
Bag Charm Party: 25 Baubles For Your Bags with Twinkie Chan

Chapter 1 - Bag Charm Party: 25 Baubles For Your Bags

Overview

- You might have noticed that bag charms are everywhere. They're a playful way to express your personality, feel a little bit fancy, and celebrate all the stuff that you love no matter your age or your personal style. They're fun to trade and a blast to make with your friends. I'm Twinkie Chan. I'm a designer of cute and colorful crochet, and I'm always on the hunt for trinkets, doodads, and tiny treasures. I would like to invite you to my bag charm party. We're going to make 25 different bag charms with materials of all kinds. You name it, we're probably gonna make a bag charm out of it. Melty beads, pony beads, polymer clay, shrinky dinks, small toys, even hot glue. This daily practice is not only a bag charm bonanza, it is also an exploration of and adventure through many different crafts. Some might be old favorites and some might become new ones. Let's hang out, have some bead soup, play, experiment, and make one of a kind accessories for our bags.

Materials

- The best part about a bag charm party is you can basically use anything. Anything you've got already. I have a lot of stuff on the table. You might not necessarily need all of it, but I'll go over what I think the essentials are to make your bag charms. Let's start with some beads. I've got a bunch of very colorful pony beads. I love pony beads because they're super accessible. You can find them anywhere at any craft store and they're fairly big so you can pass most any cord or string through. This is a plate of what I call "bead soup". It's a mishmash of a bunch of beads that I've collected over the years, all sizes, all styles. What I love about bead soup is it helps me let go of trying to over plan my bag charms. I can just dig right in and kind of let the universe decide what my bag charm is gonna look like, and that's very relaxing for me. I love also some letter beads. We can spell out some fun words or somebody's name, and because a lot of my beads are large, it is helpful to have smaller beads. This makes it so that we can close up the end of our bag charms. We won't have a giant hole to have to contend with at the bottom of a pony bead. I have a lot of color here, that's my aesthetic. But if you wanna go with neutrals or metallics or whatever palette you prefer, please do. For stringing beads, you'll need cord. I have a variety here. You can have some of it, all of it. This is 0.8 millimeter nylon stringing cord, and this is four millimeter paracord and two millimeter paracord. When you work with cord, it can fray at the end, so it's good to have a lighter to seal the ends. A pair of scissors is gonna be handy for all of our charms. If you want, you can also string your charms on chain. The chain can be anything you like, there's all different sort of styles and designs for the chain, just pick something that appeals to you. And for the chain, it's a good idea to have a pair of wire cutters. You can also work with monofilament like a very fine fishing line. Mine is 0.3 millimeters and with the monofilament, this hypo cement is really awesome for sealing knots. Also, if you're working with monofilament, these are optional, but crimp bead covers are fun to play with. They look like little clamshells and they have a loop at the top and these are stopper crimps. They look like a little ball with a little button sticking out, and I'll show you how you close the button and what we use that for. I have two pairs of flat nose or chain nose pliers. You can see the flat nose means there isn't any serration or rigging on there, so it won't damage any of our jewelry findings. For jewelry findings, you have a lot of options as well. You'll really need jump rings and they come in all sizes, all tones of metal. You can even find them in different colors like red, blue,

and green. Jump rings are tiny circles and they have a split in them so that you can open and close them. In my kit, I have a bunch of these jump rings, but they're already open, so that's why they look like little squiggles instead of circles. I also have split rings. These come in all different sizes. They're like key chains and they're a lot sturdier than a jump ring. So sometimes I'll start my bag charms on a split ring and I also have some swivel clasps. These are great for attaching your bag charms. My kit comes with lobster clasps as well. I won't be really using these during our daily practice, but they're fun to put on your charms if you want to remove them very quickly, on and off different places. I also have some cute safety pins that we're gonna do some fun stuff with. These are carabiners. Again, these come in all shapes, all sizes, all colors for attaching our bag charms to our bags. Here we have some store-bought charms. Again, they come in all kinds. Here are some metal ones in a gold tone. I believe these are polymer clay. These might be resin. I'm gonna encourage you to make your own bag charms, so dig up all your old toys, little plastic doodads. I have a bunch here. A lot of animals and fun things. And for turning those into charms, you'll need eye screws. These come in all different tones. They come in all different sizes. You just pick ones that appeal to your aesthetic and will look good with your charm. And you'll also need a pin vice or a hand drill. It's a tiny drill with tiny little drill bits for drilling tiny little holes. And if you want to turn soft toys into charms, you'll need a needle and thread. This will get you through day 15 of the daily practice. For the remainder of the month, we're gonna make our own charms that aren't beads with lots of different kinds of materials like hot glue, polymer clay, and even Shrinky Dinks. As far as sourcing all the materials, you'll find a lot of this at your local craft store. And I also really love to shop on Etsy.

Beads and cords

Single bead strand

- Our first bag charm is going to be pretty simple. Grab your bead soup and some cord. I have my 0.8 millimeter cord and this is the two millimeter paracord you could use either/or but I love defaulting to a thinner cord because it can get through more of my beads. How much you pull off is up to you. I always like to take off more than I need for tying knots and just giving myself room, running out of cord is like my nightmare, so I just pull off quite a bit. So if you imagine your charm is going to be like this long, I might do twice as much, just so I know that I have freedom to change my mind and make it longer. And again, also room to make knots. There are so many different ways to begin your bag charm. You can grab a split ring or a swivel clasp and start attaching it. Or you can just tie a loop here and you can attach it later to whatever hardware with a jump ring. I'm gonna go ahead and attach mine to a swivel clasp. You can tie a lark's head knot where you fold your cord in half and bring the loop up through the loop of the swivel clasp. And then you pull the two tails through that loop in the cord. And this is really securely attached. If you don't like the look of that, you can also try just tying a really simple overhand knot. I would stick one end of the cord through the swivel clasp, find the center-ish, and then tie a knot. You can get the knot close to the clasp if you want, or you can give it some room. It's up to you. That's an aesthetic choice. Make my little overhand knot and scooch this to where I want it to go. I like leaving a little room and then you can just dive into your beading. You can plan this out. You cannot plan this out. I mentioned in the materials I like to not plan that relaxes my brain. So I'm gonna even these out. We're gonna string both pieces of cord through. We're gonna make a single bead strand, so you'll have to choose beads where both of these strands can fit through the hole. So we can start with a pony bead. Let's

look in the bead soup, I always love the bead soup. This one, again, this is totally random. I have no idea what this charm is gonna look like. That might make you anxious or it might be exciting. I think it's exciting. Let's see. I have some bigger ones. Sometimes I like to save the bigger ones for the bottom. Let's just do a bigger one. Why not? You want to be mindful of the orientation of your bead. So I wanna make sure that this is the top of my charm. I'm stringing the top of my heart first, but if you want your heart to be upside down, that is okay too. Let's put on a couple more. Again, this can be as long or as short as you want. You can put whatever you want on your charm. See if this'll fit. Will both fit? Yep. Sometimes it's a mystery. Sometimes you have to put the bead back and try a different one. Okay, something a different color -- how about this? Okay, this one's getting really wild. You do also wanna think about the holes in your beads. And if this bead with a really large hole is going to eat up the next bead if it's really tiny. So I wanna make sure my next bead isn't too small. Oh, I haven't seen this one before. This is so cute. Let's see. Oh, I like this one. This is really big. I am looking at this. I don't love this bright green actually. So I'm gonna go ahead and put that back in bead soup. Do I wanna use this immediately? Sure, why not? This one's feeling like a very large charm and because of the shape of this bow, probably gonna wanna put a couple beads after it before finishing the charm. Let's see. We're finishing this charm with a knot and it might be hard to snug the knot up at the bottom of this because it has these tails sticking out. So I'm going to pull a couple more beads, maybe smaller ones. This is a fun little star. Will it fit? So it depends if you want cord to show. I feel like I might save that one and try to find a smaller round one. So again, I can catch myself overthinking my selection of the beads, which is sort of what I'm trying to not do. And that's my own personal creative exercise. I wanna spend more time making and less time pouring over which beads to use. Okay, this isn't fitting, which is a bummer. That's okay. We have plenty. If these start fraying, they can become more and more difficult to pass through a bead. So here's a tip. You're gonna need to use a lighter. If you're doing this with kids, this is gonna be the grownup task. You wanna pass the lighter very quickly along the bottom here. You're just melting the nylon just a teeny bit and then you pinch it. It's not super hot. But again, if you're a kid, I would wait for the grownup to do this part. I'm trying to make the end of this a little bit pointy and it will stop fraying. We're gonna do this at the end of the charm as well. I am having a little bit of that like a design paralysis, but I'm gonna try not to overthink. I'm just gonna grab one here so that one can fit more snugly at the bottom of the bow. And then maybe I'll try the star again. And as I get to the bottom here, these pony beads have a pretty big hole and I'm tying a knot to finish and that's gonna have to be a pretty big knot so you can kind of make that job easier on yourself if you can get a smaller bead. There is that balance between the small bead versus what you can actually get these two cords through. But let's see if we can find something. This looks like it might work. That's why I like having a variety of sizes. Not only are the beads a different size, but their openings are all different sizes. Okay, let's finish this off. This looks good. I'm gonna do an overhand knot again. So this is why I like to cut extra strings. I have plenty of room to tie a knot, straighten this out. I wanna make sure this is pretty close to the bottom of my last bead. There are moments where you don't want this too snugged up because you wanna make sure the beads have room to move so that they don't kink up. But it's just a word of caution to not necessarily tie this knot as closeup as possible. All right. It's looking pretty cute. I like it. You can leave these tails as long as you want as a design choice. I might trim mine a little. You could also trim as close as you can. That is up to you. I feel like I see a lot of tails being left dangling on charms, so I'm gonna do that. We're gonna seal the ends here with the lighter. And our first super cute charm is finished. I made a few other charms using the same technique to celebrate our bag charm party. Here's a note about working with alphabet beads.

You wanna make sure you buy a lot. You can't just buy a set of 26. You won't have enough letters for your words. So you want to buy a pack of like fifty or a hundred and choose short words so you don't run out of letters. And also, it's a good idea to separate the letters with beads because the letters are all different shapes and they kinda collapse funny against each other. So you wanna be sure that they're legible when they're dangling from your bag.

Double bead strand

- For day two, we're gonna make a bag charm with two bead strands. We're gonna stick with bead soup and our cord. I'm going to string this charm on a split ring. This means I can add it to another bundle of charms later. I'm gonna use pink cord. Again, I'm gonna cut a lot, probably like way more than I would need. Find the center. I'm gonna start this one with the lark's head knot. Loop this through the split ring and then bring those tails through the loop. So instead of stringing both cords through beads, we're gonna do one piece of cord at a time for two bead strands. These bag charms are also a fun opportunity to upcycle old jewelry you're not wearing anymore. Or maybe jewelry you found at the thrift store where you like the beads, but maybe you won't wear them. I made this bracelet maybe like 10 years ago. I don't see myself wearing it, but I might put it on a bag charm. So we're going to use the beads from here. Just gonna cut this stretchy cord and release the beads. I like the design here where we're alternating big beads and little beads, so I'm gonna try to preserve that if possible. Also, when you're working with beads, if they start rolling around on the table, you can put down a piece of felt or some piece of fabric and it'll help keep the beads in place. I'm gonna start with a little bead and work my way down this pattern. The cool thing about upcycling old jewelry too is it's already been planned out. It's already in a design and you can reuse that. We're keeping in mind that if a bead has an up/down orientation, you want to pass your cord through the top of the bead first. So I'm always going through the points of my stars and the indentations on the top of the heart. Okay, this is starting to fray. Zap it with the lighter. Sometimes if you're having trouble with the bead, you can try the other side. This one is just not cooperating, so I will try a different one. I am gonna tie an overhand knot to finish the bottom. Again, it's a good idea to finish with a smaller bead so you don't have to tie such a big knot. Turn this around a little bit so I have easier access and I can scooch my knot up to the bottom. When you have two strands, it is also nice to leave a little bit of room at the top. Otherwise, if you have two bead strands all snugged up here, they kind of compete and they kind of splay out in a weird way. So leaving some room up top is a nice idea. So let's see if this knot is big enough. It is. If not, just keep tying a knot until your last bead does not come off. Trim this. You could choose to string the other side with the exact same beads. I'm gonna do a word. I've already pulled my letters so that I can have kind of a complimentary but not exactly matching double strand. I'll start and finish this strand with gold beads with the word in the middle for letters, you do want to be aware of the orientation because it can have a backwards or an upside down situation just depending on who made the bead. This one, when you flip it, it's correct for both sides, but sometimes they're not. So you wanna make sure that that's gonna read the right way. There's a cutie charm for your favorite cutie. You don't have to have your strands be the exact same length. In fact, I like if they're a little bit not matching. These actually are matched up more than I thought they would, which is fine, but just to let you know, like don't stress about whether or not you achieved the exact same length. I have a couple of other ones to show. This one is in a fun sort of metallics and wood palette with some black cord. Here's a fun one from bead soup. There's a cute little charm dangling from it, and we're gonna learn how to do that a little bit later in the daily practice.

