

Lady Evelyn bracelet
by
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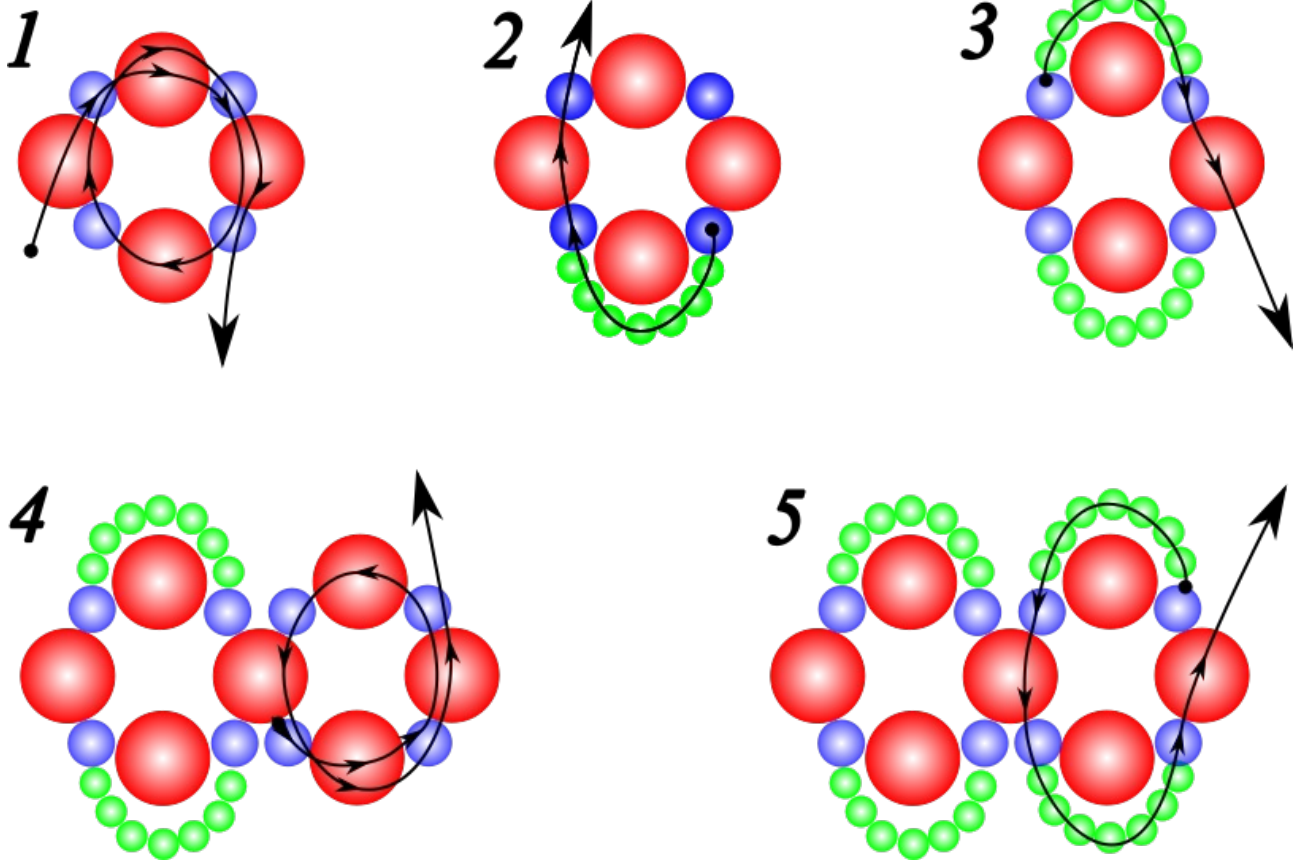





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Thread path



-  *6mm round bead*
-  *Size 8 seed (3mm)*
-  *Size 11 seed (2mm)*

Beads

This bracelet uses 6mm round beads, size 8 seed beads and size 11 seed beads. You'll probably need somewhere around 46 to 54 round beads depending on the length of your bracelet.

You could also make this with 8mm round beads if you either use size 8 beads for the outer loops (green in the diagrams) or make a longer loop still using size 11's. Use an odd number where possible as it tends to lie better. You can also try other shapes such as ovals or bicones.

