

# NBW Rainbow Lariat



**Karen  
Gibson-Brown**

## Shopping List

Core beads - approx. 15g x size 8 white seed beads (A)

Step beads - approx. 2g x size 11 seed beads in twelve colours: Yellow (R1), Lime Green (R2), Emerald Green (R3), Turquoise (R4), Sky Blue (R5), Royal Blue (R6), Lilac (R7), Purple (R8), Cerise Pink (R9), Maroon (R10), Ruby Red (R11), Orange (R12)

190 x 3mm silver Fire Polished Facets (B) Available from Oaktree Crafts: [www.oaktreecrafts.com](http://www.oaktreecrafts.com) or Tel: 0121 342 1370.

190 x silver Rizo beads (C) Available from The Bead Scene Studio: [www.thebeadscene.com](http://www.thebeadscene.com) or Tel: 07894 150 240.

95 x white Long Magatamas (D) Available from Stitch'n'Craft Beads: [www.stitchncraft.co.uk](http://www.stitchncraft.co.uk) or Tel: 01747 830 666.

6 x Little People beads (E) Available from BeadbyBead: [www.beadbybead.co.uk](http://www.beadbybead.co.uk) or Tel: 07971 755 577.

Size 10 or 11 beading needle

Beading thread of choice

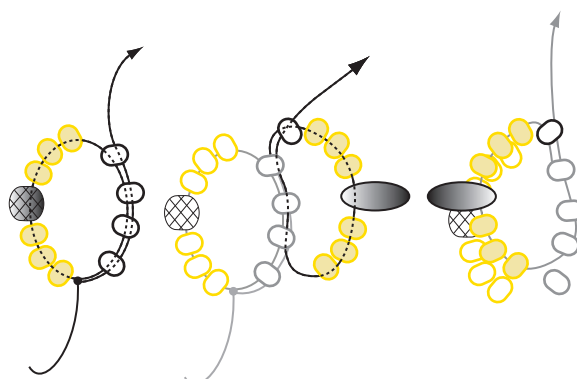
Using the rainbow palette of the National Beading Week (NBW) logo, Karen has designed a colourful spiral lariat to celebrate this years' NBW from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> August. She has made a lariat measuring 110cm long using all twelve of the NBW colours, and repeated the rainbow pattern four times before reversing the colours for the second half. However, if you prefer a shorter lariat, you can easily cut out a repeat either side or just use six colours.

## Getting started

This Spiral Staircase or Spiral Rope stitch has a core of beads running through the middle with steps of beads spiralling around the outside. Imagine a circular staircase and you have yourself a 'Spiral Staircase' design - stepping up each stair, heading in the same direction, as you add your beads.

**Step 1.** Using a comfortable length of thread and leaving a long tail to use for the fringing later, pick up 4xA core beads and 3xR1, 1xB & 3xR1 for the step beads. Thread back up through the 4xA core beads and push the beads up tightly together, with the step beads lying on the left (or to the right if you are left-handed).

**Step 2.** Pick up 1xA, 3xR1, 1xC and 3xR1. Including the core bead just picked up, count down four core beads and thread up through these four beads (i.e. one new core bead and three existing core beads), exiting the top of the core. Pull the beads up tight and push the step beads to the left.



Repeat Step 2 using the pickups below, remembering to push the step beads to the left each time.

**Step 3.** Pick up 1xA, 3xR1, 1xD and 3xR1.

**Step 4.** Pick up 1xA, 3xR1, 1xC and 3xR1.

**Step 5.** Pick up 1xA, 3xR1, 1xB and 3xR1.

*Karen's Tip: Carefully check each colour block of five rows, before starting the next colour to ensure that all is in order and there are no threads snagged (the focal beads create great texture, but it is so easy to catch your thread around them).*

**Step 6.** Pick up 1xA, 3xR2, 1xB and 3xR2.

**Step 7.** Pick up 1xA, 3xR2, 1xC and 3xR2.

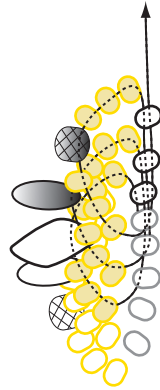
**Step 8.** Pick up 1xA, 3xR2, 1xD and 3xR2.

**Step 9.** Pick up 1xA, 3xR2, 1xC and 3xR2.

**Step 10.** Pick up 1xA, 3xR2, 1xB and 3xR2.

Repeat Steps 6 to 10 ten more times using the remainder of the spiral colours to create your first rainbow section, checking each colour block as you go.

