



Alutiiq Beaded Cuffs

Instructions by Kayla Christiansen



SUPPLIES:

- Nymo beading thread
- Glass seed beads, size 6 – three colors (1,938 beads total for one cuff, 3,876 beads total for two cuffs)
- Tanned deer hide (4" x 0.5" strips, 5 for one cuff or 10 for two)
- Leather sewing needle (Glovers), size 8
- Bead mat
- Leather scissors or rotary cutter
- Cutting mat (optional)
- Lighter or Super Glue (to secure knot)



Tayarneutaq - Cuff: Inspired by cuffs collected on Kodiak in 1872, Pinart Collection, Musée Boulogne-Sur-Mer, France.

Watch Kayla make these cuffs at <https://vimeo.com/492570906>

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: Cut Your Leather

1. Cut your leather into small strips to sew between each section of your cuff.
 - a. Lay the leather out on cutting mat (or table if you are using scissors).
 - b. Use the rotary cutter (or scissors) to cut leather strips that are 0.5" wide.
 - c. Cut the long strips into ten smaller pieces that are 4" long and 0.5" wide.



Step Three: Choose the Cuff Pattern

1. You will use one basic pattern, repeating, for each ring of the cuffs, alternating your colors. Each cuff will have twenty-two (22) rows of beads. Additional beads are added in each row so that the cuff tapers.

Pattern Key:

- a. S₁= first color of seed bead (red)
- b. S₂= second color of seed bead (blue)
- c. S₃= third color of seed bead (off-white)



Cuff Pattern Key

Row One and Row Two: 3 S₁ – Leather – 19 S₂ – Leather – 21 S₁ – Leather – 19 S₂ – Leather – 15 S₁

Row Three and Row Four: 3 S₁ – Leather – 19 S₂ – Leather – 22 S₃ – Leather – 19 S₂ – Leather – 16 S₃

Row Five: 3 S₁ – Leather – 20 S₂ – Leather – 22 S₃ – Leather – 20 S₂ – Leather – 16 S₃

Row Six and Row Seven: 3 S₁ – Leather – 20 S₂ – Leather – 23 S₁ – Leather – 20 S₂ – Leather – 17 S₁

Row Eight: 3 S₁ – Leather – 20 S₂ – Leather – 24 S₃ – Leather – 20 S₂ – Leather – 18 S₃

Row Nine and Row Ten: 3 S₁ – Leather – 21 S₂ – Leather – 24 S₃ – Leather – 21 S₂ – Leather – 18 S₃

Row Eleven and Row Twelve: 3 S₁ – Leather – 21 S₂ – Leather – 25 S₁ – Leather – 21 S₂ – Leather – 19 S₁

Row Thirteen, Row Fourteen, and Row Fifteen: 3 S₁ – Leather – 22 S₂ – Leather – 25 S₃ – Leather – 22 S₂ – Leather – 19 S₃

Row Sixteen and Row Seventeen: 3 S₁ – Leather – 22 S₂ – Leather – 26 S₁ – Leather – 22 S₂ – Leather – 20 S₁

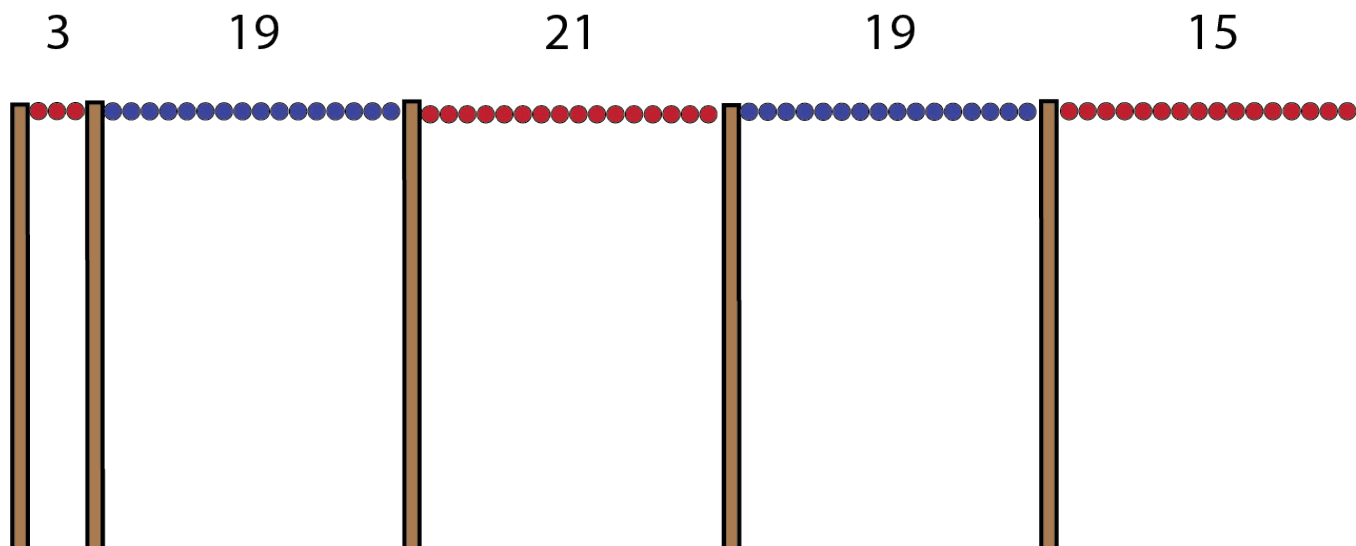
Row Eighteen, Row Nineteen, and Row Twenty: 3 S₁ – Leather – 23 S₂ – Leather – 26 S₃ – Leather – 23 S₂ – Leather – 20 S₃

