

Spool Knitting

by Cindy Goldrick

Spool knitting is also referred to as Corking and French Knitting, while the spools themselves have been called knitters, knitting nancies, knitting noddies and knitting nobbies.

Its genesis is from a medieval knitting device called a lucet. The lucet is still coveted and used today and is essentially a two pronged fork with a hole in its handle. The yard goes through the hole, is wrapped in a figure 8 around the fork tines and with a needle or fingers the yarn is carried over the top of the prong, the lucet is rotated to carry the yarn over the 2nd loop and you repeat. The yarn through the hole is tugged to draw the knitted braid through.

For directions on spool knitting refer to the pamphlet that comes with your Wonder Knitter by Clover or go to You Tube and search Spool Knitting 101 for a 6 min video that reviews the basics.

The only thing to remember when knitting with wire is that you don't carry the yarn around the outside of the pegs -- instead you wrap every peg every time to get the knitted look. If you are knitting with beads, load the beads first onto the wire spool. A general rule of thumb is 200 - 220 beads for a 17" necklace and half that for a bracelet. The larger the bead you use, the more the bead will be the focal point of the piece you're knitting. Smaller beads roll back and forth on the wire more readily and give a different feel to the finished piece. If you don't use beads, you should be able to pull your finished piece through a drawplate to make the stitches more even and to lengthen and compact the piece. If you use beads, you can achieve something like this effect by rolling the piece gently between two pieces of material or ultrasuede. Marilyn Gardiner sells drawplates that come with a piece of ultrasuede.

Remember, the higher the gauge of wire, the finer your results. You can achieve lacy results by using 28 or 30 g and small seed beads. You will get a more substantial piece by using 22 or 25 ga wire and bigger beads. Experiment and have fun.

Other useful sites for ideas and instructions:

ehow.com

spoolknitter.blogspot.com

spoolknitting.com

beadinggem.com/2010/06/how-to-spool-knit-wire-jewelry.html

wigjig.com

[spoolknitting Facebook page](#)

beadingdaily.com/blogs/daily/archive/2010/01/15/how-to-do-spool-knitting.aspx

<http://cs.artjewelrymag.com/arts/forums/t/5546.aspx>

jewelrymaking.about.com

Have fun and send me pictures of your results at cgoldrick@rogers.com.

Also, Parawire has a Facebook page that you can post pictures of your work made with their product. They featured my Viking Knit bracelets on their FB page this week.