

# Mix It Up Bracelet

by Jill Wiseman

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## Supply List

- 20 grams size 6 seed beads
- 10 grams size 11 seed beads
- 6mm Druks (round glass beads) or glass pearls – Qty: 112
- Three-hole slide clasp
- Fireline (6lb)
- Size 10 beading needles



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This bracelet is made in two steps. First you'll create a square stitch base, and then you'll add a simple loop embellishment on top. Add your clasp, and you'll be ready to wear your new creation!

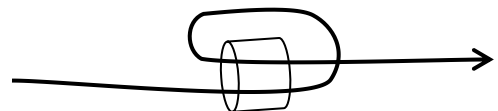
## Make the base

Cut a length of Fireline (thread) that's about 3' long. You can use a longer length if you desire. You will need to flatten the end of the Fireline to get it through the eye of the needle.

### Step 1

Attach a stop bead at the end of your thread. A stop bead is simply a different colored bead used to stop beads from falling off the end of your thread. This bead is temporary and can be removed after you've completed several rows of your pattern.

To attach a stop bead, string a bead (not too heavy), or simply use three seed beads, and take them down near the end of your thread. Leave a 4-6" tail below them and then pass through the bead starting at the tail end again. A bit of thread will show on the outside of the bead, but that's okay because we're going to remove it later!

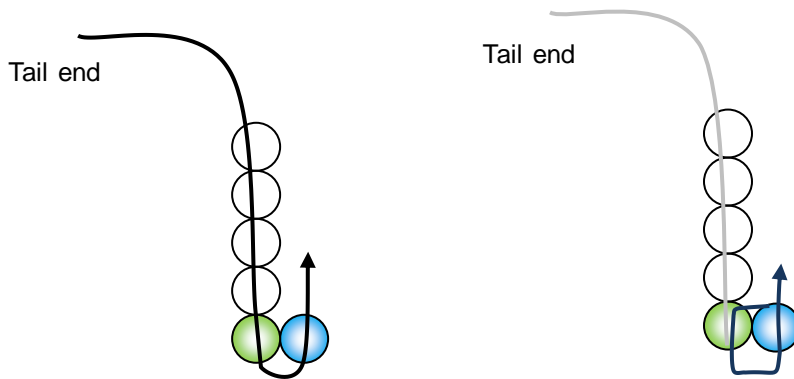


## Step 2

String five size 6 seed beads and move them back to your stop bead.

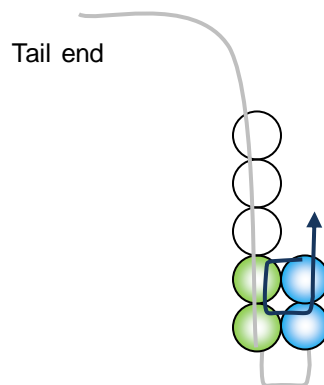
## Step 3

Pass from the tail end back down through 2<sup>nd</sup> to last bead you strung on (green). Then go back up through the last bead strung. You've made a complete circle around the last two beads. Make sure the beads are sitting side by side. You may have to nudge them with your finger to get them to behave.



## Step 4

Pick up another bead, and then pass from tail end back down through the next loose bead (directly above the set of two you just stitched together). Finish your circle by going from the bottom to top through that new bead you just added like you did before.



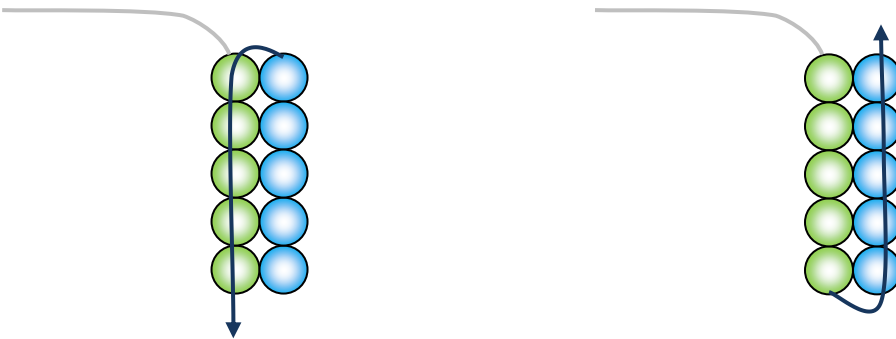
**TIP:** I find it helpful to put my thumb over the beads to hold them in place while I pull the thread. It's hard keeping the beads in the proper place!

