



Mosaic Headband

by Sam Applegate
Production by Karen Marshall

Headbands were all the rage in the Roaring Twenties and the decade of the 1960's Flower Child. Now hair ornamentation is having a renaissance and we think our Mosaic Headband fits right into to the fashion and style of today.

We loved Tila Beads the first time we saw them. Made by the Miyuki Bead Company of Japan, these flat, two-holed beads are so perfect for creating a gorgeous banded look.

Mosaic Headband builds on one of our most popular projects, the Mosaic Wrap Bracelet
by

Brittany Ketcham. By adding smaller beads into the pattern and crimping the beaded band to elastic, Sam has created a way to ladder Tila Beads into hair ornamentation.

This project is suitable for all levels. We suggest you watch the video to learn and/or refresh your laddering skills.

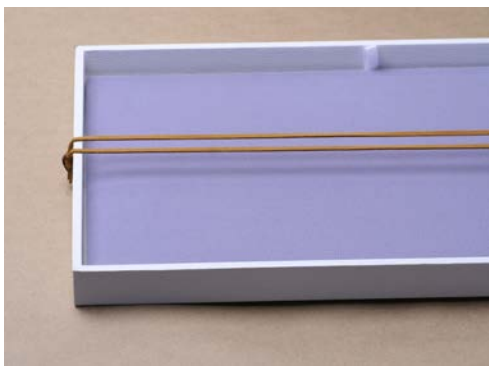
And please read the handout from start to finish before beginning your project.

Thanks so much and happy beading!

All materials and supplies are available at www.beadshop.com

Getting Started: Measuring

In general, the beaded section of a headband is about 13 inches and the length of your elastic is 6-7 inches (or whatever is comfortable to fit your head). You don't want it too tight. Usually the beaded section ends right behind your ear, so measure your head to decide how long you would like the beaded section of your headband to be. The elastic portion can be finalized later when you are ready to take it off the board.



Preparing your Design Board

Before you start beading, the suede needs to be strapped to your design board. Cut two lengths of suede 35 inches each. On the edge of the board, tie each piece into a square knot (right over left, left over right). Position them so they are side-by-side in the middle of your board. Check that your suede cords are not twisted.

Starting Your Headband



Cut yourself a length of Tuff Cord #1 four yards long. If you do not feel comfortable working with so much thread, start with two yards. You can add more thread into your project as you go. See instructions below.

The Compassion Suede is a flat cord, so it is very important that it does not get twisted while you are working on your headband. The first step is to pinch the Compassion Suede together so the large flat sides are facing each other.

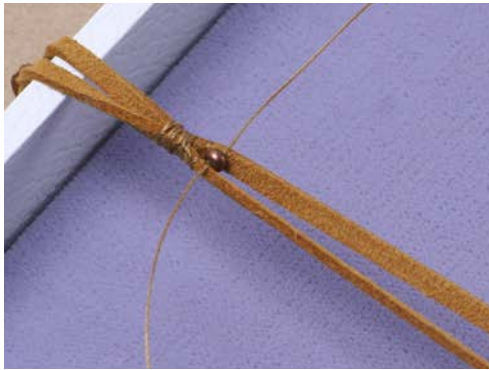
To secure your suede in this pinched position, find the center of your thread, wrap it around the pinched suede and tie a square knot (right over left, left over right) After your first knot, put a dab of GS Hypo-Cement where the suede meets. Now wrap your threads a few more times, tie another square knot, and you are ready to start beading.

This wrapped thread section will be hidden under your evolve crimp, so you don't need to worry if it doesn't look pretty. However, keep it as condensed as possible so it doesn't stick out once you put the crimp bead on.



Graduating into your Pattern

Now you are ready to start the fun part: beading your headband! Once you start beading, the suede will go back to being flat and side by side. Separate your threads and bring each outside, under, through and up the suede. Repeat this one more time. FYI: This technique will be the one you stay with throughout your laddering: outside, under, and up through the suede cords.



