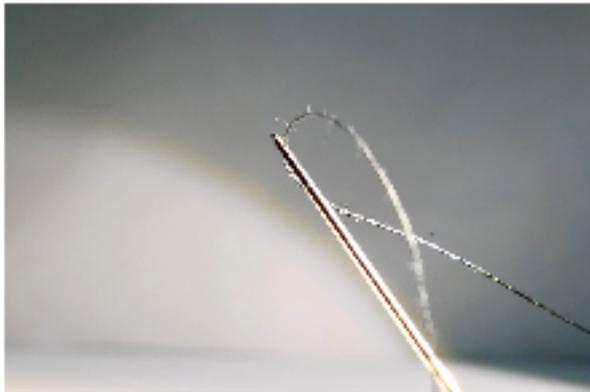


The Easy Way to Thread a Beading Needle

...And Other Pro Tips for New Beaders



Beading Needles

To start beading you will need to get yourself some beading needles. Beading Needles are different from regular sewing needles. They are generally longer and finer and have a smaller eye.

This makes them great for sewing through those tiny seed beads, but it also makes them a little challenging (if not outright frustrating) to get your thread through.

Fortunately there's a little trick to threading them easily - and that is basically to squash the tip of your thread flat.

The absolute best way to do that is to use long nose pliers. See above *right*.

You simply take your long nose pliers and squeeze your thread - hard - but whatever you do, don't pull.

Pulling will stretch your thread and it will lose its rigidity. So you'll just end up chasing your thread around the head of your needle. *Not what you want.*



Squash your thread nice and flat and hold the thread close to the flattened end, and it will pass through your needle easily.

At this point you may find it handy to use a pair of tweezers to grab the thread from the other side of your needle so that you can pull it through all the way.



We will now talk about different beading needle sizes:

The most common beading needle sizes you will encounter will be size 10, 11 or size 12.

Size 10 needles are a little sturdier and thicker with a larger eye than a size 11 or 12. A size 12 beading needle is the finest of the three.

If you are sewing with larger seed beads, 8/0s for example, a size 10 will be your go-to



needle. For 11/0 seed beads a size 10 is usually fine, but you can use either a 10 or an 11 beading needle.

That being said, you may need to change to a finer needle as you go along - if you need to go through your beads a few times or you are adding smaller beads such as the tiny 15/0s.

Beading needles are much thinner than regular sewing needles so you will find that your beading needles will bend quite easily.

Although this does help in a pinch, when you are running out of thread or in a tight corner, it does mean you will need to replace your needles after a while.

Flexible Beading Needles



It's a good idea to invest in some flexible needles too.

These are ideal for finishing a project and sewing in your loose ends. You can see my Beadalon ones in the photo above.

I wouldn't recommend you make a whole project with them but they are great for when your thread is getting a little short, and for making tight turns. They are also super quick and easy to thread.

Beading Threads



There are a number of suitable beading threads you can use out there.

However, I recommend you start with WildFire .006in (or for finer beadwork 6lb Fireline).

WildFire or occasionally FireLine are the only beading threads I use.

These threads are super strong - and let's face it, the last thing you want is for a jewelry piece you've spent hours working on to break after a few days of wear.

I do also have other colors, but as a rule of thumb, the darker the thread, the more easily it will sink into the background which means you won't see the thread in your final piece.

I hope you found these tips helpful.

Happy Beading!

