



Alutiiq Beaded Necklace

Instructions by Candace Branson



SUPPLIES:

- Nymo Beading Thread
- Glass Seed Beads, Size 6 – Four Colors (1,095 total)
- Larger Glass Pony Beads – One Color (75 total)
- Tanned Deer Hide
- Rotary Cutter or Leather Scissors
- Leather Sewing Needle (Glovers), Size 8
- Bead Mat
- Cutting Mat (optional)
- Lighter or Super Glue (to secure knots)



Uyamillquaq - Necklace Inspired by an ancestral necklace collected in Ugashik in 1880 by William Fisher for the Smithsonian Institution. <https://alaska.si.edu/record.asp?id=15>

Watch Candace make this Necklace at <https://vimeo.com/489089869>

Step One: Prepare Your Materials

1. Lay out your bead mat.
2. Sort your beads by size and color. It is helpful to pour them into a small dish or plate.

Step Two: Stretch and Cut Your Leather

1. Stretch the leather before cutting to prevent it from stretching with time and use. To do this, hold the edges firmly and pull the leather in opposite directions. Work your way around the entire piece.
2. Once you have thoroughly stretched the leather, cut it into smaller strips to sew between each section of your necklace.
 - a. Lay the leather out on cutting mat (or table if you are using scissors).
 - b. Use the rotary cutter (or scissors) to cut a leather strip that is 0.5" wide.
 - c. Cut this long strip into six smaller pieces that are 2" long and 0.5" wide.



Step Three: Choose the Necklace Pattern

1. You will use two patterns (A & B) and each pattern will be repeated three times in each ring of the necklace, alternating between the two patterns. The pattern will be A-B-A-B-A-B for each ring.

Pattern Key:

P= Pony bead

S₁= first color of seed bead (dark blue)

S₂= second color of seed bead (off-white)

S₃= third color of seed bead (red)

S₄= fourth color of seed bead (light blue)

2. Pattern for the necklace in the video—

a. **Pattern A** – four S₃, two S₂, five S₃, four S₄, three S₂, four S₄, five S₃, two S₂, four S₃

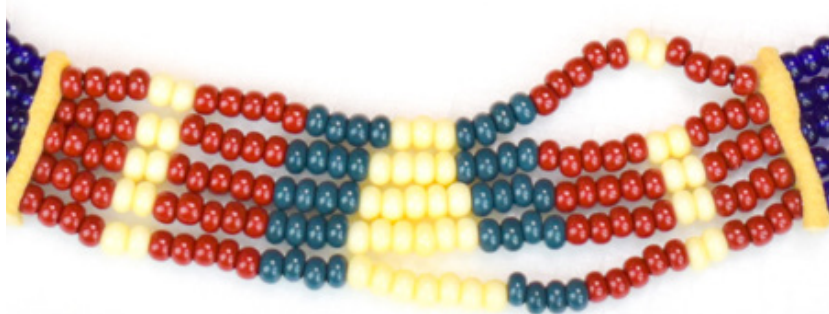
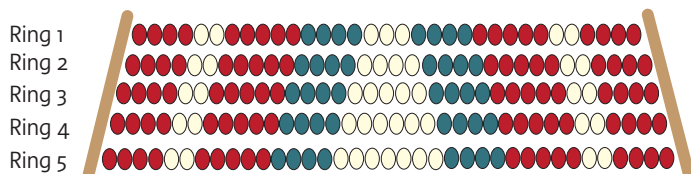
b. **Pattern B** – five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, three P, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁.

c. As you add each new ring to the necklace, you will increase the number of beads in the center of each pattern by one bead.

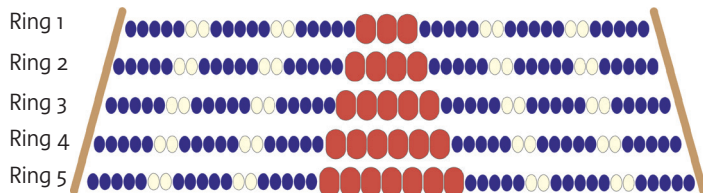
- In Pattern A, one additional seed bead (S₂) is added in the center of the pattern for each ring of the necklace.

