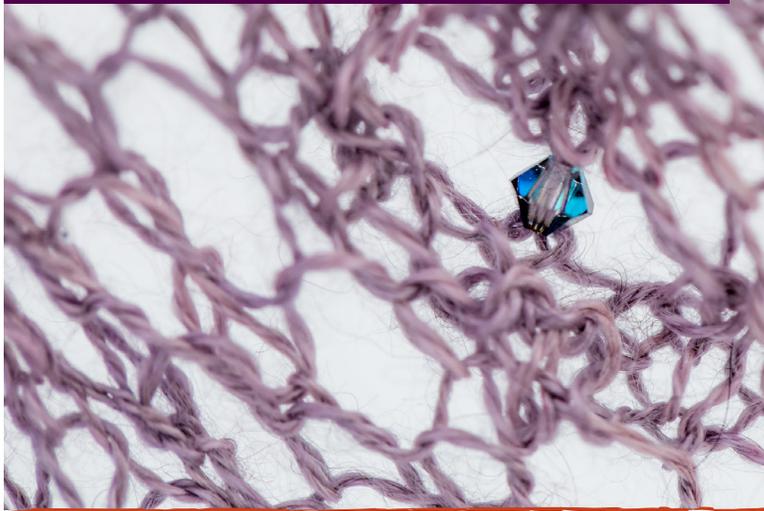


# BEADING 101

with Laura Nelkin



*This class teaches multiple ways of working with beads. It is the PERFECT introductory class! You will learn how to place beads with a crochet hook or superfloss, how to work with pre-strung beads in a variety of ways, and how to work with beads on bind-offs and i-cord. We'll discuss choosing beads and yarn, along with how to look at an existing pattern in your library and how to add beads to it. This is a class for those with basic knitting skills who are ready to add a little bling to their knitting!*

## **We'll do this together in class:**

- Thread 50 beads onto your yarn.  
Slide Beads down your yarn a bit  
Cast on 15 sts and knit 2 rows.

## **Resources**

### **Beads and Findings**

- Fire Mountain Gems- <https://www.firemountaingems.com/>
- Caravan Beads- <https://caravanbeads.com/>
- Lima Beads- <https://www.limabeads.com/>
- Bead Weaver of Santa Fe- <https://www.beadweaverofsantafe.com/>
- Resource- <https://www.ravelry.com/groups/nelkin-designs/pages/Where-to-Buy-Beads-Online>

### **Kits and Patterns**

- Kits- <http://www.nelkindesigns.com/kits>
- Patterns- <http://www.nelkindesigns.com/index.cfm/page/patterns/Beaded.htm>

## Choosing Yarn

- If you decide to work with beads (and I hope you do!) you'll need to choose a tough yarn that can handle the number of beads this project entails. As the beads slide down the yarn they will abrade it so you want to choose one that will behave. You can of course choose not to work with beads, if so then feel free to choose a more delicate yarn (like one with cashmere!)

## Choosing Beads

- I prefer glass Japanese beads for their uniformity, both inside and out. You should choose beads that are smooth on their interior so they do not damage your yarn while they slide down it. The three main Japanese Manufacturers are Miyuki, Matsuno and Toho.

- Bead Sizing:

round size 8 seed beads; approx 40 beads per gram

round size 6 seed beads; approx 12 beads per gram

size 8 Delica Seed Beads; approx. 32 beads per gram

### Bead Size vs. Yarn Size

YARN WEIGHT	PRE-STRUNG BEADS	PLACING A BEAD
<b>lace</b>	size 8	size 6 or 8
<b>light fingering</b>	size 8	size 6
<b>fingering/sock</b>	size 6 or 8	size 6
<b>sport</b>	size 6	size 6
<b>dk</b>	size 6	size 5
<b>worsted</b>	size 5	size 5?

## Choosing Needles

- It is MUCH easier to work lace and Nupps if you have needles with sharp tips. There are many needles on the market designed particularly for this. I enjoy Lace Needles from Chiaogoo, Addi, Hiya-Hiya, Signature, and Knit Picks.

## Stringing On Beads-

- With a dental floss threader or large eye beading needle thread end of yarn through eye on needle, then pick up beads with needle and slide down onto the yarn.

