

# New Product: Sterling-Coated Thread/Wire

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Okay, product talk time.

Beading thread is a subject hashed and rehashed. And guess what? I'm still not settled on it.

But I can't make all wire-wrapped jewelry. Not right now anyway... there's not time. So I \*have\* to make some jewelry that consists of beads on a string.

The problem comes about with the vast array of beads and the vast array of strings.

One of my big concerns is sturdiness and longevity (whoops... is that two?).

These 49-strand stainless steel things sounded pretty good to me. But have you ever taken apart a piece of jewelry made with one? I have... many times... and I am always shocked to feel the crinks and ridges hiding behind the beads. Is this thread going to hold? And for how long?

I've worked with silk, nylon, Stringth, Beadalon, Accuflex, and Softflex if not dozens more.

One thing I learned the hard way, is that 0.019 isn't the same across the board. Makes no sense to me... a measurement should be a strict thing, but 0.019 Beadalon doesn't fit twice through a 4mm Swarovski, whereas 0.019 Accuflex DOES fit twice through a 4mm Swarovski (important to me as this is the bead I most often use between the clasp and the crimp).

These multi-strand, stainless steel beading wires come in a variety of sizes, strengths, colors, and prices.

Here's the Fire Mountain Gems blurb on Accuflex: *Accu-Flex is nylon-coated multistrand beading wire available in Sterling Silver, Brass or Stainless steel varieties. Accu-flex is available in 3 materials, 18 colors, 4 diameters, 4 strand counts, and 3 spool lengths, Accu-Flex combines versatility with value. Made to the highest standards of quality, Accu-Flex is true professional-grade wire, perfect for the most ambitious projects, yet it costs no more than lesser-quality wire.*

For years I've been using Accuflex Professional strength clear (which really means gray) 0.019 for 99.9% of my designs that require thread.

I will soon be trying the newer 7-strand Accuflex in sterling silver (see table on next page): *.925 sterling silver wire coated in nylon provides the classic touch of elegance to your finest jewelry projects. It now comes in three weights and two strand sizes. Note: This product is .925 sterling silver; not the plated sterling silver that is being offered by other companies.*

And from the SoftFlex company (presumably one of these "other companies"): *STERLING SILVER Extreme 925™ Flex Wire is sterling silver over steel with a premium, nylon coating. This bright and attractive wire will not tarnish.*

So, here's a table showing some of the most common choices and their price per foot. I waste a lot of wire (I hate working with short pieces), so price is a big concern to me.

All 0.019*, nylon-coated		Price per Foot**	# of Strands
Accuflex Professional	stainless steel	0.19	49
Beadalon Most Flexible	stainless steel	0.27	49
Softflex	stainless steel	0.37	49
Softflex SoftTouch	stainless steel	0.40	49
Beadalon Silver Plated	sterling silver plated stainless steel	1.09	49
Softflex 24k Gold Flex	24k gold plated stainless steel	0.43	21
Beadalon More Flexible	stainless steel	0.17	19
Beadalon More Flexible (gold color)	stainless steel	0.31	19
Softflex Sterling Silver Extreme	sterling silver plated stainless steel	0.48	19
Accuflex Sterling Silver	sterling silver	0.64	7

\* Beadalon products are 0.018

\*\* Purchased in bulk (500 or 1000 foot rolls)

Note: This article may become outdated as prices change and/or fluctuate

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