

Instructions Grasping Ring With Name

The handicraft material you need for making a grasping ring with name:

- o 1 wooden half ring
- o 2 wooden rings, size mini
- o colourful wooden beads
- o 3 safety beads
- o 2 motif beads
- o 1 little bell
- o cord (PP-polyester)
- o optional: a piece of satin cord as stringing aid
- o letter cubes for the desired name

The small tools you need:

- o scissors
- o lighter
- o tweezers

Let's Get Crafty!

Step 1: Experimenting With Beads, Rings and Little Bells

The **crafting material for your grasping ring** is laying in front of you? Great! So let's start: Your creativity is in demand! Experiment playfully with the arrangement of the beads, rings and bells. Swap individual elements, try out different colours and shapes – and enjoy designing the grasping ring of your dreams bead by bead.

We're using **safety beads** for these **handicraft instructions**. A safety bead has two different sized holes, so that the cord ends' knot can disappear in it. That's an aesthetic **advantage**. Please note that for doing so, the safety bead's larger hole has to point outwards. You can also use other wooden beads. In this case the knot remains visible.

To make stringing easier, we recommend using a stringing aid. Either cut off a piece of the PP-polyester cord or use (as in our example) a piece of satin cord. Melt the ends briefly with the lighter to prevent the cord from fraying when stringing. You will need another piece of PP-polyester cord later for the **grasping ring's** middle strand.

Step 2: Stringing the First Safety Bead

You're happy with your **grasping ring's design**? Awesome! Then let's start with the preparation for stringing. Double the **PP-polyester cord** so that it's slightly longer than your planned grasping ring. A length of 50 cm is sufficient. Attach the stringing aid to the loop.

String the safety bead with the larger hole first. Slide it until just before the cord's end. Make a double knot and cut the cord ends **carefully** with scissors. **Weld** the double knot firmly with the help of a lighter. Push the knot into the safety bead's larger hole. Make sure the knot sits tightly in the bead and cannot slip through. **The knot being properly tight is important for your child's safety!**

Step 3: Stringing

You'll probably enjoy this step, because now your **grasping ring** is truly taking shape: String up the lenses, letter cubes and motif beads one by one – and have fun watching your grasping ring grow. Only string the lower strand's beads that is/will be connected to the half ring.

The amount of beads required depends on your design and the name's length. The longer the name, the fewer beads should be used. You can also use lenses instead of round beads to save length. This way the grasping ring will stay nice and round.

Step 4: Adding the Small Wooden Rings

For even more playtime fun for your baby, slide two **wooden mini rings** onto the half ring. They can be moved easily and will additionally motivate your child to play.

Step 5: Closing the Grasping Ring

Now you can string the cord through the half ring's other hole. If necessary, use **tweezers** for this. String the same beads onto the cord's end that is looking out as on the other side of the half ring. **Cut** the loop so that you get two cord ends of the same length and remove the stringing aid.

Pull **one** of the cords out of the safety bead. With the pulled out cord end, make a simple knot behind the bead that is in front of the safety bead. String the safety bead back onto the previously pulled out cord end. Push the safety bead with its smaller opening **over** the knot. This hidden knot makes the lower bead strand **tighter**. Make a double knot and **weld** it, just as in the very first step. With the help of a pair of tweezers the knot disappears easily into the safety bead.

Step 6: Making the Middle Strand

Let's create your **grasping ring's** middle strand. It is **advantageous** to attach a little bell at the bottom end of the middle strand. On one hand, the baby will enjoy hearing its beautiful ringing. On the other hand, when using a bead, you would otherwise have to make an **additional** knot at the bottom end to hold it.

So double your cord and pull the bell up to the loop. For easier stringing, it is best to carefully **weld** both cord ends together. Now you can add different beads. Make sure that the middle strand remains quite short. **This is very important**, because babies often put toys in their mouths. If the middle strand is too long, it can lead to gagging.

Step 7: Attaching the Middle Strand to the Grasping Ring

String the middle strand from **below** through the half ring. Make sure that there is a **small ring on the left and right**. String beads onto the cord's end that is looking out. Now separate both cord ends from another.

Pull one of the cords out of the safety bead. With the pulled out cord end, make a **simple** knot behind the bead that is in front of the safety bead. String the safety bead back onto the previously pulled out cord end. Push the safety bead with its smaller opening over the knot. Make a double knot and **weld** it.

You're done! Now be proud of your **self-made grasping ring with name**. We wish the child lots of fun discovering its new companion!

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