The Diamond O Beaded Chain is a thin, dainty beaded chain woven with tiny Japanese seed beads and O beads! Measuring only 0.25 inches (about 6.3 mm) thick, this easy chain is an excellent choice for hanging a variety of beaded pendants, and can be attached to a focal component for a versatile solution to creating a beaded necklace. This chain also works well as a bracelet! Several variations are possible to create additional colors or textures in the finished chain. Create one in silver, gold, bronze, and platinum to match all of your finished jewelry designs!

Materials for the basic beaded chain (up to 24 inches long):

- 3 g 15° Japanese seed beads (A)
- 4.5 g 11° Japanese seed beads (B)
- 2.5 g 4 x 1.5 mm O beads (O)
- (1) Small lobster clasp and a matching closed jump ring
- Fireline thread, 6 lb test

Optional Materials:
- 4 mm bicone crystals
- 4 mm round beads
- 8° Japanese seed beads
- 3 mm bugle beads
- Three colors of 15° Japanese seed beads

Tools:
- Beading Needle, size 11-12
- Scissors
Materials Notes:

- Since this design requires evenly-shaped seed beads, be sure to cull your seed beads for an even size prior to beginning this project. Miyuki and/or Toho brand Japanese seed beads are recommended.
- Nylon thread such as Nymo or One G can be used in this project. However, if you are incorporating optional beads with sharp edges such as bugle beads, stones, or crystals, use a stronger thread such as Fireline or Wildfire.

Notes on Illustrations:

- Each step of this pattern has at least one figure or photo that shows the beadwork at the end of the corresponding step.
- A red dot marks the last bead exited in the previous step.
- Newly-added beads are more saturated than the beads already added to the beadwork, and sometimes marked with a letter or two-letter code.
- A dotted line marks the thread path of beads passed through during a given step.

Beading Tips:

- Keep your thread tension firm!
- Pay extra attention to the red text!
- Mark your piles of beads with a post-it note to keep track of your beads!

Instructions

To construct the chain, you will weave an O bead in place with two 11° seed beads, then you will weave in several 15° seed beads in a diamond shape. You will repeat alternating these units of beadwork until your chain is the desired length, and then you will finish the chain with a small clasp. Additional variations are possible and described later in this pattern. If you are experiencing difficulty creating this design, please see the notes under “troubleshooting” at the end of this pattern.

Step 1: To begin the beaded chain, cut and stretch a comfortable (> 6 ft or 2 m) length of thread. Pick up

- (1) 11° Japanese seed bead (B)
- (1) O Bead (O)
- (1) 11° Japanese seed bead (B).

Pass back through the O bead, the first B bead, and back through the O bead and the next B bead again. Pull the thread taut so that each B bead sits up against either side of the O bead, and leave an 8-inch tail.
Step 2: To create a link of seed beads, pick up
- (5) 15° Japanese seed beads (A)
- (1) 11° Japanese seed bead (B)
- (5) 15° Japanese seed beads (A).
Pass back through the B bead that you exited from at the beginning of this step.

Step 3: To make the seed bead portion of the chain into a little diamond shape, pass through the loop of seed beads again, skipping every third bead; pass through the next 2 A beads, skip the next A bead, pass through the next 2 A beads, and skip the next B bead. Repeat on the other side of this unit of the chain, pull the thread taut, and pass through the next 5 A and B beads to exit from the tip of the chain. See Figure 3.

Step 4: Pick up
- (1) O Bead (O1)
- (1) 11° Japanese seed bead (B).
Pass back through the O bead, the next B bead, and back through the O bead and the next B bead again.

Step 5: To add the clasp, pick up
- (3) 15° Japanese seed beads (A)
- one half of the clasp
- (3) 15° Japanese seed beads (A).
Pass through the B bead that you exited from at the beginning of this step.
Step 6: To secure the clasp to the chain, pass through the 3 A beads, the clasp, and the next 3 A beads again, skip the next B bead, and pass back through all these beads in a loop. Continue through the B bead, and pull taut.

