

Pearl Tatted Bracelet

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Materials:

Size 20 thread

28 - 5 mm beads

Clasp of choice (attach to split or jump rings before starting to make it easier)

2 shuttles

Set up: Wind about a yard of the thread onto a shuttle and cut from the ball. Load beads on to ball thread. Wind about 1 1/2 yards of thread onto a second shuttle, leave attached to the ball with the beads. The shuttle with the plain thread will be the core thread, working shuttle. The shuttle with thread and beads on it will be referred as the bead shuttle.

Note: This made a bracelet about 9 inches long (depending on the clasp used)(good for a large wrist). For a shorter bracelet you will need fewer beads and less thread.

Initial Ring: Take the working shuttle (wound without beads) and place one end of the bracelet clasp on it. With the clasp on the thread around your hand, work a ring of 6 – 6, star with the second half of a stitch and count it as 1 stitch of the 6 and end with the first half of the 6th stitch (this will show as a full 6 stitches on each side when the threads with the beads on them are joined to the ring at the end) with the clasp on the picot. Before closing the ring fully find a point where ½ of the beads are on either side of the area and pull that loop up through the ring and pull the shuttle and tail of the thread through the loop to anchor the threads (this finishes the other half stitch on each side). This is also called the luggage tag loop.

Begin Pearl Tatting: Hold the initial ring in the pinch work one DS with each of the two threads with beads on them, ball thread first then the bead shuttle thread. If desired stitches worked with the bead shuttle thread can be worked in the reverse order (2nd half, 1st half). Tat over the tail from the initial ring for a few stitches to hide it.

Chain 10 using ball thread, bring one bead from other thread up, snug the stitches around the bead then chain 10 using bobbin thread and shuttle thread. The idea is that there is no bare thread showing between the bead and the stitches. Can't get the stitches to stay snugged up? Still have a bit of bare thread showing? Work one unflipped stitch and use that to tighten up around the bead before working the remaining stitches as flipped stitches.

Now repeat bringing a bead up on the other thread and snugging the stitches just made around the bead and working 10 stitches, work to desired length. Pull a final bead up and make a final DS.

Note 1: If using larger beads you will need more stitches to go around the bead, if using a smaller bead you will need less. This can also occur based on how tightly you tat.

Note 2: You can hide a magic loop in the last few stitches then later hide the shuttle thread in the purl tatted section. The ball and bobbin threads can be hidden one in either side of the final ring.

Use shuttle thread to tat the final ring. Take the thread off the shuttle, put the second part of the bracelet finding on the thread, and tat a ring of 6 – 6, again putting the finding on the picot. Hide a magic loop in each side of the ring to hide the two bead threads.

Why do I suggest doing this method of Purl Tatting? If you are doing a short piece you can wind enough thread with beads onto a shuttle and use two shuttles to form unflipped stitches over the core thread and not have to add thread. Doing it this way allows you to make longer pieces, such as a lanyard without having to add thread. Just make the core thread a bit longer than you are making length. This also lets the beads hang and be ready when you are ready for them. You don't have to worry about spacing the beads or ending up unwinding and rewinding thread on the shuttles to get beads. You can use a shuttle, even a tatsy if you are using that much thread, as a thread holder and leave the beads just hanging between the shuttle and the work.