

THE LEARNING CIRCLE

Noc Bay Trading Company; By Isaac Wherry, Correspondent

BONE AND BEAD BRACELET

These instructions are based on a design for four rows of beads wide and five sections long using supplies listed. Simply increase or decrease the materials to make a different width or length bracelet. (See note regarding acrylic hairpipe alternative.)

Here is a shopping list of materials you will need:

- 20 - 1/2 inch Bone or Horn hairpipe
- 40 - 1/4 inch diameter hollow metal beads
- 36 - Glass tile beads
- 1 yard of simulated sinew
- Pieces of soft leather for end pieces and thong.
- 1/4" X 8" piece of strap leather for spacers or 6 pre-cut spacers.

Start by cutting and punching the spacers and end pieces. Use the templates in Figure 1 as a guide. A leather punch will work best, but you can also use a nail, hammer, and a scrap of wood to punch the holes as shown in Figure 1.

Next, tie a large knot in one end of the sinew and thread the other end through the end hole of one spacer. Then thread through the same hole position in one of the end pieces. (The stringing sequence is shown in Figure 2.)

Place one metal bead, one hairpipe, one more metal bead, then one Tile bead on the sinew as in Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Figure 3. Next put a spacer on through its end hole and push all of the pieces snugly to the end piece. Continue with the second, third, and fourth sections as pictured in Figure 2. The sequence in these sections is: tile bead, metal bead, hairpipe, metal bead, and tile bead.

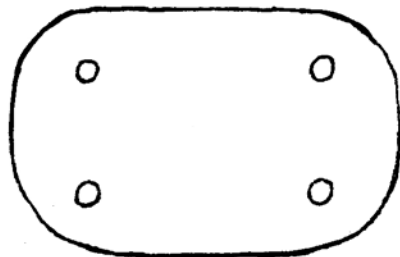


Figure 1



← Cut and Use as Templates

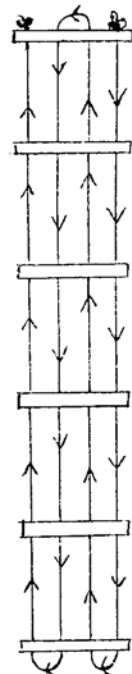


Figure 2

- Step 1
- Step 2
- Step 3
- Step 4

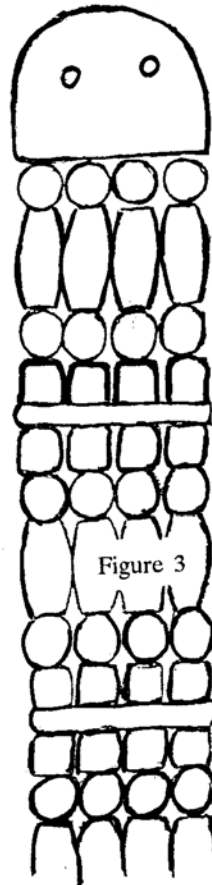
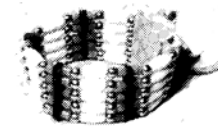


Figure 3



The fifth section is strung in the reverse order of the first section. After the last metal bead, thread through the end hole of the second end piece and then through the last of the spacers.

Start the second row by threading through the second hole in the spacer and end piece and continue as in the first row. Repeat for the next three rows. (Again see the directions in Figure 2.) To finish off, after the last row is completed and threaded through the last spacer hole, back a large overhand knot tightly against the spacer. Cut off the unneeded remainder of the sinew about 1/4 inch from the knot.

To attach the bracelet closing thongs, see the Figure 4 side view. Because a five row bracelet is rather wide, two thong closures are recommended. For thinner bracelets, one tie will work.

Trim the thongs to about 8 inches in length, cutting the ends into a point. Fold both end pieces together so the pre-punched holes match as in Figure 4. Thread one end of the first thong through one of the matching holes on one end piece. Then thread both ends through the matching holes in the other end piece. Repeat with the other thong on the other side of the bracelet.

Some people tie these thongs to hold the bracelet closed, others slip a bead over the pairs of thong ends and tighten each closure that way.



Figure 4

Copyright 1995 by Noc Bay Trading Company
P.O. Box 295
Escanaba, Michigan 49829