



Step by Step Beads welcomes project submissions for beginner and intermediate skill levels which teach beginner beaders how to expand their range of skills, which includes stitching and weaving beads, stringing, macramé, basic wire techniques, and others. We invite submissions from any talented artisans whether amateur, student or professional. Surprise us with new designs using basic techniques, used to create beaded beads or any form of beaded jewelry, elements, focal pieces, or closures! We require initial submission of jpegs for proposed submissions, and will request actual pieces be sent for further consideration.

Beadmaking projects in other mediums such as polymer, metal clay, or glass will occasionally be considered for our web site, in conjunction with a print project using those beads. Contributors are paid for both print and web publication.

We also welcome proposals from individual artists who wish to be featured in an artist Showcase (please email the editors for details on requirements for this), beader travel guides for major cities, technique-related and design revelations, studio tips, sales and marketing guidance for bead artists, new products, and anything else which may present a good basis for a visual display.

CONTRIBUTOR GUIDELINES:

DO look at current issues of Step By Step Beads. Technical language in published issues can be picked up verbatim to use in your project as applicable.

Do **NOT** use abbreviations such as “pbt” for “pass back through” or PU for “pick up.” Please spell out all wording.

DO write in complete, grammatically correct sentences. (Sew through **THE** first bead again, not sew through first bead again.)

DO number all steps for the entire project sequentially from start to finish; section subheads such as “forming the band” or “clasp” are fine, but do **NOT** begin again for each section with “1.”

DO use 12 point Times Roman. Do **NOT** format your text with bold, italic or varied fonts, or insert tables within text; charts, tables or graphs should be supplied separately.

Think of projects as a series of photos or illustrations with captions. For each critical step in a project, take a photo or draw a diagram, then write down what is being illustrated. Assumption of basic skills do not need photos. For instance, projects may state in introductory text, "Familiarity with even count peyote required." We have sidebars to serve this purpose.

Illustrations for Seed Bead Projects

Seed bead projects usually have diagrams instead of photos. Your art will not be used as published final art. Illustrations can be digital or hand drawn, as long as they are clear enough for our illustrator to redraw. All beads in artwork should be numbered and referenced in the text: I.e.: Pick up bead 5, sew through bead 6. Illustrations, charts or diagrams must be labeled as FIG.1, FIG.2, with those numbers noted in the appropriate place within your text. For example, "Pick up the next 3 beads (beads 6, 7, and 8) and continue in peyote. FIG 1." Hand-drawn art should be supplied as hard copy if not scanned onto the disk.

Photographing Steps For Projects

We do not use your photos as our "art" shots; we have a pro here to shoot your work.

We DO use your stepped out instructional shots. Make your proposed piece, and have someone take HIGH RESOLUTION digital, step-by-step photos as you do it. Use a tripod or prop the camera on a level, stable surface. Use the timer shutter release to further reduce the juggle that can cause blurriness. Again, look at samples from back issues to see how close and detailed we need the images to be. (Imagine holding a magnifying glass up to your work.) Photos must be AT LEAST 3" wide at 300 dpi. Use the macro feature whenever appropriate. Lay work being shot on a flat, plain light colored surface or piece of paper. Do NOT show fingers or hands if possible, but if needed, please have well groomed nails and fingers.

Send us your step shots on a disk as jpegs (AT LEAST 3" wide at 300 dpi) and your text as a Word document on a disk, along with a hard copy of your printed text. Be sure to mark your photos and text with call-outs (Fig 1, etc.) so we know which steps go with which pictures!

Tip!

Jot down instructions as you make your piece for the most accurate tutorial.

We also need:

1. Your name and contact information (address, phone, e-mail, Web address)
2. Project title (Which we may change, FYI.)
3. A brief introduction, including the technique, such as "This peyote cuff was inspired by the way leaves turn color in the Fall," or "I thought I messed up doing herringbone and invented a new version of the stitch."

4. What you Need List: Provide a *complete* list of tools and materials including descriptions of each item as follows:

- Quantity: DO use grams, ounces, inches. Do NOT just say 1 tube or strand as these vary.
- Size: DO give us specific mm and inch, do NOT say “small” or “some beads.”
- DO list precise names of colors or bead code numbers with manufacturers name where appropriate.
- DO give correct shape or size of beads, such as bicone, round, oval.
- DO refer to spacers or accent beads as such, with their size in mm, such as “round silver spacers, 4mm.”
- DO list ALL tools needed such as needles, scissors, wire cutters, pliers (what kind?) etc. Optional tools such as glue or wax should say (optional.)
- DO show Trademark(™) or Registered Trademark (®) symbols only in the materials list, not throughout the piece.
- DO check all spelling of materials, colors,

Please confirm the use of these symbols for your materials. Please also double check spelling and capitalization of the names of colors, shapes, brands, etc. as specified by the manufacturer. We rely on your accuracy and appreciate your confirmation of these important details.

-Do NOT repeat a brand name throughout a project. Generic terms are substituted except in Resources unless critical to the piece.

5. A brief bio of yourself with a photo. A couple sentences, not a resume or CV. Photo can be from a snapshot but resolution should be 3” at 300 dpi.

6. Resources: a list of sources for all materials with product names, web site URLs or phone numbers. List brand names here. If you have your own shop, sell kits, make the beads used in the project, please include that info here!

7. Appropriate safety precautions MUST appear in any projects involving the use of acids, abrasive chemicals, toxic fumes, machinery, or any product that could result in injury. Safety tips may be presented as a brief sidebar.

Projects are normally between 700 and 2,500 words, but just write your project as clearly and thoroughly as possible without worrying about word count. Please keep document in Word manuscript form, unformatted. ☺

Final acceptance is pending approval of ALL submitted materials—text, actual piece, step photos, etc. Contracts are sent after we receive all materials and approve the project. Payment is between \$100 and \$150 on average per project. We reserve the right to use your submissions on our web site in some instance: Copies of our contract can be sent in advance for your consideration.

We also contract for our special, once a year issues including Creative Jewelry. For Creative Jewelry only simple, easy stringing or basic wire projects are sought; no step shots or diagrams are required. We’re looking for gorgeous yet easy to make

jewelry, using great materials and showing interesting and exciting designs. Payment ranges between \$25 (for earrings) to \$75 for longer projects. Follow guidelines for Step by Step Beads to submit to Creative Jewelry, but without step shots or diagrams.

We look forward to seeing your work! E-mail inquiries:
sbsbeads@interweave.com.

Please put “submission,” “showcase,” or “non project” in the subject line.

Send actual pieces (insure your work!) for consideration to:

Jane Dickerson

Managing Editor, *Step by Step Beads*

300 Chesterfield Parkway, Ste. 100, Malvern PA 19355

Your work will always be returned!