



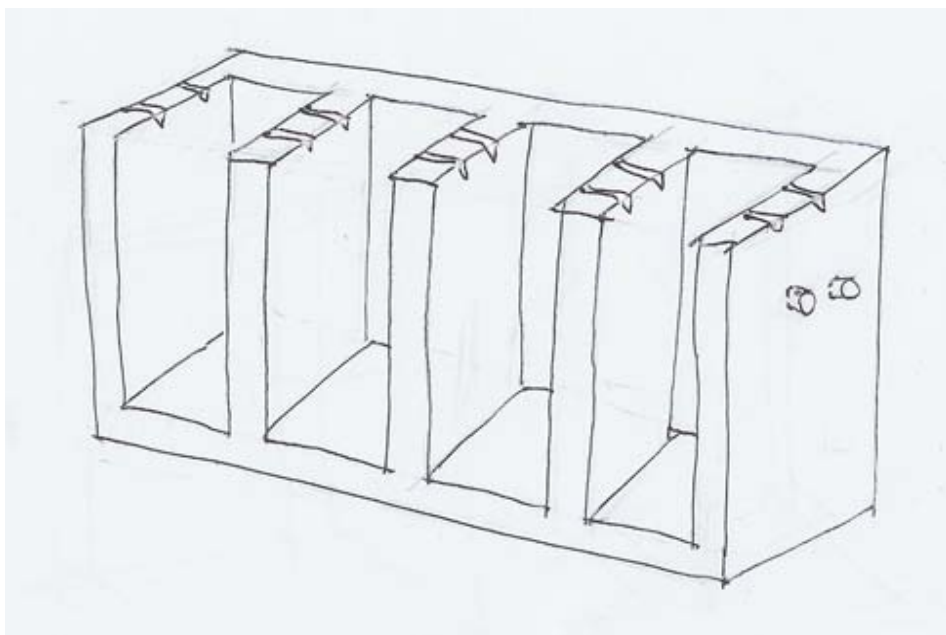
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INFORMATION

SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING A BEAD OR PENDANT CRANK



A "crank" is required for the firing of beads or pendants or any ceramic object that is to be glazed all over and has a hole passing through it. Nichrome Wire is the wire most commonly used to "string" the beads on a crank in a firing. The easiest way to make a "crank" is to construct a box with no front or top, but include divisions (as illustrated). The question may arise how big and what gap should I allow between the divisions. This question can only really be answered by trial and error. Nichrome becomes soft on heating, therefore needs support. Relate this to the weight of object being suspended and it can be appreciated that the answer will vary on size and, or weight of object. A starting point may be to allow enough space for 3 beads 12mm in diameter. This should give a gap approximately 50mm. Again the height will vary according to height or length of object to be supported. As a crank is almost certainly going to be fired many times it should be made from a strong refractory clay. These are normally known as "cranks". A good clay to use for this is 1114 Craft Crank, 1057 Oz Crank/Raku or 1054 New World Mix/5B. The method of construction should be slab. Notches should be cut in the top each end and in the divisions to allow the wire to lay in and not move when the crank is handled. Also bend the ends of the wire and secure around or through added knobs at the end of each crank. The knobs should be made of the crank clay. Deluxe versions would have small holes in the knobs to thread the tails of wire through to secure. The securing of the wire is important as it will provide a resistance to the wire bending with the weight of object being fired.



Shopping list for making a bead crank

- 1 - 1054 NEW WORLD MIX
- 1 - 8700 NICHROME WIRE