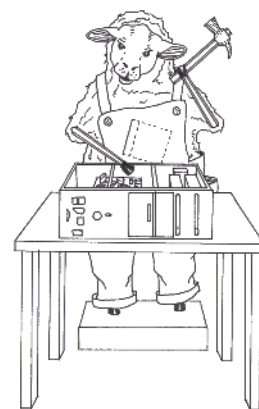


Woolly Thoughts

IN PURSUIT OF CRAFTY MATHEMATICS



Plastic Wallet Bracelets

*Simple bracelets from plastic folders
designed by*

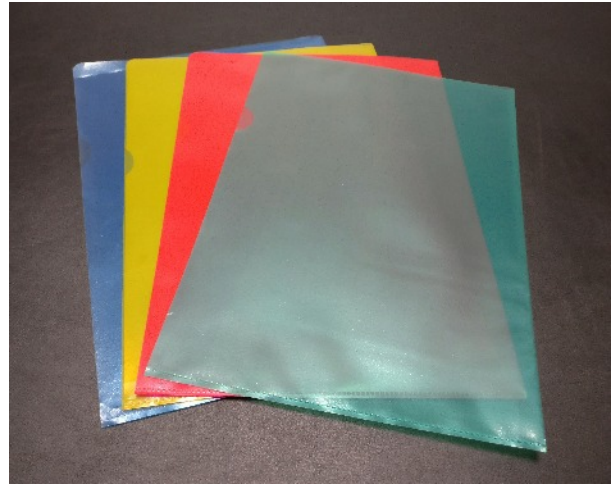
Pat Ashforth & Steve Plummer

Plastic Wallet Jewellery

Plastic wallets like these are available in a few colours, from stationery shops. They are often very slightly textured and may appear to have a pearlescent surface when they reflect the light.

Because they are semi-transparent, they can be overlapped to create a much wider range of colours. Notice that the order of the colours may change the effect. For example, green over yellow may not look the same as yellow over green.

They are easy to mark, score, bend, cut and fold. You can draw on them with a ball-point, or felt, pen. They can be cut with scissors or a craft knife.



Look for thin pockets, or folders, intended for storing a few sheets of paper. Do not use the thicker folders that fasten with a press-stud (popper). They are usually too stiff to manipulate.

The number of strips you need will depend on the size of the bracelet you want to make. The bracelet does not unfasten so needs to be wide enough to slip over the hand. It is easy to try it on as you go to see if it needs more strips.

For small hands 20 strips will be enough but you may need 22, 24, or more.

Average bracelet

Cut 22 strips each 1.5 cm x 12.5 cm (The more accurately you cut the better they will fit together.)

- For a solid-coloured bracelet cut all strips the same
- For a two-tone bracelet cut 11 of each of the colours
- For a multi-coloured bracelet cut 22 strips of mixed colours.

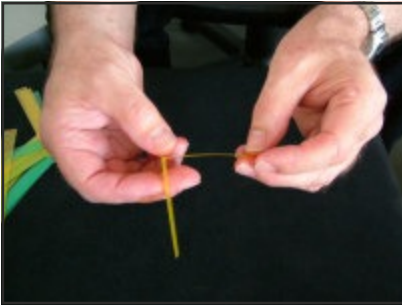
You can use strips of other sizes. The length should be eight times the width plus an extra half-centimetre. The extra length takes account of the thickness of the strip so if you are using a thicker material you may need to add more.

The bracelets work equally well in paper or thin card but they are likely to be more easily damaged.

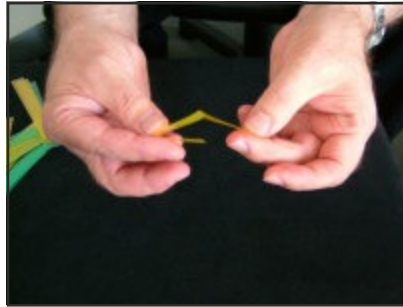
Braided Bracelet

Fold all the strips before you begin. The first fold should be exactly in the centre. The other folds go almost to the centre, leaving a tiny gap to allow for the thickness of the plastic when the pieces are assembled.

The bracelet should be easy to assemble (except for the last, more tricky, piece. If the pieces do not slide together easily you have either not cut accurately enough or you are doing it wrong.



1 Fold a strip in half. Crease.



2 Fold one end to the centre. Crease.



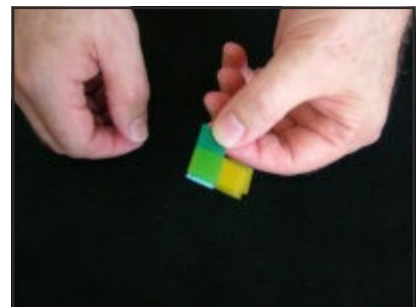
3 Fold The other end to the centre. Crease.



