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Guide to Beading Tools
and Jewelry Supplies,

plus **3 Free Projects**

to Learn How to Use Your
Jewelry Making Supplies

from Beading Daily

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TODAY'S HOW-TO FOR HANDMADE JEWELRY

Guide to Beading Tools and Jewelry Supplies,
plus **3 Free Projects**
to Learn How to Use Your Jewelry Making Supplies *from* Beading Daily



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Guide to Beading Tools and Jewelry Supplies, Plus Three Free Projects to Learn How to Use Your Jewelry Making Supplies

I have just as many drawers full of stringing wire, beading pliers, findings, and beading thread as I do drawers full of beads! Some days, it seems like every beading project that I make requires its own set of beading tools and jewelry-making supplies. When I first got started in beading, I never dreamed that I would have such a large collection of jewelry-making pliers, stringing wires, beading threads, crimps, clasps, scissors, and wire cutters. (And let's not forget my beading awls, pearl knotting tool, wire straightener, or jump-ring opener!) Some of my tools are quite simple – I have a couple of wooden dowels that I've used for years to provide support when I do beading stitches such as African helix or tubular right-angle weave. But it's important to know which beading tool is the right tool for the jewelry-making task at hand.

That's why we're so pleased to bring you some very helpful information from Jean Campbell's comprehensive resource *Getting Started Stringing Beads*. Jean has seen it all when it comes to beading tools and jewelry-making supplies, and she shares her picks for a well-stocked beading tool kit. Once you have a better idea of what kinds of beading tools, jewelry-making pliers, beading thread, stringing wires, and beading needles are out there, it's time to sit down and make some beaded

jewelry! To get you started, we've included three fabulous jewelry-making projects in this free eBook.

Start by using your new jewelry-making pliers and create a pair of Barbara Naslund's Copper Dream Earrings. Easy enough to make using some basic jewelry-making pliers and your favorite glass beads, and you can also make these using gemstone beads for a more organic look. Once you're comfortable with your pliers, it's time to move on to the fabulous multi-strand project, Rachael's Wedding Bracelet by Rebecca Campbell. Rebecca designed this bracelet for her sister's wedding, but it also works for your next night on the town! Finally, get down to some serious stringing when you make Linda Hartung's Flamenco Braid Necklace. This show-stopping piece is most definitely worth the effort and reminds me of necklaces I've seen in my favorite vintage-jewelry shops.

We think you'll love our new *Guide to Beading Tools and Jewelry Supplies, Plus Three Free Projects to Learn How to Use Your Jewelry Making Supplies* eBook. It's a great resource for anyone who loves to make beaded jewelry and wants to make jewelry that is sure to last a lifetime!



Jennifer VanBenschoten, *Beading Daily* editor



Beading Daily

Gemstone Beads for Jewelry Making:

4 FREE GEMSTONE JEWELRY MAKING PROJECTS

Plus Bonus Guide to Using Gemstones from Beading Daily

editor, *beadingdaily* JENNIFER VANBENSCHOTEN

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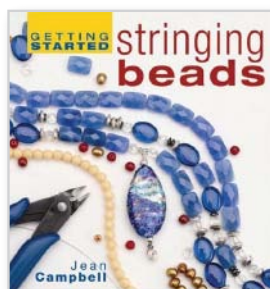
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STRINGING MATERIALS

Jean Campbell

from *Getting Started Stringing Beads*
(Interweave, 2005)

Nothing is worse than having your jewelry stretch, snag, or fall apart when you've worked so hard to put it together, so for each piece you make, consider that the stringing materials are as important, if not more so, than the beads! It is the threads, cord, or wire that keep your beads together and allows them to be wearable and beautiful for a long time. Here are several stringing materials and suggestions on how to use them.



Photos from *Getting Started Stringing Beads* Joe Coca and Jean Campbell

Beading wire (brand names Accuflex, Acculon, Beadalon, Soft Flex) is a very flexible nylon-coated multistrand steel wire available in diameters from .010 to .024. Choose the widest diameter for large, heavy, or abrasive beads; a medium diameter for crystals and small lampworked beads; and the smallest diameter for beads with small holes like pearls and seed beads. Use a wire cutter to cut this stringing material.



