

facebook LIVE: 12.6.17

Tubular Crochet



*Project by Emily Miller
With Kate Richbourg and Emily Miller on FB Live
Episode Notes by Drea Carbone
Photography by Baranduin Briggs and Grace Noland*

Emily brings us Tubular Crochet this week! We've had lots of questions and comments on the necklaces Em has worn on past FB Live shows...especially her Tubular Crochet pieces. So without further ado, let's learn how to make it! Kate and Emily have all the tips and tricks to get you going...happy beading!

If you'd like to skip the chit chat and get right to the work,
begin at **Minute Marker 26:00**.

Amongst the opening dialog, are a couple segments you may not want to miss! At **Minute Marker 6:43** the gals chat about bead selection and the choices they made for this project.

Czech Glass seed beads are more irregular than the Japanese Miyukis seed beads you may be used to. Because they are less consistent, they have more character and really lend themselves to the style of this project. When searching for a bead that will give a similar look to African Trade seed beads, these Czech seeds did the trick!



Note the size differences!

From left to right:
11/0s, 8/0s, and 6/0s.

The bigger your bead, the thicker your tube!

Again, at **Minute Marker 19:15** sizes are discussed. You can use whatever you are comfortable with...are the smaller beads challenging? Use a 6/0!

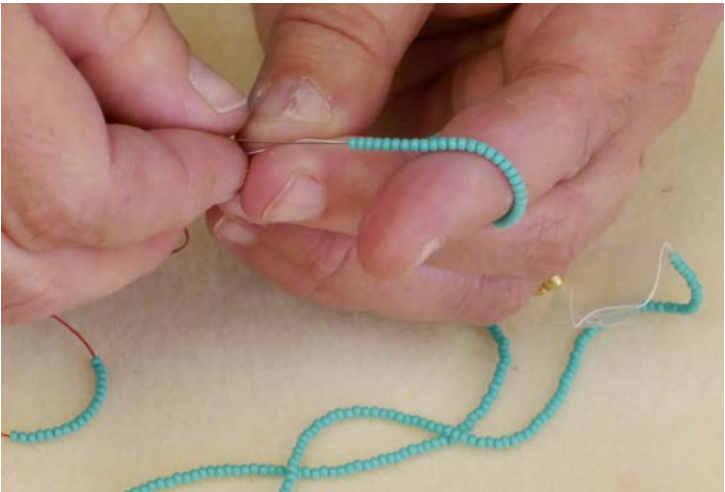
Czech Seed Beads are sized somewhat differently, but the solid colored Sol Gels we carry are close to an 11/0, and the Aged Travertine Stripes are 8/0s. You *could* use 15/0s or Delicas...but be prepared for a challenge!

Keep in mind your thread choice should correspond to your bead choice. We're using Fine C-Lon, but for larger beads you may want to try Regular C-Lon.

Minute Marker 26:00:

Let's get started! Emily lets us know we'll be stringing all of our seed beads right onto the thread to start. She recommends starting with about 2-2½ feet of strung beads. Carefully pull out one strand from your hank of Czech Seed beads. Tape one end so the beads don't fall off, then use your Fine C-Lon with a Flexible Eye Needle to slide right up the other end of that strand of beads(see photo below, left). Note that you're not cutting your C-Lon...keep it all right on the spool!

Emily and Kate note that you get about 3" of crochet from one strand from one hank of our Czech Seed Beads. And with the size beads that Emily is using, the ratio of crochet is approximately 6" of strung beads will net you about 1" of bead crochet.



Emily also demonstrates her "volcano" method of quickly stringing loose beads (above, right). Make a mound of your seed beads...make sure it's a decent size! You want a nice high pile, and just scoop your beads right onto your needle. Hold your needle horizontally, and poke right into the top third of your volcano. Repeat the motion and you'll pick up more beads with each "poke."

As you're transferring your beads from volcano or hank to C-Lon, be sure to cull any irregular seed beads that are too skinny or misshapen.

Kate and Emily go over why we're using a Flexible Eye Needle versus a seed bead needle. Since they are using Fine C-Lon (a thicker thread), we need a needle with a larger eye. At first, Emily is calling this needle the "Collapsible Eye Needle," but we want to clarify that we are using the Flexible Eye Needle.

Minute Marker 34:53

Emily shows how to string beads to create a pattern, rather than stringing all one color. Learning to crochet is easier if you have a pattern (rather than solid all one color). This pattern of 6 six colors will create a striped spiral effect.



