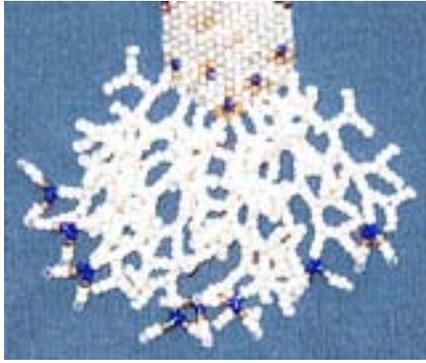


Making Branched Fringe



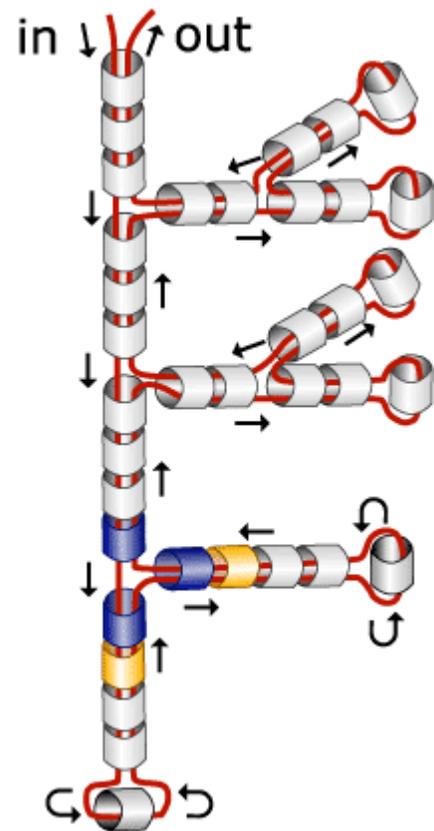
Branched fringe is one way to add character to any piece. I've used it myself or seen it used for such varied things as necklace embellishment, lions' manes, peacocks' tail feathers, and Santas' beards, so it is a very handy technique to know. Beaded short, it can add a subtle frill. Beaded long, it can make a riot of fluff.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at cpedrick@silverhilldesign.com.

Happy Beading!
Carolyn

To make branched fringe:

1. Anchor a new thread in your beadwork, exiting through one of the beads where you want the fringe to start.
2. String on the number of beads needed for the main stem of your fringe strand. For the fringe illustrated at right, I used 12 white seed beads, 2 blue beads, and one gold bead. Loop around the last bead and come back up through the last several beads as shown in the diagram.
3. String on the five beads needed for the first side branch. In this example, that would be one blue bead, one gold bead, and three white beads. Then loop around the last bead, go back through the beads you just added, and continue up the main strand for several more beads. This will make a little fringe strand to one side of your main strand.
4. String on five more beads. Loop back around the last one and through the next two. String on three more beads. Loop around the last one and go back through the two before it - the last two on the five-bead strand - and up the next three on the main strand. This will make a little "embellished" fringe to one side of your main strand.
5. Repeat step 4, above, until you reach the top of your main strand. Run your needle through the beads in the body of the piece and come out the appropriate bead for your next fringe strand. Repeat from step 1.



There are lots of variations possible that will affect the look of your final fringe: variations in how many beads you add each time, how often you exit a strand to make a new branch, whether you add branches to your branches... You can make it longer, shorter, fluffier or plainer. Let your creativity dictate where you go. See what happens when you change colors in the strand. Try making the main strand a solid color and tip your side branches with a different color. Experiment. Have fun!