

WORKSHOP: "LOOM BEADING"



Summary: Participants will work on a tray beading loom to create a ring, bracelet or book mark. Participants will learn to warp their tray beading loom with a thicker nylon thread and weave the weft with thinner version of the same. They can create a design of their own using graph paper or work with the pattern provided.

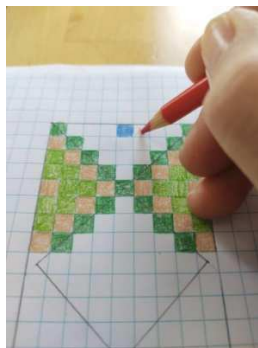
Materials and Equipment:

melamine tray approximately 11" x 18" x 1.1/2"
3 larger wood beads for crimp beads
a piece of leather
faux suede cord
2 sets seed beads assorted colours
clear bead loom thread – 2 thicknesses
masking tape
graph paper pattern
crazy/super glue and safety instructions
instructions/ideas sheet
optional: fabric for the bottom of your tray

pencil, eraser, sharpener
coloured pencils or markers
sketch paper
graph paper
scissors
3 beading needles
ruler
pliers
1 pair vinyl gloves
skewer

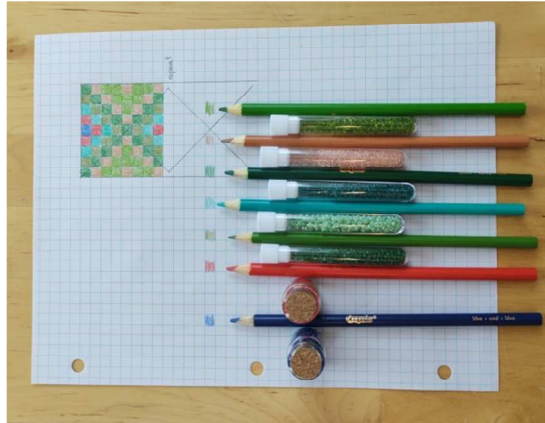
Class Plan:

1. A coloured pattern on graph paper is provided if you would like to work from the one we are using, or you can plan and draw your own pattern.
2. To plan/draw your own pattern:
 - a. Choose the bead colours you'd like to work with. Assign a pencil crayon colour to each bead colour. Colour one square each colour and tape or glue a bead beside it as a guide.
 - b. Decide how many beads wide you'd like to make your bracelet. Make your graph paper pattern that many squares wide.
 - c. Colour in rows for each line of beading until you have one complete repeat of your pattern.



Project Example: Beading Loom Bracelet

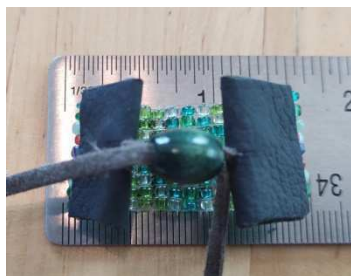
1. Choosing bead colours:
 - a. Choose the bead colours you'd like to work with and assign one bead colour to each colour in your pattern or in the pattern provided.



2. To determine the length of beading needed for your bracelet:
 - a. Measure the circumference of your wrist plus a bit extra for leeway. We aimed for a 7" bracelet when closed about the wrist.



- b. The knot will account for about $\frac{1}{2}$ " of this length and the leather ends will be $\frac{1}{2}$ " per end, for a total of 1.1/2" covered by the knot and ends.



- c. Your beading will make up the rest of the length needed for the bracelet.
 - d. For a bracelet here the beading will be 5.1/2", the ends 1" and the knot $\frac{1}{2}$ ", for a total length of 7". A

ring will be shorter.

3. Check that you have enough of each type of bead for your pattern.
 - a. You have long thin tubes of beads provided in your kit. There are about 62 of the larger beads in a tube (left), and about 250 of the smaller seed beads in a tube (right).



- b. You also have small glass jars with a cork stopper, and each jar contains approximately 400 seed beads.



- c. For estimating the number of beads you have, compare the 'full' jar on the left and the jar on the right with 100 seed beads counted. Comparing the jars, you have about 400 seed beads in a full jar.



