RAINBOW BRACELET

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Original bead designs, bead kits and classes.

INSTRUCTIONS

Rainbow Bracelet

Skill level: some knowledge of basic Ndebele (Herringbone) stitch is recommended.

Material Requirements

1 Large Button with four holes
30 Small buttons (rainbow colours) each with four holes.
For the brown bracelet, you will need 10 each of similarly patterned buttons in three sizes.
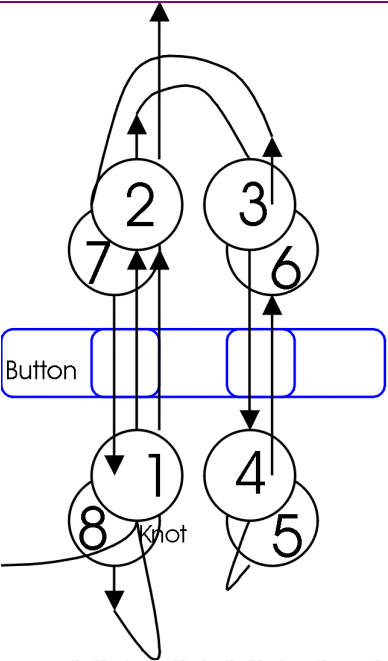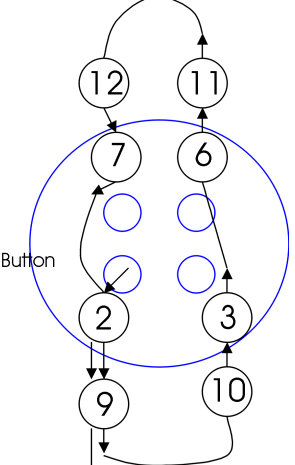*The bracelet pictured uses buttons approx. 10 mm (3/8"), 12 mm (5/8") and 18 mm (7/8").*
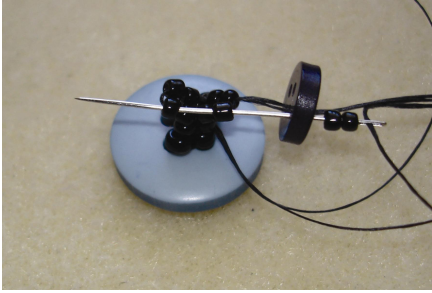10 grams of No. 11 Black seed beads
A few No 8 Black Seed beads
Nymo or One G thread (black)
Beading needle
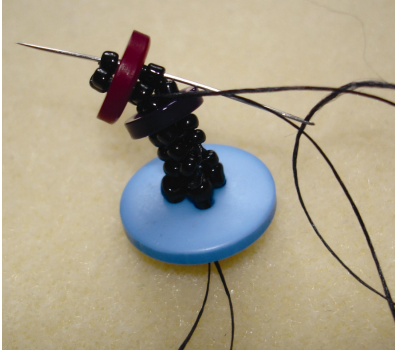
1		Cut a length of thread 2 metres long, thread through needle and match ends together (use double).
2	Diagram A.	Pick up one size 8 black seed bead (1), and thread needle through one of the four holes in the large button leaving a 10 cm tail (4"). Pick up two black seed beads (2 & 3) and thread needle back through button using the next hole. Knot thread with the tail coming from bead 1. Thread one more size 8 seed bead (4). See diagram A. Thread 5 and pass through the 3rd buttonhole, then beads 6 & 7 and pass through the 4th buttonhole. Thread bead 8, then thread through beads 1 and 2 (and passing through first button hole) again. Thread exits from bead 2.
3	Picture 1	Steps one and two are similar to making a two layer by four bead ladder, but the button is sandwiched between the first and second layers of beads. Refer to Picture 1 at left.
4	Diagram B	Working in tubular Ndebele (Herringbone) stitch and using size 11 beads, work three rows. Diagram B shows the sequence of the beads for the first row.

5	 Picture 2 (above) Picture 3	Add one of the small buttons by threading through the button holes before picking up the next two beads, keeping the Ndebele stitch even and the button holes aligned above the four bead tube. Go back down through the button after adding the two beads. See picture 2. Thread back up through the button before adding final two beads for this round, back down through button and "step up" through button and first bead in row just completed. See picture 3. Buttons in the bracelet have been added in "rainbow" order, but you may wish to use a different combination of colours. Where buttons have deep indentations, it is best to put the indented side down, as it can be difficult to get the needle under beads if the tension is tight and beads are pulled firmly into the indentation. You will need to weave in new thread as required.
6		Continue to add buttons and two rows of Ndebele until the bracelet is long enough to go firmly around your wrist or all 30 small buttons have been added. Adjust size by adding or discarding bead rows and buttons.
7	 Picture 4	Work the clasp loop: Working on the first two beads of the tube only, continue in flat Ndebele stitch, picking up two beads and threading down through the first bead of the last row, then across and back up through both the second bead in the last row and the second bead in the current row. Picture 4 shows loop in progress after several rows. Loop should be long enough when folded back on itself, to allow the large clasp button to pass through, but not loose enough for the button to fall back out easily.
8	 Picture 5	When you have completed sufficient rows for the loop, attach the end onto the two remaining beads from the four bead tube, making sure to align the beads correctly. Work around through the last four beads again, then knot and weave thread into the bracelet to hide the ends. You may wish to use a drop of clear nail polish or glue on the knot to secure end. See picture 5 for finished loop.