

Friendship bracelet

CRAFT TUTORIAL



This year VE Day marks 75 years of peace in Europe. We can't celebrate with our best friends in person right now, so let's make friendship bracelets to give them when we see them again! Making your own beads is easy and fun and this tutorial will get you up and running using things you have around the house. Suggested age: 6+, younger children will need help with cutting and gluing.

What do I need?

- Paper – old magazines, gift wrap, newspaper, maps, brochures, junk mail, etc.
- A pen or pencil
- A ruler or straight edge
- Glue stick (white glue will work well too, but it's messier)
- Toothpicks, bamboo kebab skewers, round chopsticks or round pencils
- String, cord, ribbon, fishing line, elasticated cord etc.
- Clear nail polish (optional)

STEP BY STEP

1

Find an old magazine, a brochure or gift wrap to recycle. Look for colours you like. Text on the page is ok.



2

Place your paper face down. Use a pen and ruler to draw long triangles roughly the height of a magazine page.



3

Cut your paper triangles out and place the first one face down on your work surface.



4

Apply glue to the back of your first cut out triangle.



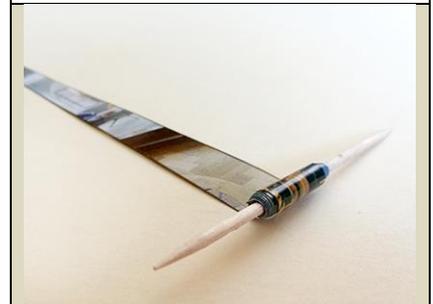
5

Position a toothpick or skewer along the long edge of the triangle and fix with glue.



6

Now start rolling the paper onto the toothpick all the way to the end, keeping it centred.



7

Let your beads dry on their toothpicks or skewers. You can rest them in a glass to hold them upright.



8

If desired, give beads a coat of clear nail polish for extra strength. Let dry, then remove from toothpicks by twisting.



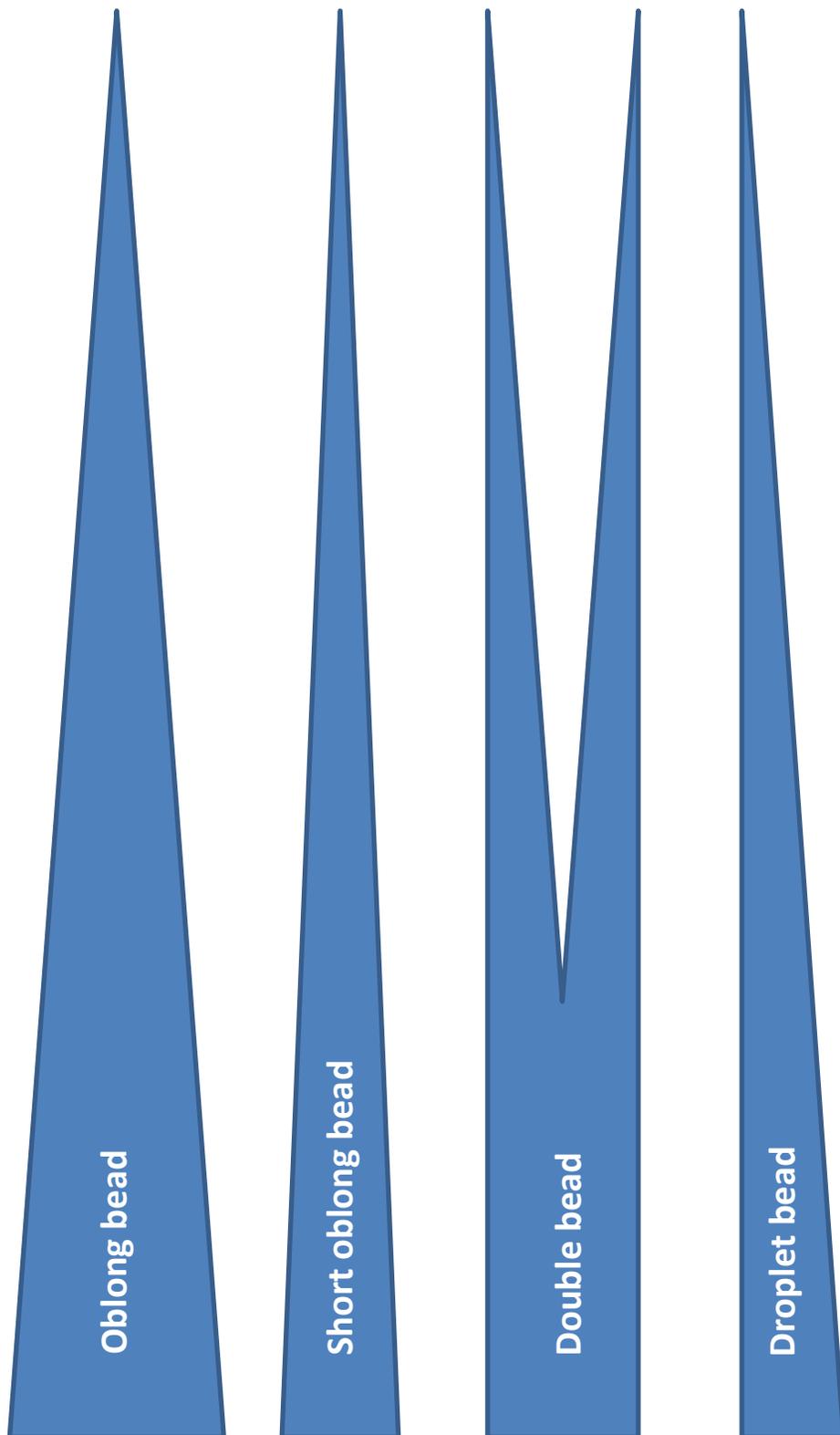
9

Thread your finished beads onto string or cord. Try mixing them with other beads!



Bead shape

The shape of your beads depends on how you draw your triangles. The guide below will get you started. Use a ruler to help you draw triangles onto your paper (about as high as a page like this). Otherwise print this page and use these as templates. Have fun!



Colour!

You can get all different effects by changing the colour and texture of the paper you use. See what happens when you use paper with a bumpy surface, a metallic finish or by painting plain paper with watercolours first. Try to remember your best friend's favourite colours when deciding which paper to use.

Once you're ready to start stringing beads together, test out different types of string or cord to see what works best. If you have other beads at home, try mixing them in too. We hope you've enjoyed this tutorial. Good luck and have fun!



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