
MELTED-BEAD SUNCATCHERS

Melted-bead suncatchers are surprisingly easy to create yet very durable. Unlike the melted-crayon suncatchers, these suncatchers will withstand the elements for extended outdoor use.

MATERIALS

Translucent plastic pony beads

Old metal baking dishes such as muffin tins and cake pans

Grill or toaster oven

Power drill or metal grommets (see note below)

String

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Arrange the pony beads in a single layer in old metal baking dishes. You can also use old metal cookie cutters on a metal dish to create specific shapes.
2. Place the baking dishes on a hot grill for 5–15 minutes or until the beads are melted (start checking after 5 minutes). This is best done outdoors because of the plastic fumes; if you don't have a grill, consider using a toaster oven outside.
3. Let the melted beads cool completely, then pop the suncatchers out of the pans.
4. Drill a small hole in each suncatcher, tie some string through the hole, and use the loop to hang up your new suncatcher. You can create individual suncatchers or try connecting several together.

Note: If you don't have a power drill, include a metal grommet among the beads before melting them. The plastic beads will melt around the grommet, leaving the grommet hole open. (Thanks to one of my blog readers for the suggestion.)

From *The Artful Year*, by Jean Van't Hul, © 2015 by Jean Van't Hul.

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