

# THE BEAD HOLD PROJECT OF THE MONTH

## May 2010 - Using Crimp Covers

### INGREDIENTS

- A selection of pearls, crystals or other beads, enough to go around your wrist. It will help to lay out a pattern on a design board.
- Spacers to frame your larger beads or to go in between every bead
- 30cm of tigertail or softflex
- 2 x crimp beads
- 2 x crimp covers
- A clasp or toggle

### TOOLS REQUIRED

Wire Cutters, Crimping Pliers OR Chain Nose Pliers, a clamp and a bead mat to work on.

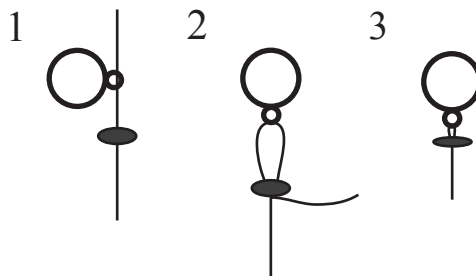
### RECIPE

1. Take your beads and work out the pattern of your bracelet. A design board will help with this process.
2. Take a clamp and secure it at the end of your wire. Slide the beads to the end of the wire.



3. Check the length. Remember that the clasp and crimp covers will give extra length to the beads you have just strung. Once you are happy that the length will be correct, attach one end of the clasp.
  - On the free end of wire, slide down a crimp and one half of your clasp.
  - Take the end of the wire, turn it around, and pass back through the crimp. Pull tight until there is just a small loop approx 4 -5 mm long
  - Squash the crimp firmly.

NOTE: You can squash 2 crimps together for extra strength at the end, but you will need to use a 5mm crimp cover to fully cover the crimps.



4. Take a crimp cover.
  - If you have a pair of crimping pliers, grip it in the front cups. Place the crimp cover over the squashed crimp and gently squeeze it shut.
  - If you have regular chain nose pliers, hold the crimp cover gently in the middle of your pliers. Place the crimp cover over the squashed crimp and gently and evenly squash the crimp cover together.

NOTE: You want to make sure that the crimp cover is closed evenly. You should just see a fine line where the two sides join. Sometimes you will need to take a fresh grip with your pliers and give another gentle squeeze to close the crimp cover completely. It is important to take the fresh grip as if you keep squeezing in the same place you may flatten the sides of the crimp cover and it will not look like a nice round ball.

5. Before attaching the other half of the clasp double check you are happy with the length. Then repeat steps 3 and 4 to finish off the second end.

CRIMP COVERS are wonderful things and can be fitted retrospectively. Take a look at the bracelets and necklaces you have already made and think about adding crimp covers to neaten the ends, especially on bracelets. Crimp covers are also a good solution to crimps that irritate the back of your neck.

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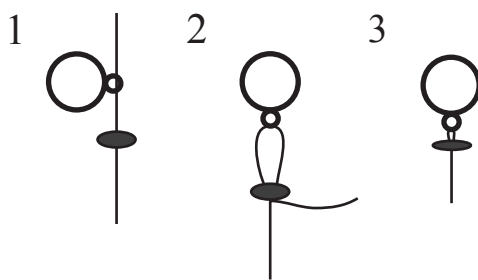
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