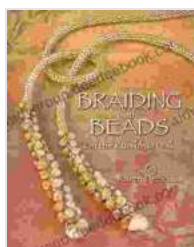


Braiding with Beads On The Kumihimo Disk: A Comprehensive Guide

Kumihimo braiding is an ancient Japanese art form that involves intricate braiding techniques to create beautiful cords, braids, and other decorative accessories. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the techniques for braiding with beads on a kumihimo disk, opening up a world of possibilities for creating stunning and unique beaded jewelry pieces.



Braiding with Beads: On the Kumihimo Disk

by Karen DeSousa

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Materials You'll Need

- Kumihimo disk (round or square)
- Beading thread (strong and durable, such as nylon or silk)
- Beads (various sizes, shapes, and colors)
- Scissors
- Tape or glue (optional)

Choosing the Right Beads

The type of beads you use will greatly influence the final look and feel of your braided piece. Consider the following factors when selecting beads:

- **Size:** Beads can range in size from tiny seed beads to larger accent beads. Choose beads that are proportionate to the size of the cord you plan to braid.
- **Shape:** Beads come in various shapes, including round, cylindrical, cube, and irregular. Experiment with different shapes to create interesting visual effects.
- **Color:** Beads are available in a wide range of colors. Choose colors that complement each other and match your desired design.

Setting Up the Kumihimo Disk

1. Place the kumihimo disk on a flat surface.
2. Wind a length of beading thread (about 2-3 feet) around the center post of the disk.
3. Tie the ends of the thread together at the bottom of the disk.

Basic Braiding Technique

1. **Round disk:** Divide the threads into eight equal parts and label them numerically clockwise from 1 to 8.
2. **Square disk:** Divide the threads into sixteen equal parts and label them numerically clockwise from 1 to 16.
3. Hold the disk in one hand and use your other hand to pick up and cross the threads. Start by crossing thread 1 over thread 2 and pulling

it to the center. Then, cross thread 3 over thread 4 and pull it to the center. Continue this pattern until all threads have been crossed.

4. Tighten the braid by pulling down on the threads. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until the desired length is achieved.

Incorporating Beads

1. String a bead onto the thread designated for the next cross before performing the cross.
2. Pass the thread with the bead over the thread it's crossing and pull it to the center.
3. Continue braiding and incorporating beads as desired.

Finishing the Braid

1. When the desired length is reached, carefully remove the braid from the disk.
2. Tie the ends of the threads together.
3. For added security, you can apply tape or glue to the knot.

Variations and Techniques

Two-Color Braiding

Use two different colors of beads or thread to create a two-tone effect. Alternate the colors by braiding with one color for several crosses, then switching to the other color for several crosses.

Patterned Braiding

Create patterns by incorporating beads in specific sequences. For example, you could use a pattern of large and small beads, or alternate colors in a regular pattern.

Bead Stitch Variations

Experiment with different ways of incorporating beads into the braid. Instead of simply stringing beads onto the thread, try using a bead stitch, such as a peyote or herringbone stitch, to add additional texture and interest.

Projects and Applications

With the techniques covered in this guide, you can create a wide range of beaded jewelry and accessories, including:

- **Bracelets:** Braided bead bracelets can be made in various widths and styles, from delicate to chunky.
- **Necklaces:** Braided bead necklaces can be long or short, with different clasp options.
- **Earrings:** Braided bead earrings add a touch of elegance and color.
- **Keychains:** Braided bead keychains are a fun and personalized way to keep your keys organized.
- **Other accessories:** Braided beads can also be used to create bookmarks, hair accessories, and decorative tassels.

Braiding with beads on the kumihimo disk is a versatile and rewarding craft that opens up endless possibilities for creating beautiful and unique beaded jewelry and accessories. With a little practice and experimentation, you can

master the basic techniques and develop your own unique style. So grab your kumihimo disk, beads, and thread, and embark on the exciting world of kumihimo bead braiding!

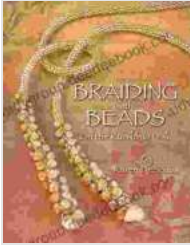


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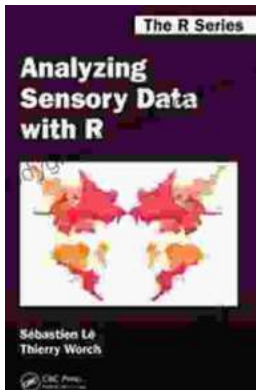
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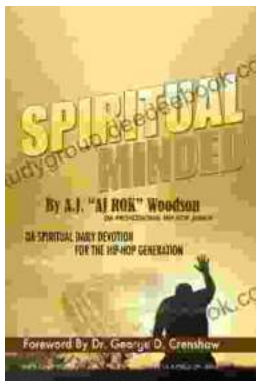


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