

Spangling Bobbins with Beads and Wire

Midlands style wood bobbins generally have a narrow design with a small hole drilled near the end of the bobbin. A ring of beads called spangles form a weight at the end of the Midland bobbin. Beads can be found from materials such as plastic, glass, wood or metal. Some prefer a larger heavier bead at the bottom, commonly called a king bead. There are different combinations of mounting beads on a wire and attaching the wire to the bobbin. The 24 gauge gold color beading wire is common, available from craft stores.

Spangling method 1: The king bead at the bottom is the largest and is combined with smaller beads on each side of it. First, fold one end of a length of wire over to create a small loop. Twist the end of the wire to secure it next to the loop. Add the king bead.

Add more beads which will form part of a circle and then place the long end of the wire through the bobbin. Add the rest of the beads to the wire on the other side of the bobbin, which will complete the circle. If necessary, adjust the number of beads along the wire. The end of the wire will go through the loop and gets twisted a few times. The wire end is cut off with special wire cutters to make a clean cut. Round nose pliers will help secure the ends.



Note: Some patterns need sewings on occasion. With spangled bobbins, the spangle is flipped down over the end of the bobbin. This makes it easier to pass the thread loop over the beads. (See photo on the right).

Spangling method 2: Use a length of wire which will hold all the beads on both sides of the bobbin. The king bead will be in the middle. When all the beads are placed, the two ends are passed through the bobbin from opposite sides and then each is wrapped next to the bobbin. The tight wrap can create a solid spangle which will not move freely. Make two or three wraps with the wire and trim ends. (See photo below).



Antique bobbins: The spangles from earlier times often have no definite sequence. The wire was connected after placing a few random beads. The beads are sometimes square instead of round, made from glass, metal, bone, wood, etc. and both styles are mounted together to create a weight.

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