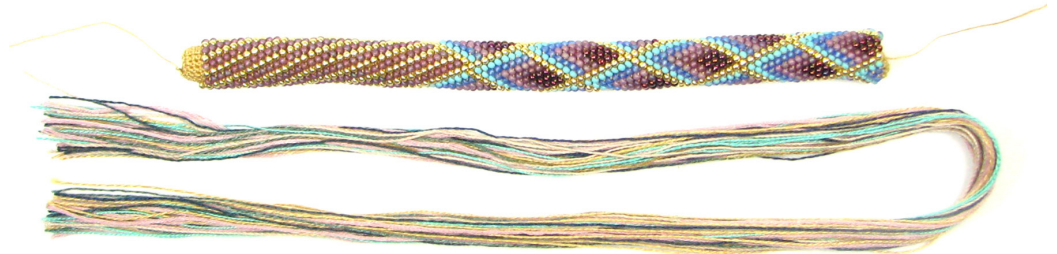


SUPPORTING A WIDE-CIRCUMFERENCE BEAD CROCHET TUBE WITH A CORE OF FIBERS

To keep your wide-circumference bead crochet tube from collapsing on itself, use an internal support. Different supports include plastic tubing, rubber hose, and window screening spline. These methods are limited to the specific diameters of the material, and in bracelets are not adequately flexible. Using a supporting bundle of fibers, pulled through the tube with scrap wire, solves both the diameter issue and the flexibility issue. You can add or remove individual fibers until the diameter is precisely correct, and the tube retains a great amount of flexibility.



When your beaded crochet is complete, continue with unbeaded single crochet as directed in your project's instructions.



Using scrap fibers, create a bundle that is more than twice as long as your crocheted tube. Cotton, wool, light linen, and synthetics will work nicely. Fold the bundle in half. Cut a scrap or light wire (24-gauge or thinner) about two inches longer than your tube.



Fold the fiber bundle in half and loop the wire end around it so the cut end of the wire is facing away from the rest of the wire. This will prevent snagging as you pull the fibers through the tube.



Straighten the wire and run it through the channel. Rotate the tube as you push the wire through. Start with all the fiber strands; if the bulk is too much, pull the bundle back out and remove fiber strands as needed for a good fit.



Use the hook to pull out the unbeaded rounds if they are drawn into the tube with the fibers.



When you're satisfied with the fill, use the thread tails on both ends to roughly secure the fiber bundle. Make several passes back and forth. Don't cut the crochet tails if they will be needed in your finishing method.



Trim the secured fibers at both ends of the crochet. Take care not to cut the crochet stitches. BUT IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD IF YOU DO.



Add the clasp or cap of your choice. The cut ends of the fiber will adhere well to the inside of your clasp or cap when glued; E6000 glue is recommended.



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