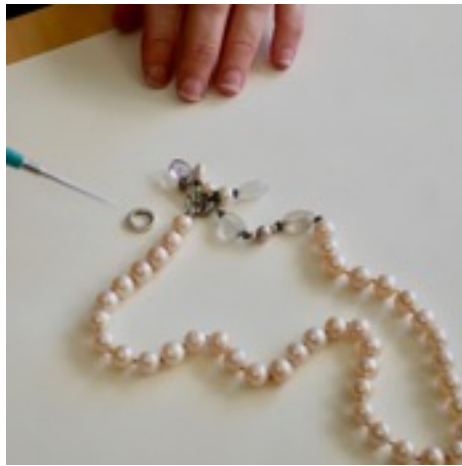
Thanks for sticking with us through our technical difficulties!

Read to go? Let's do it! Want to skip the chit chat?

Skip to **Minute Marker 15:00** to hear more about Kate's inspiration, and fast forward to **Minute Marker 31:30** to get into the learning.

Minute Marker 15:00

Kate shows off a variety of older pieces made by herself or our beadshop.com staff...fabulous mixes of lush pearls that you can layer and love. It's a great segment to give you some ideas to take today's project even further.



Minute Marker 29:00

Kate's Pearl Collection Kits sold out before we could even do our show! So, even though it's the mix of pearls that Kate's making today's project with, it's ok if you missed it. It was very limited edition and it unfortunately won't be back, so Kate goes over how to create your own mix. The vintage pearls in her mix are ones we do not carry, they were in limited supply and therefore perfect for a special mix. So She wants a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors and she explains how to work on one of your very own. Grab some strands, cut 'em, and mix!

Kate selects several strands of pearls from our shop and "frees" them into a bin. See how great it looks? It's pretty close to her limited-edition mix...look at the photo below to the far left. That's her Pearl Collection mix already strung and her new mix in the bowl. Gorgeous!



Minute Marker 33:30

Kate begins talking about the two ways to string. On our Soft Flex version Kate uses an 11/0 seed bead ([11-576](#)) as a spacer between the pearls. It mimics the look of knots and helps the flow of the piece, allowing movement and air between the pearls.

Notice how these 11/0s lighten up the piece in comparison to the black silk knots in Kate's knotted version. Choose whatever seed beads or silk you like best! As always..."You do you!"

Here is a list of the 11/0s Kate pulled and suggested:

[11-451 Gunmetal](#)

[11-4204 Duracoat Galvanized Champagne](#)

[11-190 Nickel Plated](#)

[11-4221 Duracoat Galvanized Lt. Smoky Pewter](#)

[11-4222 Duracoat Galvanized Pewter](#)

[11-4201 Duracoat Galvanized Silver](#)

Minute Marke 38:00

Let's start with the Knotted Version. Kate is using Black Size 4 Griffin Silk here. She strings two pearls onto the silk, without tying a knot between them. The closing knot at the very end will live between these two pearls, so don't knot between them! Tape the very end tail or use a bead stopper to keep your pearls on the thread. Now, begin knotting between every pearl you add. Kate just makes a simple overhand knot and slides it right down to the pearl, using her knotting tweezers to adjust where her knot ends up, and pushing it into place as she tightens.



Minute Marker 50:00

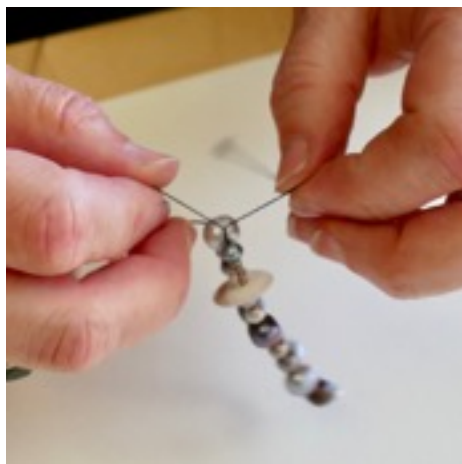
You can also use an Awl in place of knotting tweezers...or watch as Kate shows a "tool-less" way to do this, by using the next pearl you string to push the knot into place. Smart! A good idea for when you're traveling and don't want to pack tools.



Minute Marker 53:30

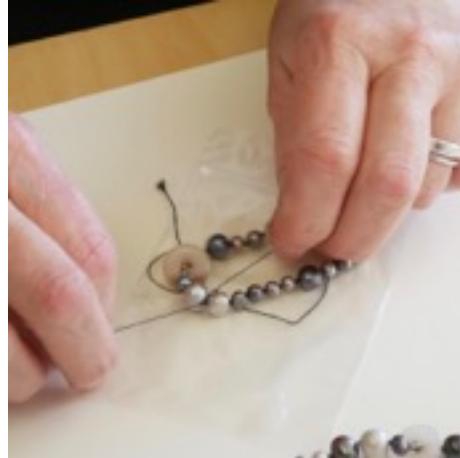
Here's how to close your Endless Jewelry without a clasp. Once you have all the pearls knotted that you want to, it's time to end it. As Kate mentions earlier, it's going to vary based on your own personal wrist size if you want to wrap it around your wrist or your own personal favored necklace length...you do you!

