

## Beading and Material Resource List

Michaels, Joann Fabrics, and AC Moore:

- Low to medium quality beads and findings.
- They have some tools
- Priced medium to high regardless of the quality of materials
- Metal and polymer clays

Fire Mountain Gems [www.firemountaingems.com](http://www.firemountaingems.com)

- Low to high quality gemstone, glass and resin beads
- Low to high quality findings
- Low to high quality tools and materials
- Limited supply of wire and chain
- Metal Clays
- Designs available with component lists

Rio Grande [www.riogrande.com](http://www.riogrande.com) (website for professional jewelers)

- High quality tools and machines
- High quality metal (silver, gold, platinum as well as copper and bronze) in sheets and wire
- High quality gemstone, glass (Swarovski) and metal beads
- Metal Clay
- Online classes

Beadaholique [www.beadaholique.com](http://www.beadaholique.com)

- Medium to High quality glass, metal and gemstone beads
- Stamping blanks and stamps
- Tools and supplies
- Kits
- Classes and information

Beadsmith [www.beadsmith.com](http://www.beadsmith.com)

- Medium to high quality glass and metal beads
- Tools and supplies
- Kumihimo, Soutache and bead weaving supplies

- Glass bead making supplies
- Great resources available on YouTube to learn new techniques

#### Other Local Source:

- Rare Earth Bead Shop 2706 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Durham, NC 27707

#### Bead Shows:

- Intergalactic Bead show (usually twice a year in Spring and Fall)
- The American Bead and Merchandise Show (Charlotte April 22-23)
- The Bead Mercantile Show (next one March 11-12)
- Frank Cox Productions Gem and Bead Show (next one June 9-11)

#### How to Learn:

- Classes through Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department
- Classes through NC Crafts Center on NCSU campus
- Classes through Durham Arts Council
- Beadwork magazine, Easy Wire magazine, Wire Jewelry magazine, Jewelry Stringing magazine
- "Interweave" productions
- Youtube: subscribe to any artist that works for you but I like to watch JewelryMaker which is a channel out of the UK ([www.Jewelrymaker.com](http://www.Jewelrymaker.com))
- M.A.I.L. Maille Artisans International League

#### Chain Maille supplies:

- The only two things you need to make chain maille are jump rings and pliers.
- Jump rings can be made of any metal but are commonly made of silver, copper, aluminum and niobium. Aluminum and niobium can be anodized (electroplated with dyes) whereas copper can be enameled for color. Silver and gold are usually left as is.
- Jump rings are sized by the gauge of the wire and the internal size of the hole (aspect ratio= inside diameter/wire diameter). The size you

choose is important for a successful weave.

<http://theringlord.com/cart/shopcontent.asp?type=WireGuage>

- Other materials made into rings can be used in weaves such as rubber and glass
- [www.theringlord.com](http://www.theringlord.com), [www.weavegotmaille.com](http://www.weavegotmaille.com),  
[www.metaldesignz.com](http://www.metaldesignz.com), [www.monsterslayer.com](http://www.monsterslayer.com),  
<http://chainweavers.com> j

Wire and sheet metals:

- Wire and sheet metals are sold by size, or gauge of the metals. The higher the number, the smaller the thickness or diameter.
- Wire is also sold as hard, half-hard, and dead soft. These are terms used to describe how annealed the wire is.
- Wire is also classified as round, half round, square, bezelled and textured. Half round and square are often used to wire wrap pendants.

How to determine quality of gemstone beads?

- Graded from A for high quality to F for low quality
- Some gemstones (e.g. pearls) can be dyed. Although dyed beads can be fun to work with, the dyes may bleed onto fabrics if they get wet.
- Diamonds, emeralds and sapphires will have a different grading system based on karat weight, clarity and color

How to determine quality of glass beads?

- If the glass beads are being used in a pattern, it is important that they have a uniform shape and size. For instance, seed beads purchased at a chain store or on Fire Mountain Gems may be of varying shape and size but those made by companies like Miyuki and Matsuno are very uniform. Swarovski crystal beads are the highest quality glass beads made.
- Seed beads and pony beads are also sold by size from 15/0 to 5/0. The larger the number, the smaller the bead. They may be opaque or

translucent and be cut or round, matte or shiny and may have a lining in the hole or not.

### Beading materials

- Beads can go on anything as long as the hole is large enough to accommodate the material. They can also be sewn onto fabric. There are simply too many kinds of materials to go into and it is a matter of preference anyway.

### Adding color to your metal: Patinas

- There are several different ways to add color to metals, especially copper and silver. There are chemical patinas, paints and enamels but all are at risk of being scratched off if not properly protected.