- In Pattern B, one additional Pony Bead (P) is added in the center of the pattern for each ring of the necklace.

Pattern A

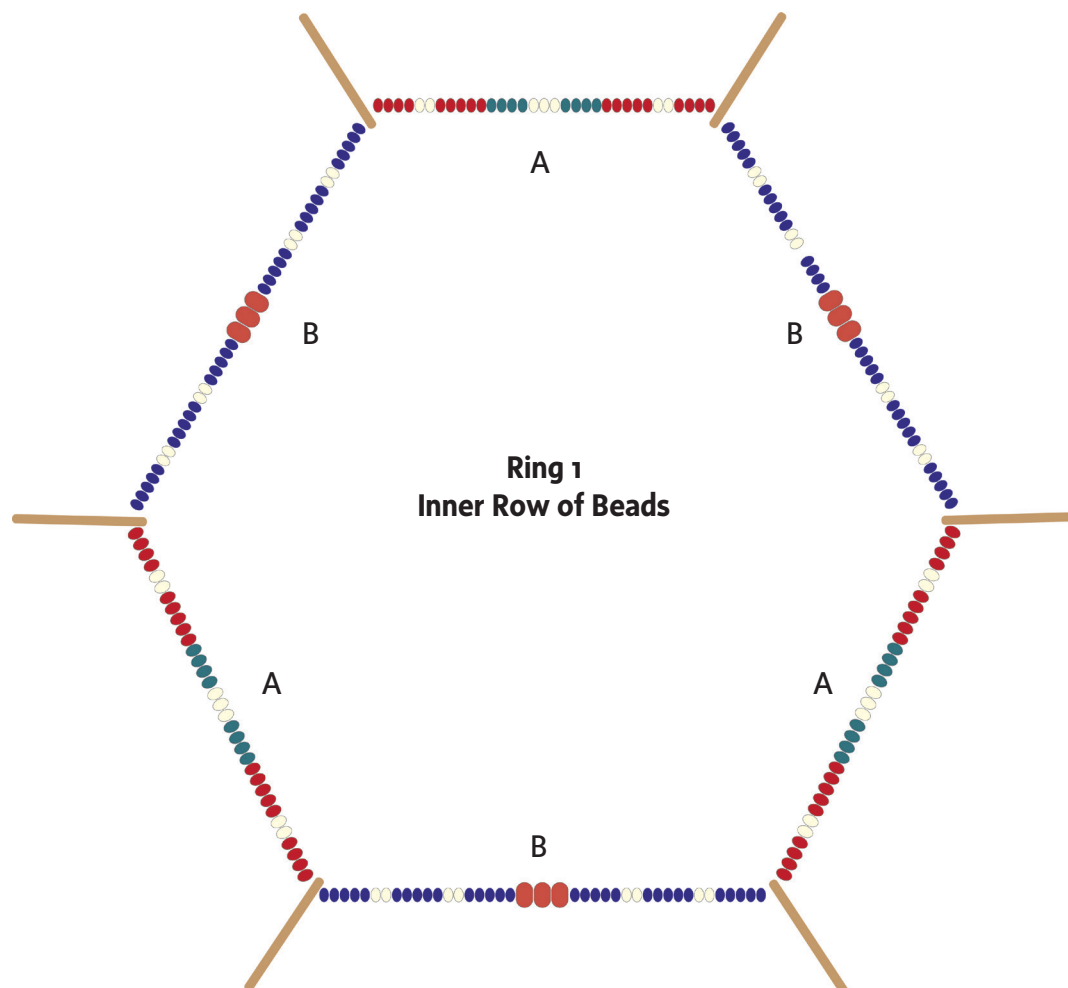


Pattern B



Step Four: Begin Beading (Inner Ring of the Necklace)

