

Etruria Necklace



a pattern by Julie Ashford of Spellbound Bead Co for
The Beadworkers Guild
International Beading Week 2026

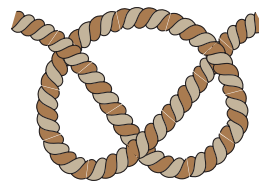
The Etruria Necklace

International Beading Week 2026 - Emblems

All the counties in the UK have a crest, a coat of arms or an emblem that is used on flags, enamelled onto badges of office, displayed in sports clubs and paraded at civic events.

Warwickshire has a bear with a ragged staff
 The Buckinghamshire flag shows a swan in chains
 Staffordshire has a knot - The Staffordshire (or Stafford) Knot

Spellbound is in Lichfield, Staffordshire, so the obvious choice is a Staffordshire Knot.
 It's a simple, loosely tied knot made with a twisted braid or rope.



Staffordshire is also the place to find Etruria. This suburb of Stoke-on-Trent it is where Josiah Wedgwood had his great pottery catering to the Georgian fashion for all things Greco-Roman.

Materials

Miyuki factory codes are given for seed beads and Delica beads
 A counted beadpack is available from Spellbound if required

- 3.5g of 15-2422F matt silver lined topaz size 15 seed beads A
- 1.5g of 15-1558 sparkling amethyst lined crystal size 15 seed beads B
- 1.5g of 15-1867 opaque dark orchid lustre size 15 seed beads C
- 1g of DB1340 dyed silver lined bright fuchsia Delica beads D
- 0.5g of DB1201 silver lined marigold Delica beads E
- 6g of 11-1932 dark lilac lined amethyst size 11 seed beads F
- Two 6x4mm arum crystal rondelle beads G
- One 8x6mm arum crystal rondelle bead H
- One 14mm vintage rose Rivoli stone K
- One 15x8mm Tequila Sunrise colour drop-shape diamante stone in a sew-on setting L

Beading Thread, Needles and Tools

Thread - Nymo D, Miyuki thread, KO or your preferred thread
 Needles - size 10 by default and a size 12 (just in case).

Scissors to trim the thread

Before You Begin - Important Notes

Thread Management and Needle Selection

The thread is used as a single thickness throughout.

Thread lengths are started on keeper beads (or similar temporary stoppers) and finished with concealed knots - please see below if you need more information about these techniques.

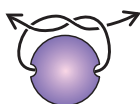
Two needle sizes may be required. Use a thicker size 10 needle initially, swapping to a thinner size 12 needle when instructed or if the thread path becomes congested.

Starting a Thread

Prepare the needle with the stated length of single thread.

You will need to add a keeper bead (a temporary anchor).

Thread on a small contrast bead and position it the stated distance from the tail end. Tie a simple single knot around the bead as shown.



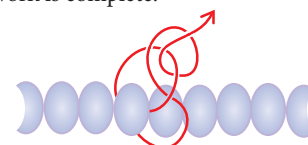
When it is no longer required, the keeper is easily removed, leaving the tail ready to be neatly secured.

Finishing Off the Thread Ends

You will need to finish off the thread ends neatly when instructed to do so. No knots are tied until the beading in that area of work is complete.

If necessary remove the keeper bead from the thread end to be secured.

Attach the needle to the thread end.



Pick up the threads between the beads with the needle point and pull through to leave a 2cm loop. Pass the needle through the loop twice (to make a double knot) and gently pull to tighten the knot between the beads.

If possible pass through 4-5 beads of the pattern and repeat the knot. Pass through 3-4 more beads before trimming.

If you wish you can seal the knots with a tiny dab of clear nail polish or glue.

Making the Etruria Necklace

The necklace is made in five stages -

A length of Spiral Tubular Herringbone Stitch rope is made first.

A bezelled frame is made for the Rivoli Stone.

The knot is tied around the bezel frame and stitched to secure.

A Square Stitch frame is made for the drop-shape stone and it is secured to the knot.

The side strings are added to complete the design.

