TotallyBeads
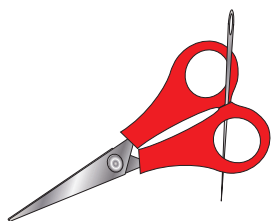*The Best Things in Life are Handmade*

Ribbon Jewellery

Materials needed for this project

- Ribbon
- Needle & Thread
- Beads of your choice
- Clasp (either ribbon end crimps or glue in clasp)


Pulling a Needle through

If for some reason the needle gets stuck, you can gently pull it through with a pair of pliers or even better, use your scissors, but hold the needle between the handles of the scissors, there is a point on every scissors where the 2 loops meet. This is a safer way than pliers as there is less stress on the needle to break.


Simple weave.

Preparation...

For an 8" bracelet, you will need approx 35cm of ribbon, for best results you need to mark the Ribbon at intervals so you know where to stitch through. You can do it by eye as well but if you mark it up first you will get a more even work. For the 12mm pearl you will have to do a mark at every 18mm-19mm. You can use a ruler and a pencil or felt tip pen or similar. Make sure the colour of it is just a few shades lighter or darker than your ribbon as you don't want it to show up too much in your finished work, although the beads will cover this area. If you decide to use the ribbon doubled up then you will need to mark your cord at every 20mm. Make sure that your first dot is about 6mm from the end of your ribbon. Another good tip is to dab the end of the ribbon with a bit of glue or clear nail varnish so the ends do not fray.

Mark here
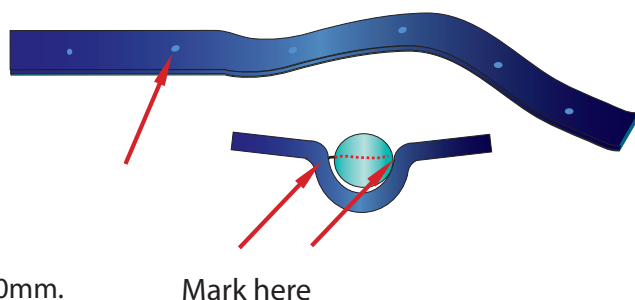
Step 1a - Start by taking your needle and approx 1 metre thread with a knot in one end. Take your ribbon and tack the end with a few stitches - try to keep your tacking to the very end of the cords just above your first dot, so you will be able to hide the stitching under your crimp connector.
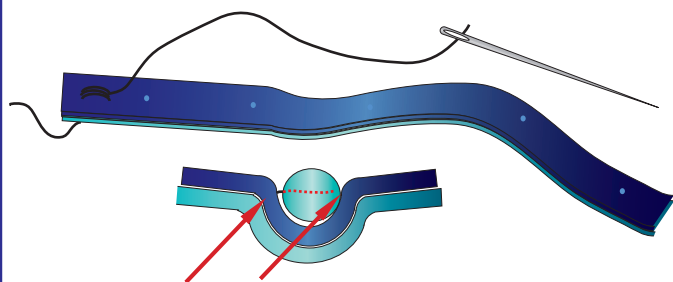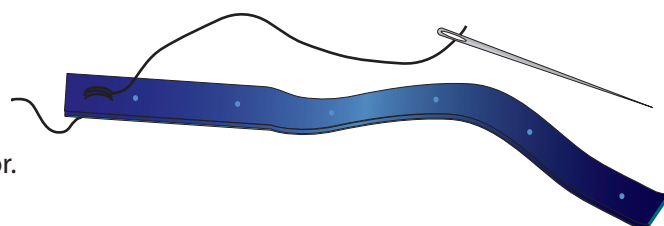
Step 1b - If you have more than one colour variation and you wish to mix the colours up or if you just want to use the same cord doubled up, then you need to line up the 2 cords on top of each other and tack the 2 ends together with a few stitches.

