



Smithsonian Associates

Abacus Pendant Workshop

Instructor: Mia Vollkommer

Tools:

- **chain nose pliers** - look like needle nose pliers, but the inside of the jaws is smooth, as opposed to serrated.
- **flush cutting wire snips** - fine wire snips designed for getting into small places and making precision cuts
- **round nose pliers** - (optional) pliers with smooth, round tapered jaws, for bending wire and creating loops (please do not get the kind with the silicone coated tips)
- Curved head chasing hammer
- Steel block or anvil

You will also need:

- Ruler
- Fine Tip Sharpie Marker

Wire:

A kit containing all the wire needed for the project will be available for purchase for \$10 plus shipping at www.shop2dots.com beginning on October 1st. The wire included in the kit will be sterling silver *and* jeweler's brass (enough for one pendant in each metal). If you'd like to provide your own wire, you'll need the following (these gauges/lengths are enough for one pendant):

- 4in of 16 gauge round wire (base of pendant)
- 4in of 20 gauge round wire (clasp)
- 6ft of 24 gauge round wire (wrapping wire)

Beads:

- 50 or so beads that are 2-4mm in size. (This is for 1 pendant. Many students have completed two pendants in the time allotted for class)

In the photo below you can see examples of a mixed bead piece and a piece that uses size 8 seed beads of the same size, in a variety of colors. This piece is great for using up small beads left over from other projects!

Other:

- Chain or cord to hang the pendant from, at your desired length.

Resources:

Local bead shops in your area are easy to find via Google. I would highly recommend "shopping local" so that you can see what you are purchasing, and get design help from store staff.

Or I recommend the following online resources:

- Rio Grande: - Rio is my go-to for wire, tools, and findings. www.riogrande.com

FACEBOOK: SMITHSONIAN STUDIO ARTS INSTAGRAM: @SMITHSONIANASSOCIATES

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- www.firemountaingems.com is another option. They are more like a “big box” store for beads.
- <https://www.beadshop.com/> Order early as this lovely shop is in California. Their site is easy to navigate, and their inventory is lovely.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at:
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Can't wait to see you in class!
Mia (pronounced Maya)

