

## Beading Tips - For Easy And Fun Beading Projects

Beading is a great way to let your creative side out. And some beading projects are very easy. You can easily make your own beaded necklace, bracelet or earrings. Here are several important tips for beginner beaders that will help you avoid common mistakes and make your beading projects easier and more fun.

**Space your beads** Some types of beads especially semi-precious, Swarovski, glass and pearl beads require a spacer between them. You have two options - make a simple knot between your beads, or insert a decorative spacer. I prefer spacers, because they make the design more interesting. It is best to use silver or gold spacers with expensive beads - they won't lose the shine as they age.

**Use a beading board** Before putting your beads on a wire lay them out on a jewelry layout board. You can buy these boards in any shop that sells, craft supplies, beads and beading tools. The board lets you see, how your design will work before you connect everything. If you don't have a board, use a plain light bath towel, so your beads don't scatter.

**Don't let your beads roll** Even if you use a beading board, it is a good idea to cover the table you work on with a towel. Beads rolling all over the table can drive you crazy, but a towel will prevent it. Also, if you have a cat, cover your work with another towel, if you leave even for a few minutes. My cat can destroy hours of work in less than 30 seconds.

**Cut enough string** If you are going to use knots, then cut the string 4 times longer than finished project plus a few extra inches, otherwise 2 times longer. Also you can fold your string twice or even four times, to make it stronger. This is particularly true if you use heavy glass beads and large beads.

**String color is important** You don't always have to use white string, buy a string that matches the color of your beads for this project. If you can't find a string in that particular shade, take a white one and dye it, any permanent marker would do the job.

**Be careful - strings stretch** In my first beaded necklaces I always had this problem - you finish a necklace, then after a day of wearing it the string stretches and beads are no longer tight together, looks awful. To avoid this, after all the beads are on, hang your necklace for a day or so, then do the final knotting or attach clasps.

**Secure the ends** Final knots are important, it is best to use square knots and tighten them firmly. Then apply some jewelers glue to your knots and only after that cut the loose ends.

**Be kind to your eyes** Beading for several hours can give you a bad eye strain, especially if you are working with seed beads. So always have a good light on, a desk lamp is best. Another useful tool would be a magnifying glass. It will also help keep your project neat and avoid small mistakes.

Happy beading!

### About the Author

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