Braided thread (brand names Dandy Line and PowerPro) is an extremely strong, synthetic thread also used for fishing. It has great strength (10–20 pound test), is very thin (.006 diameter), can be knotted, and comes in two colors—moss green and white. Because of the angle of their blades, children’s Fiskars scissors cut these materials better than other scissors.



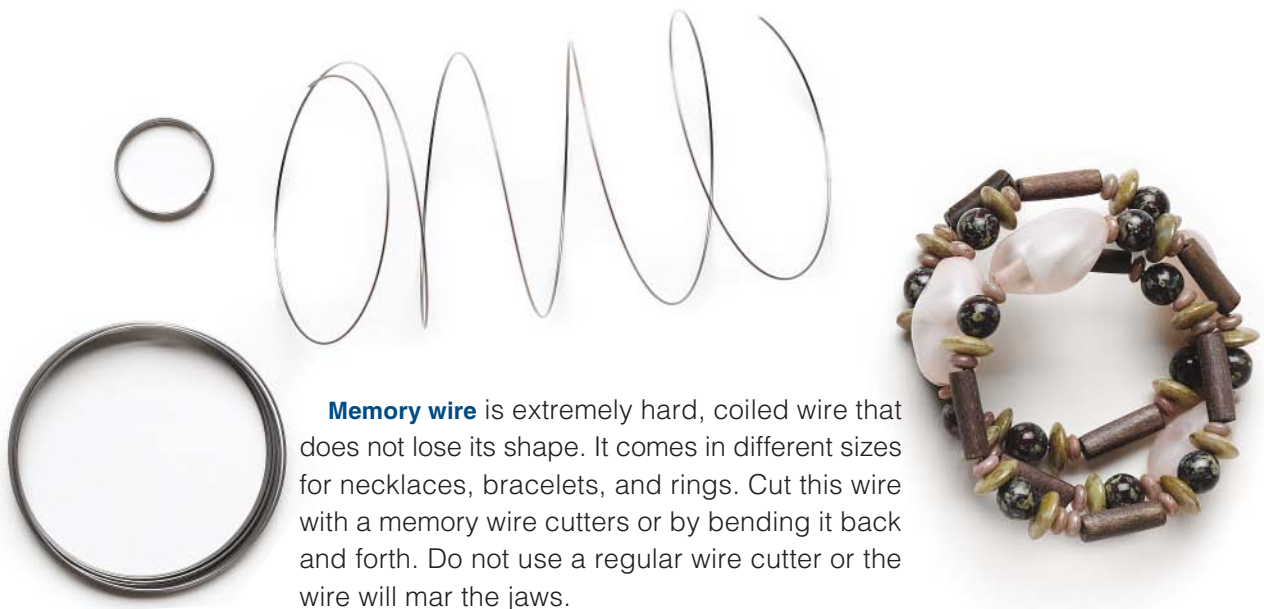
Elastic cord (monofilament, Illusion cord) comes in wide (1 mm) and thin (.5 mm) styles and is best used for stretch bracelets. Secure this cord with knots or crimp tubes. Use a scissors to cut it.



