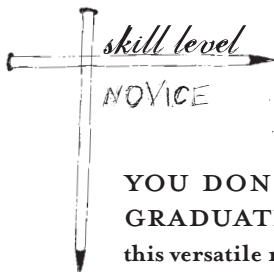






STRINGS OF PURLS



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN IVY LEAGUE GRADUATE TO WEAR a pearl necklace. Just knit up this versatile novelty, making it into a short or long necklace, a belt or a drawstring cord for a hoodie; be guided by your whim. Then vamp it up as much or as little as you want. A string of purls can be just the thing for an informal tank top or even a little black dress.

I encourage you to experiment with the size of the beads and the distance between them to create something truly unique. But don't be fooled that this is an easy project. Closing up the beads with stuffing inside will teach your fingers the art of contortion.



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- ✘ double-pointed needles (see page 54)
- ✘ I-cord (see page 72)
- ✘ shaping a sphere with increases and decreases

YARN

1 ball (90 yards ea) Crystal Palace Shimmer acrylic/nylon blend yarn in color 1736 white, color 1737 black or any other color of your choice

Or substitute Muench String of Pearls cotton/viscose/polyester blend yarn in color 4001 white, or any yarn with spring to it.

NEEDLES

size US 8 (5mm) DPNs for Crystal Palace yarn

size US 7 (4.5mm) DPNs for Muench yarn

If necessary, change needle size to obtain gauge.

NOTIONS

scrap yarn, cotton balls or other stuffing to fill beads (see Read This First, this page)

darning needle

GAUGE

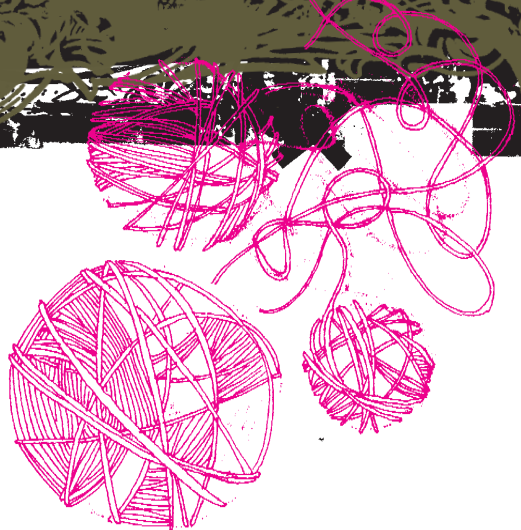
Many different gauge yarns may be used. Regardless of the yarn selected, use needles 2–4 sizes smaller than recommended on ball band. The projects shown here are knit on needles 3 sizes smaller than recommended.

✕ read this first ✕

Stuffing each bead and then doing double decreases on DPNs while holding in the stuffing can be a real dexterity challenge. Knit one or two practice beads before you embark on this project.

For the stuffing, waste yarn from other projects in similar colors may be used, but roving or a two-ply bulky yarn works best. The finer the yarn, the more likely it will peek out through your stitches. Cotton balls and their synthetic variants also work well.

Just don't forget the beads must be stuffed before you close them up; otherwise there's no way to get anything inside!



TERMINOLOGY

RLI (right lifted increase): Lift first leg of st below next st onto needle and knit this st (see page 56).

LLI (left lifted increase): Lift last leg below last knitted st onto needle and knit this st (see page 56).

sl2-k1-ssso (slip 2, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over): Slip 2 sts tog as if to knit, knit 1, pass 2 slipped sts over the knitted st.

[] (repeat operation): Rep operation in brackets the number of times indicated.

Other techniques: SSK and k2tog (see page 58)



I-CORD

With DPN, cast on 3 sts loop style.

RND 1: Knit.

RND 2: Slide sts to opposite end of DPN, pulling yarn tight across back, knit.

Rep Row 2 until cord is desired length before first bead. Stretch cord firmly before (but not while) measuring.

SMALL BEAD

NOTE:

Work is distributed over 2 DPNs. Knit with a third needle.

RND 1: [RLI, k1, LLI] twice, pick up another DPN and RLI, k1, LLI—9 sts.

RNDS 2–4: Knit.

INSERT STUFFING: Fill bead with 12" (30cm) of super bulky yarn or with a cotton ball or other stuffing. Hold stuffing in place while you knit the next rnd.

RND 5: [sl2-k1-pss0] 3 times, knitting all sts onto one DPN—3 sts. Cont working Rnd 2 of I-cord with 2 needles to desired length before next bead.

MEDIUM BEAD

RNDS 1–2: Work Rnds 1–2 as for Small Bead.

RND 3: [RLI, k3] twice; on next needle RLI, k3—12 sts.

RNDS 4–5: Knit.

INSERT STUFFING: Cut an 18" (46cm) length of super bulky yarn and roll it gently into a ball. Insert the ball into the bead firmly and hold it there while you knit the next rnd.

