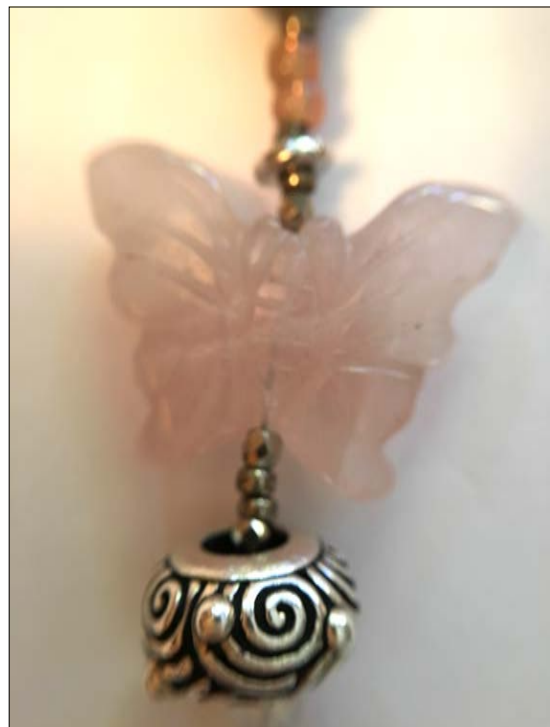


# facebook LIVE:

5.10.17

SoftFlex Part 2



Hi Everyone!

Today we dive into design and stringing tips when using SoftFlex. It's so fun to work with and we're thrilled to welcome it back.

We want to apologize for the audio delay in video feed from today's broadcast. Somehow, our connection was lost while live on Facebook and that's made the audio about a minute slow in parts. Thanks for your patience. We hope to have this resolved before next week. Okay...let's get started...

For those interested in joining us at our upcoming Bead Retreat, Color by Design, it's happening (really!) September 15-17, 2017 in San Juan Bautista. Here's a link: [Bead Retreat](#). The [FAQ](#) and [Registration Form](#) are also included.



Speaking of getaways, we received the loveliest note from Jacque H. of South Carolina.

### Mother's Day Fun Jewelry

“Hi kids,

Thought you might like this story. I'm in Atlanta staying with my daughter and we decided to have a Mother's Day brunch at a nice restaurant with a couple of her friends.

I was the surrogate mother. After the brunch we all came back to my daughters house in Atlanta and we showed the girls how to make leather and other fun bracelets.

We all had a great time and here are the pictures of their accomplishments.

Lovies, Jacque”



[Memory Wire is Back!](#)



[Roller Beads on Leather](#)



[Easy Leather Wrap](#), [Prairie](#) and [Memory Wire is Back!](#)

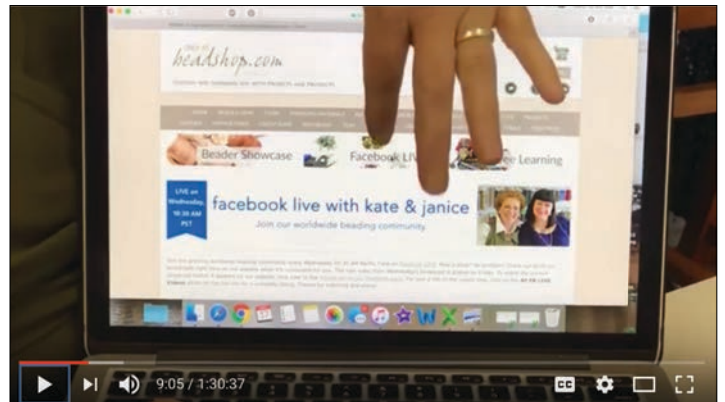
We also received a very nice message on Facebook from Jessica C. who shared with us the creative way she incorporated fluorite chips in her creation. Great job!

“Here’s what I made from last week’s giveaway!”

