

GOOD RIVER GALLERY

A Basic Knitted Beaded Amulet Bag

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Please note that this kit is for basic bead knitting, but it does not teach basic yarn knitting. It assumes you are comfortable with basic knitting, casting on and casting off BEFORE you try this technique.

If you don't already know how to knit, I suggest grabbing some larger knitting needles (wooden or plastic are easier than metal) and some bigger yarn.

Then check out this free Youtube Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uw-nUvGrBY>

Really, you want to be totally comfortable with yarn knitting before you try these teeny tiny metal needles and seed beads.

Thank you for downloading this tutorial! Before you get to work, **please take the time to read the tutorial thoroughly.**

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The design for this piece is based off of ancient techniques.

Most importantly, please have fun! Feel free to contact me with any and all questions regarding the information below, and for sources for any of the materials mentioned. I'll do my best to help you track down whatever you'll need!

Materials:

Seed Beads – Size 10/0 or 8/0

Knitting Needles – Size 0 or smaller

Crochet Cotton – Size 8

Optional: Purse Frame

Optional: Accent Beads for fringe

You reading glasses

The hardest part of this is using the tiny thread and the needles. Before you get to the beads, try using the small thread and the knitting needles for a little while.



ADDING BEADS TO BASIC KNITTING

Thread on some beads, just to practice.

Knit a few stitches.

Slip a bead into place, next to your beadwork and IGNORE it! Now, knit two stitches. The bead should be in place, between the two stitches of beadwork. Try this a few more times, until you are comfortable with the technique.

Now... try slipping two beads into place.

WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

If the bead isn't held horizontally, but instead turns vertically or diagonally, then you've actually knit the bead into the stitch. This shouldn't happen in this kind of beadwork – instead the knitting stitches should fall on either side of the bead. You are probably knitting too loosely if this happens on a regular basis – try holding your loose thread a little tighter or get smaller needles!

READY TO START YOUR PURSE?

Thread all those beads onto the crochet cotton.

Hint: I know I'm not supposed to, but I really only do three or four strands from the hank onto the crochet cotton at a time. When I get close to running out of beads, I make sure I'm in the selvege (the side of the piece) and then cut the cotton and add more. Then, I tie the two cut ends together into a knot and add a spot of glue. When I sew the bag up, I make sure this is inside. Its even better if you add a lining.

WHAT?!? You're thinking: "Three or four STRANDS? You want me to thread all of those onto the crochet cotton!?"

Yup. Sorry. There's two ways to do it.

1. Transferring Hank Beads With a Needle (I hate this way)

- 1 Carefully untie the main knot, freeing the ends of each string in the hank. Be sure to hold the ends of the strings so as to prevent the beads from falling off the ends.
- 2 Tape the free ends on either end of the strings to keep the beads from sliding off. Use a tape that doesn't leave a lot of adhesive residue, which could make transferring the beads difficult.
- 3 Thread your pearl cotton or other beading thread into a twisted wire needle or a beading needle that is small enough to fit through the hole in the beads.
- 4 Free one end of one of the strings of beads from the tape, working carefully so that you do not inadvertently pull out the other bead strings.
- 5 Slide the needle through the beads on the string in a row and push them onto the beading thread. Pull the hank string out and repeat the above steps until you have transferred all of the beads.

2. Transferring Hank Beads Without a Needle (this is how I do it)

- 1 Untie the main knot of the hank and secure the free ends of the strings with tape as before.
 - 2 Free one string of beads from the tape as before and tie a knot with a small loop at the end of the string, such as a square knot. Do not tie a slip knot that will come undone easily. Do not fully tighten the knot.
 - 3 Slip the end of your pearl cotton or other beading thread through the loop on the hank string, pulling until you have gotten at least 2 inches through.
 - 4 Fold the short end back over onto the long end of the beading thread and tighten the knot on the hank string so that the two strings are linked together.
 - 5 Slide the beads from the hank string over the knot and onto the beading thread. Slip the end of the beading thread out of the knot in the hank and remove the hank string. Repeat until all of the beads are transferred.
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Cast on 16 stitches.

Row 1 Knit 16

Oh, man, its time to make a choice already. Do you have a purse frame you want to add?

You can get a purse frame online from Lacis.

<http://www.lacis.com/catalog/>

Get the smallest ones available.



