

Festival of Lights Bangle

By Jill Wiseman

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Supply List

- SuperDuos – 5 grams
- Size 11° seed beads – 4 grams
- Size 15° seed beads – 1.5 grams
- 4mm Swarovski bicone crystals – 30-40 depending on size of bangle
- Fireline - 6lb
- Size 11 or 12 beading needles

Sometimes you start out making one thing, and the beads talk to you, and you end up with something completely different, but wonderful!



That's totally the story behind this bangle bracelet, which begs to be worn in sets of three or more together. I was playing with some SuperDuo beads (Twins would work too, but they are far more inconsistent in size, so I prefer the SuperDuos) to create a basic multi-wrap bracelet – but then I started adding embellishment...and then crystals...and the next thing you know, here we are!

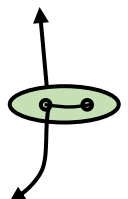


First Pass of the Base

We're going to use a very long thread so that we don't have to deal with adding in thread later. As a result, we'll wind half of it on a bobbin to keep it out of our way until we need it.

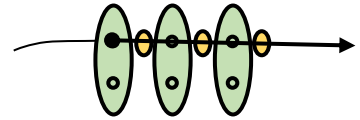
Measure out about three yards of Fireline. Poke one end through one hole of a SuperDuo, and the other end through the second hole of the SuperDuo and center the SuperDuo on the thread.

Then take one end (doesn't matter which, and poke it back through the other hole in the SuperDuo. Now both threads should be coming out of a single hole, but in opposite directions. Wind one end on a bobbin.



Note: You'll simply switch over to that extra thread when you need it – that will be different for everyone. So when the current thread starts getting short, end it off and put your needle on the other end of the thread to continue the bracelet. If you aren't in the exact right place with it, no worries – just weave your way over to where you need to be.

Pick up a size 11° seed bead, pass through one hole of a SuperDuo (make sure to check that the other hole on each bead isn't blocked as you do so) and repeat picking up an 11° and then SuperDuo until you have the length you desire. End with a SuperDuo.



Stop and look back periodically to make sure you haven't accidentally put two seed beads or two SuperDuo beads next to each other!

Sizing

Not every SuperDuo and Twin bead is the same size, so there will be a slight variation in size, even once you find your ideal bangle number. Don't think you did something wrong if they fit a tiny bit differently!

If you don't have a flexible measuring tape at home, you can print one out by simply searching on printable ruler on the internet.

Wrap the measuring tape or printed ruler around the widest part of your hand, while you're holding the hand as if you would be putting on your bangle. This measurement should be roughly the interior diameter of your bangle.

There will be an opportunity to adjust your sizing before you complete the base, so don't stress too much!

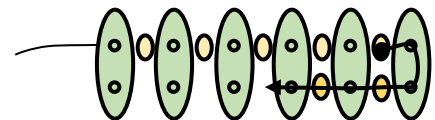
Note: you will need to have an **even** number of SuperDuo beads.



Second Pass of the Base

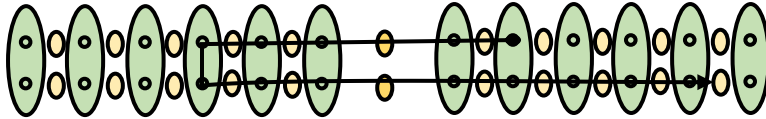
Now we need to turn around and go back in the opposite direction. Super easy! Just pull a U-turn by passing through the second hole of the last SuperDuo added. Yes, your thread will show between the two holes of the SuperDuo, but it won't show when your bangle is complete.

Now add a size 11° seed bead between each of the second holes of the SuperDuo beads until you reach the beginning SuperDuo again.



Join the Base Ends

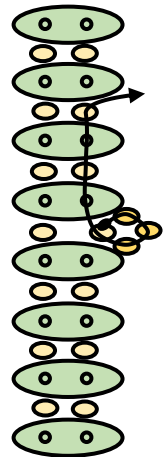
Pick up one 11° seed bead, pass through the SuperDuo hole on the same side of the SuperDuo on the opposite end. Make sure your bracelet isn't twisted as you do this! Move forward 3-4 beads, and then U-turn around on a SuperDuo to get to the other side of the SuperDuo holes, and join the two ends together, adding an 11° seed bead between them again.



Add the Picots

Now we'll start adding a set of picots on every other size 11° seed bead. Pass through any old 11°, pick up three more 11°, pass through the same 11° originally exited, and then move forward so you're exiting the third 11° in the base. This puts you in position to add the next picot.

After you've added picots all along one edge, move to the opposite side and add picots all along that edge too. Make sure you add them so that they match up with the picots on the first edge. They should be right across from each other – not staggered.



Add the Crystals

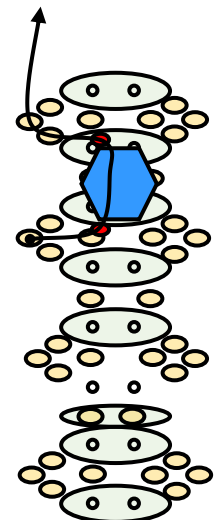
Now we're going to fold the picots up by adding a centered embellishment.

With your thread exiting the middle seed bead of the tip of a picot, pick up a size 15° seed bead, a 4mm bicone, and a 15° seed bead. Pass through the tip of the next picot. Repeat all the way around the bracelet.

End by exiting a bicone, and then pick up one 15° seed bead, pass through the tip of the next picot. Pick up a 15° seed bead and pass through the next bicone. Repeat all the way around the bracelet.

End your thread.

Now make a BUNCH of them! Enjoy!





If you have any questions while you're working, please feel free to email me at jill@jillwisemandesigns.com.

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