

teen take & make

[maker kit]
wilmette public library

Rainbow Wind Spinner

Start out the summer with a colorful blast with our DIY kit to make a rainbow wind spinner out of Perler beads. Then hang it inside or outside where there's a good breeze.



Have questions or comments about our Teen Take & Makes?
Email me at khutley@wilmettelibrary.info



Ingredients (Included)

- 1 clear Perler bead board
- Perler beads: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple
- 1 embroidery needle

Directions:

1. Start with your red Perler beads and set them on the pegs of your bead board on the outermost point.

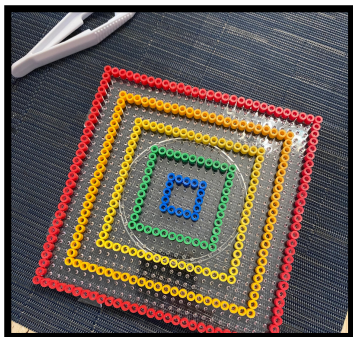
Then count two rows and place your orange Perler beads. Tweezers can help if you have trouble placing the beads.

Repeat for yellow, green, and blue. There should always be two rows in between each color. Otherwise the design will come out too tight and it will not spin when fully assembled.

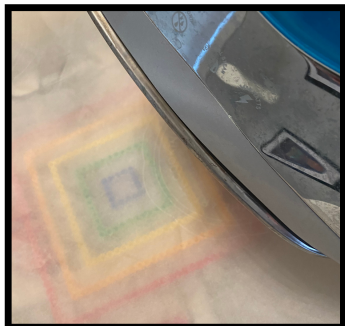
2. When finished, place parchment paper over design carefully. **Make sure you have something underneath your design to protect the surface from heat when you go to iron it.**

You Supply:

- white embroidery thread (a forearm's length should be enough)
- a sheet of parchment paper
- an iron
- optional: tweezers and a silicone jar holder or something with a no-slip grip



Directions, cont.:



3. Set your iron to a medium heat (like wool). When it's ready, iron over the parchment paper slowly, using circular motions and not pressing down too hard. You want the beads to fuse together but not melt fully closed. It may take longer than you think.

Once melted enough, flip your designs over and off of the bead board.

Replace the parchment paper and iron again on this new side. Again, make sure your ironing surface is protected from heat.

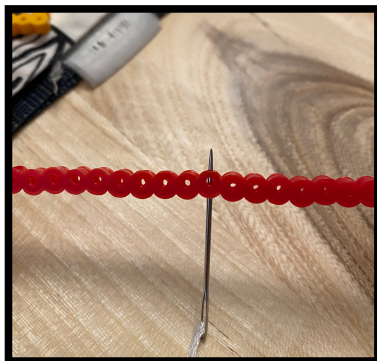
Once your six pieces are fused enough, get your embroidery needle and thread ready. This is the most difficult part.



4. Thread your needle and knot one end with a thick knot.

You are going to sew the six pieces of your design together.

Count to the middle of your largest piece and push the threaded needle all the way through the bead.



Directions, cont.:

String a purple bead onto the thread before pushing the needle through the next piece of your design. Repeat until you are through the smallest shape.

Then repeat the process, going through from smallest to largest again.

Pushing the needle through the fused beads is hard. Ask an adult for help and be careful not to stab yourself. Here are two things you can do to make it easier:

1. Use a silicone jar holder or something similar (I used a silicone cupcake liner) to grasp the needle when the going gets tough. It gives you more traction.
2. Warm the difficult section with your iron on a low setting (don't forget the parchment paper) and pull the needle through while the beads are still warm.

Finish with a final purple bead at the top and then tie off the embroidery thread so that you can hang your wind spinner!

If you need more help, check out this HGTV video, where I learned of this project:
<https://youtu.be/VDx8bFnMyqA>

