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KNITTING *with* BEADS MADE EASY

Simple Techniques, Handy Shortcuts, and 60 Fabulous Projects



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PREFACE

LIFT YOUR SPIRITS WITH ... BEADS?

Have you ever knitted with beads? We hadn't. We can admit it! All the knitting patterns with beads we'd seen began with stringing the beads onto the yarn before you could even cast on the first stitch. They used fine yarn, fine needles, and small glass beads—so easy to miscount, drop, or lose. It just seemed like too much trouble!

We do understand that, now and then, it makes sense to knit with beads the traditional way—all the beads strung on the yarn before you begin. But how much fun is it to knit with yarn that's heavy with beads? Having to slide them down all the time, and watching your beautiful yarn get shredded and rubbed apart by them as you go—not to mention the challenge of stringing the beads on the yarn in the right order (in the opposite order as for the knitting), if there's a bead motif in multiple colors! If even one bead is in the wrong place, the yarn has to be cut and rejoined in the middle of the pattern. So, yes, we'll admit it: We considered knitting with beads time-consuming and tedious work—something we didn't have the patience for.

Except we also have to admit, at the same time, that beads are so lovely! And in the end, we asked ourselves: Must we always stick to fine yarn, fine needles, and tiny beads? Does knitting with beads always have to be done the same way? Couldn't there be a simpler method?

And, of course, there is! We'll show you how you can knit and crochet in beads without first stringing them on the yarn. Just place each bead exactly where you want it to be, in the right color, in the right place; it's easy and straightforward! You can absolutely use light fine yarns and little beads—or chunky textured yarn and big, bright beads. Whatever your heart desires, there's a way to make it work! Knitting with beads can be fast, fun, and simple, and add a little glitz and glamor to any pattern.

Try it, and see if you can't add a little joy to your knitting with beads!

Greetings from Liv and Jane

Basic tips

When beads aren't strung onto the yarn, how do you position them in your knitting? It's actually quite easy: You add the beads to the stitches instead! To slide beads onto stitches, you'll need a crochet hook, dental floss, or a wire needle that looks like a sewing needle—you can make one yourself out of a bit of jewelry wire. You can also use half of a "big eye" beading needle.



KNITTING WITH BEADS & SINGLE-COLOR YARN

Crochet Hook



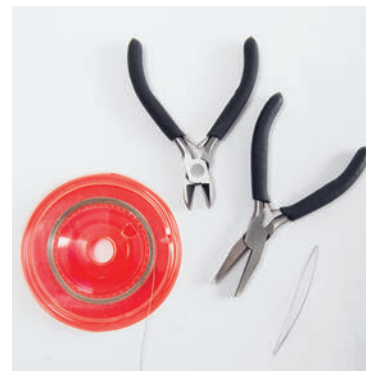
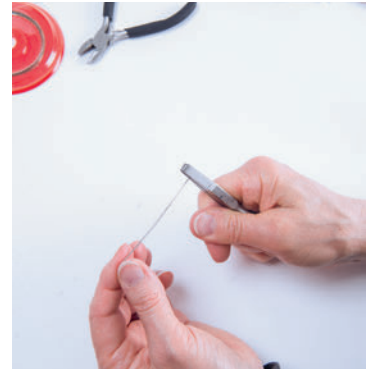
The fastest and easiest way is to use a crochet hook. Place the bead on the hook, slip the stitch from the knitting needle onto the crochet hook, slide the bead down onto the stitch, place the stitch back on the knitting needle, and knit it. For beads with small holes, you'll need a very small hook. We've used needles all the way down to .75 mm, which works well if the yarn isn't too thick.

