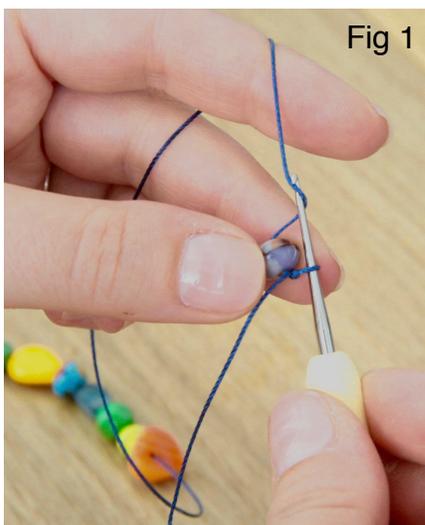


# How To Chain Stitch with Beads: 5 Key Tips

Chain stitch with beads is one of the most gratifying techniques because it is fast and easy, but looks complicated and beautiful. Here are a few simple tips every beader should know.

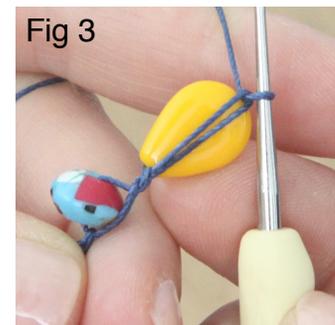
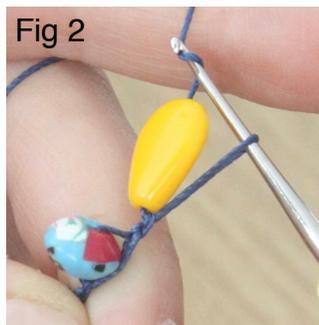
## 1. Chain the First Stitch with a Bead

It is easiest to begin if you crochet the first stitch with a bead (as opposed to without). Use the bead to your advantage by holding onto it instead of the thread tail (Fig 1). This will anchor your slipknot, and make the yarn-over easier to grab.



## 2. Larger Loops for Larger Beads

If you have large beads, make sure you make the loop on the hook big enough. If the loop is too small, the bead will stick out. Make the loop the correct height by pulling your hook up to meet the top of the bead (Fig 2), and then complete the stitch (Fig 3).



## 3. Not Too Tight, Not Too Loose

When working stitches, make sure your tension is neither too tight nor too loose. Even tension throughout is key—if the tension varies, the final product will look messy. Fig 4 shows stitches that are too tight—they will be difficult to work and your piece will come out much shorter. Fig 5 shows stitches that are too loose—they will not hold the bead in place nicely, and the beads will slip through the loops.



4. Initially, it may seem the worked stitches are not lying properly. While in the process of crocheting or when the piece is finished, hold one end in each hand and PULL HARD (Fig 6). This stretches the stitches and sets them into place. The thread will relax, and your piece will look neater. (Don't worry, you can't break the thread!)



5. In general, crocheting one chain with a bead and one chain without a bead yields a nice result. However, with smaller beads, you may want to chain every stitch with a bead, as shown in Fig 7. With larger beads, try working two or three stitches in between, as shown in Fig 8. Experiment to find what you like best!