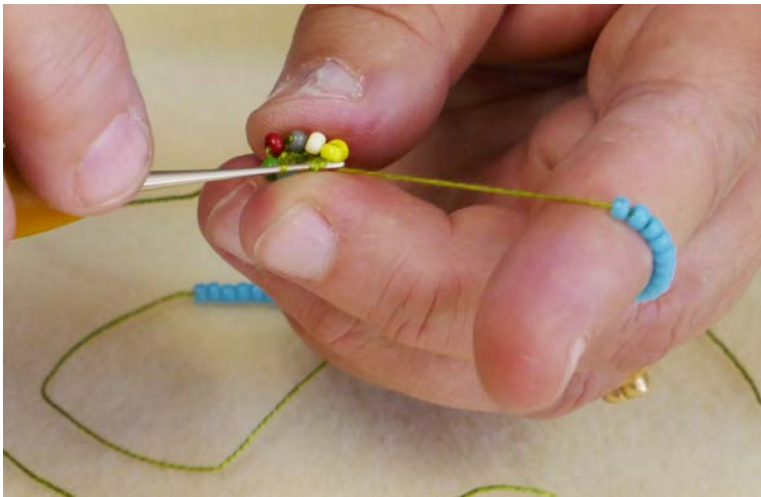
Pattern: Orange, Yellow, White, Grey, Red, Green.

Emily strings that same pattern of six colors over and over again, and when crocheted they will set up on top of each other and create six spiraling stripes of those colors. So that's six beads in their pattern, then another six beads in the same pattern, and again and again.

Minute Marker 36:05 Start your crochet with a slipknot and leave a 6-8" tail. This is the same way we start in our Bits & Pieces Project. It's really helpful to have some crochet experience before tackling Tubular Crochet, and Bits & Pieces is a perfect starter! This little loop of your slipknot is your first loop for crochet. Using her #8 Crochet Hook, Emily slides it into that loop. Storing her beads on her left forefinger, she slides one bead down to the hook, "yarn over," and pulls the hook through the stitch. Watch carefully! Bring your second bead down, yarn over, pull through. Repeat until your first six beads are crocheted. Note how Emily twists her hook in hand as she uses the hook to grab her thread and then pulls it through the loop.

Now that your first six beads are crocheted, it's time to start the tube. Bend that chain of six beads, slide your hook through the first loop again, below that orange bead. Emily demonstrates how using something like a drinking straw or chopstick as a "crutch" to help the tube form for the first inch or so of the tubular crochet.

Emily slides her next six beads down, stores them on top of her forefinger, and starts again. Since she went under her first orange bead, she knows this next bead should be orange, in keeping with her pattern. Keep your thread fairly taut, tension is very important. As each new bead is brought down to crochet, you will want to pick up the loop from under the corresponding bead in the row before it.



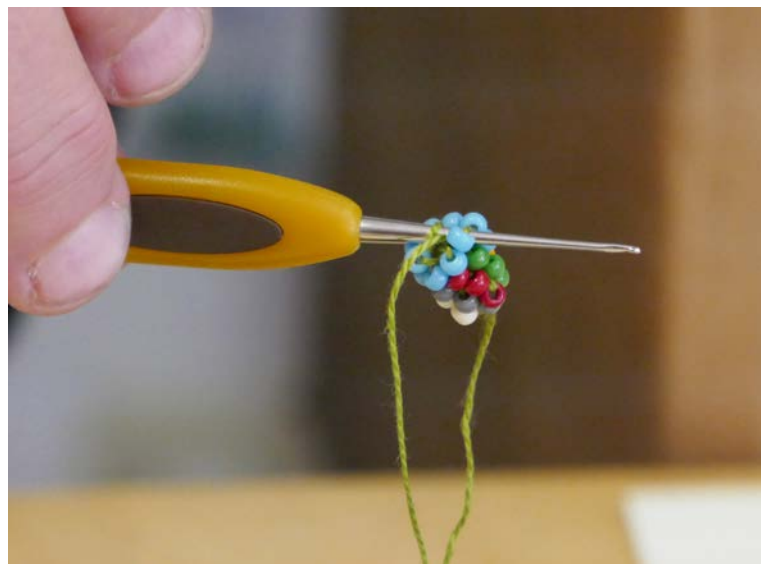
Minute Marker 47:27

Note how the beads start to fit into place. When you first crochet a new bead on, it sits horizontally. But as you go, the beads will flip and sit vertically and align themselves. Emily shows you how her first three rows look and how the beads will flip into place.



