



DuoLinks

by Anita Adamson
An Easy Delicate Chain





DuoLinks


by Anita Adamson

This technique to link SuperDuos together with seed beads to form a chain is my original idea, to the best of my knowledge. If you know of a published tutorial using this method, please let me know.

Note: I recommend using Toho Seed Beads, size 11 . For the purpose of clarity, I have used two colors of seed beads, with the darker tone indicating “cross over” beads and “joining” beads. I don’t usually use or recommend using beeswax with Fireline, as it is usually unnecessary, but I have found it helps maintain tension in this technique to use beeswax with your choice of thread.

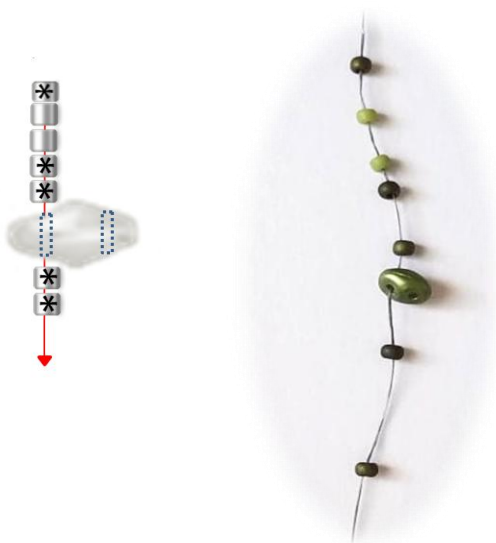
Seed Bead Size 11 Color A 

Seed Bead Size 11 Color B 

SuperDuo, 1 per Link (see Sizing below) 

Wire Protectors - 2

Sizing: One Link (SuperDuo surrounded by seed beads equals approx. 3/8". 5 Links equals 2". If for a bracelet, decide length minus clasp. If you need 6", use 15 Links; 7", use 17 Links, 8" use 20 Links. For a necklace chain, just decide the desired length, minus clasp if using. Divide the length by 2, and multiply by 5. Example
 $24" / 2 = 12$; $12 \times 5 \text{ Links} = 60$



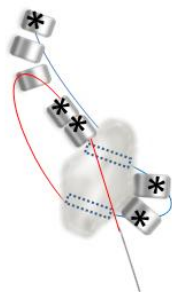
Part 1

Step 1 Attach a thread stop bead or Bead Bug to the end of your thread. Pick up 5 seed beads, 1 SuperDuo, 2 seed beads. The beads indicated with stars will be “crossover beads”, meaning they allow you to cross over to the other side of the SuperDuo.

Step 2 (No beads added) Cross through the remaining hole of the Superduo (thread path shown in red). Snug up against the stop bead.



Step 3 (no beads added) Take your needle through the two cross over beads on this side of the SuperDuo, going through the seed beads *towards* the SuperDuo but not through it. Pull snug.



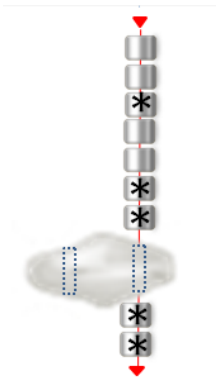
This will pull the SuperDuo into place (flipping the SuperDuo up to lie as illustrated) so that there are two cross over beads on each side of it. Check your tension. The angle of the beads is not so important as it is to have the beads snug against each other.

I loosened my stop bead in order to show this better, but you should have your work against the stop bead.

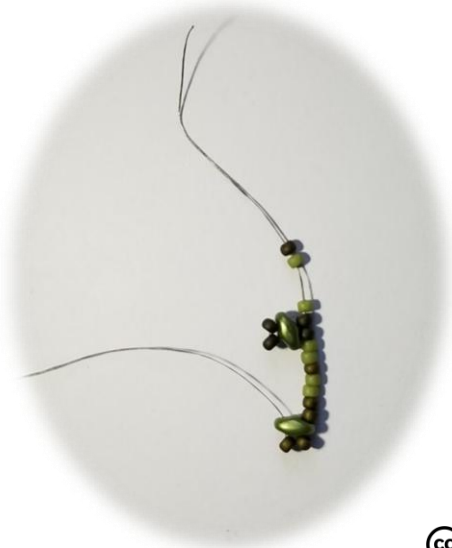
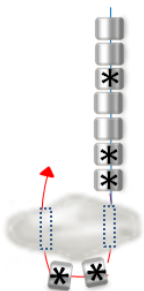




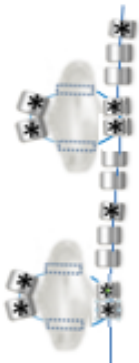
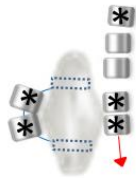
Step 4 Pick up 7 seed beads, 1 SuperDuo, and 2 seed beads



Step 5 As in Step 2, cross through the remaining hole on the Superduo.



