

1503-2

Mark Nelson shows how to make spool beads.

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Guest:



Mark Nelson

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Making Simply Sensational Spool Beads



This is a great project for combining precious metals and base metals—especially base metals of different colors.

Steps:

1. Cut tubing to desired lengths. To vary the length of the different beads, we cut ours anywhere from 5 to 12mm long (approx.) using a tube-cutting jig.
2. Cut washers from sheet metal by hand (or create them from sheet metal using a disc cutter). The OD (outside diameter) can be anything you desire, but the ID (inside diameter) of the washer hole must match the OD of the tubing. It's very important that the washers fit snugly on the tubing so that they will sit parallel to each other and perpendicular to the tubing.
3. Use a setting bur to round out the hole just a bit to ensure a good fit with the tubing.
4. Set the tubing into the first washer, making sure that the two are perpendicular to one another. The fit should be fairly tight.
5. Dip the tubing and washer into a 50/50 mixture of denatured alcohol and boric acid; this creates a flux that protects your piece from firescale while you solder the two pieces together.
6. Using your torch and easy silver solder, solder the washers onto the tubing. Solder one washer, quench, pickle, and then rinse.
7. Solder the second washer onto the tube. Repeat the flux, solder, rinse and pickle cycle described in steps 5 and 6.
8. With the washers in place, decorate the spool beads any way you like. File, saw, polish, or oxidize the washers and then wrap wire on the spool.
9. To wrap wire on the spool, drill a hole in each washer that is the same size as the wire. Insert the wire in the hole at one end and wrap the spool. When you reach the other end, insert the wire through the hole at that end. **Please Note:** Squeezing the wire on the outside of each washer will help keep the wire in place.
10. Repeat for each bead.
11. String beads onto a finished leather cord.

⚠ **CAUTION!** Always wear eye protection when performing these processes.

See next page for supply list.

Supply list for Making Simply Sensational Spool Beads.

Supplies:

Order #	Description	Order #	Description
113-000	Bergeon tube cutter	500-091/2	Disposable propane tank
100-426	Sterling silver tubing, 3mm ID	500-092/2	Disposable oxygen tank
100-608	Sterling silver triangle wire, #8	115-146	Flux brush, burn away; pkg/6
100-516	Sterling silver square wire, 16ga.	699-500	Titanium wire, 30ga.
504-025	Flux pump dispenser	130-322	Brass wire, 22ga.
504-006	My-T-Flux, 1 pint	101-100	Silver wire solder, easy
115-146	Natural brush sticks	116-171	Starrett dividers
503-019	Titanium solder pick	636-227	3mm leather cord
502-004	Silquar high heat block, 6" x 12" x 1/2"	686-654	Argentium® Silver magnetic clasp
502-025	Long Life hard charcoal block	132-116	Copper sheet, 16ga.
503-048	Torch ignitor	130-116	Brass sheet, 16ga.
500-018	Little Torch™ magnetic holder	111-026	Swanstrom plier and cutter set
502-066	Third Hand	117-291	SwingAway™ arm
115-051	Cross-lock tweezers with fibergrip	117-534	Foredom® SR30 flex shaft
501-017	Copper tongs (for pickle)	117-598	Foredom® 20D QC handpiece
501-023/3	Rio pickle, 3 lbs.	201-054	Citation safety glasses
501-012	Little Dipper™ pickle pot	—	Pyrex® dish
704-096	Boric acid (flux), 5 lb. box	—	Denatured alcohol
500-090	Little Torch™ torch set for disposable tanks	—	Copper wire, .45mm (can be recycled from power cord)