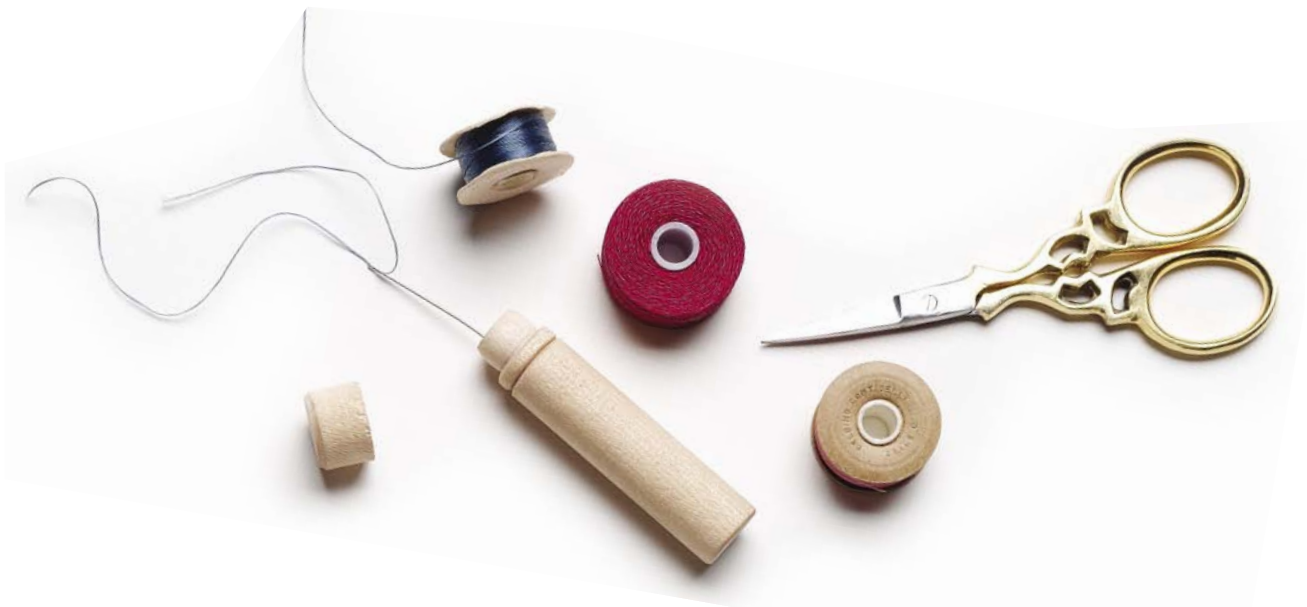
Hemp cord is made up of natural fibers and is the best selection for macramé. Use a scissors to cut this cord. This cord can be cut with a scissors.

Leather cord is a round, smooth cord that comes in a variety of colors, can be knotted, and is best used for wide-holed, large beads. This cord can be cut with a scissors.





Memory wire is extremely hard, coiled wire that does not lose its shape. It comes in different sizes for necklaces, bracelets, and rings. Cut this wire with a memory wire cutters or by bending it back and forth. Do not use a regular wire cutter or the wire will mar the jaws.



Nylon thread (brand names C-Lon, Nymo, and Silamide) is thin synthetic thread that you purchase by the spool like regular sewing thread. Nylon is best used for lightweight stringing projects that require a needle and thread. This cord can be cut with a scissors.



Silk thread and cord come in a variety of colors and widths. They are sold by the spool or on a card (often with a built-in needle). The thin thread is the best choice for stringing pearls, and the wider cord works well for knotting techniques. Prestretch this material (pull the ends apart several times) before you use it. This material can be cut with a scissors.



Suede cord is a rough strip of Ultrasuede that works well for wide-holed beads. You can cut it with scissors.

Sterling silver wire is the best choice for wirework (for our simple stringing purposes, wirework means creating wire loops for things like dangles or earrings). It is relatively soft so it's easily manipulated, but has good memory. Cut this material with wire cutters.



Stringing materials
in the shop.



More wonderful beadwork projects are available at shop.beadindaily.com/jewelryprojects

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TOOLS

You'll need tools to put your masterpiece together. There's a plethora of tools for beading, but here are the ones to get your bead box stashed for stringing.



Crimping pliers

Chain-nose pliers have flat, tapered jaws that come to a point. They work well for pulling beading wire tight and for wire-wrapping.

Crimping pliers squeeze and secure a crimp tube onto beading wire. (See instructions about how to crimp on page 15.)

Flat-nose pliers have flat, tapered jaws. Use them for pulling beading wire tight and to wire-wrap.



