

CS Beaddesign

By Cora Sparidaans

"Back to Basic"

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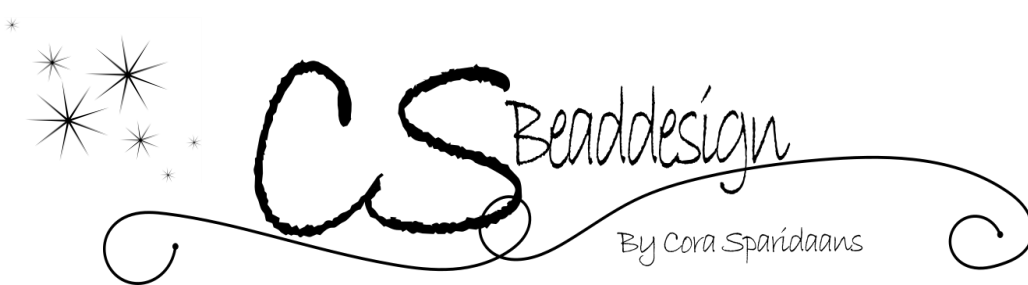
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Basic information

As a beginner in beadwork (beading), it is important to start with the right materials and basic knowledge to prevent frustration.

Here's an overview of the essential basic information:

1. Essential Supplies

- Beads: Start with high-quality seed beads, such as Miyuki or Toho (size 11/0 is the best standard size for beginners).
- Beading needles: Use special flexible, and thin beading needles (size 10 or 12).
- Thread: Choose sturdy beading thread that doesn't break easily, such as Nymo, FireLine or C-lon.
- Scissors: A small, sharp pair of scissors to cut the thread close to the bead.
- Pliers: Flat-nose or round-nose pliers are useful for bending wire and attaching clasps.
- Bead mat: A bead mat helps prevent the beads from rolling away.

2. Basic Skills & Techniques

- Thread tension: Learn to maintain an even tension; not too tight (to prevent curling of the work) and not too loose (so the thread is visible).
- Starting and finishing: Know how to securely attach the thread invisibly at the beginning and end of your work.
- Basic patterns: Start with simple techniques such as:
 - o Stringing: Stringing beads onto a thread.
 - o Weaving: Working with a bead loom.
 - o Bead embroidery: Sewing beads onto a base material (such as felt).

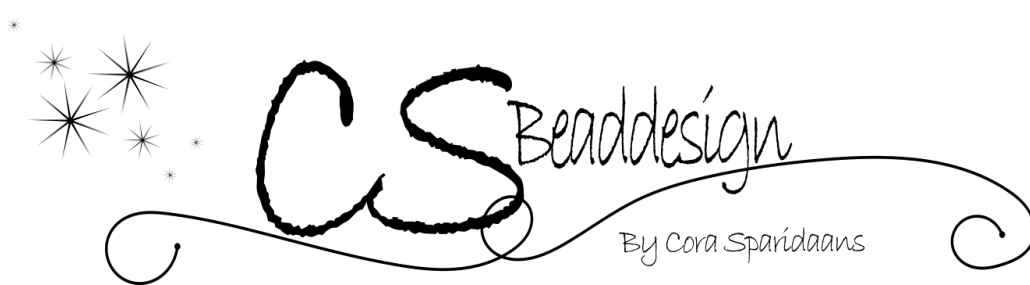
3. Tips for Starting

- Start simple: Begin with an easy pattern (straight lines, basic shapes) to get the hang of the technique.
- Patience: Beadwork requires concentration and precision.
- Quality beads: Use consistent beads (Miyuki), which makes the work much easier than with irregular beads.

4. Specific Supplies per Type

- For jewelry stringing: Beading thread, beads, clasps and crimp beads.
- For bead embroidery: Felt/Lacy's Stiff Stuff, glue, cabochons (flat stones) and suede/leather for the back.

With these basic supplies and techniques, you can comfortably start exploring the world of beadwork.



Beads

1. Miyuki Seed Beads

Miyuki seed beads, originating from Japan, are renowned for their excellent quality, uniformity and a wide variety of sizes and shapes. Sizes are often indicated with a number followed by '/0' (e.g. 11/0), where a higher number signifies a smaller bead.

