



How To

Prepare Cords for Kumihimo

bead
IN HAND

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Mon, Tue, Fri: 10-6
Wed: 1:30-6
Thur: 10-7
Sat: 10-5 / Sun: 12-5

Why do you have to prepare the cords before coming to class?

Stringing beads onto all 8 of the cords that are used for the basic kumihimo braid can take about 2 hours, so it just isn't practical to include this in the class time. Students who don't have their beads strung in advance will have a difficult time learning this technique.

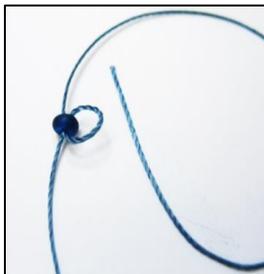
SUPPLIES

- 1 Kumihimo disk
- 8 small plastic bobbins
- 6 nickel sized washers (or similar hardware) for weights
- Bead cord such as S-Ion or Conso
- End caps and clasps can be determined when your project is complete
- **Beads for a bracelet:** 2 strands of **EITHER** size 6/0 **OR** size 8/0 seed beads
- **Optional:** Big eye needle

A NOTE ABOUT THE CORD: The cord does not show very much, so you can select a color to match the beads, or a neutral light color for light colored beads or a neutral dark color for dark colored beads. If you want you can use a big eye needle to string the beads, although the cord is stiff enough to use without a needle. You may need to trim the end periodically to sharpen the tip, since it will fray slightly as you string the beads.

PREPARING THE CORDS FOR A BRACELET

1. Cut 8 cords, **3 feet each**
2. **Add a STOP BEAD on each cord:** String one bead about 4 to 6 inches from the tail end of the cord. Bring the cord back through the bead so the cord loops around it. This will keep beads from falling off the cord and the stop bead is easily removed later.



3. String about **35 beads on each cord** (the final amount may vary depending on the size beads you're using and your wrist size, but this is easily adjusted later)

Bring the beads to the ends of the cords near the stop beads.



Three cords with a few inches of beads near the Stop beads.

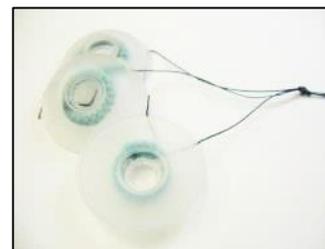
4. Starting at the end with the beads, wrap each cord around a small bobbin until there is approximately 6 inches of cord remaining, then close the bobbin.



Beads and cord wrapped around a bobbin.



Beads and cord in a closed bobbin.



Three cords wrapped in their bobbins. Remember – you'll have 8 cords and bobbins!

Now you are ready for the class!