Round-nose pliers

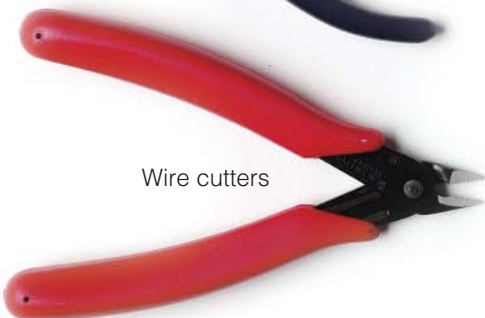
Round-nose pliers have round, tapered jaws that come to a point. Use these pliers to make simple loops and to do wire-wrapping.

Split-ring pliers have a flat, pointed, tapered jaw on one side, and on the other side a bent tip for opening split rings.



Chain-nose pliers

Wire cutters have sharp jaws with which to cut beading wire, head pins, eye pins, and other soft wire.



Wire cutters



Flat-nose pliers



Split-ring pliers

BEADING NEEDLES

Beading needles are very fine, long (up to 3"/7.6 cm) needles whose eyes are the same width as the rest of the needle—an important feature when you consider the added width of the stringing material. Beading needles work well for very small-holed beads like small seed beads, pearls, and some semiprecious stones. Because the eye size is so small, beading needles can be a challenge to thread. To make it easier, place the stringing material between the thumb and forefinger of your nondominant hand, allowing just a small amount of the end to peek out. Use your dominant hand to place the needle eye on the end and pull it through.

Big-eye needles come in 2¼" and 5" (5.7 and 12.7 cm) lengths and have pointed ends with a double wire down the center. They are the easiest needles to thread—simply separate the center wires, place the stringing material between, and allow the wires to collapse on themselves to capture the thread. These needles work well for fairly small-holed beads, and the 5"- (12.7-cm) long version is especially useful in stringing because you can easily see if you've strung your beads in the correct order.

Twisted wire needles are made of fine wire and feature a large loop on one end and a twisted shank on the other. You thread the stringing material through the loop and, as you pass the needle through a bead, the loop collapses to secure the stringing material. Twisted-wire needles are generally one-use and work well for small-holed beads such as pearls.

If you are stringing beads with very small holes, you may need to use a needle to pass the stringing material through. Here are the most common and useful needles to get the job done.



project

copper dreams earrings

BARBARA NASLUND



*These simple copper earrings are
the perfect finishing touch for your
fall wardrobe.*

STEP 1: On a headpin, string 1 fire-polished bead, 1 orange bead, 1 seed bead. Make a simple loop. Repeat 3 times. (A total of 4 dangles.)

STEP 2: Cut the chain into two pieces measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ " and two measuring $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

STEP 3: Open a simple loop on one of the dangles and attach to one end of the short piece of chain. Attach the other end of the chain to the ear wire. Repeat with the longer piece of chain.

STEP 4: Repeat step 3 for second earring.

BARBARA NASLUND admits to being easily distracted by any bright shiny object.

RESOURCES

Check your local bead shop or contact: Lady Bug Beads (www.ladybugbeads.net) for the beads used in this project. Copper headpins, chain, and ear wires from Bead Cache, (www.beadcache.net).

MATERIALS

4 green-lined transparent amber size 11° Japanese seed beads
4 8×6mm faceted dark amber rondelles
4 4×2mm brown fire-polished beads
2" of bright copper chain
4 copper 22-gauge 2" head pins
2 copper ear wires

TOOLS

Wire cutters
Round-nose pliers

TECHNIQUE

Wirework



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project

rachael's wedding bracelet

REBECCA CAMPBELL

*Rebecca created
this beautiful aqua
bracelet for her sister
Rachael's wedding.
This multistrand piece
works up very quickly—
Rebecca created this
“something new” bracelet
the morning of the
wedding!*



STEP 1: Attach 8" of wire to the first hole of one half of the clasp using a crimp tube. Pass through the tube and crimp; trim excess wire. Cover the tube with a crimp cover. String 30 pearls, 1 crimp tube, and the first hole on the other side of the clasp. Pass back through the tube and crimp. Trim excess wire and cover.

