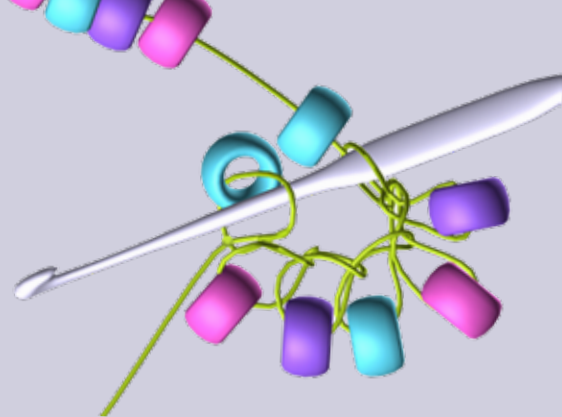


Preparing to crochet

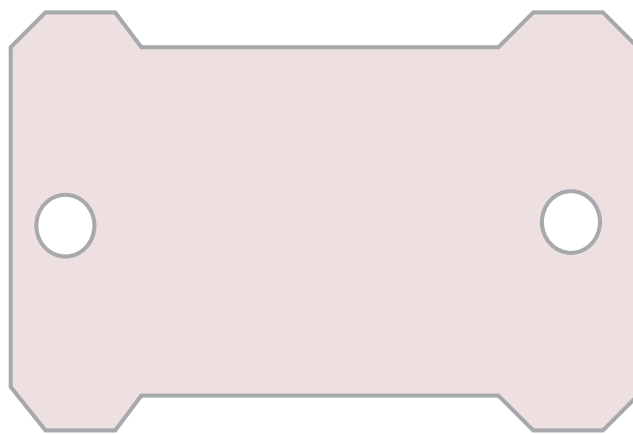
It's so much easier if you do a few simple things beforehand.



For a true beginner, the recommended size of beads is 8°, with size 10/2 perle coton thread (yes, this is the correct spelling of this French-born fiber but “pearl cotton” is generally used, and a size 9 steel (1.25mm) crochet hook. The recommended tube circumference for learning is six-around. If possible, choose six distinctly different (opaques recommended) colors for your first project; using six colors will facilitate self-assessment as your tube grows. You can use three colors and repeat them twice within each round, but to be absolutely certain you're crocheting correctly, six colors work well.



Thread management is always an issue; use a winding card roughly the size and shape shown here. Cereal box cardboard will work nicely. The two holes are where you will store your work when you set it aside; by inserting the hook in one hole and the blunt end in the other, you secure the beaded thread and the crocheted tube quite safely.



Threading

Threading a simple pattern is easy if you lay out your beads in pattern order in small separated piles. Thread consistently from one side to the other. The first bead threaded is the last bead crocheted.



Czech opaque/lustered 8°s are used here with a neutral color thread. The threading device is a size 9 darning needle.

Pick up one bead of each color in order from left to right, then start again with another group in the same order from left to right.

For a seven-inch bracelet, you need about seventy rounds of beaded crochet in size 8° beads. More about sizing later, to help you plan your own designs.

Unwind a few yards of thread and push the beads down, so they aren't all in one packed line. I often leave the needle on the end of the thread until I've established the start of the tube, as it weighs down the starting thread tail and keeps it out of the way. And it's handy if you're burying your starting thread as part of finishing.

