TotallyBeads
The Best Things in Life are Handmade

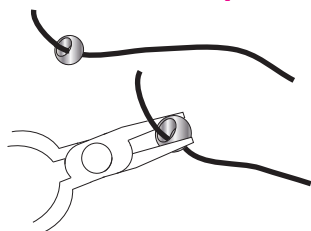# Working with Tigertail

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
- A beadcap (cone Shape) if you are using more than 3 strands of Tigertail

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.
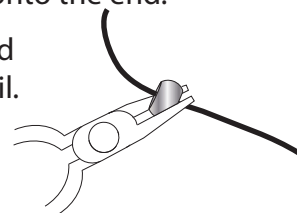
How To Attach Crimp Beads

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.
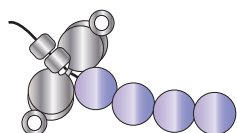
How To Fit a Calotte

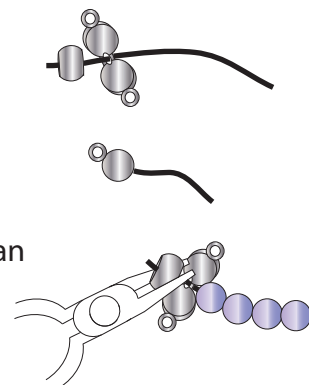**Step 1.** Take your length of Tigertail and attach a crimp bead as above.

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.
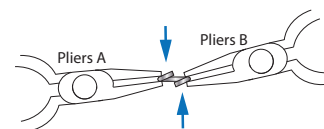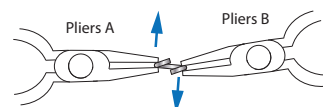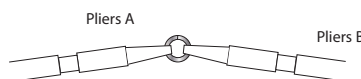
Opening and Closing a Jump Ring

Pliers A   Pliers B

Step 1. Hold Jump ring with 2 pairs of pliers.

Pliers A   Pliers B

Step 2. Gently push the Jump ring apart, moving Pliers A away from you and the pliers B towards you.

Step 3. With pliers in the same position, reverse the action in Step 2, pulling pliers A towards you and pushing pliers B away from you.
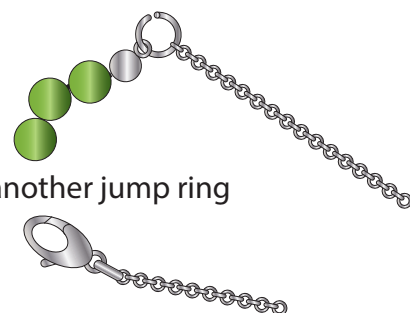
Pliers A   Pliers B

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.

Working with Tigertail Multiple Strand Jewellery

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Multi Strand Necklace with or without Chain

To create a necklace with more than 1 string of beads, you simply follow the instructions on the previous page, but repeat for as many strings of beads as you require. The most important point to think about is the length of each string - would you like all the strings to hang at the same length? or would you like them graduating at different lengths?.

It is worth laying out your pattern for all your strings to see what looks good and how your design will look - generally a 1" / 2cm difference in the length of each string will make a great graduating necklace.

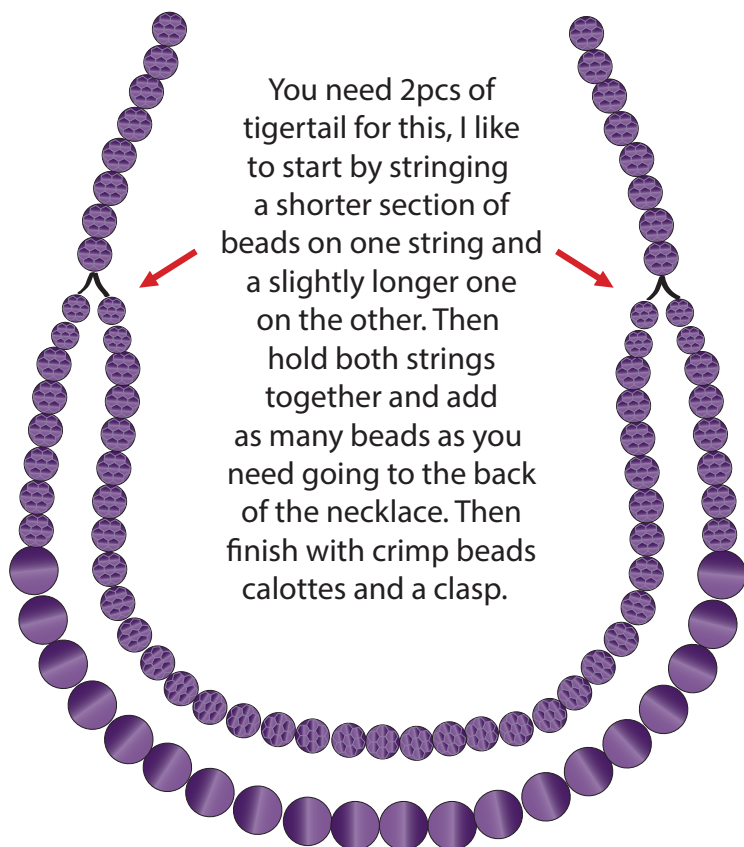For example, if you are making a 3 row necklace,

