

Spinning Top

made with the fringe method

an original technique by
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In these instructions, we will show you how to make a *Spinning Top Fringe Bead* using Florence's original technique called the *Fringe Method*. This is a technique in off-the-loom bead weaving, using a needle and thread. You will not use any adhesives.

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Tips

Spill the beads out on a placemat-sized piece of fleece, and use a needle to pick them up. The fleece will keep the beads from rolling around while you work. A piece of felt works too, but not as well.

Pull thread through the beads slowly to prevent tangles. Getting untangled can be challenging! There is a plethora of magnifying equipment available for craftspeople, but a pair of reading glasses from your local drug store is an inexpensive alternative.

The finished bead is approximately 12 mm in diameter.

Materials

The beaded bead

60 seed beads, size 11/0
10 seed beads, size 8/0
1 round (core) bead, 8 mm

1 size 10 or 12 beading needle
2 ft (60 cm) Nymo thread size D

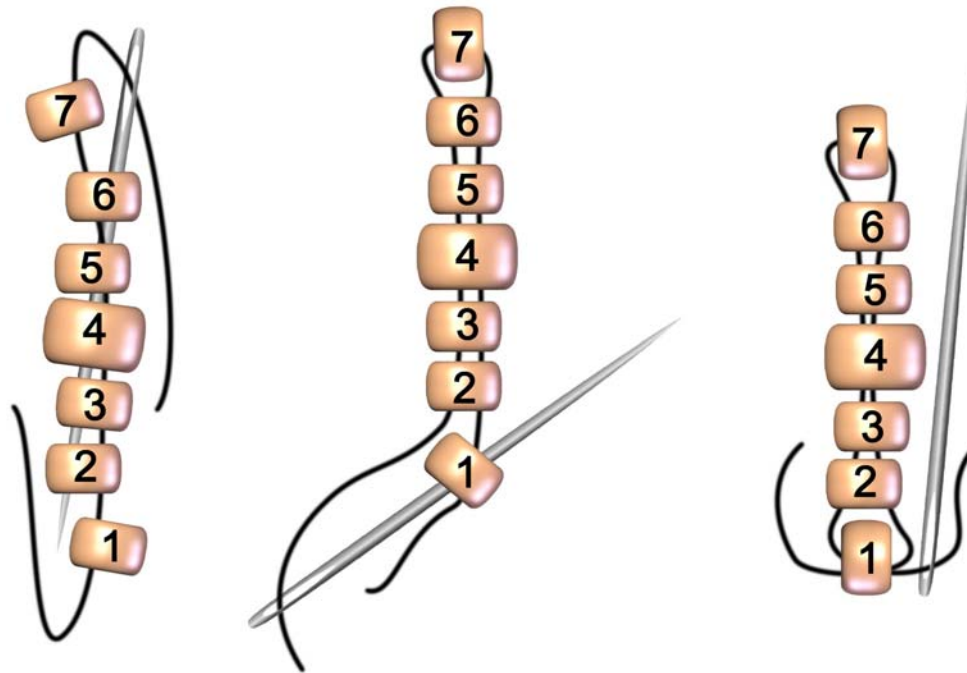
To string the beaded bead

2 size 6 seed beads
or 4 mm roundels

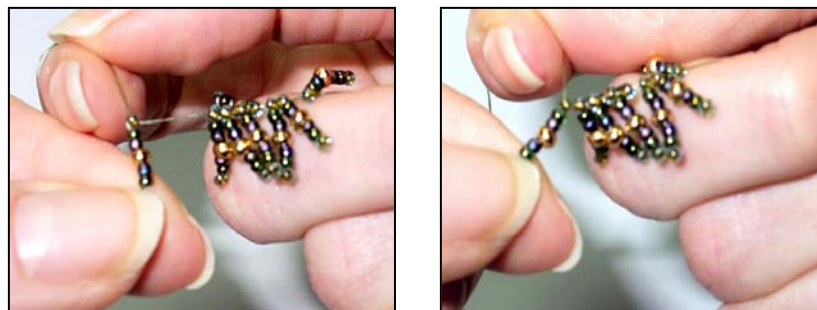
Instructions

1. Thread the needle with 2 feet of thread. Onto your needle, pick up
 - 3 size 11/0 seed beads,
 - 1 size 8/0 seed bead, and
 - 3 more size 11/0 seed beads.

