

# Making Rolled Paper Beads

## Fundamental Tools

Scissors  
Box cutter/exacto knife/razor  
Metal ruler  
Straws, coffee stir stix, and/or toothpicks  
Bowl of water & towel to clean your sticky fingers

## Basic Supplies

**Paper:** magazines, wrapping paper, kids' art off the refrigerator door, old books with tiny type, hand-written letters, candy & gum wrappers  
**Gel pens:** glitter, frost  
Paint pens and/or Sharpies  
White glue\*

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## Rudimentary Instructions

- Rolling straight tubes
1. Cut a 1" wide strip about 10" long.
  2. Curl it gently with a round pencil, pretty side out.
  3. Run glue down the middle—not too much, not too little (you'll learn).
  4. Grasp the inner tube with your dominant hand, begin rolling with non-dominant hand around the inner tube.
  5. Roll tight and keep paper strip as straight as you can.
  6. Check the tip to make sure it's totally submissive to the glue.
- Rolling chubby tubes
1. Cut a 1" wide strip about 10" long. 2. Evenly taper the strip end to a point, forming a tall steeple. 3. Curl it gently... Run glue down the middle... Begin rolling ... Roll tight and **keep the middle of the strip in the middle of the bead.**
- Rolling round balls
1. Cut a 1" wide strip about 25" long. 2. Evenly taper the strip end to a point, forming a really long, tall, skinny steeple. 3. Curl it gently... Run glue down the middle... Begin rolling ... Roll tight and **keep the middle of the strip in the middle of the bead.**
- Rolling cones
1. Cut a 1" wide strip about 10" long. 2. Taper one side of the strip end to a point, forming a right-angle triangle..3. Curl it gently... Run glue down the middle... Begin rolling ... Roll tight and **keep the right angle side of the bead even at the base of the bead.**
- The unfortunate bead
- Sometimes you see this beautiful paper and you just KNOW it will make an EXQUISITE bead. You cut it, curl it, glue it, roll it... and voila! It's blah. Don't toss it. Redeem its unfortunate looks by wrapping it with super skinny strips of tiny print paper, or a fat contrasting strip in the middle, or take the gel pens to it, or wrap it with fancy yarn or frayed fabric or beaded wire. Love your beads and when they're not as lovely as you'd envisioned them to be, just keep putting stuff on them 'til they are.

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## Plain & Fancy Surface Finishes

- Sealing as you roll
- Squirt some Triple Thick or Diamond glaze into a Snapple or Frappucino lid and pull your strip, pretty side down, thru the glaze before you roll it. Even out the glaze by running your thumb and forefinger down the strip. This gets the glaze (which also serves as glue) on both sides of the strip. Now roll. When you are done rolling, your bead is sealed. Messy, but makes a solid and shiny bead in one go 'round.
- Sealing with a brush
- Apply Triple Thick, Diamond glaze, nail polish, or poly urethane with a brush to the bead. The trick is finding something to put the bead on that holds it still while you brush. Brushing will probably require at least two go 'rounds.
- Sealing with spray
- Put your finished beads on a rod of some sort. Take the rod outside, set it between two pillars, and spray with polyurethane or lacquer. Stinky and unhealthy, but quick. Also a good way to achieve a satin or matte finish.
- Sealing with UTEE
- Put the bead on a stick, roll it on the stickum pad, sprinkle on the enamel powder, and fire up the heat gun.

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## Now What?

String 'em	Use string that fits the inside-size of the tube the way you want it to: loose or tight. If you've made your beads on drinking straws, the inside is big and they will probably look beautiful strung on a fancy "fat" yarn. If you've made your beads on toothpicks, they will be lovely strung on silk and knotted, with or without other beads.
Crochet or knit 'em	This is totally fun and wild. Well, it is for me because I don't follow instructions. I just load up a bunch of beads on the string/thread/yarn/cord/ribbon/elastic/leather and start crocheting. Then, I may take needle and thread and sew more beads onto the crocheted string. Then, I may tie tiny pretty ribbons or bits of fabric onto the string. Then, I'll decide it needs some chain woven thru it, and I'll have to put some crystals on the chain, and, and, and...
Wire 'em	There are beautiful colored jewelry wires these days and they make great bales for your paper beads. Get a pair of needle nose pliers and see how many ways you can wrap your beads' butts in wire. Try putting a round pearl or glass bead at each end of the paper bead and then running the wire and making the bale.
Safety pins & chain	Put a paper bead on a safety pin and close the pin. Do this again about 30 times. Put elastic thru the heads and butts of the pins—you've just made a stretchy BRACELET! Build a ladder bracelet with two lengths of chain as legs and paper beads as rungs. You can run string or wire through the chain rings and beads to build the ladder, or you can use eye pins or wire-wrapped bales.

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## Go Wild With Your Creative Genius, Please!

Fancy scissors	Make a plain tube bead. Cut a strip skinnier than the bead using fancy scissors and wrap that strip around the plain tube bead.
Wire wrap	Thread seed beads onto pretty wire, then wrap the wire around the paper bead.
Fabric wraps	Tie a wee bit o' silk about the ole paper bead and see how pretty she be! Tie a wee knot and dab a wee bit o' fabric glue on the knot. Or, try a wool or coarse woven fabric. Make a tiny obi out of silk, and then fasten it on with wire or silk thread or funky yarn or more paper.
Foil, fancy paper wraps	Make a plain bead luscious by giving it a belt of foil or mulberry paper. Or, make the bead out of the fancy paper and give a belt of plain paper. Glue the belt onto the bead, or tie it on using one of the fabric wrap ideas above.
Painted edges	Run a metallic pen down the edges of the paper before you roll it, front and back of paper. This is especially showy on the non-straight tubes. Try dipping the ends of each tube in a metallic or other paint before stringing—further seals and adds glitz. Or, paint the ends with nail polish. There are nail polish colors that are not duplicated in any other medium I've found, and they have the added benefit of being super hard lacquer. Downside is the smell, so let them air dry a loooooong time before stringing.

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## Online Sources, Inspirations, Instructions & Supplies

<a href="http://paperbeads.org/">http://paperbeads.org/</a>	The mother-load on paper beads. Navigation is a little wonky, but stick with it and you'll be hiding out making beads for the next 6 days straight.
<a href="http://www.etsy.com/shop/KiahDesign">http://www.etsy.com/shop/KiahDesign</a>	Incredibly beautiful cones... super inspiration! Or, praise and support a fellow crafter: buy some of her beauties!
<a href="http://www.etsy.com/shop/ljlhdesigns">http://www.etsy.com/shop/ljlhdesigns</a>	Not sure paper is a legit medium for jewelry? Check this artist's creations.
<a href="http://www.etsy.com/shop/janicemae">http://www.etsy.com/shop/janicemae</a>	Ah! The Queen. Be still my heart. What every round paper bead aspires to be... Janice is the main force behind paperbead.org, and this is her shop site
<a href="http://www.astorybooklife.com/how-to/paper-beads/">http://www.astorybooklife.com/how-to/paper-beads/</a>	When you need some balls (you know, to compliment your tubes) here's a paper way to get them.
<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYEh55dyRxo&amp;feature=related">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYEh55dyRxo&amp;feature=related</a>	Video on how to apply UTEE to paper beads