



KALAHARI OASIS LARIAT

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MATERIALS

8 g Matte metallic size 11° seed beads
(M for medium)
25g Topaz-lined AB Size 11° seed beads
(P for piping bead)
24g Matte metallic size 8° seed beads
(L for large)
50 Amber Japanese drop beads
100 4mm fire-polished glass beads
25 Bronze 15mm dagger beads (D for dagger)
Magnetic clasp (optional)
Crystal 10lb Fireline or Power pro braided
beading thread

TOOLS

Beading needle
Scissors
Skewer or coffee stirrer for armature
Beading mat
Task lamp

Approach African Helix stitch with a sense of adventure, altering the number of stitches per round and mixing the bead sizes within stitches and rounds. Incorporate dagger beads into one stitch of each round for a few inches. Continue with matte desert colored beads to add an additional twisting two feet of beadwork. To the last few inches of beadwork, introduce the sparkle of an oasis among the desert beads using drops and fire-polished "crystals." Cause the beadwork to undulate by embellishing it just so. Wear the finished lariat by crossing and twining it as pictured or twining the ends together, bolo style.

Begin by tying the first round of beads onto the armature as follows:

Start: Pick up 3P, 1L, 1D, 1L, 4P, 3M, and 1P; tie a knot to form a ring, leaving an 8" tail (Fig. 1). Slip the ring onto the armature (it will be loose for a round or two).

Arrange the armature for your handedness as follows:

Righties should work counter-clockwise, to the right. Lefties should work clockwise to the left. Notice that the knot is between Ps. Hold the armature so that the 3P is to the side of the knot in the direction of your handedness. If it is not, simply flip the armature upside down and see that now it is correct.

Note: You may find it useful to tape the tails to the armature.

This is African Helix using only two stitches per round. One stitch is PLDLP and the other is P3SP and they are separated by piping that is made by adding 2P per stitch, and anchoring the new beads of each stitch to the thread just BEFORE the piping beads.

Begin stitching/weaving, using the daggers, as follows:

First Stitch: Pick up 1P, 1L, 1D, 1L, and 1P; pass the needle up under the thread between the first and second Ps (Fig. 2).

Second Stitch: Pick up 1P, 3M, and 3P; pass up under the thread between the first and second Ps (Fig. 3).

Repeat these two stitches until you run out of daggers. Continue stitching with 3L in place of the 1L, 1D, and 1L, for the desired length (about 24").

Tip: When adding new thread, do not be tempted to add it through the piping beads. This may cause the beadwork to warp or curve. Instead, pass through a few beads of piping, to exit the top round. Make a half hitch knot. Now pass into the first bead of the last stitch (P). Make a half hitch knot. Pass through another bead of that stitch (an L or M). Make a half hitch knot. Pass through the next bead of that

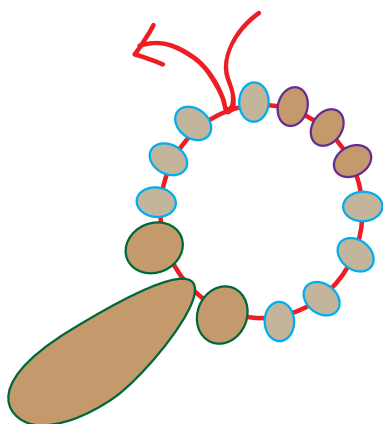
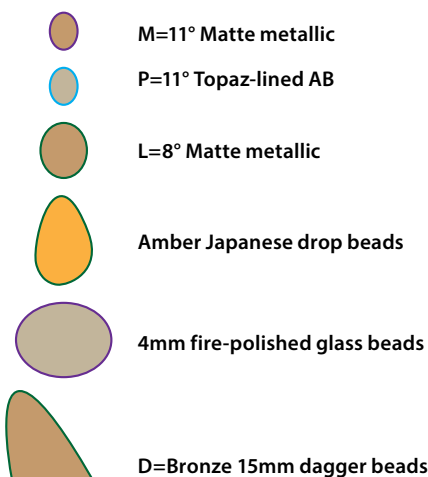


Fig. 1

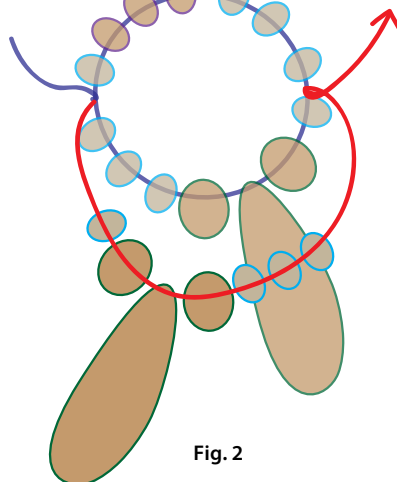


Fig. 2

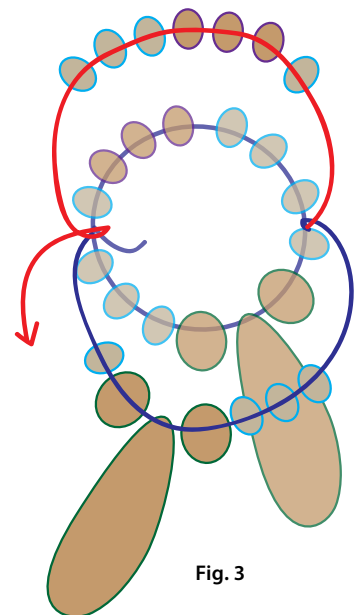


Fig. 3

stitch (an L or M). Make a half hitch knot. Pass through the next bead of the stitch (an L or M). Make a half hitch knot. Pass through the next bead of the stitch (P). Now your thread is in position as though it just passed under the thread before the piping. Pick up the beads for the next stitch and continue on your merry way.

2) EMBELLISH. Pass back through a single piping bead. Pick up 1M, 1 firepolish, 1 drop, 1 firepolish, and 1M; pass through 2 piping beads on the opposite edge, allowing the new beads to settle in the ditch between rows. Pass through 2 piping beads on this edge (always exiting between the 2 piping beads of a pair). Repeat, crossing back and forth across the L-bead stitches and always

exiting between the 2 piping beads of each pair, until all 50 sets of embellishment are added. Secure the thread and trim (Fig. 4).

Magnetic closure option: On a separate yard of thread, pick up 30M and a loop of the magnet closure. Pass back through all 30 M and the other loop of the magnetic closure. Pass back through all 30M. Pick up 3 drops. Pass back through the loop. Pick up 3 drops and pass back through the loop and all 30M. Pick up 3 drops and pass through the loop. Pick up 3 drops and pass back through the loop and all M beads. Make several half hitch knots with thread and tail before cutting them close and carefully. Wear this little open/close-able ring around the entwined portion of the lariat if you are going to be real active while wearing it.

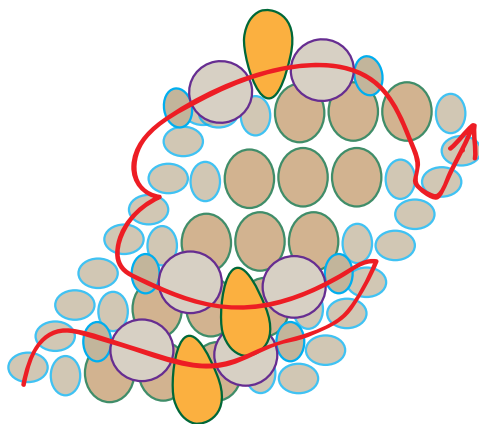


Fig. 4

