



Heart of Illinois Bead Society

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Our Purpose is to encourage and promote interest and enjoyment in beads and beadwork

April Program

Beaded Beads. This month, Mary Winters-Meyer is going to teach us another technique for making beaded beads using peyote. For those who wish to get a head start, this technique starts with a peyote tube just as last month's project, 20 beads long and 12 rows wide.



Materials needed:

- ❖ Three colors of size 11/0 seed beads or three colors of Delicas
- ❖ Thread, needles, scissors, etc.

Reminders

- ❖ **Group Purchase** For those who showed interest, Karen DeSousa's books, (*Beaded Ornament Covers* and *Celestial Series*) have finally arrived. (They arrived the Monday after the meeting, of course!) There is still one copy of each unclaimed. Each book is \$12.50, including tax. Karen's books and pictures of the projects can be seen at: <http://www.accentbead.com>.
- ❖ **Bead & Button show, June 4-8.** Information for this show is now available on the Bead & Button show website: <http://www.beadandbuttonshow.com>

Book Appearance Opportunity

For those who make glass beads, the following information comes to us from Valerie Shrader:

"Greetings,

I am the editor of a new Lark Book titled *500 Glass Beads*. This gallery-style book will feature the best in contemporary glass bead making, with beads in singles,

multiples, beads in context, and sculptural pieces. I am interested in placing a call for submissions with your organization. A jury will select the slides for inclusion in the book.

Here is the information:

500 Glass Beads, a new Lark Book publication, will feature a juried selection of breathtaking beads in singles, multiples, or sculptural pieces. This gallery book will include both lampworked and furnace worked beads. Glass artists are invited to submit color slides or transparencies (no digital images, please) of original work in this medium. Featured artists will receive full credit and a complimentary copy of the book.

Entries must be postmarked on or before June 1, 2003. No fee is required.

For guidelines, send SASE to: 500 Glass Beads - GIL1, Lark Books, 67 Broadway, Asheville, NC 28801 USA. To download the entry forms, visit www.larkbooks.com. For questions, email editor Valerie Shrader: valerie@larkbooks.com.

Thanks so much. Please contact me with any questions, or if additional information is needed.

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International Bead Show

The International Gem & Jewelry Show Inc. has decided to hold a new series of shows starting in 2003, the *International Bead Show*. (I think this proves just how popular beads have become!) Unfortunately, we did not get enough volunteers to have a booth for the Society. However, we do have a large number of coupons for \$1 off the entrance fee that will be available at this month's meeting. The show in Chicago is May 23, 24 and 25th at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL.



Our Sponsor

The Bead Parlor at 1007 S. Fell, Normal IL 61761 (309-452-2421) is open on Mondays from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, Wednesdays from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. and by appointment.

Bead Society members receive a 10% discount on purchases.

Thread Review, C-LON

This month's review is for a new beading thread. It's a nylon, monofilament thread which comes in bobbins of 80 yards. It doesn't seem to be pre-waxed, but it also doesn't seem to need waxing. (But I hate waxing my thread anyway, so I may be prejudiced on this one.) The claim is that it is better than Nymo. So, is C-LON better? Or is it just different? I decided to get some samples and find out.

As background, I decided several years ago to stop using Nymo for two reasons. First, it tangled horribly for me, even when coated with thread heaven or wax, and second, it frayed badly when I tried to use thread lengths longer than a yard. Especially on large projects, these traits quickly became annoying, and for the past several years my thread of choice has been Silamide.

Durability

The first thing I noticed as soon as I started pulling thread off the bobbin was that C-LON had a much stronger feel than Nymo, in part because there is very little give to the thread. I've become accustomed to pre-stretching my thread, because both Nymo and Silamide will stretch and in some pieces this can become a problem. When I grabbed the ends of the C-LON and yanked, I felt no give at all. (This thread is listed as 7-lb test.)

By now, you are probably jumping up and down with joy at hearing about a thread that doesn't stretch. In making my sample pieces, however, I discovered that in some cases, this lack of stretch can actually be a problem. Specifically, I was creating a peyote piece, using Delicas. When I tried to weave my thread back through the beads, I was having a terrible problem getting the needle through, even though I was using a size 14 needle. Then the beads started breaking. At that point, I finally realized what the problem was. When working a project in peyote, especially with Delicas that fit together so tightly, we count on the thread stretching a little, because it is the only way we can get the needle through the beads that have already been stitched into the piece. The needle has to tilt up just a teeny bit so that it angles over the finished beadwork, and in order to get that

angle, the thread has to stretch just a bit. If the thread doesn't give, the only other option is for the bead or the needle to give. If the bead has thin walls, like a Delica, the bead will break. Otherwise, the needle has to twist or bend. When I finally gave up on the piece, I had about 6 broken beads and a needle that looked like a pretzel.

Fray-Resistance (Does it shred?)

In my sample piece, I also used "silky" Delicas. These Delicas get their "silky" look from having tiny grooves cut into the inner surface of the bead. As you can imagine, this can cause major problems as the thread is pulled through the bead. Even Silamide snags and breaks occasionally when using silky beads.