- d. We calculated the number of beads we needed as follows:
 - Each pattern repeat (diamond shape) is 9 rows of beads, but patterns share the last row.
 - So there are 8 rows per pattern, plus one extra row at the end of the bracelet.
 - There are 9 beads in a row.
 - Each pattern is $\frac{3}{4}$ " long.
 - We want 6" of beading. Length 6" divided by $\frac{3}{4}$ " per pattern means we need 8 patterns.
 - We need 585 seed beads calculated by:
$$9 \text{ beads} \times 8 \text{ rows/pattern} \times 8 \text{ patterns} + 9 \text{ beads for the last row} = 585 \text{ beads}$$
 - So with 400 beads in a jar, and using 6 different colours to make up the total beads, we definitely have enough.

4. We are using a melamine tray about 11" x 18" as a beading loom.
 - a. The warp threads are the threads that run lengthwise in your bracelet. The weft thread is the thread

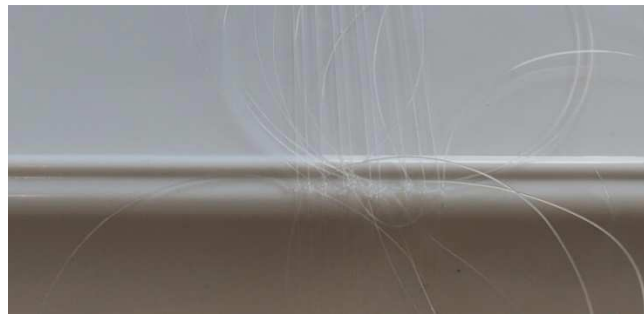
that zigzags back and forth across your bracelet.

5. Setting up or “warping” your beading loom with the lengthwise threads:

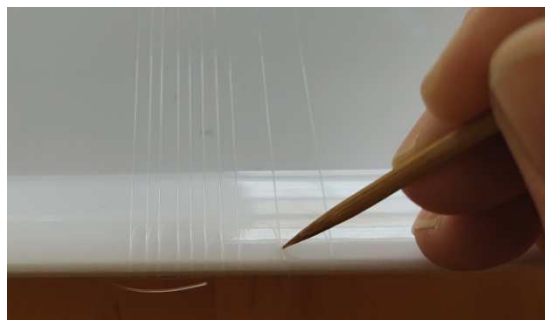
- a. Use the thicker nylon thread for the warp.
- b. Tie a piece of nylon thread lengthwise around your tray, tight that it stays in place and gently pings when you pluck it. Do not tie it extremely tight. Tie 4-5 knots on top of each other to hold it together.



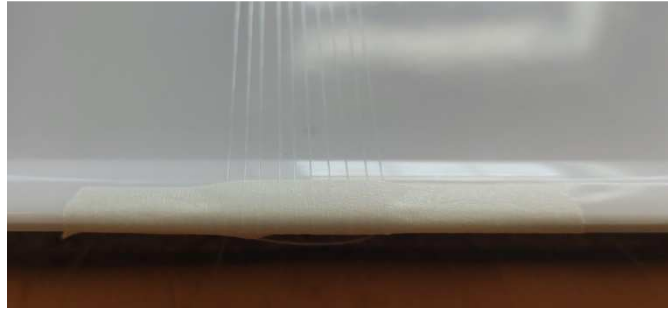
- c. Repeat, tying more separate nylon threads. You need one thread more than the number of beads in a row of your pattern. Our pattern is 9 beads wide so we tied 10 threads around the tray. If you would like extra stability, you can add an extra thread on each outside edge. This helps prevent your work pulling in on the edges.
- d. Slide the knots on each warp thread to the back side of the tray edge, lining them up.



- e. Use a skewer to evenly space your warp threads about width of one of your beads apart each.



- f. Tape your warp threads in place at each end of your tray.



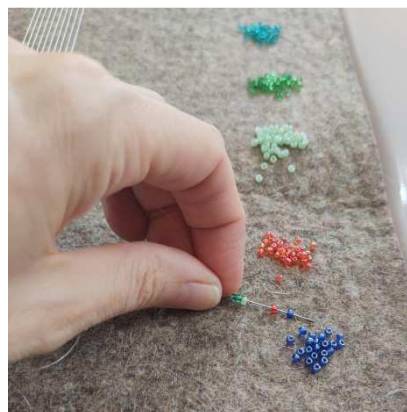
- g. Optional: place a piece of blanket, fabric or felt in the bottom of your tray cut to the size of the tray bottom. This is useful for spilling out small piles of each colour of bead.

