



facebook LIVE: 11.22.17

The Zen of Stringing

Hey everyone! Drea here, taking over Episode Notes since Janice was *on* this episode! We had some technical difficulties getting started this week...did we break the internet?? I think so, because I know how excited everyone was to see Janice back at the bead table with Kate for a very special Facebook Live this week.

JP came prepared with a fab new project, The Zen of Stringing.

It's a very organic way to bead, so grab your beads, stress less, and say "OM!"

Enjoy and let's begin!

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

Stringing and knotting is one of Janice's favorite ways to bead, and tribal and trade beads are amongst her favorites to work with. This is a true "Janice Project!"



Minute Marker 12:00

The ladies start by discussing the inspiration behind *The Zen of Stringing*, which is a throwback to the old days at The Bead Shop and Janice's ongoing love of fiber use in jewelry.

Janice was also inspired by jewelry designer helen dietze (intentionally lowercase, as was her preference). Her pieces were massive and impressive...and her motto of "don't let the necklace wear you, *you* wear the necklace" really struck a chord with Janice and Kate. helen has since passed away, but her style and attitude have let a mark on the beading world.

Kate and Janice referenced classic Class Handouts from the brick and mortar days of The Bead Shop, like Trade Route and How to Make a Microfloat as inspiration points. Other "thread-forward" projects, like Poetry and Odyssey also stimulated the creation *The Zen of Stringing*.



Janice starts by sharing how she prefers to work on the back of the macrame board. The front side of the board has a grid, which is great for measuring, but for this project that grid makes for a very busy background.

Minute Marker 26:00

The gals chat about thread and how to start this piece. How many strands do you want? How long of a necklace would you like? What pendant are you going to use? JP starts with five individual strands about 1½ yards each.



Buddha Amulet Pendant



Spirit Watch Pendant

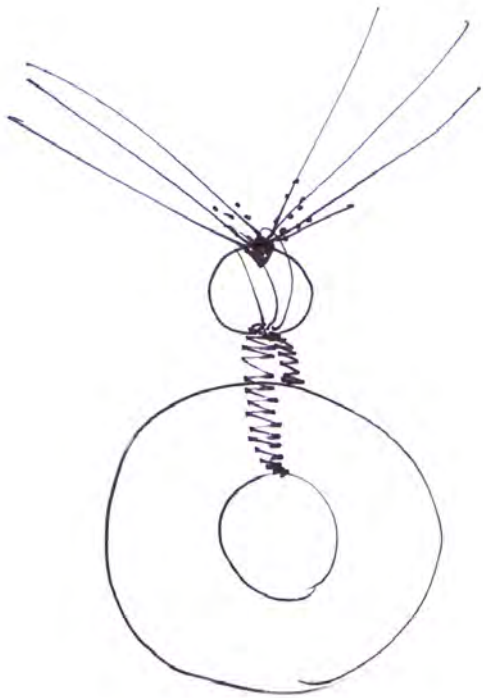
Janice shows how to start each necklace based on the hole or bail on the pendant. The Buddha Amulet (above left) has a bail on top that you string through sideways, while the Spirit Watch Pendant (above right) has a drilled hole going through it.

Minute Marker 35:00

Janice gathers all of her threads, and strings them all through the bail of her Buddha Amulet pendant so the pendant hangs at the midpoint of the threads. To set her board up, she pins the pendant in place, brings the cords taut across to the other end, then uses a spool of C-Lon to prop her threads up so she has space to work. Working with an outside strand of C-Lon, she begins to macramé around the remaining cords. This keeps the threads together above the Buddha pendant and gives a beautiful, finished look to the piece.

Minute Marker 37:30

Janice takes all of her threads, folds them in half at their midpoint, and uses a Collapsible Eye Needle to get all the strands through the hole of the Spirit Watch pendant. Then she loops them through themselves in a lark's head knot. She also pre-strings a large holed bead on through all of her threads. Pull out a strand from each side to loop around this large-holed bead to help hold it in place. Macramé a few complete knots above the bead, being sure to keep the "loop" around the bead a tad bit loose so the cords have some breathing room around the bead itself.



Minute Marker 42:30

One of our viewers remarks how this would look great with a stone donut as a focal bead. It would! Janice used her famous doodling skills to demonstrate how to macramé around the donut, through the large-holed bead, and then use a simple overhand knot to hold it in place. For more on how to macramé a pendant, see our [Born Yesterday](#) project.

Kate wore one of her favorite pieces that she designed nearly 20 years ago! Based on her own [Color and Design](#) handout, she used a large donut layered under a mother-of-pearl piece, but she beaded around her focal beads, then strung her strands through the large-holed bead above.

Note how the beads used around her pendant and large-holed bead are small...this is important! Janice will also show this in today's projects, by using seed beads to start each strand. If you are using larger beads in areas where the strands are all close together, they will benefit from the "air" that seed beads can bring to the spacing of the larger beads.

