

Set Up a Well-Equipped Work Space by Melanie Potter

*I am able to accomplish a lot of beading by using small work spaces in my studio and home. Set up your own comfortable work space by finding a **nook** in your house and outfitting it with **a table, chair, good lighting and some basic beading supplies/tools**. This work space will give you the right atmosphere to bead even if you only have a couple of minutes. Over time, a couple of minutes add up into hours and you will begin to see the fruitfulness of these minutes as you complete each beading project.*

Supplies/Tools

1. Task light, Ott Lite small travel light is my favorite
2. Beading surface with board to make the work easy to move – I use 11” x 14” bead boards with a vellux pad and stack them in a paper sorter which you can get at any office supply store. This set-up allows me to work on a variety of projects while maintaining a neat space.
3. Needles – an array of sizes, my favorites are long beading needles (2.25” long) sizes 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and short beading needles size 12 Sharps (1.25” long) – you will need different needle sizes for the variety of bead sizes available
4. Small sharp scissors
5. Bead scoop
6. Measuring tape, small and retractable
7. Caliper for measuring
8. Beading Wax – My favorite is microcrystalline cut into chunks and stored in baggies.
9. Small scale with cup to measure grams - I keep track of weights of beads I use in my designs.
10. Assortment of your favorite threads
11. Small plastic bags with zips
12. Drawing pad with pin/pencils to sketch out your ideas and other information about your projects
13. Magnification glasses if desired
14. Pliers:
 - a. Round nose
 - b. Flat nose
 - c. Fine wire cutter
 - d. Crimper
 - e. Memory Wire cutter