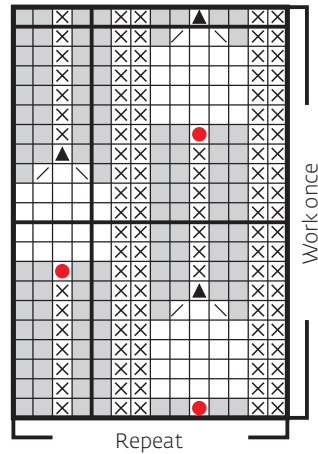
Dental Floss



Dental floss (off-brand from the pharmacy is fine!) works well, too. Place one or more beads onto the floss. Draw the stiff end through the stitch on the knitting needle. Next, insert the floss back into the bead, lift the stitch off the knitting needle, slide the bead down onto the stitch, slip the stitch back onto the needle, remove the floss, and knit the stitch. Make a large knot on the soft end of the dental floss if you've strung a lot of beads onto it.

Wire Needles/Big Eye Needles





All rounds are shown on the chart

- Knit
- Purl
- Place a bead (see page 6) on the stitch. Work (k1, yo, k1, yo, k1) in the stitch after the bead has been placed on stitch = 5 leaf stitches in the bead stitch.
- K2tog tbl
- K2tog
- Sl 1, k2tog, pss0
- No stitch

INSTRUCTIONS

This tam is knitted in the round with a stockinette band at the lower edge. The edge, which is knitted with 1 strand of Alpakka, is turned at the foldline, and the facing is sewn down by hand in finishing. The rest of the hat is knitted with two strands of yarn, one strand of each weight.

With smaller circular, CO 102 sts. Join, being careful not to twist cast-on row. Pm for beginning of rnd. Knit around until piece measures approx. 1½ in / 4 cm or the height you want for the band. Purl 1 rnd (= foldline) and continue in stockinette until the piece is the same length on both sides of the foldline. Change to larger circular and two strands of yarn—1 strand each Alpakka and Mini Alpakka. Purl 3 rnds. Now work the leaf motif following the chart. Before beginning the crown shaping, purl 1 rnd, decreasing 2 sts evenly spaced around = 100 sts rem. Change to dpn when sts no longer fit around circular.

Crown Shaping

Decrease Rnd 1: (P2, p2tog) around = 75 sts rem.

Purl 4 rnds without decreasing.

Decrease Rnd 2: (P1, p2tog) around = 50 sts rem.

Purl 4 rnds without decreasing.

Decrease Rnd 3: (P2tog) around = 25 sts rem.

Purl 3 rnds without decreasing.

Decrease Rnd 4: (P2tog) around to last st, p1 = 13 sts rem.

Purl 1 rnd without decreasing.

Finishing

Cut yarn, leaving an 11¾ in / 30 cm end.

Draw the end through rem sts and tighten. Fold the band at the foldline and, by hand, sew down the facing on WS. Weave in all yarn ends.

Gently steam press the lower band and the shaped crown. Do not press the leaf patterning.



BEAD TIPS

The felted wool beads that I used did not have any holes, so I made some by sticking an awl through each bead. Next, I inserted a knitting needle into the hole and widened it to make it easier to drop the bead onto a stitch.

Now knit in the felted wool beads (see page 6). The wool beads are placed as follows:

1st Rnd with beads: *(K9, place 1 bead on the 10th st) around.

Knit 3 rnds without beads.

2nd Rnd with beads: K4, place 1 bead on 5th st, (k9, place 1 bead on the 10th st) until 5 sts rem, end k5. Knit 3 rnds without beads*.

Rep from * to * once more, so there are 4 rows of felted wool beads on the hat. Purl 1 rnd. Now knit around until the hat is approx. 7 in / 18 cm long.

Shaping Crown

Decrease Rnd 1: (K8, k2tog) around = 90 sts rem.

Knit 1 rnd.

Decrease Rnd 2: (K7, k2tog) around = 80 sts rem.

Knit 1 rnd.

Continue decreasing on every other rnd, with 1 less st between decreases until 10 sts rem.

Last Decrease Rnd: (K2tog) around.

Finishing

Cut yarn, leaving an end 8 in / 20 cm long. Draw end through rem sts and tighten well. Seam the short ends of the garter band. Weave in all ends neatly on WS.



With smaller circular, CO 84 sts. Join, being careful not to twist cast-on row. Pm for beginning of rnd. Knit around in seed stitch ribbing as follows:

Rnd 1: (K4, p1, k1, p1) around.