Make 1 strand at 18" / 46cm,
1 strand at 19" / 48cm
1 strand at 20" / 50cm

If you are making a necklace with beads and chain, then you can vary the lengths of the beaded strings and the chain.
Thread each string individually and then attach them altogether at the top of your necklace with your clasp and Jump ring.
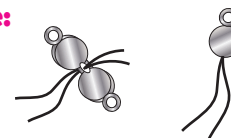
2 strings going into 1

You need 2pcs of tigertail for this, I like to start by stringing a shorter section of beads on one string and a slightly longer one on the other. Then hold both strings together and add as many beads as you need going to the back of the necklace. Then finish with crimp beads calottes and a clasp.

You need to really pull tight at the point where 2 strings meet. Add the calotte to one side with both of the tigertails crimped together then before crimping the other side pull each strand of tigertail really tight.

How to finish your necklace:

Step 1 - Take both of your tigertails through 1 calotte.

Step 2 - Crimp them together and close the calotte.

Step 3 - Attach your clasp as normal.

I like to use different sizes of beads if I make a 2 strand jewelley going into 1 strand, a bigger one on the bottom and a smaller one at the top.

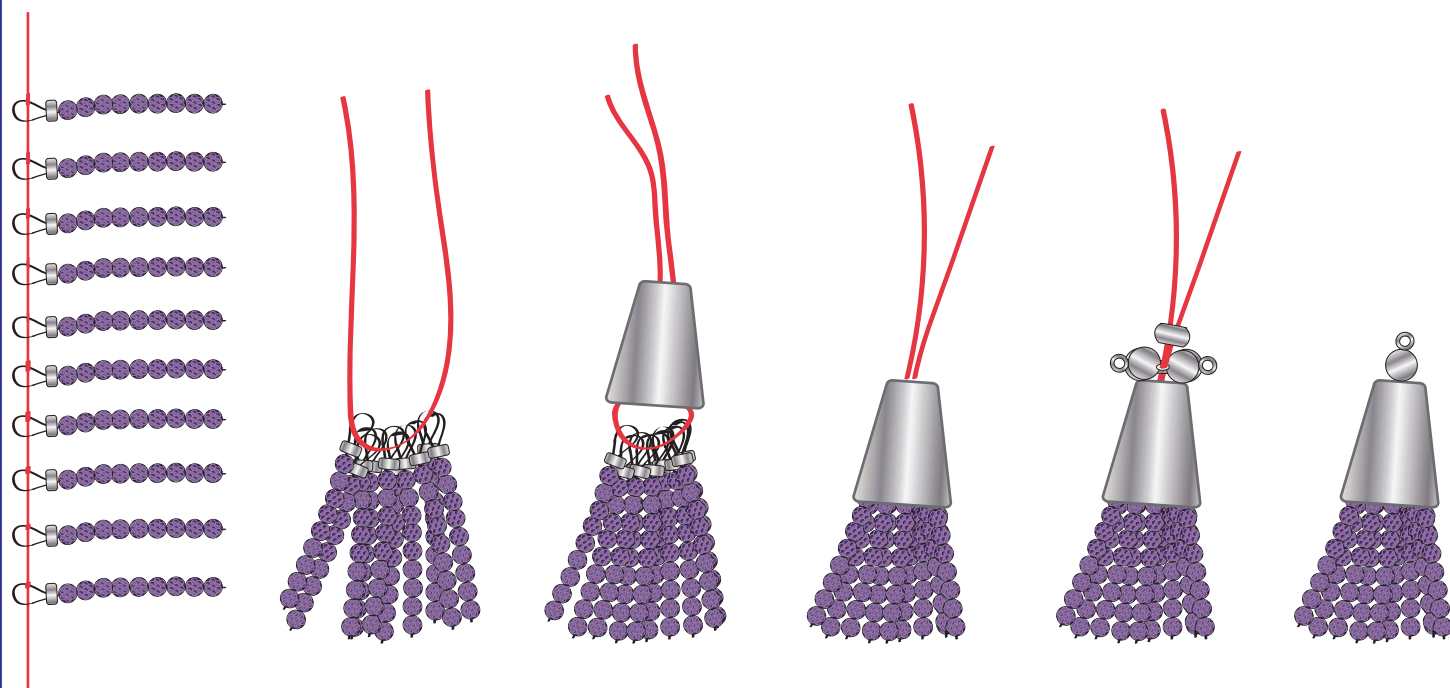**TotallyBeads** — *The Best Things in Life are Handmade*

Working with lots of strands

Step 1. Make as many strings of beads as you wish to gather together. With one loop on each end. These strings can be the same length or different length for a another effect.

Step 2. Take another piece of tigertail (about 10cm) and string all made up strings on there by one end. Fold it in half with all the loops sitting on the middle of the tigertail.

Step 3. Then take both strings through a bead cap or bead cone. You need this to be big enough so once pulled down you wouldn't be able to see the loops or the crimp beads on your strings.

Step 4. Then put both strings together, add a callotte, crimp bead and finish your necklace with your choice of clasp.

Enjoy

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