

Ray of Sun Pendant

by Laura Cole



Version 1: "Sun"



Version 2: "Flower"

Materials:

- 12 spike beads, 15x13mm
- 12 cube beads, size 4
- 12 cube beads, size 3
- Approx 1 gram each of seed beads in sizes 8, 11, and 15
- 1 size 8mm round for center
- 6lb fireline, beading needle, mat & scissors

Steps

1. On 3 yards of fireline, pick up one 8mm round and slide it down until you have a 4" tail. Then pick up a 15 and 11 five times, then one more 15, and pass through the 8mm again.
2. Pick up a 15 and 11 five times, then one more 15, and pass through the 8mm again.
3. Pass through the first series of 15s and 11s again, then pick up one 11 and pass through the second series of 15s and 11s. Pick up one 11 and go through the next two beads so that you are exiting an 11. If your tension is loose just tug on the tail to tighten it up. Reinforce the circle.
4. Pick up one 3 mm cube and pass through the 11 your thread was exiting at the beginning of this step, the next 15 and 11. Repeat all the way around to add a total of 12 cubes. They will be very loose at this point! Step up by turning your work over to reverse direction and go into the first cube added.
5. Pick up an 11 and pass through the next cube. Repeat all the way around to fill in all the gaps. This will tighten up your cubes but don't pull them so tight that the piece buckles. Reinforce the circle. End by coming out a cube.
6. Pick up a 4 mm cube and pass through the 3mm cube your thread was exiting at the beginning of this step plus the next 11 and cube. Repeat all the way around to add a total of

12 cubes. Snug each 4mm cube up to the adjacent 3mm cube as you go. Step up by turning your work over to reverse direction and go into the first cube added in this round.

7. Pick up a size 8 seed bead and pass through the next cube. Repeat all the way around to fill in all the gaps. This will tighten up your cubes but don't pull them so tight that the piece buckles. Reinforce the circle. End by coming out a cube.
8. Pick up a spike and pass through the 4mm cube your thread was exiting at the beginning of this step plus the next 8 and cube. Repeat all the way around to add a total of 12 spikes. Snug the bottom of each spike up to the adjacent 4mm cube as you go. Step up by turning your work over to reverse direction and go into the first spike added in this round.
9. Pick up a 15, 11, 15 and pass through the next spike. Repeat all the way around to fill in all the gaps. This will tighten up your spikes but don't pull them so tight that the piece buckles. End by coming out the first 11 added in this step.
10. Pick up two 11s and pass through the adjacent size 8 seed bead. Pass back through the two 11s just added. Pass through the 11 you were coming out of at the beginning of this step and continue through the beads from the previous round until you are coming out the next 11. Repeat all the way around the pendant. End coming out an 11.
11. This step can be done two different ways:
 - a. To make the version of the pendant that looks more like a sun: Turn pendant over and repeat step 10 on the back side. This will give your pendant a 3-dimensional effect and more stability. End coming out a spike.
 - b. To make a version of the pendant that looks more like a flower: Pick up 7 size 15 seed beads and go through the next 11 in the outer circle. The 15s will wrap over the top of the base of the spike. Continue all the way around the pendant and then weave so you are ending coming out a spike.
12. Pick up enough 11s to make a loop that will be your bail. I used fifteen 11s to make a loop just big enough to fit around a Russian spiral. If you are going to wear your pendant on a thin chain or ribbon, you will probably want to make it smaller. Sew through the 3mm cube adjacent to the spike you are coming out of. Pick up the same amount of 11s again and sew through the spike again so that your bail has two sides. Reinforce, then weave in and end your threads.

If you would like your finished piece to be stiff and hold its form better, simply dip it in floor wax. Make sure you have a clear, acrylic floor wax like Pledge/Future. Dip your piece in for just a moment, take it out and set it on a piece of wax paper or cardboard; something that it can't leak through. Pat off excess wax with a paper towel and make sure piece is formed exactly the way you would like it to stiffen. Particularly watch to make sure your bail is in a wide open position. Let dry overnight. You may have to repeat after a number of wearings.