Learn How to String Beads:

5 FREE PATTERNS FOR STRINGING BEADS
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For many of us, learning how to string beads was the “gateway” that led us to learning about other ways to make beaded jewelry. Bead stringing is a fabulous introduction to the soothing nature of beadwork and jewelry making.

But bead stringing is so much more than just putting a bunch of beads onto a piece of beading wire and adding a clasp! For many bead and jewelry artists, making beaded art by jewelry stringing is an art form all of its own. There are skills that you need to master, like attaching the perfect crimp and learning how to handle your basic jewelry making pliers that are necessary for creating the perfect piece of strung jewelry.

Straight from the pages of Jewelry Stringing magazine, we’ve selected five of our favorite bead stringing projects, plus as a bonus, included some helpful advice and tips from master jewelry artist Andrew Thornton. Ready? Get your beading wire and crimping pliers handy!

• No focal pendant for your string of beads? No problem! Cody Westfall’s Knot Me necklace uses strands of colorful glass beads and glass pearls that are strung together, attached to a piece of sterling silver chain, and then knotted to create a unique focal point. No pendant required!

• Stringing beads turns into mixed media jewelry with the addition of colorful fibers and ribbon in Denise Yezbak Moore’s Fleurs Nouveau. The classic brass findings are the perfect medium for the texture of the fibers and the brightly colored glass beads.

• More than just a bead on a string, a multi-strand bead stringing project like Mesdames Collier by Samantha Slater uses a classic square filigree as a centerpiece to which several strands of strung beads are connected to create a fancy (and fanciful) beaded necklace

• And, yes! You can use seed beads in your bead stringing projects! Terri Wlaschin’s Chinese Lanterns necklace uses a clever bead stringing technique using seed beads and beading wire to create little loops that accent a set of bold, colorful handmade lampwork beads.

• Bead stringing is elevated to an art form in Lorelei Eurto’s Sunflower necklace. Learn about texture, shape, and balance when you combine beads made of several different materials like gemstones, wood, and ceramic into one beautiful piece of beaded jewelry.

• And finally, from master bead artist Andrew Thornton, Stringing Shortcuts provides plenty of ideas and inspiration for when you’re not short on jewelry stringing projects, but you’re definitely short on time.

Whether you’re just learning how to string beads, or you’re looking for a few fun bead stringing projects to make with friends for a beading or jewelry-making party, we’re sure you’ll love this collection of free bead stringing jewelry projects from the pages of Jewelry Stringing magazine! Enjoy!

Bead Happy.
fleurs nouveau

[ DENISE YEZBAK MOORE ]

MATERIALS
8 light blue size 6° seed beads
5 blue 10mm fire-polished rounds
1 blue 12mm pressed-glass flat-back rivoli
5 blue 23x19mm lampworked rondelles
5 brass 4mm corrugated rounds
1 brass 24mm filigree ring
5 brass 7.5x5mm (small) filigree bead caps
6 brass 15x6mm (large) filigree bead caps
6 brass 16x19mm magnolia-leaf bead caps
1 brass 22x32mm hammered-rings clasp
5 brass 21-gauge 2" head pins
1 brass 5mm jump ring
6 brass 7mm jump rings
1 brass 9.5mm etched jump ring
2 brass 10mm jump rings
14" of brass 10mm round chain
14" of brass 22-gauge wire
20" of blue sari-silk ribbon

TOOLS
Wire cutters
Round-nose pliers
2 pairs of chain- or flat-nose pliers

FINISHED SIZE: 21½"

1 Use 1 head pin to string 1 seed bead, 1 small filigree bead cap (narrow end first), and 1 fire-polished round; form a wrapped loop. Repeat four times for a total of 5 dangles. Set aside.

2 Use 4" of 22-gauge wire to form a wrapped loop that attaches to 3 dangles. String 1 magnolia-leaf bead cap (wide end first), 1 seed bead, 1 magnolia-leaf bead cap (narrow end first), 1 lampworked rondelle, 1 large filigree bead cap (wide end first), and 1 brass round. Squeeze the bead caps that surround the lampworked rondelle so that they widen to conform to the curve of the round; form a wrapped loop. Use the etched jump ring to attach the wrapped loop to the filigree ring.

3 Flatten 1 large filigree bead cap. Place the rivoli faceup on the flattened bead cap and wrap 3 of the bead cap’s arms tightly around the rivoli. Attach the 5mm jump ring to the flat bead-cap arm. Use one 7mm jump ring to attach the previous jump ring to two 10mm jump rings. Attach the same 10mm jump rings to the filigree ring.