Rnd 2: (K4, k1, p1, k1) around

Rep these 2 rnds until the ribbing measures 4-4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in / 10-12 cm.

Change to larger circular. Knit 1 rnd, increasing 24 sts evenly spaced around = 108 sts.

Continue working around in stockinette, and, *at the same time*, add the beads randomly (see page 6). When hat is approx. 8 in / 20 cm high, begin shaping crown.

Shaping Crown:

Decrease Rnd 1: (K10, k2tog) around = 99 sts rem.

Knit 1 rnd.

Decrease Rnd 2: (K9, k2tog) around = 90 sts rem.

Knit 1 rnd.

Decrease Rnd 3: (K8, k2tog) around = 81 sts rem.

Knit 1 rnd.

Continue decreasing on every other rnd, with 1 less st between decreases until 18 sts rem.

Last Decrease Rnd: (K2tog) around.

Finishing

Cut yarn, leaving an end 8 in / 20 cm long. Draw end through rem sts and tighten well. Weave in all ends neatly on WS.

WRIST WARMERS

The wrist warmers are worked around in stockinette with sts divided onto four dpn. Make both alike.

With larger dpn, CO 28 sts. Divide sts onto dpn and join, being careful not to twist cast-on row. Pm for beginning of rnd. Work 2 rnds in seed stitch ribbing as for hat. On the 3rd rnd, place a bead on each of the center knit sts in the seed st column (4 beads per rnd). Knit the st after the bead has been placed. Work 3 rnds without beads. On the 4th rnd, place beads as for Rnd 3. Continue with beads on every 4th rnd until the wrist warmer is approx. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ in / 11 cm long or desired length. Work 3 rnds without beads. BO loosely.

Finishing:

Cut yarn, leaving an end 8 in / 20 cm long. Draw end through last st and weave in all ends neatly on WS.





BEAD TIPS

Some of the beads on the white scarf are 12 mm. They were taken from candle rings.

These scarves are knitted with fine yarn on small needles. One 50-gram ball is enough for one! These knitted pieces grow quickly. Wear the scarves one at a time or wrap and tie them together for extra warmth and stylish neckwear.

Wear the cowl with the zipper closed, fold it down with the zipper half open, or wear the cowl with the opening at the bottom.



BEAD TIPS

For this model, we used 37 metallic-dyed beads from a pack of bead mix (Perlemix, Creativ Company), plus 11 red wood beads, 8 mm.





COWL

The cowl is worked back and forth on a long circular and finished by sewing the short ends together. Use a circular with long, pointed tips. Read through the rest of these instructions all the way to the end before you begin knitting.

With 1 strand from each ball of yarn held together (= 3 strands), and U.S. 17 / 12 mm (if you want a loose cast-on) needle, CO 90 sts (= 88 sts + 2 edge sts for the circumference of the cowl). If you cast on with the larger needle, work the 1st row of the repeat before changing to U.S. 15 / 9 mm, with which you will work the rest of the cowl. The cowl has 3 rows with beads. Begin with two pattern repeats without beads. Place beads (see page 6) on the next row—Row 1 in pattern. Purl the stitch

after placing bead. The first bead is placed on the 5th st (including edge st), followed by a bead on every 8th st, so each bead lies between two bobbles. Continue the same way with 2 pattern repeats between each bead row. On the second bead row, place the beads so they're centered between the beads of the first bead row. Work the third bead row as for the first. After the last bead row, work a total of 7 bobble stitch pattern rows. End with 1 purl row on RS and then BO knitwise on the next row. Make sure the bind-off is the same tension as the cast-on.

Finishing

By hand, sew the short ends together with RS facing and edges abutting. Weave in all yarn ends neatly on WS.



Row 2: Knit, working the st with the bead as k1tbl.

Row 3: K3, place bead on the 3rd st, k1, place bead on the 5th st, knit to end of row = 2 beads on the row.

Row 4: Knit, working beaded sts as k1tbl.

