

Fab Fire Polish Bracelet



Designed by Jenn Schwartzenberger ~ Pattern by Susan Schwartzenberger ©2013

Six simple rows of Fire Polish beads glass pearls are added to a Right Angle Weave base. You can use any 4 mm bead – crystals, freshwater pearls, semi-precious stones... try them all!

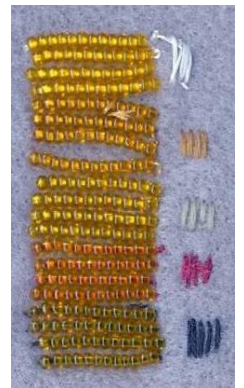
Techniques: Right Angle Weave, Embellishment

Materials

- 16 grams Size 8° round seed beads for the base
- 188 4mm Fire Polish beads
- 94 4mm Pearls – glass or freshwater
- OneG™ beading thread
- Beading needle – Size 10 or 11
- Clasp of your choice

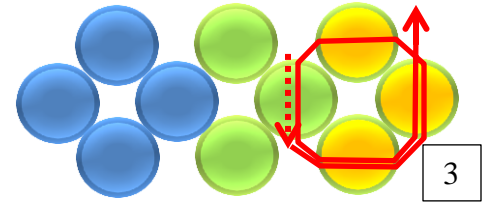
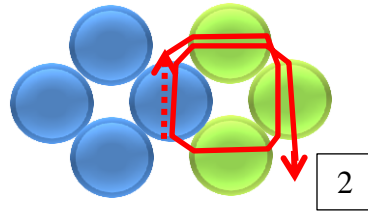
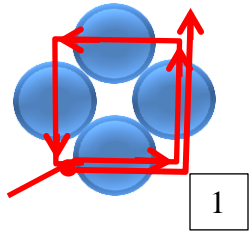
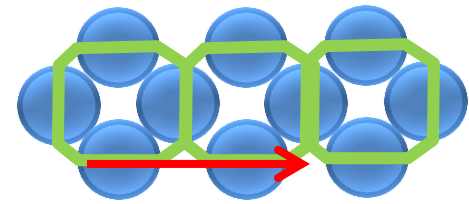
Be thread savvy – make friends with your thread

- **Cut a comfortable length of thread** – generally, the distance between your outstretched hands or about four feet. Using longer lengths will contribute to tangling and cause the thread to wear.
- **S-t-r-e-t-c-h your thread.** Here is why:
 - Curly threads tend to tangle around each other, so straighten out the tight curl caused by being wound on the small bobbin.
 - If you do not stretch the ease out of the thread, the weight of the beads in your finished project will loosen the tension and change the shape of your jewelry. The amount of stretch varies by brand and composition.
- **Thread conditioner** – Use beeswax or Thread Heaven™. The wax provides a tackiness that helps you hold correct tension throughout the project. Thread Heaven provides a very smooth surface that cuts down on the friction caused from numerous passes through beads. Do not condition the ends of the thread where you will be tying knots.
- **Place a needle on one end.** At the other end, place a carefully folded 1” piece of tape over the thread, leaving a 6” tail. This tape stops the beads from falling off, and you will weave the tail into the beadwork later.
- **Thread color matters.** Thread color can affect the color of translucent beads. You can achieve subtle color changes by using several colors of thread with a single translucent bead color. The same light topaz beads at right are stitched with (from the top) white, gold, gray, cranberry and black threads.
- **GET A GRIP!** From the very beginning of each product you want to get a grip! Once beads are in place, hold them there by “pinching” your fingers over them. The movement caused by passing the needle and thread through them can loosen the tension. Don’t let that happen! Get a grip!



RAW Bracelet Base – 7 units wide x 38 units in length, or adjusted to fit

- Think of the first row of Right Angle Weave (RAW) as if you were building a very simple building, like a hotel – square rooms sitting right beside each other. The walls of the room are shown as **the green thread path** in the graphic at the right. Each of the **rooms shares a wall with the room next to it.**
- The thread path always follows the perimeter of the four square walls. It **never** takes a straight path like the one shown as the **red** arrow. You always add beads/walls after turning a right (or 90°) angle.
- The thread path produces beadwork that will look like squared figure 8s, first joined end-to-end, then, side-by-side.
- **The thread path alternates clock-wise, then counter-clock-wise with each addition** – see diagrams below.