4 Use 5" of 22-gauge wire to form a wrapped loop that attaches to one of the previous 10mm jump rings. String 1 brass round, 1 large filigree bead cap (narrow end first), 1 lampworked rondelle, 1 magnolia-leaf bead cap (wide end first), 1 seed bead, 1 magnolia-leaf bead cap (narrow end first), 1 lampworked rondelle, 1 large filigree bead cap (wide end first), and 1 brass round. Squeeze the bead caps that surround the lampworked rondelles as in Step 2; form a wrapped loop that attaches to one end of one 7" piece of chain. Repeat entire step for the other half of the necklace.

5 Attach one 7mm jump ring to a dangle. Use one 7mm jump ring to attach the previous jump ring to one half of the clasp. Repeat entire step with the other half of the clasp.

6 Tie one end of one 10" piece of silk to the end of one of the chains that is attached to a wrapped loop using an overhand knot. Weave the silk through the entire length of chain. Wrap the silk around the other end of the chain twice. Measure ¾" from the last chain link and string the 7mm jump ring attached to one half of the clasp. Tie 2 overhand knots to secure the silk. Repeat entire step for the other half of the necklace.

Resources: Contact your local bead shop. All brass components: Vintaj Natural Brass Co. (wholesale only). Lampworked rondelles: Michaels. Rivoli: Gilding the Lily. All other materials: Brea Bead Works.
knot me

Make a multistrand necklace more interesting by tying the strands in a big knot.

[ CODY WESTFALL ]

MATERIALS
150 fuchsia 4mm pressed-glass rounds
144 amethyst 4mm pressed-glass rounds
97 garnet 6mm pressed-glass rounds
94 Capri blue 6mm pressed-glass rounds
90 burgundy 6mm crystal pearls
90 dark purple 6mm crystal pearls
94 black onyx 6mm rounds
1 gunmetal 7×12mm lobster clasp
1 gunmetal 21-gauge 4mm jump ring
1 gunmetal 7mm split ring
2 sterling silver 3mm crimp tubes
9¼" of gunmetal 9×16mm oval chain
182" of .014 beading wire

TOOLS
Wire cutters
Mighty crimping pliers
7 bead stops

FINISHED SIZE: 26"

1] Use the jump ring to attach the lobster clasp to one end of the chain.
2] Cut the beading wire into seven 26" pieces. Use all 7 wires to string 1 crimp tube and the other end of the chain; pass back through the tube and crimp.
3] Use 1 wire to string all the fuchsia rounds; place a bead stop on the end of the wire. Repeat six times: once using all the amethyst rounds, once using all the garnet rounds, once using all the Capri blue rounds, once using all the burgundy pearls, once using all the dark purple pearls, and once using all the black onyx rounds.
4] Remove all the bead stops. Use all 7 wires to string 1 crimp tube and the split ring; pass back through the tube and crimp.
5] Use all 7 strands to form an overhand knot in the center of the necklace.

Resources: Contact your local bead shop for more information. All materials:
FusionBeads.com.
Little loops made by passing beading wire through already-strung beads add texture to this colorful seed-and-lampworked bead necklace.

**chinese lanterns**

**MATERIALS**
- 2 g black size 15° seed beads
- 33 black size 8° seed beads
- 39 black size 6° seed beads
- 8 assorted black-trimmed 15×13mm lampworked lanterns
- 24 onyx 8×4mm rondelles
- 2 sterling silver 2×3mm crimp tubes
- 38” of .014 beading wire

**TOOLS**
- Wire cutters
- Crimping pliers

**FINISHED SIZE: 22 ¾”**

1. Use the beading wire to string 1 crimp tube, 1 size 6° seed bead, 1 lantern, and 1 size 8° seed bead; pass back through the lantern, the size 6° seed bead, and the crimp tube. Crimp the crimp tube.

2. String 7 size 15° seed beads, 1 size 8°, 1 onyx rondelle, 1 size 8°, 7 size 15°s, 3 size 6°s, 7 size 15°s, 1 onyx rondelle, and 7 size 15°s. Pass through the three size 6°s again to form a loop. String 7 size 15°s, 1 size 8°, 1 onyx rondelle, 1 size 8°, 7 size 15°s, 1 size 6°, 1 lantern, and 1 size 6°. Repeat entire step seven times, omitting the last size 6°, lantern, and size 6°.

3. String 1 crimp tube and 47 size 15°s; pass back through the tube, snug the beads, and crimp.

**Resources:** Contact your local bead shop for more information. Seed beads: Accents Beads. Lampworked lanterns: Pikalda.
This artfully constructed necklace uses a square filigree as a base onto which several beaded strands are attached.