Step 7: Weave through a few more beads in the chain to secure the thread. Tie a half-hitch knot before entering one of the B beads, pass through a few more beads, and trim the thread. Re-thread the tail thread, and repeat Steps 5 and 6 to add the other half of the clasp to the other end of the chain. Secure your tail thread, and trim. Your Diamond O beaded chain is complete!

A 24” Diamond O beaded chain accompanies this cascading O Star Pendant. For more information on this design, please visit www.beadorigami.com
Variations

Several variations on this design are possible to create a variety of different looks to the finished beaded chain. Two general types of variations exist; variations on Steps 2-3, and variations on Step 4.

Variations on Steps 2-3

Try using multiple colors of 15° seed beads in Steps 2-3; the above chain uses three colors of 15° seed beads for a pink and purple rainbow!

The chain above uses varying amounts of 15° seed beads in each repeat of Step 2 to change the sizes of the seed bead diamonds. In this step, string 3 A, 1 B, and 3 A to create the first diamond. After repeating Steps 3 and 4, string 5 A, 1 B, and 5 A for the second diamond. Finally, string 7 A, 1 B, and 7 A for the third. Alternate between the second diamond and the other two sizes to create differing sizes of seed bead diamonds in the finished beaded chain.

For a more angular look, replace some of the 15° seed beads with 3 mm bugle beads! In Step 2, string 1 bugle bead, 1 A, 1 bugle bead, 1 B, 1 bugle bead, 1 A, and 1 bugle bead. In Step 3, pass through all the bugle beads in a circle to create the diamond shape, and continue on to Step 4 to add the next O bead.
Variations on Step 4

The O beads in this pattern can be substituted with 8° seed beads for a slightly blockier look.

Try adding 4 mm bicone crystals or round beads to this beaded chain! In Step 4, string 1 O bead, 1 bicone crystal, 1 O bead, and 1 B seed bead. Pass back through the O, bicone, and O beads, the next B bead, and back through the O, bicone, O, and B beads again to position your working thread to repeat Step 2. Add a bicone crystal in every repeat of Step 4 for a very sparkly variation, or add a crystal every third repeat for a more subtle sparkly effect.

This design makes for an easy, petite bracelet. The bracelet to the right uses 4 mm round crystal pearls in each repeat of Step 4.
Troubleshooting

• Keep even, but firm tension throughout the beadwork. While weaving the beaded chain, keep the tension of the thread tight enough to avoid letting any thread show between the beads. During the first couple of steps, hang on to the tail thread to help keep the tension firm.

• Do not force the needle through the beads. Avoid forcing the beading needle through a bead when it is difficult to pull the needle through; this could break the bead or the needle! If it is difficult to pass through one of the beads (especially the 15° seed beads), try switching to a smaller size needle.

• Properly store pieces with silver seed beads. Like any silver, silver seed beads will tarnish over time. When you are not wearing them, store pieces containing silver seed beads in an airtight container with an anti-tarnish strip.

Inspirations

Two lengths of the Diamond O beaded chain attach to either side of a theobromine beaded molecule; a beaded representation of a chemical found in coffee, tea, but most famously in chocolate. For more information about beaded molecules, please visit www.beadorigami.com

Contact Information

For questions or comments, please e-mail beadorigami@gmail.com
This Diamond O chain contains a 4 mm bicone crystal in every third repeat of Step 4, and complements a matching pendant consisting of a large beaded flower.

I first developed the Diamond O beaded chain for the Annular O Necklace below. The necklace features five rivoli crystals, bezeled with an assortment of Japanese seed beads, peanut-shaped beads, round beads, O beads, and bicone crystals. The detailed focal portion of the necklace is too light and airy for a thicker type of beaded rope such as spiral rope or CRAW, so I experimented with beaded RAW chains for a much more delicate look. I also wanted to include O beads in this beaded chain, and mimic the angles of the 15° and 11° seed beads in the beaded components. Thus, the Diamond O beaded chain was born! For more information about the Annular O Necklace, please visit www.beadorigami.com.
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Tila Garden Pendant

Magic O Ball

Cosmic Windows Pendant

Dewdrop Beaded Beads

Tropical Dahlia Pendant

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