



# INTRODUCTION

## MATERIALS

When I was growing up in Russia, there was an almost complete lack of goods—I learned to make the best of what I had available. It is definitely possible to create beautiful beadwork without the most expensive materials, so while experienced beaders will know all about available beading supplies, a beginning beader should not invest too much money at first. All you need is a very thin needle and a silk thread, which you can probably find around the house. If you do choose to buy them, I suggest Nymo thread, size B, and size 12 or 13 needles. Any inexpensive, size 11 beads will work well for all the projects in this book. Personally, I use Czech glass seed beads for most of my projects, although for some necklaces I use Japanese seed beads. They are better than the Czech beads, but definitely inferior to Delicas. The Czech beads available to me are not very uniform, but the Coraling technique is very forgiving—this is why I suggest using inexpensive beads while practicing.

## USEFUL TIPS

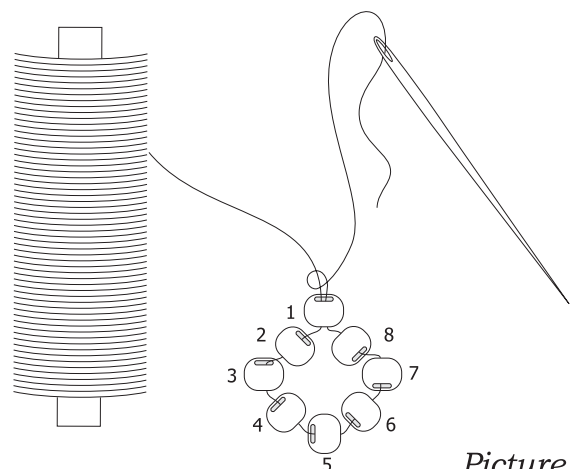
A Chevron chain serves as the base for many of the necklaces in this book, so I will describe how to create one, in detail. I'll also share some useful tips, which can be applied to many beading projects.

When working on a necklace, it is always an inconvenience to attach a new thread. I have developed a technique, which allows you to have fewer knots in your beadwork. If you are a beginner, I recommend working with shorter thread—no longer than five feet. This will reduce the chance of the thread getting tangled. After you have gained some experience, you can use thread it is eight feet long, or even longer.

First, thread the needle, and unwind the necessary length. Don't cut the thread from the spindle. The start of the thread will become the center of the necklace.

Begin by stringing eight beads, and then pass the needle up through the first bead. *Picture 1* illustrates this.

You don't need to make a stop bead, or secure the end of the thread in any other way. Simply make a knot around

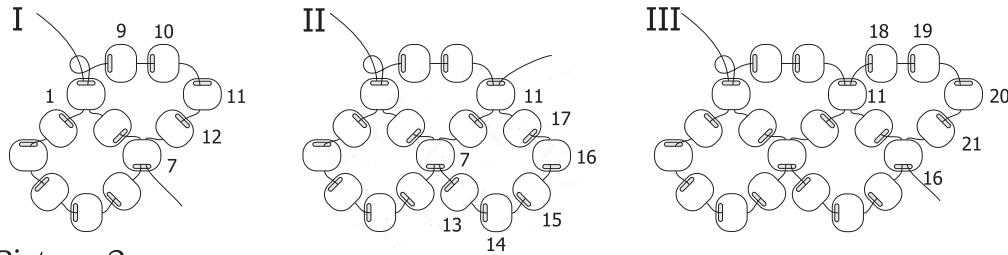


*Picture 1*



the thread, as shown in *Picture 1*.

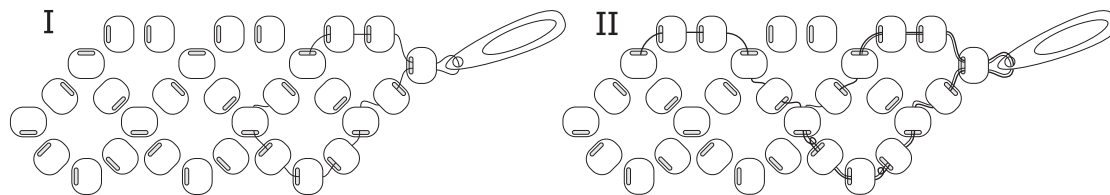
String four beads, and pass the needle down through the seventh bead. Then string five beads, and pass the needle up through the eleventh bead. Finally, string four more beads, and pass the needle down through the sixteenth bead. See *Picture 2* below. Continue beading, following the same pattern.



*Picture 2*

When you reach half of the necklace's length, attach a clasp. Make sure to pass through the clasp three times, for strength. Before cutting off the thread, secure the end. Make a loop around the existing thread, between two beads, and pass the needle through this loop to form a knot. Pass through several more beads, and make another knot. Repeat this five to ten times before cutting the thread off.

