

# Jewelry Guidelines

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Welcome to the wonderful world of jewelry making! This class will give you enough knowledge to get started, beginning with tools, terminology and basic techniques for stringing beads and wire work.

## The Basics

**Needle-nose pliers**- also known as chain-nose are flat on inside, taper to a point. Good needle nose pliers are every jeweler's best friend. Like all tools, you get what you pay for. I recommend those with a very pointed tip, to do the smallest work. Smooth-jawed pliers, instead of serrated, are better for wire to prevent marring.

**Round-nose pliers**- have tapered, cylindrical jaws, used in wire work, for making round loops called "eyelets".

**Wire Cutters**- used to cut silver, brass or copper wire. **Flush cutters** (for wire only) give a "sheer cut" so no filing is required. Note: special wire cutters needed for (stainless steel) memory wire.

Many other pliers--niceties not necessities--are available for other specific purposes.

## Stringing Material

Beading string or micro-cable is also known as "tiger tail"; it is nylon-coated and comes in various widths: fine, medium or heavy. .012 = Fine; .018 = Medium; .022 = Heavy. It can be cut using wire cutters, scissors or nail clippers. Fresh-water pearls are finely-drilled & usually require fine.

## Beads

Hunting for beads is half the fun! It's more economical to buy strands but as a beginner you may prefer to buy them separately. Start with beads you are instantly attracted to and find others in various sizes to compliment them. It's best to buy supporting beads—in same color—to ensure a good match for main beads. Beads come in every different shape and color from tiny seed beads to chunky semi-precious stones; made of glass, wood, bone, plastic (aka Lucite) or naturals like quartz and abalone shell. The endless array of beads is what makes hunting for them half the fun.

**Findings** - term used for the metal parts that finish your jewelry such as clasp & hook.

**Clasps**: toggle, lobster claw, spring ring and "S" hook are the most commonly-used types.

**Jump Rings**: small circles of wire in various sizes used to connect findings.

**Split Rings**: a more-secure, double jump ring; resembles a key ring.

**Crimp Beads**: small, soft metal beads or tubes used for securing the ends of tiger tail, by making a loop at end and pinching crimp with pliers,

**Head Pins**: long, straight wires with a ball or flat disc (head) on one end, used for making earrings or pendants. Head pins eventually become eye pins.

**Eyelets**: long, straight wires with a round loop on both ends--for making links or earrings, using round nose pliers.

**Rondelles:** spacer beads shaped like flat discs (or donuts); common one called “daisy spacer”.

**Caps:** decorative, cut-out metal findings (resemble caps) added to beads for extra embellishment.

**Bail:** any kind of finding that holds a pendant.

**Bead Board:** a handy tray/work surface with grooves for holding beads and a measuring device.

### Extra Pliers

**Crimping Pliers** - used for double-pinching/ folding crimp beads or tubes.

**Split-Ring Pliers**- used for opening split rings which resemble key rings.

**Plastic-tipped pliers**- exclusively for wire work to prevent marring.

## Jewelry Supply List

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### **For Stringing:**

Beads

Tray (or plain towel, placemat, box lid, baking sheet, etc)

Tools (needle nose pliers & cutters)

Stringing Material - Tiger tail/Micro cable; fine, medium or heavy weight depending on beads.

Crimp Beads or Tubes

Clasp

Jump Rings

Ruler or tape measure

### Wire

**Craft Wire:** good for beginners; available in copper, brass or silver-plated; in various gauges; 18, 20 & 22 gauge; available by the spool, pre-packaged at bead/craft shops & local hardware stores.

**Silver Wire & Gold-Filled:** available by the foot or ounce at supply shops and some bead shops. (See Resource List)

18 gauge (H): for clasps & large jump rings; also used for hammered-silver jewelry.

20 gauge (M): for earring wires, head pins & jump rings

22 & 24 (F): for wire-wrapping bead ends.

## **Optional**

Balpeen Hammer & Anvil: Harbor Freight Tool Outlet

Chains: sold by inch or foot at most bead shops; in packages at craft stores

Standard bracelet: 7-8 inches

Standard necklace: 18 inches; Choker = 16 inches

## **Misc. Info**

925 = International symbol stamped on all sterling silver jewelry; 92.5% silver/7.5% alloy

S/S = sterling silver

A/B = Aurora Borealis; an iridescent coating added to glass beads to resemble crystals.

G.F. = Gold-filled; precious metal; "Goldtone" = base metal; costume jewelry

"Wig-Jig" = a commercial product resembling a cribbage board used to make wire designs by wrapping wire around pegs inserted into base according to design booklet included.

"Stringing Magazine" – great quarterly filled with inspiration and designs for making bracelets, earrings & necklaces; stringing and wire-work only; available online or at local stores.

## **Jewelry Resource List**

### **Portland Bead Shops**

Dava Beads - 2121 NE Broadway	503 288-3991
Belladonna Beads – 4940 N. Lombard	503 283-0661
(tween Portsmouth & Fisk Aves.- across fr Taco Bell)	
Beads at Dusti Creek - 4848 SE Division	503 235-4800
Beads Forever - 3522 SE Hawthorne	503 230-2323
Bead Source - 15831 SE Division	503 760-8964
Village Beads - 7807 SW Capital Hwy	503 244-1821
Let it Bead - 1426 NW 23 <sup>rd</sup> Ave.	503 228-1882
Knittn' Kitten – 7530 NE Glisan St.	503 255-3022

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Bead Bullies- 12200 SW Main, Tigard 503 430-5050

Planet Bead- 2905 SE 73<sup>rd</sup> at TV Hwy, Hillsboro 503 615-8509

Bead Happy- 15830 SE McLoughlin Blvd. 503 650-7885

Milwaukie (next to Harbor Freight)

### Washington

Bead City- 11516 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd, Vanc. 360 253-2256

Main Street Bead Connection-Hwy 78 in JM Plaza, Hazel Dell 360 750-1444

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## **Supply Houses**

Ed's House of Gems- 7712 Sandy Blvd. Portland - 503 284-8990

Simon Golub & Sons- 2820 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Ave; off Powell - PDX - 503 230-9010

Handley's - 6160 Hwy. 99 Hazel Dell, WA (exit 78, off I-5)

Handley's Jewelry Supply - 534 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. @Alder- PDX, 503 241-430