



Holiday Crochet Necklace

Barbara Richard

Sitting on a lanai in Florida one May, leisurely crocheting a seed-bead tube, Barbara realized that pairing sets of red seed beads with green cylinder beads could result in a holly-branch effect.

It worked just as she had hoped!

FINISHED SIZE: 20½"

Materials

- 1.5 g red size 15° seed beads
- 25 mixed green/gold size 15° seed beads
- 15 g mixed green/gold size 11° cylinder beads
- 1 opaque red 5mm fire-polished round
- 1 bronze 6mm flat pressed-glass flower
- 2 green/gold 9×10mm assorted vertically drilled pressed-glass leaves
- 2 red 10×7mm glass or stone faceted rondelles
- 1 red 12mm glass or stone round
- 3 vermeil 2×3mm faceted cubes
- 1 antique brass 14×8mm fancy bead cap
- 2 antique brass 7×5mm flower bead caps
- 6 brass 2" head pins

- 1 antique brass 20mm toggle clasp
- 1 gold 2mm twisted crimp tube
- Green Conso G/69 crochet thread
- FireLine 6 lb beading thread
- 8" of .010 beading wire

Tools

- Size 12 (.75 mm) steel crochet hook
- Wide-Eye Needle
- Round-nose pliers
- Chain-nose pliers
- Wire cutters
- Size 12 beading needle
- Scissors
- Jewelry cement

1: Crocheted rope. Bead-crochet a rope 19½" long:

Prestringing: Use the Wide-Eye Needle and crochet thread to string 10½' of cylinder beads interspersed with groups of 3 red size 15°s every 1½" to 5", leaving a 10" tail. To ensure that the red beads don't end up in the same spot on the finished rope, string the cylinder beads so they aren't a multiple of 6.

Crochet: Use the prestrung beads to crochet a beaded rope 6 stitches around (see box at right for basic how-to). When you reach a group of red beads, treat them as 1 bead. Maintain tight tension so the red beads pop out from the rope. Cut the thread 10" from the end of the tube.

2: Clasp. Use the tail thread and the Wide-Eye Needle to string one 7×5mm bead cap from inside to outside, 3 green/gold size 15° beads, one half of the clasp, and 3 green/gold size 15° beads; pass back through the cap to the inside of the crocheted tube and out between 2 beads (Figure 1). Try not to pass through the holes of

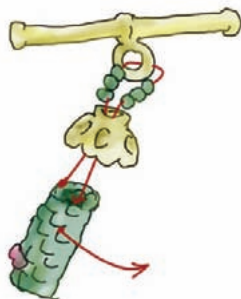


Figure 1

the beads, as this may distort your tube. Repeat the thread path to reinforce. Secure the thread, dab the knots with glue, and trim. Repeat for the other end of the rope. Set aside.

3: Focal pendant. Use the beading wire to string 3 cylinder beads; slide them to the middle of the wire. Gather the wire ends and string the 12mm round, the 14×8mm bead cap, and the crimp tube. Separate the wire ends; string 1" of cylinder beads onto each wire. Pass the beaded wires over the crocheted rope and back through the crimp bead, cap, and round; pull tight (Figure 2). Crimp and trim.



Figure 2

4: Dangles. Use seed beads, accent beads, and head pins to make decorative dangles that attach to the clasp:

Dangle 1: String 1 red size 15°, 1 leaf, and 2 gold size 15°s; form a wrapped loop that attaches to the loop on the bar half of the clasp.

BEAD CROCHET BASICS

- For slip stitch, *insert hook into stitch, yarn over hook, and draw a loop through stitch and loop on hook (Figure A). Repeat from *.

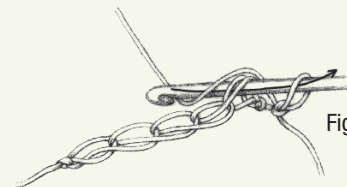


Figure A

- For beaded crochet rope, start by inserting hook into first chain stitch, under thread carrying bead. Move bead to right of hook. Slide next bead down to hook; work slip stitch by pulling loop of thread through both loops on hook (Figure B). To complete first round, make a slip stitch with a bead into each of remaining chain stitches. Continue working beaded slip stitches in a spiral to desired length.



Figure B

Dangle 2: String 1 green size 15°, 1 rondelle, and 1 cube; attach to the toggle ring.

Dangle 3: String 1 red size 15°, 1 rondelle, and 2 cubes; attach to the toggle ring as before.

Dangle 4: String 1 leaf, the flat flower, and 1 red size 15°; attach to the toggle ring as before.

Dangle 5: String 1 green size 15°, the 5mm round, and 2 green size 15°s; attach to the toggle ring as before.

5: Clasp leaf dangle. Use cylinder and seed beads to make leaf embellishments for the clasp:

Rows 1 and 2: Use 2' of beading thread to string 14 cylinder beads, leaving a 6" tail. Pass back through the eleventh bead strung.

Rows 3 and 4: Use cylinder beads to work 3 peyote stitches.

Row 5: Work a decrease at the beginning of the row and use cylinder beads to work 2 peyote stitches. Weave through beads to exit from the first down bead of Row 1 (Figure 3).

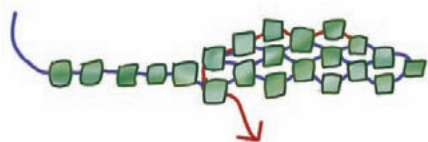


Figure 3

Second side: Work decreasing peyote stitch for 2 rows to mirror Rows 4 and 5. Pass back through the fifth, fourth, and third beads strung for Rows 1 and 2 (Figure 4).

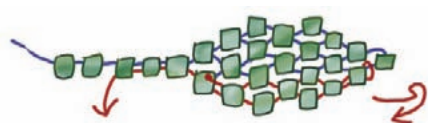


Figure 4

Fringe: String 8 green size 15's; pass back through the third, second, and first strung to make a bubble fringe. Pass back through the second and first beads strung for Rows 1 and 2. String 7 green size 15's; pass back through the first strung to make another bubble fringe (Figure 5). Secure the working thread and trim.

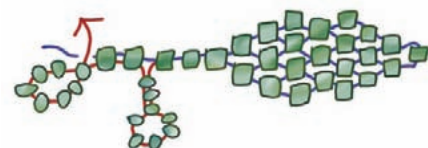


Figure 5

Loop: Place a needle on the tail thread. String 8 green size 15's; pass through the clasp ring between Dangles 2 and 3. Pass back through the beads just strung twice to make a reinforced loop around the clasp ring. Weave through beads on the leaf. Secure the thread and trim.

6: Pendant leaf dangle. Use cylinder and seed beads to peyote-stitch leaf embellishments for the pendant as you did for the clasp leaf. This time you will connect 2 leaves by the stems with 1 fringe made up of 2 green size 15's and 9 red size 15's. You'll also make the leaves with an extra row so you end with 1 peyote stitch instead of 2. Finally, stitch the leaf embellishment to the seed beads just above the pendant's crimp. ♦

Barbara Richard specializes in intricate seed-bead weaving and bead crochet; she teaches at stores in Connecticut and Florida and does private instruction.

RESOURCES

Check your local bead shop or contact: Wide-Eye Needle and G-S Hypo jewelry cement, Fire Mountain Gems and Beads, (800) 423-2319, www.firemountaingems.com. Crochet thread and beads: Beads East, (860) 649-2323, www.beadseast.com. Findings: The Bead Hive, (203) 453-6681, www.thebeadhivect.com or Artbeads.com, (866) 715-2323.

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