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facebook live:
5.10.17
SoftFlex 101



Hello Everybody!

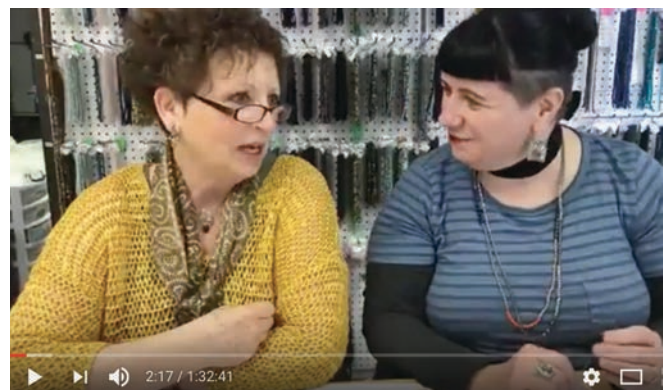
Today on Facebook Live, Kate and Janice went back in time and reminisced about the old days at The Bead Shop, when SoftFlex was the center of our beading universe. Janice made a departure from stringing wire in favor of thread and cord when she was building our online presence, but she is really ready to re-ignite that passion for products that allow you to be creative so easily.



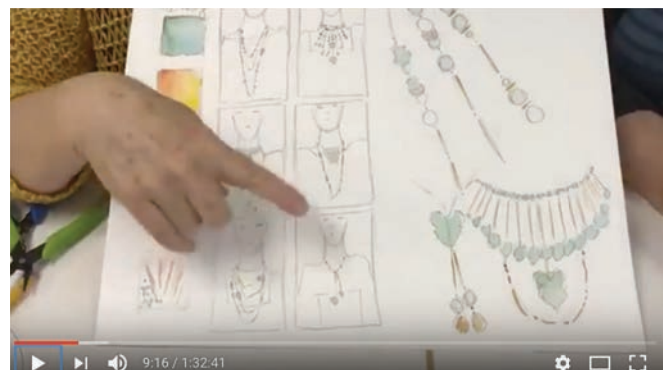
We had a little bit of “housecleaning” as Kate refers to questions and letters from viewers. Since we had so much to pack in, we had time for just one project question from a readers; it was from Donna, who was wondering the best way to transition in a laddering bracelet. Kate recommended [Simple Stitches in Time- Kindness](#) as a good place to see one popular way of doing that with [Pony Express Beads](#). Here is a [link to the Handout](#).



Kate is ready to get going. She begins by asking Janice to share her process for designing. Where does she begin? Before she ever learned to bead, Janice was drawing and painting. That passion has never died and Janice walks us through how she sketches.



As you watch the episode, you’ll see there are other ways to loosen up and be creative even before you pick up a bead to string. Janice shares how she sketches necklines and plays with drawing different permutations of design.

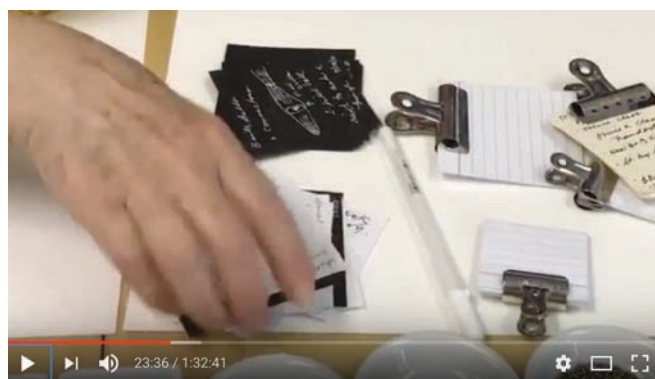


Here is a recommendation for a starter set of 12 colored pencils. You can find others but this one has twelve colors that you can mix and shade almost any color combination from. Just add a tiny bit of water and the pencil shading becomes a water color.



With Grace Noland's help, Janice created downloadable outlines you can print out and use to create your own Design Sketches. All you have to do is doodle and add color!

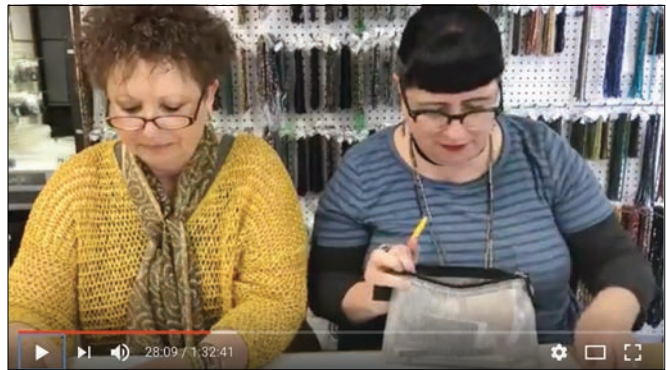
And why not sign them and date them? Save them as reference for future projects. We hope you enjoy~



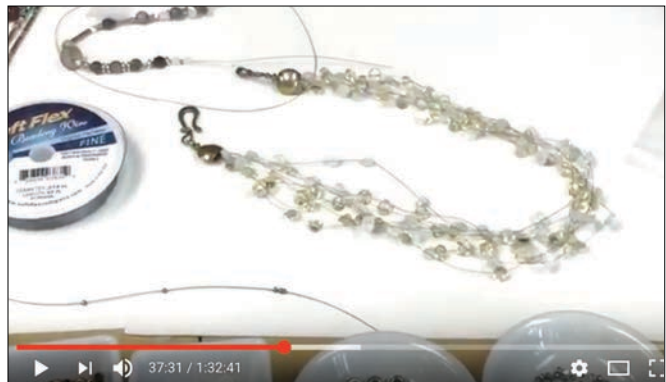
Kate shares with us how she finds inspiration and creates sketches of her ideas, and then how she documents her thoughts by adding the date and notes on the back. Using cut-up file cards, binder clips and pens, she doodles away wherever she is. Her tools and paper included:

- Index Cards
- Bull Dog Binder Clips
- Micron Pens
- Black Artist Tiles, UniBall Signo Pen and Grey Le Pen.

As Kate packs up her pens and notes in her Creativity Bag, she reads us something she wrote: "Learn as much as your brain can hold, as often as your time allows." Nice one, Kate! And also, Kate likes to use these [zip mesh bags](#) to ensure she can be creative on the go.



Some of you have written to us wondering where the learning for this old-school float necklace lives. It was done on .010 Beadalon using gemstone top-drilled beads from the old shop. Here's the link to the class handout, [Floating Spaces](#).



So, now let's get started on SoftFlex and Kate's take on how to be successful.



- Kate recommends:
- A. [An assorted pack of crimp tubes](#)
 - B. [A package of Wire Guardians](#)
 - C. [A package of Crimp Covers](#)