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## Turkish Flat Weave Bracelet with Alix Bluh

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### Chapter 1 - Introduction

#### Overview

- This is my gypsy bracelet. It's a version of a Turkish flat stitch or a Turkish love knot. You're gonna learn how to crochet with beads and finish this bracelet with a beautiful vintage button, and/or a toggle, and it's gonna look gorgeous.

### Chapter 2 - Materials

#### Materials

- To make your gypsy bracelet, I personally love the C-Lon three ply nylon cords. Comes in amazing colors, and it's really got so many variations. The other thing that you could bead with is beautiful embroidery thread, if you have that lying around. Or, you can use silk thread that's corded and has a needle already in place. Those are really super handy. You're gonna want your beads. And you're gonna wanna make sure that the millimeter size opening of your bead matches at least enough to get through your cord. I'm gonna show you how to use two different types of glue. One is to secure the knot at the end of your beading. This is called GS hypocement. And the other one is super glue. And that is to create a self-needle, is what it's called, using your cord. You're gonna need your crochet needle. I like to use a 1.75, but also, that is a personal choice. And you're gonna want to have scissors. And to finish, we like to use a tapestry or embroidery needle. And then, I'm gonna finish with a vintage button, or with a toggle, and I'm gonna show you both.

### Chapter 3 - Make Bracelet

#### Practice stitch

- So before we get started using the ceylon cord, I wanna teach you this stitch on really nice and thick yarn. I'm using a beading tray, which is optional. You can put down a towel or anything. Just use something that makes you feel comfortable. And I'm just gonna add the last few beads. I'm using an embroidery needle, and just adding these on. We wanna make sure we leave a tail, that's gonna accommodate either crocheting the loop or enough to tie on our toggle. At least six to eight inches. There we go. We're gonna take off our needle. Start by making a slip knot. We take the tail and we fold it under the loop. I'm gonna take my crochet hook, come under, and pull the tail up. And we have our first little slip knotted loop. And then we're gonna chain one. And now we're gonna chain two. Now to start this stitch, we're gonna go back to the first chain, and we're gonna go slip it under, and we are gonna crochet one. For all you crocheters, this is gonna come a lot easier. And I got one stitch there. And now, we start by sliding down our first bead. I'm gonna put it in place. And we're gonna slip stitch this right on. So at this point, we turn our project over to the other side. And I am taking my crochet hook, and I'm going through the very first crochet stitch that I've done. And I'm going to crochet another stitch. Here, I'm gonna add the second bead, and I'm gonna slide it down. I'm gonna slip knot that on. And then I'm gonna flip the work again. This time, now that I have my beads on, I'm gonna start this stitch by going underneath the bead. Do you see that? I'm making that loop really loose. I'm going underneath the bead. And I'm gonna go crochet... one stitch on. And here I slip down another bead. And we slip knot that on, flipping the work again. Go underneath the bead, grab that stitch, bringing the yarn around, coming through, we're gonna crochet. Slide a bead. Again we flip the work. Come underneath the bead... crochet. So now that you

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have the basic stitch, let's go ahead and start on our real project.

### Create bracelet

- When working with Sealon, the most important thing for me to do in the beginning is to create my needle, which is my self needle using super glue. I'm gonna show you how I do that. I just take a tiny little dollop and rub it across the cord like this. It dries to a very brittle consistency turning your cord essentially into a needle. Now you just wanna give yourself a minute for this to dry. Then you can get your crochet hook ready. I've already put on a few of these beads. This project you're gonna wanna use anywhere from 55 to 65 depending on the size of your wrist. I highly recommend that you measure your wrist before you embark on this project. But also you can stop at any point along the way and take your work and hold it up to your wrist and get an idea of how large you want it. As you all know, beading can be a little bit tedious. I'm gonna show you a little trick that I've taught myself to make things easier. This is beading just one bead at a time. It can be time consuming. One of the things I've taught myself to do is to take a string of beads and I move about anywhere from four to six of them up to the end and then I hold them between my thumb and my forefinger. I just wiggle my needle straight through. That way I've put a little chunk of them on. To start the Turkish stitch we're gonna do our slip knot. Take the loop, fold the master thread under, pull it up. I'm gonna make these loops a little bit larger than I normally do just to make it easier to see. We're gonna cast on, whoops, one and two. Once again we're gonna go back through the very first stitch. We're gonna crochet one. At this point we add our first bead. Make a slip knot, turn the work upside down, go back through that first stitch, crochet one, and we're ready for our second bead. Do a slip stitch, turn the work over again, here we go again moving the crochet hook completely under that bead on that stitch, grabbing the cord from behind, crocheting one on and then adding a bead. Slip stitch, or slip knot or whatever. Some people call that crochet. At this point I'm gonna be a little bit more clear between the two. Here we go after we've turned the work under the bead. Crochet. Continue crocheting your beads on in this exact same fashion until you're reached your desired length. I've noticed that most typical bracelets are around seven inches.