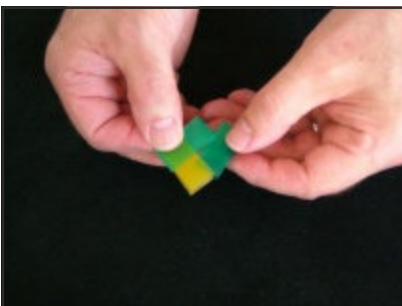
4 When both ends are folded in you will see two wings at one side.



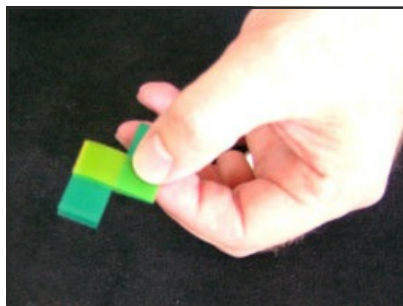
5 Push the wings of the second piece through the wings of the first.



6 Push the second piece as far as it will go.



7 Turn the bracelet over and insert a third piece through the second.

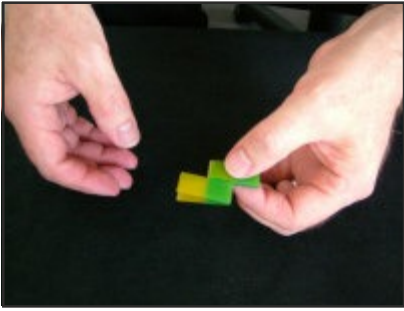


8 Push the piece as far as it will go.

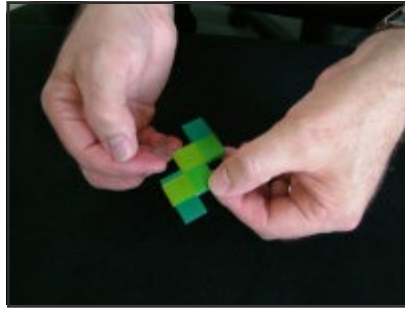


9 Turn the bracelet over and add another piece.

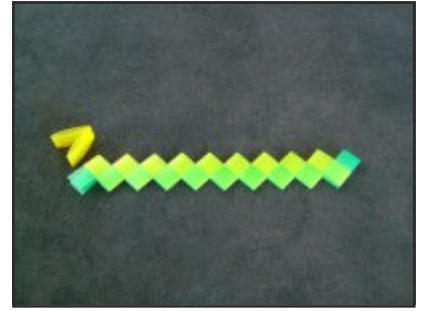
If you are lucky enough to have access to a plotter, or other cutting machine, you can cut the strips on that and add perforations for easy folding.



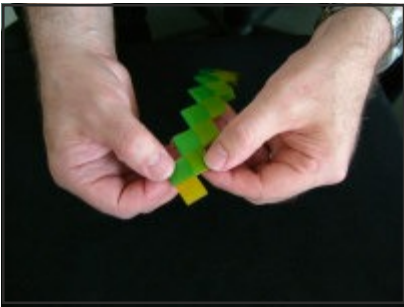
10 Keep adding pieces in this way (It is easier if you turn before each piece)



11 A two-colour strip will start to look like this.



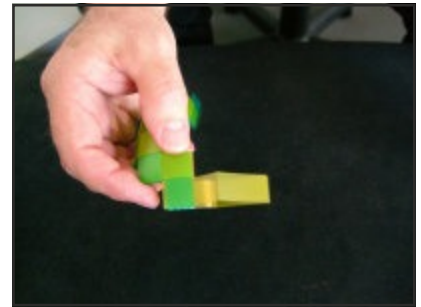
12 Add all but one piece.



13 Insert the last piece, as before.



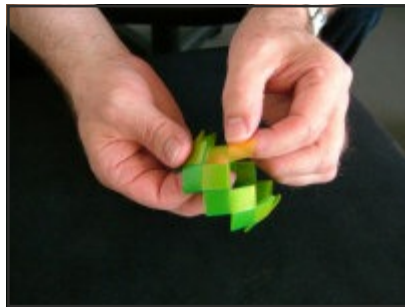
14 Keep the centre fold in place but unfold the two ends of the final strip,



15 Take careful note of where the ends came from.



16 Put the folded first strip between the unfolded ends of the last strip,



17 Push the unfolded ends of the last strip through the wings of the first strip and back into where they came from.



18 The bracelet should now be very secure,



Make a double bracelet by using at least twice as many small strips and putting a twist in the bracelet before the final join.

Fewer strips will make a smaller circle that you could use for a napkin ring, egg-cup, or Christmas tree decoration.