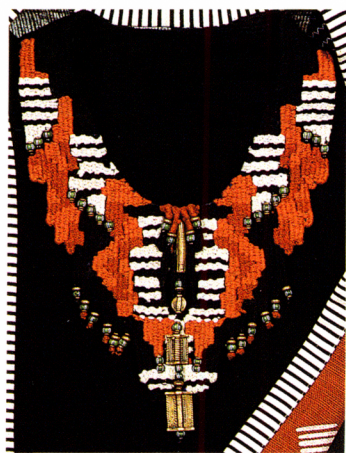


Designing Your Own Necklace

Several necklace patterns are included in this book for you to use as they are or for you to modify. Of course, you may want to try designing one of your own. Whatever you decide, this chapter will help you. If you wish to use one of the patterns provided, move right along to Chapter 4: How to Make Your Own Necklace, and come back to this section when you want to make a special necklace with your own design.



Many people doubt their own creativity. They don't realize that creativity comes a glimpse at a time rather than as a blinding revelation. Each small step we take will eventually bring us to completion of a piece. Often, those people we think are brilliantly creative are building on the work of others. As Thomas Edison said, "Genius is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration." Look around you for ideas and translate or interpret them into your own designs.

You may wonder how to begin designing a necklace. Like many problems, designing a necklace becomes more manageable when you break it into its component parts. The key elements or building blocks of design with which we will work are color, line, shape, texture and focal point. In working with these elements, it is helpful to have some guidelines for assembling them into a pleasing piece. Three such guidelines are scale, balance and rhythm. These are not meant to be hard and fast rules but rather general ideas to get you started and to help you learn the vocabulary of design. Although not an element of design, we'll also explore symbolism briefly. To begin, let's talk a little about each of these terms and see how they apply to our necklace design.

Just as a child changes as it grows, each piece creates the need for new responses as it evolves. Don't force your original idea during the developing process.