

Betsy BEADS

Betsy Beads helps you find YOUR creative voice with simple approaches, focused insights, creative coaching, and plenty of "What if...?" options. More than 30 projects bring the design process to life.



Turn the page to
see how easy it can be.



KISS: Keep it simple spiral

This simple spiral illustrates one of my favorite "Eureka!" knitting moments ever, and is a great example of what the creative process has taught me.

I struggled for years to find a way to make some kind of knit cord that would hold a spiral on its own. Then one day, while playing around with I-cord, I decided to see what would happen if I purl instead of knit the stitches. After about 20 rounds, the cord began to twist and spiral—on its own! The final purl stitch in every round was slightly elongated and created a sort of spine that traveled around the cord, providing the perfect place to knit a bead that could highlight the spiral even more. As a child of the 60s, I have to say that this was such a Zen moment—recognizing that what you are looking for can often be found only when you stop looking.



MIYUKI Size 6° glass seed beads
150 in 149F Matte Transparent Capri Blue

WHAT IF...

For a bracelet, simply work a shorter version of the necklace, or a very long version that can be wrapped around your wrist several times before fastening the clasp. String fewer beads for a bracelet (approximately 80); string more for a longer necklace (allow 10 beads for each additional inch).

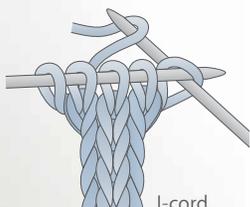
You can use almost any weight of smooth yarn as long as the beads you use can be strung onto the yarn. If your I-cord has a different row gauge, you will need to string more (or fewer) beads.

Consider using a solid-colored yarn and a random assortment of different colors of beads, or a chunky yarn with large, brightly-colored plastic or glass pony beads.

Fun!



Stringing beads



I-cord

Prepare

With beading needle, string 150 beads (1 bead per round).

Knit

Leaving an 8" tail, cast on 5.

Begin I-cord: All rounds SB, p5. Do not turn work. Slide stitches to right end of needle, bring working yarn behind needle and work the next round.

Work 150 rounds (approximately 17"). Do not bind off.

Finish

Cut yarn, leaving an 8" tail. With tapestry needle, thread tail through all 5 stitches, remove knitting needle, gather, knot tightly, and weave tail inside cord. Gather other end, threading tail through cast-on stitches. With beading needle and thread or filament, sew clasp to ends of I-cord.



SB Slide bead close to last stitch worked.



gauge

9 rounds to 1"
finished length 17", including clasp



yarn

light weight
50 yds tencel tape



beads

160 size 6° Japanese glass seed beads



needles

2.4mm/US6



and...

beading needle
tapestry needle
small amount of nylon thread or beading filament
11x11mm silver-plated magnetic clasp



magnetic clasps

big-eye, open

big-eye, closed

NOTES: easy

Tight tension is important when working this design — especially on the second stitch of each round — to encourage the natural spiral of the I-cord.

Beads are usually sold by weight; there are approximately 11 size 6° glass beads in one gram.



PRISM YARNS Tencel Tape
50 yds in Garden



EARRINGS



NEW
from
Xr
BOOKS

beads

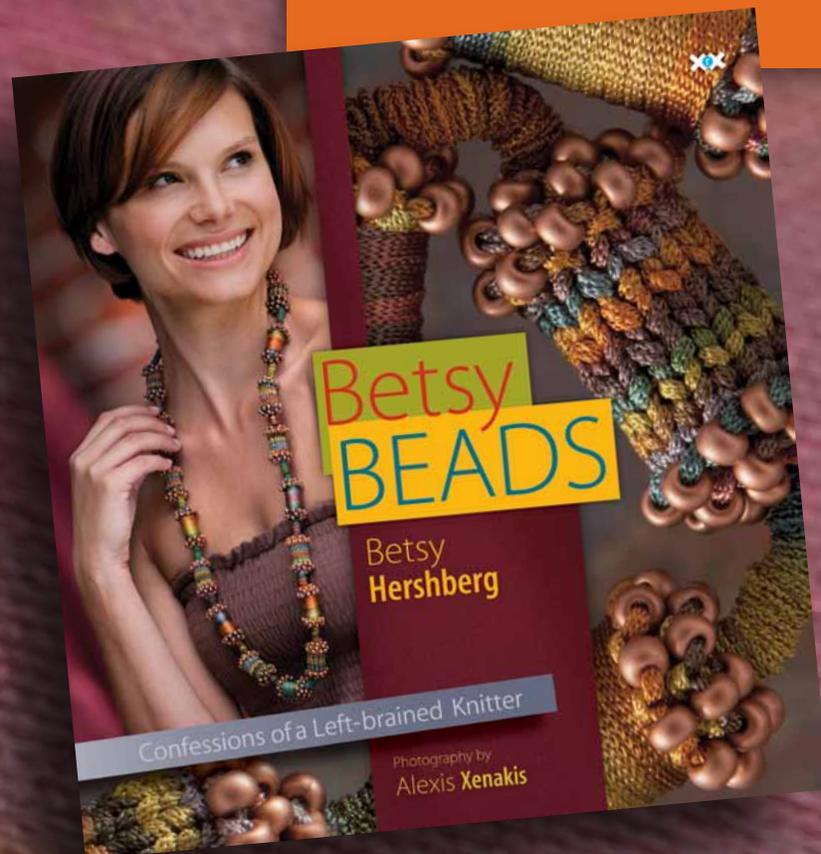
necklaces



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