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facebook LIVE: 12.20.17

The Gatsby Necklace



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

An opulent cascade of pearls, sparkling crystal, Ivory Ceylon seed beads, and Czech glass...wow! This necklace was meant to impress, and we had New Years Eve 2018 in mind when creating it.  
After all, a special night deserves special jewelry, doesn't it?

Reminiscent of the Roaring 20's, Kate and Emily show us how to make a 3 strand necklace, create a matching bracelet, *and* talk about other color ways, including one that proved so popular we had to give it a name!  
Happy beading, everyone!

If you'd like to skip right to the learning, begin at **Minute Marker 15:50.**

## Minute Marker 15:50

We begin learning with some background about other Soft Flex projects we've done. We've had several with great color palettes, but today we'll be focusing on a monochromatic look. While we've made some necklaces very long, which you could wear either looped around to make a multi-strand or long and single, today's Gatsby Necklace will have three individual strands that will come together just before the clasp, making the three strands perfectly layered and stationary. Let's take a peek at our past projects:



### Shadow Love:

a long single-strand necklace that can be worn multiple ways.



Emily's own necklace, a long single-strand that can be worn multiple ways. This piece inspired Patterning With Stones and Gatsby.



### Lake Frog,

a multi-strand necklace. Three strands connect to the clasp, one of those strands branches out into two.

Our inspiration for The Gatsby Necklace came from classic techniques used in Patterning With Stones. Rather than use a pattern of colors and shapes this time, we went with a monochromatic look. It's all white and ivory, but we rely on the different sizes and textures of beads to add interest.



Painted Desert



Au Naturel

### **Minute Marker 25:00:**

More on that monochromatic theme... our ingredients today are all very neutral. We mixed sizes, materials, and shapes, but kept to the same color to help tell a story of soft white and classic ivory.

Using three sizes of seed beads all in one color (Ivory Ceylon) gave us the freedom to play with bead patterns without having to think too much (always nice!) They also allowed the larger beads the separation to breathe and stretch out across the length of the piece.



We rounded out the ingredients with a selection of pearls, faceted crystal, and Czech glass melons. None are perfectly round or smooth, and that also adds texture and interest to the overall design.

### **Minute Marker 29:20**

Kate was struck with inspiration just before going live. She pulled a second palette all in black. This proved so popular we created a blog post and we're calling it The Fitzgerald Necklace. You can even enhance the black palette with the addition of beads in gunmetal and silver with some lustrous soft grey pearls. It's all up to you!



### **Minute Marker 36:25**

Getting back to The Gatsby, we start by talking about strand lengths on this 3-strand design. Emily mentions that you generally would start your necklace measuring for the shortest strand first, and then build your longer strands after. But for this particular piece, Emily was inspired by creating her longest strand first. She had the idea in her head of an elongated and opulent necklace worn for a special occasion.

The lengths of Emily's three strands are: 44", 28" and shortest: 24".

Would you like to find your "perfect lengths"?

**Watch the video:** Janice and Kate made a short video on how to measure for your face and style. Find your perfect lengths.

### **Minute Marker 41:00**

Emily shows how she branched her strands out from one strand into three. Rather than have all three strands meet up in one spot, her strands merge at slightly offset points along her main strand. It creates a sleek and more elegant look.



Emily also shows us closure options. We use a button and a loop in our sample, but you could use a toggle. Either way, your three strands merge into one and attach to the closure with typical crimping techniques, which we'll demonstrate on a matching bracelet. You will have enough beads leftover from your necklace to make a bracelet. All you need is another button or clasp.

### **Minute Marker 46:35**

With three lengths of beads strung on Soft Flex, the team shows just how to close off this piece. The procedure is the same for both the necklace and the bracelet, but the bracelet requires more precise measuring.

When measuring for your bracelet, consider that your finished bracelet length will be about 7" long. You don't want too much of the bracelet to end up being the closure, so be mindful of how long your button loop starts becoming.

Each of the three bracelet strands is 5-½" of beads, so we know our closure should be about 1½- 2" long. Using bead stoppers or scotch tape to hold the beads from falling off is always a good idea! Move your strands around a bit and make sure the beads on all three strands line up nicely alongside each other.



## **Minute Marker 1:10:30**

Let's get to crimping! This can be challenging for many of us.

We have a great Skill Builder that you can review: [Using Crimps, Guardians, and Covers](#).



Kate and Emily discuss why they add and crimp the button side first...it's just a lot easier to add the button and then create the loop to fit. If you make the loop first, you might make it the wrong size and not be able to use the button you wanted to. We don't want tears!

## **Minute Marker 1:12:00**

Watch as Kate slides that crimp tube right onto all three strands of Soft Flex. Note the colored dots Janice added to our 4-in-1 Crimping Tool...they help to show which notch is which.