6. Weaving your bracelet: the “weft”

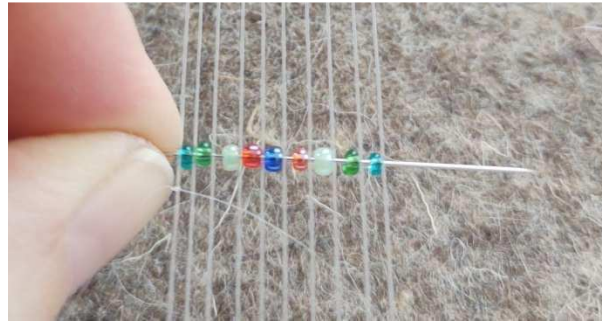
- a. Cut a length of nylon thread about 1.5 times the length of your arm.
- b. Thread one end of your nylon thread through your beading needle. You can use whichever of the needles provided that you are most comfortable working with.
- c. Tie the other end of the nylon thread to the first warp thread close to the bottom edge of the tray. Make a double knot and leave a tail of thread at approximately 3” long.



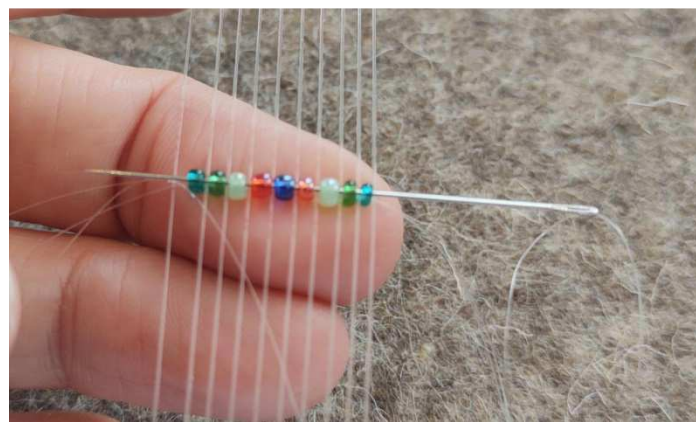
- d. Use your needle to pick up the beads in colour order for the first row of your pattern.



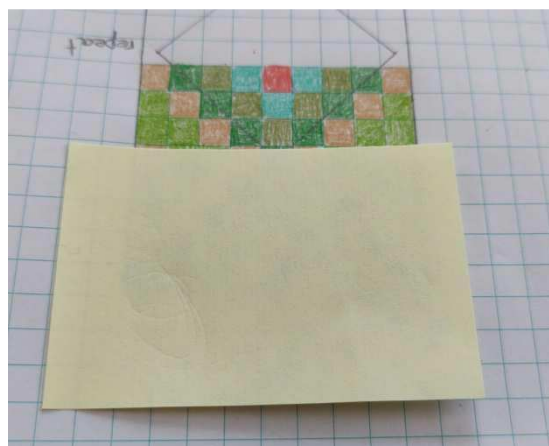
- e. Place your needle under your warp threads and press the beads upward, with one bead in each space between warp threads.



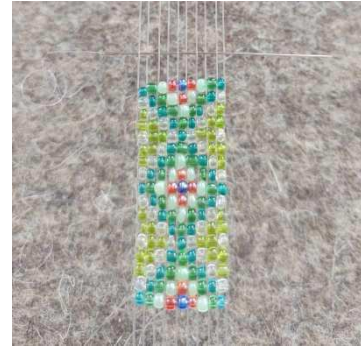
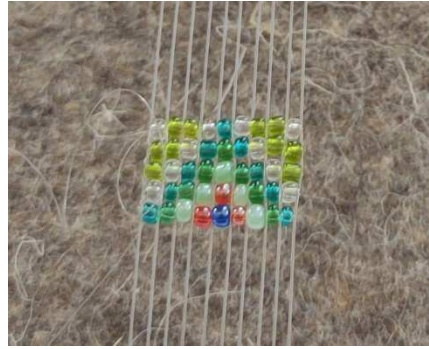
- f. Holding the beads in place with one hand, slide the needle and thread through with your other hand.
- g. Then turn the needle around and fit it back through the same beads, but above all the warp threads this time. This will hold the beads in place and you can let go of them.