Continue, placing 1 more bead on every other row (rows 5, 7, 9, etc), on every other st.

When there are 6 beads per row and you have knitted to the end of the row, begin short rows:

K12 (back to the beads), turn and knit back. Turn and knit to to end of row. Continue the same way in short rows until there are 7 beads on the row.

Now you are at the center of the bead pattern.

Instead of placing 1 more bead on every other row, you will add 1 bead fewer on alternate rows. When there are 6 beads, work one more short row. Now place 1 bead fewer on alternate rows until there is only 1 bead on the row. End by working 2 in / 5 cm garter st without beads. BO loosely. Cut yarn, leaving an 11¼ in / 30 cm end. Draw end through last st. Seam the bound-off and cast-on edges using the yarn end. Weave in all ends neatly on WS.





Dual garter stitch wrist warmers and ear warmer

When you knit with two strands of yarn (one at each side of the knitted fabric), and twist them only on alternate rows as done here, it will look as if you've worked two knit rows and two purl rows, even if you actually knitted the whole time. This technique produces a very elastic knitted piece.



DIFFICULTY LEVEL

Advanced

FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Wrist Warmers: Approx. 5¾ in / 14 cm long and about 8 in / 20 cm in circumference.

Ear Warmer: Approx. 4 in / 10 cm wide and approx. 17¾ in / 44 cm in circumference.

MATERIALS

Yarn:

Color 1: CYCA #3 (DK, light worsted) Sandnes Peer Gynt (100% wool, 98 yd/90 m / 50 g), Color 4228, 50 g

Color 2: CYCA #3 (DK, light worsted) Sandnes Garn Alpaka (100% alpaca, 120 yd/110 m / 50 g), Color 4308, 50 g

Beads:

115 red luxury wax beads, (Creativ Company) = 30 10 mm beads for the wrist warmers and 70-85 5 mm beads for the ear warmer

NEEDLES

U.S. size 4 / 3.5 mm: 16 in / 40 cm circular

GAUGE

16 sts in dual garter st = 4 in / 10 cm.
Adjust needle size to obtain correct gauge if necessary.



INSTRUCTIONS

The numbers within parentheses refer to size L. Read through the instructions all the way to the end before you start to knit.

With long straight needles, CO 42 (52) sts. Always slip the first st of every row. The 1st row = WS and is purled.

Work 6 rows total in stockinette.

On the 7th row (WS of the stockinette and right side of the cuff), knit and twist the row as you work across: twist the whole left side of the work 360 degrees around. Twist so that the left side turns towards you, under the knitted fabric, and ends on the other side before you continue knitting as if nothing had happened. You might want to try a sample first. Making the twisted cast-on (also called a Latvian twisted cast-on) is unbelievably easy!

Row 7: Sl 1 (edge st), *k5, twist*. Rep * to * until 6 sts rem, end k6.

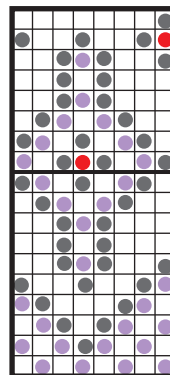
Now divide the sts onto 4 dpn and join. Knit 1 rnd. BO the 2 edge sts (BO the 2 edge sts + 2 sts evenly spaced around) so that 40 (48) sts rem.

Purl 1 rnd.




Knit 2 rnds.

Continue knitting around, placing the beads (see page 6) as shown on the chart. Place bead and then knit the stitch. After the last bead rnd, knit 4 rnds, purl 1 rnd, knit 5 rnds.

BO knitwise. Weave in all ends neatly on WS. Sew the short ends of the twisted cast-on so twists match.



The repeat is worked 5 times total for Size S/M and 6 times for Size L.

-  Light purple bead
-  Dark gray bead
-  Red bead





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SOMETHING TO CARRY WITH YOU

For anyone who has something,
here's what they need to carry
it in!





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Discover the quick, uncomplicated way to place beads exactly where you want them, without having to string them onto the working yarn in advance!

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INCLUDING 60 PROJECTS

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