
Beaded Knitting with Marly Bird

Chapter 1 - Beaded Knitting

How to knit with beads

(upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Marly Bird. I'm a knitting and crochet designer, as well as the host of the Yarn Thing podcast and the Marly Bird YouTube channel. In this technique, I'm gonna show you how to add beads to your knitting. To do this technique, you're going to need a pair of knitting needles, some yarn, a crochet hook that is small enough to go through the hole of the beads you are using, a tapestry needle, some scissors, and, of course, your beads. To begin, we are gonna go ahead and pre-string some beads onto our yarn. To do that, I'm going to go ahead and thread a tapestry needle onto my yarn. The reason I'm using a tapestry needle is because it is small enough to go through the hole of the bead. If you need to use a different sized needle because the hole of your bead is smaller, go ahead and do that. I'm just threading them right onto the needle and pushing them right down onto the yarn. If you need your beads to go in a certain color sequence be sure that you add the last color you need to work into first and the first color last. Once you have those all threaded onto your yarn, we're gonna go ahead and cast on some stitches. For this example I'm just going to use a long tail cast on and cast on five stitches. I'm using a circular needle today, but you don't have to use a circular needle to complete this technique. I just prefer circulars over straights. You can use any type needle you want to use. And I'm gonna keep the background stitches as purls for this particular row, and I'm gonna work across two stitches. And now I'm going to add a bead. Just go ahead and pull up a bead directly up to my needle. I won't need all of these, but I'm bringing them up here just so that they're ready to go. When I pull it up here, the bead rests on the yarn between these two stitches, so when I go in to purl the next stitch, you can see the bead actually rests between the two stitches on the needle. I'm gonna do that one more time between the next two stitches, pull up a bead, go ahead and purl the next stitch and the following stitch. If you wanted to add a bead to a knit stitch, this is how you would do it. Knit the first stitch, and let's say I wanted to put a bead between the second stitch and the third stitch. Pull a bead right up next to my needle, and knit the next stitch. You'll notice that still puts the bead in between the two stitches on the purl bump, and it makes the bead pop out to the reverse side. So if you wanted to add beads on the knit side of whatever you're working on, you can do that. Just remember it puts the bead on the opposite side. I'm pulling the bead right up to the needle, and I go ahead and I knit the next stitch. When I finish the row and turn, my right side is still my right side, I've just now added a bead to the knit row instead of the purl row. We've been working in stockinette, adding beads to the purl side. But what if you want your bead to show up on the knit side? I'm gonna show you how to do that right now. To add a bead to show up on the knit side, I'm gonna knit two stitches, and then between this stitch and that stitch, I'm going to pull up my bead, and I'm going to purl this next stitch. What that does is put the bead between the two stitches, but it makes this stitch an actual purl. It allows the bead to show up on this side. If I carried on and I just carried on knitting, it would surround the bead with knit stitches. Let me show you how to do that one more time. Knit a couple stitches, add a bead, so that way it shows up on the knit side by working a purl. Bead comes up, and I purl the next stitch. I could do that again, if I want to. Pull up a bead and purl the next stitch. And I could knit on. Now my beads are showing up on the knit side of my stockinette. If we take a look at these, you can see in this one it is the beads are surrounded by a reverse stockinette, or the purl side. If I flip this over, the beads are actually hidden on the knit side because they're all hanging out

over here on the purl bump. If we take a look at this one, this is one where, when I was on the knit side, I purled the next stitch between the beads, and it put the bead on the knit side. If I flip this over, now that looks like the beads are receding on the reverse stockinette or purl side. See how that looks? Now you know how to add beads to your knitting if you pre-string them. But what if you're mid-project and you decide, you know what, I could really use a good bead here? Let me show you how to do that. And let's pretend I wanted to add a bead directly to that stitch. One of the benefits of adding beads this way is that it actually puts the bead on the throat of the stitch and not in the purl bump between the stitches. I'm grabbing a crochet hook that is small enough to go through the hole on my bead. Put the bead directly onto my hook, and I'm coming over here, and I'm taking the next stitch that I want the bead on off of my lefthand needle. I take the bead and pull it right off of the hook directly onto that stitch, and I put the stitch back onto my lefthand needle. And I knit that stitch. We have now knitted a bead directly into the stitch. Let me show you how to do that one more time. Knit the next stitch, and let's pretend we wanted to add a bead again. So I've threaded a bead onto my hook, take the stitch off of my needle, put the bead directly onto the stitch, and put the stitch back onto my needle. Once I do that, I knit that stitch. And I'm carrying on. There are times, and some patterns, when it'll say that instead of putting that stitch back onto the lefthand needle to put it directly on the righthand needle, just as if it was a slip stitch. Either method will work. Adding a bead using a crochet hook is actually my preferred method because it's a way for me to be a little bit more creative. If I'm working on a project that doesn't call for beads, and I'm thinking to myself, you know, some added beads here on the trim would be really great, I could just grab my crochet hook and some beads, and add them directly into the stitches. Another benefit to using this method is that it is reversible in the sense that the bead shows up on both sides of the work. So you don't have to worry whether it is resting on the purl bump on the right side or the wrong side. It stays on the actual throat of the stitch, in the middle of the work. Now you know how to add beads to your knitting. I hope you will go out there and embellish all of your knits. (upbeat music)