

# How to; - Make Paper Beads

## You will need: -

Paper

- newspaper, junk mail, old wrapping paper - anything you have around

Scissors to cut the paper

Ruler and pencil to mark out cutting lines

PVA type glue (kids white glue) or similar

Something to shape the beads around - a pencil, chopstick, wire, cocktail stick, knitting needle...



Paper jewellery is fun, and easy to make with minimal tools, so great to do at home, and making paper beads is one of the simplest ways to use paper to make jewellery forms.

**Tip** - Try different papers or differently proportioned strips of paper to get different shapes of beads.

Paper beads are relatively straight forward to make, and if made with care, can be just as exciting and professional as any other bead, when turned into jewellery...

## Paper Strips

Beads are made by rolling up strips of paper to build shapes, they are rolled up around a rod to ensure a central hole in the bead for using it later.

The length and shape of the strip will determine the shape of the finished bead. Try cutting a whole variety and see how the beads change - see the chart of suggestions overleaf.

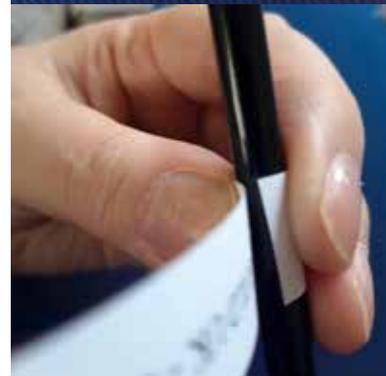
## Step 1

Cut a strip of paper - the longer it is, the chunkier the bead will be. The width of the strip will be the length of the bead. Choose any paper - you can use coloured or printed paper to give the bead its own unique colour and pattern, or you can use plain paper and paint or decorate the bead later.

The longer the strip of paper - the more wraps and the more graduated the bead. If it is a shorter strip, the wraps will show differently.

## Step 2

Roll it up! Hold the wide end of the strip of paper against your bead 'core' - a pencil will create a wide hole, great for threading the bead onto cords or ribbon later, but if you are planning something



more delicate, try a finer core - maybe a cocktail stick or the stick from a cotton bud.

Hold the paper steady against the core, and carefully start to roll it up. Put a dab of glue on the top of the underneath layer to hold the first wrap steady and keep rolling to create your bead shape.

Hold the paper as straight as you can and watch how it is rolling to make sure it stays centred (or not, as you choose!).

Just before you finish rolling - put another dab of glue on the bead and smooth the end of the strip down onto it. Carefully either clean off any excess glue with a tissue / cotton bud, or spread any excess glue over the surface of the bead to help seal and secure it - the glue can act as a varnish if done neatly.

## Decorate and Seal the Beads

If you choose you can now paint or decorate the bead, or it can be left as is. Spray paint it, brush paints on, add glitter or tiny seed beads into the surface to add more texture - there is endless potential...

Or of course leave it as it is, and let the paper be the focus.

If needed, you can seal the surface with a thin coat of glue, or varnish or any sort to protect the paper.

**Tip** - If you enjoy making beads - there are winding gadgets you can buy to make the process even easier - look online for bead makers.

## Using the beads...

I used my red beads threaded onto a bright and colourful ribbon to make a simple necklace, but there is all sorts you can do with the beads - anything you could think of to do with a regular bead.

If the bead hole is too big and the beads are sliding on your stringing material - you can use bead caps, or smaller holed beads either side of the paper bead to help hold it in place / to disguise the open holes.

