

Vacation CRAFTING

150+ SUMMER CAMP PROJECTS
FOR BOYS & GIRLS TO MAKE



Suzanne McNeill

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CONTENTS

LOOK WHAT YOU CAN MAKE!

Introduction

Materials and Skills

Index

About the Contributors

Foam

Seashells

String

Hemp

Friendship Bracelets

Plastic Lace

Rubber Bands

Pony Beads

Fusible Beads

Tie-Dye

Duct Tape



FOAM



SEASHELLS



STRING



HEMP



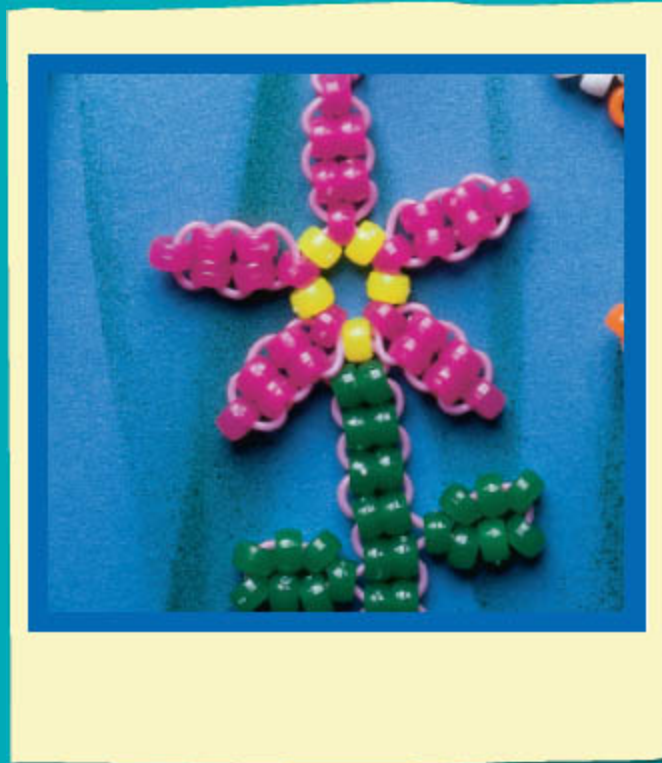
FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS



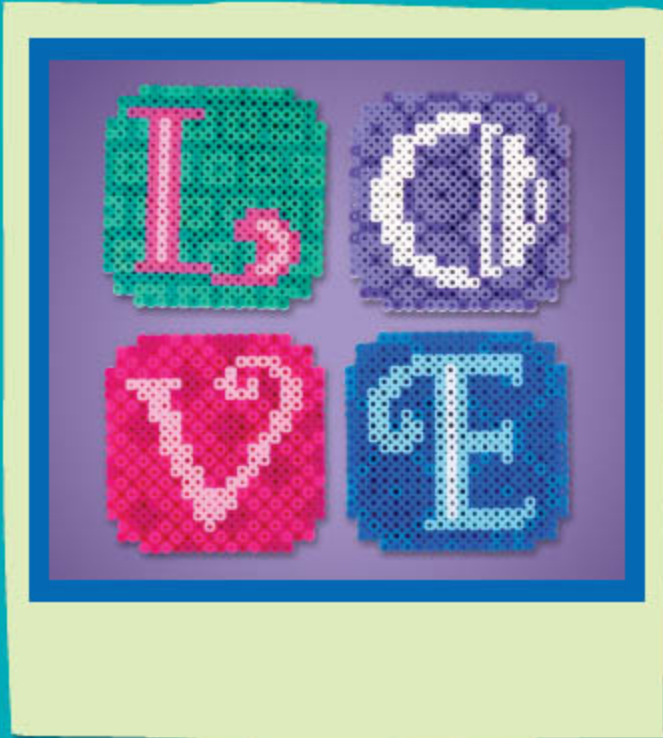
PLASTIC LACE



RUBBER BANDS



PONY BEADS



FUSIBLE BEADS



TIE-DYE



DUCT TAPE





INTRODUCTION

ARE YOU READY FOR A CRAFTY VACATION?