**Materials**

- 173 opaque light beige 6mm pressed-glass rounds
- 4 coral 12mm large-hole crystal pearls
- 1 gold-plated 22.5mm square filigree
- 1 brass 12mm toggle clasp
- 4 gold-filled 20-gauge 6mm jump rings
- 13 gold-filled 2mm crimp tubes
- 9 gold-filled 3mm crimp covers
- 2 gold-filled 4mm crimp covers
- 9¼" of gold-filled 2x2.5mm twisted oval chain
- 6" of gold-filled 22-gauge wire
- 56" of gold .015 beading wire

**Tools**

- Wire cutters
- 2 pairs of chain- or flat-nose pliers
- Round-nose pliers
- Crimping pliers

**Finished Size: 28"**

**Step 1**
Use 1 jump ring to attach one end of one 4½" piece of chain to one half of the clasp. Attach 1 jump ring to the other end of the chain. Repeat.

**Step 2**
Use 15" of beading wire to string 1 crimp tube and the jump ring attached to 1 chain end; pass back through the tube and crimp. Cover the tube with 1 crimp cover. String 15 beige rounds, 1 coral pearl, 8 beige rounds, 1 coral pearl, 1 crimp tube, and 1 hole (now the top hole) of the square filigree. Pass back through the tube and cover with one 3mm crimp cover. Do not trim the wire. Use the same wire to string 8 beige rounds, 1 coral pearl, 15 beige rounds, 1 crimp tube, and the jump ring attached to the other chain end; pass back through the tube, crimp, and cover with one 3mm crimp cover.

**Step 3**
Use 7" of beading wire to string 1 crimp tube and the first jump ring used in Step 2; pass back through the tube, crimp, and cover with one 3mm crimp cover. String 11 beige rounds. Pass through the first coral pearl strung in Step 2. String 10 beige rounds, 1 crimp tube, and the right hole of the square filigree; pass back through the tube, crimp, and cover with one 3mm crimp cover. Repeat entire step for the other half of the necklace, starting with the second jump ring used in Step 2 and using the last coral pearl strung in Step 2 and the left hole of the square filigree.

**Step 4**
Use 9" of beading wire to string 1 crimp tube and the first jump ring used in Step 2; pass back through the tube, crimp, and cover with one 3mm crimp cover. String 12 beige rounds. Pass through the first coral pearl strung in Step 2. String 17 beige rounds, 1 crimp tube, and the bottom hole of the square filigree; pass back through the tube and crimp (do not cover). Repeat entire step for the other half of the necklace, starting with the second jump ring used in Step 2 and using the last coral pearl strung in Step 2.

**Step 5**
Use 9" of beading wire to string 1 crimp tube and the bottom hole of the square filigree; pass back through the tube and crimp. Use one 4mm crimp cover to cover both this crimp tube and one of the uncovered crimp tubes used in Step 4. Pass the wire through the closest beige round. String 26 beige rounds. Pass the wire through the last beige round strung before the second uncovered crimp tube. String 1 crimp tube and the bottom hole of the square filigree. Pass back through the tube and crimp. Use one 4mm crimp cover to cover this crimp tube and the second uncovered crimp tube.

**Step 6**
Use 3" of 22-gauge wire to form a wrapped loop that attaches to the bottom loop of the square filigree, between the 2 crimp covers. String 1 coral pearl and form a wrapped loop. Use 3" of 22-gauge wire to form a wrapped loop that attaches to the previous wrapped loop. String 1 beige round and form a wrapped loop that attaches to the filigree teardrop charm.

Resources: Contact your local bead shop or for more information. All materials: FusionBeads.com.
This beaded necklace was inspired by the porcelain sunflower pendant: jasper slices echo the blue of the pendant while a pewter sunflower clasp mimics the pendant’s shape.

**MATERIALS**

5 gold 5mm iridescent glass rounds
11 teal 8mm faceted jade rounds
4 jasper 17–30×20–42mm irregularly shaped slices
11 brown 20mm mother-of-pearl 2-hole rings
1 blue 60×40mm porcelain 7-hole sunflower pendant
25 brass 2mm corrugated rounds
2 brass 4mm corrugated rounds
1 pewter 26×44mm sunflower-and-leaf hook-and-eye clasp
5 brass 21-gauge 2” head pins
2 brass 5mm jump rings
4 brass 2mm crimp beads
2 silver 2mm crimp tubes
18” of .018 beading wire

**TOOLS**

Wire cutters
2 pairs of chain- or flat-nose pliers
Round-nose pliers
Crimping pliers

**FINISHED SIZE: 18”**

1] Use 11” of beading wire to string 1 silver crimp tube and 1 jump ring; pass back through the tube and crimp. Attach the jump ring to the eye (flower) half of the clasp.

