

THREE STRAND CHOKER

There are many different ways to make chokers. The methods shown here have proven to work well, and look good even after heavy use. Color choices and exact design should be the choice of the maker. For young necklace makers, parents or teachers may have to help with the designs and the knots. This pattern shows 6 sections of hairpipe, but it may be necessary to reduce it to 5 sections for smaller neck sizes.

Materials needed:

- 18 - 1" hairpipe
- 36 - 1st color crow beads
- 36 - 2nd color crow beads
- 2 - Yards of simulated sinew
- 5 - strap leather spacers with three holes punched
- 2 - 1" by 1 1/2" pieces of soft leather
- 2 - 10" length of soft leather thongs

For tools, you will need a scissors and something to punch holes unless the spacers are provided pre-punched.

To plan your pattern, lay the beads and bone out on a cloth towel on a flat surface. Test out the length you will need by temporarily stringing the bone and beads in the pattern you plan and try around your neck. Allowing for the thickness of the spacers and about 2 inches for the end pieces, make sure the end tabs won't overlap. Adjust the pattern if it does.

If you are planning to mount a shell disc or concho on the center of the choker, plan to have a leather spacer placed in the center position. There also are other designs where you hang a pendant from the spacers on either side of a center row of bones. Now is the time to plan ahead.

Unless the spacers are provided pre-punched, trim them out of heavy strap leather. Cut them so they are about as wide as the beads used and even with the height of your design. Mark and punch holes in these spacers either with a leather punch, awl, or use a small nail and hammer, pounding the nail through the spacer into a scrap of wood. The holes should be evenly spaced and on center with the centers of the beads used as in Figure 2.

To make the end tab, cut out the shape as shown in Figure 3. Again the height of the tab will be the same as the leather spacer. Fold the end tab over and punch a hole for the ties as shown. On the inside of the tab, mark the three positions that match the spacer's row of holes.

Thread the simulated sinew on a large glovers needle. Begin by sewing through an end tab at the top row mark. Stringing pattern is shown in Figure 4. If necessary use a pliers to pull the needle through the end tab. Tie a Barrel knot on the end of the sinew string as shown in Figure 5. Make as large as you need so it will not work it's way through the leather over time.

String the pattern you have planned in the order shown in Figure 4, first through the top hole of each spacer then through the end tab. Complete the last row and end by passing through the end tab. Tie a barrel knot and push the knot backwards tight to the tab. Finish by tying the soft leather thongs through the holes in each end tab.



Figure 1

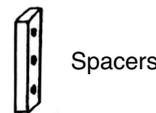


Figure 2

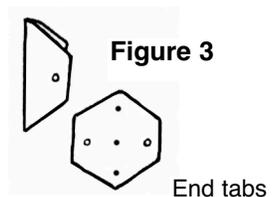


Figure 3

End tabs

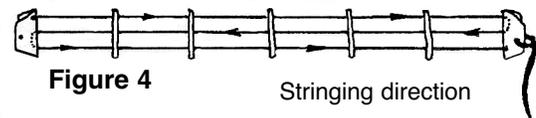


Figure 4

Stringing direction



Figure 5

Barrel knot

Sample alternative designs



Pattern using metal beads

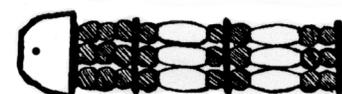
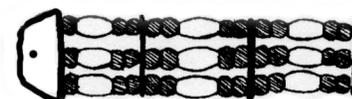


Figure 6