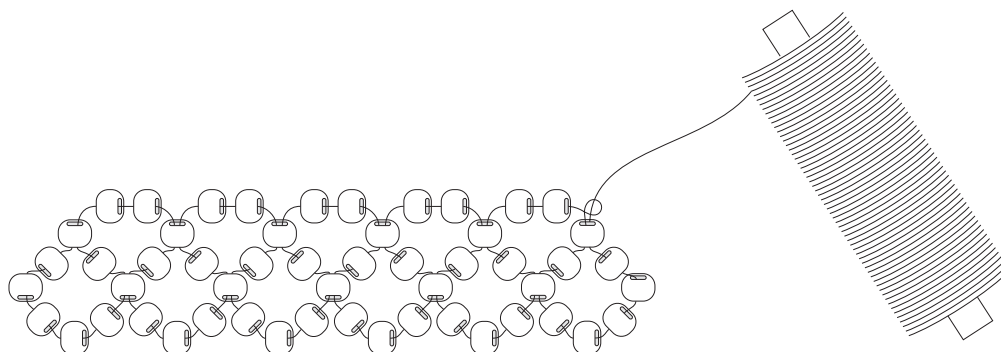
Now, go back to the starting point, and turn the beadwork over. Unwind the necessary length from the spindle and cut the thread off.



*Picture 3*

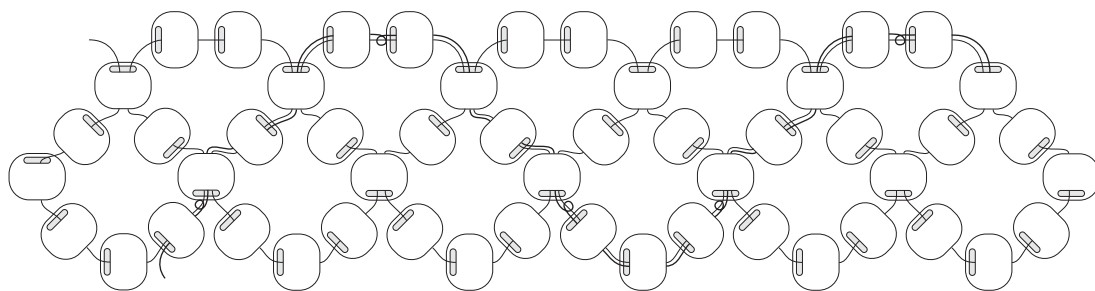
Thread the needle and start beading the second half of the necklace, in exactly the same way as the first.

This trick will reduce the number of knots, but it is unfortunately impossible to avoid them entirely, especially when working on a big project.



*Picture 4*

Here is how I add a new thread. To finish off the old thread, there should be a comfortable length of thread to work with—don't wait until the last moment. When the thread has about seven inches left, start weaving the old thread back into your beadwork, as shown in *Picture 5*.

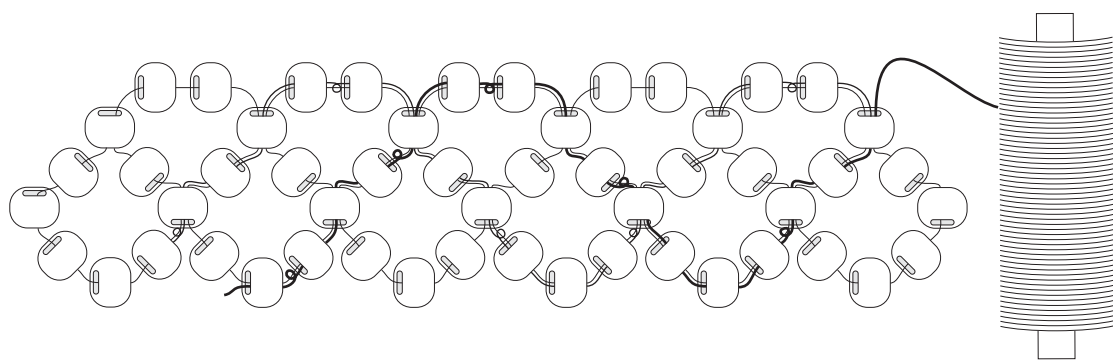


*Picture 5*

Tie a knot after passing every three or four beads. After making several knots, cut the thread off, as close to the beadwork as possible.

To add a new thread, unwind about eight inches and thread the needle, without cutting the thread off the spindle. Starting from the last bead, weave it in, making a knot after every three or four beads, as shown in *Picture 6*. Be careful not to use the same path used to end the old thread. After making five to ten knots, cut the thread off.

Unwind the necessary length from the spindle, thread the needle and continue your work.



*Picture 6*