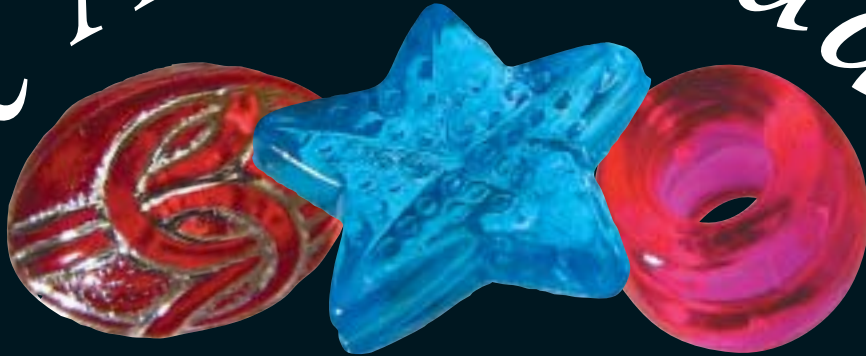


# The Art of Beading

## JEWELLERY MAKING



THE HUMAN NEED for adorning the body with beautifying objects has existed since the beginning of time. Ornamentation was used by early man for purely aesthetic reasons, identification purposes or denoting status and group membership. Later ancient cultures extended its use to more symbolic, ceremonial or religious purposes.

Beads are one of the oldest art forms. The first materials used were found objects from the immediate natural environment, including local sea beds. However, because of their size, beauty, and portability, beads were highly sought after when humans began to trade with each other and have been found hundreds of miles away from their original source.

The oldest beads on record are the nassarius shell beads from the Ucagizli cave in Turkey. Simple tube beads made from bird bones and river pebbles were used by early civilization in what is now Iraq. Archaeologists have also found early man made stone beads and sun-dried clay beads in Mexico and black coral beads in the Caribbean. The Pharaohs of Ancient Egypt even built cities in the Sinai Desert and occupied it for a few months every year in order to mine the turquoise found there. In China, during the Qing dynasty, all members of the court and military, including their children, had to wear "court chains" which were modelled after the rosary beads of Tibet.

To expand their hold on precious

materials, countries began to search for more unique and desirable materials, hence began the age of exploration. The Spanish went to the Americas in search of gold, coral, and rubies but instead found silver, turquoise and jade.

The discoveries of metals first led to frustration and then to new ways of working with these materials. One could not chip at the metallic rock so a new method had to be found: thus the process of extracting the metallic component of a rock by heating it to change its form was invented. The age of gold and silver jewellery begins!

In the late 19th century, another way of working with materials was developed - synthesizing: the process of putting together separate parts to form a whole (hence new materials



### stretch Bracelet or Necklace.



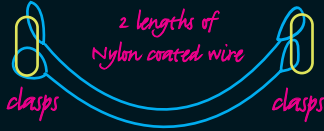
'Stretch Magic' is a strong and stretchy, easy to knot jewellery cord. It is particularly suitable for younger students.

**To Make Necklace or Bracelet:**

1. Cut Stretch Magic cord to desired length.
2. Knot one end.
3. Thread on a small bead first and then thread chosen pattern of beads.
4. Join the two ends together with a simple knot.



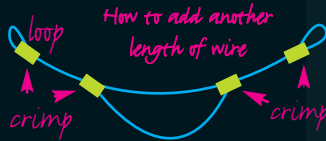
Nylon Coated Wire is a soft, flexible wire and will allow more flexibility in length and shape. It may be used for necklaces, bracelets, or earrings. Pieces of Nylon wire may be added to the main part of the necklace with crimps or two or three lengths may be attached to the same clasp (see diagram below and adjacent).



**To Make Nylon Coated Wire necklace or bracelet:**

1. Measure desired length of Nylon Coated Wire.
2. To start: fold one end 1cm to form a loop. Thread a crimp onto the Nylon Coated Wire and hold where the end of loop meets the wire. Thread the

end of the wire loop into the crimp so that it is at least half way in the crimp. Use a pair of teeth pliers and press down on crimp.



3. Thread beads.
4. To finish: use the same method used to start (i.e. crimp a loop as in step 2).
5. Thread each part of a clasp into each loop. (Use a round nose pair of pliers to open clasp attachment and a pair of teeth pliers to close it firmly.)

**Note:** Manipulating crimps may be too taxing for younger students.

Materials

Wire cutters  
Round nose pliers  
Flat Nose Teeth pliers  
Nylon coated wire  
Crimps  
Beads



# Nylon Coated wire Necklace or Bracelet.

called "synthetics"). Aluminium, created through a synthesis of "smelting", was first used for beads and was more expensive than gold. Later other synthetics, such as plastics, were invented.

Today jewellery makers use numerous techniques, both old and new, to produce their art works. While early man strung beads on a piece of dry grass, today semi-precious gem stones, such as Lapis, are cut on a diamond wheel, shaped on a grinder and put in a tumbler. This last process uses a rotating cylinder shaped box containing abrasive powder to refine the Lapis' shape and give it polish before it is strung on strong polyester thread.

"Stringing" beads to put around your

neck or arm is still an enjoyable activity for children and adults alike. On page 9 are some new synthetic beads which we would like to introduce to you. We have already tried working with them and can guarantee a lot of fun!

**Note:** To avoid beads rolling off the table, provide each student with a piece of corrugated cardboard (or an old tea towel or face wash).

Give each student a shallow recycled tub in which to put his or her chosen beads.

Jewellery pliers are especially made with a central spring on the handle to provide more grip and allow manipulation. The ones required for jewellery making are:

- Wire Cutters (the thicker the wire, the bigger the cutters need to be).
- Round Nose Pliers for manipulating the wire.
- Flat nose Teeth Pliers (serrated) for pressing wire together and closing ends.

If you need to find the centre of the wire so that a particular symmetrical pattern is achieved, wire has to be measured and then marked with a piece of masking tape or permanent marker.

The smaller 'seed' beads are not suitable for small hands.

Materials

Pre-cut Memory Wire  
Beads  
Round nose pliers  
Flat Nose Teeth pliers

# Memory Necklace and Bracelet.

'Memory' wire is flexible and springs back into its curved form when you try to straighten it... hence the name. These pieces of jewellery are very easy to make at any age as they require no findings (i.e. clasp, crimp, split-ring etc used put jewellery together).

**To make a necklace or bracelet:**

1. Cut the desired length of memory wire.
2. To start: use a round nose pair of pliers and turn one end 1cm toward length of wire to form a loop. Close loop with a pair of teeth pliers by pressing on the rounded end of wire.
3. Design a pattern of beads in a row

on the table and when satisfied thread beads.  
4. To finish: leave 2cm at end of beading and close the necklace or bracelet in the same way as step 2 instructions (i.e. turn wire in 1cm).

