



Instructions for

Bead Animal

Charms

Your Cute Extra Portion of Luck: A Bead Animal Charm

Children sometimes need an extra portion of luck or courage. A little **lucky charm** for the first day at school, the day of the maths test or as a little present for the best friend can be a great thing.

You can customise these **instructions** wonderfully thanks to **Schnullerkettenladen's** large **range of craft materials**: In our example, a **bead animal with a crochet bead body** is the lucky charm's highlight. In this case, we are making a small **bead animal bear**. But of course you can also integrate other bead animals such as an owl, a mouse, a frog, a monkey, a panda or a fox into the charm.

In our example we use a **crochet bead** as the bead animal body. But note that it is easier if you use a regular **bead body** or **triangular body shaped bead**. If you do, you can skip step 4. If you decide to use a crochet bead, you will need a **big needle** to drill the holes for the legs into the crochet bead. For instance, you could use a sack needle or carpet needle.

Please note that making this kind of bead animal is quite tricky. We therefore recommend these handicraft instructions to experienced handicraft fans. If you want to make a baby happy and want to try out a simpler tutorial, you can, for example, make a **pacifier chain with a name**. But there are also many fantastic **DIY instructions for children's accessories** to discover. Have fun trying them!

The handicraft material you need for making a bead animal charm:



- 1 keyring
- 1 m cord (PP-polyester cord)
- 2 motif beads (including 1 motif bead in 3D for the head)
- colourful wooden beads
- 1 crochet bead (for the belly)
- 5 safety beads (4 for the legs, 1 for finishing the bead strand)
- 1 little bell

The small tools you need:



needle and
thread



large
needle



scissors



lighter

Let's Get Crafty!

Step 1: Experimenting With Beads



When your **handicraft material** is laying in front of you, we can start! Arrange your bead animal charm's beads and the keyring.

Tip: We're using **safety beads** for the bead animal's legs so that the knots won't be visible. It is best to choose a cord colour that matches the legs. A **3D motif bead** in an animal head shape looks particularly beautiful as a head.

Step 2: Preparing the Stringing



We're starting with the trickiest part: making your bead animal's **crochet bead body**. First, double a piece of cord for front leg number 1 and hind leg number 1. Thread sewing thread into a sewing needle and tie the thread to the loop. This **stringing aid** makes stringing easier.

Step 3: Making the First Leg



For the first leg, string a **safety bead** with its larger opening pointing outward by using the sewing needle. Slide the safety bead until just before the cord's end. Make a **double knot** at the end of the string. Shorten the cord ends and weld the knot with a lighter. Pull the double knot into the safety bead.

Step 4: Making a Hole Through the Crochet Bead Body for Two Legs



With a big needle, drill a hole diagonally through the crochet bead and leave the big needle in there.

Both holes have to be where you want a front leg and a hind leg to be. They will be arranged diagonally opposite each other. We have used a so-called **sack needle** for drilling.

Step 5: Stringing the Cord for Two Legs Through the Crochet Bead



Simultaneously, pull the larger needle carefully out of the crochet bead while pushing the sewing needle with thread and cord **right** behind it through the hole.

By doing so, you're stringing the **crochet bead** onto the cord.

Step 6: Removing the Stringing Aid



Remove the sewing needle as well as the thread again.

Step 7: Making the Safety Bead's Second Simple Knot



Cut the loop open and make with the two resulting cord ends a **simple knot** close to the crochet bead. This knot will keep the second safety bead in place and will keep the cord tight.

Step 8: Preparing the Cord Ends for Stringing the Second Safety Bead



Lightly **melt** one of both cord ends with the lighter and press it with your fingers as flat as possible.

Also melt the other cord end with the lighter and weld it slightly offset underneath the other one. Press it on as flat as possible.

Step 9: Attaching the Second Safety Bead



Now string a **second safety bead** with its smaller opening first, using the stringing aid we've just created. This way, the larger opening will point outward.

Pull the previously welded cord ends apart again or cut them apart if necessary. Pull strongly on both cord ends until the safety bead slides over the **simple knot**.

Step 10: Finishing the Crochet Bead Body



Make a **double knot** as described in step 3, shorten the cord ends and weld the double knot with the lighter. Push the knot, if necessary with tweezers, into the safety bead's larger opening.

Now it gets a little easier, because you already know this step: Repeat steps 2 to 9 for legs number 3 and 4.

Step 11: Making the Bead Strand's End



We'll continue with the **bead strand's end** on which we will string our bead animal: Again, double a piece of cord. Melt the cord ends with the lighter and press them flat.

String a **little bell** on the bead strand's end. If you do not want to use a bell, you will have to make a knot. In this case an additional safety bead is recommended to hide the knot.

String more **wooden beads**.

Now let's string the **crochet bead body**. Because 1st we don't have a loop like when making a pacifier chain and 2nd the crochet bead's regular hole is quite narrow, we recommend the following procedure.

Drill through the hole with the **large needle** to widen it a little. Thread a piece of **sewing thread into the needle**. Pierce the needle with thread through **one single cord end**. Knot the sewing thread to the single cord end.

This way, pull **both cord ends one after the other** through the crochet bead. Our crochet beads are filled with cotton wool. Therefore stringing can sometimes be a little difficult despite the prepared hole.

Step 12: Stringing the Remaining Beads



Now string the remaining **wooden beads**, except for the last safety bead.

Step 13: Attaching the Keyring



Let's attach the **keyring**: Put the keyring down. Pull both cord ends simultaneously from top to bottom through the keyring.

Now take the cord ends one by one and put them back up again. Make a **simple knot** above the bead strand. The cord will be pulled around the keyring.

Step 14: Finishing the Bead Animal Charm



String a last **safety bead**. Make a double knot with both cord ends and shorten them. Weld the double knot with the lighter.

You're done! May the **cute lucky charm with pearl animal** bring a little joy into the everyday life of a child.



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