

# Fabric Beads

Fine craft artists today are exploring texture and color in all mediums. The fabric beads in this project encourage experimental use of materials to enhance and enrich old techniques, creating a contemporary fine craft. Artist's Paintstik® Oil Colors are a medium not usually found in jewelry-making. Their color and texture blend beautifully on canvas, they dry within 24-48 hours, and they remain flexible when dry. They're also non-toxic and contain very little linseed oil or damar varnish. Brushes and hands clean easily with soap and water.



## Grade Levels 5-12

*Note: Instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.*

## Process

1. Each student uses a 6" x 10" piece of canvas and three to four colors of Paintstik. Carefully cut the Paintstik "skin" with a plastic knife and peel it away to expose a soft, creamy core.
2. Place the canvas on a piece of paper at least 3" wider than the canvas on all sides. Use the Paintstiks to draw and blend like a pastel. Allow the canvas to dry for 24-48 hours.
3. Measure and cut plastic straws in 1/2", 1" and 1-1/2" pieces. Note: Lengths of less than 1/2" will not leave enough space for the design to show; lengths lger than 1-1/2" will not string well. Lay out the straw sections

## Materials

Shiva Paintstik® Oil Colors:

[Professional Iridescent Set](#), (00405-1019); need one set

[Student 12-color set](#), (00402-1019); need one set

[Individual colors](#) (00409-); choose five assorted

*Note: Paintstiks can be cut in half and stored in a zip-close bag. Remove skin to reuse.*

[Blick® Medium-Weight Canvas](#), 62"W x 1-yd, unprimed (07309-1062); cut to 6" x 10"; need one piece per student

[Blick® Acrylic Matte Medium](#), (00623-1047); share one quart across class

[Blick® Scholastic Golden Taklon Flat Wash](#), 1" (05859-1001); share two across class

Plastic Straws

[Weldbond® Adhesive](#), 8-oz (23819-1105); share four bottles across class

[Armada™ Lollypop Scissors](#), (57057-1007); 12 pair to share across class

Optional Materials for stringing and embellishing:

[Maysville Cotton Warp](#), assorted colors (62800-)

[Silver Plated Copper Wire](#), set of 6 colors (60687-1229)

[Beadalon® 7 Bead Stringing Wire](#), (60636-2400)

[Imitation Leather Cord](#), (61514-1025)

[Rainbow Glass Beads](#), assorted colors, (61521-) 3 pkgs.

[Seed Beads](#), assorted colors (60725-)

[Assorted Metallized Beads](#) (60776-1001)

[Mona Lisa® Simple Leaf™](#), Gold (27021-2070) or Silver (27021-2590)

[Sharpie® Twin-Tip Marker](#), Black (21373-2020)

## Process, continued

to plan the spacing of the beads in the necklace, keeping the elements of color and balance in mind.

4. When the Paintstick colors are dry, apply a thin layer of gel medium. Allow to dry (1-2 hours).
5. Measure and mark the width of the straws along the edge of the canvas and make a small cut in the canvas at each end of the straw. Hold the canvas on both ends and pull it apart into approximately six strips. Cut each strip into thirds. The torn fibers will give the beads a contemporary fine crafts look. If a cleaner-cut bead design is preferred, cut the canvas with scissors instead of tearing it.
6. Apply a small amount of glue to one side of the straw. Wrap a piece of canvas around each straw, trimming excess if necessary. Secure the edge with more glue. Set aside to dry. Repeat until all beads have been made.



## Options for decorating

1. Wrap wire around the beads. Secure the wire by tucking it into the ends of the bead.
2. Wrap cotton warp around the beads. Tie the ends and tuck them under with the tip of a needle. Always finish each round in the same place. Seal with a dot of glue.
3. Use a black Sharpie marker to draw patterns on the painted canvas before tearing.
4. Apply a small amount of glue on the painted surface in a random pattern. Press Simple Leaf onto the glue. Rub gently. Let dry. Brush off excess leaf, and save any scraps in a small baby food jar for reuse. Coat with a thin layer of gel medium. Finish all beads.

## National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

**5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

**9-12** Students conceive and create works of visual art that demonstrate an understanding of how the communication of their ideas relates to the media, techniques, and processes they use