

Working with Tigertail

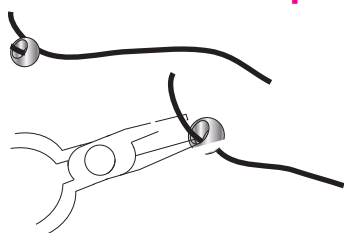
Materials needed for this project

- Beads of your Choice
- Jump Rings
- Crimp Beads
- Calottes
- Clasp of your Choice
- Chain if you want to extend your Jewellery

Before you start....

Have a look through these instructions and learn the basics first. Working with tigertail can be fun, easy and a quick way to assemble a piece of jewellery. Most people use tigertail for a single strand stringing technique, however there is much more to tigertail. It can be used to make workable components to jewellery, it can be woven, used for a floating necklace or even used for multi strand necklaces.

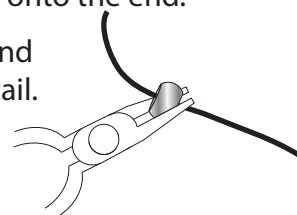
How To Attach Crimp Beads



Step 1. Take a length of Tigertail and slide a crimp bead onto the end.

Step 2. With your pliers, place them around the crimp and position the crimp where you would like it on the Tigertail.

Step 3. Squeeze the crimp flat, trapping the Tigertail inside the crimp.



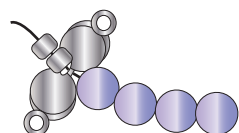
How To Fit a Calotte

Step 1. Take your length of Tigertail and attach a crimp bead as above.

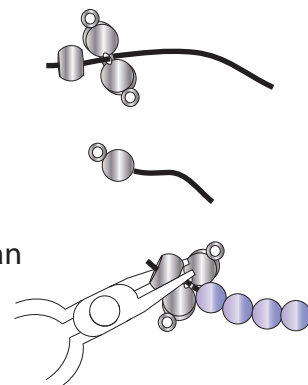
Step 2. Now, take the Calotte and slide it onto the Tigertail, pulling the secured crimp inside the Calotte. Trim excess Tigertail close to the crimp.

Step 3. Gently squeeze both sides of the Calotte together, trapping the crimp inside. Make sure the 2 loops on either side of the calotte are in-line with each other so you can attach a jump ring through both holes.

Step 4. For the other end of your bracelet or necklace, thread on a calotte first, then a crimp. Secure crimp inside calotte with your pliers.



Tip. If you have a particularly heavy necklace, it is worth double crimping your necklace for extra strength. Make sure the first crimp you secure is as far into the calotte as possible and then secure another crimp directly above it.

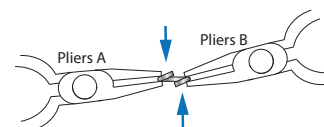
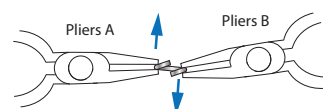
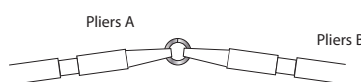


Opening and Closing a Jump Ring

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.



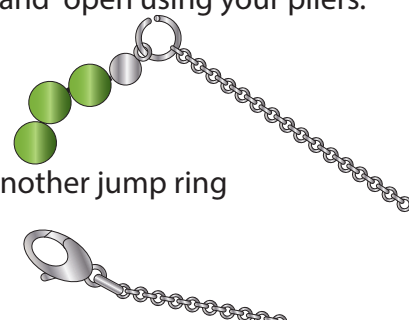
Attaching findings to a chain.

Step 1. Follow the steps to attaching a calotte as above, then take a jump ring and open using your pliers.

Step 2. Slide the jump ring through the holes in the Calotte and then add the last link on your chain. Close ring.

Step 3. Decide how long you need your chain and cut to length, then attach another jump ring to the the other end of the chain.

Step 4. Repeat steps 1, 2 and 3 on the other side of your necklace, but add a clasp at the other end of the chain.

