TotallyBeads
The Best Things in Life are Handmade

# 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.
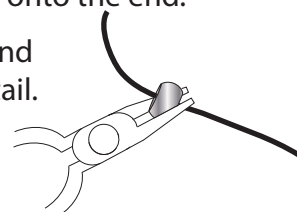
How To Attach Crimp Beads
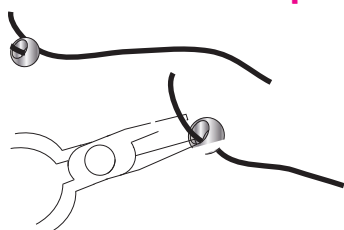
Step 1. Take a length of Tigertail and slide a crimp bead onto the end.

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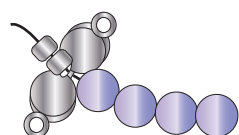
Tip. If you have a particularly heavy necklace, it is worth double crimping your necklace for extra strength. Make sure the first crimp you secure is as far into the calotte as possible and then secure another crimp directly above it.
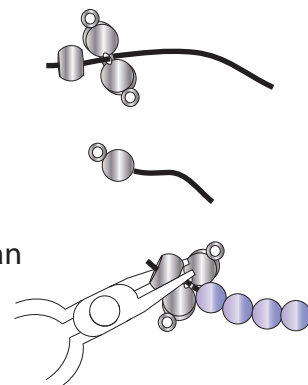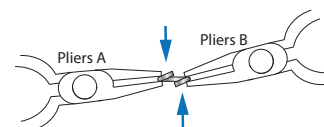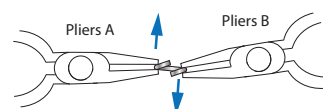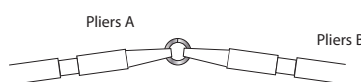
Opening and Closing a Jump Ring

Pliers A   Pliers B

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.

Pliers A   Pliers B

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

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.
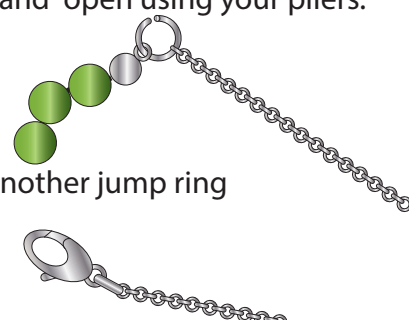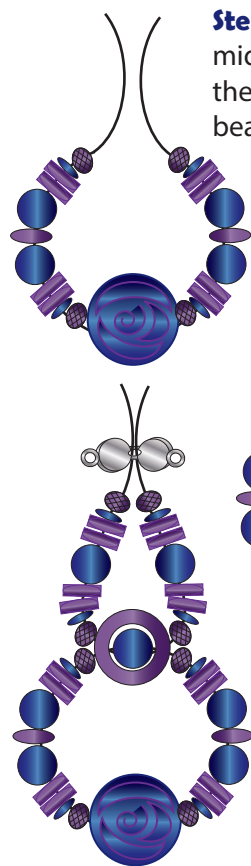
How to make a pendant

Step 1. Layout your bead pattern for the centre pendant of your necklace, the number of beads you use will determine how large your pendant will be.

Step 2. Take a length of tigertail, approx 30cm each. Slide the middle section of your beads onto the length of tigertail then on 1 side, slide on the ring and round bead. Make sure your beads are roughly in the centre of your tigertail.

Step 3. Thread the other end of tigertail through the ring and bead in the opposite direction.
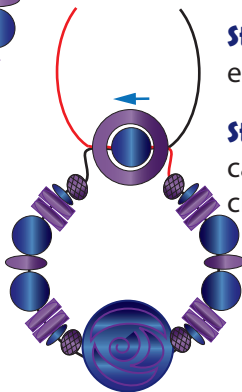
Step 4. Now slide on the rest of your beads on either side for the centre pendant.