1. Cut a long length of thread (36 to 48"), double it over, and tie a knot at the end of the doubled thread. You will use multiple strings of thread for the necklace.
 - a. When you run out of thread, put the needle through one side of a leather strip, and tie a knot. Secure the knot with a dab of glue or by melting the thread with a lighter.
 - b. Start a new thread on the same piece of leather close to the knot you just tied. Hide the knot in the fold of the leather.
2. Find the skin side of one 2" strip of the leather (it is shinier and less fibrous) and push the needle through the leather near the top of the strip with the skin side facing out and the knot on the fibrous side.
3. Fold the leather strip in half lengthwise with the knot tucked inside the fold and pull the needle back through the leather to secure with a small stitch. Make sure the needle comes out where you want to start your beading (near the top of the folded strip). The stitch will hold the leather together and hide your knot.
 - a. Pull open the fold in the leather to cut the tail of your thread close to the knot.
 - b. Secure the knot with a dab of glue or by melting the thread with a lighter. If you use glue, let it dry before moving on.
 - c. Do this to both tails.



Step Four: (Continued)

4. Add your first set of beads in **Pattern A** (four S₃, two S₂, five S₃, four S₄, **three** S₂, four S₄, five S₃, two S₂, four S₃).
5. Add another leather strip and stitch it the same way as the first leather strip.
 - a. Find the skin side of one strip of the leather (shinier and less fibrous) and push the needle through the leather near the top of the strip with the skin side facing out and the tail of your thread on the fibrous side.
 - b. Fold the leather strip in half lengthwise and pull the needle back through the leather to secure with a small stitch. This stitch will help make sure your necklace is secure. Make sure the needle comes out where you want to start your beading (near the top of the folded strip).
6. Add your first set of beads in **Pattern B** (five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, **three** P, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁).
7. Repeat adding the leather strips and alternating bead patterns two more times so each pattern is used three times (leather-A-leather-B-leather-A-leather-B-leather-A-leather-B).
8. When you have completed step 7 you will end on Pattern B. Instead of adding another strip of leather, you will stitch the thread back through the first strip of leather to create a circle. This finishes the inner ring of your necklace.
 - a. Make sure that each section of your pattern is pulled tight so there are no gaps before tightening your thread through the first strip of leather. You can tie a knot here to help secure your necklace.
 - b. When you pull the thread back through the strip of leather this time you will push the needle and thread out lower on the strip of leather to begin your next ring.

Avoid common mistakes:

- Sew all of the leather pieces closed in the same direction so that the leather folds are facing the same direction. Be sure the front of the necklace does not show any of the seams in the leather.
- After you have added each section of beads and before you stitch into your leather, count the beads to make sure your pattern is correct. Make sure that your beads and string are not tangled before you stitch into the leather.
- Once you stitch into the leather, pull the thread tight to make sure that there are no gaps in you pattern and the beads rest snugly against the leather.



Step Five: Continue Beading (Second Ring of the Necklace)

1. Add one additional bead into the center of each pattern for this ring.
2. Add your first set of beads in **Pattern A** (four S₃, two S₂, five S₃, four S₄, **four** S₂, four S₄, five S₃, two S₂, four S₃). Stitch through the second leather strip.
3. Add your first set of beads in **Pattern B** (five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, **four** P, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁). Stitch through the third leather strip.
4. Continue until you have completed the pattern (leather-A-leather-B-leather-A-leather-B-leather-A-leather-B). End by stitching the thread back into the first strip of leather to finish the second ring.