Row Twenty-one and Row Twenty-two: 3 S₁ – Leather – 24 S₂ – Leather – 27 S₁ – Leather – 24 S₂ – Leather – 21 S₁

Step Four: Begin Beading (First Row of the Cuff)

1. Cut a long length of thread, about 48". Double it over and tie a knot at the end. You will use multiple strings of thread for each cuff.
 - a. When you run out of thread, put the needle through one side of the leather, and tie a knot. Secure the knot with a dab of glue or by melting the thread ends 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 4" 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.
 - a. Make sure the needle comes through the top right corner of your leather strip. This is where you want to start your beading.
3. Start adding beads for the first row in your pattern.
 - a. For the first row your pattern is:
3 S1 – Leather – 19 S2 – Leather – 21 S1 – Leather – 19 S2 – Leather – 15 S1.
 - b. Continue until you have added all the beads for this row.
4. Push the needle back through the first piece of leather used to start the cuff. Go through the top left corner of the first piece of leather so you complete the circle.
 - a. Make a small stitch to secure.
 - b. Tie a strong knot.
 - c. 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.

Row One:



Step Five: Continue Beading (Second Row of the Cuff)

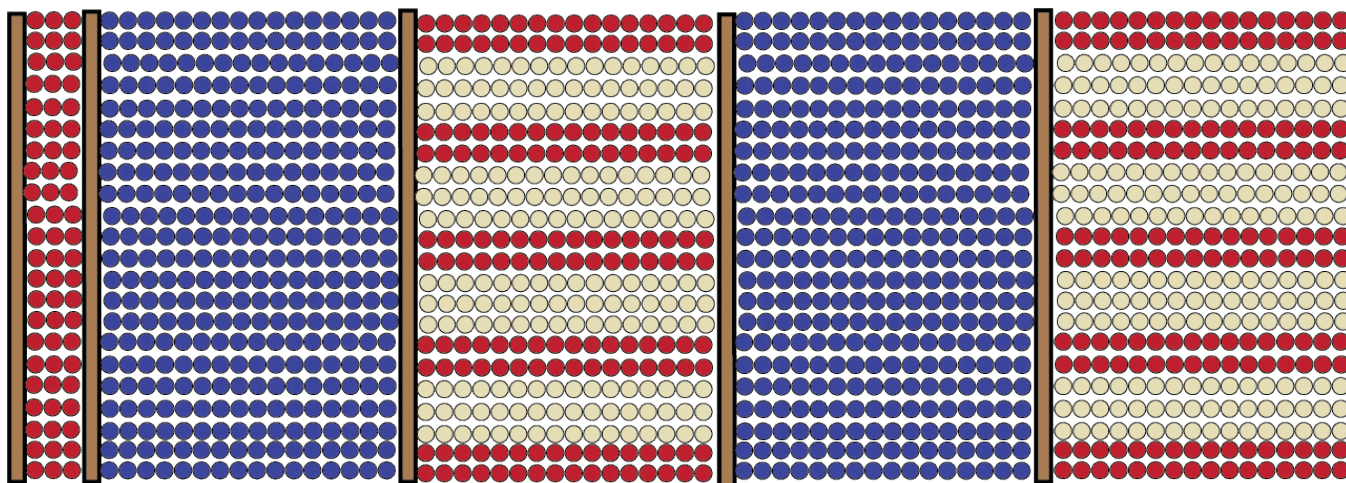
1. Start adding beads for the second row in your pattern.
 - a. For the second row your pattern is the same as the first row:
3 S1 – Leather – 19 S2 – Leather – 21 S1 – Leather – 19 S2 – Leather – 15 S1
 - b. Continue until you have added all the beads for this ring.
 - c. Attach to the first piece of leather to make a second circle and complete the second row of your cuff as you did the first row.

Step Six: Continue Beading (Third Row of the Cuff)

1. Start adding beads for the third row in your pattern.
 - a. For this row you will use your third color of bead and add more beads to make a bigger ring.
 - b. For the third row your pattern is:
3 S1 – Leather – 19 S2 – Leather – 22 S3 – Leather – 19 S2 – Leather – 16 S3
 - c. Continue until you have added all the beads for this row.
 - d. Attach to the first piece of leather to make a third circle and complete the third row of your cuff as you did with the first and the second rows.

Step Seven: Continue Beading (Remaining Rows of the Cuff)

7. Start adding beads for the fourth row in your pattern.
 - a. For the fourth row your pattern is the same as the third row:
3 S1 – Leather – 19 S2 – Leather – 22 S3 – Leather – 19 S2 – Leather – 16 S3
 - b. Continue until you have added all the beads for this row.
 - c. Attach to the first piece of leather to make a fourth circle and complete the fourth row of your cuff.
8. Continue beading, following the pattern key for each row of the cuff until you have completed all twenty-two rows.



Step Eight: Finish the Cuff

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. After tying off the final row and securing your knot, cut the excess leather off the end of the cuff.
3. Flip the cuff right side out so the stitches are on the inside of the cuff.



SPONSORS: The Pinguat Project | US Bureau of Indian Affairs | Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak | Koniag, Inc.
The Musée Boulogne-Ser-Mer | The Alaska State Council on the Arts