

SIMPLE BEAD WEAVE BRACELET

Materials & tools needed:

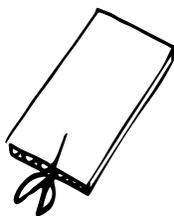
- Scissors
 - A piece of corrugated cardboard recycled from a box that is at least 11 inches long by 5 inches wide
 - Yarn, string, or thin twine
 - A plastic or metal needle for yarn.
- Or: make your own needle using a small plastic twist tie and a pair of sharp small scissors (See step 6)
- A marker to mark the width of your wrist on a piece of yarn

- Beads: You will need large beads with large holes to fit the yarn and yarn needle through twice. Plastic pony beads, which are inexpensive and widely available are what are suggested for beginners. The beads tested were approximately 6mm high x 9mm wide with 4mm holes.

Optional:

- Clear nail polish, acrylic sealer or super glue to seal the knots in place.
- Graph paper and markers to design a pattern in advance.

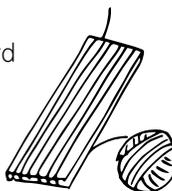
- 1** Make a cardboard bead loom. Cut a piece of corrugated cardboard into a strip that is 11 inches long and 4 inches wide.



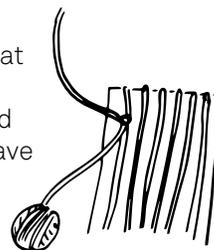
- 2** Cut 6 slits into each end of the cardboard that are approximately 1/2 inch or 1 1/2 cm deep.



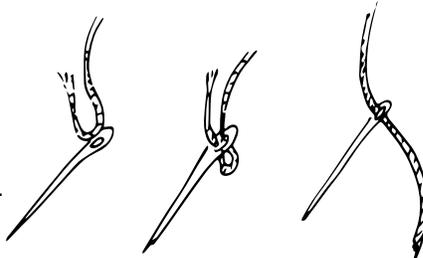
- 3** Wrap yarn or string around the cardboard and through the six slits, ensuring that the front of the cardboard has 5 open sections between the yarn or string. These strings are your **warp** threads.



- 4** Measure a piece of yarn or string that is about 5 feet long and tie one end of it to the top of the leftmost strand wrapped around the cardboard. Leave a tail that is about 4 inches long.



- 5** Thread the long end of the yarn or string through a yarn needle by folding the yarn and pushing the bend through the eye of the needle.



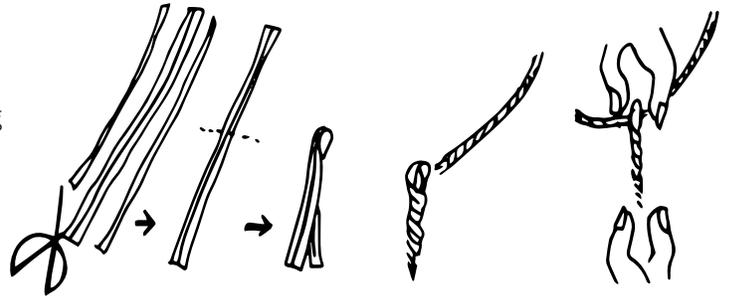
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6 If you do not have a yarn needle, you can make a needle out of a small plastic-coated twist-tie from a bread or other grocery bag.

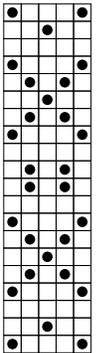
A. First trim as much of the plastic edges off of the twist tie you can using sharp small scissors, leaving just small strips of plastic along the wire.

B. Fold the trimmed twist tie in half. Twist the end of the twist tie together, twisting up towards the top but leave an opening for the yarn.

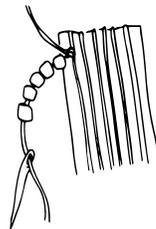
C. Thread the yarn through the hole, then twist the tie together more, as tight as you can. Straighten the needle out and squish the eye shut around the yarn. You may need to squish and straighten you needle a few times while you are using it to thread through the beads.



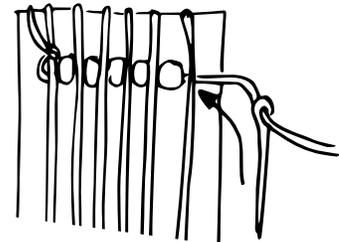
TIP: You can make up your pattern as you go, or plan it in advance using graph paper. Most bracelets will require 20 rows of large pony beads, so a graph that is 5 squares wide by 20 squares tall is helpful.



