

# Beaded Pumpkins Tutorial with Sparkle by Monica

You can make these lovely pumpkins out of several base beads such as wood, glass pearls, acrylic, ceramic and more. The primary concern is that the inner bead hole needs to be large enough to handle several passes of Fireline/Wildfire/S-Lon thread plus the head pin or wire.

*Note: You can create a slightly larger pendant for a necklace by simply going up in size from whatever size earrings you chose. So for earrings using a 10mm glass pearl base, you could choose a 12mm – 20mm bead base for the pendant. Keep in mind, the larger the base bead, the more seed beads you'll need to cover it with.*

## Supplies:

1. Size 11/0 orange seed beads (90-234 per pumpkin depending on base bead size)
2. Size 6/0 green seed beads (2-3)
3. Size 4mm brown bicones (2-3)
4. 8mm- 10mm orange glass pearl (for earrings) {2-3}
5. 12mm – 20mm orange bead (for larger pendant) {1}
6. Wildfire/ Fireline/S-Lon/ Fishing Line Cording (up to 2 feet per pumpkin)
7. 20 or 22 gauge green artistic wire (18 inches for earrings. 30 inches for earrings plus pendant.)
8. Size 10 beading needle (1)
9. Thread zapper/ sealer (1)
10. Needle threader/ cutter (1)
11. Chain for pendant (16-20 inches)
12. Ear wires (2)

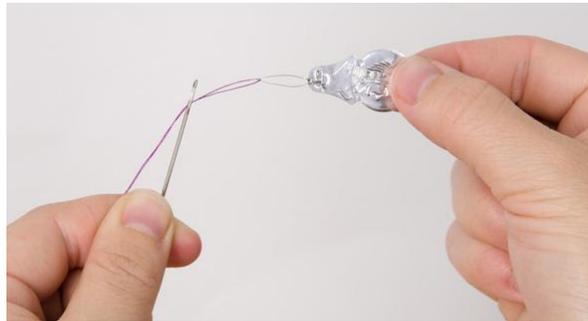


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## Instructions

- Cut about 2 feet of thread per each beaded pumpkin to ensure plenty of gripping and knotting capability. A size 10mm glass pearl pumpkin earring usually takes about 17 inches, but I like the extra for my bead tail and running back through a row before knotting.
- You will want to thread your size 10 beading needle with whatever thread/ cord you chose. You want a relatively thin size so that it enables multiple passes through the center of the bead hole. Example: A nice and standard size for Wildfire thread is .006. You can squeeze the tip of one side of the thread to “flatten” and make easier to manually feed through eye of the needle.
- To use a threader, simply squeeze the petite loop wires closer together as you near the eye of the needle, allowing the tip of the threader through the hole. Slide the thread through the loop of the threader. Pull the threader carefully back through the eye of the needle, thereby dragging the thread through there as well. Allow for 2-3 inches of wire through the eye of the needle.



- Prepare your bead with a bead reamer tool. This is especially important for glass pearls that have some coating down inside the bead hole. Simply use a gentle turning motion in one side of the bead hole and let it make it all the way through to the other side. You may have to remove the reaming tool and turn over to the other side to do again, sort of meeting half way in the middle of the bead. It just depends on your bead reamer.

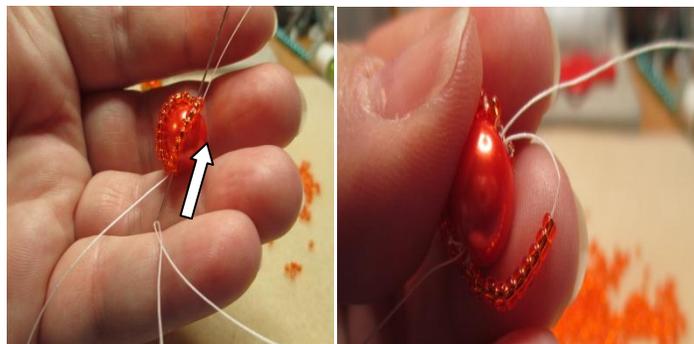


- Allow about 3-4 inches thread tail at bottom of bead and feed needle through to top.
- For each bead size, you will string that many size 11/0 seed beads per row. Example: Size 10mm bead needs 10 size 11/0 seed beads strung on each pass to create each row. A size 12mm will need 12 size 11/0 seed beads, etc. (Alternative: Sometimes your rows may tend to pile up onto each other. To give a little room, but still fill in the bead with rows, you can alternate with 1 less bead every other row. So, for a size 10mm bead...start with 10 seed beads as mentioned above, but on row 2, only use 9 seed beads. Then go back to 10 seed beads for row 3 and so on).

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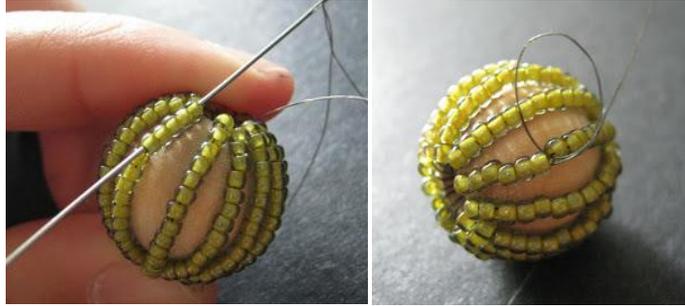
- As you “sew” on the bead rows, you will always bring the needle up through the bottom of the bead hole so that it encircles the bead with the seed beads and anchors the tail as you go.