Thread

Thread is a personal choice. There are lots of brands. My current favourite is 10lb woven fishing line (no, not the brand you're thinking of) and I also like loom thread, but you can use pretty much anything. If you're buying fishing line, stick to 0.14mm or thinner or you'll have a lot of trouble threading the needle plus if you're using size 11 seeds you won't be able to fit through the beads enough times, and don't go below 7lb strength.

Work with a single thread, not doubled. It's much easier to get the tension right and you'll get a lot fewer tangles.

If your thread starts to fray at any point, don't carry on. Fasten it off and start again with a new thread.

Needle

Use the smallest beading needle you can thread, and don't worry if it bends as it definitely will. If it gets too bad you can straighten it up gently with pliers, but very often the curve will actually help anyway and make it easier to access out-of-the-way beads. Don't use an ordinary sewing needle even though they are stronger; the eye is wider than the rest of the needle and it will prevent it going through your beads.

Beeswax

I like beeswax if I'm using thread but never use it with fishing line, though it can be handy to wax the very end of fishing line to make it easier to get through the needle. Beeswax looks like a bar of yellow soap and you run the thread lightly over the bar to pick up a thin layer of wax. Make sure you've got proper beeswax and not the paraffin wax sold in plastic circular cases (which is sometimes labelled beeswax even when it's not). Buy it online from a honey supplier, it'll be about £2 plus postage and lasts for absolutely ages because you use barely any.

Weaving in the thread ends

In general I don't like knots. They're too easy to come undone and they also take up valuable space inside the beads. I like to weave through the work as much as possible, and make sure some sections are going round in rough circles so it doesn't pull pack through if the finished piece gets snagged. Then when I am pulling the thread through the very last bead and it is almost all of the way through, I usually put a tiny blob of glue or clear nail varnish onto the last few millimetres of thread so that it disappears into the bead once I pull it through. Apply glue with a cocktail stick, a cotton bud or a matchstick. But if you prefer to knot your thread, go right ahead - it's your work.

Beads

When using small beads such as seeds, you don't actually pick them up with your fingers. Leave them lying on your work surface and use just the needle to pick them up, pushing the point of the needle down into the hole without touching them yourself.

Step-by-step instructions

Begin by threading your needle with about two metres of thread. Don't cut the thread, leave the reel attached. When you eventually run out of thread you can just unwind more from the reel and carry on working from the opposite end of your bracelet. Work with single thread, not doubled.



1

Thread four 6mm beads and four size 8 seeds alternately, beginning with a 6mm bead, and push them down to the far end of your working thread.

Leave a bit of space between the beads and the thread reel so the reel isn't getting in your way.



2

Pass the needle through all eight beads again.



3

Pull the thread through so that the beads snug up together to make a circle.



4

Pass the needle through the first 6mm bead again,



5

Pull the thread through.



6

Work your way through the next four beads.

Your thread is now exiting from the bead opposite the one that the tail thread is exiting.

Now pass through all eight beads again, one or two at a time, so that your thread ends up exiting from this same place again. This is to keep the tension firm so they stay in position.



7

Pass through the next seed bead.



8

Pull the thread through.



9

Pick up seven size 11 seed beads.



10

Miss the 6mm bead and pass the needle through the next three beads in the circle.

You can most likely get through all three beads at once here, but for future repeats you will have to do them one or two at a time as they won't be lined up.



11

Pull the thread through so that the beads snug up together to form a loop around the edge.



12

Pick up seven size 11 beads.



13

Miss a 6mm bead and pass the needle through the next two beads.



14

Pull the thread through so that the seed beads snug up together to form a loop around the opposite edge.

Your thread is now exiting from the bead opposite the one that the tail thread is exiting.



15

Pick up four size 8 seed beads and three 6mm beads alternately, beginning with a seed bead. There are seven beads in total.



16

Pass the needle in the same direction through the end bead that your thread was exiting.



17

Pull the thread through so that the beads snug up together to form a circle.



18

Work your way around through the beads so that the thread is exiting from the end bead (the centre 6mm bead of the new beads you have just added).

Now work your way round through all eight beads again until your thread is exiting from the end bead again.



19

Pass the needle through the next seed bead.



20

Pull the thread through.



21

Pick up seven size 11 seed beads.