2] Use the beading wire to string the first hole of 1 mother-of-pearl ring, one 2mm brass round, 1 jade round, the second hole of the ring, and one 2mm brass round.

3] Repeat Step 2 five times. String (1 jasper slice and one 4mm brass round) twice. String 1 jasper slice, two 2mm brass rounds, 2 brass crimp beads, and the top-left hole of the pendant; pass back through the crimp beads and flatten them.

4] Use 7” of beading wire to string 1 silver crimp tube and 1 jump ring; pass back through the tube and crimp. Attach the jump ring to the hook (leaf) half of the clasp.

5] Repeat Step 2 three times. String 1 jasper slice and one 2mm brass round. Repeat Step 2 twice more. String 2 brass crimp beads and the top-right hole of the pendant; pass back through the crimp beads and flatten them.

6] Use 1 head pin to string 1 glass round; form a wrapped loop that attaches to one hole in the bottom of the pendant. Repeat four times for the remaining holes in the pendant.

Let’s face it, modern living can be hectic. Copious blocks of time to make jewelry can be hard to find. Fortunately, several products are available to make easy, elegant, and, most importantly, fast designs. The jeweler-on-the-go can utilize the ten products featured here to test out new looks, create quick gifts, and spend her time actually wearing and enjoying her handiwork.

**WIRE BEADS**
Want the look of a thick wire-wrapped bundle but don’t want to touch your pliers or a coil of wire? Then Thai silver wrapped-wire beads are for you. They look like you spent ages wrapping and coiling to make them, but they conveniently come ready to string!

**EMBELLISHED CHAIN**
Chain is a beautiful thing, but embellishing it takes it to new levels. Fortunately, for today’s busy jeweler, many chains come already embellished with delicate leafy dangles, sparkling crystals, and more. Not only does this chain save time and money, but it’s perfectly consistent for a polished look.

**ENCRUSTED FILIGREE**
Nothing quite says glam like a little bit of sparkle, but beadazzling a component by attaching rhinestones one by one can be time-consuming. Easily and quickly incorporate sparkle into your pieces by taking advantage of crystal-encrusted filigree: prefabricated pieces with the crystals already set for you.
PINCH BAILS
Pinch bails make professional-looking jewelry a snap—or rather a pinch! Gently open these bails with pliers, perhaps even covering the tips with Scotch tape or using nylon pliers to prevent scratching the metal. Then pinch the bails to close, being careful not to pinch too hard, as delicate materials such as crystal might crack or chip if too much pressure is applied.

FINISHED JEWELRY ELEMENTS
Shave even more time off your projects by incorporating finished necklace and bracelet elements. These prefab components come in a wide variety of materials, such as Greek leather, nylon, chain, and silk and are finished off with a variety of closures. Spend your time customizing and embellishing them to make them truly your own.

SPACERS AND TUBES
Like the look of tiny beads, but don’t want to take the time or effort to stitch them up or string them? Cheat. A bunch of daisy spacers strung together appears to be an intricately woven wd-bead rope (bottom), while a single sterling silver Bali textured tube (also known as a ribbed tube) appears to be a series of small metal beads strung in a row (top).
MEMORY WIRE
Snapping back to its original coiled shape, this stainless steel beading medium is ideal for creating quick bracelets and necklaces. String some beads on a couple of coils and you have what looks like a multistrand bangle or choker. Remember not to use your nice jewelry-making wire cutters on this hard wire; use hardware-store cutters instead.

CUSTOMIZABLE PENDANTS
Don’t have the time or desire to work with resin to create a custom pendant? Instead slip a locket or frame pendant on a chain for a fast, personalized design. Spend your time customizing the image or even the locket or frame itself. For instance, you could use a sticker and etching cream to etch a design into the glass.

RIBBONS AND FIBERS
The oldest stringing materials are also some of the quickest and easiest to work with. Add color, texture, and flexibility to designs by using fibers and cording, which now come in endless varieties, such as silk, lace, and leather. A perk of working with fibers is that a closure is optional—in most cases a couple quick knots or a bow will finish the design off nicely.

LARGE-HOLED BEADS
Create a Pandora-style bracelet or necklace by using large-holed beads or ring-shaped components. You can easily add to these designs over time or swap out elements according to your mood or dress-code requirements. Plus, the bigger the beads, the fewer the beads there are to string, and the fewer the beads there are to string, the faster they are to work up.