Make a piece fringe by sewing back through beads 6, 5, 4, 3, and 2 again, in the opposite direction, as shown below (left). Then, sew through bead 1 in the original direction, completing the piece of fringe, as shown below (middle and right).



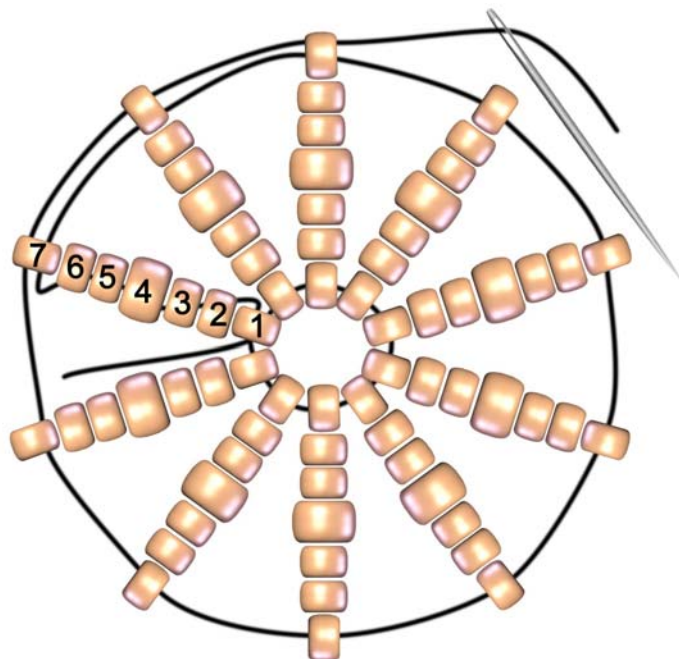
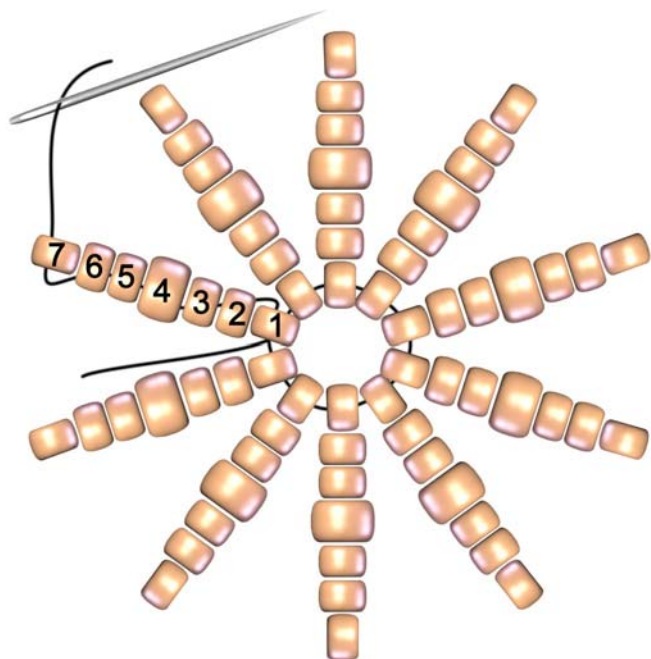
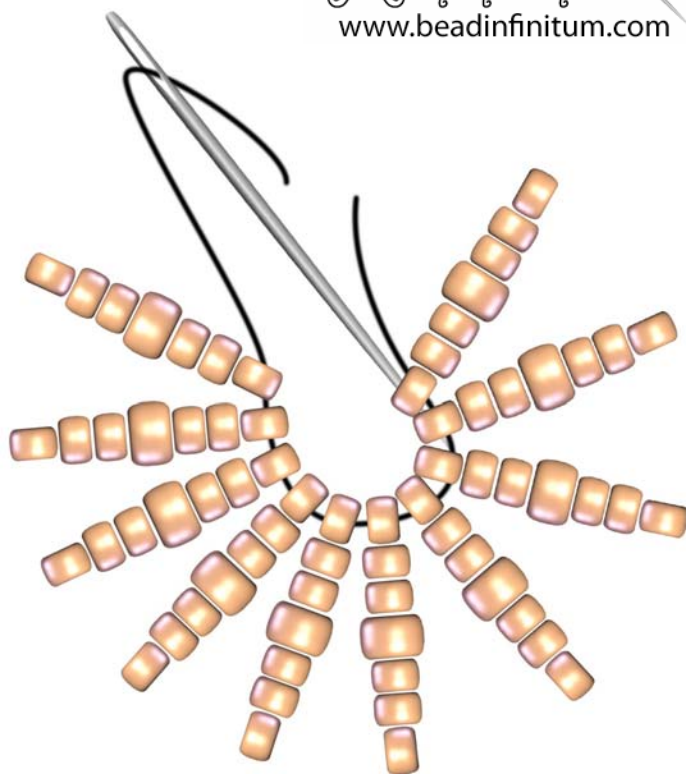
2. Slide the piece of fringe toward end of the thread, leaving a six inch tail that you will weave in after you finish the beaded bead. To make the piece of fringe slide easily, pinch the fringe tip (bead 7) between your thumb and fore finger and pull the thread, as shown below.



