

The Bead Shop™

The Secrets to Perfect Patterning*



Now you can be a designer in a day, not years! This is definitely a *very* fun part of beading creatively and it's super-easy to learn.

Someone said this course reminds her of making a quilt; and, in a way, it is. You create "blocks" of bead designs that are organized to form your finished creation. By working small and fine-tuning the "insignificant", you will create a completed necklace that is polished and unique. You also learn that nothing is inconsequential; don't rush to finish! Take time to enjoy the process and to allow your creativity to drift to the surface.

Please stop forcing a design out of your head when you sit down to bead; bridge your way to it one station at a time. You will be so surprised how easy it is. It will flow together almost effortlessly! And, the patterns you develop can be saved for all kinds of projects; designs using chain, multiple strand necklaces, earrings and more. Take a deep breath, relax and get ready for the magic!

* Plus: Helpful Hints to Cure Creative Block Syndrome 😊

Ingredients for The Secrets to Perfect Patterning

TOOLS AND SUPPLIES NEEDED

- ☺ Wire cutters
- ☺ Needle-nose pliers
- ☺ Tape Measure
- ☺ Color Wheel
- ☺ Straight-channel design board
- ☺ Extra small or micro crimp beads
- ☺ 3+ yards "practice" stringing wire. This can be anything that will accommodate the hole sizes of your beads.
- ☺ An assortment of beads (see below)

TO COMPLETE THE NECKLACE FEATURED, YOU WILL ALSO NEED:

- ☺ 15-24" chain and small jump rings
- ☺ 24" .014 Softflex
- ☺ 2x2 crimp beads and crimp covers
- ☺ 1 small leaf charm and jump ring
- ☺ 1 coin pendant and jump ring
- ☺ 1 clasp of your choice

Let's Play with Color, Shape and Size!



A: Select beads in the metal of your choice. You are going to want a selection of spacers, caps and unique beads in silver, gold or copper. Except for a centerpiece, you will want multiples of each bead. I recommend having at least 10 beads of each style you choose.



B: Using the color wheel or your imagination for inspiration, select 3 colors you want to design with. You will need in each color:
50-100 beads in sizes 2-5mm in rounds, diamonds, ovals, etc.



C: 50-100 4-6mm in various shapes and finishes. Don't forget to have 10+ of each bead



D: 30 7-14mm beads in various shapes and finishes
30 beads in unique shapes and sizes 8-16mm
Having ten of each bead is not as critical in these sizes. Try to have six of each.



The artistic color wheel has been used for more than a century. It was first designed by Charles Blanc in 1867 as an analytical way of deciphering color and the mixing of the three primary colors: red, yellow and blue. Until very recently, jewelry designers have rarely taken advantage of the science of color. Now is a great time to begin letting the “game of color” point the way to solving your design blocks. I think of my color wheel as a spinning dial of a game. Spin it and find your “Key Color”. From there, you can then select the other colors you want to work with.



For my design, I chose my Key Color to be Brown/ Taupe. I went with Brown’s Triadic Colors, Violet and Green. Once you have selected your colors, place your beads around the color wheel to double check you have the colors balanced. Remember, it doesn’t have to be a perfect match. You are using the Color Wheel only for guidance. Your “eye” for color is always your primary guide!

Use the color wheel as a “tool”, not to restrict you, but to help you focus and experiment in new ways.



Lay out your metal beads, caps, clasp, chain and components in groups, so you can see what you have to work with. They don’t all have to be antique or all shiny. Mixing finishes can add “flavor” and character to your patterns.



Let's Get Started!



Step 1

Cut 10 pieces of your stringing wire into lengths of approximately 8" each. Start with a center bead, a spacer bead on each side of it and then begin adding beads on one or both sides. The pattern on one side of the center bead should mirror the same pattern on the other side. Take your time to fine-tune each "melody" in the pattern. You're not in a hurry. Add something, think about it, maybe take it away and add something else. You want each pattern to be really pleasing. 2½ - 3" is a good final length per pattern.



Step 2

To secure the pattern on the wire, use your needle-nose chain pliers to flatten a crimp bead on each end. It isn't necessary to use the crimping tool to secure the crimp bead in the normal crimping manner. These crimps are temporary.



