
Bead-Weaving Roundabout Necklace with Liz Smith

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview

(upbeat tones) - The Roundabout Necklace is both fun to wear, and fun to make. I call it the Roundabout Necklace because you can wear it in any direction, play with it, enjoy it. We'll do twisted spiral stitch, a herringbone stitch, we'll combine found metal, gold and silver chain, we'll combine matte and silver beads, and it's a fun piece to wear. If you're in a boring meeting, it gives you something to play with. (upbeat music)

Chapter 2 - Materials

Materials

- To create this roundabout necklace, I've chosen two contrasting colors, gold and silver, two of my favorites. You will need a size 11 cylinder bead and a size 11 charlotte or seed bead. I've chosen silver size 11 cylinders and gold size 11 charlottes. Two colors of metal chain, again, gold and silver, and a mixture of beads along with some little slider beads to slide along your piece. I've also included some size 13 charlottes, and you can use size 15 Japanese beads. For my little loops, I like the look of the smaller bead. You will also need two pairs of chain nose pliers to work with your jump rings. I've chosen a lobster claw clasp. This one has to be decorative, but a plain one will also work. A closed jump ring, again, a decorative one. Size six fire line and size 12 needles. Thread bottoms, scissors. I use a thread zapper, a bead scoop, or a spoon. And of course, a beading surface. These two, the gold and the silver, the shiny and the matte, work opposite each other.

Chapter 3 - Create Roundabout Necklace

Herringbone Pattern

- The roundabout necklace is worked in various sections. We're going to start with the twisted herringbone stitch. The start that I like is just a little bit fussy, but I like it because it enables me to work in either direction and that to me is an important design element. I'm gonna take a wingspan of thread, my thread bobbin, wind a little bit of thread around that, and then another wingspan of thread to use later. This enables me to go in both directions depending on my design choices at the time. I start by differentiating between the cylinder beads and the round beads. Going to pick up eight beads in a specific order. Because I'm doing a herringbone twist, and I want the twist to twist, I'm going to pick up a cylinder, a round, a round, and a cylinder. A cylinder, a round, a round, and a cylinder. Let me repeat that. Cylinder, round, round, cylinder. Cylinder round, round, cylinder. Then I come around and come through the first cylinder bead, sliding my beads down, onto my thread, pulling it over my finger so it's taught and I can see what I'm doing. So my threads coming out of the cylinder and into the round. Picking up my cylinder and my round I come through the first round bead next to the cylinder. So my threads coming out of the cylinder and into the round, and I pull those together. And then, I'm going to skip the next two beads which are a round and a cylinder, and I'm going to go into that second cylinder bead. And I'm going to pull that nice and snug. Pick up a cylinder and a round, come down into the next round bead pull that nice and snug, skip a round, the next round and cylinder and come into that second cylinder and the third cylinder. Both beads. That's called a step up. Whoops, don't let it slip. And I'm going to pull those, pull my thread, oops, and like that. So I've come through all three of those cylinders. And now I'm going to kind of pull it

and you can see that my beads have folded up, and I'm ready for my set up for my herringbone. So I said earlier, this is a little fussy, but it will enable you to do herringbone in two directions. Now I'm going to pick up my combination that I will always pick up, and that is a cylinder and a round, and because this is a twist, I'm going to go down two round beads, one two, and up oops, down two, and up the next neighboring cylinder. This is going to create my herringbone twist. It looks very strange. Don't let that dishearten you. My next basic pattern, I have a cylinder and a round, so I'm coming out of the cylinder bead, and I'm going to go down two round beads, and getting ready to come up one cylinder the neighboring cylinder. I'm going around in a circle, this is a twist. So, again, I'm coming out of the cylinder, I pick up a cylinder, I pick up a round, I'm going to come down the two cylinder uh, the two rounds down to turning it just a little so I'm ready to come up one cylinder. So it's down two, up one, down two, up one. And I think you can see, it's starting to twist. With bead work, it always takes a little bit to get started. It always looks a little strange. I've picked up a cylinder and a round, come down two rounds down two turning it a little so I know where my fingers are and my needle is down two and up one, and that's up the cylinder. Cylinder, round. Down two, and up one. So I'm always going down the round beads, and up the cylinder. Picking up my pattern, cylinder and round, getting ready, down two and up one. Go slowly, think about what you're doing. The start is always the most difficult. And remember, it's not a speed sport. So don't try to race. I'm coming out the cylinder, down two of the gold, and up one. And, there is the beginning of my twist. The piece has been turned around so this is where I started that fussy little beginning. And my thread is not in the right place, it needs to be coming out of that top cylinder bead. So, all I need to do is needle through that bead, pull it through and I'm ready to begin my mantra that same mantra of pick up a cylinder bead a round bead down two two and up to the top cylinder bead. And now you're going to continue this stitch for six or eight inches, depending on your design ethic, or how long you want your piece.