1 Making the Rope - The rope is made in Spiral Tubular Herringbone Stitch using size 15 seed beads.

A Foundation Row is required for the Herringbone Stitch technique. The Foundation Row is made in Ladder Stitch.

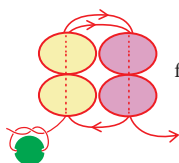


fig 1

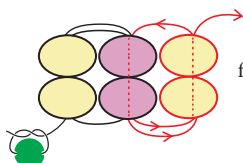


fig 2

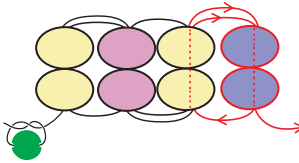


fig 3

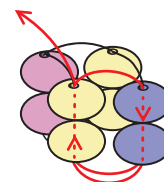


fig 4

Prepare the needle with 2m of single thread and tie a keeper bead 15cm from the end.

Thread on 2A and 2C. Pass up the 2A and down the 2C again to make two parallel columns of two beads (fig 1).

Thread on 2A. Pass down the previous column and up the new 2A to make a third parallel column (fig 2).

Repeat the technique to add a fourth column of 2B beads (fig 3).

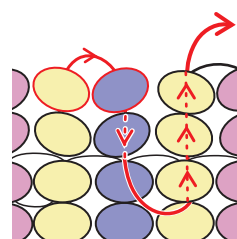
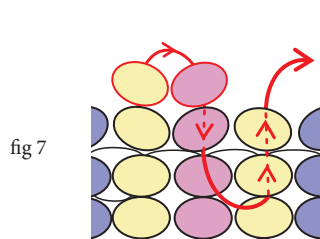
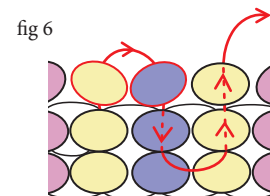
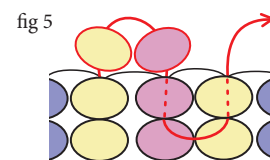
Fold the row to bring Column 1 (Col 1) alongside Column 4 (Col 4). Pass up Col 1, down Col 4 and up Col 1 to join the two columns together to make a neat drum and complete the Foundation Row (fig 4).

2 Herringbone Stitch- The first row is made using standard Tubular Herringbone stitch. Herringbone Stitch adds two beads per stitch.

Thread on 1A and 1C. Pass down the top 1C on Col 2 and up the top 1A on Col 3 (fig 5). Thread on 1A and 1B. Pass down the top 1B on Col 4 and up the top 2A on Col 1. This completes the row and repositions the needle for the next (fig 6).

Extra Info...

Don't pull too hard on the thread - the beads just need to come together neatly. Too much thread tension will prevent the work from flexing and your rope will not tie a successful Staffordshire Knot.



3 Start the Spiral Technique - Refer to fig 7.

Thread on 1A and 1C. Pass down the top 1C on Col 2 and up the top 2A on Col 3 (fig 7).

Thread on 1A and 1B. Pass down the top 1B on Col 4 and up the top 3A on Col 1 (fig 8).

This completes the row and repositions the needle for the start of the next row.

Repeat Step 3 until your work measures 16cm.

Leave the start and finish thread ends attached to each end of the rope. Finish off any other thread ends neatly and securely and set the rope aside for the moment.

4 Make the Bezel - The bezel is a simple beadwork frame made to fit the Rivoli stone.

It is made in Peyote Stitch.

Prepare the needle with 1.2m of single thread and tie a keeper bead 25cm from the end.

Row One - Thread on 36D. Pass through the first 1D to make a ring (fig 9).

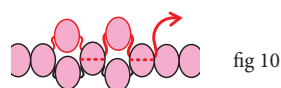
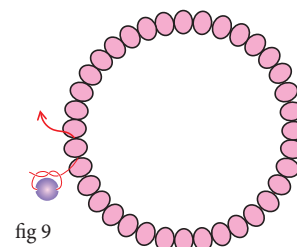


fig 10

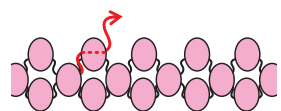


fig 11

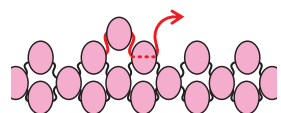


fig 12

Row Two - Refer to fig 10. Thread on 1D.