- h. Repeat these steps sewing back and forth through each line of beads for all the rows of the pattern.
- i. Use a small piece of paper to overlap the pattern and mark the row you are working on to keep track of which row you are working on.



- j. Repeat your pattern this way until you reach your desired bracelet length, 5.1/2" in our case.



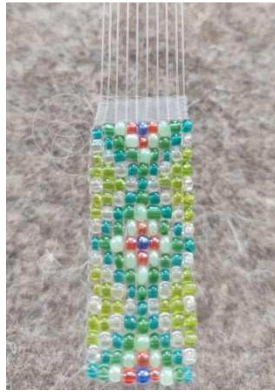
7. If you run out of thread while weaving your bracelet:
 - a. End your existing weft thread by sewing back through the previous row, and then the row before that going back about 5 rows. Trim off the remaining thread tail.
 - b. Start a new thread by tying a knot on the first warp thread on the left in the same way as when you started, leaving a tail of several inches of thread. Proceed with weaving your bracelet.
 - c. Sew in the tail from the joined thread when you are finished weaving, by going back and forth sewing forward through adjacent rows after the join.
8. Add "sheeting" to the end of the bracelet where you finish weaving. This is a section of thread only weaving that will be glued into leather bracelet ends. It will not show in the finished bracelet.
 - a. Weave the nylon thread over and under alternate warp threads without adding beads.



- b. Go back across the bracelet going under and over alternate warp threads, going under ones you went over on the previous pass – so the exact opposite.
- c. Push the woven threads together snugly with a skewer as you go.



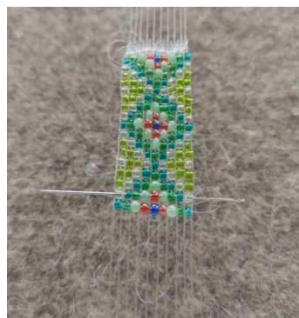
- d. Repeat to create about $\frac{1}{4}$ " of nylon thread only weaving. This will draw the bracelet in narrower in this section a bit, which is what we want.



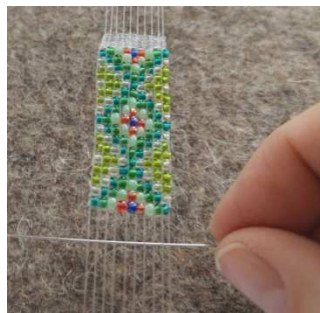
9. Rub the bottom of your beads to space them out after completing sheeting on one end of your bracelet. This will prevent the bracelet from being woven too tightly and buckling when it is cut off the loom later.



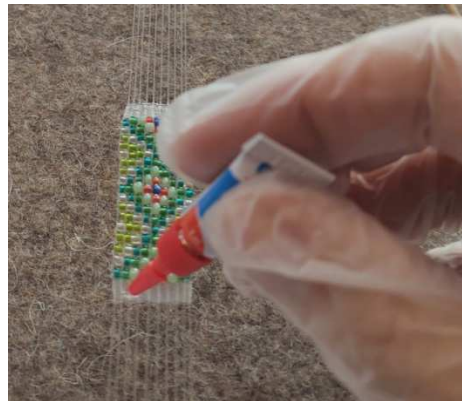
10. Add sheeting to the other end of your bracelet, starting a new nylon thread by sewing back and forth through the first 5 rows of your bracelet working towards the end.



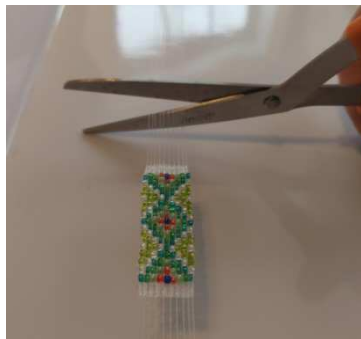
- a. Then weave $\frac{1}{4}$ " of nylon thread only weaving the same as at the top edge.