Changing Thread

- While you work, you're going to have to add new thread. Everybody has their own way they like to do it. Let me show you my favorite technique. It's called the book binder's knot. With your new thread, create a slip knot. Making sure that by pulling the needle thread, your slip knot closes. Then take your old needle and thread through the slip knot, bringing it all the way down to the base and slowly, carefully pulling that closed. Then take your new thread and your new tail and gently snap them closed. At this point, I like to weave in my old thread by just coming down a few beads out of the way, pulling it in, creating a half hitch knot, by going under my thread, where I wanna create my knot. Going through the loop, pulling it closed. And then moving away from my knot through a couple of beads. What you wanna do is always follow your thread path. The sign of an amateur beader is having the thread show and that's what we want to avoid. So I'm pulling it through a couple of beads. If you have a high paranoia level and you want to do another half hitch knot, that's an option. But this is pretty secure. I'm going take my thread burner, making sure I have the proper threads out of the way and the thread I wanna cut, I warm my burner, bring it along parallel to my piece and cut. And that's done. Now I have a new thread and a tail which I will weave in later.

Adding connector pieces

- I've continued on for about three inches. Notice how really nice and smooth this twist looks. It's totally unique and I think lovely. So, you will continue on for maybe five or six inches depending on the length of your necklace or what you want. I'm going to show you now how to add your