Minute Marker 44:30

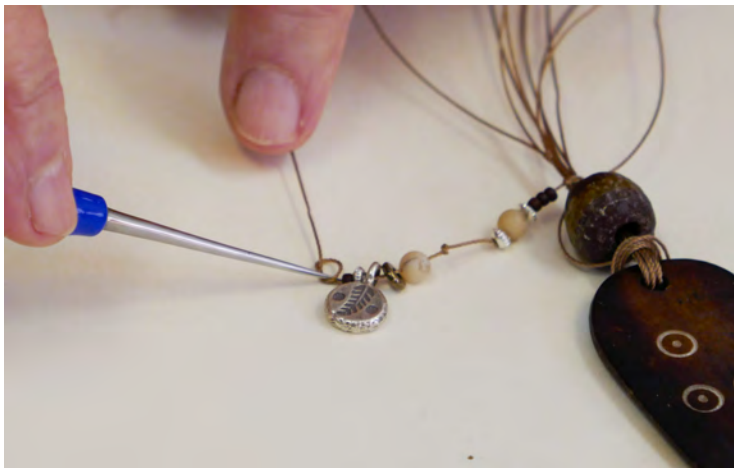
Janice explains why you want Collapsible Eye Needles for this project. There is a tiny loop on the end of each needle's eye, which will help hold your thread on the needle. These also come in a package of four needles, which is perfect for this project, as you will be working on multiple strands at a time... your strands will come together and separate as you bead...it's a very natural and zen process!





So, now you have your pendant secured, loads of cord to work with...what's next? Separate your strands, half to the left, half to the right, and pick a side to start on. And then...here's the real science of it...

Janice picks a bead...*any* bead!



Whatever you feel like adding, whatever feels right. Remember to use smaller beads near the pendant. Add a charm, add larger beads, add knots...you want some thread to show! This is not a project where you want beads covering all of your stringing material, the thread is one of the stars of the show.

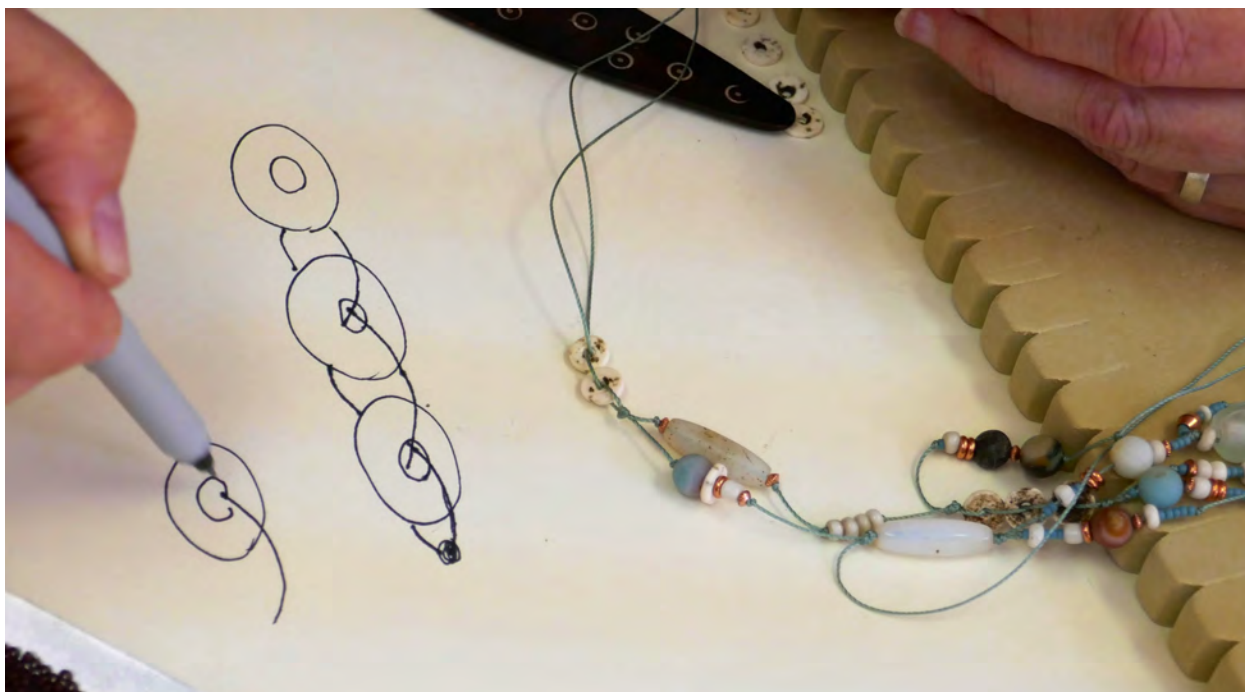


Janice and Kate talk about the different knotting methods they use, too. Janice prefers the Awl, while Kate enjoys using Knotting Tweezers. Janice points out that you can also use your next bead to help push a knot tight. In this project, it's really about what feels right to you.

Don't forget about your other strands. If you're unsure of what to add next, move to a neighboring strand and start knotting and beading. These strands are all going to be living together, so you want them to speak to each other. Got a little space in one strand? Add a bead (or beads!) in the same area on the neighbor strand.

