

St. Petersburg Chain

This stitch is one of the Russian Classics that is strong and drapes nicely. Often used for spectacle chains.

You need: Seed beads in 2 colours (size 11)
Thread to match your beads
Beading needle
Beeswax or "Thread Heaven"
Findings

You do:

Making a two-sided chain will give you a nice V-front necklace. For this, thread the needle with 1.8 m of thread but do not cut the rest off the bobbin. This will be enough to make half the necklace. For the second half you use another 1.8 m of thread from the bobbin. For a spectacle chain, use 2 m and thread a stopper bead, leaving a 20 cm tail.

Key:  Stopper Bead  Main Colour (MC)  Accent Colour (AC)

1. Pick up 1 accent bead (AC) and 6 main colour beads (MC).

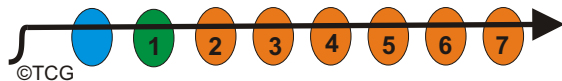


Figure 1

2. Stitch again through beads 4 and 5. Pull tight.

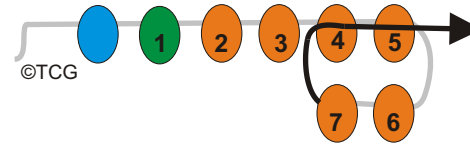


Figure 2

3. Pick up one AC and stitch back through beads 5, 4 and 3. You should exit bead 3. Pick up one AC and stitch through beads 7 and 6.

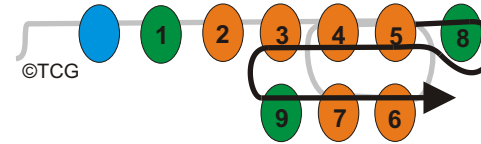


Figure 3

4. Pick up 4 MC and stitch again through the first two beads you just picked up (beads 10 and 11). Pull tight.

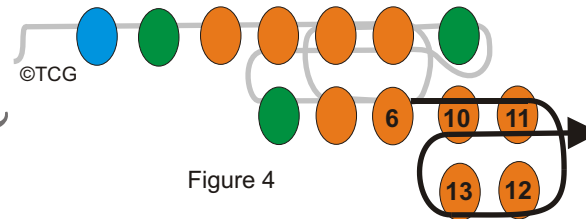


Figure 4

5. Continue by repeating steps 3 and 4 until your chain reaches the desired length. Attach findings if desired.

Completing the second half of the V-neck necklace:

Take 1.8 m of thread off the bobbin and thread your needle.
Stitch back through beads 2, 3, 4 and 5. Exit bead 5.
Pick up 2 MC and stitch back through beads 4, 5 and 8 (fig. 1).

Stitch back through beads 5, 4 and 3. Exit bead 3.
Pick up one AC (bead C) and stitch back through beads A and B (fig. 2).

From here onwards continue as for normal St. Petersburg Chain.

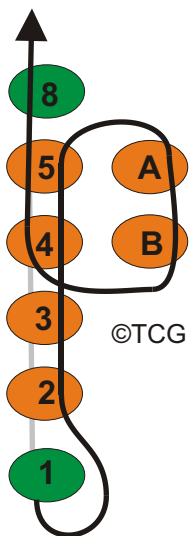


Figure 1

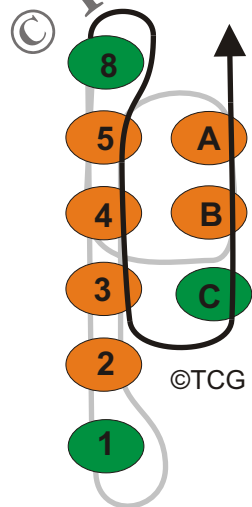


Figure 2

Gently curving Necklace:

Using three different sizes of beads, for example sizes 11/0, 08/0 and 06/0 or sizes 15/0, 11/0 and 08/0 for a daintier result, your St. Petersburg Chain will automatically curve gently and will drape well.

See the use of beads below:

