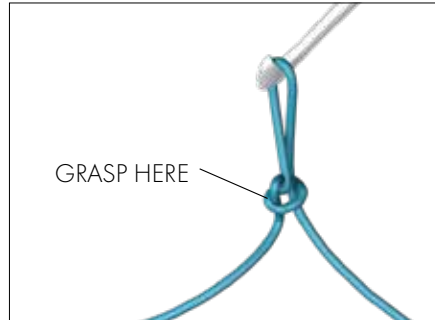
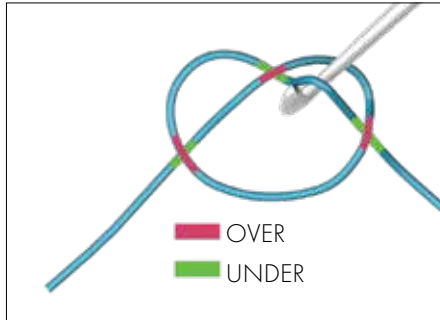


Recommended beginner materials: 11° seed beads, 20 or 30-weight crochet thread, size 9 (1.25mm) or 10 (1.10mm) crochet hook

Every spiral tube starts with a foundation of chain stitches with one more stitch(es) than your design has in each round.



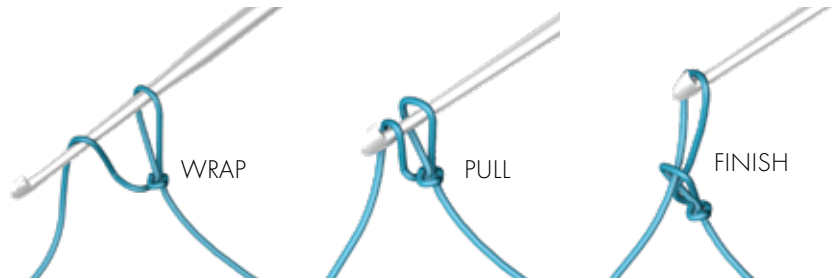
The basic chain starts with a slip knot. Pull out a foot of thread, form a "pretzel" shape, placing threads over and under as shown here. Insert the hook.

Pull up the hook to form a loop. Adjust the thread as needed, leaving a tail of 10" (25.4 cm). It helps to grasp the knot as you draw the loop up and in.

Wrap the thread around the hook. Here the thread is shown wrapped front to back, but back to front works just as well. Keep the slip knot fairly loose.

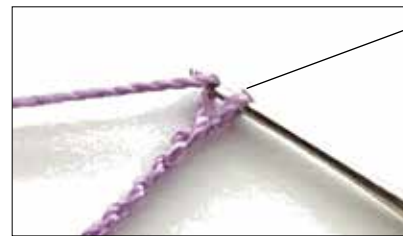
Pull the wrapped thread through the slip knot loop to form the first chain.

Finish the stitch by adjusting it to create a neat loop. Use this stitch as a model for the size of all subsequent chains.



Repeat these actions until you have the desired number of chain stitches. Keep the chains even, and watch your tension—it's difficult to insert the hook into a chain stitch that's overly tight.

Each chain will subsequently be the foundation for a single crochet stitch, either with or without a bead.

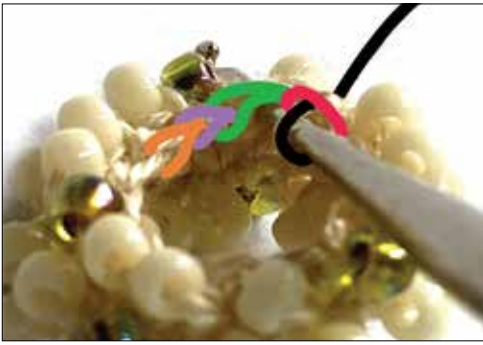


Working in the whole stitch

The diagram at right shows the back of the loop, the whole loop and the front of the loop. You should ALWAYS insert the hook through the whole loop.

That said, in the first few rounds it can be a challenge to insert the hook through the whole loop; stitches will turn inward until the tube has a few rounds completed. It's OK to do a few back loop stitches when you simply can't get the hook through the whole loop. Once the tube is established, however, beads in stitches that are not made through the whole loop will be looser and may protrude a bit from the rest of the tube.





- Working loop and thread
- Last stitch made
- Loop through which hook is inserted
- Next whole stitch loop
- Another whole stitch loop

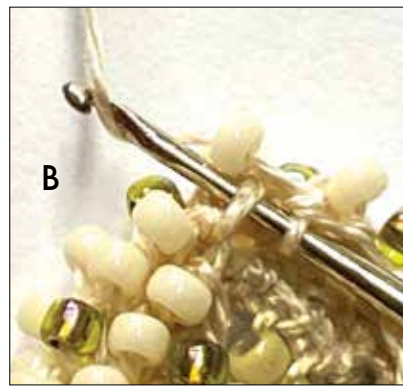
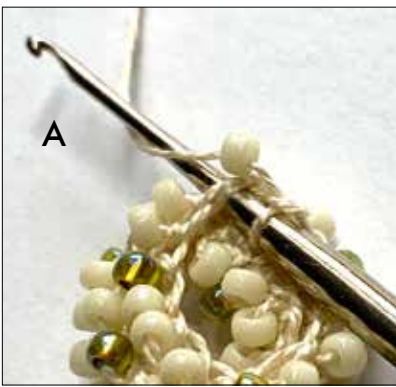
Identifying the loops

In this diagram the whole loops and working thread and loop of the round in the early start of a tube are shown clearly. In the first few rounds you'll need to make a specific effort to use the whole loop.

Keeping the bead on the outside of the stitch

The whole point of creating a tube of beads is to have the beads on the outside and the fiber stitches on the inside. In photo A, the thread is wrapped from back to front over the hook prior to pulling it through. In photo B, the thread is grabbed from behind and under, which is the preferred manner, as the bead naturally falls to the outside.

In this photo, you can see the bead on the outside prior to pulling the thread through the two loops on the hook



If you want to insert the entire end of the tube into a closure or use a snap, start your beaded crochet directly on the foundation chain.

Insert the hook into the first chain and bring a bead down the working thread; wrap the thread round the hook. (F). Pull the thread through the chain (G) which catches the bead on the outside of the chain. Wrap the thread around the hook (H) and pull the wrapped thread through both loops on the hook (I).



All sixteen beaded stitches are shown here, though the last bead added is hiding behind the working loop.

The red and blue dots (below, right) show how the tube is beginning to form a spiral. As the beaded crochet progresses, the spiral will be better defined.

The first bead will not initially land in the same position as it will when more rounds are added. Here it looks to be on the inside of the chain, but in reality it is on the outside and will be more visibly so with the addition of beaded rounds. The beads will shift slightly clockwise as rounds are added.



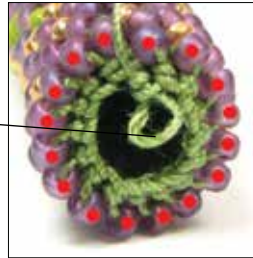
● LAST BEAD(S) OF EACH ROUND

● FIRST BEAD(S) OF EACH ROUND

The first ten or so rounds will not be attractive and you may be tempted to start over or quit altogether. But after a few more rounds, the tube will take form and will be easier to handle.



● BEADS OF THE TOP ROUND
● WORKING LOOP

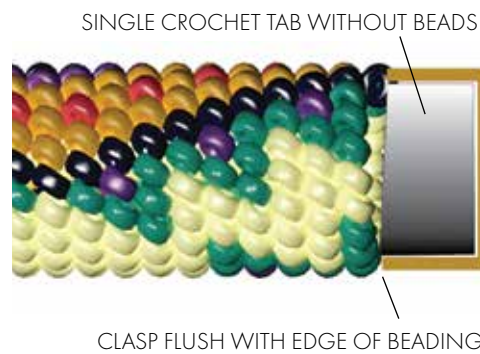
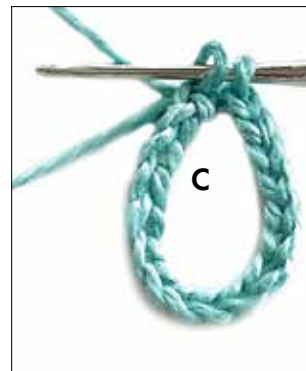
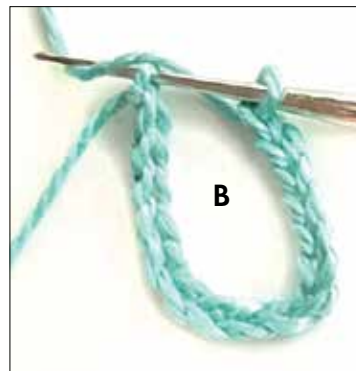
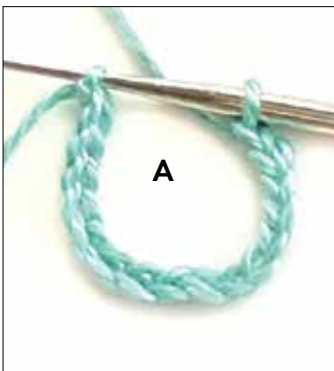


Count the beads of the top round often to be sure your circumference remains consistent.

If you want the edge of your beaded tube to be flush with the edge of the clasp, work a few rounds of spiral single crochet without beads so the crochet fits inside the clasp.

To get the spiral started, use the first chain you made as the basis for the first single crochet stitch. There is no "step-up" as there is in traditional single crochet.

Insert the hook into the chain (A). Wrap the working thread around the hook (B) and pull it through (C). Wrap the working thread around the hook (D) and pull it through to form the first single crochet (E). Thereafter, make a single crochet stitch in each chain. Continue without stepping up to form a spiral.



LATER YOU WILL USE THE UNBEADED END TO SECURE YOUR SUPPORTING FIBER BUNDLE