

OLIVIA PENDANT
by Carolyn Cave
www.ladybeadledesigns.com



Skill level: Confident beginner and up
Techniques: See note in Designer Tips
Finished size: 1¼ inches (30mm) in diameter

MATERIALS/TOOLS

0.5g size 15° seed beads
0.5g size 11° seed beads
1 size 20mm round bead frame
1 size 30mm round bead frame
11 size 4mm round glass pearls
Oval jump ring or bail large enough to
accommodate your chosen chain

Sturdy non-slip thread (Miyuki brand, it will be
discarded)
D-weight beading thread (S-Lon, Nymo, KO)
2 size 10 or 12 beading needles
Sewing needle to accommodate the heavier
thread
Scissors or thread cutters
2 pairs of pliers (for the jump ring)

DESIGNER TIPS

- This pendant is made with a variety of techniques. The knots around the bead frame resemble micro macramé or tatting, the beads are strung (no bead weaving is involved), and metal bead frames hold the work in place like wire weaving.

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- Thread is very visible in this piece. I used stranded nylon because it comes in a variety of colors that you can use to blend with the metal, or make it stand out as a feature of your pendant.
- As precise as Japanese seed beads are, they do vary a little from bead to bead. In this pendant, even such a slight variation can make a difference in how the stacks of beads fit between the two bead frames. If the combination of beads does not fit the first time, try to find a thinner seed bead. Conversely, if you think there is too much gap between the beads, find a slightly thicker one or add an entire bead. Keep in mind that it is better to have a gap than make the space too crowded.

SECURE BEAD FRAMES TOGETHER

NOTE: This thread will be removed in a future step.

Step 1. Cut 12" (30cm) of the sturdy thread and attach a sewing needle to one end. Fold the thread in half with the needle end on the right.

FIGURE 1

Step 2. Place the smaller frame inside the larger frame and lay them on your work surface. Slip the folded part of the thread **over** the upper part of the frames, **through** both of them, and **under** the lower part of the frames.

FIGURE 2

Step 3. Pull the lower end of the loop apart so it is wide enough for the larger frame to slip through it.

FIGURE 3

Step 4. Move the thread loop up and over both of the frames, well past the widest part of the large frame.

FIGURE 4

Step 5. Gently pull upward on the ends of the thread until it is very snug and the frames are caught in this lark's head knot. **NOTE:** Make sure that the horizontal bar of thread is at the front of the frames.

FIGURE 5

More lark's head knots are needed to attach the two frames securely together.

Step 6. Using the needle on the right-hand side, send the needle through the two frames from the **front**, around to the back and under the thread. Pull the thread very snug (**blue thread**).

FIGURE 6

Step 7. Send the needle through the two frames from the **back**, around to the front and under the thread. Pull the thread very snug (**green thread**). This second half of the knot is the same as blanket stitch in embroidery. The two parts (Steps 3 and 4) form the complete lark's head knot.

NOTE: Check to make sure the horizontal bar between the half knots alternates front and back.

FIGURE 7

Step 8. Stitch Steps 3 and 4 three or four more times, until you have five or six lark's head knots holding the frames together. One repeat, or the third knot, is shown in Figure 7 (**pink thread**).

Tie the long ends of thread together above the row of lark's heads into a square knot. Trim the ends to about ½-inch (1cm) so they are out of your way. **NOTE:** This thread is temporary and will be removed near the end of the project.

FIGURE 8

Step 9. Cut one yard (90cm) of beading thread and attach a needle to each end. Pick up two size 15° seed beads, one size 11° seed bead and one 4mm glass pearl. Sew under the lower end of larger bead frame and back up through the 4mm, 11° and two 15°s (**purple thread**). Pull the thread through so that the end you are working with is approximately one-inch (2.5cm) longer than the other. Do not pull the thread snug just yet.

Step 10. Change thread direction. Sew around the smaller bead frame, down through the two 15°s, 11° and 4mm, trying not to pierce the threads that are already inside the beads. Sew around the larger frame again and back up through the 4mm, 11° and two 15°s (**dark purple thread**).

NOTE: In this step it does not matter which way you sew around the bead frame – front to back, or back to front, both will have the same result.

Step 11. Manipulate the thread by going through the beads so that the thread ends are even. Once you are satisfied that the threads even, pull the threads snug. Ensure that both threads are on the same side of the work, which will now become the front.

FIGURE 9

Step 12. With the right-hand needle, pick up two 15°s, one 11° and one 4mm. Send the needle and thread with beads to the back of the work to the right of the first group. Sew around the larger frame and back up through the 4mm, 11° and two 15°s. Make sure the thread is at the front and pull it snug (**purple thread**).

NOTE: It now matters which way you sew around the smaller frame. The thread heads down at the back of the frame and comes up at the front. This will give a consistent look to the very visible thread. It does not matter which way you sew around the larger frame below the stack of beads.

Step 13. Stitch Step 12 with the left-hand needle, adding beads to the left-hand side of the first group of beads (**orange thread**). The thread path on the left side of the pendant will mirror the right side.

Step 14. Push the beads together towards the center of the pendant without crowding them.

FIGURE 10

Step 15. With the right-hand needle, pick up one 15°, one 11° and one 4mm. Send the needle and thread with beads to the back of the work to the right of the other groups. Sew around the larger frame and back up through the 4mm, 11° and 15°. Make sure the thread is at the front and pull it snug (**purple thread**).