RND 6: [SSK, k2] 3 times—9 sts.

RND 7: Work as for Rnd 5 of Small Bead.

LARGE BEAD

RNDS 1–2: Work Rnds 1–2 as for Small Bead.

RND 3: k1, RLI, k1, LLI, k2, RLI, k1, LLI, k1; on next needle, k1, RLI, k1, LLI, k1—15 sts.

RNDS 4–6: Knit.

INSERT STUFFING: Cut a 24" (61cm) length of super bulky yarn and roll it gently into a ball. Insert the ball into the bead firmly and hold it there while you knit the next rnd.

RND 7: [SSK, k1, SSK] 3 times—9 sts.

RND 8: Work as for Rnd 5 of Small Bead.

KNITTING A LARGE BEAD FIRST

To knit a bead at the beg of the purl necklace, cast on 3 sts and work first rnd as for I-cord.

RNDS 2–9: Work as for Rnds 1–8 of Large Bead.

Be sure to tuck yarn tail inside before knitting it shut.

RND 10: sl2-k1-ssso, leaving a single st. Slide st to opposite end of DPN.

RND 11: Pulling yarn tight across back, k1, p1, k1 in single st. Cont working rnd 2 of I-cord with 2 needles to desired length before next bead.

KNITTING A LARGE BEAD LAST

Use the 3 sts rem on the needle from the I-cord to knit a bead at the end of a purl necklace.

RND 1: sl2-k1-ssso, leaving a single st. Slide st to opposite end of DPN wyib.

RND 2: Pulling yarn tight across back, k1, p1, k1 in single st. Slide sts to opposite end of DPN.

RND 3: Pulling yarn tight across back, k3, slide sts to opposite end of DPN.

RNDS 4–11: Work Rnds 1–8 as for Large Bead.

RND 12: sl2-k1-ssso, leaving a single st.

Pull yarn through and weave in end to finish.



purls for any occasion

GATSBY NECKLACE

This classic style looks great when made overly long and looped once around the neck so you appear to be wearing a choker and a long swag at the same time. Knit 6" (15cm) of cord, then one small bead, and repeat by alternating 2" (5cm) of cord and small beads until necklace is 6" (15cm) shorter than desired length. Finish with 6" (15cm) of cord. Knot the yarn ends together and weave them in.

WILMA FLINTSTONE NECKLACE

Knit 4" (10cm) of cord, then one large bead, and repeat by alternating $\frac{3}{4}$ " (2cm) of cord with large beads until you have five beads, then finish with 4" (10cm) of cord. Finish this style with a clamp-on necklace clasp, found in bead or notions stores.

GRADUATED PEARL CHOKER

Knit 4" (10cm) of cord, one small bead, $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1cm) cord, one small bead, $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1cm) cord, medium bead, $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1cm) cord, large bead, $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1cm) cord, medium bead, $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1cm) cord, one small bead, $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1cm) cord, one small bead, 4" (10cm) cord. Finish this style with a clamp-on necklace clasp.

GAUCHO'S LARIAT

Knit one large bead first, tucking the yarn end inside before stuffing and closing the bead, then 36" (91cm) of cord (or desired length) and finish with another large bead and bind off. Remember that the knot will use up 2" to 3" (5 to 8cm) of cord, so choose cord length accordingly.

BALL AND CHAIN LARIAT

Knit as for Gaucho style: 50" (127cm) of cord makes a nice lariat that reaches past the navel when knotted twice. Knot the lariat like you would begin to tie your shoes and then slip the bead of the tying end through the back of the knot. This should allow one end of cord to slide freely through the knot. Knot it twice like this for the chain look.

BEAD BELT

This works best if the chosen elastic is the same or a similar color to the yarn. Firmly knot the end of a $\frac{1}{4}$ " (.6cm) wide elastic cord and insert this knot into the top of the bead before you knit the final decrease round for the cord. As you work each row of cord, be sure the working yarn wraps behind the elastic cord in order to hide it. The belt looks best with a few beads knitted at the beginning and end, but not in the middle. Beads knitted in the middle stand away from your waist, and cause the beads to flatten with wear. If you plan to wear this with belt loops, squeeze the beads through each loop.

DRAWSTRING FOR HOODIE

Knit as for Ball and Chain Lariat, with 50" (127cm) of cord. Here are two methods to thread cord through hoodie casing:

- { 1 } If you are making the hoodie yourself, leave the casing open, then lay the cord inside and sew up the casing.
- { 2 } If you are using a store-bought hoodie, or one that already has the casing closed, only knit the first bead(s) and cord, then pass live sts onto a piece of waste yarn. Cut a yarn tail at least 9 yards long and pull it through the casing along with the cord. Use this yarn tail to knit the remaining ball.