

Waltz Rope and Polka Dot Beaded Beads

This technique is fun to make, fun to wear, and fun to experiment with! There are essentially three steps: the beginning, the middle, and the end. From those steps, you can make the full rope and both of the beaded beads.

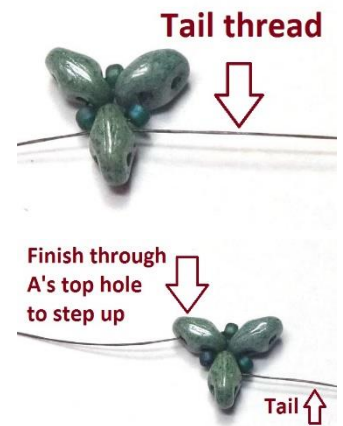
Bracelet materials list: 12-15g SuperDuos (A), 1-1.5g 15/0 seed beads or 2.5-3g 11/0 seed beads (B), toggle or snap clasp, Fireline

Also needed: Beading mat, beading needle, scissors



The beginning:

1. Pick up 3 **A** and 3 **B**, alternating (**A B A B A B**) and slide them down the thread, leaving a 7" tail for a bracelet or around 3" for beaded beads. Stitch through the first **A** to form a circle and pull tight.
2. Stitch through all beads twice more to secure. Finish up by stitching through an **A** and through that bead's other (top) hole to step up. This will change the direction of your stitching - if you were stitching clockwise, after stepping up you'll be stitching counterclockwise.
3. If you're making a beaded bead, you can weave in the tail thread at this time, tying an overhand (half-hitch) knot or two as you weave.



The middle:

1. Pick up 1 **B**, 1 **A**, and 1 **B**. Stitch through the top hole of the next **A**. Repeat around the circle. Stitch around everything once more, pulling tightly. This will curl the beads up, forming the bead or rope. Finish circling after a new **A** and step up. Remember, when stepping up, the stitching direction will change.

Add A B A in the gaps



All gaps are filled



Stitch around again, pulling tightly to curl it up



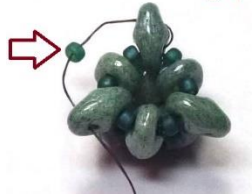
2. For the small Polka Dot beaded bead, skip to the next section. For the larger beaded bead, repeat this section once more. For the Waltz rope, repeat until the rope is close to the desired length, taking into account the length of your clasp. Here's how the piece looks after two rounds and after five rounds:



The end:

1. Pick up 1 **B** and stitch through the top hole of the next **A**. Repeat around the circle, pulling tightly so the **As** meet in the middle. Circle around twice to secure.

Add a B in each gap



All gaps filled. Stitch around again, pulling tightly



2. See below to add a clasp or earring wire or weave in and trim the thread as described above.

Adding a clasp or earring wire:

1. Pick up 2 **B**, the loop of the clasp or earring wire, and 2 **B**. Stitch across the rope/beaded bead. If your thread is coming out of a **B**, stitch through the **A** across from it (or vice versa). Circle around until you get back to where you added the clasp/earring wire and stitch through everything at least once more (twice is better) to secure. Weave in and trim the thread as described above.



Let's experiment!

Rope variants:

Normal



SuperDuos and 15/os. You could also use 11/os.

Skinny



Super8s and 15/os. Looks almost like a bike chain!

Wavy



5 rounds of Super8s and 15/os, 1 round of SuperDuos and 15/os, 4 rounds of SuperDuos and 11/os. Repeat.

Striped



Odd rounds with color 1, even rounds with color 2. Use one color of 15/os.

Spiral



Three colors of SuperDuos with matching 15/os. Each round will use one of each color. Follow the spiral as you stitch, remembering that the direction reverses when stepping up.

Polka Dot necklace:



Make a "floating" necklace using Polka Dot beads, beading wire, and crimp beads