Minute Marker 48:40

Em starts adding all blue beads to these first three rows. She starts Row 4, showing us how she goes under and grabs the previous bead's loop, flips the crocheted bead into place, and slides down her new bead. It will nestle in place between the two loops of thread on her hook. Emily yarns over and pulls through.



Minute Marker 51:45

To demonstrate the crochet process itself, Emily shows us crochet without beads at all.

Remember, watching and re-watching these steps will really help you, as will watching the [separate video](#) Emily recorded.

Need to take a break? Emily shows how to do that, too, by using a safety pin to keep her from losing her loops. Check this out at

Minute Marker 57:20.



Minute Marker 58:05

Emily wants to demonstrate what to do when you have used up all your beads and are ready to join a new thread of pre-strung beads.

Using her Bob-EEZ Bobbin to store strung beads makes this process a breeze. String all your beads at once, wind onto the bobbin, and then you're free to just crochet away without having to stop.



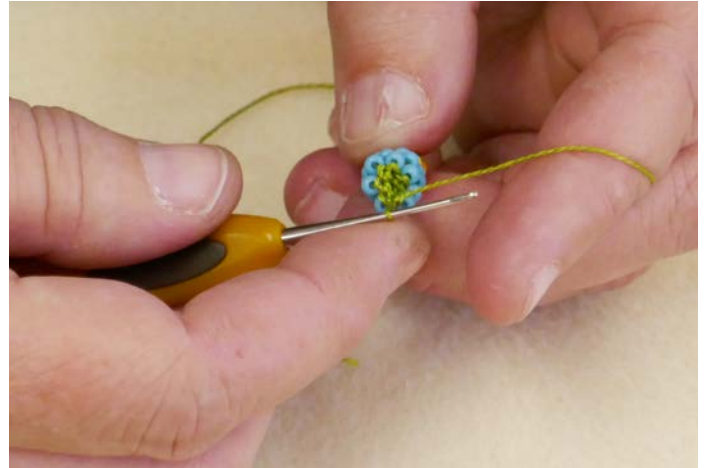
Emily takes the thread from the already-crocheted project and the thread from her newly strung crochet and ties them together in an overhand knot. She uses an Awl to slide the knot down towards the completed crochet rows. This knot will prevent your loop (which is on the safety pin) from opening up any larger. Slide your safety pin out, slide your crochet hook in, and continue to crochet as before. Capture the knot and tail of the new thread inside the tube as your crochet around it.

Minute Marker 1:03:25

Kate notices she has made a mistake! But that's great, because now Emily can show us how to fix it. Kate sees she has only five beads in a row instead of six. To fix, you'll need to pull your thread out. With an awl, loosening your loops is a breeze. Kate makes this error when she is switching from her stripes to a solid color. Keep in mind when you are first learning you may want to use the pattern to help you see what you're doing! Be sure your top row of beads always has six beads...you may not need to check with every single row you do, but just something to keep an eye on. It will help prevent mistakes as well as help you get used to the stitch when you're beading in a solid color rather than stripes.

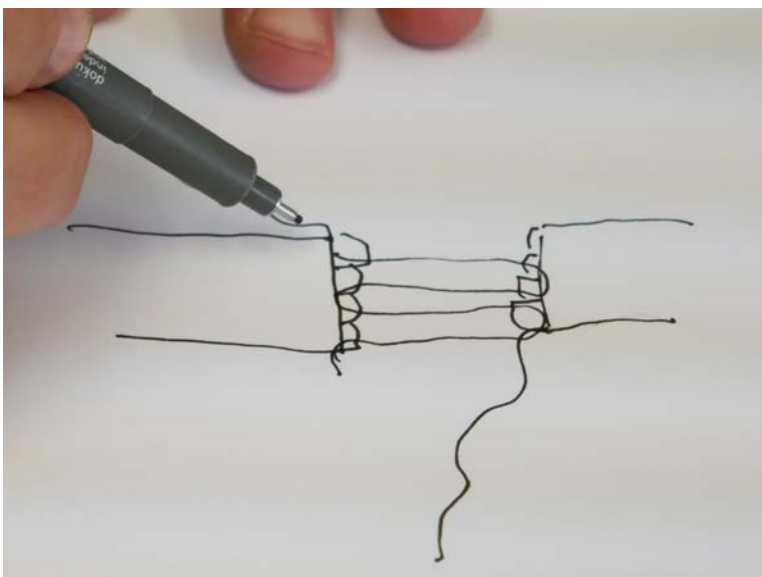
Minute Marker 1:06:40

Bringing it all together...how to end your piece. There are a few ways to do this. First, Emily shows us how to taper the rope down so it can fit into a large bead cone. Finish your final row of beads without adding any beads, but continuing to flip the last row of beads so they are all facing up, with bead holes vertical. You could attach that end into a bead cone.



