



## FLAT BRAID CUFF

By Leslie Rogalski

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Flat braid is great addition to your basic stitch vocabulary, with loops of seed beads that meet in the middle over a supple “core” of other beads. Perfect for bracelets or necklace straps.

Make a bunch using Cymbal TOPOLIA endings and stack them up!

**TECHNIQUE:** bead stitching, ending thread

**SKILL:** Confident beginner

**MATERIALS:** for up to a 7 inch beaded bracelet minus closure

8g size 11 seed beads

8g size 8 seed beads (4g each colors A and B)

25-30 size 4mm rounds, druks, FP, other

2 TOPOLIA Cymbal endings

Clasp and jump rings to attach to Cymbal endings

Fireline

Size 10 beading needles

Scissors or Thread Zap

Pliers to work jump rings

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For clarity, illustrations do not show repeated thread paths.

**TIP: Keep your braid facing up so the strands always lie over the previously sewn strands.**

**FIGURE 1**

**STEP 1. (BLACK THREAD)** On a 2.5 yard piece of thread string a stopper bead leaving a 12 inch tail to attach a clasp later.

**STEP 2.** String an 8°, 4mm, an 8°A, a 4mm and an 8°, five 11°s, an 8°B, and five 11°s.

**STEP 3.** Sew up the core 8°, 4mm, 8°, 4mm and 8°.

**STEP 4. (RED THREAD)** String five 11°s, an 8°B, and five 11°s.

**STEP 5.** Sew up the core 8°, 4mm, 8°, 4mm and 8°.

**STEP 6.** Separate the loops of seed beads to be on either side of the core.

**FIGURE 2**

**STEP 7. (BLACK THREAD)** String a 4mm and an 8°A, five 11°s, an 8°B, and five 11°s.

**STEP 8.** Sew up through the last previously strung 4mm and 8°, and the new 4mm and 8°.

**STEP 9. (RED THREAD)** String five 11°s, an 8°B, and five 11°s.

**STEP 10.** Sew up again through the last previously strung 4mm and 8°, and the new 4mm and 8°.

**STEP 11.** Repeat Steps 7-10 for your desired length, minus clasp allowance of about one inch.

**FIGURE 3**

To add a TOPOLIA ending, the bracelet end has to be wider and secure:

**STEP 12.** String two 8°s. Sew down through the loop of 11°s, 8°, and 11°s. Sew up through the second to last core 4mm, 8°, 4mm and end 8°.

**STEP 13.** Repeat Step 12 sewing through the other loop of 11°s, 8° and 11°s.. Exit out the two new 8°s just added. Repeat the thread path.

**FIGURE 4**

**STEP 14.** Bring the TOPOLIA ending to flank the row of 8°s. Sew out through the side leg of the TOPOLIA. String an 11°. Sew back through the TOPOLIA leg and through two 8°s.

**NOTE: depending on the variations in size among seed beads, four 8°s may fill the TOPOLIA. If so, you won't need to add the 11° in the beginning of Step 15.**

**STEP 15.** String an 11°--this pushes the beads so they fill the space inside the TOPOLIA. Continue through the other two 8°s and out the other TOPOLIA leg.

**STEP 16.** String an 11°. Sew back into the TOPOLIA leg, through the 8°s and 11° inside the Topolia and out the other leg.

**STEP 17.** Repeat the path through all beads inside the TOPOLIA and the outer 11°. Sew back into the TOPOLIA and two 8°s.

**STEP 18.** Repeat the thread path and exit two 8°s.

**STEP 19.** Sew down into the core beads. Secure the thread in the beadwork and trim.

**STEP 20.** Remove the stopper bead from the tail and string a needle.

**STEP 21.** Repeats Steps 12-19 (FIGURE 4) to add the other TOPOLIA, **with a slight change** since the braids face the other way at this end of the bracelet. In Step 12 after stringing the two 8°s, sew through the seed bead loop and come up through the third to last 8°, then continue through a 4mm, an 8°, a 4mm, and an 8°. Do the same when you add the second pair of 8°s at the end, and when you repeat these thread paths..

**STEP 22.** Use pliers to work jump rings to add your choice of clasp at each TOPOLIA loop.



Illustrations by Leslie Rogalski

FIGURE 1

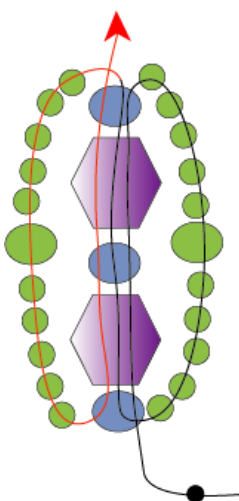


FIGURE 2

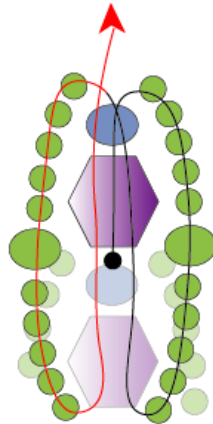


FIGURE 3

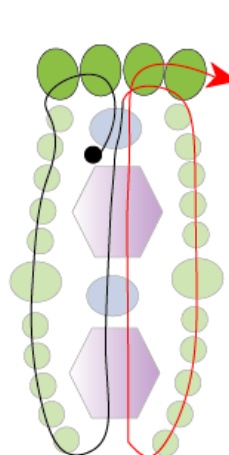


FIGURE 4

