

Hints and Tips

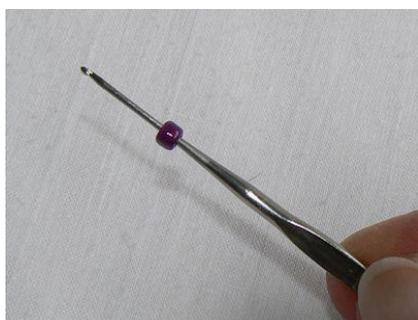
We get asked lots of questions when we're on the stand at exhibitions (see the quote from Nicola, above), so we thought it would be good to introduce a Hints and Tips section to the newsletter to cover some of these. We'd love to hear from you with any suggestions for topics you'd like us to cover, but we'll start with what is probably the most-asked question ...

#1 – Adding beads to your knitting

People often ask how to add beads, assuming that you have to thread them onto the yarn before you start. This is the "old" way of beading - trouble is, threading them on is fiddly; constantly sliding them along can damage the yarn; and when you've knitted them in you get a tail of yarn around the bead, which tends to make them pop through to the back of the fabric, rather than sit on the front where you want them.

The modern method using a crochet hook has lots of advantages: you don't need to work out how many beads you need and count them onto the yarn first, so saving you time; they're not damaging the yarn by sliding along it; and when added this way the bead sits over the knitted stitch without a tail of yarn around it, and so looks equally good from front or back.

Beads in Julie's designs are usually added on a single knit stitch, before the stitch is knitted. Choose a size crochet hook which will pass comfortably through the hole in your bead. Julie likes 0.75-1.00mm for size 6 beads, and 0.60mm for size 8, but use whatever size works best for you. Some knitters use beading hooks such as the Fleagle Beader, or even dental floss, so use whatever you are most comfortable with. Add the beads as follows, referring to the photos:



1- Insert the hook through the hole in the bead and slide it onto the shaft of the hook



2- Pass the hook through the stitch to be beaded from right to left



3-Slide the stitch off the needle



4- Slide the bead down off the hook and over the loop of yarn to sit at the base of the stitch



5-Return the stitch to the left needle



6-Knit the stitch as normal