

Chevron Bead Clutch

This small, elegant clutch is just right for a night out. The crocheted body is given added support by heavy interfacing fused onto the lining of the purse.

Supplies needed:

Seed beads – 3 hanks of pre-strung – Transparent Cobalt Blue

DMC Perlé Cotton, size 8, Ecrú – 2 balls

Size 8 crochet hook

Needle for sewing in the ends of the thread

Material for lining

Heavy interfacing



Working with beads: This pattern uses a large amount of beads so a good number will need to be transferred to the crochet cotton. I loaded 4 strands of beads at a time. You don't want to have too many as the strand will become totally unwieldy and can easily knot – not good when you're dealing with beads. Four strands at a time will allow you to work a fair number of rounds with each load while still allowing the beads to be moved down the cotton without causing too much wear and tear on the thread.

To load beads, secure one end of the strand of beads and in the other end, make an overhand knot. Thread the crochet cotton through the loop, pulling the end through about 8 inches. Hold the bead thread at the secured back end, slide the beads from the holding thread onto the crochet cotton. Push the beads far enough down the crochet cotton to make room for the ones to come.

Make a foundation chain of 100 stitches. Being very careful not to allow the chain to twist, join the circle in the first stitch.

Note: Making the circle without twisting can be a little tricky. It can help to enlist the aid of a couple of extra hands!

Round 1: Chain 1. Single crochet in each stitch of the foundation round. Join the last stitch

Round 2: (Begin beads) Slide 2 beads to the base of the stitch and Ch 1. Slide 2 more beads to the base of the stitch and Ch1. (first double crochet made). The rest of the purse will be made by wrapping the thread around the crochet hook once and starting the double crochet in the next stitch (3 loops on the hook). Slide 2 beads to the base of the stitch and work the first half of the stitch. Slide 2 more beads to the base of the stitch and work the second half of the stitch. Continue to work around, using 2 beads before each half of the double crochet. At the end, join the round with a slip stitch in the top of the foundation stitch.

Work 19 rounds of double crochet, loading more beads as necessary.

When the first load of beads is worked in, cut the thread, leaving a tail of about 7-8 inches. Always finish with a completed stitch. If you have beads that weren't worked in yet, just slide them down the crochet cotton ready for the next load of beads. Load another 4 strands of beads and join the thread to the purse by doing the following:

- 1) With both strands of yarn overlapped on top of each other, loop the cotton over the needle and start the next stitch. You will have 3 loops of 2 strands each on the needle.

- 2) Drop the old strand carefully down the wrong side of the material (which is facing you).
- 3) Slide 2 beads to the base of the stitch and make the first half of the double crochet stitch just using the new strand of cotton.
- 4) Once you've made several double crochets, stop and work in the ends.

It's recommended that the ends of the crochet cotton are worked in as the purse is worked as these tails can be quite frustrating to work around.

Once 19 rounds have been completed, work as follows:

- 1) Slip stitch in the next 3 stitches.
- 2) Slide 2 beads to the base of the stitch and chain 1 (twice) (first double chain worked)
- 3) Work 47 double crochet stitches, sliding 2 beads in each half of the stitch.

Front Flap

The front flap is worked without beads until the last border row.

Row 1: Chain 2 stitches (first double crochet made), 2 more double crochets in the first double crochet (beginning shell made), *skip the next 2 stitches and work 5 double crochets in the next stitch, skip the next 2 stitches and single crochet in the next stitch*. Repeat from * to * to the end of the row.

Row 2: Repeat Row 1, working the shell in the single crochet between shells of the row below and working the single crochet in the middle stitch of the shell in the row below.

Repeat Row 2 14 times more. Bind off and work in end.

With the right side (beaded side) facing, join the thread at the right side base of the flap. Work the shell pattern as in Row 2 all the way around the outside of this flap, ending at the left side base of the flap.

Single crochet in the next double crochet and work a single crochet in each double crochet across the front of the body of the clutch. Single crochet in the top of the beginning shell on the flap.

Work 4 shells up the right side of the flap, ending with a single crochet at the corner. Chain 3 and single crochet in the same stitch. Work 7 shells across the top of the flap, ending with a single crochet at the corner. Chain 3 and single crochet in the same stitch. Work 4 shells down the left side of the flap, ending with a single crochet at the bottom of the flap.

When this shell row is completed, the final row will be worked with beads. Single crochet, sliding 2 beads for each stitch, in each stitch of the final shell row. Bind off the thread and work in the ends.

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