

Knitted Beaded Amulet Bag

Susan Rainey, 2006[©]

Materials Needed:

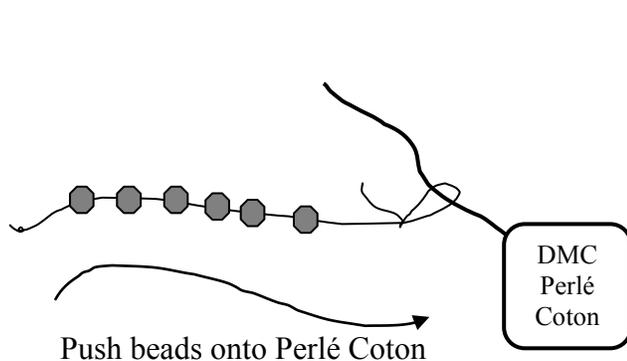
- DMC Perlé Coton, Size 8 (1 ball)
- Size 11 seed beads, preferably on a hank (approx 1,900 or 6 strands of a 12-strand hank)
- Size 000 or 0000 steel knitting needles or 24" circular
- sewing needle
- charm or bead to hang from optional flap
- beading needle (optional for loose beads)
- size 7 or 8 crochet hook (size is not essential -- used to attach cord to bag)



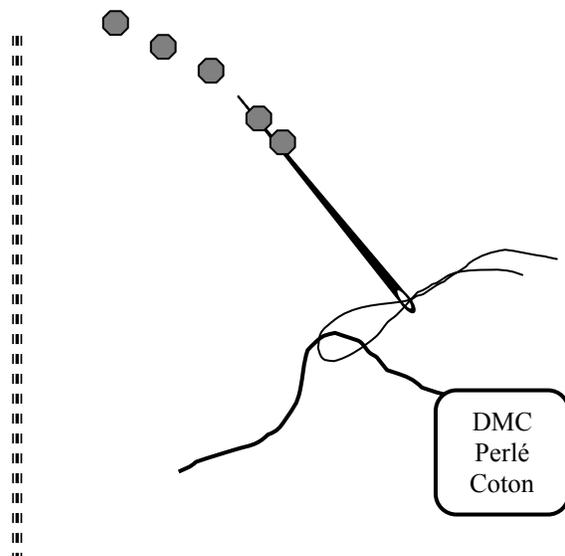
DIRECTIONS – read through all directions before starting

Preparation – Stringing the Beads

1. String the beads onto the Perlé coton
 - a. If you are using loose beads, thread a beading needle with a thread loop and then put the end of the Perlé coton through the loop; thread beads one by one
 - b. If you are stringing beads from a hank, untie one hank and then tie it directly to the Perlé coton. Or tie a loop in the hank thread and slip the end of the Perlé coton through the loop (see illustration below). Push the beads onto the Perlé coton, removing any that are too small to go over the knot by breaking them with a pair of beading pliers or nail clipper (do not cut the thread!).
2. To estimate the number of beads strung, count the beads per inch and then measure the number of inches that you have. Most Size 11 beads have approximately 18-20 beads per inch, so 1,900 beads will require ~100-105 inches. About 6 loops from a hank are enough for one bag.



TO STRING HANK BEADS



TO STRING LOOSE BEADS

Note about bead knitting:

The number of stitches does not change throughout. The shape of the bag is determined by the number of beads slipped in between sts as the bag progresses. Rows are worked identically in pairs – front and back. For best results, knit at a firm tension.

Slip beads by sliding them tightly against last knit stitch. I find this easier to do by first inserting the knitting needle into the next st. Slipped beads automatically go to the side facing away from you as you knit. Beads are slipped on both the right and wrong sides of the knitting, so there are actually twice as many beads as appear on the finished bag. This explains why it takes so many beads and why the bags weigh so much for their small size.

Starting to Knit

Cast on 18 stitches, leaving a 12-inch tail for sewing (note: do not cast on too tightly). Knit 1 row plain.

