Bead single crochet creates beautiful ropes for necklaces and bracelets. The beads sit at an angle, which visually differentiates this technique from the slightly more common bead slip stitch technique.

**Bead single crochet techniques**

**Bead stringing**
- Using a Big Eye needle, string all the beads according to the pattern. The last bead strung will be the first bead you crochet with. Use a ruler or a sticky note to track your progress, and frequently double-check your work to avoid making stringing errors.
  - If desired, string paper markers between rows to track your progress.
  - Do not trim the cord from the spool.

**Chain stitch**
1. Make a loop in the cord, crossing the ball end over the tail. Insert the hook in the loop, yarn over the hook (figure 1), and pull through the loop (figure 2). This is a slip knot.
2. Catch the working thread with the hook (from now on known as a “yarn over”) (figure 3), and pull the cord through the loop. Repeat for the desired number of chain stitches (figure 4).

**Join a chain into a ring**
Begin with a beaded chain equal to the number of stitches in each round of your pattern. With the loop from the last stitch on the hook, insert the hook under the two threads that form a “V” in the first stitch (photo a). Yarn over, and pull through the stitch and the loop on the hook (photo b).

**Single crochet: tubular**
Insert the hook under the two threads that form a “V” in the first stitch. Yarn over (photo c), and pull through the stitch (photo d). You will have two loops on your hook. Make a second yarn over (photo e), and pull the cord through both loops, leaving one loop on the hook (photo f). Repeat.
Bead single crochet
Insert the hook under the two threads that form a “V” in the next stitch. Slide a bead up to the hook, yarn over (photo g), and pull through the first stitch. Make a second yarn over (photo h), and pull through both loops (photo i). The bead will sit on the outside of the tube. Repeat this process around the ring, making sure you complete the correct number of stitches for the round. After the first round is complete, it will be easier to keep track of your stitches because you will always insert your hook under the threads that are “behind” the next bead in the previous round (photo j). As you work, frequently double-check to make sure you add a new bead to each bead in the previous round.

Ombré diamonds bracelet

1 Thread a Big Eye needle onto the end of the crochet cord. Following the pattern from top to bottom and reading each row from right to left, string all the beads for the project. String a paper row this stitch to create a tube of unbeaded crochet to the desired length.

Materials
peach/teal bracelet
8¼ in. (22.2 cm)
• 11º seed beads
  - 4 g color A (Toho 779, peach coral)
  - 15 g color B (Toho 557, gold)
  - 4 g color C (580A, gilt-lined light peach opal)
  - 4 g color D (256A, transparent champagne AB)
  - 4 g color E (551, gilt-lined white opal)
  - 4 g color F (571A, gilt-lined margarita opal)
  - 4 g color G (571, gilt-lined light mint opal)
  - 4 g color H (572B, gilt-lined light teal opal)
  - 4 g color I (390, green color-lined seafoam green)
• 1 magnetic barrel clasp (to fit 10 mm cord)
• crochet cord (Lizbeth #40–80, cream)
• steel crochet hook, 0.75–1.25 mm
• tapestry needle
• Big Eye needle
• 8 in. (20 cm) ¼ in. (5 mm) cotton bolo cord
• 2-part epoxy or E6000 adhesive
• bits of paper (optional)
• safety pin or locking stitch marker

Kits are available for this bracelet at www.candicesexton.etsy.com.
marker between each row of beads, if desired (photo k). Do not cut the cord.
2 Make a slip knot about 6 in. (15 cm) from the end of the cord, and insert your crochet hook into the loop of the slip knot. Work 16 chain stitches without beads (photo l).
3 Join the chain into a ring.
4 Work in single crochet (without any beads) until you have a short tube that is about \( \frac{3}{8} \) in. (1 cm) long. This unbeaded tube will slide into the barrel clasp later, so test the fit now before moving on. Make sure you have 16 stitches in each round.
5 Slide the first 16 beads up to within about 6 in. (15 cm) of the hook. Work 16 stitches in bead single crochet, sliding one bead into position before the first yarn-over of each stitch (photo m).
6 Working with the next 16 beads, continue in bead single crochet, sliding one bead into position before the first yarn-over of each stitch.
7 Repeat step 6 until the bead crochet rope is the desired bracelet length (less the length of the clasp) or you’ve used all the strung beads. There are about 12 rounds per inch of completed beadwork. To take a break, insert a safety pin or locking stitch marker into the loop before setting your work down. This will ensure that your work doesn’t accidentally come undone.
8 When the beaded portion is the desired length, work about \( \frac{3}{8} \) in. (1 cm) of unbeaded single crochet. Leaving a 6-in. (15 cm) tail, trim the cord, and pull it through the last loop.

**Finishing**
1 Gently slide the bead crochet tube onto a length of \( \frac{3}{16} \) in. (5 mm) braided cord (photo o), being careful to avoid snagging your work. Align the cord so the end sits just inside the end of the tube.
2 Thread a tapestry needle on one tail, and sew through the unbeaded portion of the tube and the core (photo o). Sew back and forth a few times to secure the cord in the tube, and trim the tail.
3 Fill the well of a clasp component about halfway with adhesive, and slide the unbeaded end of the tube into the well (photo p). Allow to dry.
4 Repeat steps 1–3 at the other end of the tube.

### Stringing Mistakes

**Extra bead**
If, once you’re working, you find that you’ve strung an extra bead, the easiest solution is to simply crush the errant bead. To avoid cutting the cord, place the bead in the round hole of a pair of crimping pliers, and squeeze. Another option is to break the bead from within: Place the bead on your work surface, and insert a pin that is thicker than the bead hole is large. Force the pin into the hole until the bead breaks.

**Missing bead**
If you discover that you missed a bead, the best option is to skip that spot and go back later to add the missing bead. To do that, when you get to the spot where the missed bead was supposed to go, simply work a beadless stitch. After you are done with the piece. Anchor a short length of beading thread in the crochet tube, and exit at the point where the missing bead belongs. Sew the bead in place, angling it the same way as all the others.