Minute Marker 1:09:13

In this Project, we are making an infinity necklace without a clasp. Emily shows us with a doodle how to fit the two ends of bead crochet together. Your two threads (one from either end) will marry the two spirals together, and make sure your spirals will fit into each other. Use one of your two threads to zig zag like a zipper through the loops of the final rows on either end, then bury your thread inside the tube of one of the ends.



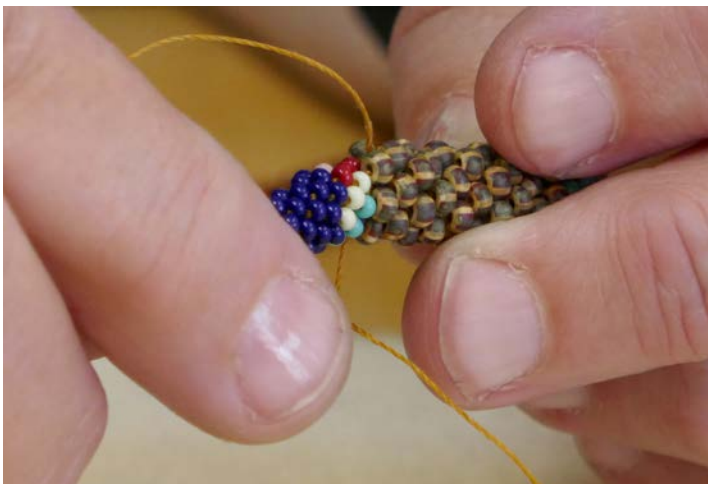
Tie a half-hitch knot and zig zag through a few beads and tie another half-hitch, and again with a third half-hitch. Use this as an anchor for pulling your two ends together. You can bring your tails out through your beadwork and trim them. Emily also brings out the Tapestry Needles for this. They have a rounded point and a large eye, perfect for this project.



Minute Marker 1:14:50

Emily takes her needle and captures her loop just as if she is crocheting still. The ladies note that it's like you're mending two pieces of cloth together. Keep these threads loose, and be sure you don't cross threads, since you'll be pulling these ends together shortly. After you pull them together, feed the needle right inside the tube of beadwork and out, catch a thread, tie your knot. Your knot will be hidden! Back inside the tube, travel a bit, and come out again and knot again...and repeat a third time for security.

Take your thread from the other end and travel it through the tube on the other side. Hide and knot this thread in the same way. Now your two ends should be together with threads pulling each other together.



Emily mentions two tips here. First, be sure you're not traveling the thread through any beads. Your needle could break a bead...and there is no coming back from that! Secondly, making a necklace and ending it this way will help teach you how to do this closure more easily than learning on a bracelet.

The gals are finishing up, but there are several tips and tricks to quickly go over. At the end of these Episode Notes are a couple pages full of Emily's tips as well as some patterns.

Minute Marker 1:26:00

Determining size: your necklace or bracelets will just slip on using this method. You'll want a 22-26" necklace so it goes easily over your head. For a bracelet, measure along to your personal bracelet size, but keep in mind if you are using 6/0s your tube will be thicker and you'll need to make your bracelet a little larger.

Minute Marker 1:26:50

If you've over-tightened your closure, you may notice a "waist," where the join is somewhat narrower than the rest of your tube of beadwork. A quick fix? Hide it! Emily shows off a peyote beaded tube that she created to hide a waist. Perfect!



Minute Marker 1:27:55

Emily brings up a good point about thread color...you can really choose any color you want, especially in this project where you have so many bead colors to match. You won't really see much thread anyways, unless you are using larger beads like 6/0s. But Emily does warn you to stay away from dark threads while you are learning. During the broadcast, Emily uses Gold, and in the project's ingredients we chose Sable...but the choice is yours!





We're wrapping it up here in Episode Notes, but be sure to keep reading through to the end for links to learning, ingredients, products, and of course, Emily's tips and tricks and patterns! I feel like we were all rapt with attention this week, Kate included. Tubular Crochet may take some getting used to, but we promise, once you've got it down, you'll be hooked!

Thanks for learning with us today!

Sorry, we skipped Free Tip Friday this week on 12.8.17, but we'll see you next week for Netted Beads on Wednesday, 12.13.17.

Finally, don't forget to watch the addendum video which you can find [here](#).

We think you'll find it helpful!