With Nymo, thread getting snagged on the inside of a bead was a big problem for me, and was one of the major reasons for my switch to Silamide. With Nymo, once you snag, the thread shreds terribly, and your only choice is to struggle to end the thread and start a new one, because the fuzzy bits of thread keep getting caught and snag the thread even further, often to the point that you have to just cut your piece apart and start over. In a similar situation Silamide will become worn, but is still usable.

With C-LON, the first time I snagged the thread, I figured I was going to have the same problem I had with Nymo, because it seemed to shred badly. But since I was only 3 beads from finishing the row, I decided to struggle to the end of the row before finishing the thread. So I added a bead, tugged out the annoying fuzzy piece, added a bead, tugged out the annoying fuzzy piece, etc. Then something interesting happened. I went to weave in the thread, and I realized there were no more fuzzy bits. Not only that, the thread seemed just as strong as if it had never snagged.

I figured this was a fluke, so I shrugged and kept working. A few beads later, I got another snag, and I did the same thing. Once again, after a few beads, I found myself with a seemingly unharmed thread. This happened a third time, and then a fourth, but even though the thread still seemed strong, I decided to end the thread at that point. So with respect to fraying/shredding, C-LON is definitely superior to Nymo, although not as good as Silamide.

Colors

This is an area where C-LON really shines. There are **36 colors** available. The colored thread is a tiny bit stiffer than the plain white, but not enough to be troublesome. The shades available are incredible! I've listed the colors below. To see pictures of all the colors, visit http://caravanbeads.com/pages_f/clon_mixes.html.



C-LON colors

White	Dark Green	Pink
Beige	Sea Foam Green	Rose
Cream	Teal	Red
Dark Cream	Turquoise Blue	Orange
Ash	Light Blue	Burgundy
Tan	Sky Blue	Sienna
Golden Yellow	Capri Blue	Light Brown
Pale Gold	Royal Blue	Brown
Gold	Lavender	Chocolate
Chartreuse	Light Orchid	Grey
Olive	Orchid	Charcoal Grey
Green	Purple	Black

Conclusion

I found the C-Lon to be a strong and easy to use thread. When I bead, I want to be able to ignore the thread and concentrate on the beadwork. With C-Lon, I was able to do that. In fact, I often forgot that I was using C-Lon instead of Silamide. The only exception is when working peyote with Delicas if you are doing any kind of layering or embellishment of the base rows.

I can see that this thread would be great for netting projects, Dutch spiral projects, and any other technique that has multiple beads strung on the thread. It will be a great addition to my thread options, although I will still use Silamide for some projects.

So is C-Lon better than Nymo? In my opinion, yes, it is. Is it better than Silamide? I think I'd have to declare a tie. I would decide which thread to use based on what techniques and what beads I was planning to use.

C-LON is still only available from a few locations. I received my samples from Caravan Beads in Portland, Maine. (<http://www.caravanbeads.com>). Ordered individually, they cost \$1.50 per 80-yard bobbin. (Caravan Beads has a \$25 minimum order, however, so if anyone wants me to stock these or pull together a group order, let me know.)

Bead Tips and Tricks

OK, after the talk in the thread review article about breaking beads, I thought I'd cover the topic a bit more. Specifically, what do you do when you **want** to break a bead? We all know that feeling when you are working a piece, and you suddenly realize that five rows back you put in the wrong bead, and it just glares at you every time you look at it.

The most common recommendation I've seen suggests very carefully taking a pair of needle-nose pliers and crushing the bead. The problem with this is that no matter how careful you are, the thread is going to be

subjected to stress and might even get cut by the sharp edges of the crushed bead. Even when the thread doesn't break completely, it gets weakened and might break later.

We also all know the feeling of tugging at a stubborn needle, only to find the bead broken because the hole was too small. I suddenly realized one day that by combining these two circumstances, you could solve the problem of how to break a bead without stressing your thread.

I've used this hundreds of times, and it always works wonderfully. What I do is take my working needle, and put it halfway through the bead. Then I take a second needle and do the same. You do need to make sure that the needles are big enough that they won't easily fit through the bead. (I did have this happen one time when there weren't any bigger needles handy, and I used a third needle.) Anyway, once you get the needles to the point where they stick, gently push on them until the bead breaks. You'll feel the resistance release when the break occurs.

With most beads, this will either break the bead in half or break a small section out of the bead, and you can tease the other section with the needle until it falls out of your work. Because you are forcing the break from the inside of the bead, your thread is safe.

With thicker walled beads, using a pair of pliers to push the needles through will save your fingers from getting punctured! Oh, and it's usually a good idea to have the extra needle threaded. I've had needles go flying when working with a stubborn bead, and if they're threaded, they're easier to find!

Be aware though that when you repair a piece this way, the thread from the previous stitch will be visible on one side of your work. In many projects, this won't matter because it is on the "inside" of the work, but if you are working a piece that is seen from both sides, you will want to do a true repair and undo the work up to that point. (Or you can do what many of us do – call it a spirit bead and claim you put it there on purpose!)