Row One

Room 1 – Figure 1

- PU four size 8° seed beads.
- PNT through all the beads again. Leaving a six-inch tail, tie the beads into a circle (red dot.) You will weave in the tail thread later.
- Needle though two beads. Position the beadwork so the thread is coming out of the *top right corner*. This bead is the first “shared wall.”

Room 2 – Figure 2

- The thread path starts at the dotted red arrow in the shared wall. PU three beads. PNT *up* the shared wall, across the top bead, and down through the next bead – the second “shared wall.” This is 1-1/2 times around the room perimeter.
 - This is a **clockwise** thread path, ending with the needle and thread pointing down.

Room 3 – Figure 3

- The thread path starts at the dotted red arrow in the shared wall. PU three beads. Needle *down* through the second “shared wall.” across the bottom bead, and up through the next bead (ending with the red arrow.)
 - This is a **counter-clockwise** thread path, ending with the thread pointing up.

Rooms 4 +

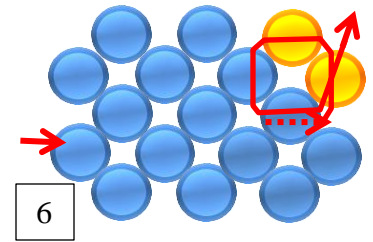
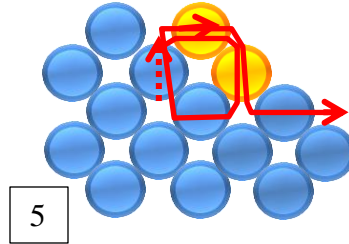
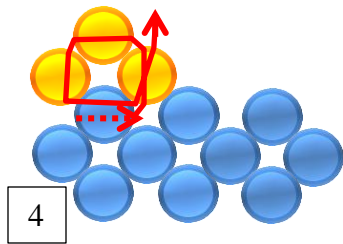
- Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you have 32 side-by-side “rooms.” This completes the first row.
 - To make your bracelet fit correctly, you may need more or fewer than 32 rooms, which makes a 6.5” length of beadwork. Finished length of bracelet - clasp length = length for beaded section.

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Row Two

Flip your work end-to-end and work from the left to the right.

You will add the first room of the second row to the side of Row One using three beads. All consecutive rooms will only need two beads added because two shared walls are already in place.



- **Figure 4**

- PNT through the beads so it is in the same position as the dotted red arrow.
- Pick up three beads and pass through the shared wall, and one more bead.
 - The thread path is clock-wise.

- **Figure 5** – There are now two walls already in place.

- Pick up two beads, pass through two shared walls and the two beads just added, AND one more bead along the edge of Row One.
 - Consider this the “long path.”
 - The thread path is counter-clockwise.

- **Figure 6**

- Pick up two beads. Pass through two previous shared walls and the first bead just added.
 - Consider this the “short path.”
 - The thread path is clock-wise.

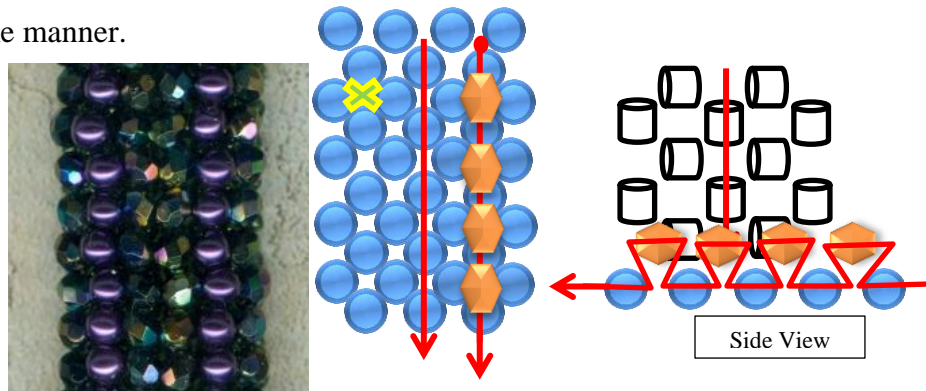
- Continue adding rooms along the length of the base, alternating between Figure 5 and Figure 6 thread paths.

- Add **Row Three - Row Seven** in the same manner.

Embellishment

- **Add rows of beads** running from one end of the bracelet length to the other.

