

Kandi Creations: Art, Color, and Community

Materials Needed:

- Pony beads in various colors
- Elastic string (0.5mm to 1mm thickness recommended)
- Scissors
- Optional: Letter beads, shape beads, unique beads
- Optional: Bead organizer or small bowls

Introduction: What is Kandi?

Have you ever seen colorful beaded bracelets, often worn stacked up on people's arms at music festivals or shared between friends? These are often called 'kandi'! Kandi isn't just jewelry; it's a form of wearable art, self-expression, and a symbol of friendship and community, especially within electronic dance music culture.

The Story Behind Kandi: PLUR

Kandi is closely associated with the acronym PLUR, which stands for Peace, Love, Unity, and Respect. It started in the rave scene as a way to promote positivity and connection. People make kandi to wear, but also specifically to trade with others they meet. The trade often involves a special handshake and signifies mutual respect and a shared positive experience. It's about creativity, connection, and spreading good vibes!

Let's Make a Basic Kandi Bracelet! (Single Stitch)

1. **Measure and Cut:** Take your elastic string and wrap it loosely around your wrist. Add about 4-6 extra inches (this gives you room to tie it off) and cut the string.
2. **Start Beading:** Begin stringing your pony beads onto the elastic string. Think about your color choices! Do you want a pattern? Maybe use colors that remind you of something happy? You can make stripes, use random colors, or spell out a word with letter beads.
3. **Color Exploration:** Think about colors! Bright colors often feel energetic and happy. Cool colors like blue and green can feel calming. Complementary colors (like blue and orange, or purple and yellow) placed next to each other create strong contrast. Have fun experimenting!
4. **Check the Size:** Keep adding beads until the bracelet fits comfortably around your wrist, without being too tight or too loose. Remember the beads themselves take up space.
5. **Tie the Knot:** This is the most crucial step! Bring the two ends of the string together. Tie a simple surgeon's knot: (Right over left and through, then left over right and through, pull tight). Make sure the knot is very secure – maybe tie it 3-4 times. Ask for help if needed!
6. **Trim (Carefully!):** Trim the excess string close to the knot, but not so close that the knot comes undone. Some people like to add a tiny dab of clear nail polish or super glue to the knot for extra security (ask a grown-up for help with glue).
7. **Admire!** You've made your first piece of kandi!

Kandi as Art and Expression

Making kandi is a craft, just like painting or sculpting, but it's wearable! The colors, patterns, and words you choose express your personality and creativity. When people trade kandi, they are sharing a little piece of themselves and creating a connection with someone else. It's a folk art form that builds

community.

Activity & Reflection

- Make a few more single-stitch bracelets. Try different color combinations or patterns.
- Can you make one for a friend or family member? Think about what colors or words they might like.
- How does making something with your hands feel?
- What does PLUR (Peace, Love, Unity, Respect) mean to you? How can you practice these ideas?

Have fun creating and sharing your kandi art!