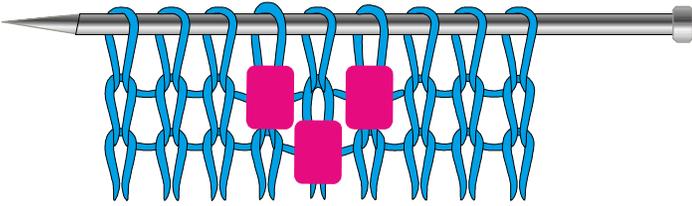


Painting with Beads



Inserting Beads via Slip Stitch

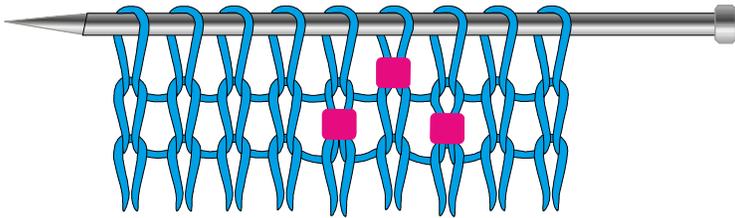


The **slip stitch** method of inserting beads, requires that you string your beads on the yarn before you start.

When you want to place a bead on the stitch to your left, you bring your yarn forward, slip the stitch purlwise. Next slip the bead down the yarn until it rests in the center of the slipped stitch. Bring your yarn to the back, and knit the next stitch.

OK! That is fine if you have a random pattern and are not required to have beads next store to each other, but if you do, there is no way to anchor the bead in place, as can't have two slipped stitches together. The result would be the bead will slide in between the stitches.

Inserting bead with Crochet Hook



This method does not require you to string the beads first. They are inserted on the spot where you want them to rest.

Insert the crochet hook into the bead. Let it slide back on the hook about 1/2 inch. Knit the stitch where you will put the bead. Pick off the loop of the new stitch with the crochet hook and pull the loop through the center of the bead. You can also opt for just using your hook to knit the stitch and then slide the loop through the bead before returning the loop to the right needle.

OK! This works great, BUT for the design I want to make is alters the gauge of the knitting too much.



I whipped up a little “demo” to show you how it’s done. This little practice piece is just enough stitches to get your feet wet.

First string up some beads. I used fingering yarn and .06 glass beads.

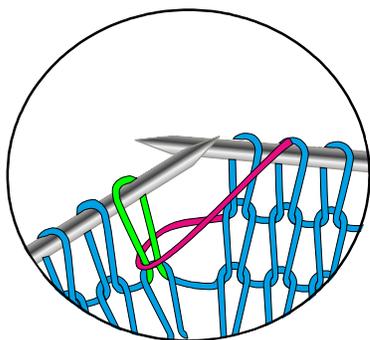
At left is a photo of 4 beads that were arranged in a diamond shape. Two were knitted in on the RS, and the middle two were inserted in the purl row.

The process is the same on both sides.



You will notice that the beads **set on top of the knitted surface** and do not alter the gauge.

A

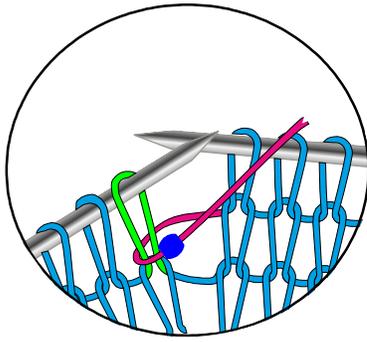


So here is your practice piece-

String up about 20 beads on some spare fingering yarn. Using a # 3 or 4 knitting needles cast on 15 sts. Knit a couple of rows even.

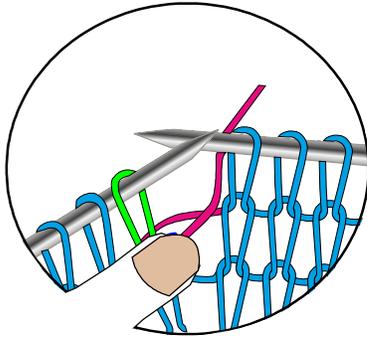
Row #1 Knit 7 sts. Next, slip next stitch (green) knitwise. Bring yarn between needles and to the front. With left needle pick up slipped st. Bring yarn up and to the right of the slipped st. See “A”.

B



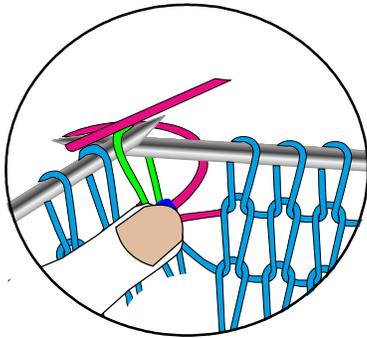
B- Slip first bead down the yarn, and let it rest at the base of the slipped stitch.

C



C- Place tip of left thumb on bead, bring yarn to back,

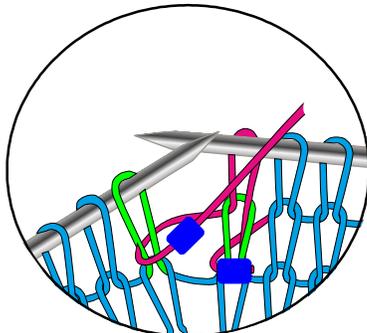
D



D. Knit in back loop of slipped stitch, making sure that the bead is on the top of your knitted surface. Take up any slack, but don't over-tighten. You want the bead to lay smoothly at the base of the stitch.

* Always make sure that any st (knit or purl) that follows your bead insertion is a firm st.

E



E. At left is an illustration of actually how the bead sets. I have opened up the yarn so you can see the actual path this move takes. In this diagram, you will see that I am preparing to insert 2 beads in a row, side by side..



Row#2- K 1, P 5. [Sl st knitwise, yarn forward toward RS of fabric. Pick up Sl st with left needle. Slip bead in place at base of slipped st. Bring yarn to back, keeping bead on RS surface of knitting, purl through back loop of stitch. Adjust tension] P 1, Repeat [], P5, K1.

To finish the diamond, repeat **row #1**.



Now go ahead and make your own design using these 15 stitches. In photo to the left you see that I secured 3 beads in a row.



Here is a view of the back side of the knitted fabric. There is not a noticeable gauge difference.

The one nice thing about this method is that the beads are exactly where they need to be and if they need a bit of alignment, that can be done very nicely with one ply of the yarn and a sewing needle. Just come in from the back, run your yarn through the bead, take a tiny stitch and run it through next one. I find that the only time I really need to deal with this is when I have them stacked in rows, one on top of the other, such as in the "T" formation in my evening bag flap design. By running one ply of the yarn right up the row of stitches designated in the chart I was able to make the beads "behave." You can also smooth out your curves the same way, as the beads are there for you to push around a bit. No one will see your tiny sts, especially as they are of the same color and fabric.