

Supplies; Stitched Beadwork 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.



Needles

Size 10 Beading Needles - are available from most shops that sell seed beads - these needles are especially streamlined to fit through the bead holes. Finer needles (higher numbers) are needed for working with size 15 (extra small) seed beads.

Thread

Beading Threads - are available from all shops that sell seed beads - these are especially strong for their thin size and come in many different colours and several brands including - Nymo, C-lon, KO, Wildfire and Fireline. Personally I like KO threads best.



Bead Scoop

Scoops - are really helpful when it comes time to clearing up the beads - a teaspoon works well too, to help gather loose beads back into their bag.

Pliers

Not often needed, but pliers can be handy, used for working with wire, attaching clasps, making links, using headpins, opening and closing jump rings, not to mention freeing stuck needles 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.

Snipe (Chain) Nose Pliers - have jaws that are tapered and rounded on the outside (to enable you to get into tight spaces) but smooth and flat on the inside for gripping. The flat surface is great for gripping wires, pulling out stuck needles, and can also be used to (carefully) break out beads that you need to remove from your work but you don't want to undo the stitching.

Scissors

Sharp embroidery scissors - are commonly available and needed to cut and trim threads.

Other Useful Items

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

Bead Stoppers - Not essential as you can use a small bulldog clip, or loop a spare bead onto your thread as an alternative, but I find these useful to hold the end of your thread when doing certain types of stitches.