Start bead rows:

- Rows 1-6 (6 rows – 3 RS, 3 WS):** k3, [slip 1 bead, k2] x 6, slip 1 bead, k3
- Rows 7-14 (8 rows – 4 RS, 4 WS):** k3, [slip 2 beads, k2] x 6, slip 2 beads, k3
- Rows 15-22 (8 rows – 4 RS, 4 WS):** k3, [slip 3 beads, k2] x 6, slip 3 beads, k3
- Rows 23-30 (8 rows – 4 RS, 4 WS):** k3, [slip 4 beads, k2] x 6, slip 4 beads, k3
- Rows 31-48 (18 rows – 9 RS, 9 WS):** k3, [slip 5 beads, k2] x 6, slip 5 beads, k3
- Rows 49-56:** repeat rows 23-30
- Rows 57-64:** repeat rows 15-22
- Rows 65-72:** repeat rows 7-14
- Rows 73-78:** repeat rows 1-6

TIP:

Do not count rows as such. Look at the number of beads in each column – they show you how many rows you have done.

If you are **not** doing the optional flap: Bind off sts, leaving 12” tail (do not bind off too tightly). Skip to Finishing below.

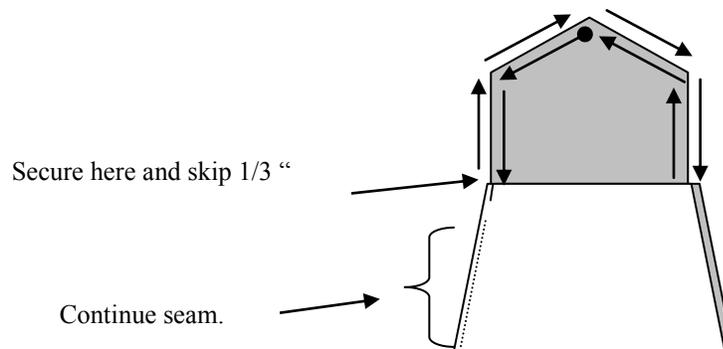
Adding Charm

Using this thread, sew bead or charm to center point of flap to weigh down the flap (or do this step after completing bag as described below). Weave in end along edges of flap and cut off excess (see arrows in diagram below).

I sometimes use a separate thread to sew on the charm – just in case I find one I like better. That way you can cut off the old charm without cutting the working thread of the bag itself.

Finishing

Fold bag in half (not including flap), right sides together (gray in diagram). The center of the widest part of the bag forms the bottom. Secure seam at top edge. Skip about 1/3 of an inch and complete remaining seam using a backstitch, whipstitch or invisible garter stitch seam. Weave in end and trim. Repeat on other side.



Straps (Make 2)

Push a crochet hook through the hole in the seam of one side of the bag. Leave it there and prepare Strap #1.

For each strap: Cut 4 lengths (see note below) of Perlé coton 50” each (for those who prefer a longer necklace, cut to 55-60”). On one length, string with enough beads to be able to evenly space them about 1/2 to 1 inch apart, with 3” plain at beginning and end of thread (~5-6 inches of beads).

Note: if no beads will be used on the twisted cords, use **5 lengths** of Perlé coton instead of four.

Tie all 4 [5] threads together and tape **securely** to a table. Straighten the tied strand to its full length, keeping it taut. **At this point, space the beads 1/2 to 1 inch apart.** Extra beads can be slipped off into a bowl (or onto the floor as usually happens!).

Twist cord in a clockwise motion, switching hands and **not letting go**, until the strand is **extremely** tightly twisted. The strands are tight enough when it is difficult to move the beads along the strand.

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Using the crochet hook, pull the twisted thread through the hole, making sure to keep it taut and NOT LETTING GO. If the beads slip as you are moving the bag into place, then you did not twist tightly enough. Move the bag to the exact center of the twisted cord. Fold the cord in half so that both cut ends of the cord are together. Holding the ends of the cord, let the bag drop and spin. The spinning action creates the twisted cord. Tie the two cord ends together immediately – they will untwist unless secured by tying.

Repeat with other side of bag. Tie the two twisted cords together to form a necklace.

Additional Project Notes:

- Size 10 (larger) or 12 (smaller) beads can be used, which will change the finished size of the bag
- Thread color can match or contrast your beads depending on the look you wish to achieve. I recommend selecting beads first and then finding the appropriate Perlé coton.

Good luck and enjoy your beautiful bag!

