

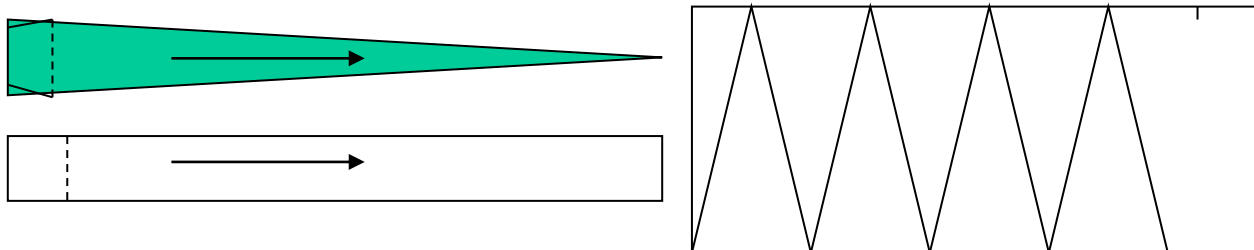
How to Make Paper Beads

Materials:

- ♦ Paper: Anything goes – use your imagination and what you have around. Large colorful calendars, old maps or posters, etc. work well.
- ♦ Lollipop stick, knitting needle, wooden skewer, or something similar to wrap the paper around.
- ♦ Glue – cheap stick glue works well. You can use Elmer's but it will take longer to dry.
- ♦ Bamboo skewers (optional to help with sealing beads)
- ♦ Scissors
- ♦ Ruler
- ♦ Yarn, beading thread – 1 mm plastic stretchy thread, string – something on which to string the beads
- ♦ Sealer (optional) – any craft sealer glaze such as mod podge, water based- polyurethane, etc.

Directions:

- ♦ For flat tubular beads, cut paper into strips about $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide by 12" long. For a more diamond shaped bead, cut the strips into long triangles $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide by 12" long. You can vary the size of the bead to suit your taste. Larger diamond and flat tubular beads are easier to make when just starting out. For diamond shaped beads, my favorite size is $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide by 12" long. The length of the triangle can also be varied depending on the thickness of the paper you are using. You can get away with shorter triangles when using thick paper. Just don't use paper too thick – it won't roll well.
- ♦ The best way to lay out the triangles for 1" wide diamond shaped beads is to mark 1" intervals on one edge of your paper, then starting $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the edge directly on the opposite side, continue marking 1" intervals. Use your ruler to draw lines connecting the marks (see diagram below). This method will work for any dimension diamond bead. Just take the width of the bead and mark intervals of that width on one edge of the paper. Mark intervals of that width on the opposite side of the paper, starting $\frac{1}{2}$ of that width in from the edge. For $\frac{3}{4}$ " beads, mark $\frac{3}{4}$ " intervals from the edge of one side of the paper and on the opposite side of the paper, starting $\frac{3}{8}$ " in from the edge, continue to mark $\frac{3}{4}$ " intervals ($\frac{3}{4}$ " divided by 2 = $\frac{3}{8}$ ").



- ♦ For flat tubular beads, run the glue stick down the length of the side that won't show, leaving about $\frac{1}{4}$ " on the starting end without any glue. Roll the paper tightly around your stick. If you are making diamond shaped beads, first trim a small amount off the corners of the bottom of the triangle. Run the glue down the triangular strip leaving about $\frac{1}{4}$ " at the widest end without glue. Beginning with the wide end of the triangle, roll the strip tightly around your stick. Hold the stick firmly between thumb and index finger, and with a steady pressure, roll the paper around the stick. Hold the end of the paper strip down until it doesn't unroll and then slide the bead off the stick.
- ♦ Place the rolled bead on a bamboo skewer. As you complete beads, add them to the skewer, leaving space between them. When all your beads are complete, you might want to coat them with a sealer so they are somewhat water-resistant and shiny. Leave them on the skewer to dry. When they are dry, gently remove them from the skewers.
- ♦ The beads are done. Just string them alone, or for a more interesting look, add other shapes, colors, and sizes of beads. I have found that round plastic beads work best interspersed with the paper beads.

