

TWISTED TUBULAR HERRINGBONE STITCH

Fire and ice

Mimic the movement of the spirals and spots on a beautiful glass bead with a twisted herringbone rope in complementary colors

by Tea Benduhn

Splashes of color accent a herringbone rope to echo the design on an art bead.



materials

necklace 18¼ in. (46.4 cm)

- 2009 Bead&Button Show commemorative bead by Kate Fowle Meleney (BeadAndButtonShow.com)
- 18 4 x 6 mm fringe drops (golden orange)
- 8° Czech seed beads
23 g color A (matte white)
7 g color B (matte silver-lined golden yellow)
- 1 g 11° Czech seed beads (silver-lined dark orange red)
- clasp
- 2 6 x 8 mm gold-colored bead caps or cones
- nylon beading thread, size D, or Fireline 6 lb. test
- beading needles, #10

[www](http://www.beadandbutton.com/projects) Search for more herringbone projects at BeadAndButton.com/projects.

The golden swirl on the 2009 Bead&Button Show commemorative bead is echoed in a rope of frosted glass beads splashed with fiery accents of red and orange.

stepbystep

The herringbone rope shown is worked counterclockwise.

Herringbone ropes

[1] On a comfortable length of thread or Fireline, pick up three color A and three color B 8° seed beads, leaving an 8-in. (20 cm) tail. Tie the beads into a ring with a square knot (Online Basics and **photo a**). Sew through the three Bs, and position them so you have a stack of As and a stack of Bs side by side.

[2] Working in three-bead ladder stitch (Online Basics), pick up three As, then sew through the stack of Bs and the As just picked up. Pick up three As, sew through the previous stack of As, and the As just picked up (**photo b**). Sew through the first stack of As, then through the fourth stack of As to form a tube (**photo c**).

[3] Work in twisted tubular herringbone stitch: With your thread exiting the top A, pick up two As. Working counterclockwise, sew down through the top A in the next column, and sew up through the top two Bs in the next

column (**photo d**). Pick up a B and an A, sew down through the next A, and up through the top three As in the next column (**photo e**) to complete the round and step up.

[4] Repeat step 3 to work five more rounds so that each column has a total of nine 8°s.

[5] Work another round, but replace the B with a 4 x 6 mm fringe drop (**photo f**) to make a 10-round segment with a fringe drop in the 10th round.

[6] Repeat steps 3–5 to make a total of nine segments, ending and adding thread (Online Basics) as needed, and note the following:

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Although stitching counterclockwise sets the spiral on the rope in the same direction as the spiral on the bead, an interesting contrast between the movement of the spirals can be achieved by stitching clockwise. – Tea

- Alternate between working segments that have 10 rounds and 12 rounds.
- Replace one or two As in each segment with 11^o seed beads.

[7] Work five rounds of twisted herringbone using only As and Bs.

[8] Following the established thread path, exit an A at the end of a column, pick up an A, and sew down through the next A. Sew up through the next two As, pick up a B, and sew down through the next B (**photo g**).

[9] Sew through the 8^s to exit the A added in the previous step, pick up an A, and sew through the B added in the previous step. Sew through the beadwork, and exit the A just added (**photo h**). Do not end the thread.

[10] Make a second rope to match the first.

Assembly

[1] With the thread exiting an A at the end of a rope, pick up the focal bead. Sew through the A at the end of the other rope and the next few beads (**photo i**). Snug up the beads, and tie a few half-hitch knots. Zigzag through a few more beads, and sew back through the focal bead and a few As in the first rope. Retrace the thread path a couple of times to reinforce the connection, and end the thread.

[2] With the thread from the second rope, reinforce the connection a few more times, and end the thread.

[3] Thread a needle on the tail at the end of a rope, and pick up an A. Sew down through the end A in a column opposite the one your thread exited, and sew through the beadwork to exit the A just added. Pick up a bead cap and half of a clasp, and sew back through the bead cap and the A your thread just exited (**photo j**). Snug up the bead cap and clasp, retrace the thread path a couple of times to reinforce the connection, and end the thread.

[4] Repeat step 3 on the end of the remaining rope. ●



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