

# How to...

FREE  
information

## Make Jewellery

### Introduction

For centuries beads have been used across the globe as a trading currency, and embodiment of personal wealth. Since early times they have been used as adornment of both people and their surroundings. This can still be seen today in clothing, accessories and costume jewellery.

You can use beads to create wonderful and simple bracelets, necklaces & earrings. You can add decoration to your favourite fabric hand bag, make things for the home such as beaded curtain tie backs, or add a personal touch to lamp shades with a beaded fringe.

### Equipment needed

#### Tools

- Round Nose Pliers: for making loops in your wire, and opening jump rings.
- Flat Nose Pliers: for closing crimps & fastenings.
- Side cutter Pliers: for cutting wire and tiger tail.
- Curved/ bent end Tweezers: for picking up beads & findings.
- Locking Tweezers: for holding your work in progress.



- Bead Storage boxes: to keep your beads safe and organised.



### Wires and Threads

- Tiger Tail: thin tightly twisted strands, coated in clear nylon.
- Jewellery Wire: available in gold or silver plate, copper and brass, in various gauges / thickness to suit your project.
- Bead Wire: available in various colours and can complement the bead shade.
- Beading thread: ideal for light, small beads.
- Thonging: used for larger beads and pendants.
- Monofilament: strong & flexible thread similar to fishing line.
- Elastic: ideal for bracelets.
- Memory Wire: heavy wire coils that once cut remembers its shape. Ideal for chokers, bracelets & rings.



- Waxed Linen: very strong, easy to thread & knot.



## Jewellery Findings

Most common Necklace & Bracelet findings

- Headpins: these have a small base at the bottom and are ideal for creating hanging drops. Once your feature bead(s) are in place, cut the end to approx. 8mm. Use round nose pliers to grip the wire half way down and create a loop for threading. Ensure there are no gaps in the loop or it will fall off your necklace.



- Callotte: these create a neat finish by hiding knots and loose ends, they also provide a small loop to which a fastening can be attached. Callotte crimps can be used on all threads.



- Flat or round Leather Crimp: these can be used on leather or thonging and are pinched closed over the end with flat nose pliers. A split ring and hook can be added to the loops at either end of fastening.



- Barrel clasps: these are ideal for using on tiger tail or thread and come as screw or magnetic fastenings. To secure, thread a crimp bead on the tiger tail then through the loop at one end of the barrel clasp,



bring the tiger tail back through the crimp bead creating a small loop, pinch the crimp bead closed with flat nose pliers and repeat for the other side.

- Spiral cage: these are available in various sizes and are ideal for creating pendants with a bead or semi precious stone enclosed in the wire cage.



- Jump Rings: these can be attached to the hole in pendants so they can be threaded and hung correctly. They can also be used with Trigger clasps to form a fastening and are available in various sizes.



- Crimp beads: these are tiny ring like beads which can be pinched closed with flat nosed pliers. They are used to secure the ends of thread, monofilament or tiger tail.



- Bolt Rings: these are dainty fastenings which can be attached to the ends of threads or tiger tail using crimp beads.









- Trigger Clasp: these are ideal for heavier necklaces. Larger jump rings can be used and attached to the other end of your project to form a fastening.



- Heavy hooks: these can be attached to your project with either a callotte or leather crimps to form a fastening.



## Most common Earring Findings

- Eye pins: these are similar to head pins, but instead of a flat base they have a small loop at the bottom to add an additional hanging bead.
- Kidney Wire: these are for use with pierced ears. They pass through the hole in the ear and have a looped clasp at the back. They also have a small loop which can be closed to secure the drop in place.
- Long Ball Wire: these are similar to the kidney wire, however they do not have a clasp to secure them. They have a spacer and small metal bead to produce a longer drop earring style.
- Ear posts/studs: these are also for pierced ears and have a small loop for attaching drops.
- Ear clips: these are for non-pierced ears and have a small split loop for attaching drops.
- Ear Screws: these are also for non-pierced ears and have a clip mechanism and a screw to tighten gently for extra security on the ear. They have a small split loop and a callotte for attaching drops.

## Bead Types

- Glass beads: these can be either individually made or pressed / moulded on production lines.
- Rocaille beads: this is a general term for small round beads, available in various different sizes, also known as Seed Beads.
- Pebble beads: these are larger than Rocaille beads with a larger hole. They are slightly more rectangular than round.
- Bugle beads: these are cylindrical shape beads and can have round, hexagonal or twisted hexagonal sides. Available in various lengths.
- Sequins: these are shiny laminated plastic or thin metal discs with a small hole in the centre. They can be flat or cupped to reflect the light and used subtly can add a new dimension to your project.
- Other materials: you can also get natural beads made from bone, shell and wood. Plastic is another medium used for making beads, these can be inexpensive and ideal for everyday costume jewellery.

## Preparation

- Check that you have sufficient beads, thread, Tiger Tail or thonging and the correct finding before starting your project.
- Lay out all your materials so that they are easily accessible.
- Ensure you are working on a flat surface.
- Work over a tray with sides or on a plate, to catch any dropped beads.



## Hints & Tips

- When using head or eye pins - if your feature bead slips over the base or eye pin use a small rocaille bead to keep it in place.
- A small blob of clear nail varnish will secure knots and also can be used to stiffen thread so you can pass it through beads without a needle.
- Use the same colour beads in different shapes or textures together to add an interesting look to plain projects.
- Experiment with two or three different lengths attached at both ends to create a multi stranded necklace.
- Use a pebble bead to cover the crimp bead attaching the fastening to prevent it from catching clothes.

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