

## **BULLETIN BEAD NECKLACE**

**CUTTING—STEP 1:** Using just the front picture of a bulletin cover, cut 18 triangle shaped pieces starting at the top or bottom (not side) of the picture. The base of the triangle should measure about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch. You should get 18 triangles per bulletin with a small piece left over. Discard the leftover. It takes 2 bulletin covers for an average size necklace. (See attached detailed instructions for cutting these with a small personal size cutter and a template for marking the covers from the old days when we cut them on large paper cutters.)

**ROLLING BEADS—STEP 2:** The easiest way to roll the beads is to go to a craft store and purchase a device called a “craft beader” or something similar. If you plan to make a lot of necklaces, you should consider buying one. Otherwise, follow these directions. At the widest end, place a round toothpick on the non-picture side of a triangle. Roll tightly toward the narrow end. Put a drop of glue on tip of triangle and finish rolling into bead. Remove the toothpick from center of bead and roll more—LOTS more! **TIP:** Put small amount of glue on paper or plastic and use a toothpick to smear glue on tip of triangle. You can put the glue on the tip before you start rolling the bead if you want.

**STRINGING—STEP 3:** Using a long craft needle, thread inexpensive thread or elastic thread through beads to decoupage (shellac). Length of thread depends on where you will put it to decoupage. I thread the needle with thread still attached to the spool. When it's the length I want, then I cut from spool, leaving enough thread to tie a round toothpick at each end. The toothpick gives me something to attach to hang the strings and is handy for holding the string steady while coating. Do several strings to speed the process of shellacking. Hang from a clothes line with a clothespin, string between chairs or hang over a clothes rack or whatever else works for you.

**DECOUPAGE—STEP 4:** Using a craft or child's paint brush, coat all the beads with a decoupage paste or Elmer's glue. It seems to smooth out as it dries, so don't worry if you get more in one spot. Let dry several hours. The beads will be water resistant when dry.

**THREADING—STEP 5:** Remove dry beads from thread (if you untie carefully, you can reuse thread for next batch of beads). If you have done a large batch of beads, count out 36 for a necklace on a small tray or plate. Styrofoam meat trays work well. Put some bought beads on the tray. Thread a heavy duty thread in a craft needle, but leave the thread attached to the spool. Start with a bought bead, alternate bulletin bead and bought beads until you have strung all the bulletin beads. Lay the necklace out flat, check to make sure the beads are alternating. Tie the thread in a knot. Knot a couple of times for security, cut thread from spool, place a drop of glue on the knot(s), trim excess thread (leave about  $\frac{1}{8}$  in on the knots) and slide knot into bulletin bead to cover.

TIPS:

1. Keep a damp cloth handy to wipe glue off fingers.
2. Always work with beads over a table or tray; they can be slippery!
3. Don't cut threads until all beads are in place and knots have been tied. There is only half the opportunity to lose beads that way and you'll still drop some.
4. Place necklaces in plastic snack bags to keep from tangling with other necklaces. If beads are stored in plastic bags for any length of time, the beads will stick together. Gently roll the necklace between fingers to loosen and unstick the beads. At home, hang necklace for storage if possible.
5. Pour a quantity of bought beads on the tray when stringing necklaces. Make several necklaces that use the same type of bead. You don't have to keep bought beads separate as long as you can tell them apart when you are stringing necklaces.
6. Beads in quantity can be found in most craft sections of fabric stores as well as craft stores. I used gold, silver and pearl for most of the necklaces.
7. I use quilting thread for necklaces, but carpet or upholstery thread is okay to use. Thread for necklaces can be white or color coordinated. It shouldn't be easily seen because of tight stringing.
8. Use cheap thread or elastic for decoupage step, then you won't mind breaking it or tossing it after a few uses. Elastic will last longer and gives as you try to brush all sides of the bead, but it is more expensive.
9. When making large groups of beads from pictures which have very different colors, such as a dark green and gray, use proportionate amounts of colors to get the proportion of colors in the pictures. If 1/3 of the picture is gray and 2/3 is dark green, 1/3 of the beads would be gray and 2/3 dark green. Or you could make necklaces with all gray and all green. Place on string in whatever way seems most attractive to you. A good time to play around with this is when you string them for shellacking.

I've tried to cover all steps and problems I discovered as I made bead necklaces. Please call or write if you have any questions about the process.

Please note all steps are written for making large amounts of beads at a time since my friends and I were trying to produce 300 necklaces for our national conference. I always did each step with large batches.

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