Step 3

After flat crimping, use wire cutters to cut off excess stringing wire on each completed pattern. Always check the crimp bead is securely in place.



Step 4

Don't be afraid to look at the same pattern several different ways to see what you like the best. In this photo, the difference between three plain pearls and three pearls with spacers and crystal is very noticeable. When you are experimenting with pattern variations, it's best to build new ones rather than taking the first apart. This way you can compare them side-by-side. Sometimes I will have four or five strung patterns of the same one before I select my final best.



Step 5

Once you have a pattern you like, make multiples of it. I would recommend having four complete patterns of each.

If you are not in the mood to string multiples, set aside in a bag the completed one, and all the beads, etc you need to make three more.



Step 6

If you want to remove the crimp beads and possibly re-use them again, use the outer-most channel of the crimping pliers to remove the flattened crimps. You can also use wire cutters to cut off the crimp beads when you are ready to integrate the pattern into a necklace you're stringing.



Step 7

Creating centerpiece designs using focal beads or pendants are done the same way as bead patterns. String your main bead on first and then work your way up each end of the wire. String only as far as you feel creative. If you feel "blocked", Try step 4: create variations.



Step 8

Once you have a centerpiece pattern and four completed pattern designs (plus three copies of each one), begin experimenting with necklace designs. Think of each pattern as a module...mix and match them.

*See Helpful Hints to Cure Creative Block Syndrome Page 9



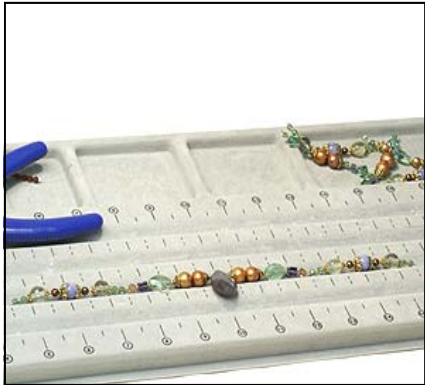
Step 9

During a break from designing, try experimenting with chain and finalize the clasp looks best with your patterns. Lay out chain options and put your beads next to them. Focus your eye on what chain link seems to mirror or contrast the shapes of various beads. Does one chain “tell a better story” than another?

Step 10

Class is over now, but if you are planning to continue working on patterns and building jewelry, it's a great idea to record your possible designs. Find a copy machine or scanner. Make copies of your necklace designs and store them away with the patterns.

Making a Finished Masterpiece



Step 1

To continue on and create a finished necklace, re-view your notes, scanned designs and/or sketches from the previous session. Focus now on laying out your patterns on the design board. Play with the centerpiece section you created or find something new as your focal bead. You may also want to add additional beads to separate each pattern. Stay loose! If you get a case of CBS*, try making a new pattern or string some that weren't completed in the class phase.

Step 2

Once you have the patterns placed where you want them, string your design on wire always checking the exact same pattern is repeated on the other side. It is very easy to leave out a spacer bead or double-up on a small bead when that was not your intention. So, check and double-check!

Step 3

Take time for the details. You didn't rush your patterns, so don't rush stringing! I hope you have learned in *Secrets to Perfect Patterning* to spend time on the details. By adding a small leaf at the back and a clasp that "talks" to the centerpiece coin, your design eye is bringing everything together harmoniously.

*See page 9



If you like, add a length of chain to your necklace. It can be shorter, the same or longer in length. Using your chain-nose pliers, attach the chain with a small jump ring on each side of the clasp. Make sure the rings are closed securely.



I hope you have enjoyed The Secrets to Perfect Patterning. I would love to hear how you did and see photos, if possible. I can be reached at info@beadshop.com

Thank you so much and Bead Happy!

Warmest regards,

Janice



Helpful Hints to Cure Creative Block Syndrome *(also known as CBS)*

We all get it: those blank, frustrating flashes where all creativity stops and nothing is moving. We never know when it will strike. But, there is a cure!

Step 1: Get up and walk away from your project.

Step 2: Stop thinking about your dilemma...go get a cup of coffee, read a magazine, or take a walk. Folding laundry is known to cure CBS.

Believe it or not, your brain is actually not stuck; it just needs a break to process and catch up with your busy hands. Give your mind some time to refuel.

When you feel more relaxed, come back to your project; you will be surprised at how your brain has found solutions. Try it!