Getting away from it all doesn't have to mean getting away from entertaining craft projects! Even during the most exciting school breaks, you sometimes have an hour—or a whole afternoon—with nothing to do. The fast, fun crafts in this book are perfect whether you're enjoying a summer afternoon at the kitchen table or you're away from home without all your usual art supplies. You only need easy-to-pack or inexpensive materials available almost anywhere you'll be vacationing. These crafts can fill your downtime with inspiration and enjoyment for your entire family. And if you only have an hour free here and there, don't worry—most of these projects work just fine if you start them, put them down, and pick them up again later in the day.

So, let's get started! Use craft foam, seashells, or pretty string to make decorations for your room. Deck yourself out in hemp jewelry and make friendship bracelets for your besties. Practice your plastic lace skills on lanyards and your rubber band skills on cell phone cases. Make some pony bead animals and try your hand at tie-dye. From duct tape to fusible beads, there's something here for everyone. It's time for vacation—and time to get crafty!



MATERIALS AND SKILLS

A QUICK LOOK AT WHAT YOU MIGHT NEED!

There is such a variety of projects in this book that it would be impossible to list all the materials, tools, and skills you'd need for all of them in one place. Luckily for you, virtually every item to make every project in this book is available at large craft stores. If you're at home, you'll probably have some of the basics like scissors and glue on hand already. But if you're going on a trip, you'll want to make sure you look at the specific projects you want to make before you go so that you can bring along the materials and tools you'll need. Some projects do require quite particular materials or tools that you might have trouble finding at the beach or deep in the woods! Read on to get an idea of the general materials you'll need for each of the sections in this book.

FOAM: Foam crafts are all about what you add to the foam and what you add the foam to! You'll need **craft foam**, which is available in a ton of colors, and then **miscellaneous materials** that can usually all be found at the craft store, like wood craft sticks, wiggle eyes, glitter glue, chenille stems, and more. Technique-wise, it's usually as simple as cutting and gluing!

SEASHELLS: You can either **purchase shells** or use **shells you've collected yourself** during a sandy day at the beach. Speaking of sandy, be sure to wipe or wash your shells well before you start crafting with them to make sure the adhesive stays stuck! Since shells can be heavy and textured, it's best to use **hot glue** or a heavy-duty glue like **E6000** to glue shell projects.

STRING: You can use **embroidery floss** and **craft thread** for a surprising number of crafts! From funky string art to classic dream catchers, you usually don't need much more than some kind of base material like a wooden plaque or a plastic canvas to make string projects.

HEMP: Knots are what make hemp projects come together! In general, all you need is **hemp** and the knowledge of a few basic knots to create some magical jewelry. You can also incorporate **beads** of any stripe into a hemp project. Hemp can be a good project to take in the car. See the notes for friendship bracelets, below, for more of what you might need.

Almost every project in this book requires a pair of scissors, a ruler, or both. So make sure you don't leave the house without them! (They're not listed in the individual materials lists.)

FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS: For any friendship bracelet project, you just need two things: **embroidery floss** and something to hold the bracelet down while you work! This can be tape, a safety pin, a heavy stack of books, or even something sticking out from a surface in the car or on a desk that you can loop the bracelet around. Wherever you are, you are sure to be able to whip your thread out of your pocket and get knotting.

PLASTIC LACE: Much like making hemp and friendship bracelets, you basically only need **plastic lace** and something to hold your project down while you work. You may want to incorporate **lanyard hooks** or **key rings** when making some projects. All the projects in this book use the flat kind of plastic lace, not the round kind. You can

experiment with the round kind if you want, but most of the projects will look quite different with round lace, and some may not really work.

RUBBER BANDS: To make the rubber band projects in this book, you'll need one or two **rubber band looms**, such as a Rainbow Loom', plus the **hook** that comes with the loom. To make your life easier, you probably will also want the little **plastic clips** that come with loom kits and rubber bands, though you can use other found materials like paper clips if you need to. Other than that, all you have to buy is a collection of cute little **rubber bands** in all your favorite colors!



