



Pinch beaded ball

Materials:

Pinch beads
Seed beads (e.g. 10/0 or 11/0)
Monofilament or beading thread

Tools:

Big eye needle (recommended)
Scissors
Beading mat
Ruler
Strong glue



Before you begin:

It is worth having a quick practise of the technique before you get started properly. This way you can learn how you want to hold the beading as you work. There's no right or wrong way, whatever works best for you.

Step 1

Cut 50cm of monofilament or thread. It sounds a lot, but it will allow for a longer than normal tail which gives you something to hang onto as you begin. String the following beads: pinch, seed, pinch, pinch, seed, pinch. Pass the thread up through all the beads again.



Step 2

Pull tight to form the beads into two columns. String the following beads: pinch, seed, pinch.



Step 3

Pass the thread down through the second column and pull tight to form the third column. You need to allow the columns to curve around otherwise you'll have too much thread showing at the top and bottom.



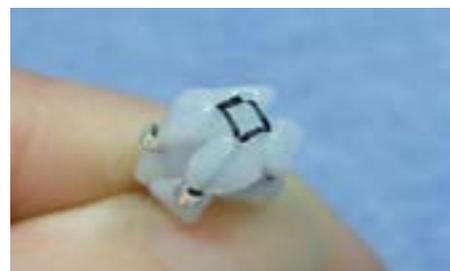
Step 4

Pass the thread up through the third column ready to add the next group of beads. String the following beads: pinch, seed, pinch. Pass the thread up through the third column and pull tight to form the fourth column.



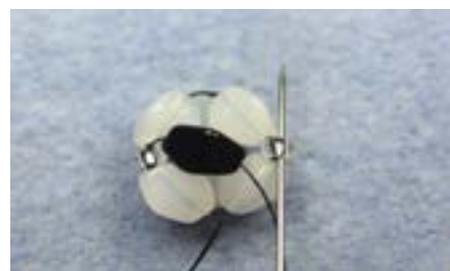
Step 5

To join column five to column one, pass the thread up through the column five then down through column one.



Step 6

At the moment your beaded bead is all squishy so you need to add pinch beads around the circumference, just like the equator. Pass the thread up through the first pinch bead and the seed bead of column five. String a pinch bead then pass the thread up through the next seed bead around – it doesn't matter if you go to the left or right. The seed beads will twist at an angle during this stage but this will be corrected in the next step. Repeat four times, ensuring you pass up through the seed bead each time.



Step 7

To straighten the seed beads pass back around the pinch beads you've just added but this time go down through the seed beads. This will straighten them.



Step 8

To finish your bead pass the thread down the nearest pinch bead and knot the thread to secure. Repeat with the other tail. Add dabs of glue to the knots and allow to dry before trimming of the excess.



Step 9

Make as many beaded balls as desired then string them onto tigertail to create a necklace or bracelet. Either string one after the other or separate out with seed beads or pinch beads



Step 10

At either end add a calotte and a crimp. You can just crush the crimp but for extra strength pass the tigertail back through the calotte and a few of the beads then tighten up and crush the crimp. Close the calotte, curve the hook into a loop and add a clasp of your choice.