Multi-bead strand

- Today we're going to play with multiple strands and I'm going to show you a fun knot to start. Going to use a larger split ring since we're going to be using multiple strands and I have a variety of cord here and some twine. You can use any number of strands here. It's up to you. I'm gonna do three and it's gonna double up, so it'll end up being six. And I have an extra piece of twine here to show you the knot. So I'm gonna feed one end of all the strands through my ring. This could also be a carabiner if you prefer, or a swivel clasp. I'm gonna try to find this center-ish. It doesn't have to be exact, but you definitely don't want ones that are super short or super long. Again, these are all different lengths, which is fine. I like it when these strands look a little wild. I'm gonna show you how to wrap these together. At the top, you could just tie a regular knot around them and that would be totally fine, but I think the whipping knot or the gathering knot looks really pretty and is just a fun technique to know. You're gonna place the short end of your string facing toward the top of your bag charm. And you're gonna have a little loop here at the bottom, like so. I'm gonna hold that end with my fingers. And then we're gonna start wrapping the long end of this string around the top of these strands. We'll do the first one I wanna pull pretty firmly. I'm gonna kinda nudge this up toward the top here. And as you wrap, you want all your wraps to lay next to each other. So they start traveling down toward the bottom of the bag charm. And this can be as long or short as you like. This is just your design choice. Maybe I'll do one more. Okay, so we still have a loop. We still have a tail up here. You're gonna place your long tail into this bottom loop. Kinda keep an eye on that with some fingers. And you're gonna pull on the short tail. You can see it pulling at the bottom here. This is getting shorter and shorter. And what I'm gonna do is cut this long tail pretty short because I keep pulling the top tail and that's gonna hide the short tail and it disappears. You can also wait to cut this bottom one, but I like to cut it when I did because it disappears really easily into here and everything is wrapped up tight and it's snug. And you can cut this short and all your strands are secure. This is looking a little long. You can even that out a little bit so the loops at the top look tidy. And for this charm, we're not going to string beads on every strand this time. That would take a lot of beads and a lot of time. So we're going to play with some knots and throw in a couple beads just to make it super cute. With this thick paracord, I think knots are essential. I did not have a lot of beads in my collection that fit through here. If you do, that's great and you can play with that. But for me, this is about playing with knots. This is really arbitrary. I'm just sort of doing this instinctually and sort of what looks good. I'm gonna stop there. This is just a basic overhand knot. I'm gonna try to offset these a little bit so they're not exactly in the same place. It's also up to you and what you want this to look like. There's gonna be a lot happening on this, so a lot to look at. Okay, let's leave those for now. I'll do all the trimming at the end. I'm gonna use knots to place my beads so they stay in one place because I'm not gonna string as many of them and it doesn't have other beads to support its place on the strand. You'll see what I mean. So I pulled some beads from bead soup. I'm gonna start with this green one, and then also put a knot at the bottom here so that it stays up at the top and won't slide down. And then I'm gonna start with another knot and we will place this flower bead and also secure that with a knot. I don't have a lot of cord left. I'm gonna stop there. Maybe we'll do some pink beads on this one, this little piece of stripe twine. This would actually need more knots, I think. So that's something to keep in mind. These holes are pretty large, so the knot needs to be a little bit bigger. That might be okay. Nope, I need one more. This is why it's also a good idea to start with longer strands because these knots can take up some length of your cords. So I know I need to make three knots at the bottom here. Maybe this bigger one? Let's see if the cord fits. I already burned the bottom of my cord. Almost! You can see it. If you have tweezers, you

can also use tweezers to help. It's looking pretty cute. I, you know what, I wanna stop here, but also I have four beads here. I can't do the number four, it's a Chinese superstitious thing. I need to add one more bead. I might do it on the same... No, let's just do it on this strand. Let's see, where should we put it, up here? I'm gonna do it around here. Yeah, the number four is unlucky for us, so I try to avoid it if I can. This is another bead with a fairly large hole. Whoops. So I'm hoping I was gonna do three, but now I have to do four. I didn't place that third knot quite in the right spot. I am not doing a great job with these knots. That is okay. If you are also running into trouble, you can just, let's just fresh start here. I might just switch beads here. This thin cord in this bead are not playing very well with each other. I'm gonna use this kind of bubbly bead and we'll make this our very last doodad we're gonna stick on this bag charm. You could keep going with beads and knots. I'm gonna stop here. Don't forget to finish the ends of your paracords with your lighter and I'm gonna show you a couple other ones that I made. Here's one with some fun ribbon and it has some charms dangling from it, which we'll talk about later. And this one is very similar to the one we just made with some BFF letter beads.

Single bead strand on monofilament

- For this bag charm, we're gonna still play with bead soup, but we're gonna move away from cord and we're gonna use monofilament, which is like a thin fishing line. The monofilament is often held in with this little plastic ring. So I'm taking that off and I'm gonna cut a length. We will be double stranding this. So you want twice the length of your charm plus extra if you're tying a knot. But I'm gonna show you two ways of finishing this with the knot and without, it's gonna find the center. I know this is a bit hard to see 'cause it's so invisible, but that's what makes it so great to use also 'cause you can't see it. All right, I found this center here so I can make my loop using a split ring today. And we'll begin with a larks head knot. So stick my loop through and then pull the tails through the loop like that. And then you can choose your beads as per usual with bead soup or letter beads. I have one already beaded and I already tied a couple overhand knots at the bottom. So if you're tying a knot, you wanna use your hypo cement that seals the knot in. Hypo cement is kind of like a super glue, but it doesn't stick to your skin and it's really great for the monofilament. So I like to have a baby wipe or an alcohol wipe handy. And there's a little pin in here 'cause the applicator is very thin, which is also great for beading. So a tiny, tiny amount of glue will come out. And for me on my tube, it's like constantly coming out. I'm not sure if you can see that there's constantly a bead of glue forming. So I like to wipe the tip before I use it. And then you just wanna apply the tiniest, tiniest amount of glue. You don't need a lot. And I would not give this tube a big squeeze ever. Otherwise you'll just get a big gluey mess. And ideally you would let this set. The packaging says about 10 minutes to set and about 24 hours to fully cure. But for working, I would just give that 10 minutes. I would immediately replace this pin. It's so tiny, it can be hard to see. Clean my hands. I'm going to pretend 10 minutes has passed. And then you can trim this short. Also, you can use wire cutters because it has more of a flush blade and you can get even closer to your knot. So that's one way to finish it. And you can see the knot a little bit, but also it's pretty invisible. So as this is dangling from your bag, you will not even be able to notice that there's a knot at the bottom. If you prefer not to have a knot, I have a really cool trick for you. We're going to use a stopper crimp. Here's my stopper crimp, it's that ball shaped bead with a little button sticking out of it. I've already beaded this length of monofilament. There's no knot at the bottom. I'll pick this up and we're gonna string the stopper crimp through both strands. It's very tiny. Sometimes it's helpful to go one at a time. Let's see if I can do two at a time. Boop boop. It helps to make the sound effect

sometimes. Okay, so this is flush with my last bead. Again, you don't want to have it too tight because as you can see, it can kind of cause a wave or a crimp in your beads. So you wanna give it a little bit of room. What we're gonna do is we're gonna squish this button against the rest of the bead and it closes up the hole at the bottom. So this will be tight. It's a little fussy 'cause everything is so tiny. But here I have my flat nosed pliers and I'm gonna try to do this so you can see I'm try to feed the bead into my pliers and then squish the button. You have to kind of get it at just the right angle, and eventually you'll feel the button go down. It's kind of going slowly. I'm kind of going in stages here. Squish, squish, squish. We're almost there. It's definitely more difficult to move. I'm gonna give it one final good squeeze. Here we go. But you'll get to a point where it's very difficult to move the stopper crimp, and that's when you know it's done. And the button should look pretty flush with the rest of the bead. Okay, that's feeling pretty good to me. It looks great. And if you want, you could put a dot of hypo cement at the bottom, but I'm gonna go ahead and clip the monofilament. And there's your single strand bag charm with the stopper crimp and also a knot.

Long bead strand

- Long beaded bag charms are a way for you to decorate the entire front of your bag and you need to start and finish it slightly differently because there will be clips on both sides that you can attach to either your bag straps or some bags have little D-rings on either side so you can add a nice accent across the front. You can make this charm with either cord or a monofilament. For the corded charm, I started here with, not a lark's head, but an overhand, and it's a single strand, and I ended it the same way by looping the end of my cord around the split ring and tying a knot. And I just left the ends free and finished them with a lighter. If you want something a little more invisible, we're going to use monofilament. And because the monofilament is so invisible, I'm going to show you using this black thread. But normally I would use monofilament here instead. So I've cut a length, I kind of have a lot more than I need as per usual. And we're going to begin and end our beading with these clam shell crimps. So on one end you'll tie a knot and you want this knot to be big enough so that it won't go all the way through the crimp bead. So I'll probably need a couple. This black thread is a little bit thinner than my monofilament, I might need more knots than usual. Let's try three and then feed it in. Now you wanna take the long end and then you're going to feed both of these ends through the open end or the mouth of the crimp bead. There's a little hole in the back. Gonna feed this all the way down until you get to the knot we just made. And this clamshell is gonna cover the knot, so I wanna make sure my knot doesn't pass through. It is a little bit, I might need to do one more knot. So definitely double check that your bead won't go all the way past the knot because the whole point of it is to stop your beads and to hide this knot. Okay, let's do one more, get that really close in there. Much like our knot before with monofilament, I would dot some hypo cement on here and wait for 10 minutes. I'm gonna pretend that I did that. And then cut the end of this knot close. And then you can use your fingers to close the clamshell. Or you can also use a pair of tweezers. Sometimes I find it's easier just to use my hands. It closes right up, it hides your knot. And this little circle here is a place where you can attach a split ring or a jump ring, and then you can just start stringing your beads. Because this is pretty small, I would probably start with a small bead. And then for the rest of my long strand, I'm gonna use pony beads. I'm on my last bead and the end with a little bead. And the length of this is up to you. Kind of depends on what bag you wanna put it on, but I'm making this one a little bit shorter than this one. To end, you're gonna use a clam shell again, but this time you're gonna feed it through the more closed end or through the back. Scooch this down, and then you'll tie a knot. For me an overhand knot is difficult to maneuver

inside this clamshell. You can try to use your tweezers to help you do that. I am very bad at that, so I'm gonna tie a couple of square knots. My monofilament, as I mentioned earlier, is thicker than this black thread. So for me, square knots usually work. These are too tiny and they're kind of stacking up on each other. So I'm gonna try to get an overhand knot in there so you can use your finger to try to snug it down. I just feel like I have gigantic fingers, so you can try to use your tweezer to kind of keep that in place as you tighten up the knot. You can figure out your own tips and tricks, but that's, that's the one I got for you. Try to do a couple tying knots in this black thread, which is WildFire, can be really, really tricky. It's fine. It has almost a tooth to it, so it sticks to itself and it kind of bends really easily, which could be good for knots, but it's very difficult to guide this knot properly into my finding. So that's why I do prefer monofilament. The size I chose is a bit thicker. Square knots are easy and they work better. If you happen to have been using WildFire or something very fine, you might need to switch to a safety pin, which is thinner than a tweezer, and just do your best. You want to build up that knot so that the clamshell doesn't go past it. Okay, we're gonna do our best. Don't forget to put some hypo cement on there. Gonna pretend that I did that and let it dry for 10 minutes, and we'll cut it close. And then close this up. If there's some stuff sticking out before you close it all the way, use your pliers to tuck anything in. Close that up. And then on both ends, you have the clamshell with the little circles where you can attach a jump ring or a split ring that you can then attach to your carabiners or swift clasps.

Beaded bow

- I love putting bows on everything. So today we're going to make a super adorable beaded bow. I find it's easiest to use wire, this is a German-style beading wire, and thin, you want a 26 or 28 gauge. How large you want your bow is up to you. I again have cut a lot of wire. You want to imagine one ear of the bow and then another ear of the bow. It's a little asymmetrical. And then two tails. And then of course extra wire because we're going to be wrapping the ends securely. I'm gonna try to find the center-ish here. Put a little bend in it. That bend might go away, but we'll try and mark a little bit of the center there. In the center, I'm gonna start with maybe a larger bead. You don't have to. A lot of people start their bows with a bigger bead in the center, sometimes I'll just use all the same beads, but so that we can mark our center and it's easy for you to see, we'll use a bigger bead in the middle. And then you'll start beading for the first ear of the bow. I'm gonna use all pony beads. And you want both of your bow ears to be symmetrical, probably. It doesn't have to be, but if you want to decide how many beads are going on this first side, and then we'll do the exact same beads on the other side. It looks like I'm picking all the same colors. I'm gonna try to mix it up a little bit. Let's take a look. This is still really short, so I'm gonna do a couple more. Let's take a look. Feel like that's looking pretty cute. Let's count 'em 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. You can write that number down if it's helpful or just recount them later. And then we'll take the end of the wire that you just beaded. We're gonna come back through the center bead in the opposite direction and that will secure our first ear of the bow. I'm gonna take the other end and put 13 pony beads on it. If you're using all different kinds of beads, you can just try to create the exact same length or you can just go by how it looks. That works as well. There's 13. And you'll take this end and pass it back through the center bead again in the other direction. Just through the center bead. Tighten it up as much as you can. There will be some movement in the wire and the beads. There will be some spaces where you might be able to see the wire, but that's okay. Snug it up as best you can. Looks pretty good. And then we'll do the tails. Number of beads up to you. Cute little star, let's throw that on. You can have super long tails or little short tails. I'm gonna go a little longer just so it'll be easier