Now, add one of your small beads to one side of your thread. Before you have pulled it all the way down, thread the opposite strand of Tuff Cord through the bead in the opposite direction. Pull each piece of thread until the bead rests in the middle of your suede. The Tuff Cord should be snug around the Compassion Suede, but not so tight that it cuts into it. Bring your thread around the outside of the suede and up through the middle before you start your next row, which will have two beads.



Repeat these steps, each time adding a few more beads until your headband can accommodate two Tila Beads next to each other. We call this “graduating your pattern,” and on the left is an example of what you can do to begin and end your laddering. For more information on the laddering technique, please watch our video, [Mosaic Wrap Bracelet](#).

Note: As you go, the suede will start to rotate so that the flat sides are pointing up instead of at each other. Because the suede is turning, you may find that your beads “buckle” a little bit in the middle. This is expected, and as you keep going you will find that your beads will lie flat. Once you take the headband off of the design board, the “buckle” will disappear.



Laddering your Headband

Now that you have graduated your beads, you can start your headband pattern. In some of the samples, we have offset our Tila beads from each other by putting a row of smaller beads in between them. With others, it is simply Tila Beads without the spacers. Begin your pattern with care, taking time to remember your steps: outside, under, through and up between the suede. As the Tila Beads have two holes, it is easy to miss threading the second hole, so take your time.

Below are some of the patterns we used for our headbands, but feel free to explore others! We recommend keeping your headbands two Tila beads wide while using the Compassion Suede, as the width of the headband can become unstable by going wider. Whatever pattern you choose, you will continue laddering for about 12 inches. For more tips on laddering with tila beads, please watch our video, [Mosaic Wrap Bracelet](#).



Pattern Options



Most of the samples above have a pattern that offsets each tila bead with smaller, spacer beads:

Row 1: Two small beads and top hole of Tila Bead

Row 2: Second hole of Tila and top hole of New Tila

Row 3: Second hole of second Tila and two small beads

Row 4: Top Row of another new Tila and two small beads



The pattern for Shewolf is more uniform and follows this format:

Row 1: First Hole of two Tila Beads

Row 2: Second hole of two Tila Beads

Row 3: One small bead, first hole of Tila Bead and one small bead

Row 4: Small bead, second row of Tila bead and one small bead

Repeat pattern starting with first hole of Tila Beads

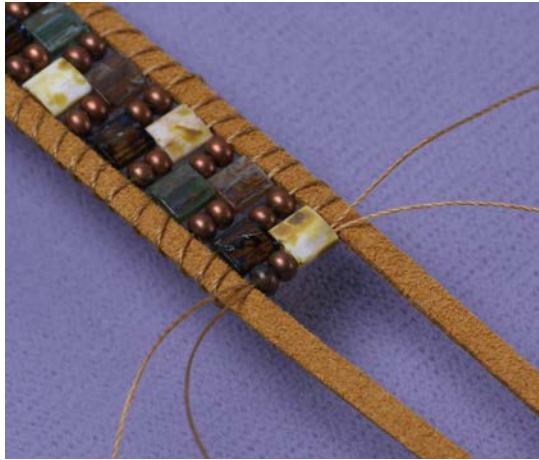


The pattern for Dunes is simple and doesn't really have any method. It is multiple colors of Tila Beads strung on randomly. There are no small beads added into the pattern. The designer, Janice, recommends you simply add a different bead than the one you just strung on.

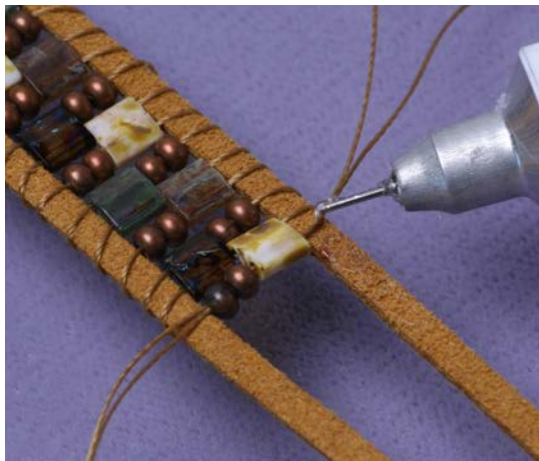
“Randomly look back and notice where the color placement is happening. For instance, the bright orange is so distinctive and I like to make sure it is repeating often in different locations. Otherwise, there is no pattern!”