- I typically have between 10-12 rows per bead to fill in whatever size bead I’m covering. 10 rows will tend to leave more “peek-a-boo” spacing to see whatever base bead is underneath. That can be a cool effect if you use a color coordinated glass pearl. Not so much if using a wooden bead.
- Once all rows are in place, you should be back at the top of your bead. You will now reinforce one row by taking the needle through the seed beads in that row for a second pass.
- *Knotting tip:* You can choose to tie a half hitch knot midway down the row you are reinforcing.

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Example half hitch knot from <http://inspirationalbeading.blogspot.com/2012/06/tutorial-making-bead-covered-beads.html>

- After you've gone through all the beads in that row, you can tie a few knots by using the tail that you've been holding plus the excess thread from the needle side of the line. Don't let your ending knot(s) block the bead hole.
- Cut off the excess thread with sharp beading scissors or a thread zapper/ sealer. The thread zapper keeps the thread from fraying at the cut area and gives a cleaner cut verses scissors which may still leave a little end sticking up.
- You can choose to either insert a head pin or use a 4-5 inch piece of 20-22 gauge green artistic wire. As this design is a pumpkin, I chose to use the 20 gauge green wire.
- You might want to push a head pin through the hole just to loosen the center enough for your wire to easily slide through the threads. If using the head pin design, simply leave it in once you've pushed all the way through.
- Depending on your design, if using the green wire, you will need to create a spiral at the bottom which will become the base of your pumpkin. Once you've pulled the piece through the bead hole and centered it, take your round nose pliers at the very edge of the wire and curl under to make a small "P" shape.



- This "P" shape begins the spiral. Reposition how you are holding the bead and pliers so that the "P" now flattens so that you are looking at the top of it. This allows you to get hold of it to turn.

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Example spiraling: <http://prumihimo.com/resources/jewellery-making-techniques/wire-work/making-a-spiral/>

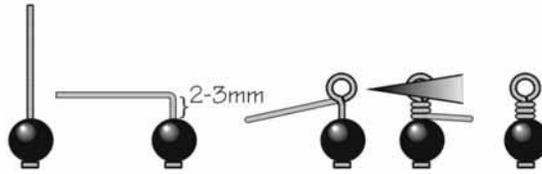
- Take a flat nose pliers to grab the “P” and with a push and pull motion, curve the left side of the wire with your thumb pushing around the looped section of the “P”. Continue to spiral until sufficiently covers the bead hole bottom or whatever your desired look is.



- *Spiraling tip:* A pair of nylon jaw pliers is great for this when working with artistic wire which is coated in color that can become marred up by regular metal pliers.
- Once the spiral is the size you like, create a 90° bend just above the spiral. This allows centering of the wire through the hole as you pull the wire back through to position. You can adjust the spiral by pushing with your thumb to sort of “hug” the bottom of the bead and center where you need it.
- Before making a wrapped loop at the top, you’ll want to add some frilly “stems”. For an 8mm-10mm pumpkin, cut 8 inches of green wire into 4 pieces. Center the 2 inch piece at the base of the stem and with your other hand, start to bend by squeezing together with thumb and index finger. Once close enough, reposition so you can pull both ends to complete a snug fit around the stem. Do so with each of the remaining three 2 inch pieces. (2 per pumpkin is fine).
- Feed on a brown bicone bead and a green 6/0 seed bead.
- Use the round nose pliers to grab just above the top green seed bead. Push with your thumb to create a 90° bend over top pliers.
- Reposition pliers so they are vertical and you can then pull the wire over top of the pliers to create a question mark (?) shape.

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- Take the pliers out of the loop and reposition so the bottom plier is now inside the loop.
- Change hands like a relay racer so that the pliers don't change direction, just your grip positioning does.
- I'm right handed, so the pliers would now be in my left hand so that I can pull the wire tail towards myself with my right hand. This motion effectively "hugs" the bottom plier and forms the round circle of the loop.
- With the remaining wire, push and pull with fingers and/or bent nose pliers so that you are going around the stem in a wrapping motion.
- Be sure that each wrap is side by side rather than having the wire cross over top of the neighboring wire during the wrap.
- Cut off any excess bit once your wrap meets the top of the green seed bead. Use bent nose pliers to tuck in any little end after trimming. Be careful not to force this, as the green glass will break easily.
- Now you're ready to curl your stems by taking the round nose pliers to each piece of wire and curling around like a spring. It is best not to take the pliers out of the wire loops while curling. Once all ends are curled like a spring, you can use the tip of the pliers or your fingers to pull it out a tad and reposition wherever you'd like the stem to lay.
- After you have all stems curled, you can attach the pumpkin to the ear wire of your choice. To open the loop of an ear wire, it is like opening a jump ring. You will want to nudge the small silver bead up with your thumbnail so you can observe which way the slit is positioned to open up. Use the bent nose pliers to lift up on whichever side is exposed to open easiest. Pop the pumpkin bead onto the loop and close down the opening to secure.
- Follow this same procedure to create a 2<sup>nd</sup> pumpkin earring for a matching set and if you want the same size for a pendant. Otherwise, if you wish a pendant to be larger, simply adjust the seed bead count to the size of your larger bead and repeat the process.
- To attach your pendant to a chain, you can open a 7mm-10mm jump ring to snag the pendant and attach the center point. If the chain doesn't come with a clasp, you will need to add that as well along with a split ring for security.
- *Attachment tip:* To match the artistic wired loop to the jump ring for a pendant, you can create your own jump ring by bending a scrap piece around a round object or looping pliers. Cut in the center so that the ends click together without a gap when clasping jewelry.
- You can also follow this procedure to create multiple pumpkins for a charm bracelet.
- If you'd like to make other items with this technique, you should consider candy apples, ornaments, oranges, strawberries and smiley faces. The possibilities are endlessly delicious!