for me to work on the bottom here of my tail. If it's really short, there's not a lot of runway to work with, so we can keep that in mind too. If you're doing this with kids, it's a little more easy to manage if this is longer and not like just three beads long. I'm gonna do maybe two more. Oop. I dunno where that came from, but we'll just use it. Okay, so the way we're gonna finish off the tails is take the end of the wire, skip the bottom bead and bead through the bottom of the next bead and come out. Gonna try to get this flush, scooch it, scooch, scooch, scooch, kinda scooch the bead and then scooch the wire. Some people stop here and call this secure. You can do that. I like to wrap this tail a bit around the tail wire, and I'll wrap this a couple times just above that second to last bead. And then if you can 'cause the, the wire will tend to bend and it can be hard to maneuver. Come back through the bottom of that third bead and try to go through a couple more beads. So we can hide the end of this wire before we cut it. Sometimes again, it can bend and curve. Let's see where it is. There we go. Feed this through. It is getting a little bendy. You can also just cut it after you wrap it. If this feeding part is feeling too fussy, but I got it through, take your wire cutters and trim. Cute, and then you would finish the second tail in the same way. Our little bow is all finished, but we're not done yet. I'm gonna show you how to attach a clamshell to the back of this so you can attach it to other things like carabiners or other bag charms. You can decide if your bow has a front and the back. Maybe you like the way the colors look on one side more than the other. To me, this is the front. This is the back. So we're gonna attach our clamshell to the back and I'm going to use some monofilament. I know this is so hard to see. I have a length that I would say is maybe 12 inches and it's more than enough. But again, I like to have a lot of extra to be able to tie a knot. So I'm gonna feed this one strand of monofilament through the center bead. Let's see, there's a lot of wire in there. So through the center bead only like this. And then we're gonna feed both ends through this clamshell. We're gonna go through the back of the clamshell or the closed side and it won't quite scooch all the way down. There's a lot of tension in the monofilament, which makes it spring back up. But when we tie the knot, it's going to be flush with our bead. So I'm gonna tie square knot. Wanna make sure it goes inside the clamshell, not outside. Do one more for good measure. Make sure the knot is in the clamshell and then you would put some hypo cement in there and let it dry. And we'll clip the ends. Close up the clamshell. This one looks a little different. The hook part is a bit different, but it functions the same way. It's also a little more firm than my other clam shell, I'm gonna use pliers. And before you attach this hook to a jump ring or a split ring, you wanna squish the bottom of it closed like that. And this is ready to add to another charm or maybe some chain and then a carabiner. This bow is super cute with all pony beads, but I have some other variations to show you. This one is all pony beads again, but I used some pipe cleaner for my wire. It's really adorable. This one is with little pearl beads and I strung it with monofilament, which you can barely see, which is the great thing about monofilament. And I finished it the same way, except instead of wrapping the wire, I tied a knot. This is using that black WildFire. Also tying a knot. You can see when you don't use wire, the bows can get a little floppy, but they're really cute still. And this one is another pony bead extravaganza. I added some chain, which I'll go over with you in a few days. And also this very happy store-bought charm.

Safety pin bead charm

- We're gonna close out our focus on beads with a super fast and fun project. We're gonna make beaded safety pins. The size of your beads is really determined by the size of your safety pin. I like to use the really jumbo ones. If you look up minimalist safety pins, you'll find the ones like this that don't have a loop at the bottom, which means you can bead both sides. On a regular safety pin with

the loop, you can only bead one. I also found this really cute heart minimalist safety pin, and today I'm gonna bead this one. Just open it up and it's super easy, you just slide on some beads. I'm going to spell out the word "charm". Guess you can think about how you think this might hang. With the safety pins, we're actually going to hang them from what I think of as the bottom of the safety pin normally. So when you're putting your letters on, if you're using letters, just make sure it reads from top here to bottom here. Looks like I have room for another bead. I'm gonna try this teeny tiny heart. Close it up, super snug. That's really all there is. You can make a ton of these and these look great attached to other charms or to each other, and you can make little clusters and they're just little dangles that are super sweet. This one is the minimalist pin, so I was able to bead both sides. And here's just a super, super tiny one with a really cute cat bead, so you can have a lot of fun with this super teeny tiny canvas.

Charms and chain

Add a charm

- When you think of a charm, you probably think about the dangly charms on a charm bracelet. And I'm gonna show you how to add a single charm to the bag charms we just made. I have three charms laid out here and my long bag charm. And you're going to need your jump rings. I have some mixed metals here, but I think I'm gonna focus on the gold for my jump rings. And whether you use a big one or a small one kind of depends on the charm and what you're attaching the charm to. I'm gonna try to start with this little one, but if it's too small, you can always use a larger size. So mine are already open. I'm going to close it because yours might start in a closed position. Yours might look like that. And that's how we open and close a jump ring. I have two pliers and you open and close it by rotating it backward and forward like this way. You don't usually wanna open it the other way, which I think of as the horizontal axis because you're more likely to, I can't even open it that way. You're more likely to warp the ring. So you wanna open it by going backward and forward. So one back and one forward. Now because I was demonstrating that I'm probably not gonna keep using this jump ring, the more you open and close them, the weaker they get and the more likely they are to break. So I'm gonna get a new one and my pliers have magnetic tips, so that's sometimes helpful, sometimes not helpful. Okay, gonna get a new jump ring and mine are already open. You can attach the charm to the open part of the ring and I'm going to attach this charm to this split ring. So then I'll also put the split ring into the jump and that looks like it'll fit. And then you close this back up just like that. That's really cute. You can also attach them anywhere along your strand. I think it'd be really cute if I had like a lot of charms, but for now I'm just gonna add these two. Just I'm gonna find a break in my strand here, loop in that cord, also pop in the charm and then close it back up. I'll add one last charm to this strand. Hook it through the charm and I'm gonna go in between this white and orange bead. If you have difficulty getting into your strand, using a bigger jump ring can also be helpful. Close it back up. Super cute. I'm going to show you how to also add a charm to maybe a strand of ribbon where you've been knotting on your multi-strand bag charm. Because I would incorporate the charm and the jump ring as I tie the knot. It's easier to do that than add the charm after the fact, which you can do, but you have to kind of pry open the knot a little bit. So I'm gonna pick another gold charm here to go with my theme. Kind of like these scissors. If you think you can pass the ribbon through easily, you can close it, but let's not risk it. I'm gonna leave it open for now. So I'm gonna begin to figure out where I want my knot.

There's a little crimp in this ribbon, which is where I think I'm gonna put it. And then you can either pass the ribbon through the closed jump ring or you can capture it like we did with the cord on our long strand. Close it up. I'm gonna tie a knot around this. It's really easy and adds a lot of movement to your bag charms. It is done. So go ahead and add lots of fun dangles to some of the bag charms you already made. The more charms the merrier!

Add a charm to the bottom of a bead strand

- If you'd like to add a little dangly doodad to the bottom of the bag charm, don't finish your charm, string your last bead, and then I'll show you two different ways with cord and monofilament to add that very last charm. I'm gonna start with the corded charm. It's a double strand. This is two millimeter paracord, and I think I'm gonna add this little strawberry in the same way. I've already added this pineapple. So this is my last bead, and this is really simple. We're just gonna add this on with a knot. So I'm stringing my charm, and then I'm gonna tie a knot as close as I can. And as I mentioned before, you can sometimes leave room at the top. If it's scooped up all the way here, it might interfere with my second dangle. But since this dangle is already showing some space here, there's not much interference. So where you decide to tie your knot is really up to you. If you wanna slide it all the way up or you wanna have it even, you could even have it longer with lots of cord showing at the top. I'm gonna try to have it a little higher than the pineapple, but if I don't quite make it, I'll be okay with that, but that's gonna be my goal. Tie a simple overhand knot. Let's see. I'm gonna scooch these beads down a little. Scooch my knot up a little and then I'm gonna tighten, pull that down a little bit. Okay, how do I like the look of that? Looks great. And then with this end, you wanna feed this back through the bottom of, I would say, one or two beads depending on how many beads you have on your strand. I've already finished this end with the lighter, so it's easier to get through. I'm gonna go through two, then you can trim this as close as you can, and that little end hides inside that bead. You do wanna finish this end as well. I would caution against using the lighter because your fingers will be so close to the bead. So we're gonna hypo cement the end. Clean off the needle of my hypo cement. I'm gonna put a couple dots on here. It's slowly but constantly coming out. Hypo cement doesn't stick to your fingers quite as much as super glue, so I can like squish the glue into the fibers of the paracord. We'll cover the tip with some beads if you want. You can use the tip of your pliers to tuck that all in. Okay, and then you also want to use some hypo cement on the knot. When it dries, it really kinda keeps all the knotting together and it won't move. It kind of becomes like this solid mass and it might darken the cord a little bit even when it's dry. But I don't mind that. I prefer knowing that my knot is really secure. Just dot dot dot dot and replace the cap and then let this dry. We're gonna move on to the monofilament. You already have all the techniques you need to do this, so this will feel familiar. I have my last bead strung. It's two strands of monofilament. This is the charm I'm going to use. We're using our clam shells, so since this is the bottom of the charm, I'm gonna string this through the bottom or more closed end of the clamshell. Make sure those are both through. I'm gonna scooch this down and then tie my square knot inside the clamshell. Make sure that goes inside the clamshell and doesn't land outside. Looks good. You'll also want to hypo cement this knot. Let's do that really quick. Okay. You'd wanna let that dry, but I'm just gonna pretend that I've waited for five to ten minutes to let that firm up. I'm gonna cut this close as close as I can, close up with the clamshell, either with your fingers or your pliers. It really just depends on the clamshell. Looks like this one will be easier with my pliers. And then you can slide on your charm. If your clamshell has a closed loop, you'll want to add a jump ring first to your charm, and then you can add the jump ring to the clamshell. On my bag, when this is all

dried and finished, I might use this split ring and hang it on this swivel clasp and make a little cute fruity cluster.

Short charm chain

- Let's make a short bag dangle with charms and chain. I have a roll of chain. You could also repurpose a necklace or a bracelet, and if you have to cut it to size, I'm gonna talk about two different ways to do that. You can cut it with wire cutters, but you're gonna lose that one link of chain. So if your chain is precious or you're trying to really conserve chain, I would not cut it because you're ruining that one link. I would then use my flat nosed pliers to pry one of the chain links open. Depending on your chain opening the link can be easy or a little bit difficult. It just depends on if the gauge or thickness of that link is sort of wide or thin. This is kind of medium, it's a little bit difficult, but I can definitely do it. So what you're gonna do is decide how long your dangle is gonna be. I'm gonna use a split ring, so I'm kind of visualizing how much length I want, maybe here-ish. So I'm gonna open this link and you need to look at the link and find the break in it. This kind of has two spots that look like it could be the break. Let's see, it looks like this one, so we'll just pry this open. The way we pry open a jump ring, gonna take both sides here and then open it toward myself. It's a bit stiff because it is kind of a thick gauge. Cutting is easier, but again, we would be wasting this link. Ooh, I might need to open that a little bit more. There we go. Okay, I'm gonna put this aside. I am gonna leave this top link open because then you can add your split ring or your swivel clasp, whatever you want at the top of your bag charm. And then close this back up. If your pliers have the little grippy teeth on them, that can be helpful, but they can also leave marks on the chain. So that's sort of up to your discretion. And then you wanna decide what charms to put on. So I think I'm gonna put a croissant at the bottom. We do have some mixed metals here. If that bothers you, make sure all your hardware is the same tone. It's not gonna bother me. I think I wanna do a heart somewhere in the first third, and I think this tooth is so funny. I'm gonna put the tooth somewhere in the second third of the chain. Okay, let's add this croissant. I think we can use the small jump rings. If it's a tight fit, we'll move up to the larger one. Let's start small. Put my charm on. Grab the bottom of my chain. This will feel familiar. Let's see. Let's get that on. Ooh, sometimes you have to open the jumping ring a little bit more to give yourself some room and close this back up. I'm gonna add my two other charms the same way. I'm gonna remember with jump rings that when we open and close them, mine are already open. But when you open and close them, we wanna do that on the vertical axis, sort of away and towards yourself rather than this way from side to side. It helps preserve the shape of the jump ring. I love it. It's really cute. Here's some other ones. You can stay simple. I love the look of just adding one charm to the bottom of some chain and that would also look cute as an addition on a cluster. And then you can really load up your chain as well with as many charms as you can fit.

Long charm chain

- We've already made a long bag charm with cord that you can decorate the front of your bag with, and you can also make one out of chain. I've already cut a length of chain and on one end I have a split ring and then my swivel clasp and also all my cute charms. And I'm gonna show you how I add the split ring and the swivel. Depending on your chain and how thick it is and how hard it is to open and close, you can skip the split ring and put your chain right on the swivel clasp. But since my chain is kind of chunky, I'm not sure if this is gonna be really easy to get on my link. So I like having the split ring as an option. I'm gonna go on the end of my chain here and you could either open the split

ring and get it into the link of this chain, or you can open this up, just depends on what feels easier for you. Let's try to open up this split ring. There are split ring pliers that are really handy if you think you're going to be opening a lot of split rings. I didn't find that I needed them, but if you find this challenging, you can get a split ring plier. Spin it all the way around until it gets to that intersection. And now this is on. And then we're gonna add this swivel clasp to the split ring as well. And open that up again. Slide this between the two pieces. Spin, spin, spin. That's really easy. And now we can add this to our bag handles. I put the chain on a bag so you could see how cute it is when it's dangling in the front. I didn't really have a spot on this particular bag for the swivel clasp, so I did add some extra carabiners.

