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## **How To Make A String Of Hearts**

**By Dorothy Kimble**

A piece of decoration in the shape of a heart attracts everyone. This cute handicraft fashioned from wood adds beauty to a wall or can be hung over a doorway to good effect. By dipping these hearts in pink, red and white you can use them for a Valentine's Day decoration. For Christmas the colors will obviously be red and green, and if you want to show your love for America the colors will be red, white and blue. There is always the option to keep the hearts plain for a rustic look. This type of wooden piece goes perfectly with a down-home country style decor.

It's easy to make these wooden hearts. All you need is five wooden heart cut outs which are 5 inches wide, a drill having an eight-inch and quarter-inch bit, some raffia, two yards of 1½ inch wide ribbon, two large wooden beads and acrylic paint in various colors according to your chosen theme. Select the appropriate ribbons and beads that go with the color of the hearts. Plaid ribbon is a good choice. In one string there will be five hearts tied together with small raffia bows. The ribbon at both ends of the string is used to form a loop so that it can be hung properly.

Start with making a small hole on each side of the hearts. All the holes will be 1/8 inch except the two outside holes which will be made with the quarter-inch drill bit. Now take a brush and paint the hearts. Acrylic paints work well for handmade crafts and are available in 2 ounce bottles. You can buy these small bottles very cheaply and in a rainbow of colors. Tempera paint can also be used instead of acrylic. If you want to give them a different look try using gold or silver metallic spray paint.

Let the paint dry. During this time make four pieces of 10-inch length raffia. Lay the hearts next to each other and join them together by threading the raffia from the hole of one heart through the hole of the next heart. Make a nice bow with the raffia on the top of the two adjacent hearts. In the same way, connect the other hearts so that all the raffia bows come at the top of the arrangement. If the ends of the raffia look a bit uneven, trim the ends neatly.

Now pass one of the ribbons through each of the remaining holes of the outermost hearts. Make the ends of the ribbon even. Pull the ends through the wooden bead until it rests against the wooden heart and knot the ribbons to hold the bead in place. A nice touch is to cut the end of the ribbon on an angle – this also keeps the ribbon from unraveling. Do the same procedure on the other side as well. Your handmade string of hearts is now ready to display and cheer up any room. This charming wooden handicraft also makes a lovely gift for someone special.

Dorothy Kimble is a staff writer at <http://www.crafts-digest.com> and is an occasional contributor to several other websites, including <http://www.recreation-digest.com>.

## Comparing 6 String And 12 String Guitars

By Gray Rollins

6-string or 12-string Acoustic guitar, which should you get? Both have pros and cons, and both are excellent instruments, depending on what you're looking to accomplish on guitar and how much you are willing to spend. In this article, we'll go over both guitars, which will hopefully help you make an educated decision on which to purchase.

The Main Difference Between Both Guitars:

The major difference, of course, is the number of strings. On a 6-string Acoustic guitar in standard tuning, there is one low e, one a, one d, one g, one b and one high e string, in that order. A 12-string acoustic has two low e, two a, two d, two g, two b, and two high e strings, all in that order. 12-string guitars have the ability to be tuned in two different tunings, while 6-string guitars don't. On the other hand, 12-string guitars also have a lot more tension on their necks, and as a result, their necks tend to warp after only a few years of playing.

Which should I pick?

That's a good question, and it depends on a few different things, all of which are discussed here:

The Advantages of a 6-String

To start with, 6-string guitars are much easier to learn than 12-strings are. This is because of the number of strings and how close together they are on the 12-string. It is nearly impossible to perform certain guitar techniques (like bends) on the 12-string guitar, and significantly harder to tune the guitar and change strings. Also, string picking is complicated by the number of strings. Thus, 6-string guitars are really ideal for those looking to play lead Acoustic guitar, that is, those who want to play a lot of individual notes (not just chords) and use guitar techniques like bends/slides/hammer-ons/pull-offs etc. Beginners will also have an easier time learning to play guitar on a 6-string than on a 12-string, for the reasons mentioned above.

The Advantages of a 12-string

Despite what was said in the last paragraph, there are quite a few advantages to 12-string guitars. 12-string guitars produce a very rich, bright sound. This is because they have twice the number of strings as a 6-string does. Chords strummed on a 12-string guitar will sound a lot richer (better) than those strummed on a 6-string. Additionally, the 12-string guitar gives you the option of using two different tunings. You can't do that on the 6-string. Beginners can learn to play 12-string guitars, but it will take a bit more practice to master than the 6-string. However, if you can master a 12-string, a 6-string guitar will be very easy to play.

What to keep in mind

Most musicians who use 12-string guitars use the 6-string guitar as their primary instrument. They usually pull out the 12-string when a song calls for a big, bright rhythm sound. So, if the songs you want to play feature mainly chords (and the songs call for a very rich sound) then a 12-string would be

a good purchase, even if you are a beginner. The learning curve on a 12-string would obviously be steeper, but it would still be doable and worth it. If, however, you are looking to play songs with chords and individual notes, or simply want an instrument that isn't as complex and difficult to learn, a 6-string guitar is your best bet. You might also want to consider cost. Good 12-string guitars are usually \$100-\$200 more than good 6-string guitars. If you're on a budget, you'll probably want to pick the 6-string guitar.

Gray Rollins is a featured writer for Guitars Land.&nbsp; To learn more about 6 and 12 string guitars, visit <http://www.guitarsland.com/12stringvs6string/>.&nbsp; To learn about how to choose a guitar, visit <http://www.guitarsland.com/howtobuyacoustic/>

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