

Beadwork

Beadwork is the art or craft of attaching beads to one another by stringing them with a sewing needle or beading needle and thread or thin wire, or sewing them to cloth. Beads come in a variety of materials, shapes and sizes and beadwork is widely applied in making decorative items and is used to create jewelry or other articles of personal adornment. It is also used in creating art pieces and wall decoration.

Based on the techniques employed, beadwork techniques are broadly divided into loom and off-loom weaving, stringing, bead embroidery, bead crochet, and bead knitting.

Beads, made of durable materials, survive in the archaeological record appearing with the very advent of modern man, and cotemporary beads are continuity of this ancient tradition. Beads are made from natural materials, such as seashells, mother of pearl or plant seeds and stones. There are also beads from precious and semiprecious





metal and stones as well as synthetic material such as plastic or glass.

Bead workers use different beads of different color to create colorful patterns and sewing jewelry or decorative items. In Tajikistan choker (*khafaband*) is traditional female adornment, which is made from beads. There are multiple types of personal adornment jewelries, which are made from beads. Some of this personal adornment items can be very long or big for creation of which a months is spent.

Beadwork is particularly widespread in Badakhshon province where variety of decorative jewelry is made from beads. The patterns created by beads of different color are both simple geometric as well as more complex patterns.

The beadwork items are sold as souvenirs and also made for personal use or exchanged as a gift. Beadwork is also used in embroidery where patterns are contoured by a thread and than filled with beads.