


Linked Ladder Rings

Dustin Wedekind

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I began this chain by working single ladder-stitched rings in different colors. After settling on gold and silver rings, I knew it was just a matter of time before I created a chain by linking them together. The carabiner that is used as a clasp is disguised under taped beads in contrasting hues.

Materials

5 g 24k gold size 15° seed beads
10 g dark silver electroplate size 15° seed beads (B)
10 g shiny and matte burgundy size 15° seed beads
15 g steel blue matte metallic iris size 11° seed beads (A)
15 g matte gold iris size 11° seed beads
2" aluminum carabiner
Size B beading thread
1' of ¼" Terrifically Tacky Tape

Tools

Size 12 beading needle
Scissors

FINISHED SIZE 26"

LINKS

1: Use 5' of thread to string 4A; pass through them again, leaving a 6" tail. Pass through the first 2A to form two 2-bead stacks. String 2A and pass through the 2A last passed through and through the 2A just strung. Repeat to make a ladder of sixteen 2-bead stacks.

2: String 2B and pass through the previous stack. Repeat for the length of the ladder, placing 2B between every other stack on each side of the ladder (Figure 1).

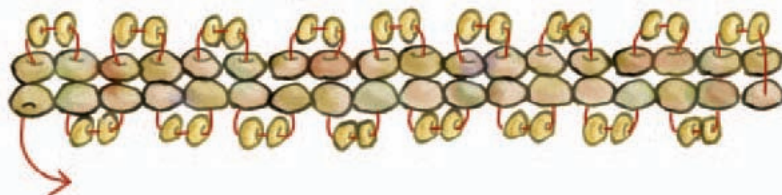


Figure 1

3: Repeat Step 2 so that you have 2B between every stack. (Figure 2).

4: Connect the ends of the ladder to form a ring by passing through the first and last stacks and pull tight. String 2B, pass through the ladder, then string 2B and pass through again to place 2B between the first and last stacks on each side of the ladder.

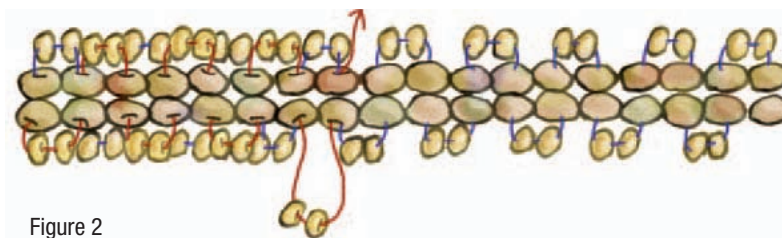


Figure 2

5: Pass through all the B around the ring several times, then pass through the ladder and pass through the B on the other side of the ring. Put a needle on the tail thread and pass through a few beads; trim close.

Repeat Steps 1–5 to make forty rings, alternating gold and silver for each ring and connecting each ring to a previous ring at Step 4.

CLASP

6: Wrap tape around the clasp bar of the carabiner. Use 6' of thread to string a tension bead, leaving a 12" tail. String about 1" of size 15°, then stick them to the tape around the top of the bar. Continue to wrap the bar with strands of



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beads, alternating size 15's and 11's (Figure 3a). When you reach the hinge, work tubular square stitch for about 3 rounds to cover it (Figure 3b); secure the thread and trim. Use the tail thread to work a couple rows of square stitch to cover the back of the bar behind the latch (Figure 3c). Cover the rest of the carabiner with tape and beads, working small sections at a time. Work a couple rows of square stitch to form a flap of beads to cover the front of the latch (Figure 3d).

7. Circle fringe. Use 2' of thread to string 24 size 15's. Pass through all beads again to form a circle and tie a knot. Pass through 1 bead; string 6 size 15's. String 12 size 11's and pass through them all again to form a circle, then pass through a few more beads; string 6 size 15's. Repeat twice, increasing the number of beads in each circle. String 24 size 11's, pass through the beads to form a circle and tie a knot (Figure 4). ♦

RESOURCES

Check your local bead shop or contact: Seed beads:
Beyond Beadery, (303) 258-9389, www.beyondbeadery.com. Carabiner: hardware or sports store.

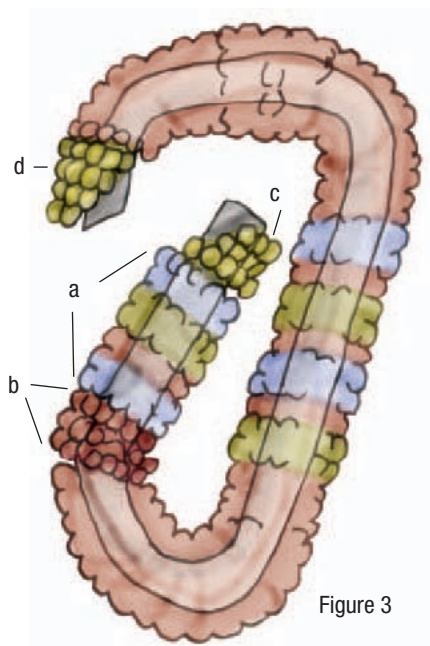


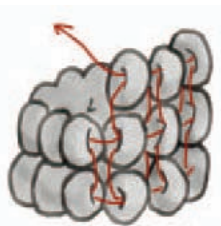
Figure 3



Figure 4

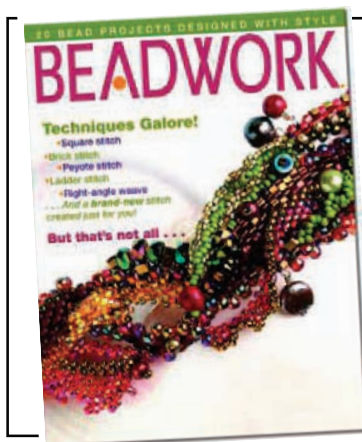
Tubular Square Stitch

String the first round of beads and pass through them again to form a circle. Start a new round by stringing 1 bead; pass through the last bead of the first round and through the bead just strung. Repeat all around, passing through the next bead of the previous round for each new bead strung. At the end of the round, pass through the whole round again to tighten the beads.



Ladder Stitch

For *single-needle ladder stitch*, string 2 beads and pass through them again. String 1 bead. Pass through the last stitched bead and the one just strung. Repeat, adding 1 bead at a time and working in a figure-eight pattern. Use this stitch to make strings of beads or as the foundation for brick and herringbone stitches.



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