

## **Basic Beaded Jewelry Making: Beaded Bracelet**

### Materials (per bracelet)

50 to 100 - 6/0 (20mm) glass (plastic, wood, other) beads – your choice of shapes or colors – can be mixed with seed beads, spacers, charms or other embellishments

One (1) Small (12mm) lobster (or other shaped) clasp

Two (2) 6mm open jump-rings

One (1) 6mm closed jump-ring for the catch

Two (2) 2mm crimp tubes

10 feet (supplied in kit) - 0.46mm (7 strand) (Beadalon or equal) multi-strand, flexible, plastic coated stringing wire or “tiger tail” – enough to create 10 bracelets. – See **Step 1** below to determine the length required for each bracelet

### Tools

Two (2) round nose or chain nose pliers NOTE: Jewelry making pliers have no ridges or gripping patterns on the working face of the pliers (like you would find on standard needle-nose pliers).

One (1) wire cutter (may be part of the pliers)

12 inch/30 mm ruler

12 inch length of yarn or string (longer if making an ankle bracelet or necklace)

### Step-by-step Directions

- Step 1. Determine the length of the bracelet. Wrap a piece of yarn or string around your wrist to determine the desired length of the bracelet. Add the slack you will want to where it feels comfortable. You don't want it to be too tight. Pinch the yarn at the point that it feels comfortable and measure that length against the ruler. Add one inch (2.5 cm) to the length and cut that length of beading wire or tiger tail.
- Step 2. Put an open jump-ring on the lobster clasp. To work with an open jump-ring, never pull the ends apart opening the circle wider - you will never get the ends to meet again and still have a round ring! Grasp the jump-ring with two round or needle-nose pliers and twist the ring slightly to separate the ends of the ring side-by-side. (See Diagram 1).
- Step 3. Put the open jump-ring through the small hole at the back of the clasp and use the pliers to twist the ends back in position opposite to each other. You can use a flat nose plier or the flat part of a 3-in-1 plier to squeeze the ring on its side to make sure the ends are in alignment. NOTE: You can put the stringing wire directly through the clasp and/or the catch ring, eliminating the need for a jump-ring. Using the jump-ring will provide a little more flexibility and comfort as the clasp will have a little more room to move around.
- Step 4. Put a closed jump-ring on an open jump-ring using the same technique as Step 2-3, (Remember: never spreading the ends of an open jump-ring away from each other or

opening the circle of the ring any wider). Push or twist the two ends apart sideways using two pairs of pliers.

- Step 5. Close the jump-ring and set this assembly aside to be used later at the other end of the bracelet as the catch ring. (Diagram 2)
- Step 6. String one crimp tube on the end of the wire.
- Step 7. Pass that end of the wire through the jump-ring on the clasp.
- Step 8. Thread the end of the wire back through the crimp tube in the opposite direction from the first pass through the tube. This will create a loop that will hold the lobster clasp and jump-ring at one end of the bracelet. (See Diagram 3)
- Step 9. Push the crimp tube down toward the short tail of the stringing wire and then pull the long end out to take up the slack of the loop. You should have a tight loop on one side of the crimp tube containing the jump-ring attached to the clasp. On the other side of the crimp tube you should have two wires. One should be very short, no more than 3/16 inch (5 mm) long and the other should be the overall length of the bracelet plus about an inch of extra wire. (See diagram 4).
- Step 10. Once you have the loop tight and the small tail no more than 3/16 inch (5 mm) long, use a smooth needle nose plier, the flat section of a 3-in-1 tool or a crimping tool to flatten or crimp the tube. Turn it over and squeeze it from the other side to make sure it is tight. You have now created the clasp end of the bracelet. (See Diagram 3) NOTE: If you use the crimping tool, use the crimping hole to squeeze the tube and then use the rounding hole in the tool to pinch the sides of the flattened tube back into a cylinder shape. This is not necessary – it is only an aesthetic decision. (See Diagram #) NOTE: If you put the string wire directly into the clasp hole, make the loop a little larger so that the clasp can have free movement.
- Step 11. Start adding beads to the long wire in whatever pattern or repeat you like. At the clasp end, make sure that the short end of the wire is treaded into the first 2-3 beads – the first bead should be tight against the flattened crimp tube. (See Diagram 5)
- Step 12. Add enough beads to fill the wire to your desired length minus about 1 inch (3 cm) for the length of the clasp and catch ring and the two jump-rings (added in steps 2-5 above). NOTE: If you attach the clasp and catch without the jump-rings, the clasp assembly will only add about 3/4" inch (2 cm) to the overall length of the bracelet; calculate the length accordingly.
- Step 13. The bracelet will hold about 50 to 70 - 6/0 (20mm) beads. You can lay out your pattern on a bead board or bead cloth to make sure that it is symmetrical at both ends if that matters to you.
- Step 14. Once you reach the desired length or pattern repeat, tread another crimp tube onto the stringing wire.
- Step 15. Pass the end of the wire through the open jump-ring of the catch end assembly (from Step 4-5 above).

- Step 16. Thread the end of the wire back through the crimp tube in the opposite direction from the first pass through the tube and then thread it through the last few beads on the string. This will create a loop that will hold the closed catch ring on an open jump-ring.
- Step 17. Pull the end of the wire tightly to bring all the beads together checking to make sure the short tails are embedded in or covered by the first and last several beads of the string.
- Step 18. Once you have it all tightened up with no spaces between the beads (but with a little flexibility for comfort), crimp or squeeze the tube flat with a smooth needle nose plier, the flat section of a 3-in-1 tool or a crimping tool and cut off the tail of the wire tight against the side of the second or third bead. Be careful not to cut the wire between the beads or you will have to start over!

There are many variations to this technique. You can use a variety of clasps, with and without a jump-ring. You can use the same techniques to make an ankle bracelet or a necklace. You can fold the beading wire in half, place the clasp and crimp tube at the half-way point and string beads on the two wires, bringing them back together at the end to add the catch ring. You can cover the flattened crimp tube with a crimp cover or you can use a crimp bead (not supplied in the kit). You can also string the beads first using a bead bug (or tight spring or bulldog clamp) on either end of the string to hold the row of beads in place until you add the clasp and catch at either end. It is easier for a beginner to attach the clasp at one end before you start to add beads.

Some good tutorials demonstrating similar techniques:

Basic beading to make a single strand beaded necklace:

<https://www.beadinjewelry101.com/beaded-necklace-tutorial.html>

Basic single strand bracelet (YouTube video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AueZChUSHoM>

How to flatten a crimp and cover with a crimp cover bead (YouTube video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5j-ZfVMjGOY>