

# Magatama Embellished Spiral

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*A simple and beautiful way to use 3mm magatamas is to incorporate them into an embellished spiral rope.  
Contained within are the step by step directions for making this striking rope  
which works well as both a necklace or a bracelet.*



## Materials (to make an 18-20" rope)

- 11° Japanese seed beads (about 6 grams each of 2 different colors A ■ and B ■)
- 15° Japanese seed beads (about 8 grams of one color C ■ and 4 grams of a different color D ■)
- 3mm Magatamas (about 10 grams)
- End beads (at least two – one for either end of the spiral)
- 4mm beads (two – for holding the button in place when attached)
- New or Antique button (for the closure)

## Notions:

- Nymo Size D or Fireline
- Size 12 English beading needles

## Tools:

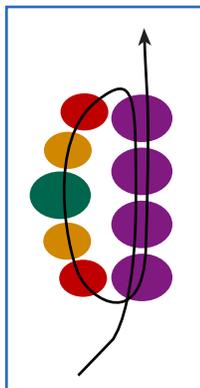
- Microcrystalline or beeswax
- Scissors (to cut fireline)

## Step One: Weaving the Spiral Rope

Spiral is a basic stitch, which consists of a basic start stitch and a repeating spiral stitch.

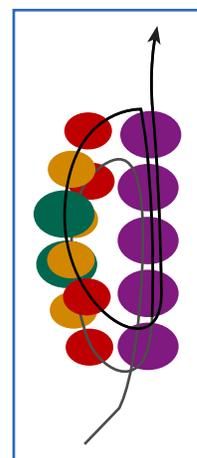
### Start Stitch:

To begin, pick up four size 11°s (color A ■), two 15°s (one color C ■ and one color D ■), one more 11° (color B ■) and two more 15°s (one color D ■ and once color C ■). Circle around and go through the four A (■) colored 11°s to form a circle of beads, with the tail thread coming out the bottom and the working thread coming out the top.



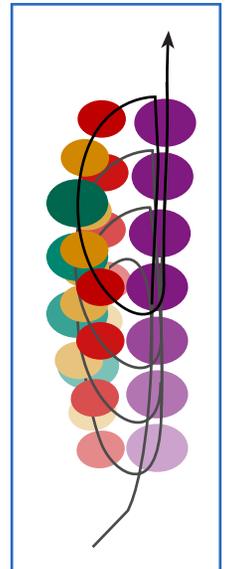
It is essential to hold the spiral in the right orientation for it to spiral correctly. Always hold the core beads (the A colored 11°s) to the right and the outer sequence of beads (the two 15°s, one 11° and two 15°s) to the left.

## Spiral Stitch:

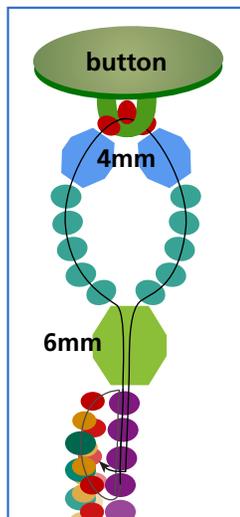


Every stitch from here on out will be exactly the same. Pick up one core colored bead (A colored 11° ■), then the outer sequence of beads (one C 15° ■, one D 15° ■, one B 11° ■, one D 15° ■ and one C 15° ■). Slide the new additions down to the base, count back four

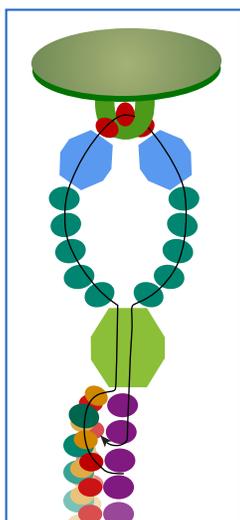
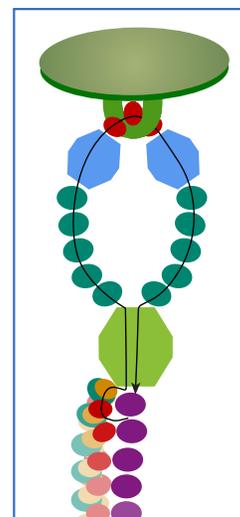
core beads, and come up through these four beads (three from the previous stitch and one from the new additions). Flip this newly formed loop over to the left and repeat the spiral stitch again and again.



Using the tail thread at the end of your spiral rope, pick up one "end bead" (a 6mm Czech glass bead works great). Then thread up 5-7 size 11° seed beads, a 4mm bead ■, and three 15°s. Now slide on the button, so the shank slides up and over the 15°s. Now thread up another 4mm bead (to keep the button from sliding around), and 5-7 more 11°s. Now come back down through the end bead, and through 3 of the core beads in the spiral rope.

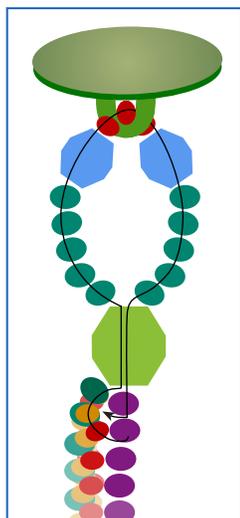


Now go back down through the end bead again, and this time go down through 1 of the core beads in the spiral rope. Turn around and pick up the outer sequence of beads minus three (C 15°, and D 15°) and go back up through the end bead and around the 11°s, 4mm bead, 15°s (with button on them), 4mm bead, and 11°s. After this final reinforcement, go back through the end bead one last time, and weave off the tail, by half hitching several times in the outer beads.



Turn around and pick up the outer sequence of beads minus one (C 15°, D 15°, B 11°, and D 15°), and go back up through the end bead and around the 11°s, 4mm bead, 15°s (with button on them), 4mm bead, and 11°s to help reinforce the clasp attachment. Now go back down through the end bead again, and this time go down through 2 of the core beads in the spiral rope.

Turn around and pick up the outer sequence of beads minus two (C 15°, D 15°, and B 11°), and go back up through the end bead and around the 11°s, 4mm bead, 15°s (with button on them), 4mm bead, and 11°s, again, to help reinforce the clasp attachment.



The loop end of the clasp is created in very much the same manner at the other end of the necklace. String up an end bead and then a strand of 11°s or 15°s that fit comfortably around the button. You can fancy this strand up by incorporating smaller pearls or glass beads. Attach in the same manner as with the button, tapering off the spiral and reinforcing the loop simultaneously.

## Step 4: Embellishing the Spiral With Magatamas

The Magatama embellishments are the final step in creating this spiral. Using a new thread, weave into the spiral base and come up out of the first core bead, so you thread is situated between the first and second core bead. Pick up three 15°s, a magatama, and three more 15°s, and go into the next core bead. Continue in this manner, embellishing between every core beads. The magatama embellishments will spiral around the central core of the beaded rope.

