

Making a Spiral Rope

Spiral rope makes a nice cord to use for friendship bracelets, for neck ropes to embellish with various woven bead enhancers, or for straps for small bags. It is reasonably strong because the thread goes through the beads several times, and by carefully selecting colors, you can make lovely ropes to coordinate with other beaded pieces.

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

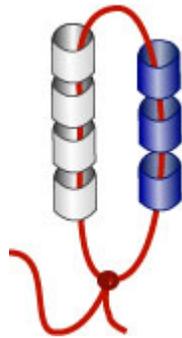
Happy Beading!
Carolyn



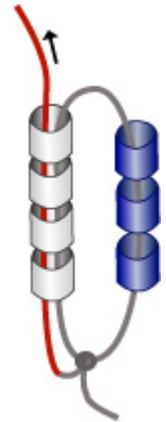
Spiral rope shown used as a strap with my "Enchanted Evening Bag" pattern.

To bead a Spiral rope:

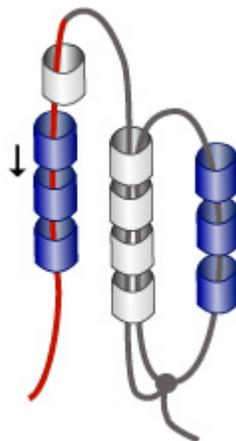
1. String on 4 beads in the color that you want to use for the inside (core) of the spiral, and three beads of the color you want to use to spiral around the outside of that core.



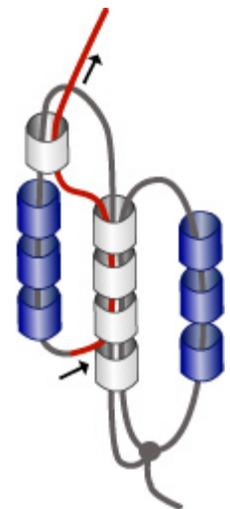
2. Bring the thread back up through the four inside beads.



3. String on one more inside colored bead and three more outside colored beads.

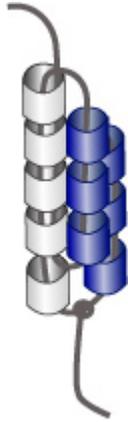


4. Go back up through the top three beads of the inside color and then through the additional inside colored bead that you added in Step 3.

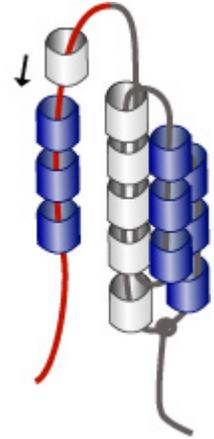


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5. Draw your thread up and swing the new beads into line with the first set. The outside color beads will offset slightly up from the first outside beads you strung.



6. Repeat from Step 3, adding a new inside color bead and three new outside color beads, as many times as required to make the length you need.



There are lots of variations possible. For example, using a combination of Delica (cylinder) beads for the inside and seed beads for the outside gives a softer effect to the outside spiral while having the inside looking close to a single line. Or experiment with using a different size bead on the outside than on the inside (which will make your cord wave). Try making the inside beads a single color, but use a variety of colors for the outside spiral beads. Or add dagger beads here and there on the outside. Experiment. Have fun!