

WigJig Beadstringing Kit



Step-by-step Instructions for making the white pearl beads necklace shown at right.

The kit includes all the tools and supplies necessary to make this necklace.

Step 1: Start by removing the Soft Touch Beadstringing wire, your clasp, your crimp beads, bead crimping pliers, your flush cutter and one plastic hemostat from their packages.

Step 2: Begin by looping about 1" of the beadstringing wire through the loop in one side of your clasp. In the pictures below, we started with the toggle. After you have 1" of wire through the loop in the toggle, use your plastic hemostat to hold the wire in position. The plastic hemostat is squeeze-release. One squeeze opens it, the second squeeze clamps the hemostat closed. (Editor's note: Because this is a beginner's project, we aren't going to start by cutting the Soft Touch Beadstringing Wire to the length we need. We are going to start using all 36 inches. As you become more advanced, you will find that you will want to cut your wire to a length that is about 4" longer than length of your finished necklace.)

Step 3: At this point we need to thread two of our crimp beads onto our long beadstringing wire. Continue threading the crimp beads until they get close to the toggle, at that point, thread the second end of the beadstringing wire through the crimp beads also. At this point, as shown below, center-right, you will have two crimp beads holding both strands of wire and positioned about 1/16" from the toggle. You will want a small amount of slack in your beadstringing wire to allow it to slide easily around the clasp. (Editor's note: Because this is a beginner's project, we are using two crimp beads instead of one. This is for redundancy. Beginners sometimes fail to close the crimp beads properly so for this first project we recommend that beginners use two crimp beads on either end instead of one. As you become more proficient with this technique, you will find that one crimp bead on either end will probably be sufficient.)

Step 4: Now, using your bead crimping pliers, crimp the bead closest to the toggle first and then second the bead, further from the toggle. The technique for performing the crimping is described in pictures on the back of the package for the bead crimping pliers and is described here in our web site --

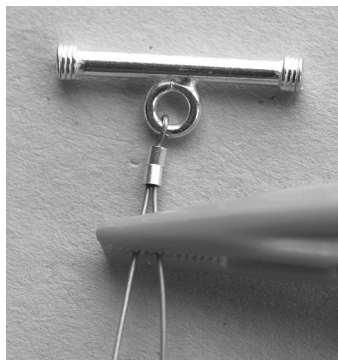
<http://www.wigjig.com/jewelry-tools/WJU/techniques/crimp/pg02.htm>.

By visiting this web page, you will see a slow motion view of the correct procedure for performing the crimp. Please note that you need to squeeze the crimp firmly, but not so hard that you crush or mangle it.

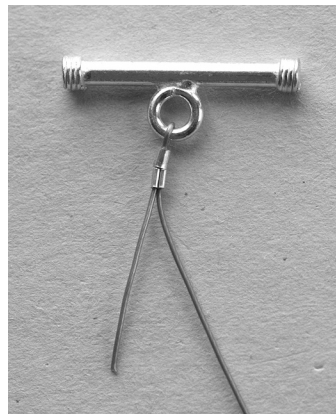
Step 5: After both crimp beads are crimped closed, you are ready to cut the short segment of excess wire. Be certain to cut only the short segment of wire. Accidentally cutting the long segment of wire will cause the necklace to break. Please note that we included a special Flush Cutter Soft Flex in this kit. Most jewelry wire cutters are not strong enough to cut the stainless steel Soft Touch and will be ruined if used to cut this wire.



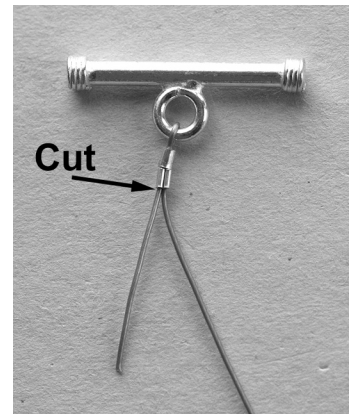
Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



Step 7



Step 8

Step 6: We are now ready to begin stringing our beads. Please note that because the Soft Touch Beadstringing wire is slightly stiff, you won't need to use a needle to string the beads. Begin with one size 11 seed bead. Please note that the easiest way to string seed beads is not to pick up each one individually. Spread your seed beads out on your work surface or on a plate and arrange them so that they lay flat. Then, when you need to string a seed bead, place the end of the beadstringing wire into the hole in the seed bead and twist and lift the wire to pick up the bead. Continue twisting the wire until the seed bead slides part way down the wire. (Editor's Note: The size of seed beads is a rough approximation for how many of that bead would fit in 1" of strung beads. Size 11 beads means that 11 of these seed beads strung side by side would occupy one inch on a necklace. These beads are sold by the "hank" where one hank is defined as 12 strands of strung beads with each strand being about 20" long. This amounts to 12 x 20 or 240 inches of beads, with 11 beads per inch for a total of about 2640 size 11 seed beads in a hank. Please don't count the beads in this hank, this is an approximation.) After threading a seed bead, thread one 6mm pearl bead. Continue threading one seed bead then one pearl bead. Repeat this step over and over.

Step 7: As you continue to thread beads, you will find that you come to a point where you will need to set the partially strung necklace down. Whenever you do this, we strongly suggest that you clamp your plastic hemostat on the unstrung portion of the wire. Our experience is that failing to do this provides one with the opportunity to play follow the bouncing beads. This is a game that we really don't like to play. Continue threading combinations of seed beads and pearl beads until you get the length of necklace that you want. Common sizes of necklaces are 16" (choker), 18" (princess), 20" (matinee) or 28" or even longer (opera).

Step 8: Now we need to fix the opposite side of the necklace to the other part of the clasp. First string 2 crimp beads onto your beadstringing wire and slide them all the way down until they touch the beads. Then loop the wire through the loop in your clasp. Finally, you will need to thread the wire back through the two seed beads as shown above-right. Pull the slack out of the wire until the crimp beads are tight against your strung beads with about 1/16" of slack at the clasp. This will take several tries until all the slack is removed and everything is positioned properly.

Step 9: Using your bead crimping pliers, crimp first one, then the other crimp bead closed.

Step 10: Using your Flush Cutter -- Soft Flex, cut the excess wire as near the crimp beads as possible. Ensure that you don't cut the necklace itself.

Please visit <http://www.wigjig.com> . We have over 2,600 free web pages with designs, tips, and techniques for making jewelry by hand with no soldering required.

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