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Links to Events and More...

[Last Week's Facebook Live: Sea Dive Stacks](#)

[Facebook Live Youtube Playlist & FB Live Archive Page](#) on beadshop.com

[Free Tip Friday YouTube Playlist & FTF Archive Page](#) on beadshop.com

[Bead and Button Show](#)

[Bead & Button 2018 Class Preview with Kate & Janice](#)

[Picard Bead Museum Video](#)

[Supplemental Video for today's episode](#)

Links to This Project's Ingredients...

[Tubular Bead Crochet Project Page](#) and [Recipe Page](#)

[Out Of Africa](#)

- 1 Spool [Sable Fine C-Lon](#)
- 1 Hank [11-03152 Sol Gel Light Olive](#)
- 1 Hank [11-33070 Sol Gel Navy Blue](#)
- 1 Hank [11-93210 Sol Gel Dark Red](#)
- 1 Hank [11-23020 Sol Gel Light Purple](#)
- 1 Hank [11-63130 Sol Gel Green Turquoise](#)
- 1 Hank [11-13600 Sol Gel Brown](#)
- 1 Hank [11-73030 Sol Gel Pink](#)
- 1 Tube [Aged Travertine- Brick](#)
- 1 Tube [Aged Travertine- Yellow](#)
- 1 Tube [Aged Travertine- Green](#)
- 1 Tube [Aged Travertine- Brown](#)
- 1 Pkg [Flexible Eye Needles](#)
- 1 Pkg [Tapestry Needles](#)

Links to Learning, Products, & More...

[Seed Bead School](#)

[Bead Crochet FB Live](#)

[Supplemental Video for today's episode](#)

[Pearl Knotting FB Live](#)

[Peyote Stitch Beaded Tube](#)

[Tribal and Trade Beads](#)

[New Czech Seed Beads](#)

[C-Lon and Fine C-Lon](#)

[Japanese Seed Beads: 11/0s, 8/0s, and 6/0s](#)

[Czech Fire Polish Beads](#)

[Metal Seed Beads](#)

[Delicas](#)

[Flexible Eye Needles](#)

[Awl for One Tool](#)

[Crochet Hooks](#)

[Bob-EEZ Bobbins](#)

[Tapestry Needles](#)

[Wood Beads](#)

[Old School Thread Clippers](#)

Bead Crochet Tips From Emily

Before you begin-

~The ideal thread will fit through your beads easily, but not leave a large amount of space in the hole.

~String on about 2 ft of beads at a time, if you put on more, you'll spend some time untangling and moving beads around.

~When you put down your beads for a break, wind the beaded strand around a bobbin and place a safety pin in the loop of the work.

While you work

~Make sure that the bead flips over to the backside of the hook.

~Check periodically that there are 6 beads, on top of the tube.

~The active row is the one where the holes of the beads are horizontal, when they have been correctly crocheted under, the holes will turn vertical.

~Keep even tension, and store a few beads on the top of your non-dominant forefinger.

~Keep the distance between your hands close together, a smaller bit of thread will help keep an even tension.

~Stop and reposition beads and the thread to move beads around.

~Need to add beads? Put a safety pin in the loop, cut the thread, (leaving a 6-8 inch tail) string on new beads and tie the threads together close to the tube, pull the knot into the center of the tube and continue...cut the thread after an inch or so, leaving the tails in the tube.

~ Finished crocheting make one row around the last group of 6 beads with just the thread, no beads. This will turn the beads horizontal. The first row will now match up the the final row.

~When joining the ends together, avoid pulling too tightly on the threads to pull the ends together, this will create a 'waist' showing where the join is.

~Thread a tapestry needle with the thread from the end of the rope. Stitch under the beginning of the rope threads, and back to the end, moving around the tube. Pull together only when several stitches have been made.

Patterning with bead crochet-

Loading the thread with beads in a pattern produces colorful results! Remember to work in groups of 6 beads, the pattern will spiral around the tube of beads. Here are a few to try-

3&3, repeat with two colors, 3 beads of each color

2&2, repeat with two or three colors, 2 of each color

1&5, repeat with two colors, 1 of first color, 5 of second color

1&2 and 1&2, repeat with two or three colors, 1 of first color, 2 of second color, repeat twice

Rainbow stripes- 1 of each color using 6 different colors

Sport Stripe- 2- 3 colors, strung 1 main, 1 accent, 1 main, 3 secondary color

Barber Pole Stripe 2 or 3 colors, alternating.

Super Stripe 2 colors, 2 & 4 beads