Skip over the next bead on the ring and pass through the following 1D to bring the new bead alongside the skipped bead. Repeat (fig 10 showing the characteristic key and keyhole profile of Peyote Stitch).

Repeat to the end of the row (18D in total).

The needle has to be repositioned before starting the next row.

'Step up' through the first 1D of the new row (a key bead) to emerge immediately before the following keyhole (fig 11).

The needle is now in the correct position to begin the next row.

Row Three - Thread on 1D and pass through the next key bead along to draw the new bead into the keyhole (fig 12).

Repeat to the end of the row (18D in total).

Step up (as fig 11) by passing through the first bead of the row just completed, to be ready to start the next row.

5 Row Four - The diameter of the frame is now decreased by swapping to smaller beads. Maintaining the same technique work Row Four in A beads. Step up to reposition the needle for the next row.

Row Five - Make Row Five in A beads. Pull the thread a little more firmly to close up the A bead rows into a neat circular aperture.

Reposition the needle, by passing through the beads on previous rows, to emerge from the lower edge of the work (fig 13).

Add one row of 18A to this edge of the weave (fig 14).

Slip the Rivoli stone into the ring so the front of the stone shows at the top edge of the setting. Pull the thread more firmly on the last row worked to close up any gaps between the beads.

Add one final row of 18A to this edge. Pull the thread firmly to close up the row and secure the stone. The bezel beading is complete.

Remove the keeper bead so you have two thread ends to work with in Step 7.

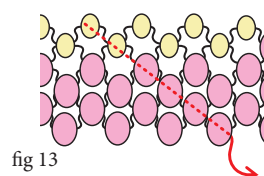


fig 13

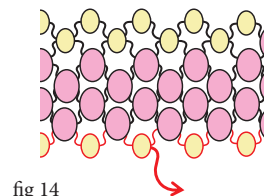


fig 14

6 Make the Knot - The knot is made around, and secured to, the bezelled Rivoli stone. It's not difficult to do but take your time to make the connections accurately or the pendant will not hang straight.

Mark the centre of the rope from Step 3 with a small tie of thread.

- Tie a simple knot in the rope (see fig 15).
- The cross-over needs to be at the base.
- The thread marker should be at the centre of a plain arch at the top.
- The two rope ends need to emerge at approximately 45° on either side of the thread marker. They should extend no more than 1cm outside the loop.
- The central space should be divided into three zones - a curved top V in the middle with two wedge-shaped slots on either side of the V.

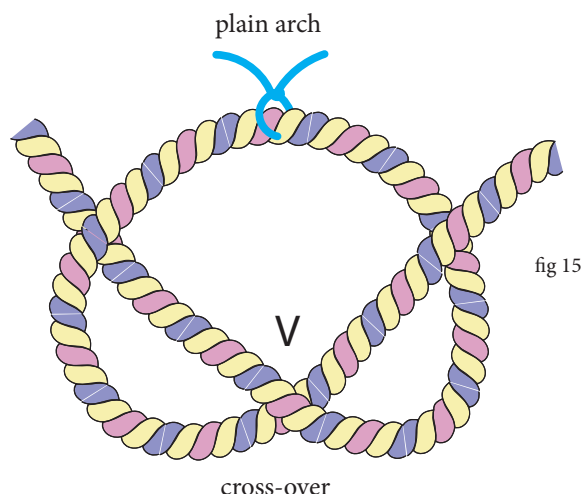


fig 15

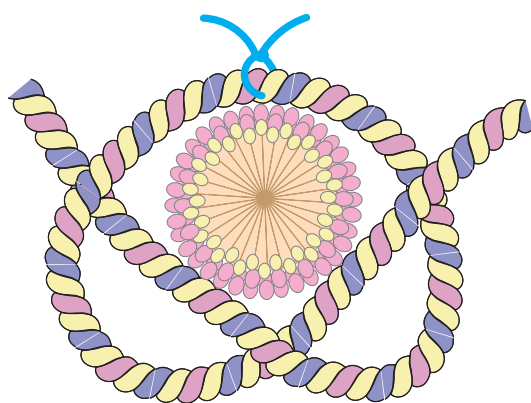


fig 16

Refer to fig 16.

