

Guide to Jewellery Craft

Tools

Chain Nose Pliers



Tapered tips with a flat side to reach into small spaces. For twisting, shaping and squeezing.

Round Nose Pliers



Round tips to coil and make loops.

Wire (Side) Cutters



For cutting and trimming findings and wire.

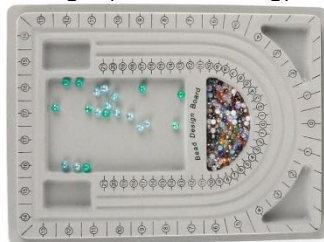
The pliers above are the ones I use the most, and found in all plier sets, but I also use spit ring pliers (opens them up and holds), nylon jaw pliers (straightens out wire etc) and memory wire cutters. There are many other options - looper, ear wire maker, crimping, flat nose to name a few.

Beading Mat



Usually A4 size in a fluffy fabric to prevent beads and findings rolling around. You could just use a square of felt.

Design (Bead Sorting) Board



Felt covered with channels, recesses and measurements to help plan out designs.

Collapsible Beading Needle



A collapsible needle is flexible and has a specially designed eye that automatically collapses and reshapes when stringing. A great help when using elastic/monofilament.

Stringing Materials

Tiger Tail/Beading Wire



Thin wire encased in nylon suitable for stringing heavy and sharp beads. Usually made from three strands or less. Named brands offer more flexible options made with multiple strands (up to 49 - that can actually be knotted) in various colours and finishes.

Stretch Elastic



Usually transparent/clear but can come in other colours and various thicknesses depending on the project you have in mind. Best fastened off with a surgeons knot with an added blob of glue to keep secure.



Memory Wire



A pre coiled wire made from hard steel that maintains its shape. Comes in different sizes - necklaces, bracelets and rings. To cut memory wire you will need memory wire cutters as it will easily blunt normal wire cutters.

Monofilament (Fishing Wire)



Clear nylon barely visible thread/wire with no elasticity. Strong but easily cut with scissors. Used for stringing, like beading wire, but will not show through light/clear beads.

Readymade Chains



Necklaces, bracelets etc to hang charms and pendants. Various designs/styles available.

Common Chain Size Guide

- 16" – choker length
- 17-18" – at collarbone
- 20" – a few inches below collarbone
- 22" – at or above neckline
- 24" – below the neckline

Findings

Findings are the small parts and building blocks that connect and make up a piece of jewellery. They come in a range of different alloys, sizes, thickness, finishes, styles and colour. Below are some of the most used.

Flat Plate Ear Stud



Glue decorative flatback elements onto the round base.

Ball Stud



Hang bead, charm etc from loop

Fish Hook/Shepherd Hook



Hang bead, charm etc from loop

Butterfly Earring Back



Secures stud earrings at the back of the ear

Plastic Earring Back



Secures earring studs/hooks at the back of the ear

Jump Ring



A wire ring that opens up and closes by bringing the two ends together.

Split Ring



Smaller version of a keyring ring. Can be used in place of a jump ring if wanting a more secure fastening.

Eye Pin



Connector used to create beaded links. Loop opens up to attach things. Another loop is made at the other end to secure and attach.

Head Pin



Length of wire with a stopper at one end to keep beads in place. These are a flat head version. Used to make hanging charms, dangles and

Ball Head Pin



Used in the same way a flat head pin but has a ball on the end instead.

Pendant Bail



A connector for a pendant allowing it to hang from a chain or jump ring.

pendants. Memory Wire End Caps



A bead with a part drilled hole that is glued to the end of memory wire to hold beads on.

Bolt Ring Fastener



A round loop with a side lever used as a fastener on necklaces and bracelets, attached with a jump ring or split ring.

Lobster Clasp Fastener



Claw shaped fastener for necklaces and bracelets. Much stronger with a spring operated lever attached with a jump ring or split ring.

Toggle Fastener



Two part fastener attached to your jewellery piece with a jump ring or split ring.

Crimp Beads



Small beads used with beading wire, squeezed flat to secure beads and stop them moving on the wire.

Crimp Bead Covers



Covers and goes over flattened crimp beads. Gives a much nicer finish to your piece of jewellery.

Calotte

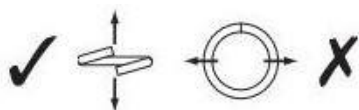


Encapsulates beads, knots or flattened crimp beads on your piece of jewellery. They include a hanging loop.

Jump Rings

Jump rings are jewellery making essentials for attaching things together. There is a right and wrong way. Opening correctly prevents them from weakening/breaking and becoming misshapen. The diagram below shows the right way to do it - never pull apart.

Use two pliers holding each end, twist until it opens just enough to attach components together, twist/wiggle back together so both ends are flush again.

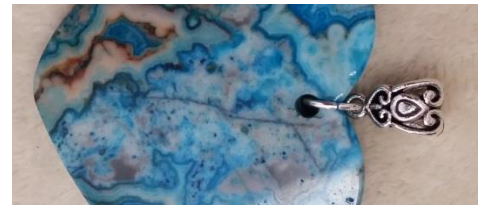




Attaching charm to a chain



Attaching to pendant bail

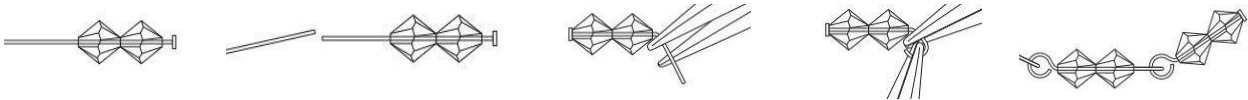


The loop at the end of a fish/shepherds hook and ball stud is opened and closed in exactly the same way as a jump ring.



Eye Pins/Head Pins

Eye pins/head pins require forming loops to hold your piece of jewellery together. Eye pins have an already assembled loop at one end but you can cut away the end on a head pin to create loops both ends to use as a head pin. Feed on beads. Cut away excess wire to about 1-1.5cm. Take the round head pliers and bend wire at a right angle. Rotate the pliers towards the bend in the wire, adjust the pliers as you continue to rotate and bend the wire to help form a loop. Close up as near to the bend as you can



Crimp Beads, Crimp Covers, Calottes with Beading Wire

Crimp beads are squeezed closed on beading wire/monofilament to secure beads, they are then flat instead of round.

Feed beading wire through crimp bead and finding. Feed back into crimp bead. Squeeze closed with chain nose pliers. Feed your beads over both wires. Alternatively you can feed your flattened crimp bead and wire through a calotte.



Below are images of how crimp beads have been used either left squeezed flat or with the addition of crimp covers and calottes. Like calottes, crimp bead covers simply wrap around the squashed crimp bead and are then closed up encasing it.



Beading wire can also be used in conjunction with crimp beads and calottes to make earrings.

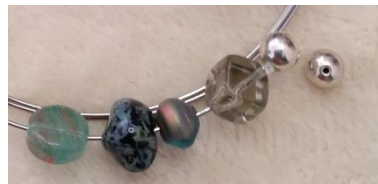


Memory Wire

These are used to make wrap around bracelets without the need of a fastener.



Make a loop. The wire is strong but it is possible with a bit more force. A nice addition is to add a dangle or charm to the loop.



Glue on a memory wire end cap.



Attach a lobster clasp as you create a loop. This creates a bangle.