Crest of a Wave

The beadwork at the front of the necklace is supported by a plait of knitted wire. This surface is flexible, stitchable, and because it remains smooth on the back: comfortable to wear.

1. **Making the Plait** - Fold the knitted wire lengthwise into four bringing the edges into the centre and then folding down the centre line. Fig 1 shows the end view.

2. Stretch the knitted wire along the length smoothing it with your fingers. It will double in length and reduce to 6-8mm wide.

Cut off one third of the length. Bend the longer length in half to create a 14mm loop at the centre. Pin the end of the shorter length to the base of the loop ready to start the plait (fig 2).

3. Make a 15cm plait from the three ribbons – keep the plait flat and even.

At the 15cm position make a 14mm loop from the longest end to match the loop at the other end and pin in place (fig 3).

4. Use two 70cm lengths of beading thread to stitch through the wire ribbons, at the pin positions, to secure both ends of the plait.

Finish with four wraps of thread around the plait at the base of the loops to make firm.

Fasten off the threads with a double stitch and trim. Mark out six equidistant positions along the plait with pins (fig 4).

**Materials**

To Make the Necklace

- 50cm of supergreen 85mm wide/0.1mm knitted wire tubing (KW114)
- 4g of scarab blue Twin beads A (TW004)
- 6g of transparent turquoise Twin beads B (TW031)
- 12g of silver-lined crystal Twin beads C (TW003)
- 1g of silver-lined turquoise size 10/0 seed beads D (RC559)
- 2g of silver-lined crystal size 10/0 seed beads E (RC011)
- Two silver plated whelk shell pendant pieces (MB877)
- Two silver plated fish-shaped beads (MB891)
- 1m of supergreen 0.315mm coloured wire (EW321)
- 50cm of superblue 0.9mm coloured wire (EW912)
- 30cm of supergreen 0.9mm coloured wire (EW913)
- 30cm of silver plated 12mm chunky link curb chain (FN137)
- One silver plated S-shaped clasp (MB157)
- Two silver plated 6mm jump rings (FN142)

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You will also need turquoise Nymo beading thread, a beading needle, a pair of old scissors to cut the knitted wire, sharp scissors for the threads and a pair of flat pliers.
5 Making the Waves - These are made with a combination of wire, to give structure and stiffness, and thread to soften the edges.

Smooth out the 1m of 0.315mm wire. At the first pin position pass this wire up through the centre front of the plait to emerge through the plait on the top edge.

Pull it through to leave a 15cm tail (fig 5).

6 Referring to fig 6 - thread on 14A.
At the second pin pass the wire up through the centre front of the plait to emerge at the top edge making the wire take an S-shaped path.

Repeat to make a second S of wire with 20A beads to the third pin.
Repeat to make a third S of wire with 24A beads to the fourth pin.
Repeat to make a fourth S of wire with 20A beads to the fifth pin.
Repeat to make a fifth S of wire with 14A beads to the last pin.

7 Tension the wire so there is minimal play between the beads and they fan out around the curves of the S-shapes. Bind the excess wire, at each end, five times around the base of the plait loops to conceal the threads from step 4. Trim the ends and tuck into the bindings to neaten. Remove the pins.

8 Prepare the needle with 1.5m of single thread and attach it to the back of the plait close to the first loop. Pass it through the plait to emerge adjacent to the first A bead. Pass through the spare hole on the first A bead. Twin beads have two holes – you need to pass through the spare (second) hole to make the weave.

9 Referring to fig 7 throughout thread on 1D. Pass through the next spare hole along to pull the new bead into the gap.

Repeat to add 1D in the next gap and 1B into each of the next eleven gaps.

Note how the work follows the curve of the wire making the wave.

Pass the needle through the plait following the path of the 0.315mm wire to emerge at the start of the second wave (fig 7).

10 Pass through the spare hole on the first A bead. Add 1D to each of the first 2 gaps and 1B to each of the remaining gaps. Pass through the plait to the start of the next wave and repeat.
Repeat for the fourth wave.
Repeat step nine for the fifth wave.

11 Make a secure stitch through the plait ready to take the needle back across the work (wave five to wave one).

Wave five - Referring to fig 8 throughout pass the needle through the outer hole on the first A bead and the spare hole on the first B bead. This neatly brings the thread into position.

Add 1C into the gaps between the B beads. Finish the row by passing through the last few beads of the previous row and through the plait (fig 8).

12 Wave four - Reposition the needle as in step 11 to be ready at the first gap.
Add 1D to the first gap, 1B to the next four gaps and 1C to the remaining gaps to the end of the row. Pass through the plait to the third wave.

Wave three - start this wave as before with 1D in the first gap, 1B into the first seven gaps and 1C in the remaining gaps to the end of the wave.
Wave two – work as the fourth wave.
Wave one – work as for wave five.
13 Make a secure stitch into the plait ready start the next row (wave one to wave five).

Wave one - Position the needle for the first gap pass through the first eight holes of the second row, back through two holes on the previous row and through the spare hole on the first C bead.

Referring to fig 9 add 3E into the first three gaps and 2C into each of the following gaps.

14 Wave two – work as for wave one (see fig 10 showing the first stitch of this wave).

Wave three – add 3E in the first gap, 2C into the next nine gaps. Finish the row with 2B in each gap. Work wave four as for wave two and wave five as for wave one. Waves one and five are now complete.

15 Reposition the needle back through the beads of the row just completed to emerge at the end of wave four. Add a final row of 1C in the gaps on wave four.

Wave three – add 1B in the B bead gaps and 1A in the A bead gaps. Work wave two as wave four. Wave two and four are now complete.

Reposition the needle to the start of wave three. Add a last row of 1A into the gaps on wave three. Leave the thread attached.

16 Adding the Embellishments - The front face of the plait is decorated with wire coils and charms.

Wire Coils - Cut the blue 0.9mm wire into three equal lengths.

Referring to fig 11 throughout make a small rolled loop at one end of the first piece. Hold the loop flat in your flat pliers and push the wire around the side of the loop to start a flat coil. Re-adjust the position of the coil in your pliers and repeat to bend a little more of the wire around the edge of the emerging coil. Repeat until you have used half of the wire length.

Work the other end of the wire into a flat coil which turns in the opposite direction.

Repeat to complete three coils in superblue and two in super green in total.

17 Using small stitches use the remainder of the thread to attach the coils, shells and fish to the front of the plait between the waves. Twist open the last links of the chain and attach to the looped ends of the plait. Add the clasp to the back with jump rings to complete the design.