

Inferno Bead Bracelet

MARK AND MYRA JOHNSON

Make this Inferno Bead bracelet to complement the Inferno Bead necklace in the March-April 2009 issue of *Step by Step Beads*.



ADVANCED BEGINNER

WHAT YOU NEED: BEADS

- 2 oz black polymer clay
- 2 oz red polymer clay
- Clay cutting blade
- Toaster oven
- Pasta machine (dedicated to non-food use)
- Bead baking rack
- Varnish
- Latex gloves (to prevent fingerprints)
- Bead roller (optional)

WHAT YOU NEED: BRACELET

- 9 Inferno beads
- 10 crystal-on-silver rondelles
- 4 black size 6a seed beads
- 10¼" of .015 flexible beading wire
- Toggle clasp
- Round-nose pliers
- Flat-nose pliers
- Crimping pliers
- Wire cutters

Finished size: 7½"

Form the bead

1. Cut 1 pre-scored section from each block of clay. Using setting #6 on your pasta machine, condition both pieces thoroughly. This makes the clay easier to manipulate, squeezes out any trapped air, and improves the beads rigidity and strength after baking.

2. Roll each piece of clay into a cylinder and cut off ⅛ of the cylinder to make the beads. Take each small piece of clay and roll it into a slender snake, then braid the snakes pieces together. Cut the braid into ½-¾" pieces, depending upon how large you want your beads to be.

3. Put on the rubber gloves. Roll each section of clay into a ball, then shape your bead. You can do this by hand or with a bead roller.

4. Lance each bead with a needle tool, from both ends, to create a smooth and finished looking edge on both sides.

5. Place the beads on a bead baking rack and bake according to the manufacturer's specifications. After baking, let the pieces cool completely before handling.

6. Add several coats of clear protective varnish with a brush for a nice, polished shine. Let the beads completely dry before handling.

Assemble the bracelet

1. Attach one half of the toggle to the end of the beading wire using 1 crimp tube. Secure the crimp with crimping pliers and trim the excess wire.

2. String the beads in the following order: 2 seed beads, 1 rondelle, and 1 Inferno bead. Continue alternating rondelles and Inferno beads until you are almost at the desired length. Remember, adding the toggle and seed beads to this side of the bracelet will add length. String 2 seed beads and attach the other half of the clasp using 1 crimp tube. Secure the crimp with crimping pliers and trim the excess wire.

3. After the beads are strung, add 1 crimp tube and the other end of the toggle. Bring wire back through the crimp. Pull the wire gently to remove any excess slack. Secure crimp with crimping pliers and trim excess wire.

RESOURCES: Purchase finished oval black and red Inferno color pattern beads: Uniquities! Jewelry and Accessories, www.uniquitiesja.com. All other glass beads and components: Michaels: www.michaels.com.

Uniquities! Jewelry and Accessories is the artistic collaboration of Mark and Myra Johnson, whose love of collecting vintage jewelry and art glass inspired them to create their own artisan-crafted jewelry line. They pair their own handmade polymer art clay beads with other components to create one-of-a-kind art jewelry. Their work may be seen at www.uniquitiesja.com and in their ShopHandmade store at www.shophandmade.com/Store/Uniquitiesja. They can be reached at info@uniquitiesja.com.



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