

Stringing Beads to Crochet

For many projects in bead crochet, you will transfer the hanks of beads onto the crochet thread one strand at a time, instead of stringing the beads individually. Slide a thread from the hank by pulling it gently from the knot, or cut it close to the knot, being careful to keep the beads on the thread. Tie the hank thread onto the crochet thread with a single knot (Figure 1). (Don't make a second knot, as it will be too big and make transfer too difficult.)

Slide a few beads at a time onto the crochet thread. Resist the impulse to slide the entire hank at once, as the knot may come undone and the beads will scatter (Figure 2).

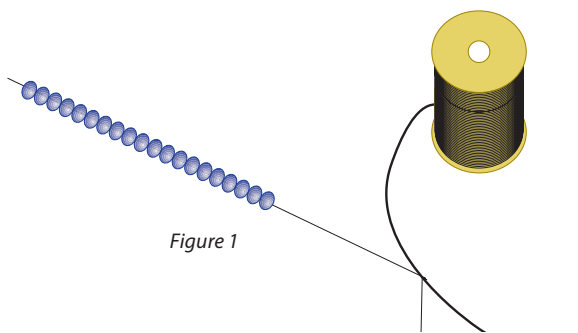


Figure 1

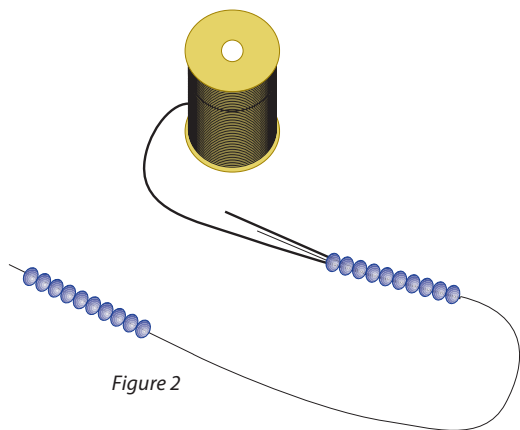


Figure 2

Bead Spinner

A bead spinner is a turned wooden bowl resembling a split-open and hollowed donut that spins on a ball-bearing assembly. This gadget and a long curve-tipped needle offer a quick way to load the crochet thread with beads. Thread the needle with several inches of thread. Pour the seed beads into the bowl. Arrange the curve of the needle so that when the bowl spins, the beads are forced onto the needle and onto the thread. Transfer the beads from the thread just as you would transfer beads from a hank.

When using an assortment of seed bead sizes, the spinner picks up the beads randomly. If you dredged a needle into a cereal bowl, all the tiniest beads would settle to the bottom. With the spinner, the tiniest of beads are picked up randomly with the others.



Bead spinner