

How to Make a Yarn Lei

Kamehameha Schools – Song Contest Lei

Online video tutorial: <http://tinyurl.com/SongContestLeiTutorial>

- 1) To make a yarn lei, you will need:
 - ✓ 1 skein of yarn
 - ✓ 3 straws from McDonald's
 - ✓ Tape
 - ✓ Scissors
 - ✓ Tape measure
 - ✓ A 7oz skein of yarn will make approximately 3-5 lei, depending on how tight you wind the yarn.
- 2) First, cut 3 base strings. Each string should be 54 inches long.
- 3) Next, thread each base string through each straw (one base string per straw).
- 4) Pull the yarn through the straw and overlap 1 inch of yarn on the outside of the straw.
 - ✓ SECURELY tape the overlapped yarn to each straw.
 - ✓ You want to make sure that the overlapped yarn does NOT loosen and fall off the straw during the lei making process.
- 5) Once all three base strings are securely taped to each straw, tie the ENDS of the three base strings together, leaving approximately 5" at the end.
- 6) Next, attach the loose yarn from the skein to the bottom of ONE straw by tying a knot.
 - ✓ You do not have to tie this knot too tight or securely because as the lei starts to come together, you will push the yarn OFF the straws.
 - ✓ The yarn from the skein will become the lei.
- 7) Hold all three straws in one hand, so that they form a triangle shape.
- 8) Begin by wrapping the yarn from the skein CLOCKWISE (or AWAY from you) THREE times around the straw nearest you.
- 9) Push the windings down on the straw.
- 10) Turn the straws in your hand CLOCKWISE, so that you SKIP the straw adjacent to the straw with the windings.
- 11) Make sure that the yarn from the skein passes IN FRONT of the skipped straw.
- 12) Continue wrapping the yarn from the skein CLOCKWISE (or AWAY from you) THREE times around the straw nearest you.
- 13) Continue this pattern of winding the yarn 3 times around a straw, pushing down on the windings and skipping the adjacent straw with the yarn passing in front.

14) As the windings start to fill up the straws, gently push the windings off the straws and down onto the 3 base strings.

15) REPEAT these steps until you have 44" of windings on the base strings.

16) Once you have 44" of windings on the base strings, cut the winding yarn, leaving about 5" at the end.

17) Carefully REMOVE the straws ONE at a time from the base strings.

18) Be careful NOT to allow the yarn from the straws to be lost in the windings.

19) Tie the 3 base strings along with the winding yarn from the skein into a knot nearest the windings. Be sure to leave approximately 5" at the end.

20) Gently push the windings toward each other to make the lei more compact or tight. The windings should measure approximately 42".

21) The lei is nearly complete! → Return "completed" lei to the 'Akahi Student Center

22) When you're ready to prepare the lei for Song Contest, and with the lei still untied, you will need to TWIST the lei (to give it a nice look), tie the 2 ends together (to close the lei) and add a bow. → This step will be completed about a week before Song Contest