

PREPARING THE CORDS AND BOBBINS for KUMIHIMO

WHY do I have to prepare the cords in advance of the class? Because the basic kumihimo braid uses 8 cords, and all 8 cords must have the beads strung before starting the actual braid. This can take one hour or more and it is impractical to incorporate this into the class time.

SUPPLIES

MINIMUM OF SUPPLIES YOU NEED PRIOR TO CLASS:

- Two strands of size 6/0 seed beads (one color)
- S-lon, or similar cord
- 8 small plastic bobbins

Optional:

- Big eye needle

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES REQUIRED FOR THE CLASS (they can be purchased later or even the day of the class).

- 1 Kumihimo disk
- 6 nickel sized washers (or similar hardware) for weights (also available at Bead In Hand)
- End caps and clasps can be determined when your project is complete

A NOTE ABOUT THE CORD

- S-Lon bead cord is a .5 mm 3-ply twisted, bonded multifilament nylon cord. It can be used with size 6, 8, & (sometimes) 11/0 seed beads or other beads with at least a .8 mm hole. You can use other cords, but be sure it is a similar type.
- 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.

START THE PREPARATION

These preparations will make a bracelet length beaded rope.

1. Cut 8 cords, 3 feet each



A spool of S-Lon with 8 cords, 3 feet each. They get pretty curly just off the spool!

2. Add a **STOP BEAD** on each cord: This will keep beads from falling off the cord and the stop bead is easily removed later.

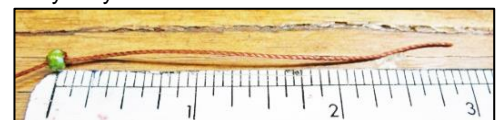
a. String **one** bead about **3 inches** from the tail end of the cord.



b. Bring the cord back through the bead so the cord loops around it.



Leaving 3 inches at the tail end is plenty. More is just wasteful and will get in the way as you braid.



- String about **35 beads on each cord**, and bring the beads to the ends of the cords near the stop beads.

(Yes, just 35 beads per cord, you can trust us on this! Remember, you have 8 cords, so that is 280 beads total. The final amount may vary depending on the size beads you're using and your wrist size, but this is easily adjusted later.)

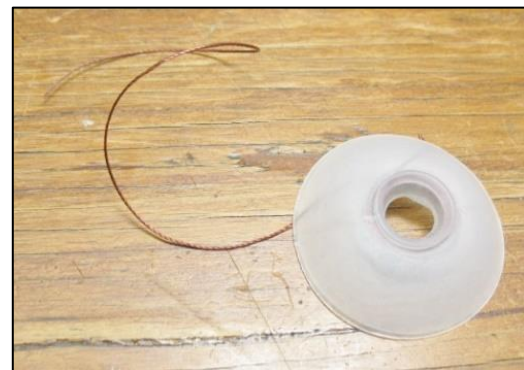


Eight cords with 35 beads on each.

- Starting at the end of the cord near the stop bead, wrap each cord around a small bobbin until there is approximately 6 inches of cord remaining, then close the bobbin.

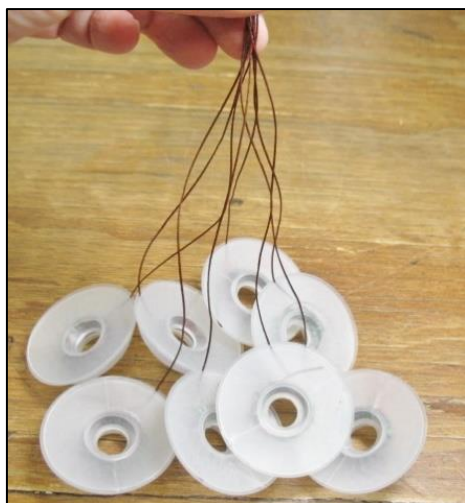


Wrapping the beads and cord around a bobbin.



A closed bobbin.

- Bring the loose ends of the cords together and tie them into a knot.



Eight cords, 35 beads on each, nicely wrapped up in their bobbins!



FINISHED! You are ready for class.

