# doodlebeads

The popular spiral or grapevine stitch looks like a circular staircase of beads winding around a core of other beads. There is more than one way to do this stitch: our tutorial teaches to string the core first on flexible beading wire (leaving room at the ends to crimp your clasp), then stitch your spiral. Use smaller beads to spiral, larger for the core, but not too much larger or your spiral won't be as effective. Round, cylinder, or hex beads work best for the core to enable the nicest spirals.

TIPS from Leslie

• Bugle beads are shown here but size 15° or size 11° seed beads work great. Substitute enough seed beads to equal ¾ core beads in lieu of a single bugle bead in each stitch.

• Something fun to try: alternate a bugle bead with a line of seed beads as you make your spiral!
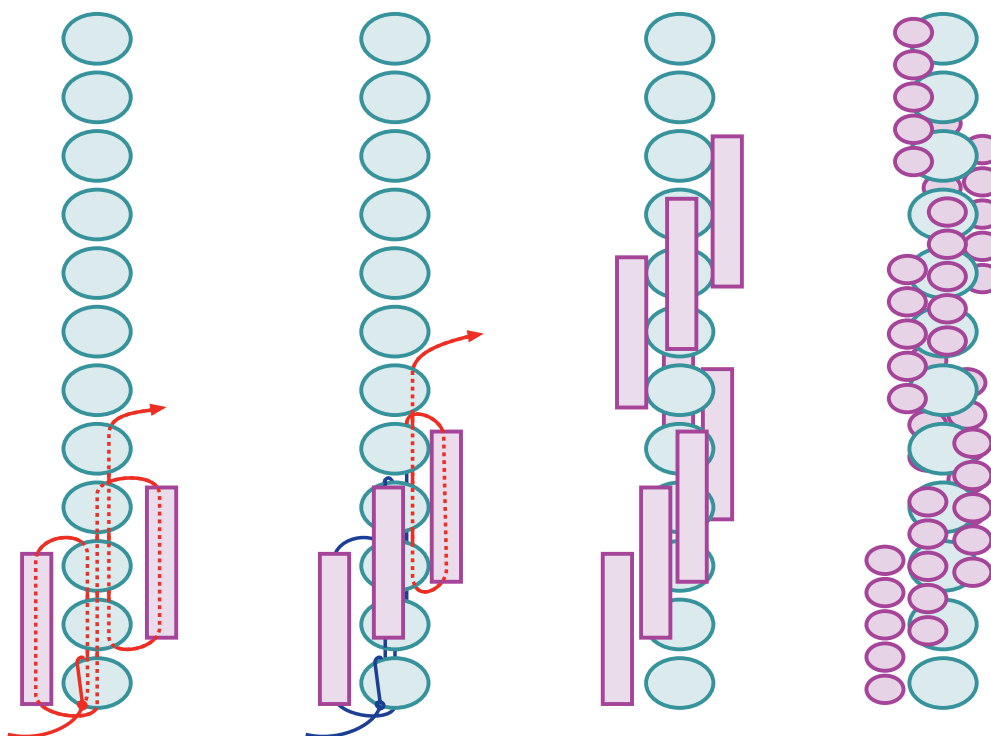
1 Place a bead stopper on one end of beading wire. String size 8° seed beads to your desired length.

2 Thread a needle with a comfortable length of thread. Knot around the first core bead, leaving a short tail to weave in later. Pass up through 3 core beads. String 1 bugle and pass up the same 3 core beads again plus 1 more core bead, for a total of 4 core beads. Exit the fourth core bead.

3 String a bugle bead. Pass up 3 previous core beads plus one, exiting the fourth core bead, the one above where you exited to string your second bugle.

4 Push the second bugle next to the first. Notice how it sits slightly higher than the first bugle by one core bead. String a third bugle, pass up a total of 4 core beads and exit. Push the bugle just strung next to the previous bugle.

5 Continue to string a bugle, pass up 4 core beads, and push the new bugle next to the previously strung bugle. See the spiral forming? When you reach your desired length (minus room for the clasp) simply knot your working thread around the last core bead and weave the tail into the beadwork. Add clasps at both ends.