

COLORFUL FABRIC BEADS

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This is a great way to use those last previous pieces of a fabric you love, to make jewelry or an embellishment for a quilt.

Basic Supplies

Strips of fabric 1 1/4" wide by 3"-6" long

Batik, Aborigine, wild patterns, anything will work

wider strips make longer beads; longer strips make fatter beads

White glue

Hollow plastic coffee stirrers

Additional Supplies to embellish your Beads

Yarns of all kinds: eyelash yarns are some of my favorites

24 or 26 gauge [thin] wire

seed beads or other small beads

Instructions

On a piece of waxed, lay a stirrer across the width of the fabric poking out on sides of the strip. Roll tightly a couple of times around the stirrer and then put a small amount of glue on the fabric. [Do not put glue on the stirrer]. Continue rolling tightly until bead is the size you want. If making a set of beads that you want to match, use the same length strip for each bead. Put a small amount of glue on the end of the strip.

Several beads can be rolled on the same stirrer. Leave beads on stirrer and decorate as desired. Let dry and remove the stirrer

Take your fabric beads to any craft store that sells beads and jewelry making supplies [Michaels, Beverly's, JoAnn's] and look for beads that complement your creations. Buy beading wire, a beading needle and the closures you need for a necklace or bracelet.

Alternate Methods

Triangle Beads:

Cut triangular pieces of scrap fabric and roll from wide end of scrap onto plastic coffee stirrer

Plastic drinking straw base:

Cut plastic drinking straws into 1 1/4" pieces

Put glue on straw

Place glued straw on narrower end of fabric strip and roll. Dot of glue on end

Straw stays inside bead

Decorate as desired.

Questions? Call or email Pam Brown.

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