



bead
IN HAND

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Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri: 10-6
Wed: 1^{ish}-6
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Tips
For

Crimp Beads

CRIMP BEADS

Crimp beads are small metal beads used to secure the ends of beading wire. It's important to use the right crimp bead for the size beading wire you are using. Many types are available:

BASEMETAL CRIMP BEADS are small and slightly round and often available in a variety of finishes, including silver color, gold color, brass, copper and black. They are strong and provide a good hold, though they can be harder to work with because they are small. They are available in a small, large and extra large size.

Basemetal
Crimp Beads

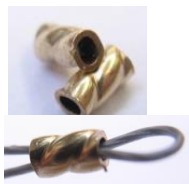


CRIMP TUBES are tube shaped, slightly larger than the crimp beads and therefore a little easier to work with. Crimp tubes are available in sterling silver, gold-filled, silver-filled, copper, brass and black. They are also available in different sizes. The most commonly used size is 2x2mm, meaning they are 2mm in diameter and length. 2x1 crimp tubes are shorter—2mm in diameter and 1mm in length. The fine, medium and heavy beading wires all work well with the 2x2 crimps.



2x2 Crimp
Tubes

TWISTED CRIMPS OR TORNADO CRIMPS are tube-shaped crimps with a "twist" that gives them separate chambers that hold the beading wire. They are finished simply by flattening them with pliers, so a crimp tool is not necessary. Though more expensive, they give a very good hold and we especially recommend them for use with the very fine beading wire. Be aware, however, that twisted crimps are sized specifically for each size wire, so you must use .010 crimps with .010 size wire, etc.



Twisted or
Tornado Crimps

FLEXIBLE BEADING WIRE – The size beading wire to use depends upon the size of the holes in the beads you are using and the overall weight of the piece you are making. Remember that the wire must be able to pass through a few of your beads twice at the ends where it is crimped. Size .014 (fine) is a good size for most projects. Use a heavier or thinner size if appropriate.

USING THE CRIMP TOOL

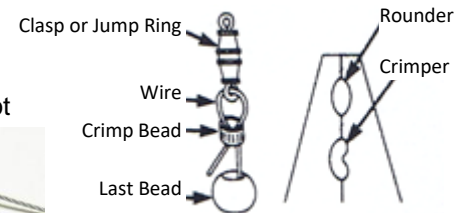
1. String on a crimp bead and one side of the clasp. Bring the beading wire back through the crimp bead, making sure the wires stay parallel and do not cross.



Crossed Wires



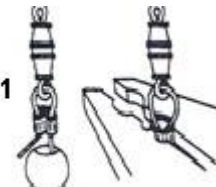
Parallel Wires



2. Place the crimp bead in the **inside** or **crimper** notch of the crimp tool (step 1), and press closed. This creates a "crescent" shape in the crimp bead.



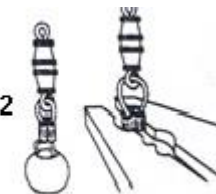
Step 1



3. Place the crimp bead, sideways, in the **outside** or **rounder** notch of the crimp tool (step 2), and press closed. This folds the crimp bead and creates a secure, finished crimp.



Step 2



SECOND SIDE

Be sure that the beads are snug so there are no gaps at the ends, but not so tight that the piece is stiff. Do this by holding the unfinished end so your piece hangs freely and the beads settle toward the finished end. Then lay your piece down and adjust the beads as necessary to be sure it is not too stiff.

Again, avoid cutting the wire close to the crimp bead by covering the tail with several of the end beads. It is difficult to do this after the crimp bead is flattened, so **feed the wire through the end beads at the same time you bring it back through the crimp bead**. It may help to hold the loop of wire around the clasp or jump ring with chain nose pliers. After the crimp bead is crimped, cut the remaining tail close to the beads.



Bring the tail back through beads BEFORE crimping the second side.