## Step 5

Repeat step 4 until you have attached a new bead to each of the first 5 beads you strung on. Don't worry if everything isn't lined up exactly – right now they're kind of loosey-goosey and that's normal. So let's reinforce both rows before we go any further.

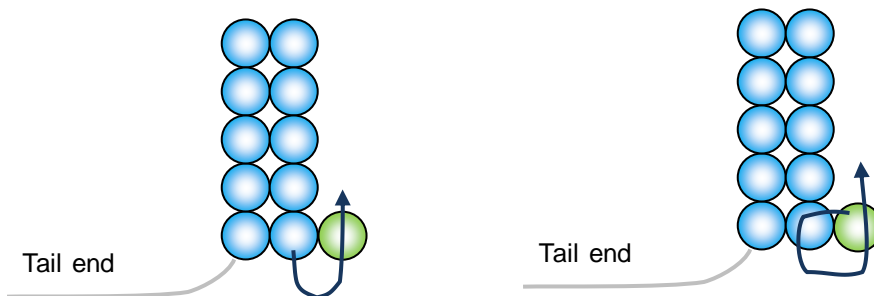
### Step 6

Take your needle and pass through all the beads in the left row, and then go all the way back through the row of beads you just added on the right. Make sure the needle goes through ALL the beads and you don't accidentally skip any – it's a good idea to look at the other side of your base before you pull your thread all the way through to make sure.



Flip the beads over so that your working thread is coming out the bottom. (Your tail will be on the bottom too.)

**Repeat steps 4-6 to add each new row.** Continue until you have enough rows to create the size bracelet you want. See the sizing information next.

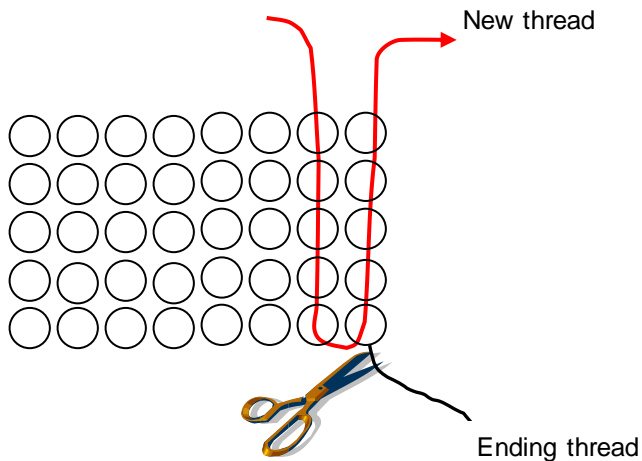


### Sizing your bracelet

Continue adding rows in your base until the bracelet is about ½ inch shorter than you want it to be when it's finished. The extra ½ inch is for the clasp.

## Adding and ending thread in the bracelet base

You won't need to tie knots with square stitch base. You can actually just cut off the end, because in square stitch, each bead is attached from two directions.



**TIP:** When you get a knot in your thread, don't panic. Most of them will work out with patience. Put your thread on something flat and use two needles to loosen the knot.

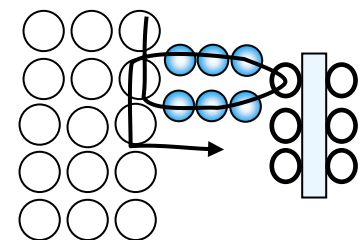
To help prevent knots, periodically dangle your needle and let the thread untwist. Alternately, unthread your needle and run the thread between your thumb and forefinger several times from the attachment point.

It also helps to pull your thread slowly.

## Attach the clasp

I like to attach the clasp when the base is done, before embellishment is added – fewer things to tangle my thread up in!

Come out of the base at the end the row as usual, and then work your needle around so it's exiting the 2<sup>nd</sup> bead of the last row on the base.



Pick up three size 11 seed beads, pass through the first ring in the clasp, and then pick up three more size 11 seed beads. Pass back through the base bead you were just exiting – you're basically making a loop around the bead. Then pass forward through one more base bead and repeat. Repeat a third time so you have attached all three rings in the clasp.

Your clasp is the point of most wear and tear in your jewelry. So you should reinforce the clasp attachments with two more passes of thread for security. No adding beads – simply pass through the seed beads attaching the clasp again.