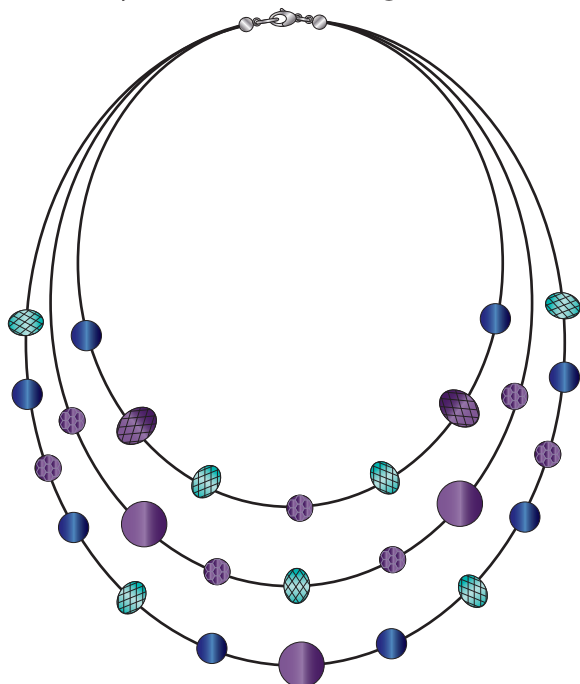


Working with Tigertail

Floating Jewellery with Tigertail

Floating Bead Necklace

Remember - It is worth laying out your pattern of beads for all your strands to see what looks good together. For this style of necklace, it is great to use a variety of sizes and shapes of beads.



Make 1 strand at 18" / 46cm, 1 strand at 19" / 48cm, 1 strand at 20" / 50cm - These are finished lengths, when you are starting to string your necklace you will need longer lengths of Tigertail and then you will trim them to size at the end.

Step 1 - Take 60cm length of Tigertail and start by threading on a crimp bead, then a central bead from your bead pattern, then another crimp bead.

Find the middle of your tigertail and move your bead to this point - Secure the bead by closing the crimps on either side of the bead with pliers.

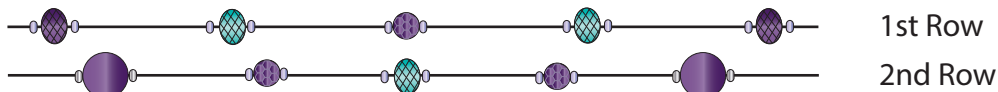
Step 2 - Thread on another crimp bead to 1 side of your central bead, measure approx 2-2.5cm from the central bead and secure the crimp bead at this point with your pliers - Add the next bead in your pattern and another crimp bead, secure crimp and repeat on the opposite side. Make sure the spacing from the central bead is even on both sides.

Hint - The distance between all your beads can vary, they can be further apart or you may want to use more beads on your rows, so they can be closer together - just make sure that they are even on each side of your central beads.

Step 3 - Continue threading on your pattern of beads, crimping beads on either side of the central bead. Once you have completed this row, place it on 1 side and you can now start on your second row.

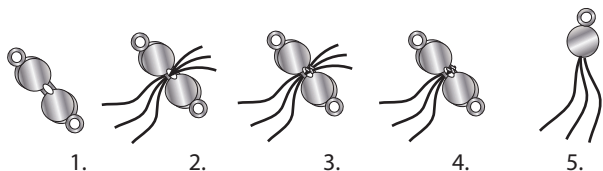
Step 4 - Take another 60cm length of tigertail and you are going to repeat the same process by finding the centre and crimping your central bead in the middle.

Step 5 - Continue adding beads in the same way you did for your first row. It is a good idea to lay the completed rows in front of you while you are adding beads, so you can see where they sit in relation to each other. You may want to vary the distances between the beads on your second row so the beads are a bit staggered from your 1st row.



Step 6 - Repeat for your 3rd row.

Step 7 - Take your 1st row and measure 23cm from the central bead and trim tigertail, repeat on the other side. For the second row, measure 24cm from central bead on both sides and trim, then for your 3rd row, measure 26cm either side and trim. Gather all 3 rows together and push the ends on 1 side through a calotte. Secure each piece of Tigertail with a crimp, trim if needed and close calotte. Repeat on the other side.



Step 8 - Attach clasp and jump ring on either side of your necklace.

Why not try a matching bracelet? Remember all the tiger tail lengths will be the same - approx 7.5" / 19cm.

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