



# MAKING CORE MEMORY

## Core Rope Memory Instruction

### **A TAT LAB PROJECT**

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***makingcorememory.com***

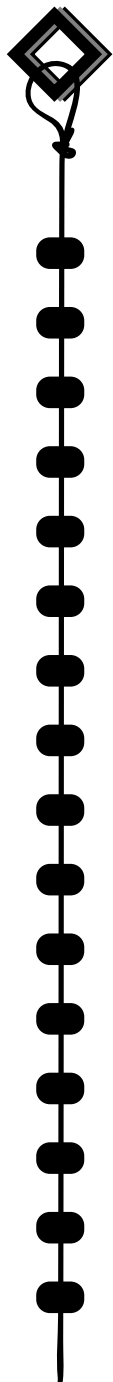
# ***About this Kit***

*This Core Rope Memory kit is part of the **Making Core Memory** project, which is a design inquiry into the invisible work that went into assembling core memory, an early form of computer information storage initially woven by hand. The kit enables students to create read-only memory (ROM) through weaving beads using strings as sense lines. Letters can be coded as the sense lines go through beads in different patterns. Making this kit is a similar experience to how the early core memory weavers pass a wire around or through a magnetized core to store information physically.*

# STEPS TO MAKING CORE ROPE MEMORY

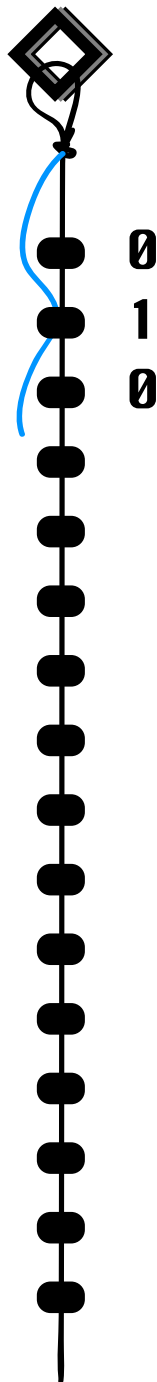
Attach 16 beads to the main string.

**STEP 1**



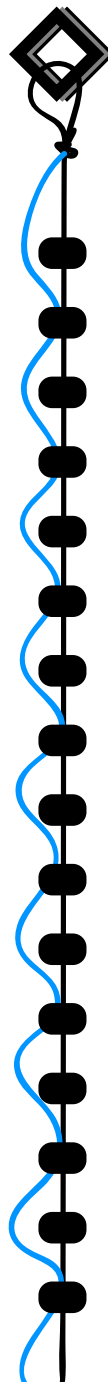
If the digit is a "0", have the thread go around the bead. If the digit is a "1", have the thread go through the bead.

**STEP 2**



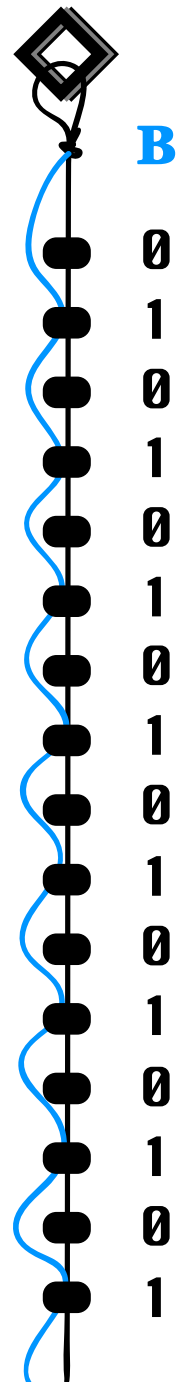
Do the same task for the other beads.

**STEP 3**

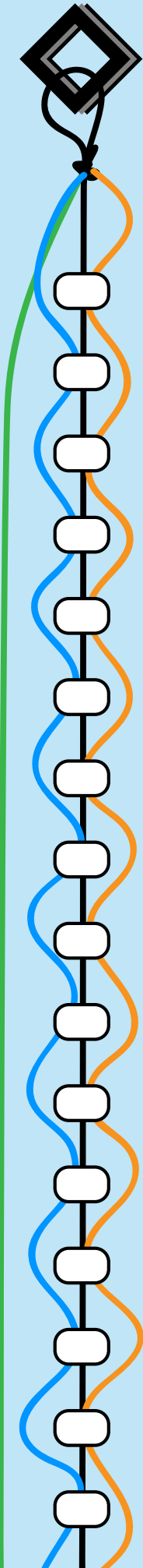


Now you have this string to represent a letter.

**STEP 4**







## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Sewing and weaving are activities that seem specific to girls. In what way(s) does this activity reinforce stereotypes? In what ways does it challenge stereotypes?
2. What does this activity remind you of?
3. As you learn more about the core memory weavers and their contribution to the Apollo mission, are there parts of the story that resonate with you?
4. What stories in your own life remind you of the weaving activity?
5. If you made an error in making the core rope memory, what would that correspond to in the weaving activity for the core memory weavers?
6. What parts of the activity did you enjoy the most? What parts stood out to you?
7. Do you often have opportunities to tell stories from your own life? What stood out to you about sharing them today?