-Jessica



To find relevant learning, here are links:  
[SoftFlex Episode Part 1](#)  
[Sketch a Necklace](#)  
[Free Tip Friday: Measuring Necklace Length](#)  
And where to find all our Facebook Learning:  
[Go to our beadshop.com FB Live Page](#)  
[Go to Videos on our Facebook Page](#)  
[Go to our YouTube Channel](#)



At about minute 16, we realized there are problems with the feed. Only Kate understands the significance of this. Janice just stares into space! Please bear with us... we’re going to try to capture the important learning in the Episode Notes and add links we feel will be helpful. We hope this is a one-time problem and it’s all worked out by next week.



We start out talking about “Why use SoftFlex?” When would you use it and why? Soft Flex was created more than twenty-five years ago because there were so few thread options. Tiger Tail, a stiff wire with a plastic coating, was the only wire available besides monofilament. The founders of Soft Flex (Mike and Scott) thought there was a need in the marketplace for a wire that was both extremely strong *and* very supple. It turns out they were right! And, as long as you don’t get kinks in it or crimp it too tightly, it’s wonderful for beads of all kinds...big and heavy, tiny and light, and even beads with rough edges. That’s the magic of Soft Flex.



Kate designed:  
Shadow Love



Janice designed:  
Lake Frog



At 22:49, Kate and Janice start discussing design and the differences between how they each develop a pattern...how they design. Kate points out how she and Janice have the same ingredients but in different colors. Because of the contrasting styles of design, the results are different.



Kate likes to take her beads and mix them up in a bowl. Then, without looking, she randomly picks them up and strings!

Kate points out that a small section might not at first "measure up," but when it's viewed in totality, the pattern blends in and really looks random, which is her goal.



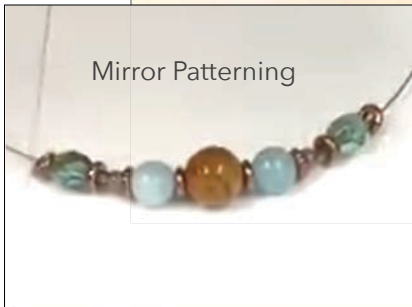
On the other hand, Janice likes to loosen up with a sketch or watercolor. She will then begin stringing in the center of a strand and work up one side. When she gets bored, she stops and repeats the pattern on the other side.

There's no right or wrong answer; it's just different styles. Shadow Love is a long, single strand that is 48 inches in length. It can wrap multiple times as a necklace or if matched correctly to your wrist size, may be worn as a stunning multi-wrap bracelet.



Kate's random way of stringing creates an openness and natural flow to the design; there's an ease to it. She allows the eye to meander along. On Facebook LIVE, Kate talks about adding those small spacer beads to allow "air" between beads. She likes the True 2's to add sparkle. Think of them as the space between words on a page. Without them, the words would be barely distinguishable.





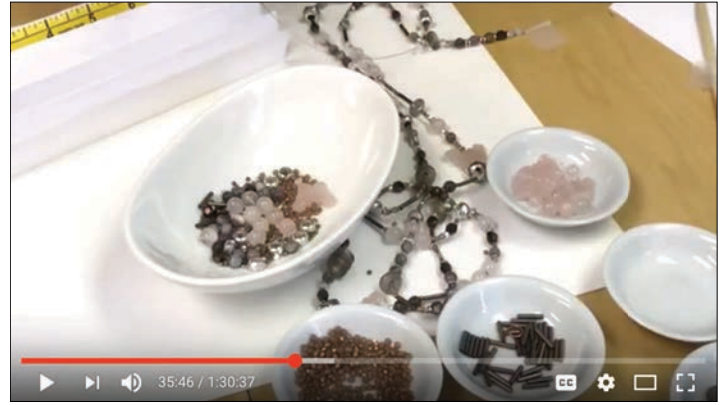
Shortest: 19"  
 Next: 20"  
 Next: 21"  
 Longest: 22"

On the other hand, Janice likes to create patterns where she is able to "mirror" from one bead and work out from there in both directions. "I string a section until my mind gets bored and then I know it's time to do a new pattern."