3. Create nine more pieces of fringe (ten total), sliding each fringe up the thread so that it lies snugly against the previous piece of fringe.

4. Arrange the fringe in a sun shape on the table, so that bead 1 in the last piece of fringe is next to bead 1 of the first piece of fringe. Connect the circle, sewing through all ten beads, and then pass through bead 1 of the first piece of fringe again. See the figure to the right. Pull the thread tight enough that the beads in the circle fit snugly together. Sew up through beads 2 through 6 to the top of the first piece of fringe, and pass through the fringe tip (bead 7). See the figure below (left).

5. Sew through the fringe tip in the next piece of fringe. Pull the thread through as far as you can without disturbing the sun shape. Continue around the sun, several beads past the first piece of fringe as is visible in the figure below (right).



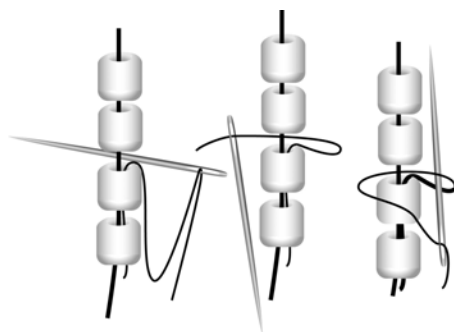
6. Place the 8 mm bead in the middle of the sun shape, and hold it there with your index finger. Pull the thread slowly, so the fringe closes snugly around the 8 mm bead. Keep the loose end of the thread out of the way, on the outside of the fringe. Keep the hole of the bead aligned with the direction of the fringe. Sew the rest of the way around the circle again, ending by passing through the top of the first piece of fringe. Sew around the circle again, if it needs more tightening.



7. Weave half way down one of the pieces of fringe. Just before a size 8/0 seed bead, tie two half hitch knots in the same place (see illustration below), and weave through a few more beads. Unthread the needle, rethread it with the tail of the thread, and weave it through a few beads. Tie two half hitch knots in the same place, and weave through a few more beads. Cut off both ends of the thread close to the bead.



Congratulations! You just finished your Spinning Top Beaded Bead!



The half hitch knot



Variations & Inspirations

The Spinning Butterfly Earrings incorporate miniature Spinning Top Beaded Beads with wirework, chain, and drop beads. The mini Spinning Tops use size 15/0 and 11/0 seed beads. Each of the 11 strands of fringe is a different color of seed beads. The core bead is 6mm and the roundels are 4mm.



Make a pendant by attaching a wire headpin. The pendants in the photo have one size 8/0 seed bead and two size 6/0 seed beads strung onto the headpin with the beaded bead before the wire was wrapped into a loop with pliers..



Contact us.

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Gwen Fisher

Here is how to make Poppy Pod Beaded Beads from Spinning Top Beaded Beads.



1. Stitch a Spinning Top sun with stripes.



2. Add a core bead.



3. Finish the Spinning Top.



5. Here are a few variations.



4. Add a 3-bead picot on every other bead of last round.



Create your own color schemes!

