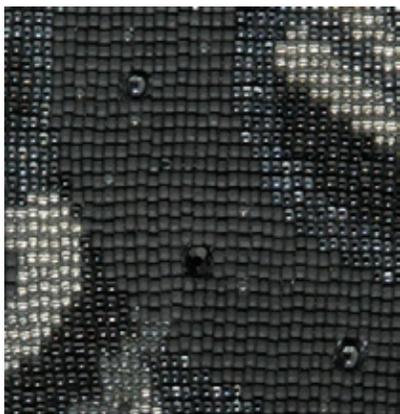


Ceylons and luster finishes stand out because of their relatively shiny surface and lightness of value. Metallic finishes advance from their surrounding matte metallic neighbors.



Note how the shiny black surfaces advance, while the matte black beads visually recede. Silver-lined beads, because of their light value and reflective finish, naturally come forward.

## Getting a Grip on Bead Surface Finishes

by Margie Deeb

August 2005

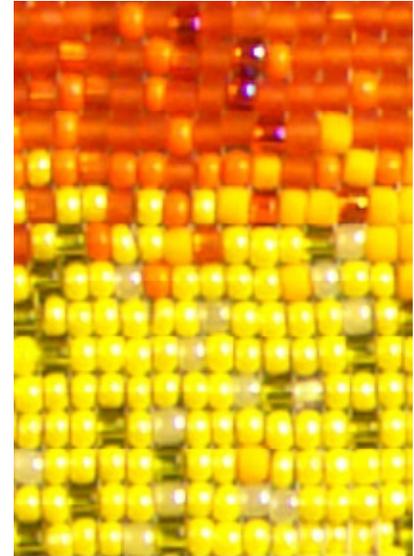
A quick study of how a bead's level of reflectivity causes it (and its color) to visually behave can help you turn an ordinary beaded design into an extraordinary, even stunning piece. Surface finishes make a world of difference in how colors interact and what your eye perceives.

As discussed at length in the Color and Seed Beads section of *The Beader's Guide to Color*, highly reflective, shiny surfaces, like silver-lined, advance and cause colors to appear brighter and warmer. Rough textures of low reflectivity, like matte finishes, absorb light and cause colors to appear flatter and more saturated.

Transparent beads allow light to pass through them. The glass is full of color, but the true color is only perceived if light (or the color white) is behind it. Thus, transparent beads visually recede, and look much darker when worn than in their tube. Their hue changes not only with their backdrop, but also with the color of the thread stringing them.

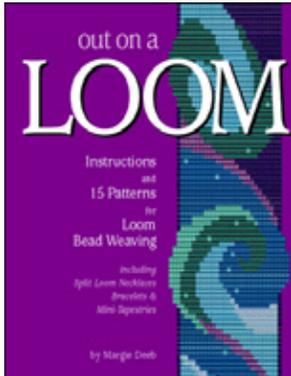
Ceylons and pearl finishes have a milky, translucent quality: not too shiny, not too dull. They reflect light gently and emit a soft, subdued quality which carries lighter colors well. Because of their lightness in value, they tend to visually advance, depending on the beads surrounding them.

Ambient light, surface finish, reflectivity, thread color, and our brain all cause a bead's color to visually shift, because color is relative to its context. The best way to know how a bead will look in context is to weave sample swatches. Even then, you may not be able to accurately predict the outcome. Yet this is what makes seed bead work so much fun. How delightful when a transparent bead surprises you by adding more depth to the shadow of a landscape than you had anticipated. Or that little glint of gold makes an entire piece spring to life.



The transparent yellow and orange beads, though similar in hue to the others, appear much darker and seem to leave "holes" in the weaving because of their transparency.

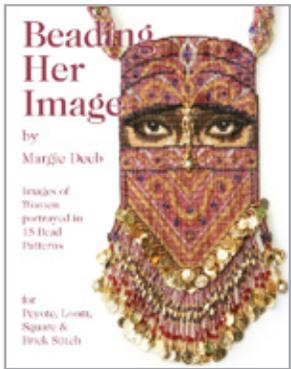
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*Out On A Loom* is a creative journey through color, design, and form for the beginning to intermediate level seed bead artist.

The softcover book features 32 full-color pages of detailed instructions, patterns, illustrations, and diagrams for creating loom woven bracelets, mini-tapestries and split loom necklaces. Professional and creative finishing techniques are provided so each finished project can be a work of art.

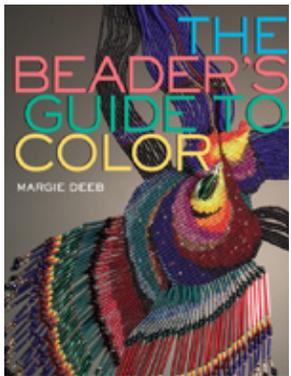
\$19.95 US Dollars



*Beading Her Image* illustrates the power and beauty of the feminine in 15 seed bead patterns for **peyote, brick, square stitch, and loomwork**. Women from a wide range of times and cultures are woven into tapestries, necklaces, and bracelets. The stunning and gorgeous color palettes that artist Margie Deeb is known for adorn each piece.

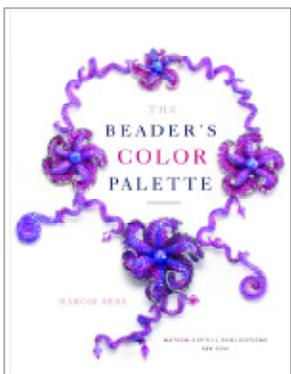
Includes loom building instructions, finishing split loom necklace instructions, and peyote, brick, and looming instructions. (Paperback, 44 pages)

\$19.95 US Dollars



The only book of its kind written specifically for bead artists, *The Beader's Guide to Color* teaches bead artists of all levels everything they need to know about color to create unique and vibrant beadwork designs. Margie discusses psychological and symbolic color associations, and ways in which color can be used to create and accentuate pattern, rhythm, and movement. 21 color schemes are described and illustrated in detail with accompanying projects for all skill levels. (Paperback, 144 pages)

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*The Beader's Color Palette: 20 Creative Projects and 220 Inspired Combinations for Beaded and Gemstone Jewelry* opens the door to worlds of color inspiration. Gather colors from around the planet to create stunning color schemes for beaded creations. Gorgeous beaded jewelry illustrating 220 specific palettes for glass and gemstone beads make *The Beader's Color Palette* a coffee table book of inspiration for color lovers working in every medium. Includes detailed instructions for stringing, finishing, looming, and off-loom stitches. (Paperback, 192 pages)

\$24.95 US Dollars

Artist, designer, musician, and color expert

**Margie Deeb** is the author of several beading books, including the popular *The Beader's Guide to Color* and *The Beader's Color Palette* (Watson-Guptill, 2008).



She teaches color courses for artists, interior designers, and bead artists and her free monthly color column, "Margie's Muse," is available on her website. She produces a free graphically enhanced podcast, "Margie Deeb's Color Celebration," available on iTunes.

Her articles have appeared in *Bead & Button* and *Beadwork* magazines, and she writes a regular color column in *Step-by-Step Beads*. Visit Margie's website for her books, patterns, jewelry, inspiration, and more:

[www.MargieDeeb.com](http://www.MargieDeeb.com)

Also available at [MargieDeeb.com](http://MargieDeeb.com):

- Exquisite **seed bead patterns** in peyote, brick, square stitch, and loom available as downloadable PDFs or hardcopies
- **CMY Color Wheels** (the ones that Margie uses for herself and in her classes)
- **Accessories** for beading, such as tapestry rods, and unusual findings
- **Gallery of extraordinary bead art**
- Information about **classes/events**
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