For the disc, Tide's Out bead in Sea Green, Janice had two strands of Soft Flex going up through the Butterfly and a seed bead. When she was ready to add the green disc, she separated the Soft Flex and went through the center hole from either side. She then came out on the top and took both strands of Soft Flex through a seed bead to bring them back together.



Kate shows us her style of patterning with beads. Much like Julia Child in the kitchen, Kate likes to throw things in the pot...or in her case, a bowl and just begin stringing. Kate calls it "random that has some thought behind it."



Advice from Kate, "allow the beads to find their place and select your beads by touch." She then suggests you take a step back and see if anything appeals to you.

Words of Wisdom: If the palette in the bowl is good, don't worry about the pattern.



For a quick patterning tool, try accordion folds in a piece of copy paper. Mark the inches on one end (or label it with Handy Tape) and parcel out beads to see what possible patterns look like.

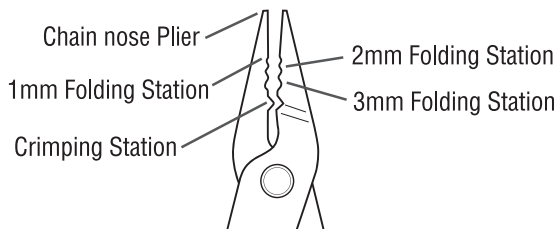
Please Note: We still can't source the nice beader who contacted us with this idea. We'd like to give you credit!



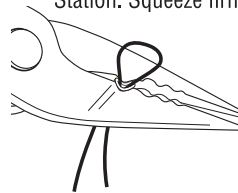
At marker 47:34, Kate begins talking about the size of crimp tubes and demonstrating how to use the Xuron 4 in 1 Crimping Plier with various beads and sizes of Soft Flex and Soft Touch.



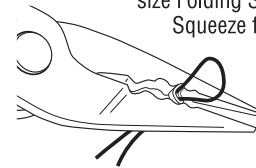
## How to use the 4 in 1 Crimper



**Step #1:** Place crimp in the Crimping Station. Squeeze firmly.



**Step #2:** Turn crimp on its side. "<" Place in the appropriate size Folding Station. Squeeze firmly.



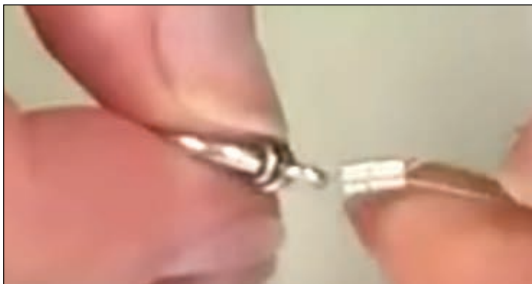
**Step #3:** Use the chain nose tip of the plier for any additional squeezing or bending.

You are not limited in designing when stringing on Soft Flex and Soft Touch. Kate shows you various ways you can create floats, double-crimp, make endless necklaces, and flat crimp. Don't let the stringing materials keep you from finding your best creative self!



Xuron 4 in 1 Crimping Plier

Kate shows a quick float necklace idea with .010 Soft Touch and 1.5mm Crimp Tubes in Gold.



At marker 51:49, watch Kate double crimp two tubes side-by-side, as if they are one, continuous component. It's a work of art! She uses: 2mm Silver Crimps with .014 Soft Flex.



And at marker 56:51, Kate shows how to make an endless necklace on Soft Flex using 2mm Crimp Tubes in Silver and then around marker 59:00 begins to show how to flat crimp using a crimp tube and chain nose pliers.



**We apologize! The video and audio feed towards the end goes haywire and so we're going to end the Episode Notes early....It's too mixed up to follow! Can we have a raincheck to show you multiple-strand closures and adding a strand of Soft Flex another time? Thank you!**