

The Bead and The Beautiful

WHO should bead?

- Everyone!

WHAT should you bead?

- Shawls
- Cowls
- Scarves
- Sweaters
- Lace is most common, but beads can enhance any project

WHEN should you bead?

- Prestrung (before you knit)
- Hook, Fleegle Beader, or Flosser (while you knit)

WHERE should you bead?

- Borders
- Single stitches between yarn overs
- Shaping stitches (bead on outer leg)
- Necklines/Hemlines
- In body of project to form a design (make a chart!)

WHY should you bead?

- Adds contrast color or tonal shimmer
- Can add patterning and interest to a plain area
- Adds weight, extends life of blocking

HOW should you bead?

- Prestrung
Pros: set number of beads (won't run out), easily portable
Cons: wear on yarn, set number of beads, set/position in body of pattern (on top, not integrated)
- Hook/Fleegle/Flosser
Pros: add as many as you want, decide on the fly, more integrated into stitch pattern, better positioning
Cons: have to carry extra beads/equipment
- Bead Size
Size 6/0 works best on fingering weight, 8/0 on laceweight
- Type of bead
Shape: many different shapes (rounds, hexes, drops), but round holes are a must
Brand: Toho and Miyuki are pricier, but more usable beads per unit. Wal-Mart and Hobby Lobby beads are cheaper, but vary in quality and size.
May need to buy extra to have enough

HOW MUCH should you bead?

- Rhiannon's Wrap by Lynette Meek (no such thing as too much)
<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/rhiannons-wrap>
- Most yarns will tolerate moderate beading
- Heavily beaded items should have higher silk content to be strong enough to support weight

Extra Resources:

<https://youtu.be/At2QJt73sLM> (Cat Bordhi demonstrating flosser and crochet hook)

<https://youtu.be/a-XfPuwnPk8> (fleegle beader/beadle needle demo)

<https://youtu.be/izVWM2QA75Q> (prestrung bead demo)

<https://www.ravelry.com/patterns/library/leaf-me-aloneim-reading-lace-bookmark> (original pattern page for sample project)