

# THE BEAD HOLD

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## Queen Bead's SNEAKY PEARL STRINGING Instructions



### Materials Required

- 1 x strand of pearls for a necklace  
*OR* enough pearls to make a bracelet length
- 1 card of Perlside the right size for your pearls.
- French Wire
- A clasp

### Equipment Required

- A bead mat to work on
- A rubber tipped beading clamp
- A sharp pair of scissors
- Clear drying glue or clear nail polish

### HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR PERLSEIDE

We use Griffin Perlside for stringing pearls. The needle is already attached. This pearlstringing silk comes in a number of different thicknesses ranging from size 0 (0.3mm) upwards. The most commonly used sizes are 2 (.45mm) and 4 (.6mm). A variety of colours are also available.

- The size you will use is based on the hole of the pearl, not the size of the pearl.

- The silk should fit through the pearl **TWICE**. This is most important. If it is a very tight fit and you have to tug a lot to get the silk through the pearl the second time you are best to go down a size.

- If you are mixing different pearls together, make sure you check each different type - you will need to choose the thread that fits *twice* through the smallest holed pearl.

**TIP:** Avoid pulling on the needle as much as possible - you don't want to weaken the join and have the needle come off the thread. Pull the thread, not the needle when you are bringing it through the pearls and knotting.

### FRENCH WIRE

French wire (or 'gimp') is a very tight hollow coil of very fine wire. Your silk thread goes through it at each end. It helps prevent the clasp rubbing through the silk cord and breaking the necklace. It comes in the following sizes:

Fine - for perlside size 0 - 3

Medium - for perlside 4 - 6/7

Heavy /Extra Heavy - for perlside 8 and above.

You may choose to use a medium french wire on a fine silk cord if you want a chunkier look.

We like to have 3 pieces of French Wire cut to the same length (approx 1cm) before starting. This means that if one needs to be replaced both ends will still look the same as they are the same length.



A feature on a brooch back can be clipped to your pearls to jazz them up



## RECIPE

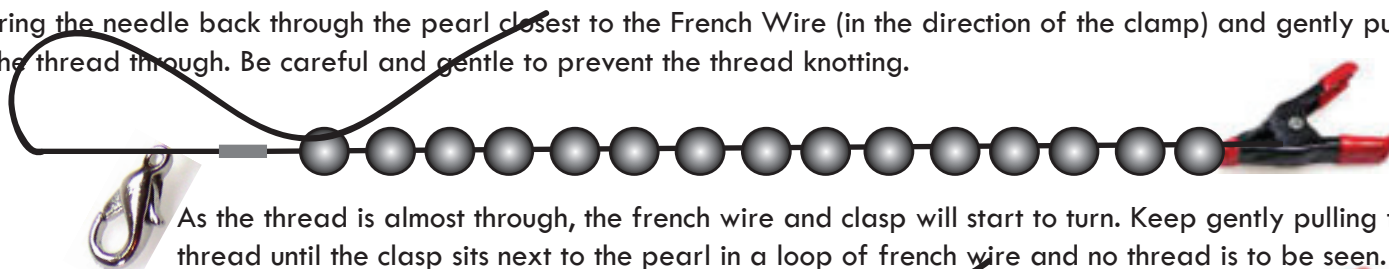
1. Unwind your silk from the card and run your fingers gently down the length of it several times to help remove the creases.

2. Attach a clamp 20cm from the end of the silk thread.

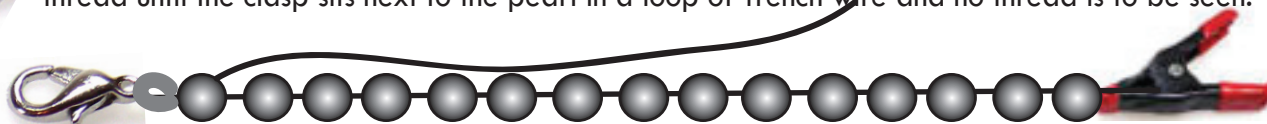
3. String all your pearls except the last three onto your silk, bring them down to rest on the clamp.

4. Carefully slide one piece of French Wire down the needle and silk thread to sit approx 1 cm away from the last pearl. Slide one half of your clasp down the needle and silk thread to sit next to the French Wire.

5. Bring the needle back through the pearl closest to the French Wire (in the direction of the clamp) and gently pull all the thread through. Be careful and gentle to prevent the thread knotting.



As the thread is almost through, the french wire and clasp will start to turn. Keep gently pulling the thread until the clasp sits next to the pearl in a loop of french wire and no thread is to be seen.



6. Move the clamp down the cord a few centimetres to give you room to knot.

7. Tie an overhand (granny) knot using both cords between the first two pearls. Make it as tight as possible. Pass the needle through the second pearl and gently pull all the silk thread through the pearl. Make another knot.

8. Pass the needle through the next pearl and make another knot. Keep doing this until you have knotted most of the pearls

9. Once near the end, CHECK THE LENGTH. Remember that you have 3 more pearls to add plus the other half of the clasp.

### IF IT IS THE CORRECT LENGTH:

- finish knotting the last pearls already strung.
- follow the instructions for finishing the second end.

### IF IT IS TOO SHORT:

- finish knotting the pearls already strung.
- follow the instructions for finishing the second end, **but** instead of adding just 3 pearls, add enough to get the correct length, and keep knotting as long as required.

### IF IT IS TOO LONG:

- slide off all but 3 pearls to get to the correct length.
- follow the instructions for finishing the second end from step 2.

## TIPS:

- Pull in several small motions rather than one big one. The closer your fingers are to the pearl you are pulling the thread through the more control you have.
- If you encounter a small hole, use chain nose pliers to help you pull the needle through the pearl.
- If you see a tangle or knot forming STOP and straighten the cord immediately
- If a knot forms, use two straight sewing pins to wiggle it loose. This may take some time if the knot is tight - be patient.

## FINISHING THE SECOND END

1. Thread on the final three pearls on the strand with the needle end. The other piece of silk is no longer required. Don't cut it off yet!
2. Thread on one centimeter of French Wire and then the other clasp end.
3. Just as at the start, bring your needle back through the last pearl and the French Wire will pull into a neat loop. Make sure all the pearls are tight together and no thread is showing.
4. Make a tight knot and then pass the needle through the second to last pearl. Make another knot.
5. Pass the needle through the third pearl and trim off excess threads (and needle) leaving about 6 cm.
6. Take some clear drying craft glue (use a toothpick or similar) or nail polish and dab a little on the last three knots of your piece. When dry trim off the excess threads with a sharp pair of sharp scissors. Daub the cut ends with a little glue to prevent fraying.

