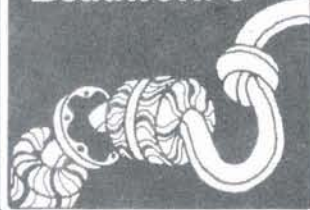


Combining beads and crochet

Beadwork 9



Crochet and beadwork can be combined to make necklaces, chokers, bracelets, armbands etc. Beads of different colors and sizes can be used to create various patterns and styles.

You will need:

Beading needle.

Steel crochet hook size 3.

Cotton cord such as J & P Coats Knit-Cro-Sheen to match the predominant color of the beads.

Glass, wooden or ceramic beads of your choice. For the bead crochet shown in the photograph (right) glass beads of about 3mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ " diameter) were used. For a necklace you will need about 2000 beads, for a bracelet about 350, for an armband about 500 and for a choker about 700.

First of all the beads are threaded on to the cotton cord. Enough beads must be threaded for the whole project and it is better to over-estimate the amount you will need as more cannot easily be added later.

If you want to create the spiral effect on the necklace and bracelet in the

photograph, thread a variety of differently colored beads in a repeat pattern. For the necklace the repeat pattern is yellow, orange, red, maroon, brown, royal blue, green, and light blue—eight colors altogether. Leave plenty of space between the beads to allow for the crochet. Rewind the cord onto the spool as you thread the beads to avoid tangles.

When all the beads have been threaded, the cord is then crocheted into a long tubular rope and one bead caught up in each stitch.

Crochet pattern

The crochet starts with a chain which is joined up at the ends with a slip-stitch to form a circle.

The number of chains in the circle will determine whether the spiral of colors will be tight or loose. To start with, try the repeat pattern of eight colors used for the necklace and make eight chains.

The first row. Slip-stitch around the

One bead is caught up in each stitch.

Choker, necklace, armband and bracelets made using the bead crochet technique with different colored glass beads.

chain without including any beads.

The second row. Slide a bead up to the crochet and slip-stitch into the first slip-stitch on the previous row, thereby securing the bead on the outside of the circle.

Repeat all around the row.

The third row. This is worked in the same way as the second row—securing one bead with each slip-stitch. The crochet hook should be put through the cord on the right-hand side of the bead on the previous row.

You will find that each color falls automatically to one side of the same color on the previous row thereby creating the spiral effect.

Successive rows. These are worked in exactly the same way as the third row. Experiment increasing and decreasing the number of stitches in each row to tighten or loosen the spiral of colors. This will not affect the diameter of the rope which is about 1.3cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ ").

Finishing off. When you come to the end of the beads, or when the rope is long enough, work one row without beads and finish off in the usual way. For a long necklace which does not need a clasp, stitch the ends together matching the spiral of colors.

For a choker or bracelet which will need a clasp, sew a large round button on one end, and make a loop of beads on the other end.