Here is an overview of the most common Miyuki seed bead sizes and types:

- Miyuki rocailles are the classic round seed beads. They are perfect for weaving, stringing, embroidery and fringes.
- Miyuki 15/0 (approximately 1.5 mm): The smallest standard size, ideal for fine details, delicate designs and finishing touches.
- Miyuki 11/0 (approximately 2.0 mm): The most popular and versatile size and perfect for most bead weaving projects.
- Miyuki 8/0 (approximately 3.0 mm): Larger beads, very suitable for beginners and faster projects.
- Miyuki 6/0 (approximately 4.0 mm): The largest standard rocailles and often used for bold designs.

2. Miyuki Delica's (Cylindrical Beads)

Delica beads are cylindrical and known for their neat, uniform appearance, making them perfect for peyote stitch and brick stitch.

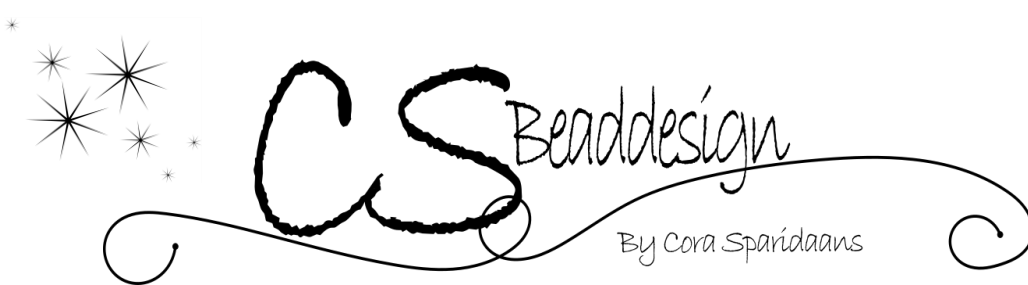
- Delica 11/0 (DBL): The most commonly used size and essential for tight geometric patterns.

Attaching Thread

Attaching thread in beadwork is essential for a sturdy and neat finished product. Here is the basic information and the most common methods.

Basic Principles of Thread Attachment

- Weaving through beads: Attach new thread by weaving it through the existing beads, far away from the point where you continue.
- Avoid knots: Try to avoid knots, as they often do not fit through the small holes of rocailles (beads).
- Direction: Thread the new thread through 3 to 5 previously placed beads, possibly make a half-hitch knot between two beads and continue until you reach the point where you left off.



Securing the Thread

Securing the thread in beadwork is crucial to prevent your jewelry from falling apart. The key to good securing is making knots and threading the thread through multiple beads to hide it.

Here is a step-by-step explanation:

Methods for Securing the Thread

The "Knot and Thread" Method (General)

- **Make knots:** After the last bead, make one or more overhand knots (create a loop and pull the needle through) between the beads. Ensure the knot is tight against the last bead.
Rethread: Thread the needle back through the last 3 to 5 beads of your work.
- **Repeat:** Make another knot between the beads.
- **Cut:** Trim the thread as close as possible to the beads.

Half-Hitch Knots (With Needle)

- With your needle go under an existing thread between two beads (return stitch). Hook the needle through the loop that forms before pulling the thread tight.
- Repeat 2 to 3 times for maximum security.
- Then, thread the needle a bit further through the work and cut the thread.

For Weaving (Miyuki/Delica's)

- Pass the thread back through the just-woven rows, diagonally or in zigzag, through 4 to 5 beads.
- Tighten and cut the thread securely.

Tips for a Professional Result

- **Thread length:** Make sure to leave enough thread for comfortable working.
- **Beading needles:** Use a thin, flexible needle (e.g., size 10 or 12) to easily pass through the beads.
- **Securing:** In bead embroidery, you can secure the thread at the back with a drop of glue or by stitching into the fabric.
- **New thread:** Attaching new thread is done the same way: thread through a few beads, make a knot and continue embroidering/adding beads.