Place the bezelled Rivoli into the V space.

It needs to sit just inside the space. The frame should touch the top of the arch and both of the 'arms' just above the cross-over at the base.

Adjust the knot to get a 'nice fit' without losing the wedge-shape slots which give lightness to the overall design.

If the knot is too tight you will need to extend the rope.

Add another few rows to the end of the rope, re-mark the centre of the newly extended length and re-tie the knot.

When you have a neat arrangement take a reference photo.

7 Fig 17 shows the stitch locations to secure the bezel into place in red and green. The red stitches along the top plain edge are made first.

Attach the needle to one of the thread ends on the bezel and reposition it to emerge from one of the middle D bead rows. Untie the knot in the rope and check that the centre point is still marked with a tie of thread.

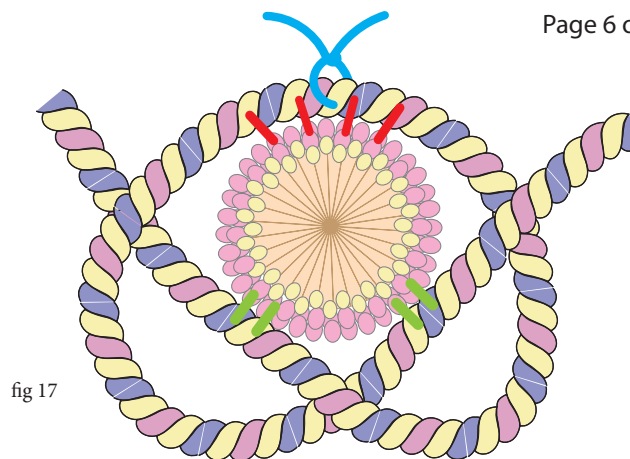


fig 17

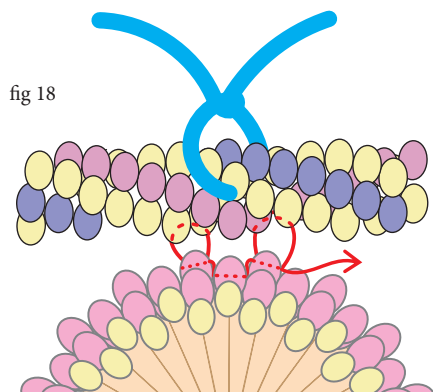


fig 18

Refer to fig 18. Make a simple Square Stitch to connect the current 1D on the bezel to the rope 1mm to one side of the centre marker. Stitch the next 1D along this Peyote Stitch Row to the rope 1mm(ish) on the other side of the centre marker (fig 18).

Repeat to add one more stitch on either side of these first connections as indicated by the red lines in fig 17.

8 Re-tie the knot in the rope and check the position of the cross-over against your reference photo. Either make a temporary stitch through the rope at the cross-over point or a firm tie of thread to keep the basic shape correct as you handle the work.

Reposition the needle as necessary and make two link stitches on each side of the bezel to connect it to both sides of the V space (as shown in green on fig 17).

9 Remove the temporary connection at the cross-over at the base of the knot. Make sure the centre of the cross-over is directly below the bezel frame and the thread marker at the top of the knot.

Reposition the needle, through the rope beads, and secure one rope to the other at the cross-over position. Finish off both bezel thread ends without blocking the holes in the rope beads at the crossover point or near to the plain ends of the rope.

10 The two ends of the rope still need to be secured.

Make sure they extend 8-10mm past the edge of the rope loop and form a pleasing angle (see photo).

Use the thread ends still attached to both ends of the rope to secure them into place.