Make charms with small toys

Plastic toys

- For the next few days, we'll turn our favorite toys and trinkets into charms. You'll need eye screws. They come in different sizes, and which size you choose is really up to you, what you like the look of, and also the size of your toy. We're starting with all sort of hard plastic toys that we need to drill a hole in and put this screw in. This is what we're using to drill the hole. It's called a pin vice or a hand drill. You can change out the bits they screw on and off up here. And I like to try to eyeball the size of the drill bit with the size of the eye screw I'm going to use. And it might take a couple tries to figure out the right drill bit fit for your particular eye screw. And with softer plastic, some plastics are harder than others, sometimes the drill bit doesn't take out any of the plastic material. It's just pushing the plastic down, in which case a push pin can be helpful. Let's dive into our first toy. As I just mentioned, some experimentation might occur. You might have to switch out your drill bits or your eye screws, but let's try and let's decide where to put the screw. You wanna imagine where this is gonna dangle as a charm. Is it dangling from the top? Is it dangling right behind the neck? Is it dangling from the center? You can also consider where an eye screw might fit. Like I got one into the top of this very tiny baby's head, which I was surprised. I thought this would not fit. So again, you might need to play around with this and see what fits and what you like the look of. I think I'm gonna go through the top center here, and the way you use this pin vice is the back of it goes against your palm and the front part turns while the part on your palm kind of stays stable. It also depends on the size of your hands. I have pretty small hands, so sometimes the back of my palm is not making contact and I'm just screwing it like this. And this is spinning in the back as well. So you might need to play with what feels comfortable. If you have a Dremel, that's also excellent. I don't have one, so I'm going to be using this hand drill. All right, so I'm trying to be as perpendicular as possible to my toy, and I'm just gonna start spinning this black top portion. And sometimes you can start to see plastic come out. That's a great sign that you're starting to dig your hole, and you don't have to go that far in. This is almost like a little starter pilot hole. And then when we put the eye screw in, it'll start doing the rest of the work. But it can be hard to get the eye screw in without starting the hole with the hand drill. So I'm gonna reverse here and back out. I don't wanna rip this out because you can break these drill bits and I have done that. So we wanna be careful. Put your reading glasses on. This hole can be really small and we have our eye screw, and you might need to start spinning it with your hand a little bit using your fingers. And depending on the hardness of the plastic, the hole that you created can almost close back in on itself, so you might have some trouble. This one's going in super easy if you don't wanna spin that anymore with your fingers. You can also

use a pair of flat nose pliers. My instinct was always to kind of come from the side with the plier, but it's much easier to come from the top. That feels good. This is nice and secure. This is ready to go on your bag. If you have a bunch of cute erasers you're not really using, you can also turn them into a charm. These are all soft erasers. I'm gonna put an eye screw in this croissant, and the erasers are soft. You can try the hand drill. It might not remove any of that eraser material, but let's give it a go. Again, let's decide where this is gonna dangle. I think I'm gonna go right from the center and the top again. So let's see if this takes out any. Oh, it just popped right in. Okay, let's back this out. Oh, it is removing some of the eraser stuff. It hasn't in the past, so I was curious. All right, let's try to see where that hole is and pop in our eye screw. Depending on your eraser, you might not even need the hand drill. You can just start in with the eye screw. I feel like my fingers are gonna have an easier time with this, spin, spin, spin, and I wouldn't tug on your charm super duper hard when it's an eraser, but you can see I'm kind of giving this a good pull and it's got a pretty good grip. So now you can do something really fun with all of your colorful erasers. If you have a toy like this dinosaur that has a thin spot where you want to put your hole, you can drill all the way through and then add your jump ring. You just wanna make sure as you're drilling, you put maybe a piece of wood or like an old magazine so that you don't drill all the way into the top of your table. So grab all of your plastic toys and see what you can turn into a charm.

Plush toy with a jump ring

- For your soft toys and plushies, I'm gonna show you two different ways to turn those into bag charms. We're gonna start with either a jump ring or a split ring. This is a split ring I'm gonna use. I kind of have big ones. You can go smaller if you like, but this is what I have. But before we get into sewing, if you're not into sewing, I'm gonna show you a quick way to add this safety pin to your plushie to turn it to a bag charm. I don't recommend this if you're making a bag charm for a child, but for grownups or teens. And if you're out, maybe like at a theme park and you find a cute toy, you want to immediately show off on your bag. You can keep a safety pin and some ball chain in your bag for the next time you get a really cute toy. This is really easy. You are just piercing through the soft toy and you want to decide what point you wanna do that. Is it sort of on the back? Is it the top of the head? I think if I were using the safety pin, I would go through the back here. And you wanna kind of take a good, I know it sounds disturbing, you wanna take a good bite with this safety pin out of the toy. So there's a good sort of solid anchor. You don't wanna put a lot of tension on one tiny piece of fabric, so you would just pin that. And then I feel like ball chain is a nice finding for this particular method. And then you would just close up your ball chain. This is ball chain key chain. Sometimes when I order clothing online, the clothing tag is on these, so you can save them for bag charms. Pop that in and then this is ready to dangle on your bag. It's just really simple and no sew. For something more permanent and secure, we'll sew on a split ring. There are a couple ways that you can approach this. If I just sew a split ring here, it might feel like there's a lot of tension at this one point. So an option is to anchor your stitches in sort of more than one point of the toy. Depending on your toy, this one has no clothes, but like if your toy had clothes, you could hide a stitch under like a pair of pants or a shirt. So sometimes people will start sewing here, anchor a few stitches, travel through the plush, come back out here, anchor with a few stitches, and then come back up here where they might actually add the jump ring or the split ring. This toy is so small, there aren't a lot of places to hide stitches, so I am gonna go ahead and just pick one spot to anchor my jump ring. But if you wanna play with sort of meandering through the toy with your needle in thread, you can do that as well. Because I know that I want to hide my tail here after my knot.

Eventually I left a long tail. This is so I can thread my needle through here after I'm done sewing and bury this in the toy. So I have about maybe three or four inches of loose tail here and then my needle threaded double. And take my split ring, and I could either have it dangle from the back. Do I want it from maybe the back of the head here? Let's do the back of the head. Because I wanna be sure my knot is not going to fall into the fabric or like the weave of the fabric. I'm going to insert my needle and come back up really close. I'm taking a tiny bite out of the fabric. Oops, I have a little tangle. I'm gonna go close to my knot and before the knot disappears into this fabric, I'm gonna loop my needle through there. And then my knot will sit on top of the fabric here, but I know that it won't pop out. Then you can take your split ring and essentially just pass a couple stitches around the split ring and into the plush to secure. So I'm going into my plushie and back out, making sure I'm going around the ring. I'm in a seam here, so the seam is more secure, but because of all the layers of fabric, it can be a little bit more difficult to sew through. Let's do a couple more. You can also use embroidery thread and an appropriate needle if you feel like that feels more secure. But I feel like sewing thread also works just fine. Okay, I have a lot of stitches in here. It will be a little bit visible. I think that's okay once it's dangling on your bag and no one's gonna see any of your stitches. Okay, I'm gonna knot this off. I'm gonna pick up one of my stitches and before that loop closes, pass my needle through and do that two times. And then you can poke your needle close by and then come out farther away. We're gonna bury this thread tail. I'm gonna trim that. I wanna try not to give your plushie your haircut, so give the thread a tug, trim. And then when you fluff the plush back up, that tail should hide in there. And then because we left that long thread tail behind the knot, we can now hide this as well. I'm gonna go right where that thread is coming out and come back someplace else. Pull that taut, trim. That's hidden and you can either attach this swivel clasp here or you can add some chain or you can do some beading. It's up to you. Lemme show you this other fun plushie. This one was really fuzzy, so the stitches are especially hidden. And you can see I added some chain here, so it has a little bit more room to dangle on your bag.

Plus toys with a ribbon loop

- Another way to turn a plushie into a bag charm is by sewing in a small loop. This loop can be ribbon. I'm gonna be using cord, it's called rat tail cord. It's like a silky nylon and mine is 1.5 millimeters. How big or small your loop is is actually up to you. I've seen ones that are super, super long and also on store-bought bag charms. They're quite small. I'm gonna make mine maybe a little bit longer than usual, just so it's easier to see today. 11 00:00:32,220 --> 00:00:33,120 What you wanna do is make a loop and we're gonna tie a knot. And then whatever is above the knot is gonna be showing at the top of your plushie. So this is where you get to decide what the size of this loop is gonna be. I'm just gonna do an overhand knot with both ends of my cord. Maybe it's about maybe an inch, inch and a half-ish, like this. Pull this tight if you want, you can trim the ends a little bit. This will be inside the plush so no one will see it. And then to attach this, we're actually going to use a seam ripper and open a seam in our toy. So usually with toys, there will be a seam across the top, and that's a really perfect place to put your loop, which will then probably be attached to a carabiner or some sort of clasp. It probably would not dangle him, you know, by the back center. So we're gonna open up this top seam. And the length of your opening does not need to be big. The more you open, the more you have to sew. You just need an opening that's big enough for you to comfortably insert the knot of this loop. So I'm gonna aim for about a centimeter across the top. If it's a little more, that's okay, it's just more to sew up. So I'm gonna insert my seam ripper into this seam and kind of wiggle my way across the top of the seam. And you should be able to feel some of

these stitches start popping. Don't be scared. You can always sew up the hole. So you can see this opening up. Okay, going to insert the knotted end. You can use your seam ripper to help push that in. And then we're gonna close the seam back up with a needle and thread. I have my needle already threaded. I have a pretty big knot here. We're gonna hide the tail inside the plush while we have the seam open. I might trim this actually, so there's less to tuck in. And you'll start by finding the end of your opening. And I kind of go like one stitch over. So we have some overlap in the stitching. And I'm going from like this side of the seam, but coming from the inside of it. So we're going from the inside toward the outer edge here of this seam. You wanna go as tiny as you can. The tinier you go, the more invisible the seam will be. Okay. And my knot is inside my little doll, and I'm coming across the gap here to the other side. And again, my needle is going from inside to out. And depending on how much hair your plush has, it might be hard to see. Make sure you're capturing the fabric and not just the upper layers of hair. This one I picked because it has fairly short hair and will be able to see where you're going. If you're plush, has really long hair, I would use the jump ring method just because it'll be really hard to open up your seam and close it back with so much fur. So I'm zigzagging back and forth across the top here, closing up my toy. When you get to the center of the loop, you wanna be a little bit mindful about where your needle is going. I'll show you. I'm at the stitch here where it looks like I'm about to go through the center of the loop. So I'm going to pass my needle through here, making sure that my thread isn't wrapped around one side of the rat tail loop. So this is gonna be in the center here. And then I'll continue my stitch on the other side of the seam like so and zigzagging back, and go as close to the cord as possible so that all the stitches are hugging it tightly. You will keep zigging and zagging until you get just a stitch or two beyond the opening you made. I'm gonna tie this off. My stitches are very hard to see, so I might just try to make a knot in the fabric. Oh, actually, you can, you can pick out, if you can pick out the stitch, pick it up, make a loop, put your needle through the loop. If you can't find a stitch, just make your knot within the fabric. Make two knots for security and reinsert your needle right next to where your thread was coming out. Come back on another part of the plush. Give that a tug, snip it. Give this a fluff. And this is ready to hang on your bag.

Crocheted toys

- I teach a lot of crochet classes here on Creativebug and my studio is filled with tons of crocheted plushies. I have two favorite ways of turning them into bag charms, one with a jump ring and one with a very long crocheted chain. Let's take a look at this bear bag charm that I already made. This pattern is actually on the Creativebug blog, the bear and his bag. And for the blog, I very quickly turn this into a bag charm by sewing a jump ring to the top of the head. This is easy, it's fast, it's perfectly usable, but as you can see, it does put a lot of tension on the top of the bear's head and it gets a little pointy. If that doesn't bother you, it's very easy, just sew the jump ring to the top here. But the methods I'm gonna show you are a little bit different and provide a little bit more, I guess, security and stability for your crocheted toys. I'm gonna show you a jump ring on this little strawberry. This is from my Crocheted Fruits and Veggies Crochet- Along on Creativebug. And this is the hardware that I've already assembled for it. There's a jump ring, some chain, and a swivel clasp. My jumping ring is already closed. What I like to do is rather than just sew the jumping to the top as I did on the bear, we're gonna anchor the yarn at the bottom. My strawberry is two different colors, top and bottom. So you can make a decision about whether you care if it's green showing here or red showing here. I'm gonna go with green. I'm gonna go up through this center bottom here and come up where I want to put the jump ring. I'm gonna go at the base of the stem. Get a

little closer. And take my hardware, if you don't wanna assemble all of this, just grab a jump ring or split ring. Go through your ring. I'm gonna come back one tiny stitch over from where my yarn came out. I'm gonna go back down. And for security, I do like to do this two times. We're gonna go through the strawberry two times. Like so, I mean that already looks really good. Let's go one more time and be sure you're not squishing your strawberry too much. Give it some room to be its own shape. This is the part where your stitching is gonna get a little bit visible, but that's okay. It's the bottom of your charm. Come back in like one tiny stitch away from the center. We'll go back up. It's a little thick, so you might have to work your way through there. Okay, looks good. Catching my danglies. Remember, you want it secure, but you don't wanna pull too tight and warp the strawberry. I'm gonna loop this through my jump ring. Come back down. Since my tail here is through the center, I'm gonna come back out again, kind of slightly off center to tie a knot. There's a lot of thickness here, so I'm gonna work your needle through. Okay, make my final adjustments. Looks good on the top. Make sure my strawberry isn't squished. I'm gonna tie a knot here with my tails. It's the square knot. Now I'm gonna bury my tails, insert the needle back through the berry and come back out farther away. Give that a little bit of a tug and then snip it should pop back in to the toy. Do the same thing for the other tail. There's a tiny little bit of green here, but when this is hanging from your bag, no one will ever see that and it's nice and secure. The next style requires no hardware. We're using a long crocheted chain and the chain is meant to loop around your bag handle or like the top loop of your backpack with a lark's head. So it'll end up dangling like so. And I'm going to fix my bear, my backpack bear charm, and give it one of these crocheted loops. So I'm gonna free this jump ring from the top here, snipping carefully and I can deal with removing these little bits later if they don't come out. But it looks like, yeah, we'll we'll deal with that little guy later. All right, so I have a length of chain here. Simple crocheted chain, the number of chains and the length is totally up to you. It could depend on what bag this is gonna dangle from. It could just depend on the aesthetic you want. Super short or super long. You do want enough length to be able to make your larks head, but again, this is super long here, but I find that the length makes it easy to work with as well. So this one is pretty straightforward. Leave your tails pretty long on the chain so you've got some wiggle room to work with. And then thread one tail on my tapestry needle. And I'm gonna go not directly, well, you could go directly in the center, but both of your chain links will have to go through the same opening. And I find that there might not be room if your magic circle or your stitch appears really tight. So I'm gonna go slightly off center, go all the way through my plushie to the bottom. And I'm also gonna go slightly off center on the same side. There's not a lot of stitching down here. You can see there's a big opening. So I'm gonna go here and we're gonna see if we can feed this crochet chain through the plush. It should be pretty smooth if you stuffed with polyfill. If you stuffed with yarn, this can get really tangled. It's possible, but you might have to back your needle back out and try a couple times. I can see the end of my chain coming up here. I'll pull it up more so you can see. So we, we managed to get it all the way through. And then you can anchor this side of the chain with a knot in your plush and then bury the tail. You could also use a contrasting color, the stitches at the bottom are not too visible, but I liked a matching color for this charm. I'm gonna take the other end of our chain and do the exact same thing. Thread that, I'm gonna come slightly to the other side of the center here, go all the way through to the other side of the center here, can feel a little resistance. There we go. Here we go. Came all the way out. So I'm gonna back my chain so it butts up against the surface of the plush and then we're gonna anchor this down. It's so super cute. I love it. And any tension that the top of my bag charm I'd experience from me taking it on and off my bag or just having adventures is all anchored at the bottom and it's

not changing the shape of the top of my plush.

