

Web reviews

Best of the webs

Lesley takes another look through the vast range of internet web sites that are there to help you buy and make jewellery

CRAFTY IDEAS FOR ALL!

WWW.CREATIVEBEADCRAFT.CO.UK

Creative beadcraft host a lovely web site packed with many different delights to help you design and create fabulous pieces of jewellery. Choose from ceramic, metal, shell, pearls, glass, wood and many other materials, shapes and sizes.

Creative Beadcraft Ltd, formerly known as Ells & Farrier, have been importing beads, sequins, trimmings, imitation pearls, diamante and jewellery components into the UK for over 75 years.

The web site makes it extremely easy to browse their stock and make your choices. They are very conscious that beads have many uses and so cater for all types of hobbies including embroidery, dress and costume making. If you



prefer a catalogue to browse through rather than the internet, then for a small charge of £3.50 they will send you a full colour brochure. Keep up to date with new items and tools in their special 'New Products' page, a great idea!



STRINGS AND THINGS

WWW.BEADALON.COM

This has to be one of my favorite sites, there is just so much to look at and learn with the 'how to' and tutorials! If you are stuck for a design just log in and look at the design workshop page where you will find some stunning pieces of jewellery to make, complete with instructions. On the same page, under the Videos heading, there are dozens of tutorials which will answer all of your jewellery making questions. I firmly believe that your threading materials will either make or break your jewellery item. For this reason I think Beadalon will inspire you to try using some very different stringing materials. The downside is that Beadalon do not sell direct to customers, but rather to retail outlets which are listed on the web site. Be sure to contact them if there is something that you want to try.



FAIR COP, FOR FAIR TRADING

WWW.BEADSUNLIMITED.CO.UK

This web site offers so much more than just beads, it offers a complete package for the jewellery maker. Beads Unlimited have been in business since 1986 starting life as a very small shop in Brighton offering a mail order service. Their success reflects the hard work and dedication of the owners and staff and in providing a first class service to their customer. On the web site you will find details of classes held, gift vouchers, details of their catalogue and a huge range of projects for you to follow. I was impressed to read their quest for fair trading and the way that they travel to all parts of the globe to ensure that their suppliers are happy and treated fairly. Their range of beads and findings are vast, with many pages of bright and colourful items to purchase – well done Beads Unlimited.



'WORXSHOPS' FOR ONE AND ALL

WWW.CRAFTWORX.CO.UK

This is a web site with a difference, because it is a site specifically for advertising amazing craft workshops. Craftworx caught my eye with the delightful range of bead and art clay courses that cater for both the beginner and those who want to go beyond the basic skills of jewellery making. For the bead makers amongst us, they currently hold both basic and advanced classes in jewellery making, as well as a tiara workshop where you can both design and create your very own piece. Wire work classes are offered using free form and equipment based designs, plus a course on using crystals in your designs to make stunning items of jewellery. If clay work is more your scene, there are a range of courses in both silver and bronze clay, from an introduction level up to certification course for teaching.

best of the rest

- WWW.EMPIREBEADS.CO.UK

Empire beads offer a very bright and comprehensive web site which is packed full of beading and jewellery items, as well as tutorials for making both bracelets and necklaces that would make a lovely addition to your accessories range. At the time of writing, Empire Beads were offering free first class postage on orders over £40 and were only charging £1 for orders under £40
- WWW.HOBBYCRAFT.CO.UK

This is a huge internet site which gives you a wealth of information and products to purchase in their large range of shops. If you prefer to shop from the comfort of your own home then make sure you visit their new on-line shop. There are separate pages for craft types such as model making, fine arts, jewellery, needlecraft and many more. If you still can't find what you are looking for then the A-Z directory is an extremely useful option. For a perfect gift Hobbycraft have £5 and £10 gift vouchers on offer