Step 5. Take both ends of tigertail through a calotte and pull tight securing with a crimp bead, close calotte. Attach a jump ring to the calotte.

Step 6. Take another length of tigertail, approx 20cm - attach a calotte to 1 end, then slide on your choice of beads, making sure you slide on your beaded loop pendant half way along. Once you have completed your bead pattern, finish with another calotte at the end.

Step 7. For an 18" / 45cm long necklace, first measure your beaded front section, this design is approx 5" /13cm, therefore you need approx 13" / 32cm of chain with a clasp and jump rings to complete your necklace. Cut 2 lengths of 6" / 15cm of chain and attach a piece on either side of your necklace, then attach clasp and jump ring at the other end of the chain.

This looping bead technique can be used to create a bracelet as well.

Start with a longer piece of tigertail with a crimp bead in the middle then put both ends through a calotte. Then add as many beads as you like, weaving the tigertail through some of the beads with both ends to create the loops you desire then at the end take both ends through a calotte and cimp, then attach a clasp of your choice.
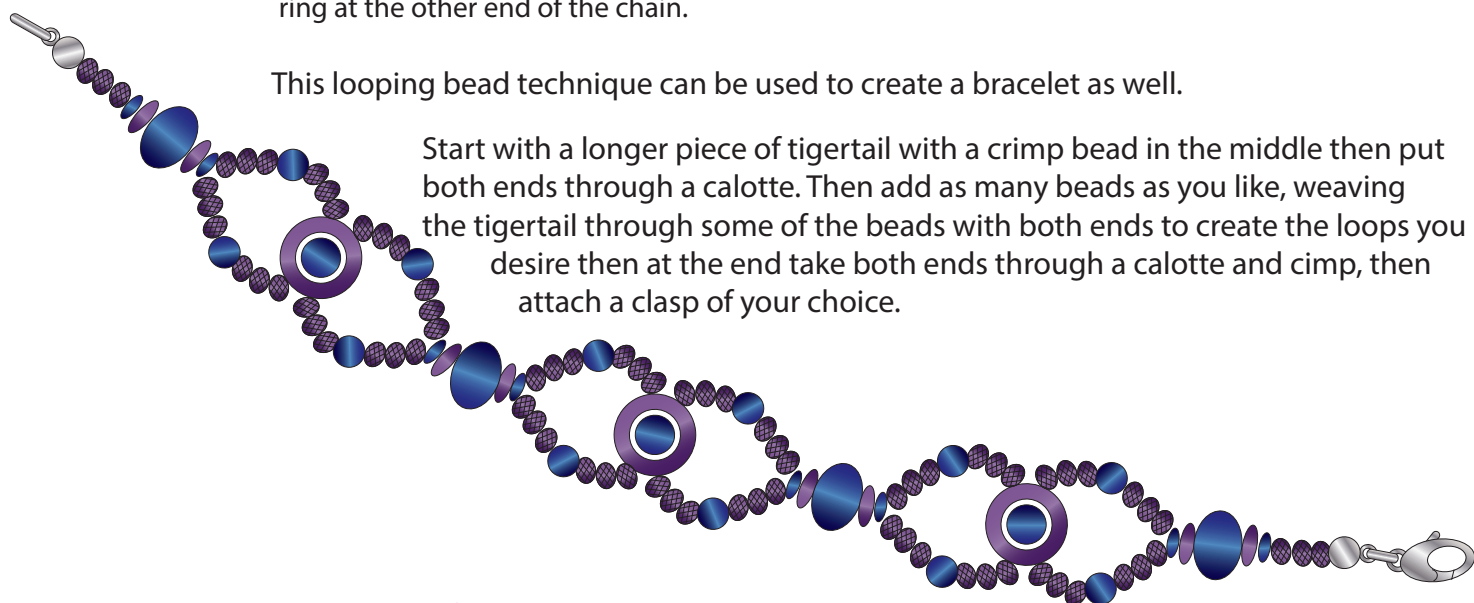
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