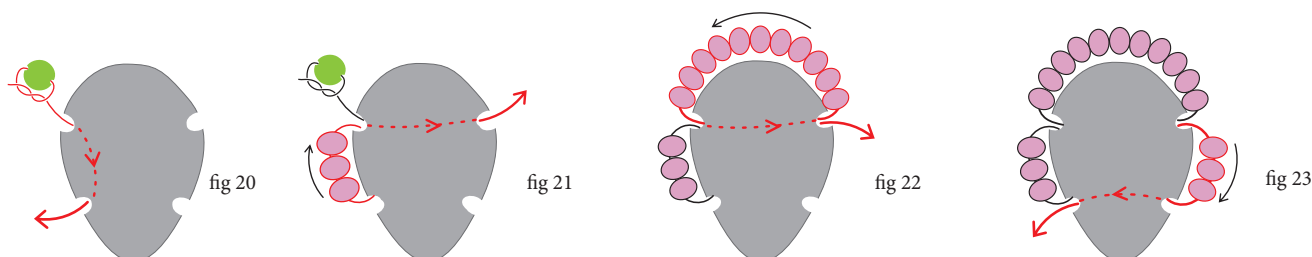
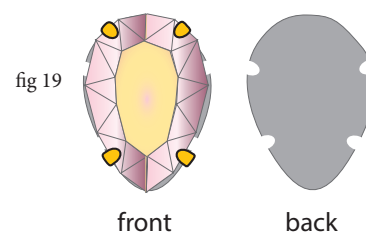
Finish off these thread ends neatly and securely at least 10 beads away from the rope ends (to avoid blocking the bead holes).



11 The Drop Pendant - The pendant is attached to point downwards from the lower edge of the knot. A frame of D and E beads is made around the setting before it is attached.

Examine the diamante setting - it has four claws at the front to secure the stone and four holes on the back for the stitches (fig 19).

A fitted row of 28D beads is made to frame the lower edge of the setting first- this row will be connected directly to the setting through the four holes on the back. A second 28E row is then attached to the first row to create a double row frame which will completely conceal the side view of the setting.



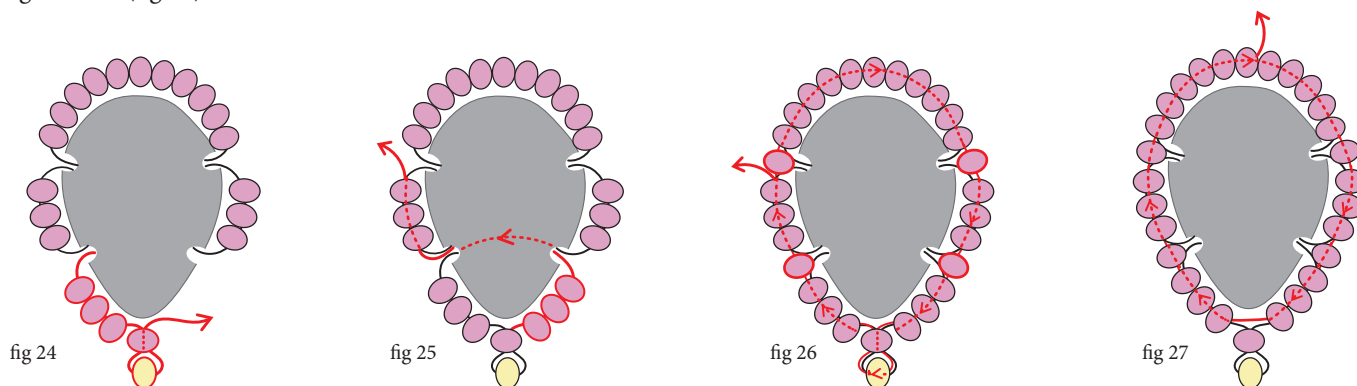
The First Frame Row - Prepare the needle with 1.2m of single thread and tie a keeper bead 15cm from the end.

Working with the reverse side of the setting uppermost, pass the needle through the upper hole and out of the lower hole on the same side of the setting (fig 20).

