

# facebook LIVE: 11.29.17

## Sea Dive...Lessons in Laddering



*Project by Janice Parsons  
With Kate Richbourg and Emily Miller on FB Live  
Episode Notes by Drea Carbone  
Photography from Grace Noland, Karen Marshall, and Emily Miller*

This week, Kate and Emily go in-depth into Infinity Laddering techniques and bracelet-making in general. Measuring, patterning, wrapping, which beads and leather to use...it's all here. Plus, get up close and personal with Janice's latest design, Sea Dive, a stack of three bracelets in saturated colors and coveted Green Girl Studios buttons. We hope Facebook Live and Episode Notes are helpful and inspiring to you...  
happy beading!

If you'd like to skip the chit chat and get right to the work,  
begin at **Minute Marker 15:45**.

Kate and Emily are on their own today...teaching, behind the camera, and reading viewer comments.

We had such a huge Black Friday/ Cyber Monday rush that everyone at the office was busy pulling orders... including the camera team. That gave the gals free reign over the camera... and things got a little goofy!



But, back to the learning. Scoot along to **Minute Marker 15:45** and let's begin!

One of the questions we hear most often is about bracelet length and measuring. So that's where Kate starts off this week. There's so much to take into consideration when you're creating a bracelet...the obvious, the wrist measurement itself, is just the start!

You'll also want to think about the type of bracelet...is it a skinny single-wrap? A multi-wrap? A cuff? And what beads are you using? All these questions need answering so we can achieve accurate measurements. So let's get started!



### **Minute Marker 17:30**

Kate brings out the bracelet forms. Remember these? On 3.15.17's FB Live, Laddering With Tiles, Kate and Janice created these simple forms using manila folders and tape! Clever tip: Write your name and measurement on the form, so you won't forget! This comes in handy if you're like me, and often making bracelets for your family and friends. Also handy: The EZ Bracelet Sizer!

### **Tips to remember when measuring:**

- Measure your wrist itself, holding your tape measure right to the wrist. You're not measuring the bracelet size, you want the size of just your wrist.
- For optimal sizing, measure just above the "break" of your wrist, where the wrist meets the hand. However, for a cuff, you'll want to make your measurement about 2" up from here...your arm is wider at this point and if you make a wide cuff to fit the smallest part of your wrist, it won't fit on the larger part.
- Create your bracelet form to match the wrist size. You'll use this to wrap your bracelets around for testing them out. If it's not true to the size of your wrist, your measurements won't be accurate!

### **Tips to remember about beading:**

- Larger beads? Longer length. Those beads are wider, and they'll take up a lot more room than smaller beads.
- Multiple wraps? Longer length again! The more wraps your bracelet has, the more space it will take up on your wrist, and you'll need to consider that the wraps will overlap at points, such as when your ends come together to meet and close. Add about 1/8-1/4" per wrap for "air."
- Try on your bracelet as you make it! We can't stress this enough, it's a vital step.



#### Minute Marker 26:30

Emily brings up great point: multiple button holes can be really helpful when making bracelets for others. An adjustable bracelet is more likely to fit a variety of wrist sizes. Extra loops can easily be snipped off. We actually talk about this a few times during this episode! It's a great idea.

Oddly enough, a great example of the double button loop can be seen on the "mystery bracelet" that Kate found. It's from one of our older Projects, [Tribal Ladder](#). The bracelet in question was [Washed Up](#), by Brittany Ketcham-Roney.

Note: Washed Up was made with Tribal Sand Cast beads we no longer carry, but our new [Aged Czech Picasso](#) beads would make a great replacement!

## **Minute Marker 29:00**

Layout! Key things to remember when patterning out a multi-wrap bracelet or a set of stacked bracelets is how all your wraps will look next to each other. Kate takes a simple piece of paper and folds it accordion-style. A length of Handy Tape is pressed on. Voila! You've got channels that can act as a design board.

This is great for not only design, but also measuring lengths of sections. Each bracelet or section can be laid out easily. You can add loose beads in one channel to see how they'll look next to an already-laddered section...it's a great planning device...and all it is is paper!



Think of each section as its own bracelet. As Kate says, "you're not only working on each bracelet in a linear way, you're also working on a finished piece."