Adding More Thread

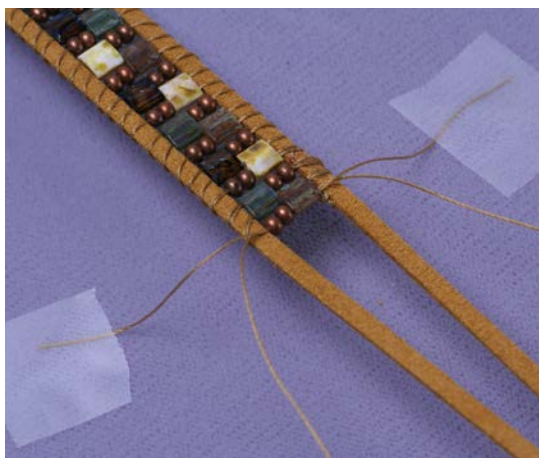
It happens! Sometimes you can estimate how much thread you need and still run out. Before you run out of thread, when it's still a small worry in the back of your mind, take action and add a new thread. Don't wait until you have run out, we can't help you with that!



To add a thread, cut a new length of Tuff Cord and feed it through the last beads you have laddered. Find the center of your thread and add a drop of Hypo-tube cement on a small section of the middle. Continue to feed your thread through the beads until the wet glue portion of the thread will rest inside the beads. You can continue to ladder even though the glue is not dry. Grab your threads (the new long ones and the old short ones) and continue to ladder several rows of your pattern.



When you are ready to drop your old threads, ladder all four threads through your beads and pull them through until almost in their final position. Add a drop of Hypo-tube Cement to the threads on each side and then pull them tight.



Take scotch tape and tape the short, old threads down to your board to keep them stationary while the glue dries. Now you can continue laddering your new thread and not worry about running out of thread! When your project is complete, peel the scotch tape off your board and carefully cut the old, loose threads away with flush cutters.

Getting your Project off the Board



Once you have reached an inch short of your desired length, you can start to graduate your headband down to one bead. This is done with the same pattern as the first side. After your last bead, wrap around your two pieces of suede twice as you did on the first side. This will pull the suede pieces up against each other. Add a drop or two of Hypo-Cement to your suede and repeat the square knot, wraps and square knot as in the beginning. You are now done beading and can remove your headband from the board! You may notice a bit of buckling of your suede again, but this will go away once your headband is off the board.

Adding Elastic

We cut up store-bought elastic headbands that were approximately 3/16" wide. Flat elastic fits through the crimp bead best, but you can use round elastic if you prefer.



Take your Nylon Jawed Pliers and open up your Evolve Crimps a little wider to accommodate both the suede tails and the elastic.



Thread your suede through the crimp so both pieces of suede are laying flat side by side. Make sure they do not get twisted!



Before you pull the crimp up to cover the Tuff Cord, feed your elastic through the crimp over the two flat cords. Try to keep the Suede cords from twisting and only pull the elastic through an inch or so.



Pull your crimp up over the Tuff Cord knots while keeping your suede flat and your elastic in the crimp. As soon as you have it centered and in place, you are ready to secure the crimp. Using your Nylon Jaw Pliers, close the Evolve crimp as tightly as possible. Once you have crimped, make sure to pull on both the suede and elastic to ensure everything is secure. If you are having difficulty closing the crimp, you can use a small hammer to gently tap your crimp bead closed. Best to do this on a towel. Use caution so you don't break any beads.



Once you are certain that it is secure, you can trim any extra elastic and suede sticking out the ends using your Flush Cutters. Before securing the elastic on the other side, take your headband and wrap it around your head to measure how long you would like your elastic to be. Make sure to pull the elastic a little tight so the headband will be secure. Just don't pull so tight that it is uncomfortable. Measure the length you need on the elastic. Feed the suede and elastic through the crimp bead as you did on the first side. Pull the elastic through until it is in the desired place. Crimp down the Evolve Crimp Bead and trim the ends just like the other side. You now have a completed headband!



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