"Lotus Flower" Beaded Beads

Pattern by Laura Cole; (inspired by Sandie Bachand's "Rizo Florets")

Laura's Beads and jewelry boutique

Material for One Beaded Bead:

First calculate how many beaded beads you would like to make for your project, and then multiply the counts below to come up with your complete material list. You will also need to select beads for stringing in between your beaded beads, plus flexible beading wire, crimps, and a clasp for finishing.

- 21 Long Magatama beads
- 1 gram of size 11 seed beads
- 14 size 3mm round beads
- 1 size 6mm round bead for inside bead

Stitching the Beaded Beads

Start with 1 yard of fireline.

1. Pick up a 6mm, 11, 3 magatamas, 11 and slide them down until you have a 9″ tail. **Important: when you pick up the magatamas, pick them up by putting your needle into the side of the magatama where the hole is closer to the center of the bead instead of the side where the hole is closest to the end of the bead (see photo).**

2. Tie them in a circle and sew through the 6mm.

3. Pick up an 11, 3 magatamas, 11 and sew through the 6mm again.

Push the new loop around to the back of the 6mm to make room for more. Repeat until you have a total of 7 loops around your 6mm.

4. Sew though the nearest 11 with your needle pointed away from the center of your beaded bead.

Working around the circle, continue sewing through each 11 with your needle pointed away from the center of the beaded bead so that they form a ring. Sew through all the 11s again to reinforce the ring.

5. Put a needle on your tail and repeat Step 4 on the bottom of your flower, then end your tail.

6. On your working thread, sew down through the nearest stack of 3 magatamas.

Pick up a 3mm round and sew up through the next stack of 3 magatamas. Pick up a 3mm round and pass down through the next stack of 3 magatamas. Repeat this process until you have added seven 3mm beads on each side of the beaded bead. You will end up on the bottom of your flower.

7. Sew through the circle of 3mm rounds to reinforce. Sew up through the nearest stack of 3 magatamas and repeat on the top of your flower.

8. Exiting a 3mm, pick up three 11s and sew through the 3mm your thread is exiting and the next 3mm in your circle.

9. Pick up two 11s and sew down through the first 11 added in the previous step, the 3mm just exited and the next 3mm in the circle.

Repeat 4 times. You should be exiting the 3mm right before the one where your first set of 11s were added.

10. Sew up through the closest 11.

Pick up one 11 and sew down through the first 11 added in the previous step. Continue circling around through the 3mm and next two 11s so that you are exiting the 11 just added (the one on top).

11. Sew through the middle 11 of each of the picots that you just created to close the top ring of your flower. End your working thread.

Completing your Piece

I recommend using your 3mm and 6mm round beads to put on either side of the beaded beads when you string them; they fit very well.