Repeat this with the other half of the clasp at the opposite end of the bracelet. When attaching the second side, I like to keep my clasp closed so I make sure I attach it the right way (and not upside down – take it from my own bitter personal experience! 😊)

## Adding and ending thread from the clasp or from the embellishment

Now that you're done with the base, you will have to do a little more work to secure your threads. You'll still work a new thread (or end your old thread) from the base, but you'll need to weave back and forth through the beads, changing directions 3-4 times as you do so, and then moving to where you need the new thread to come out (or cut off the old thread.)

I always recommend adding your new thread **FIRST** so you know where it's supposed to exit to begin working again. Then you can go end off the old thread.

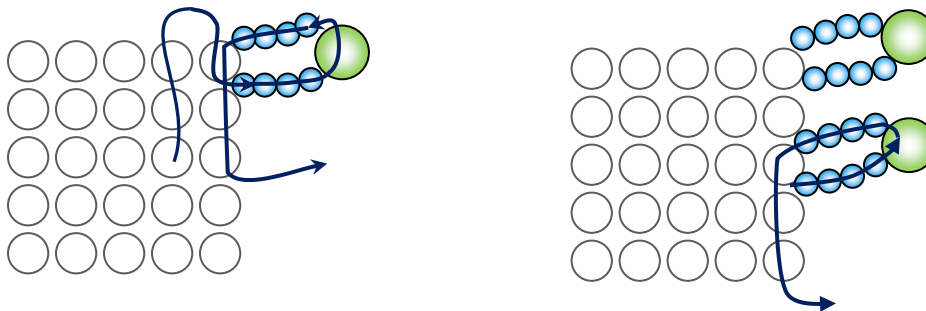
## Add the embellishment

Bring your needle out between the first two beads of the first row.

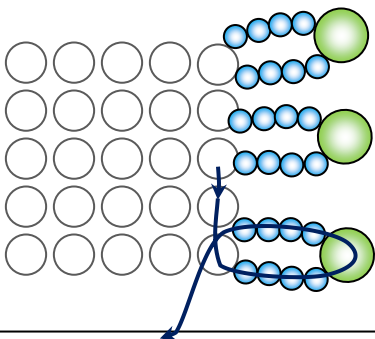
Pick up:

- four size 11 seed beads
- one druk
- four more size 11 seed beads

Pass back through the same bead you exited in the base and forward through two more base beads. Notice you've made a circle around the first bead in the base – you've made a loop over it.

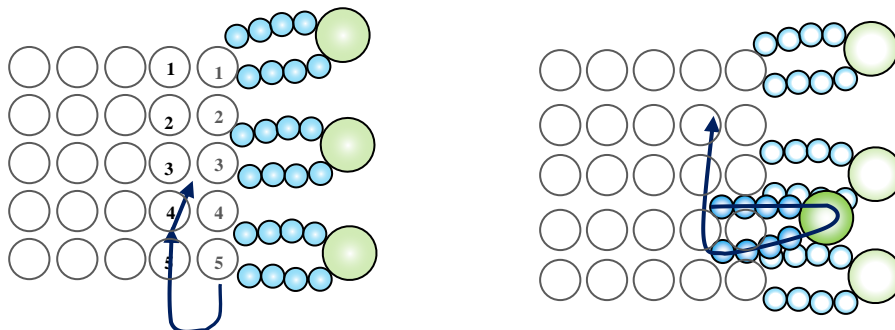


Repeat to the above step to make one more loop so you'll have made loops over the odd-numbered base beads 1, 3, and 5.



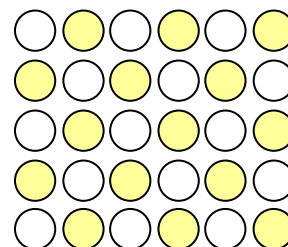
**TIP:** You're always going through the bead you want your loop to be around. Then you're adding the loop beads, and going through that bead again to make a circle.

Pass through the first 2 beads in the next row. If it's easier for you, flip your bracelet over, so you're always working your loops in the same direction. This time, you'll make your loops over the two even-numbered base beads, 4 and 2.



On the next row, you will again do the loops over the odd numbered beads, so you are just staggering the rows of loops.

The diagram below shows the beads that you will do loops over: beads 1, 3, and 5 in one row, and beads 2 and 4 in the next row.



Continue to make loops in this manner over the entire base, securely end off your thread, and enjoy your beautiful new bracelet! If you have any questions while you're making your bracelet, don't hesitate to email me at [jill@jillwisemandesigns.com](mailto:jill@jillwisemandesigns.com).

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