

## Bead Netting

Bead netting is a beautiful way to create elegant necklaces that drape softly around your neck. And it isn't just for jewelry. Use bead netting to create gorgeous trims for purses and bags, or drape it over a glass Christmas ball to create an instant heirloom. And you know what's the best part? It's so easy to learn! With only a little practice, you can instantly adapt it to any use, even if you don't have a pattern.

For this article, you'll learn how to create bead netting that can be shaped into a necklace. This design is very easy to learn. Just follow the steps to the end, then repeat until your necklace is just the right length.

*Designer's Note –You will get the best results if your necklace is 16-18 inches long. This allows the netting to drape around the curve of your neck, without getting tangled in blouse buttons or brooches. Longer necklaces require a deep scoop or off the shoulder neckline to highlight the beauty of the netting.*

Before we begin, a word about choosing beads. Seed beads will let you create shimmering netting that will turn heads. Netting made with graduated colors of seed beads is truly breathtaking! But you don't have to be limited to using only seed beads. Try adding glass beads, smaller art beads, even crystals – anything that catches your eye.

Feel free to play – mix up the beads you choose, and unleash your creativity! This is a great chance to use up those left over beads from your other projects. You can also experiment with the number of beads you use in each segment, making your netting longer or shorter.

### Materials List:

- **Beads:** Make sure that the holes of your chosen beads are large enough to allow a needle and thread to pass through them several times. Here, I have used 37 - 6mm fire polished glass beads; 9 - dagger-shaped beads (top-drilled); Size 11/0 medium gold seed beads.
- **Thread:** For this project, I have used 4-pound test fishing line – it's thin, flexible, and inexpensive. For more information on choosing a threading material, see Lesson 4 of our seven-part series on jewelry design for beginners.
- **Thread conditioner:** Condition your thread with beeswax or commercial thread conditioner to keep your thread from becoming a knotted, tangled mess.
- **Beading needle:** Make sure your needle fits through the bead holes with room to spare.

*Designer's Note - You have two choices when making a bead netting necklace – you can add netting to the entire length, or you can net just the middle section. In this project, the middle ten inches of a 16-inch necklace is netted .*

**Are you ready? Let's get started!**

**STEP 1:**

First, make a “base” for your netting. Pick up one bead and pass the needle and thread through it several times so that it holds firmly. This will be your base bead, the one that prevents the others from slipping off your thread and clogging your vacuum. Add seed beads until your necklace is the right length for you. This necklace is 16 inches long, with an alternating pattern of 7 gold seed beads, then one 6-mm glass bead.

Once you get to the end of the strand, you'll need to pass your needle back through the beads. Skip the first bead (the one closest to your needle), then slide your needle back through the beads until you reach the place where your netting will begin. The needle in this picture indicates where the netting will start.

*Designer's Note – You can do this part with only seed beads. However, you will have to count along the strand for each stitch of netting to make sure the netting is even. With glass beads separating every seven gold beads, it's easy to see where each stitch needs to go!*



**STEP 2:**

This is where the netting starts. Pick up a number of beads. This pattern uses 5 gold beads, one 6-mm glass bead, 5 gold beads, one 6-mm bead, one seed bead, one “dagger” bead, and one glass bead.

*Designer's Note – I added the black dagger beads because I love dangly things, and I wanted to experiment. After all, this is all about creativity! You can use Briolettes or pearls or even tiny charms if you like.*



**STEP 3:**

Pass your needle back through the 6-mm bead at the end. A gentle tug will help your beads sit correctly, but too much tension will make it bunch up. Very gentle tension is best!

**STEP 4:**

Add 5 gold beads, one 6-mm bead, and five gold beads. Pass your needle through the next 6-mm bead on the base strand, bringing it out the other side.

**STEP 5:**

Pick up five more gold beads, then pass your needle through the 6-mm bead on the previous segment of netting. Add 5 more gold beads, a 6-mm bead, one gold bead, one dagger bead, and another gold bead.



Continue this pattern until you reach the end of your netting. From there, insert needle and thread back into the base strand, sliding the needle through to the end (this will keep your thread ends nice and tidy).

**STEP 6 – The Final Product!**

For more information on adding clasps and finishing off the threads, visit Lesson 4 – “Choosing a Foundation” in the 7 Steps to Designer Jewelry online tutorial. This interesting article will help you turn your netting into a finished piece of jewelry that you can wear to work or play!

