

## The Top Five Super Cheap Items You Need To Set Up Your Beaded Jewelry Studio

**Want to get started beading, but you're not sure what you need to set up a beading studio at home? YOU CAN**, and for a lot less than you might think! You don't need anything fancy or expensive to get started making amazing jewelry at home. Here are the top 5 super cheap (or free!) items I recommend to get started:

1. **A dedicated work surface.** This may seem obvious, but it's important not to have your beads and supplies all over the place. I like to have a "home base" for my beading, even if it's small, just to **keep all of my supplies, materials, and works-in-progress in one spot.**

If you have a craft room or spare room, that may be the perfect place to bead. If not, a desk or table that's just for your jewelry making works well, too. If you don't have that much space, perhaps you have a few cabinets you can empty out to store your bead stash.

Wherever it is, give yourself a space that's only for your beadwork! You can see [how I transformed a spare closet into a beading workspace](#) on a budget in my blog post [here](#).

**Budget tip:** Look around the house for an old desk you can use, or a even folding table. You can also repurpose a garage sale find and make it into your beading table for very little money.

2. **Lighting.** Besides having a work space, lighting is the single most important item you need to get started beading! It doesn't have to be fancy but it does need to be BRIGHT. Try to avoid yellowish light and go for "daylight" or "bright white" bulbs instead. If you can position a good light (or two) over your work surface, it will be easier to see your beadwork, and you'll reduce eye strain!

**Budget tip:** If you're just starting out and on a budget, an inexpensive desk lamp from Wal-Mart will work just fine. If you can position your beading table near a window for some natural light, too, that's even better!

3. **A beading tray.** (*Ok, who am I kidding? Once you get started making jewelry, you'll have several of these! But to get started, you really only need one.*) A beading tray helps you contain your work in progress (and beads) to a small

area so your supplies don't roll all over the place! Also as a bonus, you can take your project tray to another room or to the couch to continue beading.

My favorites are [these Beadsmith trays](#) with the [matching soft liner inserts](#). The liners keep the beads from rolling away, and the trays are large, lap sized, and stackable.

**Budget tip:** You can also use the top of a shoebox, a serving tray or platter, or an old picture frame with the glass removed. Line the surface with some inexpensive craft felt for a solid beading surface.

4. **Bead storage.** A place to keep your beads so you can easily get to them is huge! Again, it doesn't have to be fancy. The dollar store has lots of small bins and baskets that you can use to organize your beads however you'd like to. Bonus points for baskets or bins that stack to save space.

You can sort them by size, by color, or by type. It doesn't really matter, as long as YOU know what beads you have and where they are!

**Budget tip:** Inexpensive fishing tackle boxes from Wal-Mart make great bead storage containers!

5. **A way to measure your creations.** You can use a ruler, a measuring tape, a yardstick, or whatever you have around the house. Keep it in your bead studio so you always have it when you need it! You can also pick up [a beading board with measurements built in](#), like [this one](#).

**Budget tip:** I like reusing one of my kids' old school rulers.

If you noticed I didn't mention TOOLS, you're right! That's because I wrote [a whole blog post about what jewelry making tools you need to get started](#). You can check it out [here](#).

To see [my latest recommendations for products](#) mentioned above, including lighting, bead storage, & more, check my "Shop My Favorites" page by clicking [here](#).

I hope this information was helpful! Remember, you don't need a lot to get started making jewelry - so get started today!

Be sure to visit me at <https://amyromeu.com/> for more beading information.

Love and beads,

*Amy*