Get crafty making charms

Shrink plastic

- Okay, we've reached the part of the daily practice where we're gonna start playing with all kinds of craft materials to make one of a kind charms. Today we're gonna make charms with shrink plastic. I'm using Shrinky Dink Ruff n' Ready. It has a rough mat side, which is perfect for accepting colored pencil and the back is a little bit shiny and that's a fun place to play with Sharpie. So I have my mat side up and I'm going to just start drawing. Shrinky Dinks are cool because they shrink and your little charm will become nine times the thickness of this sheet of plastic and also three times as small. So when you're drawing, you wanna think a little bit big and imagine things getting smaller. And I know that can be daunting. You're like, how big or how small should I draw? And I would recommend just dive in and start playing and experimenting and it's really exciting. I'm gonna start with a heart. It's just easy for me to draw. And I'm going to do something about this big. It doesn't have to be perfect. I'm gonna also color this in. The cool thing about using pencils too is if you happen to be an artist who's really comfortable with colored pencils and knows how to do a lot of like shading and rendering, this is a really cool tiny palette to do that with. I am not that, I'm just, I'm mostly a scribbler and a doodler. So just have fun. You can be serious about it or you can be unserious. I am very unserious about it. Alright, if you want to, you can play with maybe mixing in a different shade. I don't really have a lighter pink pink here, but what if we tried also a slightly different red when this shrinks up, some of the detail will be lost, but you might be surprised, like what can actually show up. So it's just about play, right? We're playing here and experimenting. The other thing you wanna keep in mind is your drawing needs to be big enough to punch a hole because we are making charms and we're not gonna really drill into our Shrinky Dinks, we're gonna prep the hole first before shrinking them down. I'm using a regular sized hole punch, which is a quarter of an inch. So keep in mind space for a one quarter inch hole if you prefer to not punch a hole in your beautiful drawing, I don't know if anyone else does this, I thought of making a little tab. Since this shrinks clear-ish, we can make a little tab that we will punch the hole through and not through our actual drawing. And if you're not comfortable with drawing straight on the Shrinky Dink, you can make a template like I did. This is a very unfancy, this is my everyday notebook and I wanted to draw out some things first just to see how it would go. And I also created my tab template here. I used my hole punch and punched the hole in the paper. And I'm gonna show you how I use this template. How about we'll draw this bow, remember the non-shiny side. We'll cut this out later, and let's do blue. Gonna outline this with this dark blue where I think some shadows will go. I think I'll come in with a lighter color for the rest of it. And super basic, as basic as you wanna be. This is a fun craft to do with kids where they can draw on the shrink plastic and then you can do the shrinking. So let's see. Let's color this in. I also like the idea that this is an opportunity for you to show your artist hand, right? So even in all the imperfection and weirdness of my drawing, like that's my hand, that's what's making my charm unique. And no one's charm is gonna look like mine. Ooh, actually that surprised me. That's quite vibrant. Love it. A little detail on the bow here. And then I'm gonna do my tab. Gonna move my bow to this hole template and I can put the top of my bow right at the bottom of the hole here. And then I'm gonna draw over this circle that I drew on the template. And we're gonna make sure when we cut that we cut off any of this pencil marking so this

tab will actually be clear. So I'm gonna go and draw just for me. I know where to cut. I'm gonna cut here and I'm gonna punch my hole here. Okay, so fill up this page if you want or just try one charm. Let's cut these out. I like to rough cut them out first so I don't have a giant piece of plastic flopping around. I'm following my pencil line. You could leave a clear border if you want, if that's part of your design, that could look cool too. Don't forget to punch your hole. You could either go in the center, you could go on either lobe of the heart. For the hearts, I usually like to go on the lobe. I think it's just easier for me to imagine where I'm gonna hang that. And then we'll punch our hole. You don't wanna go too far in, right? If your hole is really far in that jump ring is gonna have to be humongous. So you wanna stay relatively close to the edge, maybe like an eighth or a quarter inch away, just like that. I'm gonna cut out the bow with the tab. This plastic can tear. I've torn it. So if you have a really tight corner, you wanna be careful. Also, you can flip this over if the orientation is easier for you to get the scissors into a certain spot. So I'll kind of like do a mishmash of flipping this over, turning it around so I can get the scissors where I want them. So for this tab, I'm going to cut inside my pencil line so that the tab is invisible. And then I'm going to use the X on my tab to guide where I'm gonna punch the hole. That's good. Okay, I left a spot. I'm also gonna clean up the outside of my tab. It's looking a little angular, so I'm gonna smooth that out so it's as round as I can get it. And this little part here to cut off, it's clear so it can be hard to see. So double check before you shrink your drawing. Have some other ones here that I've drawn and cut out before. On these tulips, I also played with a Sharpie outline on the shiny side. Keep in mind, you know your charms are gonna be dangling. There can't really be a front and the back. Sometimes it's hard to control which side of the charm is showing. If you layered color on top of each other, it may or may not show up as well on the back. And if you add sharpie on the shiny side, it probably also won't show up as well on the back. So just be prepared. Let's just experiment and see what this looks like. To shrink these, you can put them in the oven. Just follow the directions on the packaging. It only takes about one to three minutes. I'm gonna be using a heat gun. I like doing this stuff in front of the TV. I just like to zap it while I'm sitting there watching my show. So you can kind of choose which method you like best. Before we get going, I'm gonna let you know the shrinking process is exciting and sometimes alarming. It's gonna curl up. And at first I thought it was ruining my Shrinky Dink, but when it's ready it will relax. And that's when you know that it's finished shrinking. You want to have a skewer or some sort of stick to hold your drawing down while you shrink it because the hot air is gonna blow everything all over the place. So I'm not like trying to hold it down or press it, I just wanna keep it from blowing away. Let's do the bow first. I'm gonna put my skewer here, just sort of gently keeping it in place. And I'm gonna kind of go in circles here with the heat gun. Okay, it's pretty magical. If it looks like it's curling too much, you can put a book on it. My sketchbook is not that heavy, so I'm keeping my hand on it. But if you have a heavier book, you can just plop that on and work on your next Shrinky Dink. They cool off pretty quickly. You don't have to keep this on here for too long, but look how cute. We have our little invisible tab here. This is what it looks like on the back. I can see you lose a little bit of that detail. Most of the details on the front where the pencil is, here's basically the same heart shrunk down, but this is pink. Another bow with a tab, it's a little bit tinier. I experimented also with the Sharpie, so I did all my coloring on the back on the matte side. And then the shiny side is my front. You can see that Sharpie outline. It's kind of cool and dimensional 'cause the color's coming from the back here. And then you would just slip your jump rings on. A little croissant. Oh, I did experiment with could I Sharpie on the front on top of my pencil? And that's kind of a, no. I didn't know this, but the pencil kind of starts clogging up the Sharpie. So you can play with that. But just be warned, it might not work the way you want it to. And then if you like to seal

your charms on the colored pencil side, I actually sealed these. It's very hard to see, but this one has two coats of a slightly glitter nail polish on it. And you can also use a coat of Elmer's glue, and this stays matte. When you put them all on your chain and group them together they are so, so cute. If you're less confident with your own drawing skills, Shrinky Dinks are a great opportunity to play with tracing other images. You can play with rubber stamping and stays on ink. Play with scale: do a really big one, try to get as small as you can. Play with all different kinds of colors. I can't wait to see what your charms look like.

Melty beads

- You might think of melty beads or Perler beads as a craft for just kids, but I recently started playing with them. I love them. I'm obsessed with them. So we're gonna make some awesome charms with melty beads. These are the beads. They look like tiny, little colorful cylinders. I just walked into my art store and said, where are your melty beads? And I got this big jug. You can also order them online in certain colors if you have favorite colors. I really loved having access to just this multitude of color. I didn't know until I opened the package that my jug also came with some templates for Perler beads. You need kind of like this little pegboard to arrange your designs. Mine also came with some like baking paper or parchment paper. This protects the iron from melting onto your melty beads. I'm not gonna use this. I found that the folds in the paper transferred to my melted project, so I'm gonna put this back in. I do like these clear templates because you can put a drawing or some image underneath and kind of use the beads to trace out an image. I am just gonna go for it. I kind of freehand all of my designs. This square template has these little thingy sticking out so you can actually attach a bunch of squares if you want to make a gigantic melty bead project. Again, I'm gonna stay small. I started this little house. I think that could be cute for your house keys or if someone just moved into a new place and you wanna celebrate and give them a gift. I have like a dark blue base here and a multicolored roof and I'm gonna finish up the roof. You can dive right in with your fingers. Some Perler bead kits come with these plastic tweezers so you can use hands, tweezers, I have my pliers here just from working on my other projects. I think I don't wanna do another pink one. And much like bead soup, I'm trying to not overthink my color selection here. We'll see how that goes. It is sometimes hard to stop trying to overthink where these colors are going. All right, let's see. How about white? You wanna be careful 'cause once you put one down you can like knock over the other beads. The pegs keep them in place, but it's still a little bit precarious, so sometimes it's easier to fix a fallen Perler bead with tweezers rather than your fingers. Let's see what color I wanna do. Let's do a lavender, finishing up. I have one more. Is this the last one? Nope, that's the last one. There we go. Okay, the next step is melting. Very important to have parchment or baking paper. If you fall in love with Perler beaded projects and you think you're gonna make a lot of them, I would suggest a separate iron for that because there is a likelihood that one day you might accidentally melt a bead onto the iron and you don't want to ruin like your good clothing iron. All right, I'm gonna grab some paper. I lay this over the top, making sure all my beads are covered. Again, be careful you don't wanna tip over any of your beads and you wanna set your iron to a medium or wool setting and make sure it's nice and hot. This might click off and cool off and then heat back up. So make sure you kind of get this going and so it's warm and you're not gonna press down with the iron. Just allow the weight of the iron to do the work and keep moving in circles. If you overheat your project, it's gonna get really flat or misshapen. You might also accidentally overheat the template and those can start to warp. So keeping your iron moving kind of helps distribute that heat. What I'm looking for is I can start seeing the beads stick to the paper

and that's the melt that I want. On the Perler website, they suggest that you leave the holes in the beads open. Some people like to do what's called a flat melt where they try to melt the beads so much that that opening closes, I find that very difficult to achieve. So I'm gonna try to see that the beads start melting, but that the holes are still fairly open. I don't know if you can see where it looks like almost the parchment is getting wet where that plastic is starting to stick to it and the color starts coming through. The roof might be melting more quickly than the bottom. Certain colors and certain brands of beads might also melt at different rates. I'm gonna take a peek. Perfection, I'm gonna say is difficult. Kind of let go of your expectation of perfection. It looks like they're not quite melting yet. I think this is probably because my iron hasn't fully warmed up so if that happens to you, maybe wait for it to warm up, maybe iron a piece of fabric to get it going, and then we'll iron it some more. 114 00:05:23,800 --> 00:05:23,830 You can see some of those light blue ones, the hole is starting to get a little smaller. These dark blue ones are starting to stick to the paper. I think we're we're getting there. This yellow one looks very unmelted. You can kind of watch certain areas and try to focus your iron there more, but again, it is hard to get perfection. Just trying to get a good kind of general overall melt here. That light blue one is really closing up. I also find that these are like pancakes. My first one might turn out a little funky, and then the second one's better and the third one's better. So if the first one turns out a little strange, just keep trying. I think it might be like a heating consistency with the iron. I think this is getting close. Let's take a look. Okay, they stick to the paper and that's a really great sign. So we're gonna remove the template and we're gonna iron the other side as well. The second side might not turn out as evenly as the first side, but it's a good idea to do this, so it's nice and securely melted. I find that sometimes my second slide looks pretty good, so you can let me know how yours turns out. Put my second piece of parchment paper over top and then repeats the ironing process. Also, sometimes there are certain parts of the iron that are hotter than others, so using different parts of the iron can be part of your experiment. Looks like the roof is melting nicely. Make sure the rest of the house is stuck together too. I think this is looking amazing. A little bit more. Okay, let's take a look. I think that looks pretty good. While this is cooling, you do also wanna put this under some weight. This is just a magazine, it's not very heavy, but you might wanna use a heavier book. Mine usually don't bend or curve that much, so I'm not too concerned. But also, if you want a curved charm, this is the opportunity to add any sort of bendy parts or I don't know why you would wanna do that. Some people make bowls, but since we're making a tiny charm, you probably want it to be pretty flat. The super duper cool part about working with Perler beads for making bag charms is they already have holes, so you have a place to put your jump ring like I have on this heart. It's really cute, strawberry. Here's one that I added some chain and a swivel clasp too. If you attempted a flat melt, which I did with this little alien, again, I feel like perfection and consistency can be difficult, but please give it a try. It really looks strange on the second side, but you know, I still, I still love it. I think it's fantastic. There are no holes here for any hardware though, so you can use your trusty hand drill to make a hole. For aesthetics, I love to dangle it by one of his antenna here. For stability, I would probably put it in the center. I do think that since I do see some holes still, it would be easier for the drill to go through those spots. I'm gonna stick with aesthetics and drill through the top of the antenna. As we did with our plastic toys, I wanna go as straight up and down as possible. A little bit of pressure on the drill and twist, twist, twist, twist, twist. You can see we're working through some of that plastic. Are we through? Almost, almost there. Okay, and instead of pulling this out, I'm going to reverse twist the hand drill so I don't break the drill bit. If you want, you can go back through the other side too to open up this hole, but you get the idea and then that's a great place to pop a jump ring or a split ring. And here's one that

I've also put at the bottom of a single strand, and I just think it looks so cute.

