



# STUDIO SPARKS KIT



## Fuse bead photo frame

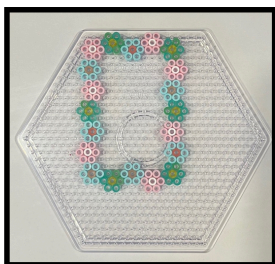


### 4-H PROJECT AREA : 4-H VISUAL ARTS GLASS/PLASTIC

Fuse beads, while still a relatively new visual arts medium, originated in the early 1960s in Sweden before the concept was adopted and produced in the United States in 1981. These fun and educational beads can help improve fine motor skills, creativity, and spatial awareness. These beads became an essential tool for exploring STEAM education as they offer hands-on learning opportunities, teaching symmetry, patterns, and patience, while fostering creativity.

## STEP 1

You will want to think of the design you will be creating, in a rectangular shape.

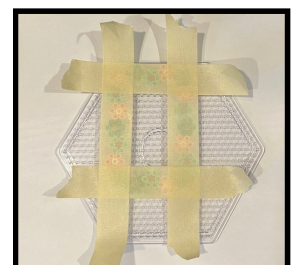


## STEP 2

Place beads in your pattern onto the pegboard leaving an opening that is about 2" x 3" to hold a wallet-size photo. Make sure beads touch each other to ensure they will fuse when heated.

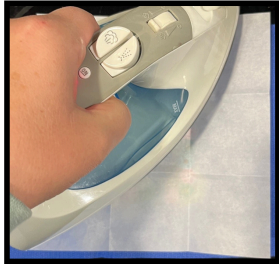
## STEP 3

This step is optional, but helps eliminate your pegboard melting. Tear off several pieces of masking tape and carefully cover your beaded surface. Press the tape firmly against the beads to ensure they are all stuck then gently turn the pegboard over so the beaded frame is removed.



### Supplies

- Fuse beads
- Fuse bead pegboard
- Ruler
- Iron and surface to iron
- Parchment paper
- Small magnets
- Hot glue and hot glue gun
- Masking tape (optional)
- Adult supervision



## STEP 4

This step requires adult assistance. Turn your iron on high heat. Lay your beaded frame on your ironing surface with the tape side down, if you chose to use tape. Place a piece of parchment paper over the beads and carefully iron the surface of the beads to melt them together.

Parchment paper will be hot to the touch. Wait a few seconds to touch after lifting the iron. Once cool to touch, lift the parchment paper, gently, throughout the process to check area if they need more heat. You want the beads melted enough to hold together, but not so much that you lose the details of the pattern.

## STEP 5

Turn the beads over, carefully remove the masking tape if you used some, then repeat the process by covering the back side with parchment paper and ironing.



## STEP 6

Allow your beads to cool. It's recommended to lay something heavy, like a book, on top to ensure your frame cools flat.



## STEP 7

Once cooled, using a hot glue gun, glue four (4) magnets, one in each corner. Try to glue the magnets as close to the inner corners as possible to be able to also hold your photo when it is completed.

## REFLECTION

- Did you sketch or plan your design beforehand, or did you create it as you went along?
- Did you make any changes to your original design as you worked? Why or why not?
- Did you face any challenges while creating your project? How did you overcome them?
- How did this project help you practice patience and attention to detail?
- How does your design reflect your personality or interests?
- What surprised you most about working with fuse beads?
- If you were to make another fuse bead project, what would you do differently?

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