PONY BEADS: You'll be amazed at how quickly projects made with **pony beads** come together! For most pony bead projects, you'll need some kind of **cord**, like plastic lace, hemp, yarn, elastic, or really anything. You'll also often need glue.

FUSIBLE BEADS: There are many brands of **fusible beads** out there, such as Perler Beads®, but they all pretty much work the same way—use a **hot iron** to melt them together! You'll need special plastic **pegboards** (in various shapes) to create and hold together the designs you make, plus **protective ironing paper** like parchment paper. Be careful or get help from an adult when using the hot iron. Tweezers can be helpful for picking up and placing beads, but aren't essential.



TIE-DYE: Get ready to get messy with tie-dye projects! Besides the **dye, water, buckets,** and other materials, you'll want to make sure you are wearing **clothes** that you don't mind getting a bit stained, and you should probably grab some **rubber or plastic gloves** to avoid staining your hands, too. There's a lot more info about materials in the tie-dye section.

DUCT TAPE: To get the most out of **duct tape,** you'll need a **cutting mat** and a **craft knife** to make clean cuts and keep your duct tape sticky. Be careful or get help from an

adult when using a craft knife. You can also use scissors to make many cuts.



FOAM

LADYBUG VISOR

Clever and cute, this ladybug will complete your super summer look.



MATERIALS

- 4" (10cm)-wide red foam visor
- Black permanent marker
- 1 black chenille stem
- 2 wiggly eyes
- 1/8" (0.3cm) hole punch
- Glue

1. Using a black marker, outline the visor edge and draw random circles. Fill in the circles.



2. Glue wiggle eyes in place. Draw eyelashes above the eyes.



3. Punch two holes $2\frac{1}{2}$ " (6.5cm) apart into the top rim of the visor. Bend a chenille stem into a U shape, poke both ends up through the holes from the underside to the topside, and curl the antenna ends with your fingers.



DAFFODILS VISOR

Keep the sun off of your face when you're working in the flower garden.

MATERIALS

- 4" (10cm)-wide white foam visor
- Yellow silk daffodils
- White mini brads
- Pushpin

1. Using a pushpin, poke 15 holes evenly along the top rim of the visor.



2. Attach a silk flower to each hole with a brad.



3. Open the legs of each brad on the underside of the visor to secure the flowers in place.



switch plates

skills and materials

string projects

about: materials for

art shapes (wavy circles, snowflake)

dream catchers

flip-flops

owl

spool necklace, bracelet, keychain

stitched animals

stitched bracelets

stitched rainbow

summer shoes

sun

tie-dye projects

about: crafting tips for

materials for

crumple dye

dandelion variation

pleats

sunbursts and circles

swirls

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Step-by-step photography for duct tape projects ([pages 148, 150, 152, 154, and 156](#)) and fusible bead projects ([pages 130 and 139](#)) by Matthew McClure. Photos on [pages 151 and 153](#) by Eric Forberger. Shutterstock images: [page 13](#) top photo frame image by Sergey Novikov; [page 13](#) bottom photo frame image by Sergey Nivens.

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ISBN 978-1-64124-017-8

The Cataloging-in-Publication Data is on file with the Library of Congress.

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Printed in Singapore
First printing

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Choly Knight: Choly Knight has her finger on the pulse of what today's young crafters really want. Choly has been crafting for as long as she can remember, and has drawn, painted, sculpted, and taped everything in sight. A power-seller on Etsy, she is the author of six terrific craft books from Fox Chapel Publishing. Choly enjoys combining all her passions of writing, fine art, craft art, and design, as she provides techniques, tutorials, and excitement for her many readers and fans. You can find out more about her and her work on her website: www.cholyknight.com.

David Kominz, Phyllis Damon, David Hall: Phyllis Damon began her career teaching weaving and supplying craft materials in educational settings. David Kominz, a retired NIH medical researcher, joined forces with Phyllis in the creation and publication of craft books. Together with master designer of plastic lacing, David Hall, they turned out three plastic lacing books. Their goal has been to help kids have fun and develop creativity through basic craft skills.