Our Project Maps can help. On any Project's page, scroll to the bottom and you'll see the piece laid out. This shows not only the different wraps but also some details you might miss in the beauty shot of a coiled-up bracelet.



Sea Dive



Lost and Found

Minute Marker 39:40

Infinity Stitch vs Traditional Laddering: In these Skillbuilders we show how both traditional laddering and infinity laddering styles work. Kate chats today about why you may want to choose one over the other for certain styles. In Karen's Turning Leaves sample, she used Infinity and Traditional.

Note: Kate also mentions that Sea Dive only has two bracelets...but there are actually three. Oops!



**First Wrap:** *Traditional*. These small beads could have benefitted from Infinity, but in Tricks to Laddering we have always used Traditional.

**Second Wrap:** *Traditional*. It made sense to keep the Traditional Ladder with 6mm stones, a larger bead.

**Third Wrap:** *Traditional*. Smaller beads again, and it's cumbersome to pass two threads past each other through small bead holes.

**Fourth Wrap:** *Infinity*. Small beads again! It was such a quick finish that Karen used only Infinity in her next sample, Harvest Moon.

In projects like Sea Dive where 11/0 seed beads are pivotal to the design, KO thread, Size 10 English Beading Needle and Infinity Stitch make laddering go quickly.





Nearly any size cords can be used to ladder. Choose your leather (or waxed cotton!) outer cords based on not only color, but also based on what beads you'll be using. Big chunky beads on skinny 1mm leather may not work out so well! But a thicker and sturdier leather would hold up much better. Along those lines, you may not want 2mm leather with small 11/0s. Kate also notes that metallic leather is often a smidgen thicker than its non-coated counterparts.



What stringing material to use? The same guidelines apply. The smaller your bead, the thinner your thread will need to be. But also consider the overall look you're going for. Our [Stitchionary](#) is a great primer on threads, and our [Tricks to Laddering Handout](#) is all about Traditional Laddering, but is chock full of knowledge on bead choice for laddering. The principles also apply in Infinity Stitch.



Some viewers mention using Fireline and Waxed Cotton Cord, rather than leather. They are a good combo if you're making a bracelet for someone who is Vegan or is hard on their jewelry. Leather isn't intended for exposure to moisture, so cotton is perfect for the surfer in your life! To help lengthen the life of all your jewelry, keep away from perfume, cosmetics, and lotions.

### **Minute Marker 57:10**

As Kate sets up her board and project, she shows an alternate way to start your bracelet. If you don't have the time or inclination to macramé, a simple overhand knot in the leather will do. Capture your KO Thread in the knot, add a dab of GS Hypo Cement, and once it has dried you can cut the KO tails away and you're ready to start to Infinity Stitch. They both look great, use whichever method you prefer. And don't forget, have that knot clear the button.



How much thread should you cut? Well, it all depends on the length of your project. For a single bracelet using lots of rows of 11/0's, Janice recommends cutting 2 yards to start. Everyone finds their comfort zone with how much thread. Kate likes to keep it short (two lengths of the design tray). I measure a "wingspan," the length of my outstretched arms. But as Kate says, "You do you!" You can always add more thread and having too much just gets tangled.

### **Minute Marker 1:05:55**

Kate starts stitching her beads. Be sure to stitch through your first bead twice to anchor it in place. Kate shows how to tidy up your first few rows, because sometimes it's a little tricky to get them settled into place how you want them.

**Minute Marker 1:10:45**

Let's talk design. When Janice was creating the Sea Dive Stacks, she just went for it! She didn't have a pattern to follow or anything in particular in mind, she just did what she wanted and what was fun! She created some really great designs and played with patterns and colorblocking. She also mirrored some of her designs, making some symmetry, but it's not an exact science. She just used her design savvy and ideas to create several motifs that were repeated, flipped, and switched up! Have fun with this, whatever is already in your head is going to look fab!







**Top Sample:**

Ladder cord is knotted and then a leather silk wrap is done over it. Leather ends are knotted to form button loop.

**Middle Sample:**

Macramé at the taper and macramé to close the button loop.

**Bottom Sample:**

Button loop is macramé and tail ends are adorned with macramé.

