

Sea Shell Beaded Bag

The Sea Shell beaded bag is knit from the top edge down, ending with either a squared or pointed flap. The flap edge has two options: a square fringed edge, or a pointed edge. The two closure options are either a beaded button and twisted loop or a beaded tassel. The handle also presents several options: a braided beaded handle, twisted perle cotton handle or a combination of the two.

The body of the bag is a simple k2 pattern, increasing and decreasing in width by the changing number of beads per row.

This project is small enough to be enjoyable for the first time bead knitter, with a delightful result.

Materials

- 1 – 10 gr. ball # 8 perle cotton
- 100 gr. (2 hanks) #10 seed beads
- 1 pair 1.25 mm (US #0000) knitting needles
- 1 pair knitting needle point protectors
- 1 beading needle if using loose beads
- 1.50 mm crochet hook, to pick up dropped stitches

Finished size

Approximately 5" wide at the bottom, 4" long – large enough for a lipstick, key and some money or credit card.

If you want a slightly smaller bag, reduce the number of cast on stitches and beaded rows:

Cast on	Beaded Rows
22 stitches	Reduce each repetition by 1 row e.g. 5 rows of S1B
20 stitches	Reduce each repetition by 2 rows e.g. 4 rows of S1B

Abbreviations

- S1B Slide the designated number of beads up to the needles, in this example 1 bead)
S1 Slip one stitch knitways
K1 Knit one stitch
K2tog Knit two stitches together
S1B, K2 Repeat pattern between *, to end of row.



Suggestions for Success

While this project is simple in pattern, the fineness of both the perle cotton and the needles, and the need to count beads means you have to pay attention to your work – perhaps not a good choice for evening knitting, when you're tired. Other suggestions for success are:

- Prevent tangles – wrap an elastic band around the ball of thread and keep the beaded thread snug against the ball.
- Check each row to ensure you've slipped the correct amount of beads for each pattern repeat and that you still have the correct amount of stitches.
- Use a lifeline every few rows – a piece of contrasting colour thread or yarn (I prefer a fine circular cable needle), threaded through each stitch immediately below needle row that, if you drop a stitch, allows you to frog back (rip out) to the lifeline and pick up the stitches off the lifeline.
- If you drop a stitch in the first 3 rows, you may want to simply rip it all out and begin again.
- Use needle end protectors (or wrap an elastic band around ends of needles) when you put away your work – they prevent the work from sliding off the needles.

Instructions

Loose beads – if using loose beads, string about ½ of the beads onto the perle cotton using the beading needle.

Hanks of beads – if your beads are threaded on hanks, tie a slip knot at the end of the hank bead thread. Pass the end of the perle cotton through the bead thread slip knot, to form a long loop. Slide the beads from the thread onto the perle cotton. When you finish knitting the pre-threaded beads, complete the current beaded row then break the perle cotton, leaving a 6" tail. String more beads on the ball of perle cotton, tie the new cotton onto the 6" tail as close to the knitted work as you can, and continue knitting. You will sew in the tails later when sewing up the sides of the bag.



Cast On

Loosely cast on 24 stitches (long tail or cable cast on gives a stretchy edge).

Rows	Knit.
Rows 1-3	Knit.
Rows 4-9 (6 rows)	Sl, K1, *S1B, K2* across row
<i>Note: you will see 3 rows of 1 bead on each side = 6</i>	
Rows 10-15 (6 rows)	S1, K1, *S2B, K2* across row
Rows 16-21 (6 rows)	S1, K1, *S3B, K2* across row
Rows 22-29 (8 rows)	S1, K1, *S4B, K2* across row
Rows 30-37 (8 rows)	S1, K1, *S5B, K2* across row
Rows 38-47 (10 rows)	S1, K1, *S6B, K2* across row
Rows 48-59 (12 rows)	S1, K1, *S7B, K2* across row
Rows 60-69 (10 rows)	S1, K1, *S6B, K2* across row
Rows 70-77 (8 rows)	S1, K1, *S5B, K2* across row
Rows 78-85 (8 rows)	S1, K1, *S4B, K2* across row
Rows 86-91 (6 rows)	S1, K1, *S3B, K2* across row
Rows 92-97 (6 rows)	S1, K1, *S2B, K2* across row
Rows 98-103 (6 rows)	Sl, K1, *S1B, K2* across row

Pointed Flap

Rows 1-8	S1, K1, *S1B, K2* across row
Row 9	K2tog, k2tog, *S1B, K2* to last 4 stitches, K2 tog, K2tog (20 sts)
Rows 10-12	S1, K1, *S1B, K2* across row
Row 13	K2tog, k2tog, *S1B, K2* to last 4 stitches, K2 tog, K2tog (16 sts)
Rows 14-16	S1, K1, *S1B, K2* across row
Row 17	K2tog, k2tog, *S1B, K2* to last 4 stitches, K2 tog, K2tog (12 sts)
Rows 18-20	S1, K1, *S1B, K2* across row
Row 21	K2tog, k2tog, *S1B, K2* to last 4 stitches, K2 tog, K2tog (8 sts)
Rows 22-24	S1, K1, *S1B, K2* across row
Row 25	K2tog, k2tog, *S1B, K2* to last 4 stitches, K2 tog, K2tog (4 sts)
Row 26	S1, K1, *S1B, K2* across row
Row 27	K2tog, S1B, K2tog
Row 28	Cast off.

The end of this flap can be left as is or you can add a braided loop (if you're adding a beaded ball to the bag) or a tassel.



Straight Fringed Flap

This flap can be finished with either the beaded fringe as described here or, instead of knitting Row 19 below, continue with the pattern, increasing beads as per pattern.

Rows 1-6	S1, K1, *S1B, K2* across
Rows 7-12	S1, K1, *S2B, K2* across
Rows 13-18	S1, K1, *S3B, K2* across
Rows 19	S1, K1, *S20B, K2* across
Cast off loosely.	

Finishing

Weave in any loose ends. Fold the bag in half, with the cast on edge slightly below the start of the optional flap. Sew the sides of the bag together.

Twisted perle cotton handle – measure and cut 6 strands of perle cotton 2 ½ times the length of desired handle. Gather the 6 strands together and tie an overhand knot in each end.

Anchor one end securely and twist the strands tightly until it kinks along the length. Place a weight in the middle and while holding the ends loosely, allow cord to twist onto itself. Pull straight and knot the loose ends.

Alternately, securely place the knotted end in the chuck of a drill and tighten the chuck. Fasten (or stand on) the other end. Press drill trigger to twist the cord until it is sufficiently twisted. Knot the loose ends. Voila!

Braided bead handle – thread or transfer beads onto 3 strands of perle cotton 1 ½ times the length of desired handle, leaving about 6" tail at each end. Tie a slip knot in both ends of the three strands. Anchor one end securely and braid the strands of beaded thread, releasing tension along the length of the beaded strand as needed. Sew each end of the braided strand securely to the top side edge of the purse.