Make shapes with clay

- Making charms with polymer clay is super cool because it's so versatile. You can make charms that are more flat and two dimensional or rounder and more three dimensional. My inspiration is this store-bought peanut bag charm so I'm gonna make 'em some tiny friends. Feel free to make anything you want outta polymer clay on this day. It is up to you. I wanted to think of something that had a really basic shape so that I could create it very quickly, but again, you can make a very detailed piece as well. I'm using white Sculpey III. A lot of people feel like Sculpey III is one of the softer polymer clays. I'm looking for something soft. There are so many factors in the different brands of polymer clay. I'm just looking for something easy on my hands. I actually find that the Michael's brand, Craft Smart is very soft. So if you're looking for something easy to squish as well, I would look for that. But Sculpey III is what my store happened to have that day, and so we're gonna just work with that. You can buy all of the different colors of Sculpey depending on what object you want to sculpt. I'm really indecisive. What I wanna sculpt can differ from one day to another, so I like to default to white and then paint it. This choice is up to you. I'm just gonna take off a little bit of the Sculpey, and even if your clay is fresh outta the packet, you have to condition it and that means we're gonna squish it and warm it up and make it soft and pliable. This mixes all the ingredients of the clay to ensure that you have a good bake. Some people use their hands. You can also use an acrylic roller. Some artists even use a craft pasta machine. I'm gonna maybe do a mix of roller and hand. I don't have a pasta machine and I don't want you to feel like you have to buy one, but it can be easier on your hands if you're going to do a lot of clay conditioning. So I start using the warmth of my hands to warm up the clay, and I find that the method that is easiest on my hands is rolling a snake and then I fold the ends of it in on itself. Oh, you might wanna take off any of your rings. I'll do that now 'cause they will get clayey as well. Note that I'm also protecting my surface with parchment paper. If you put your clay down on a table, it can leave a mark that can be difficult to remove, so just cover it with either parchment or if you have like a silicone baking mat, that works as well. What I'm looking for is for it not to crack too much when I bend it, and this is actually looking not too crackly. Some clay when it's right outta the packet, when you bend it, you'll see lots of crack lines. This one is actually pretty soft already and maybe that's why the internet feels it's a soft clay. I thought it felt really hard in the block, but as I'm warming it up in my hands, it's softening very quickly. So you just wanna get the cracks out of it. I wish I could show you some of those, but this is not too crackly, which is great. It'll condition very quickly. If you want to use your rolling pin, you would make a ball and squash it here and just roll it out like you would cookie dough. If you're using an acrylic roller or other tools, you wanna make sure they're as dust free as possible because that dust will transfer to your clay projects. An alcohol wipe works, or even a baby wipe, just to get those oils and the dust off. This feels almost ready to me. I'm gonna start sculpting a little peanut. I'm just guesstimating here how much clay to use. Again, I'm very into play and experimentation and just being surprised by what the outcome is. I don't have a particular method for making a peanut. I'm just imagining one in my mind and forming the shape. They kind of have that indentation in the middle. If you want to remove fingerprints from your clay, there are tips like removing it with rubbing alcohol. I don't mind having my fingerprints in there. I made it. It's my fingerprint and if it shows on my final project, I'm cool with that. So I'm getting this basic shape going and I'm going to use a dotting tool to put some texture in it. My hands are very warm. If you find that yours are too and your clay is feeling too squishy, you can always pop this into the fridge for like 5 to 10 minutes

and it'll firm up a little. And I find that sometimes when I'm putting like designs or texture into my object, that design will start kind of melting and that's when I know I have to put it in the fridge. I'm gonna pick a tip, I want kind of a big one. These are dotting tools from my nail kit. You can use whatever tools you have: skewers. What else could you use? Like a bobby pin? I have an aunt who was a sculptor and her favorite sculpting tools were dental tools. So feel free to play with what you have, see what marks you can make. I'm gonna go all over my peanut with this dotting tool. I wanna move kind of quickly here so that my hands don't warm up the clay too much, but if you're at home making this, feel free to pop it in the fridge. You could roll out some tiny eyes or a nose and stick those on as well. We do eventually need to put an eye screw here so that it becomes a charm. And if you have a hand drill or a Dremel, you can wait until after you bake to drill a hole. If you don't have a hand drill, you can add the eye screw right now. And it's as simple as sticking it in wherever you want it to go. And there's some magic that happens when it bakes. It just locks that right in. Go ahead and make more of the same shape or experiment with different ones. You can try thinner objects, thicker. You can stick with the same theme. I could do different kinds of nuts, so get creative. You do want to remember that different thicknesses will bake at different times, so follow the packaging on your polymer clay for the correct instructions. I am using this tile to bake my clay. A lot of people design on tile and then just put their design right into the oven on the tile because it can be baked. If you don't have a tile, you can use a baking sheet with a piece of parchment paper on it. For flat shapes, you can just go directly on your surface. Since my peanut has some curvature, I don't want the flatness of that surface to make my peanut flat, so we need to make it a little bed to cushion it. And you can use a couple different things for this. You can use corn starch. You can also use polyester stuffing, which scares me a little to put in the oven even though it's totally safe. So we're gonna make a little cornstarch bed for my peanut. This goes right on top, ready to bake, and we'll paint our charms tomorrow.

Paint clay shapes

- You know that your polymer clay piece is finished when you can no longer leave a fingernail indentation in it. If it still leaves an indentation, you can put your clay pieces back in the oven. For flatter pieces, even when they're done baking, they still might be a little bit pliable until it fully cools. If you made a cornstarch bed for your charm, you will need to rinse off that cornstarch. If your charm had a lot of texture, you might wanna use an old toothbrush or a stiff paintbrush to get all the cornstarch out of the nooks and crannies, because it doesn't necessarily dissolve in water. You have to brush the particles away. Once your piece is dry, we can start decorating. I'll be using Folk Art acrylic craft paint. It's generally considered that the higher quality acrylic paint you use for your pieces the better, but I do think that the Folk Art works just fine. You can also use acrylic paint pens. I'm just using one color, and I'm gonna grab my paint right out of the lid. Ideally, to avoid any cracking or bubbling or peeling, you want to use many thin layers, so you will need to spend some time waiting for paint layers to dry. If you have some texture, you wanna get your paintbrush into all the little divots or designs you created. And since my object is three dimensional and I wanna paint all the way around, I won't be able to paint every surface on this first go. So I would just keep painting, rotating, drying, painting, rotating, drying. Gonna let that dry on my parchment paper. Keep in mind that acrylic paint does get a little darker when it dries, and as you add more layers, it will get a little darker as well. Here are my little finished peanuts. I think they turned out super funny. They're painted all the way around. You do want to seal your painted pieces as well. If you did not paint them and you used a colorful clay, no sealant necessary, but that acrylic paint does need some

protection. I used Sculpey glaze and a satin finish, and you can also use a spray varnish. I have a few other examples. I just cut these out with an X-Acto knife, smoothed out the shapes of my hands and painted on them with paint pens. These also have the Sculpey satin glaze on them. That's my dog, Oni. And for a finishing touch on the peanuts, I used Super Glue to attach some googly eyes.

Hot glue shapes

- Hot glue is not just for gluing things together. We can use it almost like resin to cast really fun shapes for bag charms. For your hot glue gun, I recommend full sized glue sticks because you're going to be squeezing out a lot of glue. And I also recommend a glue gun that has a high temp or that's a dual temp with a high temp because that will make the hot glue hotter and more liquid and easier to put into your mold. For hot glue, you can use either plain, clear hot glue or you can play with colorful and glitter glue sticks. You can paint hot glue, so if you only have the clear sticks, you can still make amazing charms. For the mold, you wanna make sure it is also high temp; that it's made for resin casting or baking. When you're shopping for the mold, it's ideal for the inside of the mold to be shiny because the hot glue then will also be shiny on the outside. This can be more difficult to find unless you're specifically shopping for resin molds. This one is matte on the inside and my charms will be matte, but we can make them shiny again later. Before you pour the hot glue, if you see any lint or dust, it's a good idea to spray your mold 27 00:01:14,820 --> 00:01:16,650 with a little bit of rubbing alcohol and wipe it down with a paper towel, that'll remove dust and oils. I have my glue gun nice and hot, again, I'm using clear glue here and really simple, just stick your glue gun into the mold. You wanna get into the bottom as much as you can, and you wanna keep the tip of the glue gun submerged in the glue to avoid as many bubbles as possible. It will be a little bit bubbly and that's okay, but I just thought I would let you know for best practices. Squeezing... you don't want to overfill because then you'll just have to trim your hot glue more after. Let's get a little bit more in. Okay. I know my tip was not submerged there, but I feel like that's okay. Especially with these tiny molds, there's probably not a huge likelihood that you'll get a big air bubble inside. Since the glue is hot, it should be pretty self-leveling. So even though I have like you know, a little pointy part that comes up when I lift my glue gun, that should settle down on its own as the glue cools. I have a glue gun with some colorful glue in it as well. Let's play with that a little bit. It looks like I have a little old glue residue that's on the tip of my gun and it's getting on my mold. And what you can do to clean off your glue gun is while it's hot, you can take a ball of tinfoil and try to get some of that residue off. Be really careful. You want to make a ball of foil so that there's some distance between you and the hot glue gun. Okay, just wait for that little smudge to cool before you pick it off. I'm gonna move down to the next opening. Here we go. I have some red in here for red candy heart. Oh, ooh, it's okay. Mishaps happen. We can try to trim some of that off later. Don't try to wipe it up right now. I think that'll just be really messy. Let's try a second heart. It's nice. Do one more. These glue sticks are pretty short, so you won't get that many hearts and you'll have to keep reloading the gun. You wanna let these thoroughly cool. It might take 10 to 15 minutes, even though the top might look set, the bottom might still be gooey and you don't wanna pull this out and leave a big mess. So be patient. You can give it a couple of minutes. Touch the underside, see how warm it is. You can also pop this in the freezer if you just can't wait. These ones are already cool and I'll show you how easy it is to demold them. I'm pushing up from the bottom and they peel right out. So cute. I did a pretty clean pour on these. There's not much to trim. If you have some bits you wanna trim off, like I have a little bit flapping over here, you can just trim this with scissors or a craft knife. I have some tiny scissors here and hot glue is pretty easy to cut through so I can just trim it off

carefully like so. And I'm hoping you can see the light here. This is the top where I poured and it's still pretty shiny and you can see the bottom where it was touching the mold is a little less shiny, so we're gonna use clear nail polish to seal these and bring the shine back. You can also use a spray acrylic sealer. Opening up my nail polish, it is a little messy, I just pick these up in my hand and do one coat at a time. Sometimes I'll do two or three coats and you wanna let them dry in between and you would paint the edges, but it really does bring that shine back to the glittery hot glue. I used a colorful nail polish to paint this heart and added the same glitter as my nails. So we match. If you use acrylic paint to paint your charms, you will also still need to seal them with something to seal that paint in. I just wanted to show you some little gummy bears that I tried to pour. I'm surprised, it'll be really hard to see, that it did get the details of the face, but where the arms and legs look shiny, that's where the glue did not touch all the way to the bottom of the mold. So I kind of gave up on that little project because it was really difficult to get the hot glue to where I wanted it to go. And if I had a fine tip on my hot glue gun, it might've helped, but I don't. So keep it in mind. You probably wanna find a shape of mold that's not too intricate if you don't have a fine tip. To insert your eye screw, I found that the hand drill was not helpful, it wasn't removing any material, and the eye screw really wants to bounce out of the hot glue even more than like an eraser. So I'm going to use kind of a lot of pressure and I'm gonna use my hands to screw it in and keep the screw in place as I get it into the charm. Gonna find the spot. I want to put the screw in and it's very small. It'll be hard to see, but I'm kind of giving it a good push push and a turn, kind of using like a hundred percent of my finger strength here. Once it feels like the eye screw is stable, you can go in with your pliers to keep twisting, but it's much easier for me to keep the eye screws stable with my hand than with the plier. It's still kind of not quite in the glue yet, so I'm trying to push in and spin it at the same time. That looks great and it's super stable. That is not coming out. I made a long chain strand here with my hot glue charms. They look like conversation hearts. They are so, so adorable. And this is my favorite gold metallic pen. It's by Decocolor. It's super shiny and glossy and it's really great for writing on your hot glue charms.