Kate strings a few 11/0s and her Jade disc between some pearls, just a cute little playful decoration, and gets ready to close. Bring your needle back through your very first pearl. Using the tail of the thread, Kate splits this thread into two sections and unwinds them a bit. She puts these two tails on either side of the pearls and ties a full square knot around the thread between the beads. She ties right-over-left, adds a dab of GS Hypo Cement, then ties the second half of her square knot, left-over-right...and another dab of glue and one more half-hitch for security. Let this glue cure before trimming the tails.



Minute Marker 58:30

Now, repeat with the other end of your thread, the one attached to the needle. Clip a couple inches away from your pearls. Untwist the threads, and tie the same knots, gluing between, around the thread going through your pearls. See how these knots now sit on either side of the first pearl you strung, creating knots between all of your pearls? Perfect!



Minute Marker 1:01:00

Kate shows how to add a thread, if you want a very very very long strand of knotted pearls or happen to break your thread. In this sample, Kate uses a double strand of Micro C-Lon. Cut a couple yards and double it over through a flexible eye needle. String ONE tail of your new thread up through your last pearl. Also, pull ONE of your old threads back out of the pearl. You should now have two threads though the pearl and tails above and below. Use these tails to create knots just like we did a few moments ago with our closure.

Now, string a pearl onto your new thread and bring it down...see how you now have two remaining tails to tie knots with? One is the OTHER tail of your new thread, one is the other old thread. Tie your knots again, gluing again, all the same way. Let dry before trimming the tails off. And now you have a nice, long, new length of thread attached to a needle to keep knotting





Minute Marker 1:14:00

Now, let's make an Endless piece with Soft Flex!
This is almost too easy. String away!
Alternate pearls with 11/0 seed beads and just keep stringing until you're at your desired length. We'll have two strands of Soft Flex going through some pearls in the piece, so if you need a pearl with a larger hole, Kate shows us what to do.

Now, THIS is where our video cuts out, so be sure to now tune in to [Part Two](#)! So...

PART TWO Minute Marker 2:00

Kate shows us how to use a bead reamer to create larger holes in pearls, which have notoriously tiny holes. Grab your bead reamer and a small dish of water, and wet your pearl and your reamer tip. Insert, and twist, twist, twist! Dip into the water from time to time, you want to keep the dust down and it's much easier to ream. Switch sides so you ream from the other end of the hole as well. Just rate back and forth with minimal force, you don't need to use a lot of power here, just let the tool do the work for you.



Test your Soft Flex...will two strands fit? If not, continue to ream that hole a bit longer. See the difference here? Look at how much larger that hole is! That's just a few moments of work on Kate's part.



Janice, in the comments, mentions how she doesn't like to use a reamer, and would just search for a pearl with a larger hole!

PART TWO Minute Marker 11:00

Kate's ready to end her Soft Flex. Make sure your strand is coiled and curved, and not laying straight. This allows some breathing room when you crimp so it's not too tight!

Kate adds her 11/0s and Jade Disc decoration again on one Soft Flex Tail, and on the other she adds a crimp and her pearl with the reamed hole. Now, string your decor-side tail through the pearl and crimp, pull until you have about 1/8" of unbeaded Soft Flex...and crimp! Trim your Soft Flex tails and cover your crimped tube with a crimp cover and you're done. If you'd like a little added security, use two crimps, one on either side of your pearl...but Kate is confident that this single crimp is strong enough.

And you're done! Wear as a bracelet or necklace...or make multiples and wear it both ways!



And there we have it! One piece of jewelry that can be created in two ways and worn two ways. So versatile and fun and just plain pretty!

Thanks for sticking it out with us through our two videos (whoops!). We hope you enjoyed this episode and learning along with us. Until next week...

Happy beading!



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Links to Events and More...

- Today's two broadcasts: [PART ONE](#) and [PART TWO](#)
- Last Week's FB Live Broadcast: [Designing A Cuff with Kate](#)
- [Facebook Live Youtube Playlist](#)
- [FB Live Archive Page](#) on [beadshop.com](#)
- [Free Tip Friday YouTube Playlist](#)
- [FTF Archive Page](#) on [beadshop.com](#)

Links to This Week's Ingredients...

[Cultured Girls](#)

For Knotting:

A selection of [Pearls](#)

2 Pkgs [Griffin Silk, Size 4](#)

For Stringing on Soft Flex:

A selection of [Pearls](#)

1 Spool [Soft Flex .014](#)

1 Tube [11/0 Seed Beads](#)

2x2 [Crimp Tubes](#)

[Crimp Covers](#)



You will also want to have:

Knotted: [Knitting Tweezer](#) or [Awl](#), [GS Hypo Cement](#), and [Thread Snips](#)
(If needed, [Flexible Eye Needle](#))

Soft Flex: [Flush Cutters](#) and [Xuron 4-in-1 Crimper](#)
(If needed, [Bead Reamer](#))



Links to Learning, Products, & More...

[Class Handouts and Skill Builders](#)

[Main Project Page](#)

[SkillBuilders](#)

[Soft Flex 101](#)

[Skillbuilder: Using Crimps, Guardians, and Covers](#)

[Silk Float Away Necklace](#)

[Contemporary Bead Knotting](#)

[Beads & Gems](#)

[Pearls](#)

[Stringing Materials](#)

[Soft Flex](#)

[Griffin Silk](#)

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[Components](#)

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