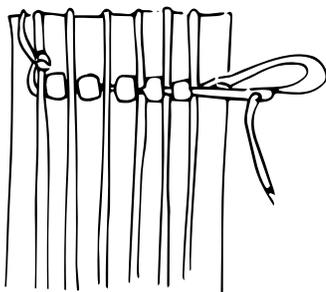
7 Thread five large holed pony beads onto your yarn. The bead holes should be wide enough for the needle to pass easily through. If it is at all snug, the needle will be too large or the beads too small for the rest of the weaving process.



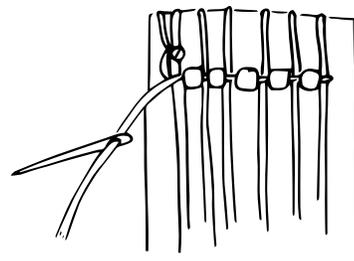
8 Pull the five beads under the yarn/strings wrapped around the cardboard (warp), allowing each bead to be separated by one line of warp yarn/string.



9 Turn the needle point back and thread through the beads, crossing over the lines of warp yarn/string. This will sandwich the warp, trapping the beads between. You may need to push the beads up from the back using a finger so that the needle can push through the fronts of the beads more easily.

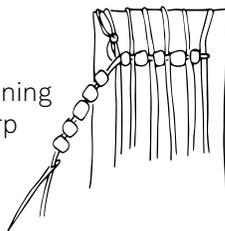


10 Pull the needle all the way through the line of beads and tighten the row. If your needle gets stuck at all, or it is difficult to pull through, try just doing one bead at a time instead of the whole row at once. This will temporarily mess up your row, but you can neaten up and pull tightly once the needle is through all five beads.

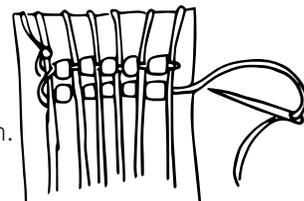


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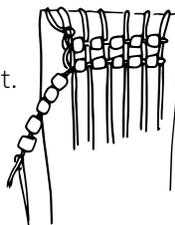
- 11** Thread five more beads on the yarn/string. Repeat the first steps of the weaving by running the beads under the warp, and allowing warp strands to separate each of the beads.



- 12** Repeat the next steps by turning the needle back to the start, and thread through the beads and over the warp, trapping the warp threads underneath.



- 13** Pull each row of beads tightly to neaten before moving to the next. Continue this process until the bracelet is the desired length.

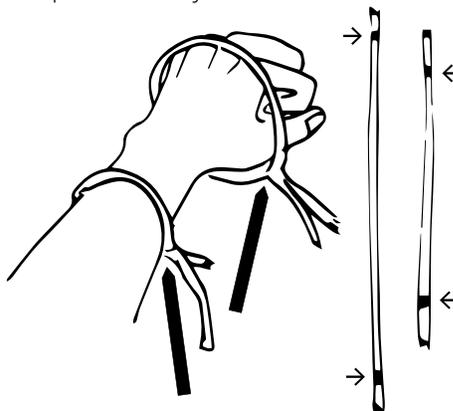


TIP: Determining the desired bracelet length

Most bracelets will need 18–25 rows of large pony beads.

You can craft your bracelet so that it needs to be tied and untied each time it's put on or taken off, or design it so that it permanently stays in a loop.

For a bracelet that needs to be tied and untied, measure your wrist by tying a piece of yarn around it and marking where the yarn meets with a marker. This type of bracelet will need a few less rows of beads than a permanently shut bracelet.

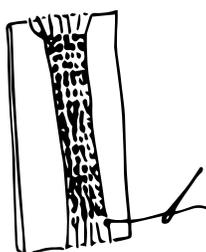


For a bracelet that stays permanently shut, make a fist and tie a piece of yarn around the widest part (usually the knuckles). Mark this with a marker. The beaded part of your bracelet will need to be the length of the distance between these two marks.

This type of bracelet will need a few more rows of beads than a tied shut bracelet.