connector beads and start the spiral stage. Start with a bead cap. I'm starting with the silver bead cap. And then I'm going to add a gold bead. You can choose any kind of bead cap that you like. I pull those through and you can see I have one gold or one bead cap at the bottom. Because I'm an asymmetrical kind of person, I am going to add two bead caps at the top. Just to make it a little different and make it mine. Make it unique. It looks a little wonky. We're gonna fix that as we come down. So, now I'm ready to begin my spiral. Here, I used matte gold and shiny silver. So, for my spiral, I'm gonna reverse that. I'm going to choose matte silver and shiny gold. I'm going to start with four cylinder beads, slide them down, and then I'm going to choose three gold shiny charlottes. I'm gonna choose four gold shiny charlottes. Notice how I measured that. I want those to be fairly flat. I don't want my twist real twisty. If you wanted a shorter one, you could start with three core beads. So, I have my four side beads on and I come up through all four core beads, pulling that down. Notice how I have a lot of thread. I'm just gonna slide that right on down. Yes, I know they don't match up yet, but I'm going to put about four spirals on here. So, I'm going to add one core and one, two, three, four spiral beads, four side beads, slide them down. Pull that taut and remember I started with four beads. I'm gonna count, one, two, three, four and come up those top four cylinder beads making sure I've gone through the beads and haven't left one out. Bring that down. And make sure that my new spiral sits on top of my old spiral. So, I have spiral number two on top of spiral number one. Picking up one core bead, and four, one, two, put some over here where I can see them better. One, two, three, four. Slide them down. Count one, two, three, four, and up I go, up those four core beads. Slide it down, make sure everything's nice and snug. See how my spiral is starting. I'm going to put on one more spiral and then I'm going to pass it back down through all the way down through and catch this little side piece that's sticking out and pull it all back up, and then continue with my spiral. So, here I go. One core bead. One, two, three, four spiral beads. Pull them down. Count my four core beads. One, two, three, four. Up those four core beads, and now I have four spirals. I've been pulling them nice and snug. See how great they look. Now, in order to get back down, I'm going to go through this top spiral, catching all four spiral beads. And, making my thread nice and snug. My thread's coming out here. Follow your thread path. Always, always, always. Back down through those three beads. And it's a little fussy, but it's well worth it. Down through the two bead caps. Down through the one and here I am. I've gone through all my beads. And, I'm coming out of the cylinder bead here. I'm going to go down this cylinder bead so everything is evenly balanced. I've gone down three. You can go down four. You can go down five. See how that's pulling that in? I'm going to go across to my round beads, so I can come back up. And, turning around is what I'm doing. Back up through those beads. And then back up through my bead cap, my round gold bead. And I kinda have to fiddle with it to get my needle through the bead caps. My needle has come through one core bead, which is just fine. And, I'll just follow that thread path on up. It'll be a little fussy, and a little extra work, but I've gone through three here. Listen to your needle. I've gone through four. Whatever it says to you, make sure you hear it. Okay, and I have two more. And now, I have connected my herringbone to my spiral with a set of connector beads, and I've checked ahead of time to make sure that these slider beads will fit over the connectors and my spiral, small point. Continue on with your spiral by picking up one cylinder and your four spiral beads. One, two, three, four. Sliding them down, counting one, two, three, four. Make sure you don't skip any beads. So, I have one cylinder to go through. Continue your spiral stitch for five or six inches or seven, whatever your chosen length is. Let's just quickly refresh that spiral stitch one more time. Pick up a cylinder bead, and four of your spiral beads. Slide them down. One, two, three, four cylinder beads down and up those four making sure you don't skip any. Bring it around

and push your twist over. Pick up a cylinder bead. One, two, three, four spiral beads. Slide them down. Count one, two, three, four. Up those four, and you're just going to continue that mantra over and over, one and four, one and four. Push, slide, and snug. There you go. And continue doing that until you have the length that you want.

Finishing the necklace

- Let's look at what we've created so far. We have our herring bone twist, we have connectors, we have our spiral. And as you can see, I got a little creative, and I added a few more beads in here, some more spiral, another found bead, and some more spiral. Now, we're going to get ready to add our chain. I'm working with my spiral, and I'm going to add a connector bead, a set of connectors, this time I'm going to take the gold bead cap and a Thai silver cylinder. And another bead cap, don't take the mat with you, I'll put two bead caps. And what I'm going to do is create a loop that I will connect to my chain. So in order to make my loop, I'm going to take my silver size 11 seed bead, and I'm going to pick up enough of my size 13, I like to use the smaller ones here, 'cause I think it makes a cleaner, nicer, smaller loop. And I'm gonna pick up nine seed beads. So I have four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. And I'm using an odd number, not counting my size 11, so I have two, four, five, six, seven, eight, and one more, nine, and I'm just going to create a loop by coming around, and going through that size 11 seed bead. That's kind of my common bead, it's gonna hold everything and center it, and now I'm gonna come down the core of my spiral. Making sure that my threads are not caught on anything, holding the end of my spiral, pulling everything nice and snug, and I have a nice loop that'll be ready for my jump ring. Let's go up the spiral, through the bead caps, through the cylinder bead, and continue through the next two bead caps, up we go. And at this point, I'm going to come through, and I'm gonna tie everything off by making, going up... And what I'm doing is reinforcing that loop, because it only has one thread going through. And as I continue to preach, the integrity of your piece is very important because the design can be super, but if it falls apart, it's a mess, so go through my loop, pull my threads, close my loop, and I've created a half hitch knot. Continue around... I tend to reinforce probably a little bit more than other people do, but I don't want anything falling apart either while I'm wearing it, or anybody else is wearing it. So I go through a couple more beads. Create another half hitch by going under the thread where I want the knot, making a loop, going through the loop, closing that knot, coming down through the rest of my beads, two half hitches would do it, coming through that final common bead, that 11, down through my bead caps, down through my cylinder, and that should hold it nicely. Then I burn off with my thread burner. Holding it taught, warming my burner, coming in parallel, and snipping it. ^And I have my loop ready to connect ^my jump rings, and my chain. Picking up my jump ring, which I've already opened, picking up my loop, sliding it into my jump ring, picking up my silver chain, I loop that through, picking up my gold chain, I loop that through, now I take my other pliers. And carefully close that jump ring up. And presto magico, we're almost finished with our necklace, and at this point, we're ready to cut our chain. I find the best way to figure out how long I want it, is to actually put it on. My woven part is about half of the length of the chain. I like my chain long, everybody is a little different, different size necks, different body types, different design aesthetics, so you really need to put it on, so I like mine longer, as opposed to shorter, so I'm gonna cut mine right about here, I'm gonna take it off. And you might have a chain that you can open like a jump ring, this one needs to be cut. I'm going to cut just one link, put the other one down. Holding my pliers, so that nothing flies out, presto magico, that one is cut. So now I hold it up and I look to see where they come together. I'm fortunate this time because the chains happen to be the same, you may use

