

Lei for May Day

In Hawaii, the first of May is Lei Day. It's traditional to greet special friends by placing a lei around their neck with a kiss and an "Aloha!" Make leis with faux flowers, beads, and embroidery floss.

You will need:

- 12–16 artificial flowers that are easy to remove from the stems, exposing a hole where they were attached (assorted sizes and colors)
- Large wooden beads or pony beads
- 36" strand of embroidery floss and large-eyed needle
- Clothespin

Display a picture of a completed [Lei for May Day](#) to attract crafters to this festive project.



Directions:

1. Remove the flowers from the stems. Thread embroidery floss through the needle and clamp the clothespin to the end of the floss. (This will stop flowers and beads from sliding off while assembling your lei.)



2. Starting from the back of the flower, bring the needle up through the center hole. Thread 2 or 3 beads onto the needle and pull them down the floss to the center of the flower. Repeat, alternating flowers and sets of beads until you have about 3" of floss remaining.
3. Remove the clothespin and needle so you can tie the ends of the floss together to complete your lei.

Variations:

- For a more masculine lei, skip the flowers and use silk leaves and natural wooden beads.
 - Make a minimalist lei by substituting thin cord, ribbon, or leather for the embroidery floss. Add just a few flowers, leaves, and beads, so they dangle from the middle.
 - Make a shorter lei to wear as a flower crown using a 24" strand of embroidery floss.
 - Knot both ends of the floss instead of tying it together and use the strand of flowers and beads as a garland.
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