



bead
IN HAND

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How
to

Make a Braided Criss-Cross Bracelet



These bracelets can be made using flexible beading wire and crimp beads, or using waxed linen, finishing with a simple loop & button closure or by attaching a clasp. We feel waxed linen or a similar cord is easiest for finishing, which is what these instructions describe.

MATERIALS

- 6 to 8 feet waxed linen or similar cord
- 3 strands size 6/0 seed beads in different colors
- Button or clasp for closure

DETERMINING LENGTH

Keep in mind that any type of closure will add about one-half to one inch to the length. The braiding process will shorten the finished piece a bit, so if the single piece of criss-cross loops almost touches edges when measured around your wrist, it's probably a good length. Also, all seed beads are not necessarily equal in size and shape. You may have 8 loops for one color of beads, and 7 loops for another.

GETTING STARTED

Make three criss-cross bracelets using your 3 different colors of 6/0 seed beads.

1. Start with about 2 to 2 ½ feet of waxed linen. String 16 beads and bring them so they are centered on the cord. String one more bead, bring the other cord through the bead in the **opposite** direction and pull the cords snug. This creates the first loop.
2. String **8 beads on each side of the cord**. String one more bead on one cord, and bring the other cord through in the **opposite** direction as in step one. This is the second loop.



Cords go through the 17th bead in **opposite** directions.



Continue making criss-cross loops to the desired length for each of your three colors. Leave the extra cord for finishing at the end.



BRAIDING THE LOOPS

This part can seem tricky, but once you get the hang of it you'll be amazed at its simplicity.

1. Hold your three pieces together at the starting loops. Bring the loop at the bottom through the two above it. This picture shows the bottom color, red, being pulled through the silver and gold colors above it.



2. Now, holding the three pieces in place at the beginning loops, bring the two colors that are on top **down through** the second loop of the bottom color. You can do this one color at a time, or both together, whatever is most comfortable for you.



Crystal and gold through red



Gold and red through crystal



Red and crystal through gold

3. You now have a different color on the bottom. Continue bringing the two colors that are now on top through the second loop of the color that is now on the bottom. You'll do this one more time going through the second loop of the color on the bottom.
4. You are now ready for the third loop, bringing the two colors on top through the third loop of the color on the bottom. Continue this pattern, working your way to the end, going through each subsequent loop 3 times—once for each color. Be sure you're going through the right loop—it can be a little tricky to tell sometimes—but that's all you need to do!

FINISHING

You can finish by using the first loop of your braid as the loop for a toggle closure. Add a button, large bead or hook to the remaining cords and knot them securely. If the three pieces are not all the same length at the end (which is very common, just add a few more beads to the strands that are short.

VARIATIONS

Be creative! Use size 8/0 seed beads for the first loop of one color to use as the closure. Try using different colors for each side of one set of loops for a different kind of pattern. Have fun!

Add beads as needed when too much cord shows at the end.



Use beginning loop for a toggle closure.

