



# Craft your own beads

## OLD BEADS

Jewellery beads found in a cave in Morocco were around 150,000 years old and made out of snail's shells.

## TOP TIPS

The wider the paper strip, the longer the bead will be. The longer the strip, the fatter the bead.

To give the beads a protective layer, put them onto the skewer, spaced out, brush them with PVA glue and allow to dry.



## What you need

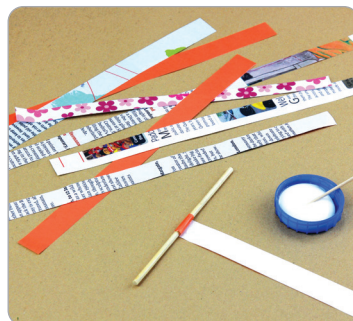
- Plain paper or a newspaper or magazine
- A ruler
- A pencil
- Scissors
- A thin wooden stick or skewer
- Glue
- A cocktail stick
- Thin elastic

Create a colourful necklace or bracelet for Mother's Day, a birthday or as a friendship gift, by rolling paper into beads. It takes a bit

of patience but once you get going you won't be able to stop. You can change the colour, pattern, shape and size of your beads, so get ready to experiment.



**1** To make simple beads with straight sides, measure out and cut some long paper strips 20–30 centimetres long and 1–2 centimetres wide. You can use plain or patterned paper, newspaper, wrapping paper or magazine pages – or decorate plain paper yourself.



**2** Curl the end of a paper strip around a wooden stick or skewer (not too long, shorter sticks are better). Hold it with your fingers and start turning the skewer. After a few turns, apply a small amount of glue to the paper with the cocktail stick to stop it uncurling.



**3** Keep rolling the paper until you reach the end of the strip. Put a little glue on the end, press it to hold the shape then slide the bead off the stick. Repeat to make more beads in the same way. It takes 25–30 beads for a necklace, or 12–15 for a bracelet.



**4** To make an oval or round bead, cut the paper strips with diagonal sides, like long, thin triangles. Roll the paper strips around the stick in the same way, starting with the wide end. Thread your beads onto the elastic and tie it up to finish.

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SCAN ME