Thread on 3D. Pass in through the same upper hole and out through the opposite hole to make a short strap along the side of the setting (fig 21).

Thread on 11D. Pass in through the opposite upper hole and out through the current hole to make a long strap of beads around the top edge of the setting (fig 22).

Thread on 3D. Pass in through the lower hole on this side of the stone and out through the opposite hole to make a short strap along the side (fig 23).



Refer to fig 24. Thread on 4D and 1E. Pass back through the fourth D bead just added to pull the E bead into an anchor (fig 24).

Refer to fig 25. Thread on 3D and pass in through the lower hole on the blank side of the setting and out the opposite hole. Pass up through the first 3D added in this step (fig 25).

Position the new strap around the pointed end of the stone with the anchor at the apex as shown.

Thread on 1D and pass through the following 11D beads.

Thread on 1D and pass through the following 3D beads.

Thread on 1D and pass through the following 3D, up and down the 1D and 1E beads that form the point at the top and down the following 3D.

Thread on 1D and pass through the following 3D strap (fig 26) (28D and 1E in total).

Refer to fig 27. Pass through 27D beads of the frame row skipping past the 1D/1E that form the anchor point. Finish with the needle emerging at the top of the frame as shown (fig 27).

The frame will feel loose. The second row will stabilise the outline.

12 The Second Frame Row- Refer to fig 28 which shows a side view of the setting. Thread on 1E. Pass back through the current 1D on the first row and forward through the new E bead to draw the new bead parallel (fig 28). This begins a row of Square Stitch.

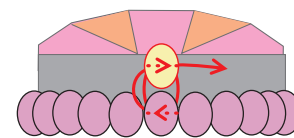


fig 28

Thread on 1E. Pass back through the next 1D around the first row and forward through the new E bead to make a second Square Stitch (fig 29).

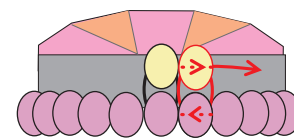


fig 29

Repeat to add sufficient 1E Square Stitches to reach the 1D/1E anchor forming the point of the First Frame Row.

Refer to fig 30. Flip the anchor point from the First Frame Row upwards and pass through the 1E at the top of the anchor.

Thread on 1E and Square Stitch to the first 1D past the 1D/1E anchor point (fig 30).

The anchor point should pull in close to the side of the setting.

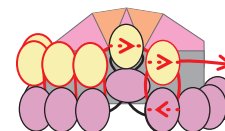


fig 30

Complete the row using 1E Square Stitches and pass through the first 1E of the row to close up the gap.

Reinforce the row with a pass of thread.

The frame will still feel loose. It now needs to be secured to the claws that hold the stone into the setting.

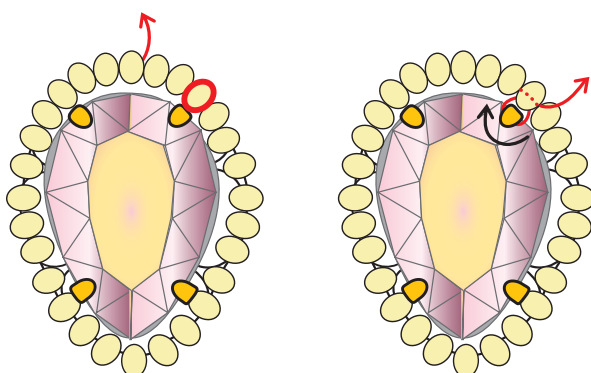


fig 31

fig 32

Refer to fig 31 which shows the front view of the setting - the four claws will line up relatively well with four 1E beads around the Second Frame Row.

Pass the needle through the following beads to emerge from the first of these four 1E beads (highlighted in red on fig 31).

Refer to fig 32. Carefully hook the thread under the adjacent claw and pass through the adjacent E bead again.

Very carefully pull the thread through to secure the link. Don't pull too hard or the thread will chafe and weaken against the sides of the claw.

Repeat at the remaining three claw locations. - the frame will feel secure and robust.

13 Reposition the needle to emerge at the pointed end of the frame. Hook the needle under the thread path between the D and E beads at the tip (fig 33).

