



# Off the Cuff

by Kate Richbourg

Back in the old days of The Bead Shop, we taught a beaded cuff class designed by Brittany Ketcham-Roney called Music Notes.

It was super popular and recently Kate was fired up to create her own version.

We love the old cuff for its simplicity, but the remake speaks to the influences of Steampunk, mixing metals, and vintage nostalgia. Off the Cuff is a fun design that can be extended to wear as a choker or adapted for the “Johnny Depp” in your life...AKA: the guy who loves a bit of beaded bling!

Watch Kate and Janice on Facebook Live for all the tips and tricks to this project.

Included in this Handout:

Ingredients & Tools Lists

Project Map, Notes, and Steps

and

Skill Builder: How to Make a Rosary Loop with Beads

Skill Level: All    Time to Complete: 4+ Hours

## Project Ingredients:

- 1 Bali Button- Copper
- 1 Spool 1.5mm Leather Metallic Pyrite
- 2 Pkgs 2 " Copper Eye Pins
- 1 Strand Poppy Jasper Rice Beads
- 1 Strand Little Shadows Antique Brass
- 1 Strand Shadows Antique Copper
- 1 Tube Crystal Bronze Copper 12mm Bugles
- 1 Strand 4mm FP Luster Metallic Amethyst

## Project Tools:

- Measuring Tape or Handy Tape
- Round Nose Pliers
- Chain Nose Pliers
- Flush Cutters
- Black Magic Marker

## Project Map



← Bracelet length from button shank to button loop is 7-1/2 inches →

## Notes

Off the Cuff is constructed with beads on eye pins that become columns holding parallel leather cords apart. Kate will tell you it's a bit like building the ancient Greek Parthenon! But, seriously, when Kate designed this new version of Music Cuff, she had some structural challenges:

1. **Wire Choice:** The design needed eye pins heavy enough so they wouldn't lose their shape and still fit the holes of a variety of beads. Kate chose 22 gauge pre-formed eye pins as they are slightly stiffer than regular soft wire and will add a framework to the cuff. The 22 gauge is also a good "middle of the road" size that works with the variety of beads and hole sizes.
2. **Design Configuration:** Find a way to stop the beaded eye pins from moving around on the leather. Kate solved this by adding beads on the leather graduating up from the button and back down to the button loop. This stopped the beaded pins from wandering or separating.
3. **Form Integrity:** Reinforce the ladder structure of the wide design by using bugle beads. Although the cuff itself is supple, Kate wanted to help the eye pins remain straight by using the 12mm bugle beads, which forces the cuff to remain rigid. The long bugle counteracts any tendency on the part of the eye pins to change shape.

We have included the Skill Builder: How to Make Rosary Loops with Beads to assist you in practicing your loop-making techniques. The greater the consistency in size and orientation you can make your loops, the more cohesive your finished cuff will look.

If you decide to make a choker, the Ingredients List has more than enough beads and leather to lengthen the design, but you might need an extra package of eye pins for a choker. Our cuff sample will fit a 7+ inch wrist and uses 31 pins (2 bags =40 pins).



1. Cut 1 yard of leather and string your button to the middle. Tie an overhand knot just below the button. Allow a little breathing room between the button shank and the knot. Gently pull the knot tight. If you want to make a choker, you'll want to cut 40 inches of leather.



2. Separate your leather tails and string on each side an even amount of Shadows Beads. For a small wrist, string 5 beads and for a larger wrist, string 6-7 on each tail of leather. Set this aside for a bit.

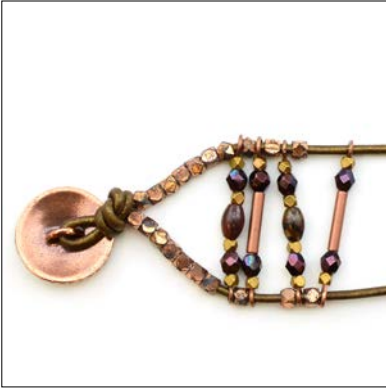
Note: This sample has 7 Shadows on the leather by the button and 5 Shadows on the leather by the ending knot. As Kate was stringing, she needed to shorten the overall length and decided to do this by making the triangle of beads less.



3. Build your two bead patterns on your eye pins but don't cut your wire yet! Check as you go that you have the correct pattern. *Before* you cut or curl your eye pins, please review: Skill Builder: [How to Make a Rosary Loop with Beads](#) on Pages 4-5 of this handout.