Hot glue medallions

- We're gonna go a little bit bigger with our glue charms and make hot glue medallions. These are a great opportunity to play with glitter and we're gonna embed some beads and all of our tiny treasures. Remember, before you begin, make sure your mold is clean. You can use rubbing alcohol on a paper towel, and if you have chunky things on it, like a glitter or sequins, a piece of packing tape will lift that right off. I'm going to plan out what will be on my medallion, so I'm just using this area as sort of a place to stage all my tiny doodads. I do want to underline that there is an element of unpredictability here. You might accidentally drop a bead someplace you didn't want to. The hot glue might shift. So while I'm trying to pre-plan, just be open to change. This is going to be my final layer after I pour the hot glue down. If you want something on the very bottom of your charm like glitter or sequins or beads, you can go ahead and do that now. I'll be working in this mold. I'm gonna use some gold glitter. Just pop that in there. It is now all over my hands, so I'm gonna wipe that off really quickly so I don't get it on the top of my charm. I have my tweezers ready and I'm gonna put my glue down. I'm not gonna fill up the mold all the way. That would be a really chunky medallion. You can if you want, but that will not be my plan. I'm just gonna get, I don't know, maybe a quarter inch in there. Somewhere between an eighth and a quarter inch. Looks good. Okay, this is where you have to get working. I might drop the pretzel first. It is hot. There's like this balance between, is it so hot that it's gonna sink to the bottom, but then I also have all these other beads to lay down.

Go for it and if it sinks, it sinks. We'll see. I might stick this flower in so I know I have room for it. I'll continue with the letters. There will be a moment where the glue starts cooling and you can feel the surface tension. I think I have time to add a little bit of glitter on top. I'm just gonna kind of go lightly. This may or may not stick. I don't know how hot my glue is anymore, but we'll give it a shot and if it falls off, it falls off. I'm gonna let this cool and show you some other charms that I've made. Over here I have some blob experiments where I just piled hot glue onto my parchment paper to see what would happen because my glue was super hot, it flattened a lot. Maybe if I had used a low temp, they would've been more dimensional, but I actually had to trim this heart a little bit too because it was very blobby. It was difficult for me to control, but you could certainly experiment without a mold. Here's one that's the same mold that I just showed you, and I don't know if you noticed, but this mold is shiny on the inside, which means the back of my charm is also shiny and not super matte. This is the same mold here. I was trying to think of a word that I say a lot, and I do go "oof" quite a bit, so I thought I'd make a charm. This one I made using a round mold that was matte on the inside, so I put nail polish on the back to give it a shine. Same round mold on this kind of bonkers rhinestone one. You can see how it's so matte on the back. I played some paper flowers. This might not last forever on my bag, but I've had these flowers for maybe 10 years, so I was excited to find a place to put them. My friend Courtney made these fun confetti medallions. She filled the mold with sequins or glitter, poured the glue, and then put a bunch of glitter on top. I think they turned out really cute and fun, and they have a fun texture too. This is a charm, Oni's my dog's name, and I played with using a pipe cleaner as my mold, so I shaped the pipe cleaner first and then piped the hot glue in. These are some finished bag charms. This is very similar to the carbs charm I just poured, and this is a bead strand. Here's a charm where I glued some trim to the outside. I used clear hot glue on the low temp, so I was less likely to burn my fingers. This one was also made by Courtney. She used a cookie cutter. If you have some cookie cutters around the house, you can line the inside with olive oil or a vegetable oil so the hot glue won't stick. And she poured in the hot glue and crunched in some pony beads, and I think it turned out so so super cute. I really like this charm. It's almost like a junk journal charm. I'll remember the day that Courtney did this in the studio, and this is just, I found it on my coffee table. I don't know what it's from, and I thought it would look cute on this charm. Let's demold our carbs charm. Some of this glitter is gonna fall off. That's okay. The back, nice and glittery. I did notice that I lost my heart a little bit into the hot glue. A way to avoid your doodads sinking is to do one thinner layer of hot glue in your mold. Let that cool and then do a second layer where you add your little doodads, and that'll ensure that your charm doesn't sink all the way to the bottom of the mold. This doesn't always happen, but if you wanna be super sure, do two layers and then you just need to pop in your eye screw like we did before, and this is ready to hang on your bag.

Shaker charms

- This next charm is kind of random and a little bit specific, but I super love them. We're gonna make shaker charms. Usually they're made out of acrylic or resin and they're filled with water. They're see-through and have little things floating inside that you can shake, and it's really fun and interactive. We're going to make our shaker charm with stuff we probably have around the house, and it's going to look like a tiny faux bag of snacks or candy. This is what ours will look like, like a little bag of cute sprinkles. This one is made with a little clear vinyl bag. It has like a Ziploc closure. These are, I think, for storing jewelry, so if you happen to have them, these are really handy because it's already a bag, but if you don't have one of these or you don't feel like buying them, I'll show you

how to make your own bag with either clear vinyl or this is the top of a package of bear claws from the grocery store. You just wanna make sure that it can bend easily so you can work with it. I've already cut some clear vinyl into a rectangle, mine is two and a half by five inches. You could actually freehand any size rectangle and see what happens. You definitely want it to be longer on one side because you're gonna fold that in half to form a bag. The adhesive we're using is SuperTape. It's a double sided tape, and this is one quarter inch. Side note, I've heard this is fabulous for glitter wrapping paper that can be impossible to use Scotch tape with. The first place we're gonna put tape is this is the fold in half I was talking about. We're forming a tube and the ends of our rectangle are gonna overlap that quarter inch where we're going to put tape. You do want to clean off your vinyl or your plastic or your bag. Make sure there's not too much dust. For this first seam, I find it's easier to measure the tape if you just lay it right on the plastic, so I'm gonna start here. If it doesn't follow the edge perfectly, that's okay because it's clear and it'll be really difficult to see. But try to follow the edge as closely as possible. If it sticks off the edge a little bit, that's also okay. Going to trim this. Give this a good press. Whenever I use double-sided tape, it's impossible for me to get the backing off. If you have nails, that might be helpful, but I'm gonna use a pair of pliers or tweezers. I make good contact here. Looks like I have a little bit of dust or something. Let's take the red backing off. Trying to grab just the backing layer and not the whole adhesive layer. Let's see. Try a different corner. Oh, got it. You can see the adhesive is still on there. So remember, which side is the sticky side. I'm just gonna fold over the other edge to cover that adhesive. If there's more overlap, that's okay. It doesn't have to be perfect. There we go. And you can decide where this seam goes. At first, it really bothered me to have this in the center. I thought it was so visible, but really, when your shaker charm is done, there's so much happening in here, you can't see the seam, and I like the symmetry of having it in the middle, but you can decide where you put it. Now we need to put adhesive at the bottom of our bag. Don't make the mistake that I did. I then sealed the top, but we need to put some stuff in it first. So just seal the bottom edge and it can be hard to get an accurate cut here. So what I do is measure, I squish this flat and then measure here. I think I should be about two or two and a quarter. Two and a quarter, and then I'll measure two and a quarter of tape. So sticky. Okay, two and a quarter. Just gonna use my finger to mark. I might need to trim it a little bit. It's better if it's slightly too short than slightly too long. I try to imagine if this is gonna fit. I don't want it to stick to the bag just yet. That actually looks pretty good. I do not have any tips or tricks for getting this in exactly where you want. Sometimes it's a little askew. It's difficult because this is so sticky that once it touches the plastic, it's difficult to move. So just do your best and try to start at the center. Kind of line up the edge over here. Line up the left edge. I'm trying to keep this as close to the top of my bag as possible. Okay, not bad, give it a press. At first, I was worried that this SuperTape was not gonna be strong enough to hold plastic, and then when I messed up one of my bags and tried to pry it apart, it was impossible. So this is actually a really great adhesive clear plastic. Press that. It looks like I have a little bit that didn't meet the edge. That's okay. We're also covering these seams with washi tape later. For now, you get to decide what you wanna put in your shaker charm. One idea is making a backer card. You can cut out some card stock and if you're like making an imaginary snack, you could draw out the name of it or you could draw a character. I'm gonna leave mine clear, but it's definitely a fun place to play with packaging. I have some fun faux candy here. This looks like, I don't know, like a sour gummy heart. 132
00:06:51,440 --> 00:06:56,440 This color. My preference is for there to be a lot of sound in my shaker and this with a lot of small, loose pieces and not very filled makes a great sound. This one I think I might have overfilled. I was trying to make like a little universe for my wormy friend and I

kind of gave him a lot of sprinkles and I'm, it sounds similar now, but it doesn't have as satisfying of a shake, so I would maybe try to put in less stuff rather than more. If you just wanna pack in a bunch of your treasures and the sound and the shake isn't as important to you, feel free to fill your bag as much as you like. You can close up the top with your fingers and kind of imagine it's not making a lot of sound. I might throw in some of these kind of ball shape sprinkles. Is that gonna cover my gummies too much? Nope, that looks cute. That's a nice sound. I'm gonna put in two more gummies. The three is looking a little sparse to me. Let's see. Let's put some gold. And this is not just sound, it's also visual, so put stuff in it that will make your eyes happy. Close up this end of the bag with SuperTape the same way you closed up the other end. Next we'll put a decorative edge on the bag with washi tape. Since this is a quarter inch seam up here, we want to make sure a washi tape is at least twice that. So this is about half an inch. Pull out some tape. I'm gonna measure a little bit more than twice the width here. And then I'll center the tape over the edge, making sure I'm covering up that SuperTape underneath and that I have enough washi tape up here to trim. Press that down. This is the back. I don't need too much overlap, so I'm going to trim this edge straight with scissors, and then we'll use decorative edge scissors to trim this so that it'll look super cute. I like a scallop. That can be a cute look. And you can also use something zigzaggy like a pinking shear. Washi tape is floppy. If you try to use the scissors, it might not cut all the way through. So a tip that I thought of and I haven't seen very much is to use a piece of card stock on the back. It will help give your scissors something to bite into while also trimming your washi tape. You wanna trim the washi tape only and not the plastic. The scissors won't really be able to handle that. So depending on your washi tape, sometimes you can see where the plastic is. I can't really see here, but luckily my washi tape has this grid pattern and I can see my plastic is at this like second line. So I'm gonna try to trim a right above that plastic. I try to move these up. Sometimes perfect alignment is difficult. If you can't do one straight cut, just do your best. Okay, not too bad. Let's see up here. I could do some trimming with regular scissors. Also, if you feel like this went totally awry, the washi tape is removable, so you can take it all off and try it again. And then cover the other end with washi tape and trim as well. We'll need to add a hole somewhere to turn this into a bag charm. You could use an awl or something pointy to try to poke a hole into the plastic, or you could use a hole punch. I really like using the Crop-A-Dile. It's a hole punch and an eyelet setter all in one. You don't need to have an eyelet, which is like a metal ring that will reinforce your hole, but I do think it'll make your bag charm last longer. This is the Crop-A-Dile. Looks like a very fancy hole punch. The hole punches live at the top and bottom. You can see this coming up here that's gonna punch the hole. This one is three-sixteenths and this one is one eighth. The labeling is a little hard to see, so sometimes I just open and close it to see which is the bigger one because my eyelets are three sixteenths. I'm gonna punch the hole. I'm going to use this hole at the top as a guide so I can see where I'm punching. If you have a preferred top or bottom to your bag, decide that now. I'm gonna go in this top left corner. I'll be punching through the washi tape and the plastic. 231 00:12:22,810 --> 00:12:27,340 Give that a squeeze. There's our hole. To set the eyelet, which looks like this, it's like a metal ring with a tiny, like a really short shaft on the back. We're gonna use this part of the Crop-A-Dile. This has different settings for different kinds of hardware. Just follow the instructions if you have a Crop-A-Dile, for your three sixteenths eyelet. There is a top and the bottom. The bottom says base. Again, it's very hard to read the top. I thought this was a picture of a t-shirt. It's a picture of the grommet, so you know which way the grommet is supposed to go. I set the hardware into the bag. It might be a tight fit depending. These are often used for scrapbooking or bookmaking, but through the plastic, the hardware went in fairly easily. So I have the top of my hardware here and I

have the Crop-A-Dile oriented top bottom, and it has this little stump here that will go into your eyelet, and then just give it a gentle squeeze. You don't have to squeeze this too hard and it sets it. It's super cool. You can also set eyelets with a little base, and then you have a little stick and there's a little hammer. So if you have that, you can use it too. But the Crop-A-Dile I'm finding is very awesome. Our bag charm is almost finished. All we need to do is add some hanging hardware. I like to use the ball bead chain here. This would have to be a very big jump ring or split ring to bite into the plastic to get to this hole. So I find that the ball chain is very easy. These shaker charms can also be a fun place to play with some other crafts that we've experimented with. You can think about cute polymer clay things or Shrinky Dink things to stick in here. Whether you're making a yummy snack or a little universe for a tiny friend.

