

50 Don't jeopardize your most important tool—your eyes! Make sure to bead in good light.

50 Great Beading Tips

From the Beadwork staff

- 49 Set up your beading surface in a low-lipped tray so that if you spill beads, you won't have to pick them up off the floor.
- 48 Don't fret about spilled beads. Simply use a rubber band to secure a piece of pantyhose over the hose attachment of your vacuum. Turn the machine on and swoosh! They are all picked up.
- 47 Use a manageable length of thread to prevent tangles. Three or four feet is a good length.
- 46 Invest in beautiful clasps that complement your pieces. They can often mean the difference between ho-hum and sensational pieces.
- 45 Arrange seed beads by width before you use them. Use thin ones for off-loom increases and fat ones for decreases.
- 44 A child's Fiskars scissors work great for cutting Power Pro.
- 43 When you're threading a needle, don't hold the needle up, squint, and try to put the thread through as in cartoons! Instead, hold the thread in your left hand so just a tiny bit sticks up, and place the eye of the needle down over the thread.
- 42 Put on a little lip balm before you thread a needle. That way when you lick the thread the wax will coat the end and keep the thread fibers from separating.
- 41 When you're stringing the first two rows of peyote stitch, use an eye pin or needle to string every other bead. This technique pulls the first row of the work down, pops up the second row, and makes it easier to work the third row.
- 40 Mark the first bead of every off-loom round with white correction fluid. The marks will help you keep your place, and the dried fluid easily chips off the beads when you are finished.
- 39 A brick-stitch graph and a peyote-stitch graph are the same thing.
- 38 A square-stitch graph and a loomwork graph are the same thing.
- 37 After you have worked flat or tubular herringbone stitch, the end rows may look jumbled. Straighten and tighten those rows by weaving a thread through them in loose square stitch.
- 36 When you're doing loomwork, use the glint of the needle as the indication between beads that you aren't passing through the warp threads.
- 35 If you've made a mistake stringing or weaving a seed bead, just avert your eyes (to protect them from flying glass) and carefully break the bead by forcing a larger needle into the hole. Start a new thread near this spot and weave to where you want to insert a new bead. Do your best to hide the exposed threads.
- 34 Permanent markers are available in a wide variety of colors at craft and office stores. Use them to color any mismatched thread or mistakenly placed beads in seed-bead work.
- 33 To keep macramé in place and untangled, use T-pins or U-pins, a corkboard, and rubber bands or twist ties.
- 32 For intricate knotting techniques, the cord should be about ten times longer than the finished length of the piece.
- 31 Invest in sterling silver or 24kt gold findings. Not only will your work look classier, the findings will be durable.
- 30 Use inexpensive copper wire to practice wire techniques.
- 29 If you use serrated pliers, cover the jaws with masking tape before you do any wirework.
- 28 When you buy silver, if the price seems too good to be true, it probably is.

27 To open a jump ring, twist the ends away from each other; don't pull them apart.

26 If you need to adjust a strung piece, and it has enough extra wire to work with, use sharp, pointed wire cutters to cut the crimp tube free, carefully avoiding the wire. You can then rework the piece as needed and recrimp.

25 Use a good jeweler's glue—Hypo Cement or E-6000—when you make jewelry; don't use "super" glues.

24 Keep silver tarnish-free by storing it in a plastic bag that contains a piece of white chalk.

23 After you shine a silver piece, rub car wax on it. Allow it to dry and rub the wax off with a soft cloth. The wax should deter tarnishing.

22 Don't buy weak magnetic clasps. Strong magnetic clasps hold better. Keep them away from credit cards, and if you have a pacemaker, don't use them at all.

21 You can use continuous-hoop ear wires for wine charms.

20 When you're using a knot cup, first string a seed bead and bring it down to the end of the thread. Tie the thread to itself as you catch the seed bead in the knot. Next, thread the knot cup. The seed bead will act as an additional anchor inside the cup.

19 Keep a small nail file or metal file in your bead box to sand sharp wire ends.

18 You can paint lacquer on wirework and metal beads to delay oxidation.

17 It is possible to cut beadwork like fabric. Really. The weave must be a tight one, though, like square stitch, peyote stitch, brick stitch, right-angle weave, or herringbone stitch.

16 Slice a toilet paper tube lengthwise to open it up. This creates a great base for large tubular projects. When you are finished, simply squeeze the tube and remove it.

15 A bead spinner is a great investment if a project requires stringing a lot of seed beads (think knitting, crochet, or wire-beaded projects).

14 Any embroidery stitch can be turned into a bead embroidery stitch. Most bead embroidery is done simply by stringing a bead before stitching into the fabric.

13 Always buy more beads than you think you will need for a project.

12 Treating thread with beeswax or Thread Heaven before you use it will guard against fraying and help keep the thread strong.

11 Don't use crimp beads with serrated centers on nylon beading wire. The wire weakens if the nylon is pierced.

10 Stretch out beading thread before you use it by pulling on it an inch at a time.

9 Keep a small measuring tape and a bead-millimeter size chart with you at all times.

8 When you're buying beads, be sure to ask the vendor exactly what type of bead you have bought. You'll be surprised how useful this information can turn out to be.

7 Use a washcloth or piece of Vellux blanket as a beading surface. Your beads won't roll.

6 Stand back from your work every once in a while. You can catch mistakes and admire your handiwork this way.

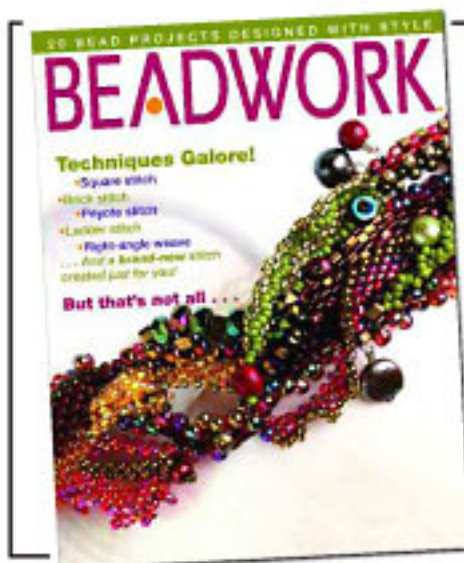
5 Invest in good tools. They will make beading easier and last longer than chintzy counterparts.

4 If your beads have a nonpermanent dye or finish, try spraying your completed project with clear Krylon.

3 Use a ball-point needle to help untangle knots.

2 Keep a diamond bead reamer on hand to file out tight bead holes.

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