



# Beaded silk Tassel

Design & © Sylvia Fairhurst

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## Silk Tassel

### Materials

1 x small frame 3inch by 4inch or similar  
 12inch piece of narrow ribbon.  
 1 ½ metre length of cotton perle crochet thread to match tassel colours  
 1 or 2 spools if you wish to mix colours of Natesh or Indian machine embroidery thread  
 for tassel body

### Beads for tassel top

5 grams of size 11 seed beads (sb) *image shows three cols, but for your first tassel I suggest using a single colour.*  
 Approx 12 x 3 or 4mm bicone crystals

Techniques used are: Brick Stitch, netting optional.



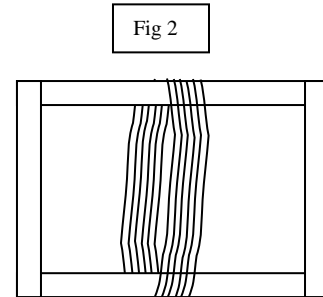
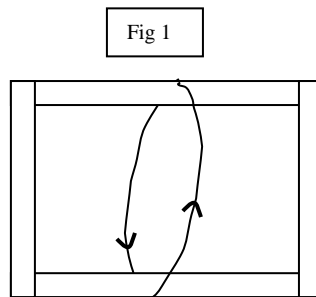
## Step 1 - Short Tassel

Using a small frame starting at the bottom, wrap thread over the top of the frame and back down to the point you started at, this is one wrap. *See fig 1.*

Wrap around the frame 800 times, keeping the wraps close together and overlapping. *See fig 2.*  
*If using two reels of thread only 400 wraps are required, why not try two contrasting colours.*

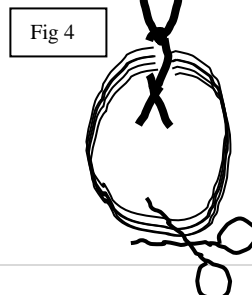
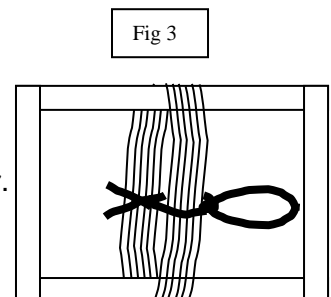
**Check point** when counting make a Mark for each 100 wraps, it's very easy to loose count.

<b>100</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>200</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>300</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>400</b>	<b>800</b>



## Step 2 - Secure with ribbon.

Fold a 12 inch length of ribbon in half, make a knot half way down, then place the ends of the ribbon on either side of the wound threads, see fig 3. Tie a tight double or surgeons knot to secure wound threads together. *Wet the first tie to prevent the thread slipping while you tie the second and securing half of the knot.*



## Step 3 – Remove from the frame

Hold the ribbon with the threads hanging down, insert scissors into the looped threads, apply pressure and cut in the centre. *See fig 4*



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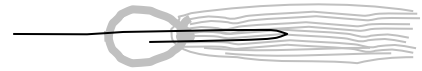
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## Step 4 – Whipping / Binding the neck

Holding onto the ribbon with one hand, smooth the threads together to cover the tied ribbon and ends in the centre. Keeping a firm hold on the threads begin to whip from the top down for approximately 1" to 1 ½" as follows:

Fig 5



Either wind from the ball of perle or cut a 6ft length, lay the end so it points towards the top ribbon loop, lie a length in line of tassel threads and back up to the top. See fig 5

Hold this loop in place and begin to whip tightly around the neck of the tassel, keep threads touching but not overlapping. When you have almost covered the loop laid at the start of the whipping process, insert the thread through the loop. See fig 6

Now pull smoothly on the short end made at the beginning, see fig 7, this will pull the last wrap underneath the whipping, see fig 8. you can safely cut the ends close to the whipping.

