

Switchback Chain

Designed by
Diane Fitzgerald



Inspiration:

My husband named this chain "Switchback," because it reminded him of the steep mountain road we took to visit Machu Picchu, the famed ruins in Peru. The bracelet is shown here with three "stacks" of beads across, but you can make yours wider if you wish. You can also substitute many kinds of beads for the oval beads shown.

Materials:

- **A beads:** 15g of size 11/0 seed beads or size 10 triangle beads
- **B beads:** 60 4mm x 7mm oval or bicone beads*

- 100 Small drop beads**
- Nymo D Thread
- 2 Snaps for closure, (buttons and loops may also be used)
- Beeswax

Additional Supplies:

- Basic beading supplies, needle, ruler, scissors

Time to complete project:
an evening

Dimensions: Approximately 8 in.

Key:

A beads = seed or triangle beads;
B beads = oval or bicone beads
Intermediate project

*For the "B" beads, you may also use rice beads, bicone beads, stone chips, freshwater pearls (be sure you can go through the pearl twice with a double thread), or almost any other bead or groups of beads that you wish. Not recommended: bugles, crystals, or

other beads with sharp edges.

**For the drop beads on the edge where you turn the row, you may also use magatamas, "Tiny Tims," daggers, or fringe beads.

Instructions:

Beginning Row

1. Thread needle with 2½ yds. of Nymo D, bring ends together, and pull across wax. String on one A bead, one B bead, and one A bead (Fig. 1).

Go back through the B bead in the opposite direction of your last pass (down). Tie thread to tail. (See arrow in Fig. 2.) Go through the first A bead from the side the tail is on (left to right). Your threads will cross inside the bead. This is important because it makes the stack of beads sit directly on top of the A bead rather than off to one side.



Fig. 1

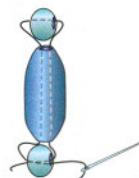


Fig. 2

2. *Add three A beads, one B bead, and one A bead. Go back through the B bead in the direction opposite your last pass (down) and left to right through the last A bead.* Repeat Step 2 (from * to *)

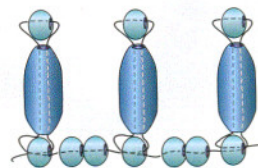


Fig. 3

once more. You should have three "stacks" sitting on top of a row of seven A beads (Fig. 3).

3. Add one A bead and one drop bead five times, and then add one A bead. Go through the A bead at the top of the last stack from right to left (Fig. 4). The first row is now complete.

Remaining Rows

4. *Add a stack of one B bead and one A bead; come back through the B bead. Go through the A bead from the stack below from right to left.

Add two A beads and go through the A bead at the top of the next stack (Fig. 5). * Repeat from * to * two more times except after adding the final stack, do not add the two A beads (Fig. 6).

5. After the last stack is added, add one A bead and one drop bead five times, then add one A bead and go into the A bead at the top of the last stack from left to right.

6. At the end of each row, turn work so needle is exiting on the right side and repeat Step 4 to the desired length. When the piece is long

enough to wrap around your wrist, connect the last row of stacks without adding new stacks (by stringing two A beads between each stack).

Finishing

7. To create a base on which to sew snaps for a closure, add a square stitch to each end. Extend the beginning and end rows with three rows of square stitch using seed beads as shown in Fig. 7 and 8.

8. Using the needle and thread, affix the snaps to the bracelet ends, making sure to line up the halves

of each pair. Buttons may also be sewn to one end and loops of beads to the other end in place of snaps.

For questions concerning this project, contact designer Diane Fitzgerald of Minneapolis, MN. Email: dmfbeads@bitstream.net Website: www.dianefitzgerald.com

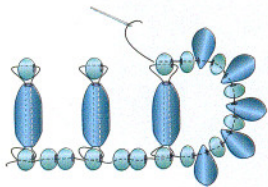


Fig. 4

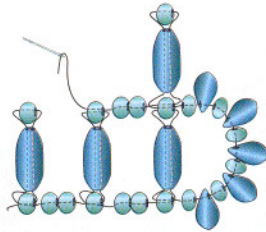


Fig. 5

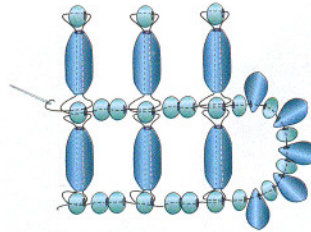


Fig. 6

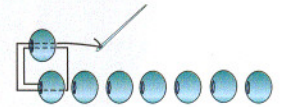


Fig. 7 Add first bead to existing row.

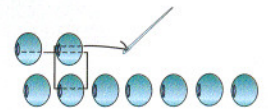


Fig. 8. Add second bead and continue.

Color Palette: The metallic neutral tones of the project bracelet are great for everyday wear. See how these different bead shapes and color combinations change the style of the bracelet, ranging from bright-colored fun to sophisticated sparkle!

