

Instructions for
Annual Bead
Strings



Colourfully Discovering the Entire Year: A Self-Made Annual Bead String Made of Wooden Beads

Spring, summer, autumn and winter – our year is full of enriching experiences throughout its 365 or 366 days. This is especially fascinating for the little ones. Fortunately for children there is a wonderful way to get to know the **annual cycle** through play: with a **year chain made of wooden beads!**

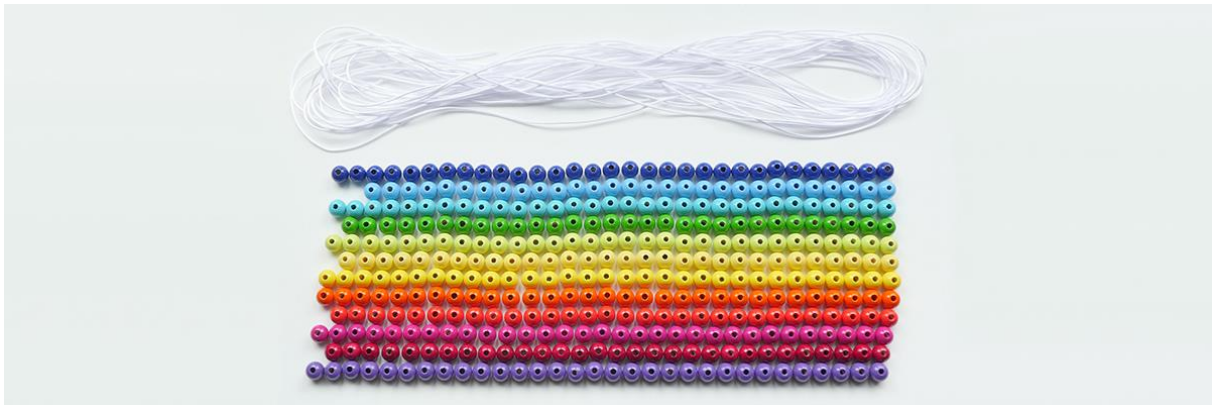
How about making this very special **bead string** together with your children, for example in December to get in the mood for the New Year – or in January to welcome the New Year with the family. A **new year in kindergarten** or the **start of school** can also be a great occasion to devote yourself to these handicraft instructions when being with the kids.

In our example we're making an **annual bead string** consisting of 366 wooden beads for a leap year (this means that February has 29 beads per day instead of 28). The beads have a diameter of 10 mm. The finished annual chain is about 3.6 meters, including the loop at each end.

These **crafting instructions** are simple, but the crafting takes a little longer due to the of the high number of beads required. Thanks to **Schnullerkettenladen's large assortment of wooden beads**, choosing the **handicraft material** is a lot of fun already. Once the colourful wooden beads have reached you, you can start: Put on some suitable music – for example children's songs about the seasons or "The Four Seasons" by Vivaldi. Whatever you choose for your **crafty afternoon with friends and family** – we hope you'll enjoy it to the fullest!

Faster realised **crafting tutorials** are for example those for making pacifier chains or mini grasping rings. Also check out our **instructions for older children's accessories**. Let us inspire you!

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**.

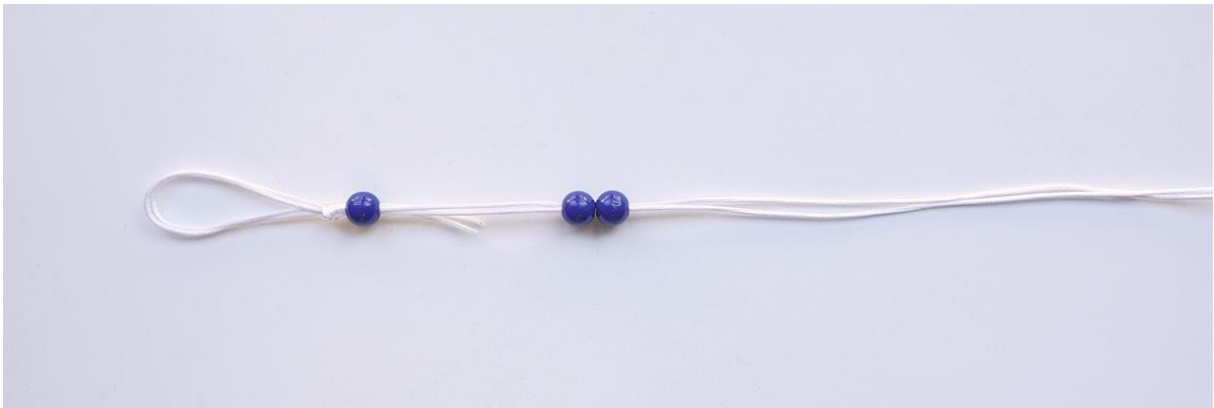
Step 2: Preparing the Stringing



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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