Step 6 As in Step 3, take your needle through the two cross over beads on this side of the SuperDuo, going through the seed beads *towards* the SuperDuo but not through it. Always check to see that your beads are pulled snug after this step.



The diagram shows two Links at the end of **Part 1**. In Part 2, the links will take shape and become a chain.

Continue repeating steps 4, 5 and 6 until you have added all your SuperDuos, determined by the length desired (see page 1 on sizing). Note: At this point, your chain will appear to be too long, but the length will correct itself during Part 2.

Don't be concerned if the crossovers don't all lie on the same side.



When all of the SuperDuos have been beaded, add 2 beads.

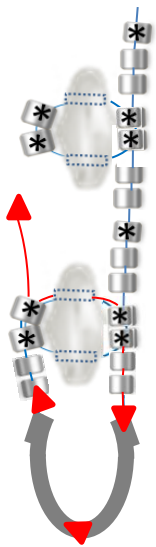
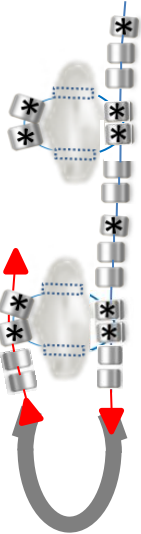


It's time to prepare for our clasp attachment before finishing the other side of the chain. I like to use wire protectors on the ends of the chains. These are small (usually 4 – 5 mm in length), horseshoe shaped findings. Stitching these into your work provides a secure place for a jumpring to join without fear of the thread slipping through the opening of the jumpring. There is also no wear on the thread when using.



Take the needle and pass up through one side tube on the wire protector, then, making sure the thread stays in the grooved curve, then pass down through the other side of the tube.

Add two seed beads and pass through the two cross over seed beads extending from the SuperDuo nearest the wire protector.

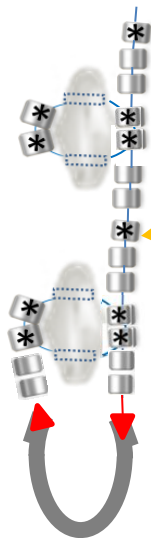


Pass through the Super Duo, down through the 4 beads, through the wire protector and back up through 4 beads. This will double the thread going through the wire protector, adding strength.



Part 2

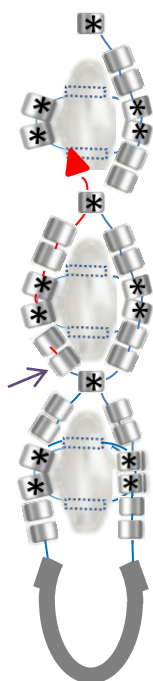
Note: In the following steps, when the “joining” bead is specified, it is the center bead between link units. This bead will be pulled toward the center, forming the links in the next steps as you bead.



Add 2 beads and pass through joining bead. Pull snug.



Continue up the chain, forming each link by adding 2 beads below and above each set of crossover beads, and passing through each joining bead to reach the next link. I've indicated the beads you are adding for each link with purple arrows on the center link of the diagram. When you reach the opposite link, attach the other thread protector in the same manner as the first.



Note: Check length before adding the final thread protector, as it is possible at this point to remove or add more links.

Here are Examples using different color and bead combinations.



- Samples, L to R
- Black/White Seed Beads Size 11
 - Brown Metallics Seed Beads Size 11
 - Greens Seed Beads Size 11
 - with Accent Beads in center strand
 - Pearl with Pink Seed Beads
 - Jade with White Delicas Size 11
 - with Seed Beads size 15 in center of crossover
 - Turquoise Seed Beads size 15
 - with Seed Beads size 11 Joining
 - Purple Delicas Size 11
 - Blues Seed Beads Size 11

www.internationalbeadingweek.com

www.facebook.com/internationalbeadingweek

