

Gemstone Onion Pattern



Level of Difficulty ● ● ○ ○ ○

Prerequisites:

- Experience braiding and setting up an 8-strand Drop Bead Kongoh gumi (round braid) Z Spiral on the round disk or marudai.
- Bead counting, accuracy is critical.
- Finishing a beaded braid with glue on clasp or jewelry findings.



1 Using square knots tie the cords (3 SLon/Clon and 1 beading wire) individually at their center to a split ring, or a large paper clip will work. This will make eight warp cords. Set up on marudai or disk and load beads as shown in the bead and cord layout below.

2 Begin the braid by braiding an unbeaded nub until you have a short nub that will fit inside your clasp. Since it is necessary to end the nub when all the bobbins/tama are back in their original positions as shown in the Bead & Cord Layout be sure the final nub length will fit inside the clasp, unbraided if necessary. It should be shorter than needed rather than too long.

3 Continue braiding changing to a beaded braid. Stop braiding after all the beads have been worked into the braid on 3e and 3w. Work three more steps working in beads until you are back at the empty cords (3e & 3w). **NOTE:** It may be necessary to tighten cords when working the onion beads into the braid, especially if they are large. Be sure to keep a tight tension to prevent the cord from being visible as much as possible.

4 Finish the braid with an unbeaded nub the same length as at the beginning. Remove from marudai or disk and secure beading wire as described in Technique & Tips: Using Gemstones in Kumihimo. Trim ending cords and attach clasp.

Bead Loading Chart

Kongoh beaded braid, Z-spiral direction

Total braid length: 17 in. (43cm)

Cords 1n, 1s, 2n, 2s, 4e & 4w: CLon bead cord, 3 @ 8 ft. (2.43m)

Cords 3e & 3w: Beading wire, 1 @ 8 ft. (2.43m)

The numbers next to the beads on 3e and 3w indicate how many beads and the sequence to load the beads on the braiding cords. The cords with 9 in. of beads should have enough beads for at least an 18 in. necklace.

perfect fit

To adjust the length of the beaded braid, add or omit equal amounts of 8° beads at the beginning and end of cord s 3e and 3w. Approximately six beads on each cord (three at each end) equals 1 in. (2.5 cm) of beaded braid.

LEGEND

- 8° Matte gold
- 8° Bronze metallic
- 8° Matte brown
- Onions, 8.5mm approx.