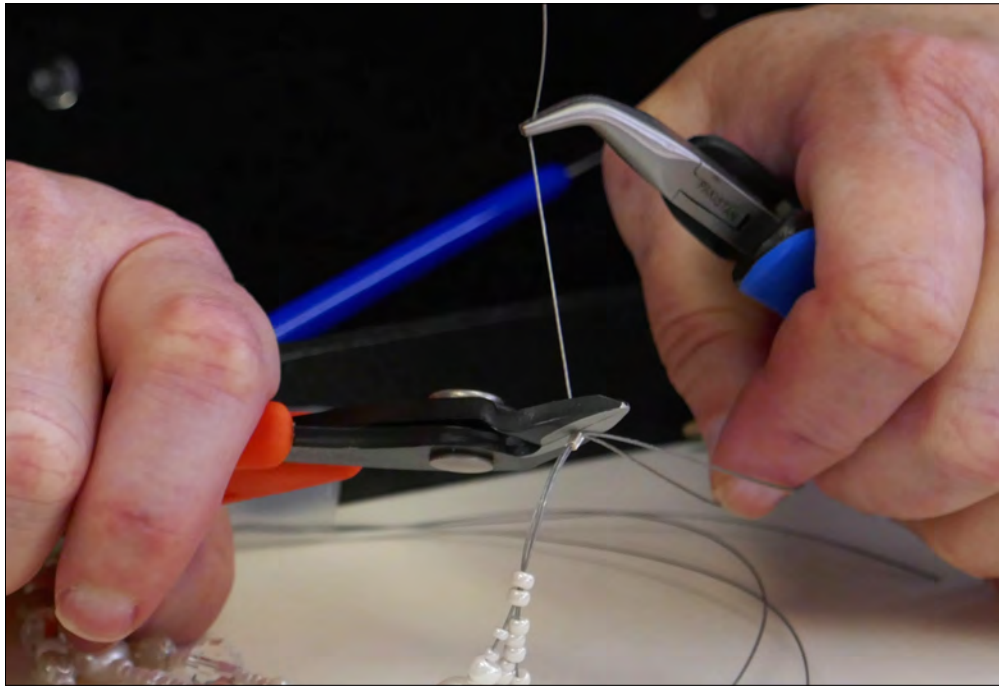
Position your crimp tube inside the first yellow notch of the Crimping Tool and make sure your Soft Flex Wire is not twisted. Gently press your pliers and your crimp tube will close!



Next, move your crimp tube to to the notch with the red dot. (This is the correct notch for a 2mm crimp tube.) Position the crimp tube upright inside this notch. When it's positioned where you want it, press your pliers again and watch as that "little taco", as Kate says, closes right up. This notch will complete the fold. Give a little tug on your Soft Flex to check it's secure.

### **Minute Marker 1:18:10**

Now we need to trim away two of the three tails. The remaining one will secure the button. Kate holds the strand she will cut with a pair of pliers, to create tension and snips the tail right at the closed crimp tube with her Maxi Shear Flush Cutters.

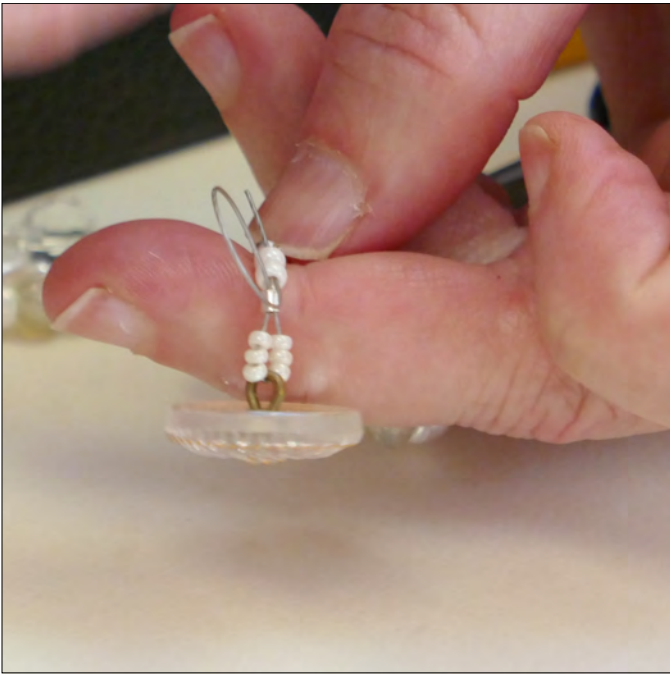


Kate will adjust the beads up close to the crimp tube before crimping the second side.

### **Minute Marker 1:20:45**

Kate shows how she uses the yellow dot notch on her crimping tool to close a crimp cover around her crimp tube. You want to carefully work the cover closed around the crimp tube. Gently press on it from all sides. It “seams” up and looks like a small bead.





String on 2 seed beads, another crimp tube, 3 more seed beads, your button, and 3 more seed beads. This pattern is going to form the loop that holds your button in place. String your Soft Flex Wire through the crimp tube. See how it forms a loop around the button shank?

Pull your Soft Flex gently to tighten. You don't want this so tight that there is no movement, your button needs some wiggle room! Now, crimp and then trim your tail. Add a crimp cover over the crimp tube.