FINISHING YOUR BRACELET

- 14** Once your bracelet has reached the desired length, tie the yarn or string that you have been threading the beads with to the rightmost bottom warp thread, at the very end of your last row of beads.



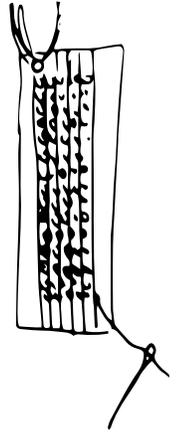
- 15** Turn the cardboard over and cut the bare yarn or string at the back across the middle.



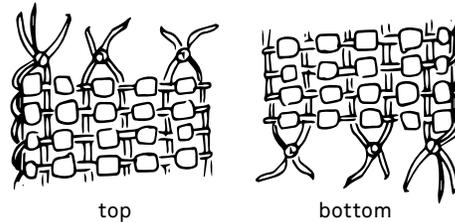
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A BRACELET THAT NEEDS TO BE TIED AND UNTIED:

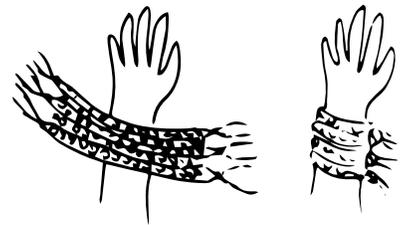
16 To keep the beads from falling off the bracelet once off the cardboard loom, unhook the first two warp strings on the left from the cardboard slits. Combine these with the string / yarn tail that was left from your first row of beads and tie them together with two tight knots.



17 Tie the rest of the warp threads together in sets of two, unhooking them only as you tie them together. There will be three knots total at the top of the bracelet. Repeat this process with the warp threads at the bottom of your bracelet, again resulting in three knots along the bottom of your bracelet.



18 Have someone help you tie the ends of the weaving together around your wrist. Repeat this process with the warp threads at the bottom of your bracelet, again resulting in three knots along the bottom of your bracelet.



A BRACELET THAT STAYS PERMANENTLY SHUT:

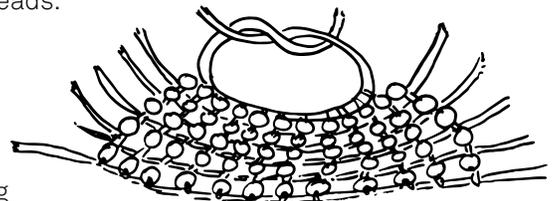
19 Make sure that the beaded part of the bracelet fits over your clenched fist before permanently shutting it.

20 Carefully take the bracelet off the loom, unhooking it from each of the slots. The warp threads will be loose and tangle easily, so try to lay it down flat right away and straighten out each of the warp threads.

Starting with the leftmost warp thread and the tail left from the initial knot, tie this end with the bottom end of the same warp thread. Make two tight knots.

Continue to tie the tops of each warp thread to the coinciding bottom end of that same warp thread. Since there are six warp threads, there will be six double knots closing the bracelet shut.

Trim the extra bits of yarn or string off. You can turn your bracelet inside out so that the knots are hidden against your wrist.



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TIP: Coating knots with clear nail polish, acrylic clear coat or super glue will help keep the knots from coming loose.



Ending a thread, adding a thread, and finishing.

Depending on how long your bracelet and thread are, you may run out of thread as you go and need to add another thread. In any case, you will need to end a thread when you have completed your bracelet, and need to finish up any of the loose thread tails left that are attached to knots.

To end a thread

Before you completely run out of thread, when you get to about 4 inches left, tie the thread to the leftmost elastic cord in a tight knot. [A] Sew back through at least two rows of beads using the needle. [B] Retrace the path your needle took when weaving those two rows on. As you make a final exit through a row, trim the thread close to the edge of the bead row so it isn't noticeable. [C]

To start a new thread

Tie thread tightly onto the leftmost strand of cord using a double knot. [D] Leave a tail at least 4 inches long after the knot. Continue weaving strands of beads as instructed. Once three or four lines have been completed, thread a needle onto the tail left with the knot. [E] Following the path your needle initially took, sew back through the beads for at least two rows. As your needle makes its final exit, trim the thread close to the edge of the bead row so it isn't noticeable. [F]

Finishing the bracelet

Use the above steps to clean up any threads left from starting or ending the bracelet.