Minute Marker 1:00:10

When should your strands come together? When it feels right, of course! Bring two neighboring strands together, start by pulling the two strands together and tying them side-by-side in an overhand knot. Now that you have two strands meeting, it's a perfect spot to "weave" in your Ostrich Shells. This is a way to showcase these beads in an unusual way. Kate takes her two threads and strings them through opposite ends of the shell's hole, then through the next Ostrich Shell. You'll go over-under, over-under, over-under on the opposite ends, and it makes a little chain of shells. The shells will lay flat like a coin, and a simple knot at the top of your final shell will hold them in place.



This method also works great with our Tide's Out glass beads! JP used this same method in Lake Frog, her Soft Flex 101 piece.

You can also stack your Ostrich Shells, as seen in this classic sample done by Janice years ago (strung on Soft Flex). Her little stacks add texture and look completely different from the flat chain of shells. This is a great example of how one type of bead can have a totally different look depending on how you use it.



Minute Marker 1:07:00

JP decided this felt like the right place to add a new thread...and then embellish that chain of discs.



Working this new thread back *down* the group of Ostrich Shells, Janice picks up some smaller beads and weaves the new thread back through the holes of the discs. This little path adds even more interest and, more importantly, it's fun!

As she beads back down her necklace, Janice notices some bead neighbors she doesn't really like. Still working with this new thread heading downward, she adds some small beads to give some air to the two neighboring larger bead sections.

How to end this new thread? String through some beads, tie it off in a knot, and there you have it! Use the tail to create a tassel by untwisting the thread a bit. Or, a dab of glue on the knot to secure it and give the tail a haircut. Now it blends in with the other knots.

Minute Marker 1:26:20

Let's talk about how to finish this! Kate and Janice discuss how to use gravity to help you even out your strands so that you can end this necklace without unwanted bulks and bulges. Holding the pendant in one hand, use your other hand to almost "pet" your strands so that they lie nicely next to each other. Look over your strands...does one need to be pulled a bit tighter? A bit looser? Arrange accordingly.

Gather your thread tails and tie them all in an overhand knot, making sure your strands are all being pulled into the knot equally. Tug any loose strands in that knot into order! You'll be adding a large bead here to act as the button for your closure. Use the same method as when you added your large-holed bead above the pendant.

Minute Marker 1:36:00

Janice shares how she ended the large “button bead” with a tassel of shredded threads. After you secure your macramé, add a dab of GS Hypo Cement and knot to finish. On each cord, add some beads, some knots, and unravel the tails to create a gorgeous DIY tassel.

Make your button loop on the other side of the necklace after you’ve Zen-beaded it. Much in the same way we end Poetry, macramé a button loop that will fit around your bead closure.

See [Pages 8-9 of the Poetry Handout](#) for step-by-step



Poetry Button Loop



We hope you had fun with us today! We really enjoyed having Janice back in the office and back on Facebook Live. We know it was a busy time, but you can always catch up on the episodes you’ve missed right on our [Facebook Page](#), on our [YouTube Channel](#), or on our website on our [FB Live Archive](#) page.

You can also find all of Kate’s Free Tip Friday broadcasts in these same places. Kate’s tip this week is not-to-be missed, she discusses thread size, needles, bead sizes, and hole sizes...it’s the perfect follow-up to The Zen of Stringing.

Thanks for tuning in and we’ll see you next week! Happy beading!

-Drea

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Links to This Project's Ingredients...

[The Zen of Stringing](#)

[Recipe Page](#)

[Branching Out](#)

1 Spool [Regular C-Lon- Antique Brown](#)

1 Strand [4mm Matte White African Opal](#)

1 Strand [4mm Wood Opalite](#)

1 Strand [6mm Wood Opalite](#)

1 Strand [6mm Fossil Coral Faceted Rondelles](#)

1 Strand [Temple- Silver](#)

1 Strand [Tribal Heishi- Brass](#)

1 Tube [11-409f Matte Opaque Chocolate 11/0s](#)

1 Pkg [Sahara Sands](#)

1-2 Pkgs [Ostrich Shells](#)

2 Sand Cast- [Black Rock](#) or [Brown Rock](#)

1 [Spirit Watch Pendant](#)

1 Pkg [Collapsible Eye Needle](#)

1 Tube [GS Hypo Cement](#)

[Out of the Blue](#)

1 Spool [Regular C-Lon- Celadon](#)

1 Strand [Padres- White](#)

1 Strand [8mm Black Gold Amazonite](#)

1 Strand [8mm Black Gold Amazonite Coin](#)

1 Strand [Temple- Copper](#)

1 Strand [Tribal Heishi- Copper](#)

1 Tube [11-4479 Duracoat Opaque Moody Blue](#)

1 Pkg [Russet Sands](#)

1 Pkg [Old Milk Glass](#)

1 Pkg [Currents- Mist](#)

1 Pg [Currents- Sea Green](#)

1-2 Pkgs [Ostrich Shells](#)

1 Lone [Lotus Charm- Silver](#)

1 [Fragrant Bay Charm- Silver](#)

1 [Stamped Leaf Charm- Silver](#)

1 [Buddha Amulet- Turquoise](#)

1 Pkg [Collapsible Eye Needle](#)

1 Tube [GS Hypo Cement](#)

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