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Beads, the Latest Accessory to Dress

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Wax Beads Are Easily Shaped

Beads may be made either smooth or rough in texture and colors blended or not, as desired.

With color scheme, shape of beads and texture in mind provide yourself with the following, which will make at least one string of beads. Bankers wax, one stick; two or three sticks of letter wax; two Red Cross steel needles (any of sufficient diameter will do but the writer prefers Red Cross needles, since they do have such humanitarian associations and who knows but that the psychology of using Red Cross needles might not cause such fervor that a dozen strings of beads might be sold for some fine purpose.)

An alcohol lamp or plumber's candle is also needed and a working surface that is fire resisting.

An apron will protect the gown which might otherwise become soiled with wax.

Cord or ribbon of black or of a color which repeats one of the colors of the beads will also be required for stringing the finished beads. About one and a quarter yards is necessary if one desires to tie knots to keep the beads from slipping. Cord may be made by twisting embroidery floss of the desired color.

Wax beads may be made in two ways.

1. Heat the end of a wax stick and rub it around the center of the knitting needle, adding more until the proper length and circumference is secured. When cool enough it can be moulded in the fingers and after the desired shape is secured the final colors may be added.

2. Break off a piece of wax about the length of the bead desired. Heat the center of the knitting needles and press it into the wax which should be placed upon the table. Reheat the needle and embed it solid under the wax. When cool enough it is sufficiently cool to handle without burning, work the wax around the needle with the fingers and add more wax if necessary by twisting the end of the stick of wax and rubbing it around the bead to secure the desired shape. Roll the bead on table if cylindrical shape is desired. Then add the letter wax to the surface. Heat bead sufficiently to allow colors to blend slightly so as not to lose all of original colors which are beautiful in themselves.

A bead blended to too great a degree loses its richness in color as does a bead held too near the candle or in the smoke. Too much heat causes the wax to become dull. It is necessary at times to clip the candle wick to keep the flame bright and clean.

To remove a finished bead, heat the needle on each side of the bead sufficiently far away from the ends of the bead to prevent its softening, which would spoil its shape. Push the bead off the needle.

Before stringing the beads match them by twos. Place the cord around your neck, with the two ends in front, and experiment in order to secure good spacing. Unequal spaces make for variety and both sides of the necklace should balance. Tie knots at the end of each bead and wedge a small amount of warm wax in the beads to keep them from slipping, after they are on the string.

The finish of the end in front is important. Both ends of the cord may be brought thru a large round flat or wedge shaped bead, the end of the needle and insert it in the hole to enlarge it sufficiently if the cord is too large.

The ends may be finished in several ways. Unequal lengths of cord at ends are usually more interesting. Round beads or pendants may be used. Pendants may be secured from the needle almost vertically and rotating the hot wax. These also form a good finish to the ends of belts and sleeve points on blouses.

In order to acquire a beautiful string of beads some experimentation is necessary and patience and skill are requisites.

A pendant hung on a colored grosgrain ribbon harmonizing with the costume will often add greatly to the appearance of the costume. On the marquis, one may find countless numbers of novelty ribbons in exquisite colors, and somewhere among these is just the exact hue to add the final bit of brightening to that gown of yours. Only be sure to have the gown and pendant along when you select the ribbon because colors cannot be matched, nor can the right length of the ribbon thru the pendant and fasten as the cord was fastened, tie in a bow at the back of the neck. A very narrow ribbon not more than one quarter of an inch looks best in this way.