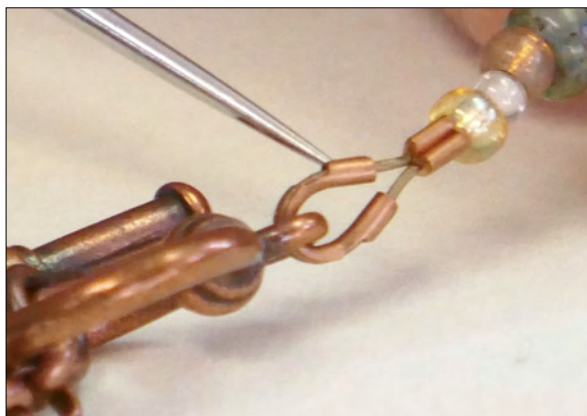


Before you crimp the other side, check that your beads are in position for crimping. Your Soft Flex needs movement but you don't want empty spaces of wire showing. Form your bracelet into a circle. Curving your wire allows for the proper amount of air the beads need to breathe and drape properly.



Use the same steps as Side One: string all three strands into a crimp tube, and crimp! Trim your two spare tails, and use your remaining tail to create your button loop. Use enough seed beads to create a loop that comfortably fits the button. We used 24 of our 8/0 seed beads.





### **Minute Marker 1:34:30**

Questions were asked about Wire Guardians, which we didn't include in this project, but could have been incorporated. Next week on FB Live (12.27.17), we will utilize them, so be sure to watch. They can add extra protection for your Soft Flex as well as aid with the aesthetics of your jewelry.



Well, that's it! A necklace and a bracelet to match...or a bracelet and a headpiece to match, as Kate demonstrated early on in our broadcast!



Thanks for joining us this week, we hope you enjoyed the show.

We'll see you next Wednesday as we wrap up 2017...we have a project that covers several techniques we've learned this year; it's the perfect year-end review.

We go live every Wednesday on our Facebook Page at 10:30am PST... see you there!

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## Links to Events and More...

[Last Week's Facebook Live Broadcast: Netted Beads](#)

[Facebook Live Youtube Playlist & FB Live Archive Page](#) on beadshop.com

[Free Tip Friday YouTube Playlist & FTF Archive Page](#) on beadshop.com

[Bead and Button Show](#)

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

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

[Video: Finding The Perfect Necklace Length with Janice](#)

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

[Soft Flex 101](#) and [Recipe Page](#)

### [The Gatsby Necklace](#)

1 Button- [Daisy- White Transparent AB](#)

1 Spool [Soft Flex .014 Satin Silver](#)

1 Strand [Big Potato Pearls 7-9mm](#)

1 Strand [5mm Cream Potato Pearls](#)

1 Strand [Faceted Crystal- Clear 8mm](#)

1 Strand [Melons- Opal Ivory and Mercury](#)

1 Tube [6-592 Ivory Ceylon 6/0s](#)

1 Tube [8-592 Ivory Ceylon 8/0s](#)

1 Tube [11-592 Ivory Ceylon 11/0s](#)

1 Pkg [Crimp Tubes- Silver](#)

1 Pkg [3mm Crimp Covers- Silver](#)

### [The Fitzgerald Necklace](#)

1 Button- [Flower Star- Golden](#)

1 Spool [Soft Flex .014 Satin Silver](#)

1 Strand [4mm Onyx Rounds](#)

1 Strand [6mm Onyx Rounds](#)

1 Strand [8mm Onyx Rounds](#)

1 Strand [Melons- Black Picasso](#)

1 Tube [6-401F Matte Black 6/0s](#)

1 Tube [6-401 Opaque Black 6/0s](#)

1 Tube [8-401 Opaque Black 8/0s](#)

1 Tube [11-401F Matte Black 11/0s](#)

1 Pkg [Crimp Tubes- Assorted Colors](#)

1 Pkg [3mm Crimp Covers- Gold](#)

You will also want to have: [Maxi Shear Flush Wire Cutters](#) and [Xuron 4-in-1 Crimper](#)

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

[Class Handouts and Skill Builders](#)

[SoftFlex 101](#)

[SoftFlex 101 Part 2](#)

[Lake Frog Project Page](#)

[Shadow Love Project Page](#)

[Free Tip Friday: Harvest Time Wrap](#)

[Patterning with Stones Project Page](#)

[Designing and Color Facebook Live](#)

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

[Color Collections](#)

[Buttons and Czech Glass Buttons](#)

[Clasps and Toggle Clasps](#)

[Round and Round Clasps](#)

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[Pearls](#)

[Faceted Crystal](#)

[Czech Glass Melons](#)

[Seed Beads](#)

[11/0 Seed Beads](#)

[8/0 Seed Beads](#)

[6/0 Seed Beads](#)

[Wire Guardians](#)

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

[Maxi Shear Flush Wire Cutters](#)

[Bead Stoppers](#)

[Deep Dish Project Tray](#)

[EZ Mini Bracelet Form](#)