Mark here

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Step 2 - Take your needle through the ribbon and bring it out just on your first dot. - now you are in the starting position. You will be picking up a bead then sew through the next dot then pick up another bead and sew through the dots all the way along until you have reached your desired length. You will need to keep a tight tension but if you are not happy with it then you can turn back from the end and go through all your beads again, making your jewellery stronger and tighter.
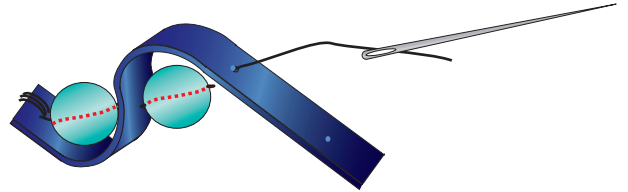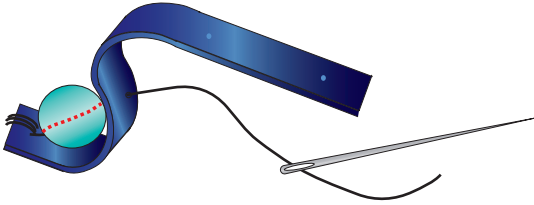
Step 2b - To create a tight even weave with your ribbon and beads if you are using it doubled up, you need to make sure that both flat cords curve around the bead.
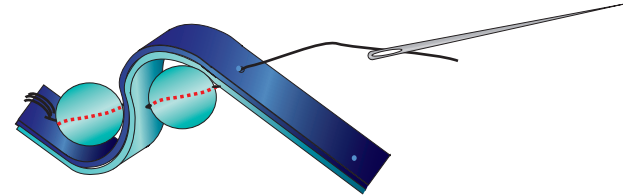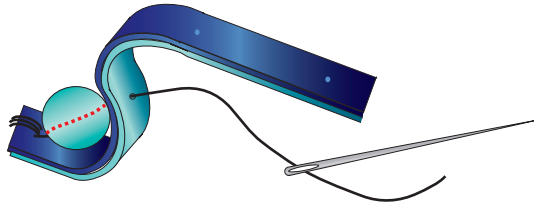
Step 3 - Once you have reached your desired length, make sure you pull your thread tight. It is worth spending a bit of time to pull each bead tightly next to its adjacent bead so your cord is as tighlty curled as possible. Also, remember that your clasp - either glue-in or crimp connectors will take approx 2.5cm in length, so take this into consideration when measuring your piece of jewellery. At the end, finish off your thread by going through your cords a few times to secure the thread.
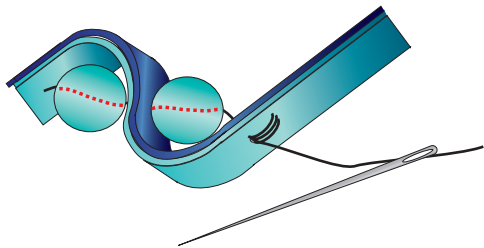
Now, you need to trim the ribbon so there is just enough to either glue-in the ends of your cord to the clasp or to attach the crimp connectors, but make sure you do not cut through your thread path.

Step 4 - To attach the crimp connectors, simply put them over the end of your ribbon and squeeze it shut with a pair of flat nose or square nose pliers. Repeat this on the other end of your jewellery.
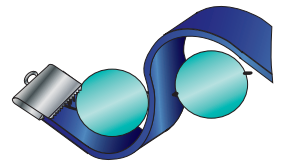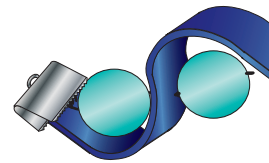
Step 5 - Attach your clasp to your crimp connector. Please refer to the diagram below how to open and close jump rings the correct way.

Opening and Closing a jump ring

Step 1 - Hold Jump ring with 2 pairs of pliers.
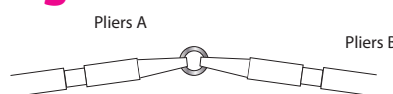
Step 2 - Gently push the Jump ring apart, moving Pliers A away from you and pliers B towards you.
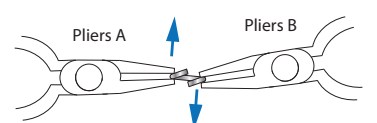
Step 3 - With the pliers in the same position, reverse the action in Step 2, pulling pliers A towards you and pushing pliers B away from you.

Pliers A

Pliers B

Pliers A

Pliers B

Pliers A

Pliers B

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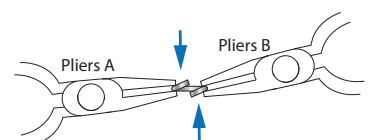
Try a different weave

Once you have created a bracelet you could try and experiment with different size of loops around your bead or just do a section of the jewellery beaded and leave the rest of the ribbon straight to achive different looks. You could try to make a necklace using only 9 beads and leave the rest of the ribbon showing. For this you will need to do the same preparation as for the simple weave.

Take approx 70cm of cord. Lay it down and make your first mark at 23cm in, it doesn't matter which end you start. Then make another dot 8mm away then another one 18mm away. Continue to do this until you have 9x 18mm sections and 10 x 8mm sections. For this design it works best with a single ribbon.

8mm

23cm

18mm

The idea is the same here as in the basic Weave however you only add beads where you have 18mm sections. With the 8mm gaps you just need to sew through the next dot as well to fold the ribbon on itself. With this design you are only going to have the cord running on one edge of your necklace and it will look like the beads are suspended within the fold of the cord. With this technique you can experiment to sew the 8mm gaps together not by just going through the marked dots but using a few stitches going back and forward will give you a different more tighter look. If you only do the stitches for the 8mm gap on one side of the cord the other side will open up a bit more and give you a different look again.

To finish ends you will have to do the same as before in the simple weave version.

Different beads will give different looks.

Don't forget if you change the size of the beads you would have to change the gaps between the dots when you mark your ribbon. Also if you use 1 ribbon or 2 ribbons on top of each other. If you are unsure how big you need the gap to be then you need to do the following.

1. Wrap your ribbon around your bead.
2. Put your needle through your ribbon and bead then come out on the other side of your ribbon.
3. Mark the spot where the needle came through on either side.
4. Take your needle out and flatten your ribbon.
5. Measure it with a ruler. I try to measure from the middle of the spot to the middle of the second spot. This way you will have exactly the right amount of space between your marks so the ribbon covers the beads evenly and it is not loose in places.

Enjoy

Hope you enjoyed creating with us. We would love to see a picture of your finished products. Why not email us some pictures - letsmakeit@totallybeads.co.uk

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