

Braided Cube Bracelet

Designed by Lou Musante

Combine basic stringing with a little braiding know-how to create this bright bracelet! It's one of more than 35 beautiful beading projects in our new "teach yourself" book, *The Passionate Beader's Guide*.

Inspiration

Constantly exposed to my wife's obsession with beads and jewelry making, I experimented with Japanese cord braiding. This bracelet is the result of my taking that experiment and combining it with cube beads to create a beaded bracelet.

Tip

The length of the braided section is determined by your desired overall length. The additional beads and clasp add approximately 1½ inches to the bracelet length, so plan the braided length accordingly.

Dimensions

7½-inch-long bracelet

Materials

- 36 inches of .014 stringing cord
- 1 clasp of choice
- 2 crimp tubes
- 1 round crimp bead
- 250 Japanese cube beads—assorted colors

Additional Supplies

Basic beading supplies, clear tape, small vise (or small squeeze clamp)



Instructions

1. Cut the stringing cord into three 12-inch lengths. Fold a piece of tape around each cord about $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 inches from the end to act as a bead stop (**Fig. 1**). Add $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches of cube beads on each cord. After stringing the beads, fold another piece of tape around the opposite end of each cord to retain beads (**Fig. 2**).
2. To attach the clasp, thread all three cords through three cube beads, one crimp tube, one end of the clasp, and back through the crimp tube (**Fig. 3**). Pull cords tight around clasp, slide crimp tube within about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch of clasp, and squeeze with the crimping pliers. Use the wire cutters to cut off the excess wire and tuck ends into the first few beads. Remove the tape squares from the completed end of the bracelet.
3. Anchor the completed bracelet end from step 2 in the vise or squeeze clamp (**Fig. 4**). Beginning with one strand, slide the tape from the opposite end up the strand to eliminate all excess space between beads. Secure tape at this point. Repeat for each wire.
4. Begin basic three-strand braiding and continue until approximately 6 inches of beads are braided. After you've created 6 inches of braiding, check to see if the three cords have extra beads. Note the number of beads that need to be removed if necessary, then unbraid the bracelet and remove the extra beads. Replace the tape, take up the slack, and re-braid the bracelet. **Note:** This is much easier than removing beads while trying to maintain the braiding tension.
5. After braiding is complete, thread the three cords through the round crimp bead and slide the crimp tight against the beads. When all slack has been eliminated, crimp with the crimping pliers (**Fig. 5**). **Note:** This extra crimp maintains the braid's tension while adding the remaining three beads and clasp.
6. String three cube beads onto all three cords as in step 2. Add the crimp tube and pass the three cords around the clasp end and back through the crimp tube (**Fig. 6**). Pull the wires tight against the clasp and crimp the crimp tube.

TOOLS

Crimping Pliers



Wire Cutters



Techniques and Skills Learned:

- Stringing
- Crimping
- Beaded strand braiding



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

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Project is from Leisure Arts Book #4329, *The Passionate Beader's Guide*. Produced by the editors of *BeadUnique* magazine, this 128-page beginner's book includes more than 35 fresh and fun projects—from trendy jewelry and fashion accessories to bead art and beaded home décor. Editor Pamela Hawkins says it is "the result of our passion for all things beads, our desire to provide fun and inspiring projects to fit every aspect of your life, and our wish to educate you about the essential tools and techniques that will help build the backbone of your beading skills."