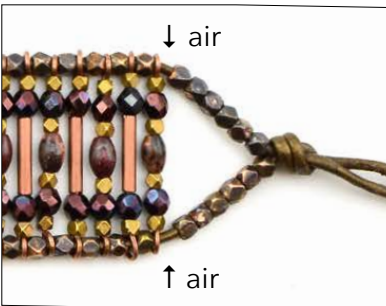
4. Bend wire at a right angle and measure 3/8" from the bend and cut the excess wire using Flush Cutters. Using Round Nose Pliers, curl the 3/8 inch of wire of each pin up and over the pin to form a closed loop. Check the orientation of the bottom eye and top eye on each pin. You want them all to be facing the same direction. If you have to adjust the direction of some, it's easy to do with your two pliers: Hold the bottom eye with your Chain Nose Pliers and rotate the top eye with the Round Nose Pliers until you have them going in the same direction. Watch our [Facebook Live](#) video for tips and tricks on this.



5. To follow Kate's design, string on an alternating pattern of a pin with a rice and a pin with a bugle separated by a Shadows Bead. Kate's sample has 16 columns with a rice bead and 15 columns with the bugle. As you string, your cuff will start to form. It may be necessary to angle-cut the tips of your leather to fit the Shadows on.



6. The length of your pins may not be absolute the same. That's okay; they will wiggle a bit on the leather and, if the difference is small, it's not going to be noticeable.



7. Once your center section is complete, graduate the leather down by adding an equal number of Shadows to each tail of leather. Before you tie an overhand knot, allow a bit of breathing room (air) on the leather so your cuff can curve easily to encompass your wrist. If there's no wiggle room on the leather for the beads to breathe, it might not bend! Add an overhand knot just below the beads.



8. Check your button will fit through the leather tails and then tie an over hand knot to make your loop. Add a bead or two to each tail, then tie overhand knots on each tail. Cut away any excess leather with your Flush Cutters. That's it! Easy as 1, 2, 3!

# How to Make Rosary Loops with Beads

by Kate Richbourg



## Tools Needed:

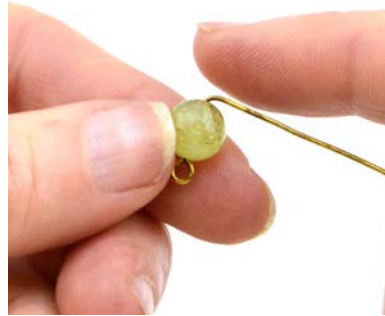
- Chain Nose Pliers
- Round Nose Pliers
- Flush Wire Cutters

## Materials Used:

- 8mm Semiprecious Round Beads or beads of your choice.
- 24-gauge eyepins or gauge to accommodate size of bead hole.



Step 1. Place bead on eyepin.



Step 2. Bend eyepin at a 90° angle over the top of the bead hole.



Step 3. Cut away excess wire with flush cutters leaving a 3/8" tail.



Step 4. Use a fine tip permanent marker and mark head of the round nose pliers. This will allow you to size your loops consistently throughout the project. For a 3/8" wire tail, mark about 1/4" from the tip of the pliers.



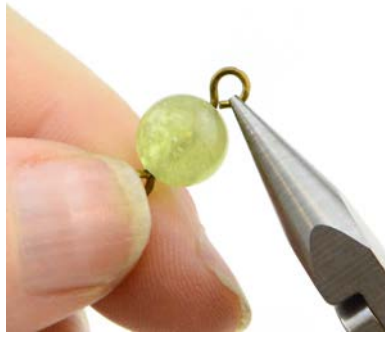
Step 5. Grip the very end of the wire with the round nose pliers. The end of the wire should be in line with the mark on the pliers.



Step 6. Loop the wire up and over, (towards the bead) keeping the wire as straight as you can over the center of the bead. Shape the loop in a series of quarter turns, feeding the wire through the heads of the pliers.



Step 7. Stop looping once the tip of the wire touches the bead hole. The loop should be sitting straight above the hole of the bead. Straighten if necessary using chain nose pliers.



Step 8. To open, grip the wire using the chain nose pliers, just above where it ends at the bead hole.



Step 9. Swing the wire forward, keeping the shape of the loop intact. Open just wide enough to slip on another loop.



Step 10. Add beads and close loop by gripping the wire firmly at the tip with the needle nose pliers.



Step 11. Bend the wire back into place. The loop should be closed completely leaving no extra space.



Step 12. Repeat until you reach your desired length.