22

Miss the 6mm bead and pass through the next size 8 seed and the next 6mm bead.



23

Pull the thread through so that the beads snug up together to form a loop around the edge.



24

Pass the needle through the next size 8 seed in the circle.



25

Pull the thread through.



26

Pick up seven size 11 seeds.



27

Miss the 6mm bead and pass the needle through the next size 8 seed and the end 6mm bead.



28

Pull the thread through so that the beads snug up together to form a loop around the edge.

29

Now continue in this manner, adding seven beads at a time and going through the previous bead again to form the circles, working through the next four beads so you are exiting the end bead, then going through all eight beads again, then adding the edge loops.

You are forming the circles and loops alternately clockwise and anticlockwise.

If you prefer, you can rotate your work away from you each time if you want to make sure you are coming out of the top (rather than the bottom) of the end bead whenever you start each repeat so that you are always working clockwise.

Don't neglect to go through all eight beads again (steps 6 and 18) as this helps to maintain the tension.



30

When the bracelet is the length you require (or you're running out of thread) ensure you are exiting from the end bead and have completed the edge loops on the last repeat.

Add enough size 11 seed beads to make a loop. I've used nine here but you may need slightly more or less, and you'll need more if you've used larger beads for the bracelet or are using a smaller seeds. Don't make the loop too small or the seed beads will not lie nicely side by side, and you won't have room to attach the clasp.



31

Pass the needle through the end bead in the same direction.



32

Pull the thread through so that the seed beads snug up together to make a loop.

Reinforce the loop by sewing through the seeds and the end bead as many times as you can, keeping the thread tight so the loop goes quite stiff. Don't force the needle through or you might break a bead.

33

Weave back through some of the main beadwork to finish off, then back to the seeds. If you want to, before the last bit of thread goes through the last beads, put a tiny amount of glue or clear nail varnish on the thread so it goes inside the bead, then cut this thread off. Try and end inside the end loop seeds, but if they're already so full that you can't, wait until later before gluing and fastening off, so that you don't block a bead hole that you'll need to use again.

34

Don't add your clasp just yet, wait until you've finished the whole thing, otherwise all you are doing is giving yourself a nice little hook to repeatedly get your thread tangled around while you're working.

Now you can go back to your reel of thread (which you left attached to the work when you started) and unwind some more thread to work with, cut it, thread the needle and carry on stitching from the opposite end. Just turn your work around so you are working in the same direction as before.

However, first of all, have a guess at how much more thread you're likely to need. If you had a lot of thread left over last time when you reached the end, you won't need to cut quite that much this time. It's better having too much than not enough, though, to avoid joins, as long as it's a length you can work with without repeatedly getting tangled. You'll need about the same amount again as you've already used so far, so that you've got enough to reinforce your work by stitching through it all again after you've finished. If your bracelet is not yet the size you require, you'll need a longer thread now than the length you started with.

If you do need to add extra thread as you work, leave the ends long enough to weave them in later after you've finished. It's tempting to keep them short to save thread but that just makes them harder to work with and you're probably only saving a penny or so anyway. You can always save any decent sized pieces for doing earrings with.

35

If your bracelet is not yet long enough, continue until it is the length you require, otherwise go straight to the next step.



36

Make another seed bead loop in the same way as the first at the opposite end using the tail of your work. This time do not end your thread once you have finished.

And now for the worst part. Sew through the entire thing all over again to reinforce it. Don't go through the end loops as they'll already be full of thread. Be careful here as it's really easy to get the thread snagged around a bead somewhere and not notice until it's too late.

Depending on your choice of thread and the size of your beads you may want to do this more than once, but be careful you don't crack any beads by trying to get too many passes through them. You don't necessarily need to follow the exact same path, but make sure each stitch is always at a right angle to the previous stitch. Usually for a third or fourth repeat I just reinforce the centre beads (6mm and size 8) and not the lace edging, and I'll go up and down in an S shape rather than in circles.



Use a jump ring to attach a lobster clasp to one end of the bracelet, and a short length of chain to the other end.

You could also use a toggle clasp here instead. They look much more interesting than lobster clasps but make it into one size only, which is great if it's for yourself as it means you get a perfect fit but less good if you're trying to sell the bracelet as it won't fit as many potential customers.



The completed bracelet.

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