Fig 6

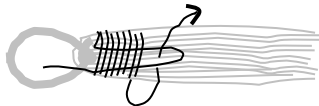


Fig 7

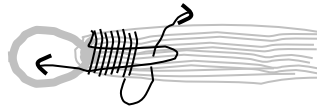


Fig 8



## Step 5 - Steam

Carefully hold the tassel over a pan of boiling water and twirl, the steam will remove kinks and leave your tassel beautifully smooth.

For an even edge to your tassel, wrap tassel in a strip of paper approximate 2" wide tight around the neck, see fig 9.

Pull on ribbon to slide the paper tube to the length you want your tassel to be, hold everything firmly in place, then using sharp scissors, cut the ends to even them up. See fig 10.

Fig 9



Fig 10

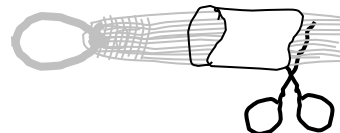
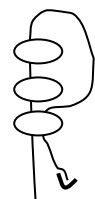


Fig 11



## Step 6 – Beading the neck.

Foundation row using 2bead Peyote as follows:

Thread a long length of nymo, pick up 3 beads, pass back through the first bead towards the tail, leaving a 6" tail. See fig 11



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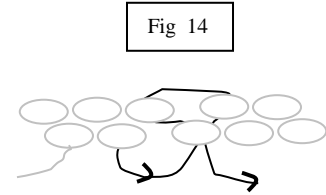
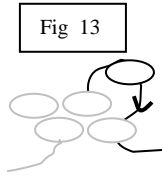
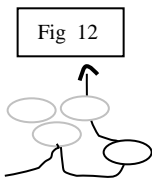
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Pick up 1xsb, pass through bead 3, see fig 12.

Pick up 1xsb, pass through last bead added, see fig 13.

Repeat this sequence until you have an 18 bead base row or to fit snugly around your tassel.

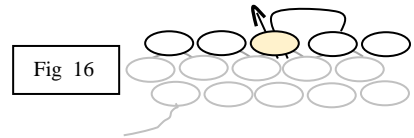
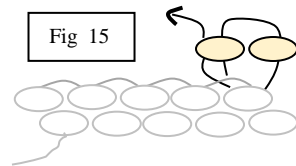


Zip the ends together around the tassel at the base of your whipping. see fig 14

## Step 7 – Brick Stitch

Pu 2sb, pass needle under the thread between beads 1 & 2 of Foundation row, pass through the second bead added, resulting in the beads sitting vertically. See fig 15

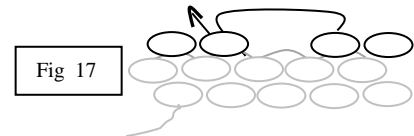
Continue adding one bead at a time, at the end of the round connect to the first bead, under the thread and back up the first bead again. See fig 16



Continue in Brick stitch until the whipping threads are covered.

## Step 8 – Decrease to shape the top

Once you reach the top of the tassel and the beads begin to show over the edge, decrease (miss a space). See fig 17.



For an 18 bead tube, decrease every 6<sup>th</sup> bead, on the next row decrease every 5<sup>th</sup> bead, continue to decrease every row the beads meet. Weave in ends securely and cut close to a bead.

## Step 9 – Netted fringe

Your tube must be 18 edge beads for the following fringe to work.

Emerge from a bead on the edge of your tube.

Pu 3a,1b,3a,1b, repeat once.

Pu1 bicone,1b, return through the bicone and 1b.

Going up: \*Pu 3a,1b, 3a, miss seven beads pt the next b.

Pu 3a, 1b, 3a, pt the next bead on your tube and on through the bead in the next row of the tube, then return through the next two beads in diagonal line, which results in missing a bead on the last row\*. See fig 18.

Going down: Pu 2a, pt the b from last 'net', pu 3a,1b, 3a, miss 7beads, pt the next b.

Pu 3a,1b, pu 1bicone, 1b, return through the bicone and 1b.

Repeat from \* to \* continue these two steps until the fringing is complete.