### Button closure

- Now that you've finished your piece, it should look something like this, about seven inches and the beginning of your piece already has a knot at the end. And the end here still has a loop, so I'm gonna teach you how to make the button loop. We're gonna continue on with a single chain stitch. Just by looping in crochet, whoop, sorry I'm pulling a little bit too tight. Actually I like to pull tight and this is one of my techniques. I pull it tight, bring back the loop, pull tight, bring back the loop. So keep in mind that you wanna make your button loop a little bit bigger than the button. One of the ways that I like to measure is, I pick out a button that I like and then I measure my button by holding it to the loop. I think I need to add a few stitches. Now I'm gonna add one last stitch before I knot it. And then pulling it, all the way through. And that creates a knot. Once it's knotted we create a loop by bringing the thread back around and stitching it into the work. Here I'm gonna grab my needle and I'm gonna thread tapestry needle. And I'm gonna bring the loop back into the work. I like to circle it around a couple of times. And now, I'm gonna use my hypo cement to finish my knot. The reason I like to use the hypo cement on the knot is because it's flexible, it's got more of a rubber cement base, it's rubbery and the super glue is very brittle. So this is great on a flexible piece of jewelry that's gonna be on your body. The last thing on this portion is to cut the remainder and it's nice and secure. I like to use victorian buttons for this closure, mostly because I have a really great

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collection. I've been collecting them for 20 years, but also because they have a toggle style base, as opposed to either a four hole or a two hole. So here I'm using my embroidery needle and I'm just threading the button back on, coming around, I like to go round a bunch of times just to make it really secure. Grab the bottom. So here I'm gonna make just a regular square knot. Then I back around. Then there we have it. And again, I'm gonna use my hypo cement. I'm gonna let that dry and then I go for my scissors and I cut off the excess of the thread. There we go. And now we have a beautiful bracelet to either keep or give to a friend.

#### Toggle closure

- If you prefer a toggle, I'm gonna show you how to use this toggle at the end of your bracelet. Sometimes toggles are easier to find anyway, at a local jewelry store or a bead store. I'm gonna start by threading our needle. And we're gonna go through the end loop of this toggle. And, and, I'm gonna loop it back into the work. I'm gonna make sure it's nice and snug. It's so easy to do this. You're just gonna love what you make. Now I'm gonna take off my needle, and I'm gonna knot the end. I like to hold the work down with my finger, sometimes even with the needle. And put a dallop of Hypo Cement on it right onto my knot. There we go. So, now I'm just gonna cut off the rest of this thread. Excess, there we go. We're gonna do the same thing on the other side now. And then, the Hypo Cement. And you can close it with a toggle. Now I wanna show you some of the variations of bracelets that I've made. This is the embroidery thread, and it's very soft; it's silk, and I'm actually, in this one, using two different threads. I'm using two different colors, which you can experiment with at home. This one is using faceted metal beads, which I really love. These are check beads, and I'm using a variation of three different colors. You're gonna be able to take your own designs, and apply it to this technique, and just really have a great time and go crazy. And, layer the bracelets, use different buttons, use toggles, use different color threads, really make it your own.