

Supplies; - Bead Stringing Kit

Bead Mat

The first thing you'll need for any work is a bead mat - this creates a soft padded work surface to lay out your beads, to stop them rolling all over the table and to protect them from hard surfaces while you work.



Pliers

Even if you just plan to do bead stringing, pliers are always handy, used for working with wire, making links, using headpins, opening and closing jump rings, securing crimps, and many other uses.

Round Nose Pliers - have jaws with a round cross section - each jaw is tapered to a point. Use these for creating loops and rounded shapes in wire, or for opening and closing rounded loops and links.

Snipe (Chain) Nose Pliers - have jaws that are tapered and rounded on the outside (to enable you to get into small spaces) but smooth and flat on the inside to grip. The flat surface is great for gripping wires and flattening crimps.

Side Cutter Pliers or **Flush Cutters** - are commonly available for cutting wires - keep a separate pair for cutting tougher (extra thick, or steel) wires so that you can keep one pair sharp for fine neat work. If you work with threads, you'll also need sharp **Scissors** or **Thread Clippers**.



Other Useful Items

Tape Measure - Great for checking lengths for necklaces and bracelets.



Bead Stoppers - These are not essential as you can use a small bulldog clip, tape, or tie a spare bead onto your thread or wire as an alternative, but I find these useful to hold the end of your wire so you can thread on the beads without them falling straight off the other end.

Bead Design / Layout Board - Very useful to help when designing single and multi row necklaces to plan out your bead sequence / design and check the length before starting to string it.

Twisted Wire Needles - Used just for pearl stringing, these long flexible needles are made of twisted wire, with a large looped eye. The eye is easy to thread, and it then collapses when pulled through the fine hole of a bead, they are thin and flexible to fit through awkward spaces.

Crimping Pliers - Specialist pliers, available in three sizes, for compressing crimp beads for secure and neat connections as an alternative to using standard snipe nosed pliers - the size needs to match the crimps you choose to use.

