

Family Art from Home

Paper Bead Necklace

by Ophelia Cornet

Embellish yourself with a beautiful handmade necklace made from recycled papers.

Supplies Needed

- Plastic straws
- Decorative papers or papers from magazines, newspapers, or junk mail
- Ruler
- Pencil
- String
- Thick paper such as poster board or cardstock for the centerpiece
- Glue stick, Hot or Tacky Glue (a glue stick is great for the beads and hot glue or tacky glue is helpful for the centerpiece)

Optional: Clear nail polish, Mod Podge or Elmer's glue
Beads made of wood, plastic, glass or ceramic

How to Do it

1. Plan a centerpiece bead that is flat and larger than the others and will sit in the middle of your necklace. Cut out a shape such as rectangle from thick paper and use and glue the decorative paper and other images onto it to. This will be the focal point of your necklace (see sample).

2. Using the hot glue gun, attach a short length of plastic straw to the top of the centerpiece so it can be used as a bead (see image).

3. To make your remaining paper beads, place the decorative paper face down. Using your ruler and pencil, draw triangles that are short on one side and equally long on the other two sides (see image) These are isosceles triangles. The shortest side will end up being the width of the bead and the longer your triangle, the thicker the bead will be. Repeat this with your different papers and cut all the triangles out.

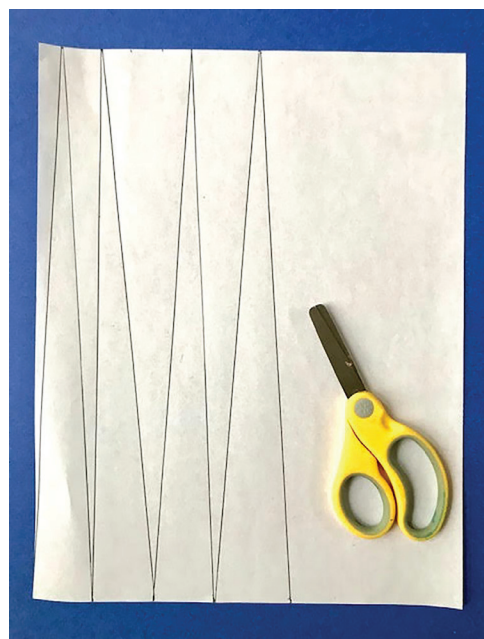
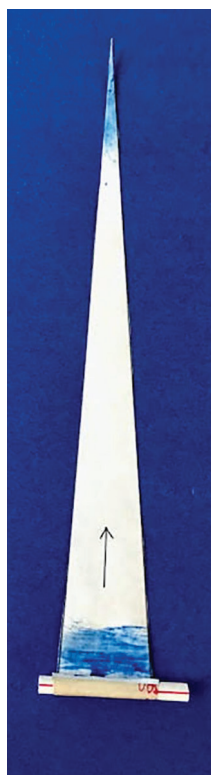
4. Apply some glue with a glue stick to the short side and the point of your triangle. Begin wrapping the triangle around the section of straw, starting with the wide edge and tightly wrap the rest of the paper triangle over it. Cut off excess straw on either side. (see image). Repeat for the rest of your beads.

Optional: You can coat your beads with a very thin layer of Elmer's glue, clear nail polish, or Mod Podge.

Optional: You can add other beads made of wood, plastic, glass or ceramic to add variety and contrast to your necklace.

5. Cut a piece of string the desired length of your necklace. String finished paper beads on either side of the centerpiece bead and tie both ends of your string together.

Voila, your necklace is complete!



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