

# Spiral Rope

This stitch is the ideal stitch for absolute beginner. It allows the beading-novice to produce in relatively short time beautiful items to use as jewelry or embellishments. This technique can also be used as a basis for further embellishment. All in all, this stitch is very versatile and produces most rewarding results.

**You need:** Seed beads size 8/0 (core )  
size 8/0 (spiral)  
Thread to match your beads  
Beading needle  
Beeswax or "Thread Heaven"

**You do:**

1. Cut a 2 m length of thread, wax the thread and thread the needle. Pick up a bead in a different colour and/or size to the beads you are going to work with - the so called *orphan bead* - and thread it on, sliding it down the thread to leave a tail of 30 cm. Stitch through the bead again to secure it (this way you can slide the bead off the tail end of your thread when you are ready to attach the fastener or weave it through your work to finish off. The bead threaded in this manner is known as *stopper bead*. (fig. 1)
2. Pick up four core beads and three spiral beads. Slide them down the thread to the stopper bead. Pass the needle up through the four core beads in the direction away from the stopper bead (fig. 2). Move the spiral bead loop to the left and hold securely (Move the spiral bead-loop to the right if you are left-handed).
3. Pick up one core bead and three spiral beads. Slide the beads down to meet the other beads (fig. 3). Pass the needle through four core beads counted from the top (including the core bead you picked up in this step) in an upward direction (fig. 4). Push the spiral bead-loop against the other spiral bead-loop - to the left - and hold securely. Take care not to change direction when moving the spiral bead-loops! You can now already see a spiral forming. Repeat the beading process (fig. 3 & fig. 4) until the Spiral Rope reaches the length required.

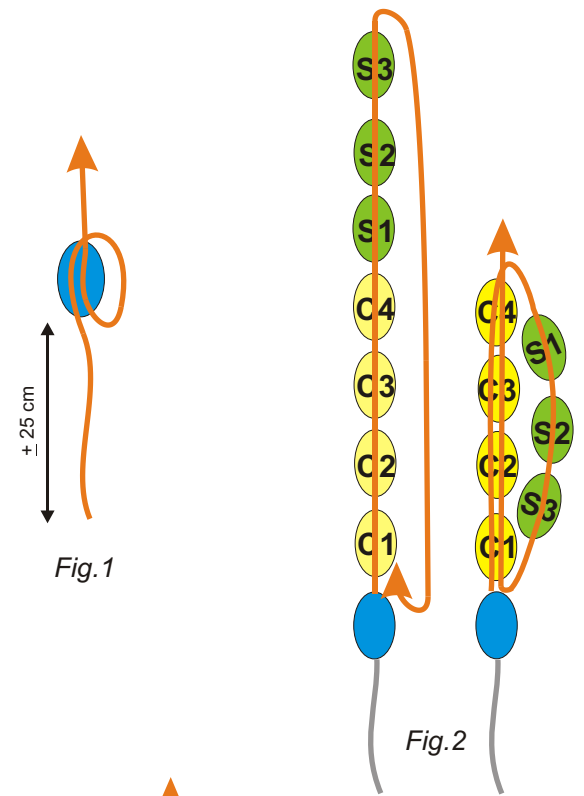
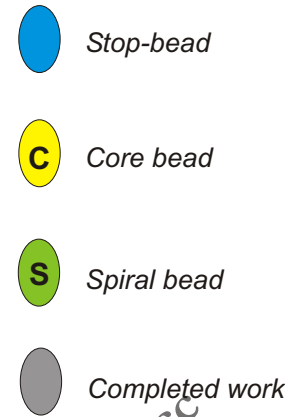


Fig.1

Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4

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It is time to work it away and to add a new length of thread when the working thread length reaches 15 cm.

#### **Working away thread:**

1. With the thread exiting the top core bead, stitch back through the last spiral bead-loop.
2. Stitch through the following five or six core beads in a downward direction.
3. Now stitch through the threads between the core bead the thread is exiting and the next core bead and tie a half-hitch knot.
4. Stitch downwards through another two core beads.
5. Repeat step 3 and take the needle off the thread. The remaining thread tail will be finished off after the rest of the beadwork is completed.

#### **Adding new thread:**

1. Thread the needle with a 1,5 m – 2 m length of waxed beading thread.
2. Stitch through the threads between the sixth and seventh core beads counted from the top and tie a half-hitch knot, leaving a 15 cm tail to be finished off at a later stage.
3. Stitch through the following core bead towards the top end of the beadwork.
4. Now stitch through the threads between the core bead the thread is exiting and the next core bead and tie a half-hitch knot.
5. Stitch through the remaining core beads until the thread exits the top end of the spiral rope.
6. You are now ready to commence with the Spiral Rope.

#### **Finishing off thread tails:**

1. Thread a needle onto the thread tail and stitch through a few beads (core or spiral loop) without pulling all the thread through the beads, leaving a small loop.
2. Coat the thread-loop with a drop of clear drying glue or clear nail polish.
3. Pull the thread tight. The thread loop is pulled into the beads and the glue or varnish will anchor the thread in the beadwork.

#### **A few examples of Spiral Rope using different bead combinations:**

