



Stringing Techniques  
Class Handout

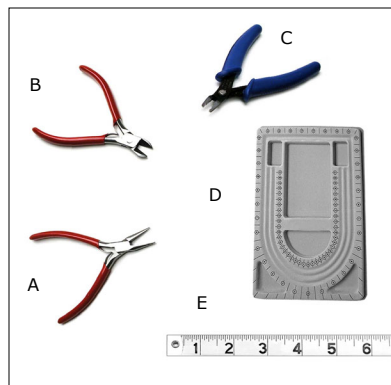


Skill Level: Beginner  
Project Time: 2-hours

In this class you will learn how fun and easy it really is to make your own necklaces and bracelets! We will discuss color, design and all the basics for stringing on Soft Flex.

# STRINGING TECHNIQUES RECIPE

## Ingredients for One Necklace or Bracelet



### TOOLS NEEDED

- A. Needle-nose chain pliers
- B. Wire cutter
- C. Crimping pliers
- D. Multi-strand design board\*
- E. Ruler or measuring tape\*
- F. Scotch tape (not shown)

\*Not pictured to scale

### INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDE

- Designing Your Piece
- Stringing
- Attaching Your Clasp



- 1 Spool Soft Flex stringing wire, .014



- 2 2x2 Sterling silver or gold-filled crimp beads per project. We recommend extras for practice.



- 1 Clasp of your choice

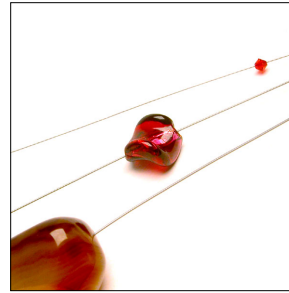


A variety of beads

## Designing Your Piece

### Standard Lengths

Bracelet: 7-7.5"  
Anklet: 9"  
Choker: 15-16"  
Collar Line: 18"  
Mid-Chest: 24"  
Below Chest: 32"  
Opera Length: 45-60"



### Step 1

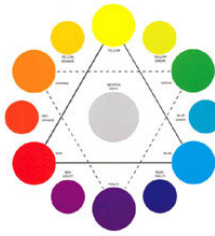
**Choose a Length.** The above lengths are approximations. You may wish to use a tape measure for an exact length.

### Step 2

**Choose Your Beads.** Do not be afraid to mix and match different styles of beads, gemstones, glass, metal, crystal, and whatever suits your fancy. Variety adds interest to a finished piece by creating richness and texture.

### Step 3

**Test Your Beads.** Make sure all of the beads you are using slide easily down the Soft Flex. The stringing material should fill the hole, but not be too tight.



### What Colors?

Color plays a vital role in design. Try mixing your beads before you start stringing. Swirl them around on a velvet pad and be free with ideas and mixtures.

Start with beads you like and add accent beads in unexpected colors. Mix beads of different materials, textures and sizes. Keep adding and removing beads. The better the mix looks on the pad, the better the necklace or bracelet will look when it is finished. Continue the process until you are happy with your palette. Now you are ready to string!



### Step 4

Place the larger elements of your necklace on the design board to see how they balance in the overall design.

#### Note

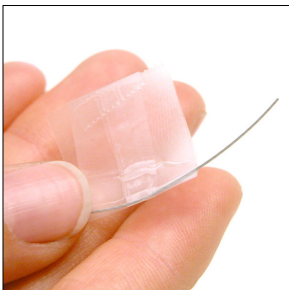
Balance and symmetry are very different. You can create visual balance in a piece without using a symmetrical design or a repetitive pattern.



### Step 5

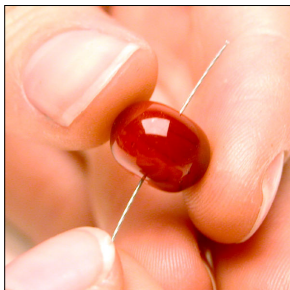
Fill in the smaller elements of your design. Move your beads around until you are satisfied with your design.

## Stringing



### Step 6

Using a wire cutter, cut a piece of Soft Flex 6" longer than the finished length of your piece. Place a tape flag on one end to prevent beads from sliding off.



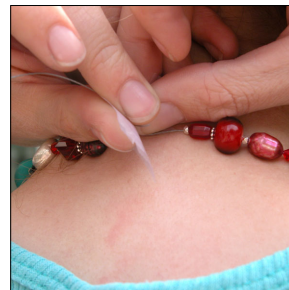
### Step 7

String your necklace or bracelet beads onto the Soft Flex.



### Step 8

When all the beads in the design are on the Soft Flex, place another tape flag on the other end of the piece.



### Step 9

Now you can try on your necklace or bracelet. NEVER pick up your piece without securing tape flags on BOTH ends!

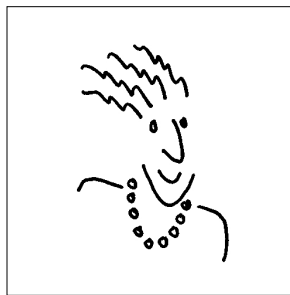


### Step 10

Lay down your necklace or bracelet on the design board.

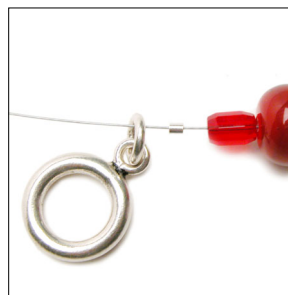
## Attaching Your Clasp

Take a look at the crimping pliers. It has two channels in the jaws. The channel closest to the handle is shaped like a pair of lips. This channel makes the first part of the crimp. The second channel is shaped like an oval. This is the channel that rounds the crimp.



### Step 11

We recommend making a few practice crimps in order to perfect your crimping technique.



### Step 12

- String a crimp bead onto the Soft Flex.
- String the Soft Flex through your clasp.



### Step 13

String the Soft Flex back through the crimp bead.



### Step 14

- Slide the crimp bead up towards the clasp.
- Make sure the loop is large enough to allow the clasp to move.

### Step 15

Enter the crimp bead in the first channel of the crimping pliers and squeeze firmly.



### Step 16

The result should be a slightly rounded crimp with a dip running down the center.



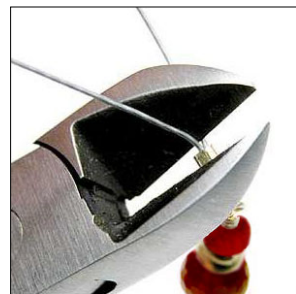
### Step 17

Now turn the pliers 1/4 turn and center the crimp bead in the second channel of the crimping pliers. Gently crimp the bead to round it in-on-itself.



### Step 18

The result should be a rounded, compact crimp. Complete the technique using needle-nose pliers. Gently squeeze down on the crimp bead to round it in-on-itself for added security.



### Step 19

Repeat Steps 12-18 to crimp the opposite end of your piece.

### Step 20

Use your wire cutters to trim the excess tail of Soft Flex flush against the crimp bead.

### Tip

Form your necklace or bracelet into a circular shape before you crimp the second side. This will make sure your beads have room to move on the Soft Flex when wearing the piece.