Thread on 3C and pass under the same thread path again to draw the beads into a neat picot (fig 34).

Pass through the 3C beads two times to tighten the form.

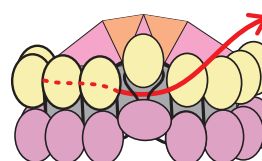


fig 33

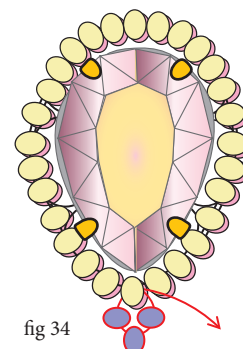


fig 34

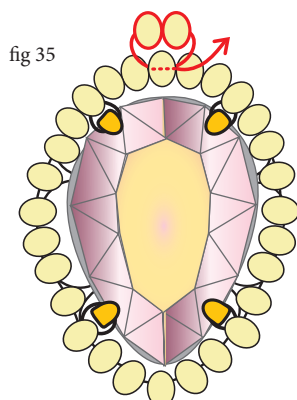


fig 35

14 Reposition the needle to the opposite end of the frame and locate the central E bead along the front edge. Thread on 2E and pass through the frame bead again to make a parallel stitch (fig 35). Reinforce this stitch with a second pass of thread.

Repeat to add a 2D stitch to the central D bead on the back layer of the frame.

Offer the pendant up to the knot - the two new stitches will allow you to link the pendant neatly to the base of the cross-over on the knot.

Line up the drop pendant carefully and stitch the four new beads to the lower surface of the knot at the cross over.

Finish off the remaining thread ends neatly and securely.

15 Adding the Side Strings - The side strings are made from straight lengths of seed beads and fastened at the back with a Bead and Loop clasp.

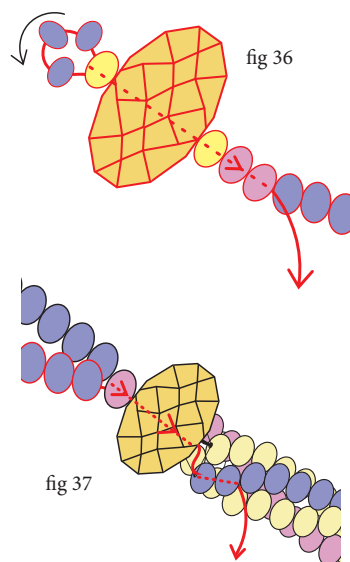
Prepare the needle with 1.4m of single thread and tie a keeper bead 15cm from the end.

Start on the right-hand side of the necklace (as worn).

Pass the needle through the end few beads on the right-hand end of the rope to emerge ready to add the side string.

Thread on 1G, 1D and sufficient F beads to reach the centre back of the neck.

16 Add the Bead Tag - Thread on 2D, 1E, 1H, 1E and 3C. Pass back through the last 1E to pull the C beads into a picot to anchor the turn. Pass through the following E, H, E and 2D to emerge at the end of the F bead string (fig 36).



17 Thread on the same number of F beads to return to the D and G beads at the start of the side string. Pass down through these two beads and into the end 3-4 beads of a different column on the end of the rope (fig 37).

The connection to the rope and the side string both need to be reinforced.

Pass up an adjacent (non-connected) column on the rope and up through the G and D beads.

Pass up to the Bead Tag through one strand of F beads, Turn the needle through the picot anchor and back down the other F bead strand.

Pass back through the connection to the rope and down the remaining unconnected column on the rope.

Finish off both thread ends neatly and securely.

18 Repeat Step 15 to connect a new thread to the left-hand side of the knot and add the beads for the first strand.

The Bead Loop - Thread on 2D and sufficient A beads to make a loop the will just fit over the H bead on the Bead Tag (approximately 28A). Pass back down the 2D beads to pull up the loop.

Repeat Step 17 to add the second F bead strand and to reinforce both strands, the connection to the rope and the Bead Loop just made.

Finish off any remaining thread ends neatly and securely.