- Observe:
 - Rows 1,3,4,and six are fire polish; rows 2 and 5 are glass pearls, but mix them up however you want.
 - The yellow X shows the space where each bead will settle into the Right Angle Weave base.
 - The red arrows show the thread paths.
 - Notice the hole placement of the beads. You will use the ones running lengthwise.
- Start with your thread attached at one end of the base (shown as a red dot at the top right corner.)
 - Pass through the first bead, pick up one fire polish and pass through the second bead. Continue along the length of the bracelet.
- Turn the corner, passing through the beads following the Right Angle Weave thread path.
 - Add the rest of the rows of beads in the same manner as the first row.



Add the Clasp

- The thread path used to add the clasp may differ with each style of clasp.
 - Make it look good – Keep the threads neat.
 - Make it function – Reinforce the connection several times, working the thread through beads away from the edge, then back. This will distribute the stress of operating the clasp throughout a larger area.



Keep a Journal of Your Beadwork

Having a convenient record of your beadwork projects makes it easy to duplicate a piece that you no longer have in your possession. When you look back through your journal, you will probably be surprised at how many projects you have completed. If you have generously given a lot of them away or sold them, you will have a great reference.

Include:

- A three-ring notebook with dividers. If you are computer savvy, you can keep it there.
- A digital photograph or scanned picture of each finished project or sample.
- A copy of the instructions, or the location of the pattern used, such as the book title.
- Notes about any changes made to those instructions.
- The bead manufacturer's stock numbers, if available.
- The source of the materials used—Bead store, web site, etc.



Susan's Rules for Needle & Thread Work

In general, I believe rules are meant as a starting point, rather than a stopping point. This belief has gotten me into trouble from time-to-time... Therefore, I will share the following because I have learned these things the hard way:

1. Always leave at least a six-inch tail thread, both starting and stopping. Most beading needles are 2" long, and you need the six inches of thread to be able to maneuver the needle comfortably as you weave the tails into the beadwork.
2. Do not try to "un-sew" by needling back through a mistake. It just makes a bigger mistake if the needle pierces the thread inside the bead hole. Unthread your needle. It helps to pull the last bead, which will loosen the thread, rather than using the point of your needle which could fray the thread.
3. Start each new component of a project with a new thread. If one part fails, your project can ravel just so far!

Tying one on! – Start, Stop, and Add Threads

- **Always start and finish by leaving a six-inch tail of thread** unless otherwise noted in the directions.
- **Option 1: Add a new thread with a Bookbinder's Knot:**
 - Six inches from one end of your new thread, form a slip-knot. (Make a loop and bring a fold of the working thread through the loop.) Slide this loop over the thread tail in your work and bring it right next to the last bead.
 - Tighten the slip-knot by pulling the both ends of the new thread in opposite directions until you hear a “pop.” If you don't hear the pop, it probably didn't work and you have to start over. It takes a bit of practice to get this to work, so keep practicing until you master this knot.
- **Option 2:** Use any knot, placing it right next to the bead surface. Some knots are so thick they can block the access to hole of the bead next to it. Place a “fat” knot next to a bead with a large hole, or next to a bead you are certain that you don't have to pass the needle and thread through again. Use a common “tie your shoe” knot, or surgeon's knot.
- **Option 3:** Skip the knot; start and stop each thread using #2-3 of the following directions.



Tying off – Weave in Thread Tails

NEVER CUT THREAD AT THE KNOT!

1. You should “bury” at least one inch of thread **beyond** any knot. Cutting close to the knot might allow it to ravel, causing your work to loosen and fall apart.
2. Take care of the thread tails as soon as you can. Put a needle on the six-inch tail and weave back through your work, following the same thread path for this stitch. Try to work around in a circle or square at least once. Clip the thread close to the last bead.
3. Add security while burying the tail thread by including a few half-hitch knots. To make a half-hitch knot, pass NT under the thread between beads; pull it until there is a small loop left. Pass NT through the loop and tighten. Repeat a few times while working the tail into the work. You can add a thread without knotting by reversing this process, starting from an inch away from and working toward the point where you want to start using the new thread.

Half-Hitch “knot” – This isn't a real knot, but it is used to hold the tension of previous stitches or when you are tying off threads.

- You can form a half-hitch knot wherever you can get to a thread between beads – either the exposed bridge between beads that sit next to each other (shown in green) or between beads that are stacked (shown at the blue arrow.)
- Pass your needle under the existing thread and pull up a small loop. Pass the needle through the loop and tighten it.
- When you are ending your thread, work a few half-hitches for security. Between hitches, pass the needle through a few beads. Form another hitch at the point you have exited between beads.
 - Do not move through beads AND try to half-hitch at the same time – this just wraps thread around the beads.

