





STRETCHY BRACELETS on Elastic String MiniLesson

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 <p>Elastic string comes in many brands, sizes, colors and textures.</p> <p>Use: .5mm for seed beads .7mm - .8mm for most beads 1.0mm for beads with larger holes</p> <p>Use thickest that will fit, or run thinner through twice, if it will fit.</p>	 <p>Design issues we want to anticipate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loss of memory 2. Breaking 3. How you connect the two ends so they don't come undone 	<p>Elastic string is NOT a durable stringing material. Over time, it does lose its memory. It does break.</p> <p>With elastic string, we secure the string by tying knots and putting glue on the knots.</p> <p>NEVER use crimp beads. A crushed crimp is like a little razor blade – definitely not something you want to use on elastic string.</p>	<p>Types:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rubbery (great) 2. Floss (bad) 3. Elastic Cord (cloth covered) (not great for jewelry) <p>If you need a Needle: Use a Big Eye Needle. Or, coat the first inch with superglue, let it harden, use a single edge razor blade and cut the end at an angle to make a self needle.</p>
 <p>STEP 5: Tie a surgeon's knot. Put a drop of glue on the inside of the knot. Pull tight. Put a drop of glue on the outside of the knot.</p>		<p>GLUES</p> <p>Use any glue except superglue. Superglue has few uses in jewelry making. All jewelry moves. Superglue dries like glass, and the bond easily shatters like a piece of glass.</p> <p>Ideally, you would use a jeweler's glue like Beacon 527 or E6000. The bond dries like rubber. These take 24 hours to fully set. With this product, you can also use Elmer's Glue, Rubber Cement or School Glue. After 10 minutes, wipe off excess glue.</p>	<p>WEARING YOUR BRACELET</p> <p>Always put your elastic bracelet on the right way. This is one of the main factors in bracelets that don't last.</p> <p>Never put on your bracelet by stretching it over your hand. As much as possible, roll it over your hand without excessive pulling.</p> <p>Keep the bracelet away from soap, perfumes, hair and skin products, sun screen, salt water, etc. Many of the products we use everyday can degrade the quality of the elastic over time.</p>

STRETCHY BRACELET STEPS

1. Cut 12-15" of elastic string for bracelet.
2. Grab each end. Stretch it 25 times, by pulling on it firmly, but NOT with all your strength.
3. String on your beads; make sure it's the correct size for your wrist. Avoid very heavy beads.
 NOTE: If a CENTER-POINT or DROP, make this center of bracelet, opposite side of knot.
 NOTE: If creating a pattern, remember that both ends of bracelet will be brought back together.
4. Tie an overhand knot and pull tight to pull your beads together.
5. Tie a surgeon's knot to secure the knot. We do this in 2 steps:
 - a. As you are pulling the knot together, you want to put a drop of glue on the inside of the knot (*any glue except superglue*).
 - b. Pull the knot tight. Put another drop of glue on the outside of the knot (*any glue except superglue*). In 10 minutes, wipe off excess glue. Allow the glue to dry (about 20 minutes).
6. Now you want to finish the piece off.
 - a. *If you can thread one of the tails through the bead next to the knot, do so.* Pull the tail through. Put a drop of glue (*any glue except superglue*) on the knot. Use the tail to pull the knot into the hole of the bead next to it, and let it dry inside the hole (about 20 minutes). In 10 minutes, wipe off excess glue. After it dries, trim the tails.
 - b. *If you cannot thread one of the tails through the bead next to the knot, but you can pull the knot into that hole, follow these steps.* Put a drop of glue (*any glue except superglue*) on the knot. Use the elastic string between two beads on your bracelet to pull the knot into the hole. Let it dry inside the hole (about 20 minutes). In 10 minutes, wipe off excess glue. After it dries, trim the tails.
 - c. *If you cannot even get the knot into the hole of the bead next to it, then put a drop of glue on the knot (*any glue except superglue*), let it dry 20 minutes, then, after it dries, cut both tails close to but not all the way to the knot. If you don't like the look of the knot, put a drop of glue on the knot, and then you can slide a crimp cover over it.* In 10 minutes, wipe off excess glue.