

BASIC TUBE CROCHET

Follow the step-by-step directions in the order shown below to create a beaded crochet tube of six beads per round.

STEP 1 Place a needle on the end of the thread and load all the beads onto the thread.

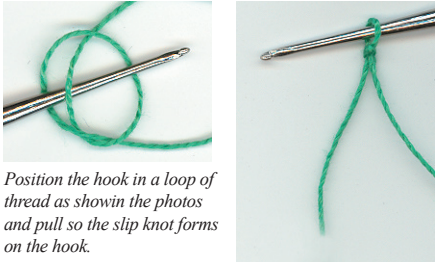
Hint: If you're using only one bead color, pour your beads into a container and scoop the needle through the beads. If you're loading in a specific pattern, arrange your beads in small adjacent piles in the correct order.



Loaded beads rolled onto the tube

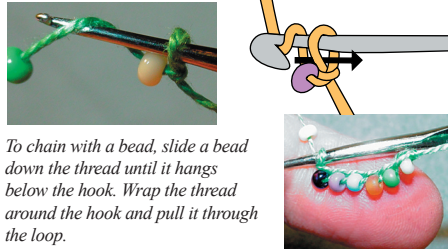


STEP 2 Make a slip knot on the hook.



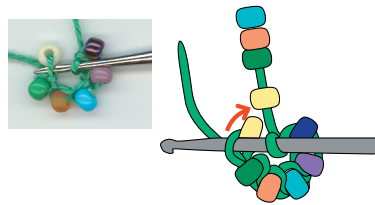
Position the hook in a loop of thread as shown in the photos and pull so the slip knot forms on the hook.

STEP 3 Make six chain stitches, each with one bead



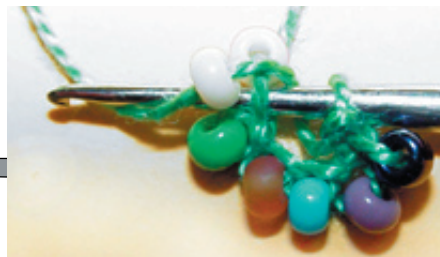
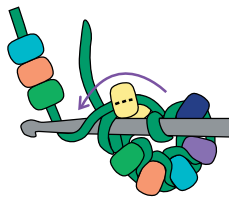
To chain with a bead, slide a bead down the thread until it hangs below the hook. Wrap the thread around the hook and pull it through the loop.

STEP 4 Insert the hook into the first beaded chain, then slide the bead over to the far side of the hook. This is an important step; in order for the whole process to be successful, all the beads must "land" on the outside of the tube.

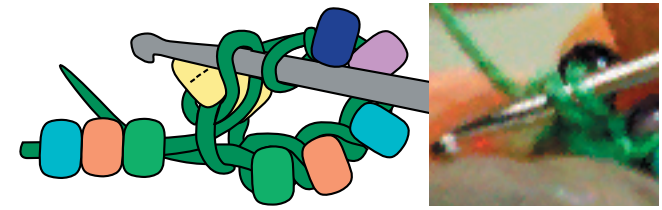


STEP 5 Slide a bead down the thread so it sits directly on top of the bead you just moved to the far side of the hook. The thread should come from BEHIND the bead you just moved to the far side of the hook. When the bead is properly positioned, wrap the thread over the hook.

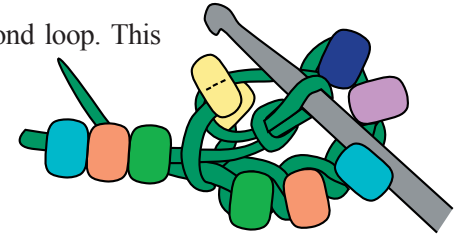
If you have created a pattern of six beads in repeat as shown here, the bead that you slide down the thread will be the same color as the bead you just moved to the far side of the tube. This will happen with each new "pair" of beads, the one you have already crocheted, and the one you slide down the thread.



STEP 6 You now have two loops on the hook and the thread is wrapped around the hook. Pull the thread through the first loop. You will have two loops on the hook when this step is complete.



STEP 7 Pull the first loop through the second loop. This completes the stitch.



Repeat steps 4 through 7 until you have six completed stitches. This completes the first round of six. The photos below show how the work should look at this point.



Flatten the work; from overhead, you should already see six "spokes" of thread. At the end of each spoke is one bead. Note that the next beaded stitch into which you will insert the hook has a cream bead, which is the color of the next bead you will slide down the thread. You will know that you are working correctly if this happens consistently.

Seen from the side, the beads will show the beginning stages of a spiral pattern even at this early stage. Note that the lower beads (those of the original six chains) are positioned horizontally, while the beads of the new round are somewhat vertical. This will happen consistently if you are working correctly. As the tube lengthens, the spiral pattern will become more visible, and the relative positioning of the beads (horizontal, vertical) will be more pronounced.



Troubleshooting common problems

You don't have six beads in the round you are working on.

After every few rounds, check your tube to be sure you have six beads around the spokes when you flatten the top. If you see less or more than six, pull out the work until you have six. You have either missed one stitch or placed more than one bead into a stitch.



A bead appears in the center of your tube

If you look at the side of the tube, one bead seems to be receding. If you look at the top of the tube, a bead is in the center of the spokes. This means that the bead you moved to the far side of the hook has slipped through as you pull the thread through the loops. If this happens, you can either push the bead back out again, or, if that is too difficult, pull out stitches until your work looks correct again.

