



Smithsonian Associates

Bead Weaving: On and Off the Loom

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I'm so looking forward to meeting you in the Bead Weaving class. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding this list.

Although all these links are to Beadaholique, I have no affiliation with this company (I would trust them as a vendor however). The links are meant to illustrate items that may be unfamiliar to you. I always recommend that you take this list to your local bead shop if you have one. Not only are you supporting a small business, but the staff there can help you find exactly what you need.

Tools and Supplies needed for the class:

Tools:

- **Bead weaving loom** – there are lots of looms out there at a lot of different prices. Even a simple/inexpensive loom can make beautiful projects. Please purchase something similar to this style loom (also available at Michael's)
 - <https://beadaholique.com/products/beadsmith-bead-loom-kit-for-beginners-weave-necklaces-bracelets-and-more>
- **English Bead weaving needles (size 12)**
 - <https://beadaholique.com/products/beadsmith-english-beading-needles-size-12-4-needles>
- **Sharp scissors**
- **A ruler**
- **1 roll of 1" blue painter's tape**
- **Really good lighting**
- **Reading glasses, a magnifier visor or other magnifying aid**
- **bead pad (optional but highly recommended)**
 - <https://beadaholique.com/collections/jewelry-making-tools/products/beadalon-beading-mats-prevent-bead-rolling-12-x-9-inch-set-of-3>
 - <https://www.capitalcitybeads.com/bead-mat.html>
- **bead sorting tray (optional)**
 - <https://beadaholique.com/collections/jewelry-making-tools/products/ceramic-bead-tray-round-38mm-with-six-sections-1-tray-white>
 - <https://www.capitalcitybeads.com/copy-of-plastic-storage-tubes-with-hang-cap-1-tube.html>

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Findings:

In the case of bead weaving, “findings” would be the clasps that finish your project. There are MANY different ways to finish bead weaving, both with and without metal clasps. I include this link to show you one example of a metal clasp, but I would recommend holding off on purchasing one until after class. I'll show you how to finish a piece with a beaded clasp, so you may not need a metal one at all.

Example of a metal finding for Bead Weaving:

- <https://beadaholique.com/products/slide-tube-clasps-with-bar-loops-26-5x10-5mm-2-sets-silver-plated>

Beads & String:

There are many kinds of seed bead shapes and surface finishes. Here are my recommendations, please note that **all beads purchased should be size 11/0**:

Delicas are very uniform in their size and shape, and for that reason I recommend these for the loom weaving portion of the class.

- **Delica Example:**

- <https://beadaholique.com/collections/seed-beads/products/miyuki-delica-seed-beads-11-0-size-7-2-gram-tube-2292-frost-opaque-glaze-grape>
- <https://www.capitalcitybeads.com/seed-beads/miyuki/size-11-0-delicas/>

Japanese Rounds can be used for the loom project but are more suited to off loom weaving.

- **Japanese Round Example:**

- <https://beadaholique.com/collections/seed-beads/products/toho-seed-beads-round-11-0-369-black-diamond-orange-creme-lined-8-grams>

Czech seed beads are not recommended for the loom weaving but can be used for the off loom project.

- **Czech Seed Bead Example**

- <https://beadaholique.com/collections/seed-beads/products/czech-glass-seed-beads-11-0-round-1-hank-saharan-sands-cream-tan-mix>
- <https://www.capitalcitybeads.com/seed-beads/czech-glass/size-11-0/>

I recommend having **7-10g of 5 different colors** of whichever bead type/s you choose. Be sure to get beads with good contrast (light and dark) and visual texture – meaning it's fun to experiment with a variety of styles such as glossy finish, opaque, transparent, matte finish, lined (like silver lined) etc. Bear in mind that you will be able to see the string through light colored transparent beads.

For the stringing material I recommend Fireline, but you can use a Nymo Cotton thread as well

- **Fireline 4lb test (smoke or crystal):**

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- <https://beadaholique.com/products/fireline-braided-beading-thread-4lb-test-and-0-005-thick-15-yards-smoke-gray>
- <https://www.capitalcitybeads.com/4-lb-fireline-smoke-grey-005-in-12mm-dia-50-yrd.html>
- **Nymo B (I would choose a light or neutral color):**
 - <https://beadaholique.com/products/nymo-nylon-beading-thread-size-b-for-delicas-64-yard-58-meter-spool-white>
 - <https://www.capitalcitybeads.com/stringing-material/thread/nymo/>
- **Beeswax** – the Nymo in the link above is pre-waxed. If you purchase an unwaxed thread I'd recommend also purchasing beeswax, which helps keep the thread from tangling.
 - <https://beadaholique.com/products/1-ounce-bar-beeswax-thread-strengthening-conditioner-for-beads-quilting-crafting>