If so, then knit 3 more regular rows (for a total of 4. These will all be treated as a single row from here on). Otherwise, just go on to "Row 2"

Row 2-7 (Knit 2, slip 1 bead; 7 times) Knit 2
Row 8-13 (Knit 2, slip 2 beads; 7 times) Knit 2
Row 14-19 (Knit 2, slip 3 beads; 7 times) Knit 2
Row 20-27 (Knit 2, slip 4 beads; 7 times) Knit 2
Row 28-33 (Knit 2, slip 5 beads; 7 times) Knit 2

You are at the bottom of the bag here. There will be a fold and you will work your way back up the back of the bag now. To do this, follow the instructions, backwards, to the top. If you are adding a frame, also knit 4 regular rows at the end of your piece. If you don't want a flap or frame, then just cast off, sew your piece together and add the strap.

ADDING A FLAP

If you don't want to add a frame and want an envelop "look" to your bag, you can add a flap... Otherwise, you can just cast off.

I am going to start renumbering here, but don't get confused – the flap is attached to the second side of your bag (so you'll just continue where you left off above).

Row 1-2 Knit 16
Row 3-4 (Knit 2, slip 1 bead; 7 times) Knit 2
Row 5-6 (Knit 2, slip 2 beads; 7 times) Knit 2
Row 7-8 (Knit 2, slip 3 beads; 7 times) Knit 2
Row 9-10 (Knit 2, slip 2 beads; 7 times) Knit 2
Row 11-12 (Knit 2, slip 1 bead; 7 times) Knit 2
Row 13 K2T* (knit 2, slip 1 bead; 5 times) K2T
Row 14 (knit 3, slip 1 bead; 5 times) knit 3
Row 15 K2T (knit 2, slip 1 bead; 3 times) K2T
Row 16 (knit 3, slip 1 bead; 3 times) knit 3
Row 17 K2T (knit 2, slip 1 bead) K2T



* Knit 2 Together

Row 18 knit 3, slip 1 bead, knit 3
Row 19 K2T, knit 2, K2T
Row 20 K2T, K2T
Row 21 K2T. Finish by threading end of thread into loop... Hang a pretty bead.

ADDING FRINGE

If you want to, you can add looped fringe at the bottom of your amulet bag by simply threading a needle and attaching it to one side of the bag bottom. You'll then add loops of beadwork, attaching them to the knit ribs between the beads. I like to add multiple rows, to keep the beadwork looking rich and layered. I usually do this before I sew it up, so I can get to the inside of the bag. It makes it easier.



ADDING A FRAME

The instructions above should fit the smallest frame available (2.5"). If you want to attach the purse to a larger frame (not included in this kit, but available at lacis.com), you will have to fit each set of rows to the frame. Your work is in sets of 2 rows, always so that the inside and outside of the purse is even.

Cast on as many as you need to fit the top of the frame, then knit at least 3 more rows of plain that can be sewn to the frame before beginning to add beads.

Consider each set of two rows for the amount of beads you'll need to fit your purse to the frame. You'll have to play it by ear.

When finished, sew the purse into the frame.

PUTTING YOUR PURSE TOGETHER

Crochet or sew up the sides last, but leave some room below the hinges if you have a frame. Now, block your purse if you need to.

BLOCKING YOUR PURSE - OPTIONAL

The purse should already be sewn together when you do this. I never do this... but, if you'd like to stretch your purse a little bit, you can soak it in warm water until it is completely saturated.

Place it on a bit of foam core or Styrofoam and pin it in place. Leave it to dry. This will take longer in the summer than the winter, but don't put it out in the sun since it will bleach the fibers. I generally suggest putting it on top of the dryer.

ADDING A LINING

After your purse has been blocked, you can add the lining if you'd like.

Place your purse on some brown paper. Draw around it, then add ½” or more for the seams. I usually put a fold on the bottom, unless the purse has a rounded bottom. Cut your fabric, sew up the sides, baste the top edge in place, and place it into the bag. Sew in place.

Sometimes when I have a frame, the lining looks poor where the two are attached. Some ribbon over this area will aid to hide this.

ADDING THE STRAP

There are loads of ideas for adding a strap – my four favorites:

1. Beads on flexwire – this is great for both a frame, and attached directly to the bag. You’ll use crimp beads to attach the flexwire directly to the bag since flexwire cannot be knotted. The crimp beads simply get smashed with pliers and the end of the flexwire gets stuffed into one of the beads in the chain.
2. A twisted fiber strap – You need a really long length of this. Hold the fiber down on one side while you twist it between your fingers. When it is good and tight, let it fold in half, then knot it in place. The strap will keep its twist, looks neat, and can be sewn in place.
3. A crocheted & Beaded Strap – I love to begin at the bottom of the bag, crochet up the side, then crochet the strap and then crochet down to the bottom of the bag. This gives me less “loose ends” to tie up.
4. Chain – this can be attached via jump rings to either the bag or the frame. This is my least favorite since it looks the least “handmade.”



Enjoy!

As a side note – I currently have TWO of these little bags on Etsy.