*Karen's Tip: This lariat uses a lot of thread, so try to work with as long a piece of thread as is comfortable, to avoid having to weave in lots of new threads. To weave in a new thread, count back five or six core beads from the working end of the spiral and thread up through these beads to exit the end of the core, leaving enough tail thread to weave in later. Holding the thread secure you are now ready to continue working your spiral.*

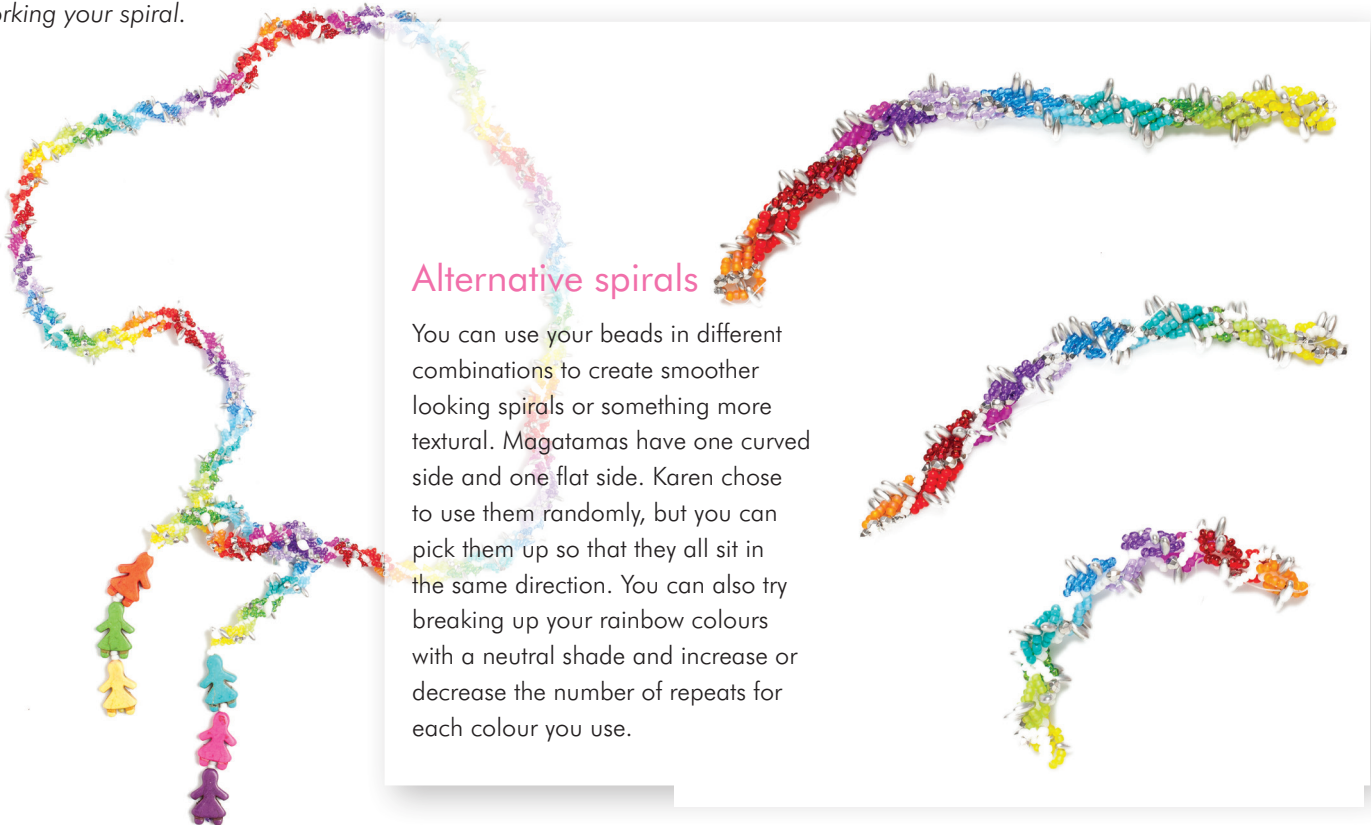
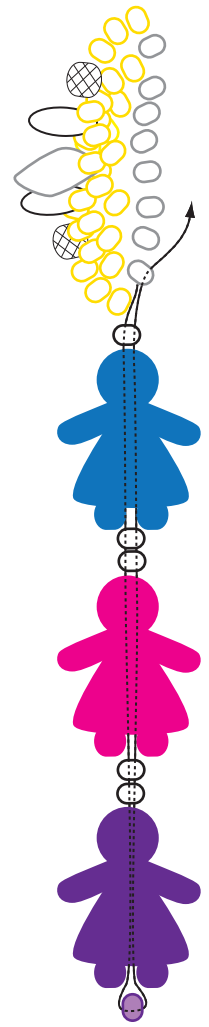


## To reverse or not to reverse?

Once you have reached the half way point, after three or four rainbow repeats, you will need to decide if you want to continue running your beads in the same order or whether you want to reverse them, so that when you wear your lariat, the colours are a mirror image (Note: you will only be reversing the sequence of colours that you pick up and NOT the direction of the spiral). Continue spiralling until you have completed the second half of the lariat, leaving a long tail for the fringing.

## Fringing

\*Using the tail thread pick up 1xA, 1xE, 2xA, 1xE, 2xA, 1xE and 1xR in a colour to match the last 'Little People' bead just picked up. Miss the last 1xR bead and thread back up through all of the fringe beads and the first core bead of the lariat. Pull the thread firmly so that no thread is showing, but not so tight that your fringe doesn't swing! Secure and trim the thread end. Repeat from\* to add a fringe to the other end of the lariat.



## Alternative spirals

You can use your beads in different combinations to create smoother looking spirals or something more textural. Magatamas have one curved side and one flat side. Karen chose to use them randomly, but you can pick them up so that they all sit in the same direction. You can also try breaking up your rainbow colours with a neutral shade and increase or decrease the number of repeats for each colour you use.