STEP 2: Repeat Step 1 using the second clasp holes and the aquamarine crystal rounds.

STEP 3: Repeat Step 1 using the third clasp holes and the fire-polished peridot bicones.

STEP 4: Repeat Step 1 using the fourth clasp holes and the aquamarine crystal bicones.

STEP 5: Repeat Step 1 using the fifth clasp holes and the blue zircon crystal rounds.

STEP 6: Repeat Step 1 using the sixth clasp holes and the remaining pearls.

REBECCA CAMPBELL is the managing editor of Interweave Press Books.

RESOURCES

Check your local bead shop or contact: All materials: Fusion Beads, fusionbeads.com.

MATERIALS

60 aqua 6mm potato pearls
25 aquamarine 6mm Swarovski crystal rounds
28 milky peridot 4mm fire-polished glass bicones
42 aquamarine 3mm Swarovski crystal bicones
36 blue zircon 4mm Swarovski crystal rounds
1 sterling silver 6-strand slide clasp
12 sterling silver 2x2mm crimp tubes
12 sterling silver 4mm crimp covers
4' of .024 beading wire

TOOLS

Crimping pliers
Wire cutters

TECHNIQUE

Stringing

FINISHED SIZE: 7"



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project

flamenco braid necklace

LINDA ARLINE HARTUNG



From the mantilla-shaped clasp set with coordinating crystals to the flowing curves of braided iridescent Italian glass seed beads, you'll feel the rhythm of flamenco as these dramatic elements swirl together into one passionate necklace. Olé!

STEP 1 DE-HANKING: Transfer the seed beads from the hank strings onto 24" lengths of beading cord, leaving a 4" tail at each end; use a tension bead, tape, or a bead stop to prevent the beads from sliding off (Figure 1). String 10 strands per

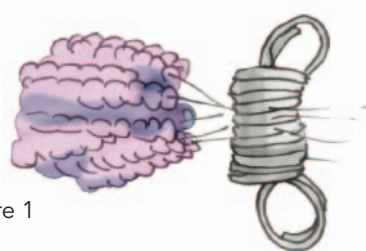


Figure 1

color: two groups with 16" of beads (tan and olive), and one group with 15½" of beads (purple); the shorter group will be attached along the center to compensate for the curve of the clasp.

STEP 2 KNOTS: Gather 10 strands of one color and tie a single overhand knot at one end. Slide the beads down to the knot and adjust as needed so that all strands are exactly the same length. Tie a single overhand knot at the other end, using a tweezers or awl to snug the knot up to the seed beads (Figure 2).

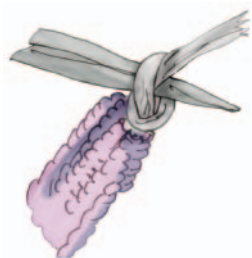


Figure 2

Repeat for the other two colors. Use the cement to saturate each knot and about ¼" up the cords; allow to dry and then trim to ⅛" from knot.

STEP 3 EPOXY: Mix the 2-part epoxy according to the manufacturer's specifications. Use a toothpick to half-fill a bell end cap; place a trimmed knot in the cap and let dry (Figure 3). Apply a thin line of epoxy around the rim openings of

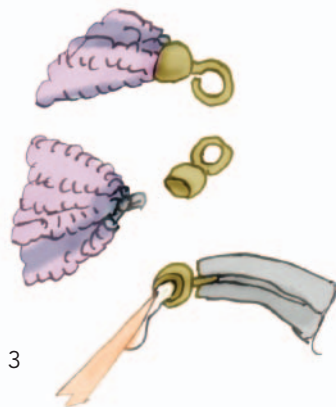


Figure 3

the clasp, set the crystals in place, and let dry.

STEP 4 CLASP: Use chain-nose pliers to open the end-cap loops, rotating rather than pulling the ring apart. Attach one end of each group to one half of the clasp, with the shorter 15½" group at the center loop. Hold the clasp up to let the beads hang straight, then loosely braid them together. Attach the other half of the clasp, making sure the 15½" group is on the center loop and the other two groups are on alternate loops.

