Adding Beads to Lace

A quick tutorial by
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There are two main ways to add beads to bobbin lace.

1. thread the beads onto the thread before winding the bobbins. Pushing the bead into place as required. This can be bulky on the neck of the bobbin.
2. Use a fine crochet hook through the centre of the bead, hook the thread and pull the thread back through the bead, forming a loop, before dropping the other bobbin through the loop. Tighten the pair of threads.

I have tried both of these techniques and was not happy with either, the bulkiness at the neck of the bobbin and having to pre-load the beads in the correct colour sequence made the first technique unwieldy for me.

My fine crochet hook was too straight for my liking and the whole technique felt cumbersome and hook often caught only part of the thread, thus weakening it.

My way is a variation on the second technique.

I use a pre threaded suture needle from the chemist shop in a long handled pin vice. It gives me a degree of flexibility as the needle is a curved16mm one with the 45cm of thread permanently attached. The length of the handle allows me to see just what I am doing and the thread allows me to work the bobbins like a sewings.

The following pictures should be self explanatory.