Make charms with textiles

Pom pom charms

- Sometimes all your bag needs is a big juicy pompom. You can make them with plastic pompom makers you buy at the store. You can make a cardboard template at home. We're gonna make 'em with our hands. It's really easy and super fun. I have here a pretty chunky yarn. This makes your pompom making pretty quick. You can also use something thinner like a worsted weight. The lighter or thinner, the yarn you use, the more wraps you're gonna have to make, so I kind of like to make things easier on myself with a chunky yarn. I'm using this contrasting yarn to tie off my pompom so you can see what I'm doing. You can use the same yarn as your whole pompom. You can also use a waxed linen string if you have it, 'cause that's really secure. So first you'll want to cut a length of whatever you're using to secure the center of the pompom. Giving myself, what is this? Maybe about a foot. You can put that aside. And then you'll just start wrapping this yarn around your forefingers. You wanna go pretty loosely, so this will be easy to remove from your hand later. And the number of wraps is up to you. It depends on how fluffy and full you want your pompom. To give you an idea, this yarn is slightly thinner than this one. And this was 60 wraps. I just started wrapping here and I didn't even count. So I'm just gonna go by feel and you can make a couple and see what kind of thickness and number of wraps you prefer with your yarn. Just gonna make a nice bundle and squish it in the middle and kind of imagine, imagine what this is like. I'm keeping it on my hand though. I don't wanna lose any of my loops. I feel like... Let's start there. Let's see what that looks like, even though I'm doing a couple more. Okay, let's cut it. Keep it on your hand. Keep that loop. Tie the center of this loop like this. So you wanna maintain this bundle and you can bring your securing string around the center here. My loops are here and here. And tie a knot. I usually do one extra wrap when I tie this knot, it helps me to tie a tighter knot, so you can try that and see if you like it. You want this to be secure, but you can snap yarn if you pull it too hard, so secure, but maybe not with 100% of your strength. Maybe like 80% of your strength. Tie this one more time. Okay. And before you cut anything, because this is a bag charm, we're going to insert our jump ring. If you have a split ring plier, you can use a split ring. Pick up your jump ring with your flat nose plier, and we're gonna loop this into that securing yarn. So having a contrasting color can make this really easy to see. So we'll pick this up, picked up that hot pink yarn. Get a good grip on this jump ring. Here we go. It's getting a little caught in the yarn. That's okay. It's the inside of my pompom, no one will know. And then close the jump ring. Here's my jump ring, nice and secure in the center of my pompom. Now we'll cut these loops on both sides. You might find some hidden loops in there later.

That's okay. There's plenty of time to get them because now we have to give our pom pom a haircut. I mean, you could leave it like this. It's kind of loose and floppy, but I generally like to trim them down a little bit. And you just wanna keep in mind a spherical shape. And this part you can kind of keep cutting forever. It's like bangs. You'll always kind of find a part where you could cut off and make it look a little bit more round. So a stopping point is really up to you and what kind of look you want for the pom. The more you cut it, the more dense and solid it will look. And the longer you leave these, the more sort of freeform and flowy the look. If you used a contrasting yarn as your center tie and you don't like the look of that, you can also trim this shorter than the main color of yarn. So I'll do that. And you can keep trimming and trimming. I usually do this over a paper bag at my house. You can use a bowl or just straight on the table like I am right now. Just keep rotating the pom. Looking for spots that seem like they're sticking out more than you want. This is so subjective. I might stop and someone might go further. Let's see. I kinda have to stop myself from trimming it like to nothing. But let's see. You can trim, fluff, kind of imagine what it will look like on your bag. I feel like this is sticking out a little. Clear away some of this fluff. You could save this for another project. Let's think about what to do with the pompom fluff. So to attach this to your bag, you're gonna have to dig around in the center here to find your jump ring. Sometimes having that contrast in yarn is helpful too. Or even your waxed linen thread. And you can attach chain here or the end of a bead strand. It looks so cute on your bag. Whoop, there's one. Gotta get that!

Snake knot

- You've probably seen a little macrame crossing over into the world of bag charms because we're all working with cord. I'm gonna show you how to tie the snake knot with one color and then with two colors, and I'll be using paracord, but you could use a shoelace or macrame cord, anything you've got. I have about 24 to 30 inches of paracord. I'm gonna find the center, and you can start this just with the loop or you can also incorporate your hardware now. I'm gonna put on a split ring just so that it's easier to secure to the table. You also don't have to secure this to a surface, but I find that it's easier for me to show you without my cords flopping around all over the place. Take a little bit of tape and tape down the split ring. There's more than one way to tie a snake knot. I'm gonna show you two. The first one is the way that really clicked for me, and the second way is a helpful method for when you wanna move on to two colors. So I'll show you the first one. I don't think they have names, but this is the one where it made the steps sort of clear. So my left cord and my right cord, I'm gonna make a loop in the right hand cord so that my tail is kind of looping inward and the tail is on top here. I'm gonna take the left cord and pass the end of it from back to front through that loop. It's gonna make like this sideways pretzel shape and where we're gonna go is into this sort of lower area of the pretzel. I'm gonna take that same left cord that I just passed. I'm gonna go on top of the right hand cord and take the tail from back to front through that part of the pretzel I pointed out before. Tighten up the ends. I'm trying to leave a little bit of loop up here, so tighten left and right. That's one snake knot. We're gonna do that again. You just keep repeating and repeating. Repeating. We're gonna make our loop with the right side. This tail is on top and going this way, we're gonna take the left side and pass the tail from back to front. Mix that little pretzel. Gonna take that same left tail, make sure it goes over my right tail and from back to front again through that bottom loop of the pretzel, tighten up the ends. There's a second knot. Let's do that one more time. Make the loop on the right. Pass the left side from back to front. It makes the little pretzel go over the right tail and go through that bottom loop from back to front. Tighten up. Okay, if your brain is kind of like what is going on here and having a hard time kind of grappling with

where to put the loops, I would encourage you to just practice over and over. You'll get some muscle memory and kind of see where the loops and the tails go. Just allow yourself the opportunity to practice. I'm also gonna show you a second way to do it in case that clicks a little faster. We're gonna start with the left side. This time you make a number four. We're wrapping the left tail around the right tail, so go around the back and I'm making sure that the end of that tail is pointing upward here. And then we're gonna take the right tail and also wrap around the whole thing from the back. So here's the right tail. Gonna follow kind of a similar path so that it's also going the same direction as the left tail, making sure the right tail is above the left. And then from front to back, we'll pass that right tail through that big loop and those knots look exactly the same even though we used a different technique. One more time. Making the number four. We're gonna wrap around the right cord, making sure this is pointing upward. That right cord will take the same path behind everything. Making sure that we come up above this left cord and then pass the right end through the loop from front to back. So you can keep going for as long as you want. And then you can either add beads or tie off knots to finish the ends. Here's a finished snake knot bag charm. I added some letter beads and hearts and ponies on the other side. Super cute. Let's do two colors. I've got two pieces of two millimeter para cord looped around my split ring. I have a hairpin here holding them in place just to keep these where I want them. Before I tie the first knot. Each piece is about 36 inches and I have 'em arranged so that the two center strands are shorter. These two center strands are about 14 inches, and then the two outer strands are about 22 ish. We will be working only with the outside strands. The inner ones sort of act as a core that give more bulk to the snake knot. Straighten these out. You're free to try both types of snake knots for the two color. I found the second way to be much easier, but again, we're all different. We're all gonna have different preferences. I'm gonna show you the second way. So I'm starting again with the left side, making the number four, and bringing this around the back of all my strands. I'm gonna try to keep them in place here. Okay, have this pointing upward. This makes a loop on my right side. I'm gonna take my long green cord and also have it follow the path behind all the cords, making sure the green cord is above the pink cord. Then I'll take the end of the green cord and pass it from front to back through the pink loop. There's my snake knot. These short cords are still in the center in the same spot. I can pull out my hairpin and snug this up. You could also start with a lark's head, but I find that it's cleaner to just keep them in place with the hairpin. Tighten, tighten, tighten, tighten. Okay, let's do a couple more. Make the number four, pass that behind my other cords, making sure this pink loop is on the right here. Gonna take my outside green cord, pass it through the back of the other cords, making sure this is above the pink. And then I'm gonna pass the green cord through the pink loop from front to back. Tighten up. Let's do that one more time. Number four, pass the tail around the back, make sure my loop is on the right side. And take the green cord also pass it around the back. Make sure this is above the pink. Then pass it through the pink loop from front to back. Tighten, tighten, tighten. I think with the two color, it really starts looking like a snake. You can keep going as long as you like. Here's a finished one and I have some knots and I also put a little happy face bead.

Bows

- Today, let's tie some bows. You can tie your bows any way you like. You could use a scarf and tie a bow directly on your bag. I'm going to show you how to tie a bow with ribbon if it has like a right side and a wrong side. Sometimes I get confused how to tie a bow so that you don't have both sides facing. And I'm also gonna show you how to incorporate a split ring or a jump ring so that you can

turn it into a bag charm. I have about an arm's length cut of this really cute bumblebee ribbon. I wanna make sure my bumblebees are always showing on the outside of my bow. I'm gonna start with a shorter end coming from the front of my hand. This will be one ear of our bow, this loop right on top. I'm gonna take the longer tail. I'm gonna flip it over like to the right of that first loop. But if you're incorporating a split ring, you'll need to add your split ring here. Lemme put my loop down for a second. Slide this split ring on. There's my loop again. Take my long tail, the right side facing outward, and bring this over top to the right of this loop. This split ring will sit either at the top here of the bow or the back, come around to the left side. You're gonna make a second loop with the long tail, making sure that the bumblebee side is out. Then we're gonna pass this loop through this center loop here from left to right through the front, and then you'll just tighten everything up. Oops. Gonna make sure that's facing out as well. This ribbon is a little thick. It's a little crunchy. We'll get there. You wanna keep adjusting and tightening until your bow looks the way you want, and I love that this split ring is already where I want it so I can attach hanging hardware. I learned this method from a woman who kept saying "easy peasy lemon squeezy". So I hear her saying that whenever I tie a bow using this method. Okay, I'm gonna trim the ends. Hmm. We'll do it this way, the other side. And depending on your ribbon, some people light the end with a lighter like we do with paracord to seal it so it won't fray. Sometimes I don't know what my ribbon is made out of, so I always default to Fray Check. You wanna use as little as possible. It will look like it's darkening the fabric a little bit, but it'll dry clear. Just a tiny bead and run it across my cut edge. Do the other side. This is a pretty thick ribbon. Just wanna make sure that the front and the back gets some Fray Check. Just saw the ends of the back on this side kind of poking up. You can also do a final trim when the Fray Check is dry. You might wanna protect your surface with a piece of parchment paper, but then this is good to go. This is a tiny velvet bow that I decided to add to this little skeleton I bought during Halloween to hang on my bag for the spooky season.

Ribbon charm

- We're finishing off our bag charm party with ribbon charms. What I love about these is they kind of look like little badges of honor. They're a special place for your precious scraps of ribbon and fabric, and it's even a wonderful canvas for embroidery. The hardware you'll need is ribbon crimps or ribbon crimp ends. They have little tiny teeth that grab onto your scrap of fabric, and there's also a little loop so that you can attach a jump ring. I'm working with this piece of ribbon. I've cut it as straight as I can on top and bottom. We're gonna find a crimp end for this, it's a little big. These come in all sizes, all finishes, even different designs. Looks like this one's a little small. I would advise you if anything, to go a little bit bigger rather than smaller so that you don't have the ends of your piece of fabric sticking out. So we're gonna go with this one. So you'll need one for the top and one for the bottom. If you want to, you can put some Fray Check or glue on these ends. I'm not too worried about it because the crimp will keep it in place. This is really easy to do. You'll just slip your ribbon crimp end and over the end of your ribbon, kind of butt up the ribbon against the top of that crimp. The toughest part is keeping this in place while you squeeze the crimp closed. Sometimes I like to get it started first with my hands a little bit, just to close it a little bit more. Fit in the piece of ribbon, and you can try to start crimping from the center. I find that kind of difficult. I kind of go one side and then the other, but you can play around with that and see what's easiest for you. I have my flat nose plier. I'm gonna give this a squeeze. One side, and then flip it over, get the other. You can see how this feels. It's pretty secure. I get nervous about it, so I tend to give it a couple more squeezes. You can also get a pair of pliers that kind of have this nylon platform. It's a big, wider

platform so that you can kind of get at more of the crimp end at the same time. But even if you have these little flat noses, you can get there eventually. Okay, that looks great. Do the same thing on the other end. Super easy. Here's one that I've added. Some chain and a split ring and a charm to that's gonna look really sweet hanging from a bag. If you have a friendship bracelet or a leather bracelet that you're not wearing anymore, you can also use the ribbon crimp ends to make a bag charm. I actually just found this friendship bracelet in my embroidery thread bin. I never finished it. I never wore it, so I figured this would be really fun for a bag charm. I've already done one end and I'm gonna show you the other. We're gonna cut right through the friendship bracelet, and I know that can seem scary, but don't worry, it's gonna be fine. I'm gonna determine how much length I want to keep, maybe as much as possible. I'm gonna cut straight across through my knots. I'm gonna use the V design I have here to keep me on track. I'm gonna cut from the top of this white leg of the V to the top of this orange leg of the V. One confident cut. You'll probably want to seal this. I've seen some bracelet makers who do not seal and just trust that the crimp end will keep everything together, but I would suggest sealing. You can use glue. I'm gonna use nail polish. You wanna give it a pretty good soak, make sure it's getting through all the fibers. So we'll go front and back. If there are any strings kind of splaying outward, try to tuck those in with your nail polish brush. Feel like this is pretty sealed. You can wait until this dries, but normally I dive right in with the ribbon crimp end. Make sure I have the same one, that looks good. Same process. I squeeze that with my hand a little bit. Make sure that the top of my friendship bracelet is flush with the top of the hardware and then crimp it down for really fibrous projects like a friendship bracelet, you wanna be careful about this opening here, this top loop of the crimp end. Some fibers stick out, so I like to use a pin. This is a safety pin to try to push some of those fibers back into the hardware so they're more hidden. It's also nice that the nail polish is still a little wet at this point. To help tuck this in, it looks like I'm pulling fiber out here. That's fine. I'm gonna keep pressing until the tackiness of the nail polish pushes down all the fibers. That just gives you a clear path for your jump ring. If you have anything sticking out on the sides, you can address that, but this looks pretty good. I think like I have a little green here that I could maybe tuck in a bit. It doesn't look like it's sticking out beyond the hardware, so I think it'll be okay. Okay, this looks great. The last ribbon charm I wanted to show you is this velvet ribbon. I put a little CB for Creativebug in embroidery and so that you can't see the back of my embroidery. This is actually two pieces of ribbon and I used Fabri-Tac to glue them together before I added the ribbon crimps. Thank you so much for coming to my bag charm party. With everything you've learned, now you can throw your own.