Step 16. Stitch Step 15 with the left-hand needle, adding beads to the left-hand side of the other groups (**orange thread**). The thread path on the left side of the pendant will mirror the right side.

Step 17. Push the beads together towards the centre of the pendant without crowding them.

FIGURE 11

Step 18. With the right-hand needle, pick up one 11° and one 4mm. Send the needle and thread with beads to the back of the work to the right of the other groups of beads. Sew around the larger frame and back up through the 4mm and 11°. Make sure the thread is at the front and pull it snug (**purple thread**). **NOTE:** It is possible that a 15° will fit at the top of the group of beads. Find a thin 15° and a thin 11°.

Step 19. Stitch Step 18 with the left-hand needle, adding beads to the left-hand side of the other groups of beads (**orange thread**). The thread path on this side of the pendant will mirror the right side.

Step 20. Push the beads together towards the center of the pendant without crowding them.

FIGURE 12

Step 21. The thread path is the same for adding the remaining stacks of beads. Add three more sets of beads, alternating sides, as follows:

one 11° and one 4mm (right-hand side - **purple thread**; left-hand side - **orange thread**)

one 15° and one 4mm

one 4mm.

FIGURE 13

Step 22. Add three more sets of beads, alternating sides, as follows:

one 15° and one 11° (right-hand side - **purple thread**; left-hand side - **orange thread**)

one 11°

one 15°.

Step 23. Using the right-hand needle, wrap the thread around the inner frame five times. Make one more wrap around both frames. Before tightening this last wrap, sew through the loop just made, from the back (**pink thread**). Use the left-hand needle to repeat the **pink thread** path on the other side of the work (**blue thread**).

FIGURE 14

Step 24. Push the thread towards the left (not shown). Use the right-hand needle to make five lark's head knots (**blue thread**). Pull the threads very snug. Undo and discard the sturdy thread added in Step 1.

Step 25. Use the left-hand needle to make five lark's head knots on the left side of the work. Pull the threads very snug. Following the small channel that exists between the two frames, use the right needle to sew through this channel at the back of the work, under the thread of the five lark's head knots made first, heading towards the left. Use the left needle to sew along the same channel at the back of the work, under the threads, heading to the right. Pull the threads snug in opposite directions.

FIGURE 15

NOTE: This illustration shows the back of the work.

Step 26. With the right-hand needle, pick up seven 15°s and sew through the back of the lark's heads knots, from right to left (**purple thread**). With the left-hand needle, sew through the seven 15°s in the opposite direction. Sew through the back of the lark's heads knots, from left to right (**pink thread**).

Step 27. Use one needle to sew through the 15's for a third time. Tie the two threads into a secure square knot. Use the other needle to sew through the 15's for a fourth time. End the threads by sewing through the back of the lark's head knots. Trim. You may wish to add some small drops of glue on the threads at the back of the work.

Step 28. Open the jump ring with two pairs of pliers. Slip the open jump ring into the loop of 15's at the top of the pendant. Close the jump ring. Your new pendant is finished. Add our chain or finished necklace of choice.

DESIGN OPTIONS

- Make a pair of earrings to match your pendant.
- Using crystal beads or a series of graduated glass pearls would also look great in this project.

OLIVIA PENDANT ILLUSTRATIONS by CAROLYN CAVE

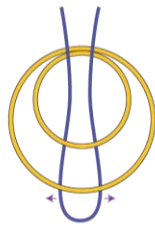


Figure 1

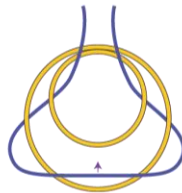


Figure 2

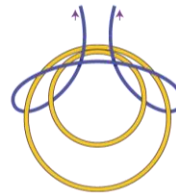


Figure 3



Figure 4

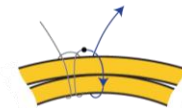


Figure 5

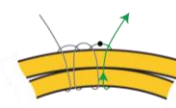


Figure 6

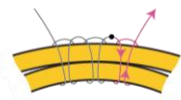


Figure 7

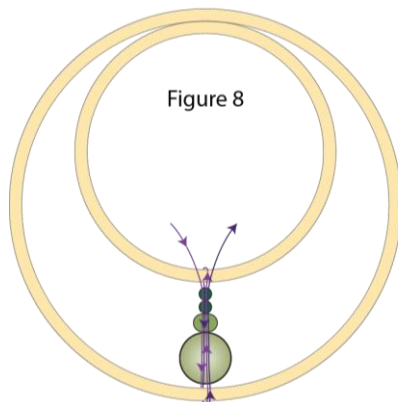


Figure 8

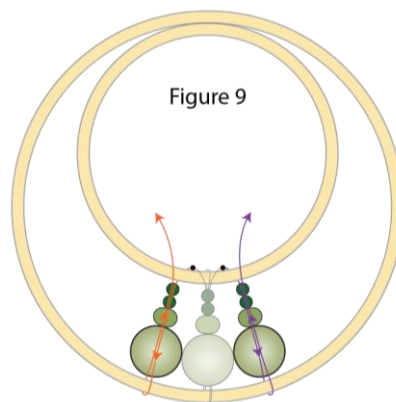


Figure 9