**Minute Marker 1:23:00**

And, now to end your bracelet.:

1. Begin by tapering down your bead rows, as you did at the beginning.
2. Cut the needle off, leaving two pieces of KO long enough to tie a square knot.
3. Cut a second piece of KO about 12 inches, lay it under the leather and tie a square knot with the all four ends of KO (Kate showed a variation of this).
4. Then, macramé using two pieces of KO in each hand. This gives you macramé the same weight as what you started with.
5. Add a dab of GS Hypo Cement on the leather before doing the last two stitches, and add another drop on the last knot.
6. Measure the opening for your button. You don't want it too roomy but you also don't want a struggle (which will wear out for leather).
7. Cut two lengths of KO about 12 inches and macramé a second set of square knots to close the button loop. Repeat the glue on the leather and last knot.
8. Remember, you can make multiple button loops to allow your creation to be adjustable. Your choice!

And that's all, folks! We went over a lot of techniques and ideas in this show, and it's so worth the watch! Kate and Emily did a great job manning the camera by themselves and managing questions and comments. Thanks to Janice and Gitte (all the way over in Denmark) for linking in the comments while we were live...it takes a village!

In closing, Kate mentions our quick holiday projects from Free Tip Friday, which have been especially popular in our private Facebook group (have you joined yet? You have to get in on the fun!). We are just loving everyone's takes on these projects! Here are the blogs with videos embedded, if you haven't seen them yet:



Free Tip Friday:  
Snowflake Earrings



Free Tip Friday:  
Holiday Stars

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### Links to Events and More...

[Last Week's Facebook Live Broadcast: The Zen of Stringing](#)  
[Previous Facebook Live Broadcasts](#)  
[Facebook Live Youtube Playlist](#)  
[Free Tip Friday YouTube Playlist](#)  
[Bead and Button Show](#)

## Links to This Project's Ingredients...

[Sea Dive Stacks](#) and [Recipe Page](#)

- 1 [Little Octopus Button](#)
- 1 [Small Mermaid Button](#)
- 1 [Little Fish Pond Button](#)
- 1 Spool [Distressed Mahogany- 1.0mm Indian Leather](#)
- 1 Spool [KO Thread- Denim](#)
- 1 Tube [11-4469 Duracoat Opaque Jujube 11/0s](#)
- 1 Tube [11-4456 Duracoat Opaque Hawthorne 11/0s](#)
- 1 Tube [11-4481 Duracoat Opaque Eucalyptus](#)
- 1 Strand [3mm Picasso Green Turquoise Fire Polish](#)
- 1 Strand [3mm Dark Snake Orchid Fire Polish](#)
- 1 Strand [CzechMates Tiles- Picasso Persian Turquoise](#)
- 1 Strand [4mm Matte Lapis Rounds](#)
- 1 Tube [GS Hypo Cement](#)
- 1 Pkg [Size 10 Beading Needles](#)

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

[Class Handouts](#)

[Skill Builders](#)

[Seed Bead School](#)

[Infinity Stitch Skill Builder](#)

[Tricks to Laddering](#)

[How to Ladder Skill Builder](#)

[How to Add Thread to a Laddering Project](#)

[Color Study Bracelet Project](#)

[How to Macrame Skill Builder](#)

[Treasure Chest Bracelet](#)

[Washed Up Tribal Ladder Bracelet](#)

[Karen's Turning Leaves Tricks to Laddering](#)

[Buttons](#)

[Green Girl Studios Collection](#)

[Leather and Waxed Cotton Cord](#)

[Bugle Beads](#)

[11/0 Seed Beads](#)

[Shadows Metal Beads](#)

[Gem and Earth Stones](#)

[Czechmates Tile Beads](#)

[3mm Czech Glass Fire Polish](#)

[KO Thread](#)

[C-Lon](#)

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[Beeswax](#)

[GS Hypo Cement](#)

[EZ Mini Bracelet Form](#)

[Handy Tape](#)

[Awl For One Tool and Knotting Tweezers](#)

[Deep Dish Project Tray and Inserts](#)

[Clampers Metal Clips](#)

[Size 10 Beading Needles](#)

[Size 12 Beading Needles](#)