

# Necklace Sheep and Shine! A TUTORIAL

WORDS AND PICTURES **INEKE DE BROUWER**



The Netherlands is a country with an enormous variety of landscapes and weather conditions. Nature gives different breathtaking colors every day, week season. Because it is a small country you never have to travel more than 200 km (124 mi) to find inspiration in the forest, the countryside, on the moorland, on the mudflats of Texel, or near the North Sea, beach and dunes where Texelaars graze.

The inspiration for this necklace design comes from the many shells worn by the tide on the Dutch coast. Many of these shells are polished by waves and sand. It is wonderful to do some barefoot beach combing for pieces of mother-of-pearl that reflect the colours of the Dutch skies, and to pick up some treasures before the breakers drag them back into the sea.

For designing a personal necklace there are sources of inspiration everywhere. Just look around. What fascinates and enchants you? Which colors suit your skin color, your mood? What is your favorite item of clothing? Choose pearls, beads, precious gems from nature. Make an exhibition of what you have chosen and see if this collection of gems is an attractive combination. Take a break, sit back with a cup of coffee and view your collection.

## You will also need

- Striped top or roving (at least 15 gm / 0.52oz) beads in different sizes.
- Crimp bead steel wire with nylon coating about 2 m (0.56ft)
- Homespun beehive coil yarn (approx. 15 coils)
- Base roving, my choice was merino, silk, pearl fibre top.
- Freshwater pearls, crystal beads, amethyst and quartzcrimp beads.
- Silver wire

## Tools

- Spinning wheel
- Needle
- Scissors
- Flat nose pliers
- Core yarn

The horizontal striped combed top is for spinning the beehive coils. Several companies have striped roving for sale. ***The Big Book of Fibery Rainbows*** (p. 89) describes how to use a hackle to make your own multicolored top. Adding silk or viscose gives



a special shiny effect to the coil. If you do not own a hackle, you can create one yourself, you could follow my [Home Made Hackle tutorial](#) posted on Fiberygoodness!

Start making the necklace by spinning some beehive coils. Use your special top for this. You can use something else for the base fiber, and as you do not use the pieces of yarn between the coils, you cut these off later, it doesn't matter too much what fiber you use for that.

Suzy has a good tutorial for spinning these kinds of coils on her [WoolWench Youtube Channel](#)



When the coils are spun, they need to be felted a little. Use warm water and soap and carefully roll the coils through your hands. Do not rub too hard. Only the outside needs to be felted. The inside must remain soft and flexible.



Once the coils are dry you can start threading the necklace. Use a needle to thread the coils. The beads and crimp beads can be slid directly onto the steel wire. If you have problems pulling the coils over the needle, you can use the pliers to pull the needle through.

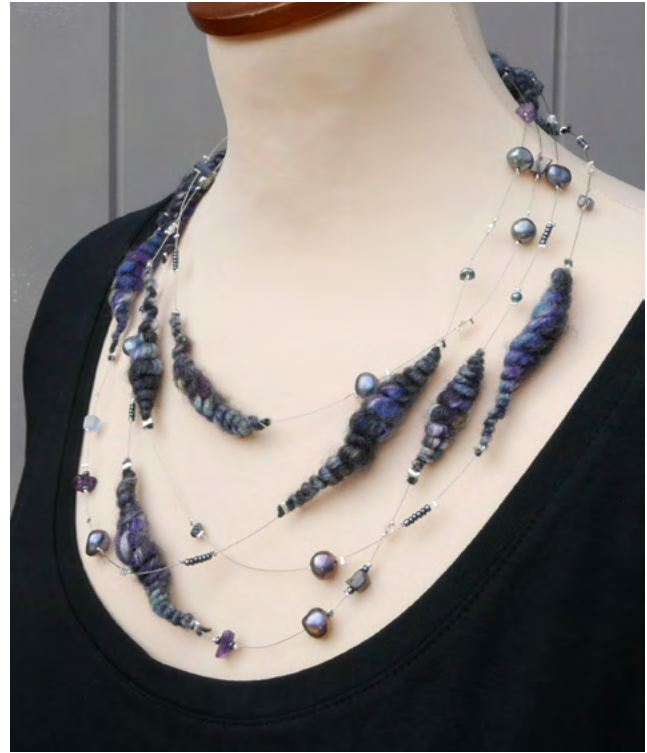
Start each group of beads with a crimp bead and also end with a crimp bead. Use large ones for the coils, and small ones for the beads.



After all the beads are strung, they can be spread on the steel wire. First, you distribute the coils. Use a measuring tape if necessary. The distribution of the beads happens later in the processing. (If you have



a mannequin you can use it for this purpose.) Fixing the coils is done with the help of the crimp beads. Pull the end of the coil through the bead. Squeeze the bead with a pair of pliers. When the coil is secure, trim the remainder of the yarn.



After all coils have been divided and secured, you can start by distributing and securing the strips of pearls and beads together.

Divide the groups of beads over the spaces between the coils. Secure the beads by pinching the crimp beads up

The necklace is now ready. By wrapping the chain more or fewer times around your neck you can vary the overall length of the necklace.

*Where sea and shore meet, where sheep and shell come together. Casual and chic unite.*



**Tricky Thread Studio**  
for textile art

Unique artistic handmade fashion and interior accessories.  
Courses, workshops, demonstrations, hand spun yarns,  
weaving

Majacraft spinning and weaving materials

[www.trickythread.com](http://www.trickythread.com)    [www.facebook.com/Trickythread](https://www.facebook.com/Trickythread)