LINDA ARLINE HARTUNG is co-owner and producer of Alacarte Clasps and WireLace. Linda is an internationally published designer and teacher for Swarovski's components division.

MATERIALS

10 olive gold 19" strands of size 14° Italian glass seed beads
 10 tan 19" strands of size 14° Italian glass seed beads
 10 purple 19" strands of size 14° Italian glass seed beads
 6 gold 4mm bell end caps
 1 gold 25×65mm "Flamenco" clasp
 2 amethyst 6×8mm oval fancy stone crystals
 1 spool (50') Hastings Bonded Nylon white bead cord, size 1/OX
 G-S Hypo Cement
 2-part all-purpose clear-drying epoxy

TOOLS

Scissors
 Knotting tweezers or awl
 Chain-nose pliers
 Bead stoppers, clamp, or tape
 Toothpick

TECHNIQUES

Stringing
 Gluing

FINISHED SIZE: 17½"

RESOURCES

Check your local bead shop or contact: Kits: www.alacartecclasps.com. For retailers who carry these components: linda@alacartecclasps.com, (707) 887-2825.

Transferring Seed Beads to Permanent String

- The string that holds a hank of beads together is not sturdy enough to hold your beadwork together. You can easily transfer the prestrung beads onto your chosen beading cord:
- Unleash one end of a strand of beads and make a loose overhand knot at the end. Insert the beading cord through the knot with a 2" tail (Figure A).
- Tighten the knot and fold the cord tail back, sliding the beads over the knot and onto the bead cord (Figure B).

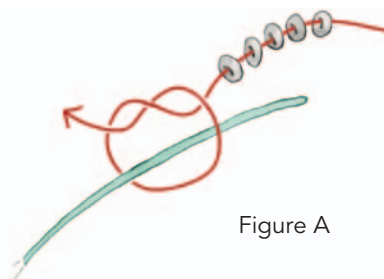


Figure A

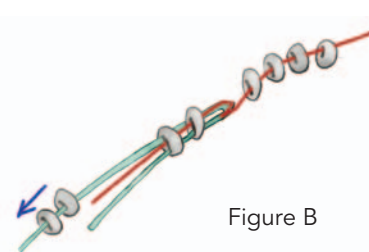


Figure B

Wireworking

To make a *simple loop*, grasp one end of the wire with round-nose pliers. Holding on to the wire with one hand, gently turn the pliers until the wire end and wire body touch. Create a 90° reverse bend where they meet.

For a *wire-wrapped loop*, cut the desired length of wire and make a 90° bend 2" from one end. Use round-nose pliers to hold the wire near the angle and bend the short end up and around the pliers until it meets itself. Wrap the wire tightly down the neck of the wire to create a couple of coils. Trim the excess to finish.



Crimping

String a crimp tube and the connection finding (i.e., the loop of the clasp). Pass back through the tube, leaving a short tail. Use the back notch of the crimping pliers to press the length of the tube down between the wires, enclosing them in separate chambers of the crescent shape. Rotate the tube 90° and use the front notch of the pliers to fold the two chambers onto themselves, forming a clean cylinder. Trim the excess wire.



Knotting

A square knot is the classic sturdy knot suitable for most stringing materials. Make an overhand knot, passing the right end over the left end. Make another overhand knot, this time passing the left end over the right end. Pull tight.



Ending and Adding Thread

To end your thread, stop beading when you have at least 6" of working thread. Always end after completing a step up so that it won't matter where you begin the new round. Tie off the thread by passing back through the beadwork at a diagonal and tying half-hitch knots after each chip or shared bead. Pass through 3 Delicas and trim and melt the end.

To begin a new doubled thread, tie a knot in the end and melt or glue it to seal it. Begin stitching at least 4 stitches back in the work, knotting after each shared bead. Exit a middle point bead to begin the next round.

Stringing

Stringing is a technique in which you use beading wire, needle and thread, or other material to gather beads into a strand.