## Tips for Stringing Beads

- You don't have to painstakingly count each bead as you thread them onto the yarn.
- Thread on 20 beads, make sure they are placed tightly together, then measure to see how much length they cover. Determine how many beads are needed to cover an inch of yarn (measure in several places to get an accurate average measurement).
- Determine how many inches of beads are needed to achieve the number of beads required; it's easier to measure the length of yarn covered in beads, than to count out hundreds of beads!

## What happens when you run out of beads?

- It's easy to thread on more beads, just cut your yarn leaving a 6" tail, thread them on, and continue to work. You'll just have a few ends to weave in when you are done!

## Slip 1 bead-

When directions say to slip a bead, simply slide the bead up to the right hand needle as far as it will go and then work the next stitch. This will lock the bead in between two stitches. Note: in this pattern the slipped beads function as stitch markers to help you keep track of the stitches in the center lace panel!

## Yarnover w/ # of bead(s)

Slide bead(s) up yarn so that they sit directly next to the right hand needle. Work the yarn over, then work the following st as directed. The bead(s) will remain locked into place on the yarnover.

## Knit or Purl with bead(s)

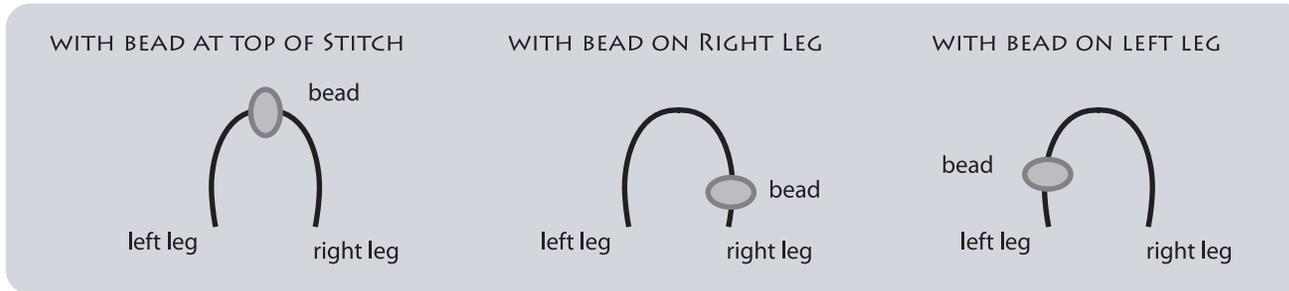
Put your right ndl into the loop on your left ndl to work a stitch as usual, then slip a bead up until it is almost but not quite touching the right ndl. The bead should be sitting "on top" of the ndl. Then work the stitch - the bead(s) will lock into place on the new stitch you just made!

## Working into yarnovers or stitches with beads on them from the previous row

i.e. Beads to Back, Beads to Front

When you reach a yarnover from a previous row with a bead on it you have to make sure the bead ends up laying correctly. If you look at the yarnover with the bead on it from the previous row you see that it is an upside down U with two legs, a right leg and a left leg. The right leg is at the front of your left hand needle, and the left leg is to the back of your left hand needle. The beads should sometimes be to the back of the needle when working into it, and sometimes to the front of the needle. Your pattern will show you exactly where they should be placed!

IMPORTANT: This step is about yarnovers from previous rows with beads already on them NOT the new yarnovers you are making!



## Placing a Bead

- With crochet hook or Super Floss floss, place bead onto next stitch on left hand needle, then slip or knit the stitch- this will lock the bead into place.  
Video Tutorial: <http://www.nelkindesigns.com/PlacingABead>

## MEET LAURA



Laura lives in upstate New York, where the sunny season is short, leaving plenty of time to be indoors knitting. Despite holding a degree in apparel design from Cornell University, she took to knitting years ago and hasn't looked back. Laura's designs and techniques are innovative, fun and will challenge you to think in new ways about your knitting. Laura runs multiple clubs every year, which are great ways to learn and explore what you can do with your needles!

Laura shares her skills in workshops across the country, on-line with Craftsy, and in her spare time leads knitting tours abroad.

## CONNECT WITH ME!

Website: [www.nelkindesigns.com](http://www.nelkindesigns.com)

YouTube Channel: [www.nelkindesigns.com/youtube](http://www.nelkindesigns.com/youtube)

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## HELPFUL TUTORIALS!!

[www.nelkindesigns.com/tutorials](http://www.nelkindesigns.com/tutorials)

## NEED HELP OR WANT TO SHARE YOUR KNITTING?

Check out my Ravelry group...

[www.nelkindesigns.com/ravelry](http://www.nelkindesigns.com/ravelry)