

## **Tutorial: How to make bracelets with names**

This text was made to accompany some photos I took while I was making bracelets. I haven't spent much time writing the text, so I guess there will be enough spelling errors and strange ways of explaining things, but I will be happy if you send an e-mail to [heidi@morkland.org](mailto:heidi@morkland.org) if you have questions or comments, or if you find any errors.

### **Materials:**

*A piece made of plastic.* Size ca 1.5 x 12 cm (0.6 x 4.7 in). (I have used the kind of plastic "rope" used for larger packages (I don't have a clue about what that is called in English), I guess that for instance plastic from a box of ice cream will work as well.)

*Cotton yarn in two colours.* I used baby cotton, 170 m/50 gr (186 yd/1.8 oz), any kind of thin cotton will do.

*A piece of tape*

*A needle*

The principle is easy, just wind the thread with main colour around the piece of plastic, with the contrast colour placed on the piece. The letters are made by lifting up specific threads with contrast colour, and wind the main colour around the piece with the remaining threads. For instance to make the letter A with eight threads of contrast colour first lift up all the eight threads, wind the main colour twice around the piece, then put back threads 3,4, 6,7,8 counted from above, then wind the main colour three times around these threads. Lift all eight threads up again, and wind twice, then put the eight threads down, and wind twice. Then you have made the letter A, and the space between A and the next letter.

1)



Cut the piece of plastic in the size you prefer (or a bit longer, since it can be difficult to estimate how long the piece should be in order to have enough space for all your letters. Then you can just cut off the extra when you are finished). Then cut the threads of the contrast colour, I used eight threads, but if you use thinner yarn you can have more. These threads should be 3-4 times longer than the length of plastic piece. Fasten the thread of the main colour with some tape, to the back of the piece of plastic.

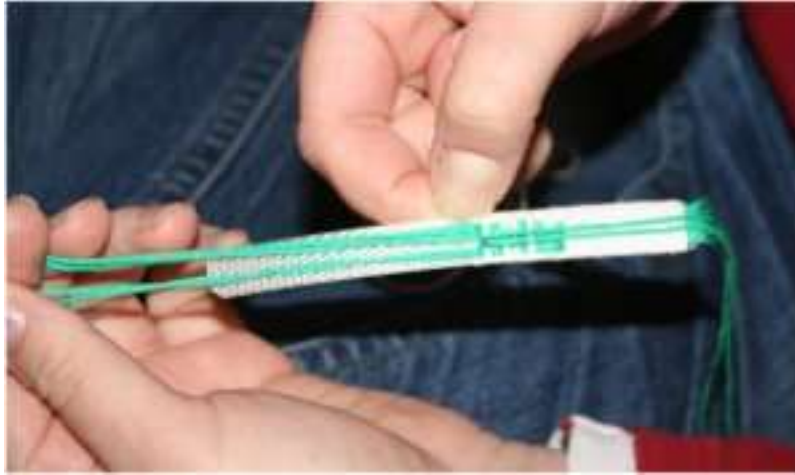
2)



Place the threads with contrast colour on the top of the plastic piece as in the picture, it can be helpful to fasten the ends of these threads with a clothes-pin in the beginning. (You of course have to remove the clothes-pin when you are starting to make the letters). Then start to wind the main colour firmly around the piece. (It is important that the winding is firm, to get a nice result)

3)





Start to make letters. I have already explained how to make an A, the last two pictures shows how I make the N: first I lift all the threads of contrast colour, and wind the main colour twice around, then I put back threads 1,2,5,6,7 and 8 (counted from above), and wind twice. I then put back threads 3 and 4, and lift thread 5 and 6, and then wind twice again. Finally I lift all the threads and wind twice. When the threads are put back, you can see the N. Then I wind twice to get the space between the letters. When you have understood the principle of making the letters it is easy to figure out how to make the all the other letters.

4)



When you have finished the bracelet, weave in the end, of the main colour yarn, on the back of the piece of plastic, using a needle.

The ends are twisted cord, made by dividing the threads in one of the ends in two equal piles. Then twist both of these separately, (both in the same direction), and join them together to get a twisted cord which should be sealed with a knot.

Then do the same for the other end. (I guess this wasn't the best explanation on how to make a twisted cord, so if you are confused, try to google "twisted cord".)

5)



Now you hopefully have a bracelet, which can become a nice gift for children and teenagers, and instead of names one can use the receivers favourite sport team, music band/artist... The bracelet will also work nice as a bookmark.