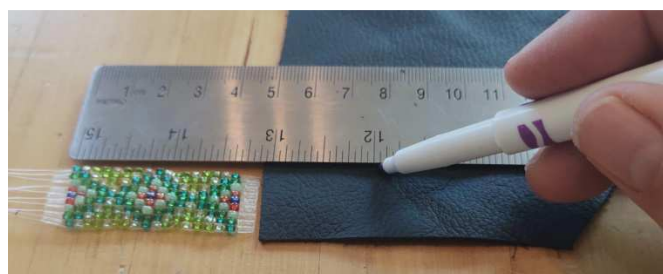
11. Apply super glue to the nylon thread only weaving section or “sheeting”. We recommend wearing vinyl gloves for this step to avoid any chance of bonding your skin with super glue. Allow the glue to dry and trim off the thread end. See super glue instructions included for use, health and safety.



12. Cut your bracelet off of your loom by cutting the warp threads on the outside edge of each section of sheeting.



13. Add leather ends and cord to your bracelet:
 - a. Cut two squares of leather 1" long x the width of your bracelet plus ¼".



- b. Fold the leather squares in half so they are ½" long and the width of your bracelet. Cut a tiny slit in the centre of each folded edge, just barely nicking the leather for a very small hole



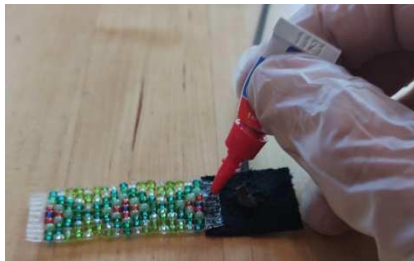
- c. Cut two pieces of leather cord 6" long each. Tie a knot at one end of each piece.



- d. Thread a piece of leather cord through the slit in each folded piece of leather pulling it through until the knot is hidden in the fold. A skewer can help with poking the cord end through the leather.



- e. Wearing vinyl gloves, super glue the open ends of a piece of the folded leather over the sheeting on each end of your bracelet. Line up the raw edge with the bead edge of the sheeting, allowing the leather knot its own space under the folded leather.



- f. Thread the ends of the two pieces of leather cord through a wood bead in opposite directions. Use a needle and thread with a stitch in the end of the cord to help pull it through if needed.



- g. Thread another wood bead on the end of each individual leather cord and tie a knot in each to prevent the bead from sliding off.



h. Pull the leather cord ends to tighten your bracelet.

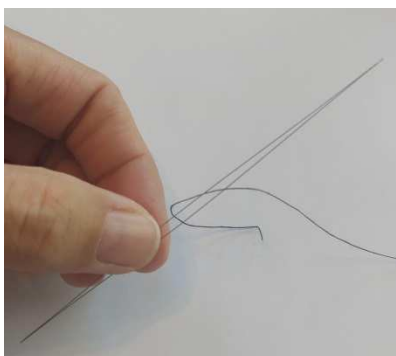
14. Happy creating, and please share pictures of your creations if you feel comfortable.

Useful Information/Adaptions/Variations:

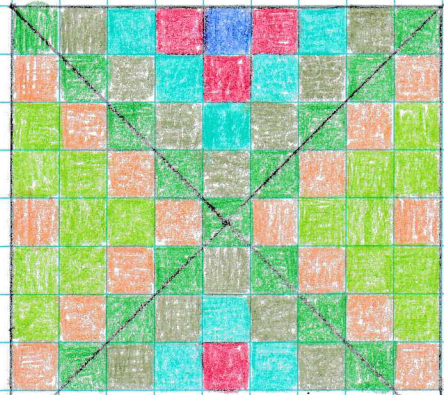
- Ko (pronounced K-O) thread is a waxed nylon Japanese beading thread that works with seed beads. This is ideal for seed beading and loom work
- Beading needles and beads come in all different sizes. The larger the number the smaller the item. Be sure to match your needle to the beads you plan to use with it, so that it will pass through the bead holes when threaded.
- Using a long tray as your loom give you the option of sliding your warp (lengthwise threads) around your loom to put your first bracelet on the back, making space on your warp to weave a second bracelet.

Trouble Shooting:

- If you have trouble threading beading needles, try using a “big eye needle”. With these needles, the hole for threading runs the entire length of the needle.



- If you have trouble pulling your beading needle through you can use pliers to help pull the needle.
- Sometimes seed beads of the same size vary in hole-size. If you have trouble pulling your beading needle through try swapping out the bead the needle won't go through with another one from the same jar.
- To avoid your bracelet buckling when you take it off of the beading loom, rub the underside of your beads before adding the last section of sheeting. This will help spread the beads out and give some leeway with the warp thread.



repeat

