

Instructions Annual Bead String

The handicraft material you need for making an annual bead string:

- approx. 7,5 m cord (PP-polyester cord or satin cord)
- at least 365 wooden beads
(366 wooden beads for making a leap year, resulting in February having 29 days instead of 28)

The small tools you need:

- needle and thread
- scissors
- lighter

Let's Get Crafty!

Step 1: Choosing the Wooden Beads' Colours

The first step is colourful fun already – because you're choosing your **wooden beads'** colours for each month!

Usual colour worlds for wooden bead annual chains are these:

- **spring:** green shades
- **summer:** yellow shades
- **autumn:** red shades
- **winter:** blue shades

In our example we have chosen the following **wood bead colours:**

- **January:** dark blue (31 beads)
- **February:** skyblue (29 beads)
- **March:** light turquoise (31 beads)
- **April:** green (30 beads)
- **May:** lemon (31 beads)
- **June:** pastel yellow (30 beads)
- **July:** yellow (31 beads)
- **August:** orange (31 beads)
- **September:** red (30 beads)
- **October:** fuchsia (31 beads)
- **November:** bordeaux (30 beads)
- **December:** blue purple (31 beads)

However, **Schnullerkettenladen** has such a **large variety of colourful wooden beads** available for you, that you can choose many more colours for your **individual annual wooden bead string**.

Step 2: Preparing the Stringing

Double your chosen cord. Before stringing all those colourful wooden beads, we make use of a little trick for easier stringing: First, thread a piece of sewing thread through a sewing needle. Then knot the thread to your cord's loop. The needle makes stringing the wooden beads very easy.

Moreover, we recommend slightly **melting** both cord ends so they won't fray.

Step 3: Making the Loop

Instead of a simple knot, we're making a **loop** with both cord ends by wrapping them around themselves. Tighten the resulting knot.

Now both cord ends hang visibly from the loop. We want to hide them. Simply string the first **wooden beads, representing January**, with the needle and slide them over the cord ends.

If this is a little more difficult, you can push the cord ends with the needle through the beads' threading holes from the opposite direction.

Step 4: Stringing the Wooden Beads

Now string the remaining **wooden beads**, bead by bead: first those representing January, then those of February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December.

Isn't it nice seeing your **personal annual bead string** growing? The colour gradient from month to month is simply beautiful to look at!

Step 5: Finishing the Year Chain

Final spurt: Now knot a loop at the **wooden bead strand's end**, just as described in step 3. Make sure that the knot is as close as possible behind the last bead.

Carefully cut the cord ends to about one centimetre. Melt the cord ends and push them into the last wooden beads' holes.

You're done! We hope your family and friends will have fun exploring and getting to know the annual cycle with your **homemade annual bead string**!

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