different kinds of chains, different shapes, so you really wanna match them up as closely as you can. They come together about there, so I'm gonna cut this one, holding it, dropping the other one, and then holding my chain so nothing flies up and hits anybody in the face. So holding it up again, I see that I am one link off, so I will not cut off that errant link. That last one, and they will match up, and I'm ready to add my jump ring. Let's see, cut that off. Okay, so now I'm ready for my jump ring, and double checking, I'm ready to attach my clasp, you can choose any kind of clasp you want, I've decided to use a decorative lobster claw, with a decorative soldered jump ring. I'm going to attach the jump ring first, because I wanna deal with these little ends on my chain. I'm gonna pick up my pliers, and my jump ring, and make sure that everything's hanging correctly. Open that jump ring a little bit more, slide in one, slide in two. My chain's attached, and now my decorative jump ring is attached, so I'll get my second pair of pliers, and close that jump ring up. I have my hook for my clasp, my jump ring attaching them, attached to my chain. I'm ready for this part, and this is that loop that we made earlier. Going to pick up the jump ring, put it through the loop, put it through the loop, woah. And it flew out, and I don't know where it went. There it is, they do that, flying jump rings. So holding that... My loop, getting that in there. Attaching my clasp, and closing my jump ring. And again, the reason I'm using a jump ring here, is that if anything does happen to my clasp, I don't have to re do the whole necklace. I have options, and options are always important when designing, as well as creating. And we have almost a finished necklace. But the clasp works, out it comes, now I'm going to attach my sliders, and I have chosen gold, and silver, because this is a mixed metal piece. These are square sliders, you can use any kind of sliders that will fit. I've used crystal sliders, I've made sliders, and I will show you some of those in just a little bit. Now my sliders are on, reattach my clasp, and we have a finished piece. Sometimes you have to fuss with the sliders a little to get them over, I think my bead caps might be a little big. So, our parts are all put together, and we have a chain, a roundabout chain. Chain, bead weaving, sliders, everything. Let me show you a few variations. This one is silver and turquoise, as you can see, I've kept the herring bone twist all the way through, but I've changed colors, and I've added Swarovski crystals. So it really sparkles. I've almost made my own rings, sliders down here at the bottom. This variation... This is also all herring bone twist, but I've added a few accent colors with the gold, and black Swarovski crystals. And Swarovski crystal square sliders. This one has some spiral, and some herring bone, and purchased chain, which is also an option, with semi precious gems. And a found pendant... And some longer beads, and you can see the same principal. I hope that you enjoy making many of these pieces, just as I have done.