Step Six: Continue Beading (Third Ring of the Necklace)

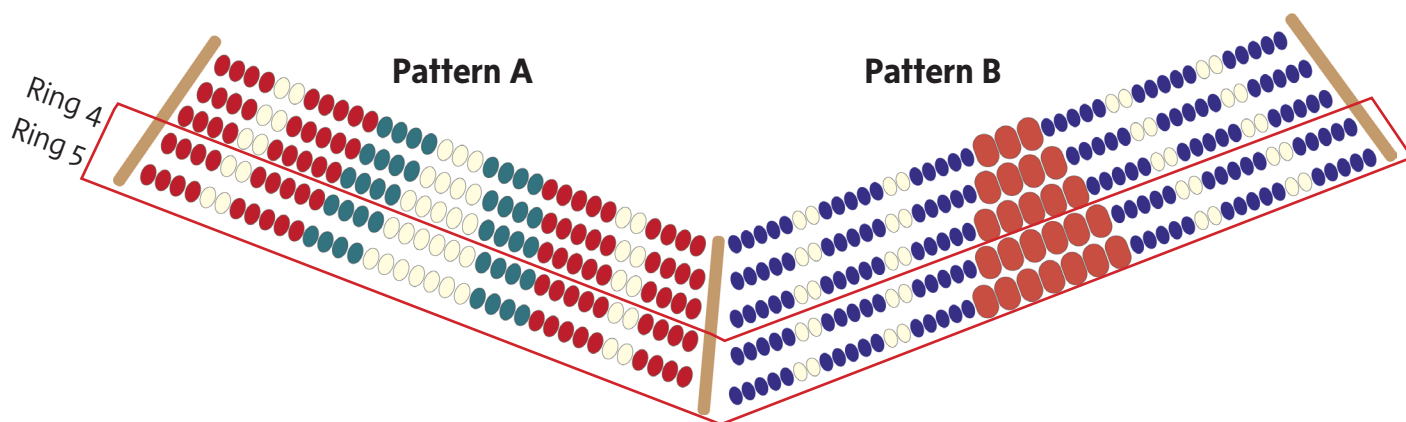
1. Add one additional bead into the center of each pattern for this ring.
2. Add your first set of beads in **Pattern A** (four S₃, two S₂, five S₃, four S₄, **five** S₂, four S₄, five S₃, two S₂, four S₃). Stitch through the second leather strip.
3. Add your first set of beads in **Pattern B** (five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, **five** P, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁). Stitch through the third leather strip.
4. Continue until you have completed the pattern (leather-A-leather-B-leather-A-leather-B-leather-A-leather-B). End by stitching the thread back into the first strip of leather to finish the third ring.

Step Seven: Continue Beading (Fourth Ring of the Necklace)

1. Add one additional bead into the center of each pattern for this ring.
2. Add your first set of beads in **Pattern A** (four S₃, two S₂, five S₃, four S₄, **six** S₂, four S₄, five S₃, two S₂, four S₃). Stitch through the second leather strip.
3. Add your first set of beads in **Pattern B** (five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, **six** P, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁). Stitch through the third leather strip.
4. Continue until you have completed the pattern (leather-A-leather-B-leather-A-leather-B-leather-A-leather-B). End by stitching the thread back into the first strip of leather to finish the fourth ring.

Step Eight: Continue Beading (Fifth Ring of the Necklace)

1. Add one additional bead into the center of each pattern for this ring.
2. Add your first set of beads in **Pattern A** (four S₃, two S₂, five S₃, four S₄, **seven** S₂, four S₄, five S₃, two S₂, four S₃). Stitch through the second leather strip.
3. Add your first set of beads in **Pattern B** (five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, **seven** P, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁, two S₂, five S₁). Stitch through the third leather strip.
4. Continue until you have completed the pattern (leather-A-leather-B-leather-A-leather-B-leather-A-leather-B). End by stitching the thread back into the first strip of leather to finish the fifth ring.



Step Nine: Finish the Necklace

1. Tie off the final thread with a strong knot, cut the tail, and use either glue or a lighter to secure the knot. Hide the knot in the leather.
2. Use scissors to trim the leather pieces so that they are even with the width of the necklace.



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